



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

CUNTAS BUISÉADACHTA 2017

DRAFT BUDGET 2017

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**CUIG GACH BALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE
DRAFT BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2017**

To: The Cathaoirleach and each Member of Galway County Council
Re: Draft Budget for financial year ending 31st December 2017

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

Dear Member,

I enclose, for your consideration, the Draft Budget for 2017, 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 14th July, 9th September & 11th November 2016.

The Council considered and made its determination on the Local Property Tax adjustment at its meeting held on 28th September 2016 and each of the Municipal Districts considered the Budgetary Plan for each Municipal District at a series of meetings held between the 24th October 2016 and the 28th October 2016.

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 23rd November 2016, provided the process is completed by 7th December 2016.

General

The funding previously derived from the Local Government Fund has been replaced by the proceeds from the Local Property Tax / Equalisation Fund. The base funding from this source in 2017 was estimated to be largely the same as the amount received each year since 2014 and is insufficient to meet current demands. However, the decision of the Elected Members to increase the level of the Local Property Tax has provided the additional income which allowed us to present a draft budget similar to the current year.

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

Given the funding available and the number of demands it is recognised that additional funding could be utilised effectively under almost every budget heading but the allocation of further resources has not been possible.

There are a number of aspects of budget 2017 worthy of noting.

- Increased costs of insurance premia
- Increase costs of CAMP West due to the withdrawal of the HSE from the service.
- Increased cost of operation of our Leisure Centres in Tuam & Ballinalsoe.
- Reduced recoupment for the operation of recycling centres.
- Part funding of the increased costs arising from the Lansdowne Road Agreement
- Increasing costs of public lighting.
- Non recoupment of lost income on global valuations.
- Increased cost of the homeless service with 90% being recoupable
- Reduced staff number recouped by Irish Water.
- Provision for vacancy of commercial property.

The budget for 2017 includes an income from the NPPR of €550k which recognises the agreements put in place by those with a liability to discharge the amount due, over a period of years. The level of income from this source will not be maintained into the future and this may be the last year that we can budget for any significant income from same.

Keeping within budget in 2017 will require very careful monitoring by all units throughout the year.

Budget Deficit / Bad Debt Provision

It is anticipated that there will be some deterioration in our current budget deficit of €1.9m by the end of 2016 despite our efforts to make savings during the year to ensure that the

impact is kept to a minimum. There is a requirement on us to take prudent steps to reduce this balance as well as increasing the bad debts provision in the Annual Financial Statement with both issues having been raised by the Local Government Auditor. Our ability to address these is limited at present but this will need to be considered further as soon as circumstances allow.

Local Property Tax

The decision of Council to increase the Local Property Tax realised additional income of €1.45m. As outlined to the Members previously this was an essential component of preparing a balanced budget without reducing services. Without this income the budget presented to Council would include budget reductions of a similar magnitude of €1.45m requiring reduction in the level of service provided in the more discretionary areas outlined to Council including Housing Maintenance, Disabled Persons Grants, Road Maintenance, Street Cleaning, Economic and Community Grants, Economic Development, Library Books and operations and other areas. The impact on these services would have been substantial with the cut to roads funding likely to be in the region of €800,000, Housing €130,000 and Economic and Community development including Community Grants €160,000.

Balanced Budget

The Members have been previously provided with information on the additional expenditure requirements in the 2017 budget and the strategy for meeting this need without reducing services. The approach included increasing the Local Property Tax, amending various components of Housing Rents and progressing the merger of the commercial rate in the former Ballinasloe Town Council area with that pertaining in the rest of the County. While there was a significant gap remaining between the expenditure requirements and estimated income the Department subsequently confirmed that it would recoup a more significant amount of the cost of the Lansdowne Road Pay Agreement rather than the 50% anticipated. This has been of significant assistance in preparing a balanced budget.

Financial position

The current financial position of the Council and the requirement to increase the Local Property Tax to maintain services has been discussed in detail. Notwithstanding the actions taken this only addresses our financial position for 2017 and the funding available to Galway County Council remains a critical issue. There is a requirement for additional funding in almost every area of activity of the Council including, housing and property maintenance, road maintenance, fleet management, street cleaning, verge trimming, public lighting, economic and tourism development, the requirement for additional staffing in key areas and new programmes such as HAP. It is likely that cost increases in some of these areas will be beyond our control giving rise to ongoing budgetary issues in the coming years. As the Members will be aware the non-permanent income from the IPB dividend has become part

of balancing the budget in the last two years which is not a sustainable scenario. This dividend is only a short term scenario and we must reduce our reliance on same. Having regard to the above it is intended that there will be a continuous review of income streams and expenditure proposals.

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 budget has been formulated on the basis of bridging 50% of the difference between the Ballinasloe and the County rates. The County rate currently stands at €66.59 which is unchanged since 2009 and the Ballinasloe rate is €55.00 which was increased for 2016 but prior to that had been unchanged since 2008. The 2016 rate in Ballinasloe is essentially the same as that which applied in the county in 2004. The following table shows a comparison of the rate on valuation with the other counties in the region.

Ballinasloe	€55
Galway County	€66.59
Roscommon	€71.44
Mayo	€68.76

Ballinasloe has 227 properties other than vacant properties liable for commercial rates. It should be noted that 32 properties (14%) in Ballinasloe account for 62% of the commercial rates while 167 properties (74%) account for just 23% of the commercial rates in Ballinasloe. The proposed increase in the commercial rate from €55 to €61 has the following effect on commercial properties.

42 businesses (19%) would pay an additional €96 or less per year
102 businesses (45%) would pay an additional €192 or less per year
134 businesses (59%) would pay an additional €294 or less per year
167 businesses (74%) would pay an additional €457 or less per year

European Capital of Culture

Galway County Council has confirmed its support for the successful joint bid for the above designation which is led by Galway City Council. This is a very significant programme with a total budget of €45m. While the principle of support including financial support has been agreed by Council, it is necessary to determine the total funding that will be made available by Galway County Council for both the bid and the programme. It is my intention to engage with the Members in January 2017 in order to agree the financial contribution of

Galway County Council and thereafter I will work with the Head of Finance to address the methodology for delivering on the funding agreed.

European Region of Gastronomy

Galway County Council led the successful bid for the title of European Region of Gastronomy in 2016. While this is a much smaller project than the ECOC it is a high potential initiative for the development of food and tourism in the County and region. While the designation will be largely driven by existing resources, I have made an additional allocation of €50,000 in 2017 which I intend to repeat in 2018 in order to ensure a successful preparation for the designation.

Town Centres.

The Members will recall initiatives during 2016 which were designed to assist in the support of our town centres including development contribution exemptions and reduced rates for residential development, in our revised Development Contribution Scheme and the introduction of a rates incentive scheme for the setting up of new business in vacant properties. While the interest in the rates incentive scheme has been limited to date it is intended to undertake some work to promote this scheme in 2017.

Housing Rents.

It is a requirement of their tenancy agreement that each tenant informs the Council of any change to the financial circumstances of the household. Notwithstanding this requirement many tenants fail to do so and as previously discussed Galway County Council is currently undertaking a review of all Council tenants and updating the weekly rent accordingly. The completion of this process will take some time.

Prior to its dissolution Ballinasloe Town Council had its own differential rent scheme which in general resulted in a lower rent than pertains in the rest of the County. It is intended to bring the former Town Council rents into line with the County rent. It should be noted that this will not result in an increased rent for all tenants and some will experience a reduction.

The Members will recall previous discussions regarding the currently maximum rent of €84 which is in place and which is considerably lower than the maximum rent in adjacent local authorities. Arrangements are currently being made for a revised maximum rent amount and other related issues such as at what point such a rent would become operative.

The Members will be aware that matters relating to Differential Rents are an Executive Function but discussions have taken place through the Housing SPC. The draft budget is formulated on the basis of the revised income accruing from the above changes.

Local Enterprise Office.

When the City and County Enterprise Board was dissolved in 2014 and the functions transferred to the Local Enterprises Office under the remit of Galway County Council the existing staff complement was three, as a number of vacancies had not been filled by the CEB. It was clear that a staff of 3 was much lower than similar local authorities and insufficient to deliver all of the relevant programmes adequately. In the period since 2014 Galway County Council has supported the LEO by assigning an additional staff member for 50% of their time and by utilising staff from other units to undertake specific pieces of work. During 2016 agreement was reached nationally on a revised distribution of funding for staff resources. This culminated in Galway County Council being approved for a maximum of 7 staff for the LEO at various grades. Recoupment is made at the mid-point of the salary scales and once the cost goes above that level the balance must be funded by Galway County Council. One position has been filled by the re-assignment of a Staff Officer from the Finance Unit and the recruitment process for other staff is underway and should be completed by year end. The current funding available from Enterprise Ireland to the LEO under measure 1 (Grants) is €276,758 and measure 2 (supports) is €258,688.

Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP)

The Members will be aware that the above scheme was introduced in November 2015. HAP is a new form of housing support provided by local authorities. The introduction of HAP will mean that local authorities can now provide housing assistance for households who qualify for social housing support, including many long-term rent supplement recipients. Under HAP, local authorities will make the full rent payment on behalf of the HAP recipient directly to the landlord. The HAP recipient will then pay a rent contribution to the local authority. The rent contribution is a differential rent that is, a rent based on income and the ability to pay. HAP is being introduced to provide a more integrated system of housing supports and aims to:

- Allow all social housing supports to be accessed through the local authority, and
- Allow recipients to take up full-time employment and still keep their housing support.

A total of 1600 Rent Supplement recipients are expected to transfer from the Department of Social Protection during 2016-2018. Each Rent Supplement recipient may transfer with their current property however when an applicant changes address or in the case of new applicants applying for housing support they must apply to Galway County Council and may receive financial support under the HAP scheme .

There is a fixed payment of €150 received from the Department following the transfer of each file over from DSP. Funding has not been provided for the ongoing costs of the operation of the scheme which will be borne by Galway County Council in future years once

the transfer process is complete. The draft budget has assumed a small net cost to Galway County Council in the operation of the scheme in 2017.

Irish Water.

The transition of water services to Irish Water is an evolving and continuous process. The delivery of services by Galway County Council on behalf of IW is the subject of a Service Level Agreement. Among the matters that have not reached finality are the number of staff required by Irish Water and the portion of Galway County Council overhead that will be funded by IW. These have been reducing year on year and in 2017 there will be additional staff costs of approximately €160,000 borne by Galway County Council in respect of portions of staff member costs that will no longer be recouped by IW. Unfortunately these costs relate to a small portion of the salaries of many staff and will not result in the making available of a number of staff for redeployment elsewhere. We have retained the contribution from IW in respect of Central Management Charge at the same level in 2017 but this figure will be the subject of discussion and agreement with Irish Water.

Economic and Community.

The funding provided by Galway County Council to various groups and bodies totals approximately €450,000 per annum. 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 level of 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. The overall level of funding under these headings has been retained at the same level as in 2016 but it is intended to continually review this spend to ensure optimum alignment with Galway County Councils objectives and complementarity to programmes such as ECOC and EROG. One of the initiatives under the local government reform programme is to support community groups in the Public Participation Network. Matching funding is available for a resource to assist the Public Participation Network and some funding may also be made available to part fund additional posts in the area of Community development. However we do not have capacity to provide for the additional costs to Galway County Council and I have only been able to provide a co-funding amount of €25,000 in this regard.

Unfinished Housing Estates.

The Members will recall that in the past few years we have made a new budgetary provision of €100,000 per annum to assist in dealing with issues in unfinished Housing Estates. The Members will also be aware of funds provided at National level to address issues in unfinished housing estates and the unit has undertaken considerable work in the context of developer bonds. There have been many unavoidable staff changes in the Unit and having regard to the significant volume of work planned for the next two years and the alignment of much of this work with the work of the roads and transportation unit this work is being

brought within the Roads & Transportation Directorate and two additional Assistant Engineers will be assigned to the Unit for a period of two years. It is intended that the salary costs for the additional staff will be provided out of the monies derived from bonds and grant funding.

Public Lighting

The Members will be aware from previous discussions that there is ongoing work in establishing an accurate inventory of public lighting both in Galway and across the Country. This has resulted in there being more public lights in existence than previously understood. In addition, the method of payment for public lighting in the past was partly an actual cost but on an estimated cost and quantity in respect of much of the network. The overall outcome is that the costs to Galway County Council of the public lighting network is likely to increase substantially in the coming years. While an additional allocation of €100,000 is made for this purpose in 2017 this will not cover the magnitude of costs expected to arise in due course. At national level, an interagency group has been established to examine the options around the public lighting network including schemes for energy efficient options.

Roads funding

The level of resources available for road maintenance and improvement although maintaining 2016 expenditure levels falls short of that which would be desirable but the Council will continue to adapt in an effort to make the best use of allocations. The table below sets out the position in relation to funding in recent years.

In line with previous years, the budget includes a figure for road grants based on the original 2016 allocation as the 2017 allocation has not yet been received.

	Roads Grant Funding €m	Council's own contribution €m
2008	38.90	5.12
2010	23.65	3.02
2012	20.80	2.60
2014	18.50	2.37
2016	18.50	2.00
2017	18.60	2.00

Local Government Fund

The Local Government Fund has been replaced by the proceeds of the Local Property Tax/Pension Levy which had been estimated to produce income of €14.5m before the increase in Local Property Tax. Given the extent of financial changes including those associated with Irish Water a direct comparison with revenue from the Local Government Fund is no longer meaningful.

Trends in Local Government Fund allocation is as follows: -

	<i>Allocation</i>
2008	€40.60m
2009	€36.88m
2011	€32.84m
2012 (revised)	€27.67m
2013 (LGF plus pension deduction)	€29.47m
2015 (to include Irish Water and NPPR)	€29.52m

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

Budgetary Trend 2008 – 2017:

2008 - Adopted Budget	€160 M
2010 – Adopted Budget	€149 M
2012 – Adopted Budget	€136 M
2014 – Adopted Budget	€122 M
2016 – Adopted Budget	€105 M
2017 - Proposed Budget	€105 M

Expenditure proposals

The following tables set out the expenditure and income breakdown proposed for 2017:

Expenditure by Programme Group	2016 Budget	2016 Estimated Outturn	2017 Draft Budget
	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,170,309	11,951,153	12,218,531
Road Transportation & Safety	32,740,291	40,040,939	33,266,054
Water Services	13,598,025	12,829,076	11,111,241
Development Management	7,733,720	7,530,814	7,896,795
Environmental Services	17,097,153	17,032,126	17,610,829
Recreation & Amenity	8,428,114	8,063,878	8,128,163
Agriculture, Education Health & Welfare	2,947,179	3,079,276	3,022,680
Miscellaneous Services	10,206,814	11,833,095	12,073,122
Total	104,921,605	112,360,357	105,327,415

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

Estimated Revenue Income	2016		2017	
	€	%	€	%
Local Property Tax / Pension Related Ded	12,506,381	12	15,973,316	15
Pension Related Deduction	1,950,000	2		
NPPR	500,000	0	550,000	0
State Grants & Subsidies	32,094,307	30	32,266,970	31
Irish Water Income	9,180,382	9	7,173,719	7
Local Determined Income	33,318,465	32	34,218,286	33
Other Income	15,372,070	15	15,145,124	14
	104,921,605	100	105,327,415	100

Capital Scheme for Tourism and Amenity:

While the community grants referred to earlier are an important support to communities the typical funding made available facilitates smaller projects many of which are not of a capital nature. One of the key objectives of Galway County Council is to support economic development including tourism. With this in mind I consider that there is merit in introducing a scheme which would provide a funding opportunity for capital projects which are designed to support both our tourism industry and our communities themselves. The proposed scheme, which would be funded from development contributions would focus on projects that would be of benefit to tourism while also enhancing the lives of our communities and the scheme would set out key criteria including types of projects that would be considered for assistance, co-funding requirements, criteria to be met etc. It is intended that this scheme would be devised and launched as early as possible in 2017 and the funding allocated from development contributions would be €1.5m. This would present a real opportunity to work with communities in developing strategic and sustainable projects that would help to underpin our work on economic development.

Conclusion

The preparation of the Draft Annual Budget for 2017 has been challenging. Notwithstanding this I believe that the proposed Draft Budget will allow Galway County Council to deliver a reasonable level of core services in 2017 and importantly the decisions taken have ensured that service levels have been maintained. However it has not been possible to make any provision for contingencies. The proposed gross expenditure of €105.3M together with the capital programme spend estimated at €70M , 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 2016. I wish to record my appreciation to the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael Connolly, and the former Cathaoirleach Cllr. Peter Roche 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.

I also want to thank the staff of the Council for their dedication and flexibility during 2016 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 2017 to identify areas for efficiency improvement and cost

saving. In particular, I want to acknowledge the work of Mr. Ger Mullarkey, Mr. Michael McGovern, Ms Bernadette O'Connor, Ms. Caitriona Lusby and the staff in the Finance Unit and to thank all involved in delivering the draft budget.

The year 2017 will undoubtedly bring new challenges 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 2017 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**

CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES UNIT

1 Library Development Programme

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Library usage continued to increase in 2016. The Library Service of Galway County Council is one of the most heavily used services in Ireland and libraries are established cultural centres in their communities.
- Library Staff through innovation and local partnerships continued to ensure a vibrant and active service with many free events in 2016. More than 500,000 visits will have been made to branch libraries across the County in 2016. This makes the Council's branch libraries the most visited public spaces in County Galway, reflecting a service and place where diversity is welcomed and encouraged.
- Galway Council provided Free Membership for Libraries for everyone without exception in 2016 thus bringing Galway City and County library services into line with Best National and International Public Library practice.
- The new Ballinasloe Library and Church Gallery was officially opened during 2016.
- The Galway Library Development Programme 2016-2021 was adopted by Galway County Council and Galway City Council.
- Proposals in the Library Development Programme and in 'Opportunities for All' a National Public Library Strategy 2013-2017 were implemented including the adoption of a new National Library Management System-Sierra- in July and the provision of Online Services for members including eBooks, eAudio, eNewspapers, eMagazines, eLearning and eLanguages.
- Planning for a new City and County Community Library continued including the investigation on suitable possible sites in Galway City.
- Improvements were carried out on a number of Branch Libraries including Athenry and Portumna.
- Galway Library and Archive services played a major role in Galway County Councils 1916 Centenary Commemorations in 2016.

Proposals for 2017:

- Work will continue to improve Library Services in Galway as per the Galway Library Development Programme 2016-2021 and the National Public Library Strategy 2013-2017.
- There will be further work on the new Galway Community/Cultural Library.
- A Right to Read campaign will be spearheaded by the library Service.

- There will be further expansion in the use of technology to improve the Library service and it is planned to complete the computerisation of all branch libraries in Galway.
- Galway Libraries will continue to organise activities and engage with individuals and communities in our Libraries and on the Mobile and Schools library vehicles.

2. Legal Advisory Services

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Department provided legal services for all programme areas, including the purchase and sale of properties, conduct of litigation including District Court Prosecutions, Circuit and High Court Litigation, including Judicial Review. In particular, District Court Litigation, Judicial Review and the completion of land acquisitions on inter-urban routes, were substantial areas of work.
- The Case Management System, which facilitates the use of templates to create work flows for the efficient and cost effective delivery of legal services, is constantly being updated and applied to further work areas. Work is continuing on the Register of Lands.

Proposals for 2017:

- Concentrate on providing advisory legal services and continue to provide legal services for all programme areas.
- The completion of any residual work arising from Compulsory Acquisition on inter-urban routes.
- Workflows for the Case Management System will continue to be rolled out, enhancing work delivery and capacity - availing of software assistance.
- Continue implementation of the Record Management Schedule and remove all non-current files from the office.

3 Recreation, Amenity & Play Facilities/ Outdoor Leisure Operations & Water Safety

Water Safety Programme - Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Water Safety Programme involved the recruitment of a panel of over 45 trained Lifeguards to provide services at 10 locations in the County [including five Blue Flag Beaches] and at six locations in the City as part of a Shared Service Agreement with Galway City Council.
- Induction Training was held on 26th May and 1st July, 2016.

- Upgrading of some equipment supplies was undertaken as well a Hut Preparation and Repairs-Maintenance Schedule agreed and delivered. The Services commenced on the 4th June and continued until the 15th September, 2016
- Following approval by Council, Funding of €6,150 was advanced to the Irish Water Safety Council.

Indicative Proposals for 2017

- Implement Lifeguard Programme on a Seasonal Basis including induction training. Promotion of the Service using web-sites, social and local media.
- Commission further Risk Assessments with a target of having completed all 10 Risk Assessment for locations in the County. Progress works required under the ILSE (International Life Saving Federation of Europe) Risk Assessments in line with available resources.
- Continue, subject to approval of Council, provision of a financial contribution to Irish Water Safety.
- Roll-out next phase of the Ringbuoy Renewal Programme – including consideration of an inspection ‘app’ to build a record of sites within Council responsibility.

Parks, Pitches, Open Spaces and Playgrounds

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- 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. In 2016, the Council commissioned a digital map of Rinville Park. The maintenance programme is co-funded by Galway City Council.
- A Concession for the provision of refreshments at Rinville Park during April to September was continued.
- Expressions of Interest were invited to cut and retrieve haylage on lands in and adjacent to Rinville Park.
- A contract was awarded to remove Standing Timber in line with areas agreed in the Rinville Park Woodlands Management Plan and in accordance with the Council’ Felling Licence. The purpose of the work was to make safe areas of the park and transform the park into a native and semi-native Woodland.
- Replanting in areas previously clear-felled has been completed with over 8,000 trees planted in April/May. A community replanting day as part of 1916 Programme took place in March with over 70 volunteers engaged in Tree Planting in the Park. This event included support from Conservation Volunteers Galway, Oranmore Tidy Towns and

Scouting Groups and Local Residents. Maintenance of the new trees will be ongoing for a period.

- Works on new pathways works was undertaken in September and improvements in Bar-B-Q areas and the provision of accessible picnic seating was undertaken.
- The legal transfer of ownership of Clarinbridge Cowpark from the Trustees via the Department of Agriculture was concluded.
- Palace Grounds, Tuam - Maintenance Programme for Palace Grounds Park, Tuam was implemented in association with a Council sponsored CE Scheme. Further upgrading of Paths was undertaken as part of a three year path upgrade programme.
- Ballinasloe – Maintenance Programme was continued in Ballinasloe town for parks and open spaces in 2016.

Leisure Centres – Tuam and Ballinasloe

- A four year management, operating and maintenance licence was signed with Coral Leisure Ltd for Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centres in January 2016. A Joint Liaison Committee is chaired by Corporate Services with Coral Leisure to review implementation of the Licence Agreement.
- Essential improvement and health & safety works have been overseen for both Leisure Centres receiving a significant investment in the infrastructure of the building and its equipment. These improvement works included an upgrade to the Fire Alarm System, Re-Tiling, an Upgrade to the Building Management System in Tuam and the Replacement of Pool Pumps, Steam Room Seating and Steam Room Equipment, Repairs to Disability Hoist in Ballinasloe Leisure Centre.
- Successful re-launch weekends were held on May 28th/29th in Ballinasloe and June 4th & 5th in Tuam to launch the upgraded Gyms refitted with new equipment in both Centres and re-branding of the Centres. The Management Company continues to promote and grow its membership base.

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, Ballinalsoe Running Track was fully operational until early summer when it had to be closed due to a requirement for repairs to the Track. Repairs have commenced, and the track will be open again later in 2016. Final repairs will be completed early in 2017 when weather conditions permit.
- A Schedule is made available on www.galway.ie indicating public times and bookings by local clubs.

- Concessions were continued in 2016 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 65 playgrounds have been developed in the County, under this policy. The Smoke Free Playgrounds Policy launched in 2013 was ongoing in 2016. 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 website.
- Playground Inspection Training took place in September and November. This Training Course is given by an approved ROSPA Official. Community Wardens and a representative from each Community Group are provided with Certification for a period of three years further to successful completion of the Course.
- ROSPA Inspections of the 15 Council Owned playgrounds also took place in September.
- National Recreation Week was celebrated with a week long programme of activities in Tuam, in partnership with Tuam Schools Completion Programme and co-funding from the Department of Youth and Children. National Play Day and Recreation Week resources were combined to facilitate the participation Comhairle na nÓg with support from Youthwork Ireland in the National Centenary Event Farming & Country Life 1916. Young people led a games area in Mellows Campus, Athenry based on Department Resource Booklet development by Sugradh on 1916 Themed Event.

Proposals for 2017

- Parks maintenance programmes will be implemented in line with resources in Rinville Park and Palace Grounds Tuam and Open Spaces in Ballinasloe. Continue maintenance required in Rinville Park under the Woodlands Plan to ensure newly planted Trees thrive.
- Support for maintenance at Council owned and operated Playgrounds will be provided in line with resources. Annual ROSPA Inspections will also be arranged for the 15 Council owned playgrounds.
- Continue to provide administrative and advisory support to community groups wishing to advance proposals for recreation and to access available funding.

4 Council Facilities for Local Economic & Community Benefit /

Heritage/Interpretative Facilities Operations

Indicative Activities in 2016

- 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 Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre is owned and operated by Galway County Council. The Centre opened for the season from 15th March to 9th September, 2016. The Centre held a series of workshops and events in 2016 including for 1916 and Heritage Week. In June, the Kitchen/Café Area and the layout of the food/drinks areas was upgraded. The Audio-Visual Display screens were upgraded with a contribution from Aughrim Community Development Association. Ongoing Maintenance works carried out – replacement of some internal lights and internal painting of the Centre is scheduled and new flag displays have been acquired and internal display improved.
- Historic Assets: An application under the "Structures at Risk Fund 2016 Fund 2016" was successful with a grant of €30,000 being made available to Galway County Council towards the consolidation, stabilisation and safety remedial works to be carried out to St. Andrew's Church, Kilconly. A Tender Brief was jointly prepared with the Conservation Officer and quotes were sought to engage a Design Team who were subsequently appointed to work with Galway County Council. Tenders were issued to the Conservation Framework of Contractors with Mid West Lime Ltd being appointed as the successful contractor to complete Phase 1 of the project with works presently ongoing on the replacement of the roof to the main Church.
- Corporate Services also facilitated Portumna Tidy Towns to assist with an internal clean-up of Portumna Courthouse and access by the community to view the Courthouse as part of an event held by the Portumna Players.

Proposals for 2017:

- The Framework of Specialist Contractors for Small Conservation Works will be renewed in 2017 to support any works which may be advanced under the Historic Assets Strategy. This Strategy, subject to resources, seeks to manage and conserve key historic buildings in corporate ownership that have the potential to be reused as community, social or economic assets if renovated and conserved. Staff will continue to support local projects in an advisory capacity.
- Subject to Council approval resources will be provided for 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.

5. Community Warden Service

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- 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, 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 2017:

- 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 as resources allow.

6 Disability Action

Indicative Activities 2016

- Continued delivery of the Disability Action Plan.
- Agreed Accessible Actions as part of the Galway Age Friendly County Strategy.
- Supported the Accessible Ballinasloe initiative to develop Ballinasloe as an accessible, inclusive environment.

Proposals for 2017

- Support implementation of the Customer Service Action Plan to continually improve access to services for persons with a disability and improved access at public counters in Áras an Chontae.
- Support improved Access for Persons with a Disability to Recreation and Amenity Facilities including advancing the provision of accessible equipment for a number of Council Playgrounds.

7. Promoting the Irish Language

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- In March, a detailed programme for Seachtain na Gaeilge was implemented including engaging staff with competitions, events and exhibitions.
- An interim review of the Second Language Scheme for County Galway Local Authorities was requested by An Coimisinéir Teanga's Office which was facilitated.
- A Workforce Linguistic Skills Strategy, as required by the scheme and as necessary to facilitate implementation of the commitments of the scheme, has commenced.
- Website content approval procedure continues to be implemented in association with Customer Services and IS.
- www.galway.ie / www.gaillimh.ie received the Best Local Authority Website - Bilingual Award at the Public Sector Awards 2016.
- A detailed programme of Irish language events was developed for the 1916 Centenary Programme for the County of Galway which has the largest Irish language strand of any programme in the Country.
- A Commemorative Seat in honour of Pádraig MacPiarais was provided at Séipéal an Ghoirt Mhóir as part of the Centenary Programme for the County of Galway.
- Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mac Piarais Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe/ Galway County Council Pádraig Pearse Scholarships were launched in collaboration with Summer Colleges in Conamara to provide 14 scholarships to second level students in the County of Galway to attend Gaeltacht Summer Courses.
- Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh 2016 /Pádraig Pearse Summer School 2016 was held in Ros Muc on the 28/29/30 July 2016.
- Community Support Grants – The Irish language was specifically included as a category in the Community Support Scheme in 2016. Grants totalling €3,900 were approved for projects in Schools, Community & Voluntary Organisations for the promotion and increase of the use of Irish.
- 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 Forbairt Chonamara Láir Teo in April 2016.
- An Award for the Irish Language continued to be included in the Cathaoirleach's Awards for Gaeltacht and Non Gaeltacht communities and Schools.

- Mobile Simultaneous translation equipment was procured for use at Council meetings or other meetings at which translation may be required.
- 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 2017:

- Continue to provide information to all staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation.
- Continue to provide appropriate Irish courses, language awareness and language support material to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, to enhance the provision of services through Irish.
- Complete Workforce Linguistic Skills Strategy, as required by the scheme and as necessary to facilitate implementation of the commitments of the scheme.
- Promote Irish language category for Gradaim an Chathaoirligh and community support grants;
- Continue to operate web-site approval process in partnership with Customer Services and Information Systems.
- Lead participation of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in activities for Seachtain na Gaeilge in March 2017.

<p>8 Facilities Management – Council Properties / Health & Safety</p>
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Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Corporate Services continued to provide caretaking and facilities management services for the Council's network of offices, libraries and civic functions.
- Repairs to Gort Library were undertaken to improve Safety.
- Energy Management & Energy Reduction Initiatives Grant approved from SEAI for energy efficiency works in County Hall through Better Energy Communities Initiative. These works involved the installation of an additional 22Kw of Solar Photovoltaic Panels on the roof of County Hall. These panels along with the existing panels installed in 2013 and 2014 total 30Kw and will reduce the electrical consumption in County Hall by circa 9% on an annual basis. Also completed under this scheme was the replacement of CFL fittings to more efficient LED fittings.
- Revised Cleaning Contracts for Office and Library Accommodation were undertaken for the period 2016 to 2019
- Oranmore Library was successful in receiving a 50% grant under the Better Energy Communities Programme 2016 from SEAI for energy efficiency improvement works. These works will involve the installation of Photovoltaic Panels on the roof, the provision

These works will involve the installation of Photovoltaic Panels on the roof, the provision of a Door Upgrade and Draught Lobby and the Upgrade to the Lighting System with new LED Lighting.

Proposals for 2017:

- Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) will continue to be implemented using staff trained in this area in 2016.
- Maintenance contracts will continue to be the subject of ongoing review to achieve further reductions in costs where feasible. New tender documents will be prepared in late 2016 for contract implementation in early 2017 for Lift Maintenance, Fire Alarm, Fire Extinguishers, Emergency Lighting, Access Control, CCTV, Intruder Alarm for all offices & library accommodation.
- The Unit will continue to deliver actions in accordance with the Energy Management Action Plan, with a view to further reducing energy consumption.

9 Management of Records & 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 2016:

- Continued to provide access to information on Galway County Council's archival holdings through its descriptive lists and also its on-line catalogue, and through various archival portals.
- Continued the programme of providing security backup and reference surrogates to collections and of processing several small archive collections.
- Provided on-going reader services, such as access to collections for research purposes, assistance with research queries, and the provision of research advice and guidance.
- Monitored 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.
- Worked extensively with the Decade of Commemoration Committee on the delivery of a broad range of 1916/2016 Centenary Programme of events.
- Completed and launched two touring archive exhibitions (*From Colonial State to Free State* and *From the Archives, 1916: Revolution and Recollection*), as part of the County of Galway 1916/2016 Centenary Programme.

- Completed and launched a 1916 commemorative set of postcards (*Towards Revolution*) as part of the County of Galway 1916/2016 Centenary Programme.
- Additional outreach activities included the display of various items from the Archives, together with social media notification of displays, particularly those to mark special events /centenaries, such as the 1916 Rising, and the execution of Roger Casement, and the publication of an article in *Galway's Heritage* on a Coroner's Court file 1916.
- 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: 404 recall requests were processed from January to-date (29/09/2016). There are now 104,561 entries on the ArcLink records management database.

Proposals for 2017:

- 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 & record retention schedules, and provide advice on records management best practice.

10 Register of Electors

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Register of Electors for 2016/2017 was published on the 1st February, 2016.
- In February, 2016, the Dáil Elections were held. Polling day for the Dáil Elections was Friday, 26th February, 2016.
- As a result of the Dáil Elections, a Supplementary Register was produced. The closing date for Electors to go on the Supplementary Register was Tuesday 9th February.
- The 2016 Dáil Elections brought about significant Constituency Changes in the County. The County of Galway was split between, Galway West, Galway East and Galway Roscommon, requiring additional administration, so the combination of the Election and the Boundary Changes created a level of additional demand on Corporate Services for the January and February periods and into March to continue updating and deal with Register queries and reports.

Register of Electors Figures for same are as follows:

Galway West Live Register Figures:	49,481
Galway West Supplementary Register Figures:	387
Galway East Live Register Figures:	68,011
Galway East Supplementary Register Figures:	421
Galway/Roscommon Live Register Figures:	16,161
Galway/Roscommon Supplementary Register Figures:	69
The total number on the Live Register as of 1st February was	133,653
The total number on the Supplementary Register was	877

- Galway County Council issued written letter to all those on the Register that would be transferring to new constituencies, as well as extensive public advertising of the changes. Both the Live and Supplementary Registers were sent to all Garda Stations/Libraries & Post Offices in the County: 47 Garda Stations, 93 Post Offices & 21 Libraries.
- Galway County Council also had a number of Special and Postal Voter Applications for the General Election. These consisted of applications from the following:

Gardaí	4 Postal Vote Applications
Defence Forces	234 Postal Vote Applications
Diplomats	2 Postal Vote Applications
Physically Disabled	28 Postal Vote Applications
Circumstances of Occupation	4 Postal Vote Applications
Prisoners	1 Postal Vote Application
Nursing Home Residents	447 Special Voters Application

Proposals for 2017:

- The Council will publish the Register of Electors in accordance with the relevant statutory timeframes and undertake a promotional campaign to increase voter registration.
- The Draft Register of Electors for 2018/2019 will be put on Public Display from the 1st to 25th of November, 2017, with Revision Courts to follow.
- A Supplementary Register of Electors will be compiled and published within the relevant timeframe should the requirement arise.

11 Corporate Planning & Support / Local Representation/ Civic Leadership

Indicative Activities 2016:

Administrative services are provided for the Chief Executive, Cathaoirleach of the Council, Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group and Council Meetings.

Service Delivered for Plenary Council Meetings and Members

- Preparation of Agendas for Ordinary, Special, Annual and Budget 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
- Publication of Conference Summaries on the Council's Website
- 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 & Conferences.
- Arranging in-house Training in line with the agreed Galway Co. Council Training Plan for the Members.
- Processing Members Travel & Subsistence Claims for attendance at Training & 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, Traveller Consultative Committee, LCDC, 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 requests of the Plenary Council – 6 individuals/groups were afforded a Civic Reception in June 2016, one in September and a further 3 groups were afforded Civic Receptions in October/November 2016.

Facilitating the Joint Policing Committee and Meetings Administration Athenry-Oranmore MD

- Galway County Council operates a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in conjunction with local Garda Síochána management and 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 Annual Meeting on 20th January 2016 and Ordinary Meetings of the JPC were held on 4th July and 2nd September and a further Meeting is to be held on 14th November, 2016.
- Meeting Administration is provided by Corporate Services for the Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District. The Municipal District amended its Standing Orders in February 2016, to allow for monthly meetings. The AOMD has met monthly and held its AGM on June 14th.

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 organization.
- Register of Chief Executive’s Orders maintained, Orders Numbered by Corporate Services for each Section.
- Eleven Access to Information on the Environment Requests received and replies issued as follows: 2 granted, 6 part granted, 3 remains to be decided.
- 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
- 2 Appeal to the Office of the Information Commissioner - The OIC affirmed 1 and varied 1 of the Council’s decisions.
- The FOI Act 2014 requires public bodies to publish Disclosure Logs on the website for non-personal requests, showing the date of each request, what the request was for, the decision, and when the decision was made. Corporate Services has published the Disclosure Log commencing from 14th April, 2016.

Proposals for 2017:

- Corporate Services will continue to support the Cathaoirleach, elected members and the organisation of Plenary Council Meetings.
- The Council will maintain Staff & Members Ethics Register and facilitate the Members in the return of Donations Statements.
- The Unit will publish the Public Register of Attendance and Payments to Elected Members.

- The Unit will actively support the role of the Corporate Policy Group.
- Continue to facilitate the Joint Policing Committee.
- The Council will continue to comply with our statutory requirements regarding Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment legislation and will continue to facilitate the organisation in relation to Ombudsman queries.

1916 Centenary Programme

- The Corporate Services Unit facilitated the development of the 1916 Centenary Programme for the County of Galway and supported the delivery of a range of commemorative events during the 2016, while also providing support for commemorative events lead by other Units as part of the programme.
- A significant number of commemorative events were facilitated by the Corporate Services Unit including:
 - Opening event of the ceremonial strand of the programme held at County Hall on 1st January 2016.
 - State Ceremonial & Associated Events in Athenry on Easter Monday, 28th March 2016.
 - Ceremonies & Special Meeting of Galway County Council at County Hall to mark the centenary of the Rising in the County of Galway on Monday, 25th April 2016.
 - Unveiling of a commemorative stone at Carnmore Cross on 26th April 2016.
 - Civic event for the relatives of the Galway men and women of 1916 held in Ballinasloe on the 21st May 2016.
 - Galway County Council in partnership with Teagasc hosted a National 1916-2016 event, commemorating Farming and Country Life 1916-2016 at Teagasc, Mellows Campus in Athenry. This hugely successful free national flagship event took place on Friday June 10th and Saturday June 11th 2016 with themes to include the 1916 Rising, Farm Family and Rural Life, the Land, Education and Co-operation, Mechanization of Farming, Livestock and Sporting and Cultural Life of the period.
 - The delivery of over 150 events and initiatives over the course of 2016, based on the themes of Remembering, Reconciling, Presenting, Imagining and Celebrating, afforded both our communities and diaspora the opportunity to play an active part in the commemorations.
 - Commemorative sculpture was unveiled at County Hall on Friday, 17th June 2016
 - Official opening of Éamonn Ceannt Commemorative Garden in Ballymoe took place on Wednesday 21st September 2016.
- The Unit also administered the community grant scheme Gaillimh 2016 – Cuimhneamh Grant Scheme to facilitate the provision of high quality artistic features to serve as a permanent contemporary legacy of the centenary commemorations of 1916.

12 Freedom of Information, Access to Information on the Environment, Ombudsman Queries

Indicative Activities in 2016:

Freedom of Information has seen a continued increase in the number of Freedom of Information Requests (FOI) received as a result of the abolition of the up-front fees under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. The total number of requests received in 2014 was 49, while 122 requests have been received up to end October, 2016.

- Decisions were issued as follows:
 - 37 granted, 29 part granted, 46 refused, 4 transferred/withdrawn, 6 remain to be decided.
 - 5 Appeals for an Internal Review of FOI Decision received and decisions issued as follows:
 - 2 decisions upheld, 2 decisions varied, 1 pending

13 Educational Support Services/Student Grants

Indicative Proposals 2016:

- A new single National Awarding Authority (Student Universal Support Ireland) was introduced by Government in 2012 and is operated by County of Dublin VEC. SUSI is responsible for all new applications. The Council remains responsible for 59 students for the 2015/2016 Academic Year.

Proposals for 2017:

- The Council will continue to administer the payments (Maintenance and Fees) and appeals procedure for existing students until their courses are completed. No new applications will be dealt with by the Council in 2017.

15 Customer Service

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Customer Services Officers Group (CSOG) continued to meet over 2016. The CSOG is comprised of staff representatives from all the main service areas.
- The email address, customerservices@galwaycoco.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 this address with general queries which are investigated and replied to appropriately.

- 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 2016 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 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 first 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

- Increased use of Social Media (Twitter, FB) with over 3,500 likes on Facebook and over 9,000 followers on Twitter to date 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 and in fully promoting and supporting the Galway2020 ECOC bid.
- Over 150 application forms for all sections of the local authority were reformatted, translated, converted to fillable pdfs, coded and uploaded to website.

Proposals for 2017:

- Co-ordinate implementation of the Customer Service Action Plan 2017 in line with agreed targets and goals in the Quality Customer Services Strategy.
- Continue to facilitate the Customer Services Officers Group bi-monthly 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.

- Continue to implement 'Fix Your Street' to meet agreed targets.
- Facilitate updating of the Council Web-site in both languages and maintain a central deposit and coding system for all County Council Application Forms available via the web-site.
- 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.

16 Operation of Coroner Expenses

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Continued administration of payments for implementation of the Coroners Service including Pathology, Removal, Coroners Courts and other duties in line with Agreed Schemes and Statutory Instruments. Galway County Council retains three Coroners and provides services for the City and County Area. Corporate services provided administrative support under Agreed Scheme for Funeral Directors/Undertakers in accordance with available resources. Information on the Panel (Funeral Directors taking part in the Agree Scheme for an agreed Fee) is circulated to An Garda Síochana, who are the first point of contact in an unexpected or unexplained death.
- In June 2016, initial preparatory work was progressed as part of a Department of Justice – Value for Money Audit of the Coroner Service. This was an extensive review of the 2013-2015 period of the service provided in each Local Authority Area and the cost of the service.

Proposals for 2017:

- Continue administration of payments for implementation of the Coroners Service including Pathology, Removal, Coroners Courts and other duties in line with Agreed Schemes and Statutory Instruments.
- Monitor and review the implementation of the Agreed Scheme for Funeral Directors/Undertakers in accordance with available resources and maintain updated information on the Panel.

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

Indicative Activities 2016:

- Casual Trading Licenses were issued for a fee for a number of towns and villages throughout the County including Athenry (4), Clifden (8), Gort (6), Loughrea (2), Mountbellew (11), Dunmore (1), Headford (1), Tuam (5); 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 June the office dealt with is queries in relation to special events licences for event in August and September – Ballygar Carnival, Dunmore & Loughrea Festivals. Corporate Services will provide additional support for License services for Ballinasloe Fair.

- 7 Requests from film makers etc. to use public property for filming were also processed.

Proposals for 2017:

- Continue to issue Casual Trading Licenses and consider reviewing existing Bye-Laws.
- Progress on-line payment facilities for Licenses.
- Continue to facilitate queries and issue permissions as required to Media and Production Companies wishing to film in the County in support of the Film Galway Partnership.
- Co-ordination and operation of trading at the Ballinasloe Horse Fair in October in partnership with the Ballinasloe Municipal District Office.

18 Internal Audit Activity

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve the organisations operations. 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 Unit carries out audits and reviews through its annual Audit Plan, which is drawn up in conjunction with the Executive Team and the Audit Committee.

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- A total of 8 audits were completed from the 2016 Audit Plan with 4 presented to the Audit Committee.
- An in depth review of the Gort to Tuam motorway scheme was undertaken in compliance with the quality assurance measure of the Public Spending Code.
- The 2015 Audit Report recommendations were reviewed.
- Policy compliance testing on planning fee calculations, development fee calculations, plant hire invoices and prompt payment interest penalties was carried out.
- Quarterly checking of the cash office, quarterly checking of revenue collector’s receipts and lodgments, together with periodic checking in the motor tax headquarters office in County Hall. In addition, periodic checking and stock taking was undertaken in the motor tax sub offices in Ballinasloe.

Proposals for 2017:

- The Internal Audit Unit will continue to facilitate the work of the Audit Committee
- Reviews of recommendations made in the 2016 audit reports
- The 2017 Audit Plan will be risk based
- Completion of audits as per the 2017 Audit Plan.
- Compliance with the Quality Assurance requirements of the Public Spending Code
- Continue work on Policy compliance testing.
- Quarterly and periodic checks on the various income collection streams.
- Periodic checking and stock taking in the motor tax sub offices in Ballinasloe and An Cheathrú Rua.

Social Housing

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The provision of Social Housing is met through the Rental Accommodation Scheme, the Voluntary Sector, Housing Assistance Payment and Council Housing stock. It is considered that an allocation of social housing through any of these channels meets the housing needs of the applicant.
- The Council have completed the purchase of 22 units thus far in 2016 with a number of other units at contract stage. The Housing Unit is actively endeavouring to source additional good quality homes in areas of demand as determined by the Housing Waiting List.
- There are currently over 3,400 applicants on the housing waiting list.
- A Housing Needs Assessment is currently in progress.

Proposals for 2017:

- The Council will continue its progress in the provision of Social Housing for persons on the Social Housing list and will endeavour to reduce further the number of vacant Council units subject to the availability of funding from the Department.
- The Council will seek to optimise the supply of housing units through all available channels.

Homelessness

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- There has been a marked increase in the demand for homeless services and in particular for Homeless families. The Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) is the shared client support and bed management system for all homeless services and accurate & timely population of this database has proved very useful between colleagues and other agencies for case history and statistical purposes.

- The increased emphasis on care and case management and “move on options” for service users is useful but limited by the availability of move on options either in private rented sector or supported accommodation. Demand for Homeless services continues to increase in numbers and complexity.

Proposals for 2017:

- Develop the Homeless Action Team / Homeless Steering Committee.
- Progress a Housing led approach with all forms of social housing including transition accommodation for families in cooperation with Voluntary bodies and with supports tailored to needs.
- Progress step down/ transition accommodation for single people needing some supports in cooperation with Voluntary bodies and with supports tailored to needs.
- Work with Voluntary & Statutory bodies to prevent Homelessness (e.g. Threshold, Tusla etc.)
- Continue with case management with 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.

Voluntary Housing

Indicative Activities in 2016:

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

CAS

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

- The following projects with CAS funding were completed in 2016:
 - Construction of 13 units in Letterfrack by Cluid.
 - Acquisition of 4 units in Boland’s Lane, Gort by Peter Triest Housing Association
- The following projects are progressing with CAS funding :
 - Construction of 12 units at Dunlo Hill, Ballinasloe by Cluid Housing Association and St Vincent de Paul
 - Construction of 13 units in Letterfrack by Cluid.
 - Construction of 5 units in Mountbellew by Mountbellew Housing Association
 - Construction of 12 units in Baile Chláir Claregalway & District Day Care Centre

- Acquisition of 4 units in Headford by Respond Housing Association
- Acquisition/Construction of 4 units in Indreabhán Éanna Teo.
- Applications for projects under the 2016 CAS Call at the following locations are being processed and await full approval for CAS funding:
 - Acquisition 8 units in Ros an Mhíl by Tearmann Éanna Teo .
 - Acquisition of 3 units in Tuam by Respond
 - Acquisition / Construction of 3 units in Athenry by Peter Triest Housing Association
 - Construction of 11 units in Letterfrack by Clúid Housing Association

CALF

The Capital Advance and Leasing Facility provides social housing through off-balance sheet current expenditure for Galway County Council.

- To date 45 units have been delivered at various locations around the County including Tuam, Ballinasloe and Loughrea. Galway County Council has 100% nomination rights on all units.
- Proposals for a further 151 units across the County are currently being progressed.

Proposals for 2017:

- 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 social housing under the funding sources available.

Housing Grants

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- To date the number of applications for Housing Aid for Older People paid in 2016 is 159 with the number of Mobility Aids Grants & Housing Aid Grants totalling 149.
- The total budget for 2016 was €1,802,997 of which €360,599 was to be provided from the Councils own resources.

Proposals for 2017:

- Commitment to continue administration of the grants schemes subject to the availability of the necessary funding.

Housing Construction

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Under the Social Housing Strategy approval has been granted by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to Galway County Council to

proceed with the construction of 88 new social housing units (30 units at Weir Road, Tuam, 10 units at Garbally Drive, Ballinasloe, 2 units at Esker Fields, Ballinasloe, 40 at Gilmartin Road, Tuam, and 6 single rural dwellings at various locations). Design teams have prepared plans for 5 capital projects and the statutory planning process has been commenced for 4 of those proposals.

Proposals for 2017:

- Progress the capital projects to construction stage
- Liaise with developers to identify prospective sites for delivery of social housing.
- The Council will continue to examine all options available to meet the needs of its tenants including the option of providing appropriate alternative accommodation. Extensions will be considered in priority cases where it is seen as the best solution and subject to availability of funding.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) & Leasing
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Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Government has allocated funding 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.
- There are 370 households accommodated currently through the RAS Scheme.

Proposals for 2017:

- The Council will continue to administer the RAS Scheme as well as working to progress supply options under the Social Housing Expenditure Programme Element of the Social Housing Strategy.

Void/Vacant Houses & Energy Efficiency Retrofit
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Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Funding was made available in 2016 for returning vacant houses back to productive use. The Council have completed work on 62 units to date.
- The housing unit has completed energy efficiency works on over 90% of our stock since the 2013 programme was introduced.
- A submission was made to the Department for funding towards the costs of returning derelict housing back into use. Approval has been received for funding of 14 derelict units within the Tirboy Estate in Tuam and work is currently ongoing.

Proposals for 2017:

- Further energy efficiency works are proposed for 2017 depending on available funding.
- We will continue the trend of reducing the number of vacant houses in our stock. Progress will depend on the availability of adequate funds.

Tenancy and Estate Management

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Housing Unit continues to work with its vulnerable families in assisting them in sustaining their tenancies.
- The Tenancy and Estate Management Unit/ anti-social Behaviour Unit was established in Sept 2013.
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Officer continues to work intensively in a number of areas across the County, this is done in conjunction with the Gardai and relevant State stakeholders and other Council Departments.
- A new revision of the anti-social Behaviour Strategy was adopted by the full Council on the 9th of May 2016 to take into consideration the new housing misc. provisions act 2014.
- 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 continues to engage with the Gardai 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 with one more site planned for 2017.
- The Housing unit works on an inter-agency level to tackle anti-social behaviour and to assist tenants to sustain their tenancies.

Proposals for 2017:

- As part of the interdepartmental and inter-agency strategic approach, the Housing Unit has identified target housing estates which will be the focus of extensive estate management activity over the coming year.
- CCTV will be rolled out in 1 further Council estate in 2017 subject to the availability of funding.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP commenced in Galway County Council on 16th November 2015.

HAP was introduced to provide a more integrated system of housing supports and aims to

allow all social housing supports to be accessed through one body the local authority, and allow recipients to take up full-time employment and still keep their housing support. The rent contribution payable by the HAP recipient will be based on the differential rent scheme for their Local Authority. This scheme links the rent contribution a household must pay to the household income and the ability to pay. HAP will help to regulate the private rental sector and improve standards of accommodation. Properties will be inspected to make sure that they meet the required standards. HAP recipients will be able to avail of other social housing supports and options, if they so choose. Local Authorities will be responsible for all social housing supports.

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- 300 applicants transferred to the HAP scheme by the end of October 2016.
- Lack of supply of available properties is an issue for applicants.
- Information sessions were held with Cope, Citizen's Information Centres, Mental Health and Family Support units working in the community.
- Further Information sessions were held with Local Estate Agents across the County.

Proposals for 2017:

- To continue transferring long term rent supplement recipients from the Department of Social Protection over to the HAP scheme. 1600 people are in receipt of long term rent supplement payments.
- Process all new housing applications for the HAP scheme.
- Roll out of inspection process for all properties under the HAP Scheme.

Control of Horses

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Council continued to implement its protocol in conjunction with the Garda Siochanna on the Control of Horses during 2016. The number of stray and abandoned horses continues to reduce significantly.
- In addition to the issue of wandering horses on public roads the Local Authority deals with stray and wandering animals on Council property including our own housing estates. The Council has undertaken a number of exercises to raise awareness and reduce the instances of keeping of animals on estates. Such exercises include public notices, letters to residents as well as Community Warden inspections.
- Funding is provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine at the rate of €375 per horse seized and euthanized or €200 (max) where a horse is seized and rehomed. Whilst the Council makes every effort to operate within the fee limits set exceptional situations may arise resulting in greater costs.

Proposals for 2017:

- A Services Contract was put in place in July 2015 and remains in place to date. Galway County Council will continue to work with the Gardaí in tackling the issue of stray and abandoned horses on public roads.

Residential Tenancies Board - Registration of Rented Units

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Residential Tenancies Act 2004 came into operation on 1st September, 2004. Part 7 of this Act deals with the registration of tenancies with the Residential Tenancies Board. The published register is available on the Residential Tenancies Board website at www.rtb.ie
- Galway County Council inspected 23 properties up to 31st October 2016, to ensure compliance with standards for rented houses. A total of 16 Properties failed to comply with the current standards and Improvement notices were served on landlords requiring improvements to be carried out.

Proposals for 2017:

- On-going inspection of Private Rented Properties to confirm compliance with current Standards for Private Rented Properties. It is intended that an emphasis will be placed on increasing the number of inspections; however this will be dependent on resources available.

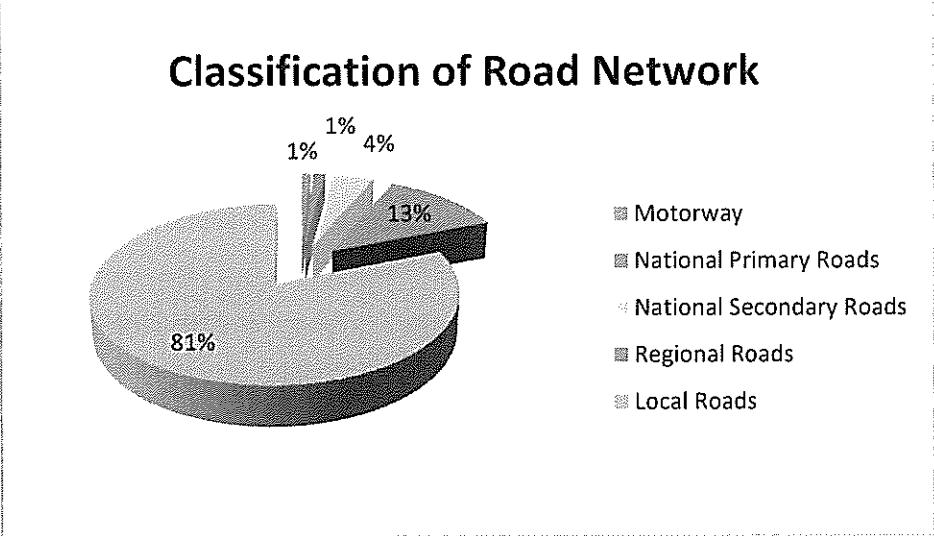
Housing, Cultural & Recreation SPC

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Housing & Emergency Services SPC met on 5 occasions to date in 2016. Areas covered included Social Housing Strategy, Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), New Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme, Housing Policy and Accommodating Choice Based Letting (CBL), Housing Construction/Supply, Housing Conference and Galway County Library. A joint meeting with the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC was held to receive a presentation and update on the European Capital of Culture 2020 Bid.

Proposals for 2017:

- In 2017, it is anticipated that the committee will examine, inter alia, the areas of choice for housing, as well as closely monitoring progress on delivery targets under the capital and current programmes of the Social Housing Strategy, and the ongoing Housing Assistance Payment implementation.



The road grants for 2017 will be announced in February 2017. It is anticipated that there will be specific provision for bridges on non-national roads. However, it is uncertain whether specific improvement grants for non-national roads will be made available. Funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland for road maintenance and pavement and minor improvement schemes is likely to remain at 2016 levels. Funding allocations will continue to be made on a road length and classification basis.

Road Condition Survey

A road condition survey was carried out on the local road network by Galway County Council in 2012. The project benefits the management of the network and was also used to provide an updated inventory of the network. Each segment of the road has been assessed and a grading applied. The location is mapped using GPS and automatically logged. The road condition is graded from 1 to 10 with 10 being the best condition.

Following the local roads conditions survey which was completed in 2012, the road condition standards across the county are relatively uniform. The continuation of the local tertiary road repair programme is extremely beneficial and it is hoped to continue the programme in 2017.

The results of the survey carried out by the DOT/NRA on regional routes in County Galway are used as a tool to assist in setting out priorities for the Road Restoration and Reconstruction Programme. The results of the survey indicate which sections of road require surface upgrades; these amount to approximately 10% of the network. The baseline figures highlight a need to examine and improve skid resistance over approximately 8.5% of the regional network. This type of data is very valuable in

determining areas of concern and in fine tuning programmes to maximize the effectiveness of scarce resources. Other factors outside the physical attributes of the road also contribute such as traffic volumes, accident history, regional importance etc.

National Roads

Indicative activities in 2016

- Funding was provided in 2016 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban Routes element of the National Development Plan 2007 – 2013. The following major 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
N67	Ballindeereen to Kinvara
M6	Galway / Ballinasloe
M17/M18	Gort / Tuam
M18	Gort / Crusheen
N6	Galway City Ring Road
N59	Moycullen Bypass/Moycullen Online
N59	Maam Cross/Clifden
N59	Maam Cross/ Oughterard
N84	Luimnagh
N17	Carrownurlaur/ Ballindine
N63	Annagh Hill/Abbeyknockmoy
N83	Forty Acres
N63	Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh

- The M6 Galway/Ballinasloe and M18 Gort Crusheen Schemes have some minor landowner issues outstanding.

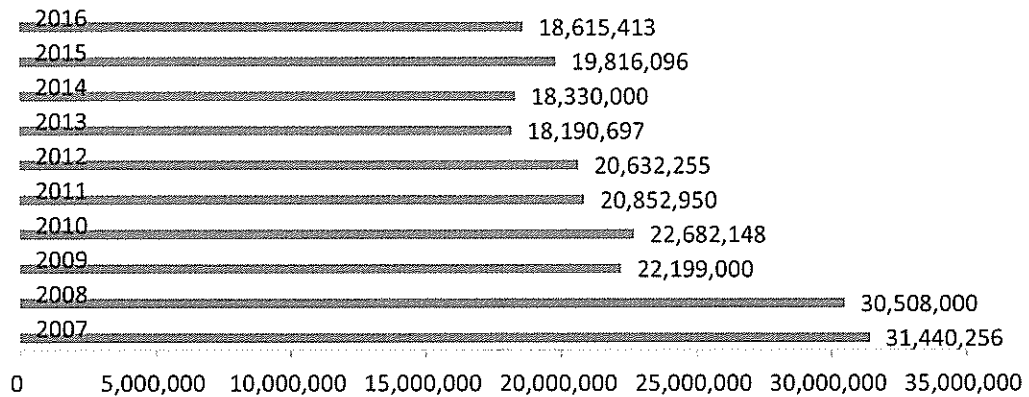
- Consultants have been appointed for the Galway Ring Road and are based in the Project Office in Ballybrit. Necessary documentation for publication of the scheme will be available in the first half of 2017.
- Maam Cross to Oughterard has been granted Planning Approval and Advance works. The subject of ongoing discussions with NPWS.
- During 2016 the section of the N59 from Clifden to Maam Cross was refused permission by An Bord Pleanála. Galway County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland area considering options to progress this project.
- Contract Documents are being prepared for the N59 Moycullen ByPass. Works on the Moycullen Online section were completed in 2016.
- The annual resurfacing and maintenance programme for National routes was undertaken in accordance with the budget of €1,393,370 for maintenance works notified by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Proposals for 2017:

- The contract is between the NRA and Direct Route. Major works are ongoing since Q1 2015. The completion date is scheduled for Feb 2018.
- Road works commenced on the N84 Luimnagh in Qtr 3 2015 and were completed in 2016. Some accommodation works remain to be completed in 2017.
- Works commenced on the N17 Carrownurlaur to Ballindine in Qtr 4 2015 and the land acquisition and works were completed in 2016. Accommodation works are to be completed in 2017.
- N67 Ballindereen Kinvara – permission was granted for this scheme in 2016. It is intended to commence negotiations with landowners in 2017.
- N63 Annagh Hill to Abbeyknockmoy Part VIII Planning was granted in September 2015. Approval to proceed to Compulsory Purchase Order was received in 2016 and road works are scheduled to start in Qtr 2 2017.
- 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, a full programme of Pavement and Minor Improvement Works will be undertaken on the National Primary and National Secondary Road Network in the context of the 2017 grant allocations from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Regional & Local Roads

Regional & Local Road Grant Allocations 2007 - 2016 (€)



Indicative Activities in 2016:

The total grant allocation of **€18,615,413** for Regional & Local Roads divides as follows:

Improvement Works	€15,792,053
Maintenance Works	€ 2,823,360

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

Grant Category	2016 Allocation
Improvement Grant 2016	€10,030,462
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€2,823,360
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€4,750,321
Specific Improvement Grants – Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	€410,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€295,000
Training	€95,000
Severe Weather Repairs Carryover	€183,520
Road Safety in Housing Areas	€27,750
OVERALL TOTAL	€18,615,413

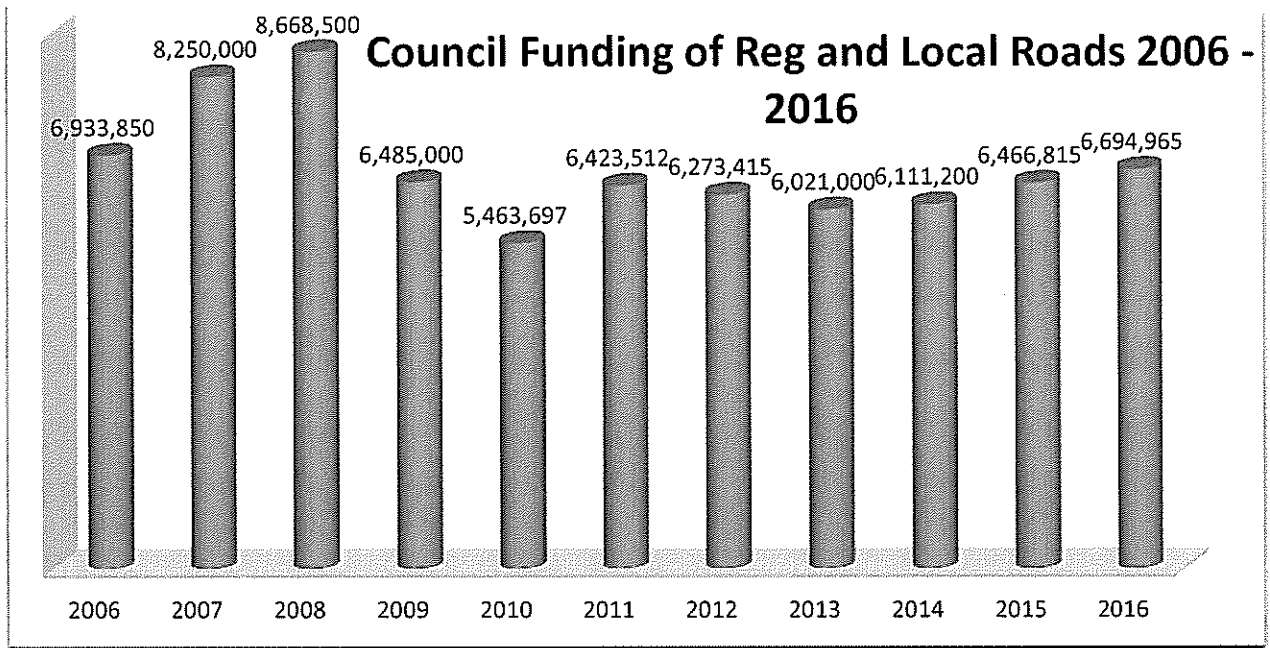
- The following bridges were allocated funding under the Specific Improvement Grant – Bridge Rehabilitation Programme during 2016:

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	BRIDGE	ALLOCATION
Athenry/ Oranmore	Graigabbey 2	€ 50,000
Ballinasloe	Cloonahinch 2	€ 40,000
Conamara	Munterowen	€110,000
Loughrea	Gortacarnaun (Gort)	€ 40,000
	Whites	€ 40,000
	Ballynakill	€ 50,000
Tuam	Ballinderry	€ 40,000
	Cohennaheeny (Br 692)	€ 40,000
TOTAL BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME		€410,000

- Funding of **€360,500** was allocated from the 2016 Discretionary Grant for the repair of Regional and Local Roads Bridges – the total allocation spent on Non-National Road Bridges was €770,500.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	BRIDGE	ALLOCATION	TOTAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
Athenry/ Oranmore	Barrack Street	€17,500	€71,750
	Oranmore Bridge 1	€13,125	
	Newcastle	€8,750	
	Bingarra	€7,000	
	Licklea 3	€7,000	
	Cormacuagh	€5,250	
	Licklea	€4,375	
	Lisdoran	€4,375	
	Ballynanulty	€4,375	
Ballinasloe	Eskerroe	€13,125	€61,250
	Coppanagh	€13,125	
	Ballynakill	€35,000	
Conamara	Philbin's	€17,500	€74,375
	Cornamona	€17,500	
	Corboley	€17,500	
	Drimneen	€13,125	
	Kilkieran	€8,750	

Loughrea	Lurga (Gort)	€13,125	€65,625
	Crewaun 489	€13,125	
	Sonnagh New Bridge	€13,125	
	Fairfield Portumna	€13,125	
	Drumminagh	13,125	
Tuam	Ballyglooneen	€26,250	€87,500
	Cloondaha	€21,875	
	Coheenaheeny	€8,750	
	Laughil 2	€13,125	
	Timadooan	€8,750	
	Corofin	€8,750	
TOTAL			€360,500



The sum provided from the Council's resources in 2016 is **€6,694,965**, to include provision for public lighting.

Funding of €2,823,360 was allocated for Surface Dressing within existing fence lines. It was allocated as follows:

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------|
| (1) | Ballinasloe Municipal District Surface Dressing | € 540,800 |
| (2) | Conamara Municipal District Surface Dressing | € 567,840 |
| (3) | Loughrea Municipal District Surface Dressing | € 676,000 |
| (4) | Oranmore Municipal District Surface Dressing | € 242,360 |
| (5) | Tuam Municipal District Surface Dressing | € 676,000 |

Proposals for 2017:

- The Unit will prepare the 2017 Roads Programme in the context of available funding from the National Roads Authority, Department of Transport and the Council's own resources. The Programme will be presented to the Council for their approval in February 2017.
- The distribution of the Local Roads Budget 2017 will be presented to Council for approval in the context of the 2017 Roads Programme. The level of discretion that will be available to the Council in the allocation of funding in 2017 for Regional and Local Roads will be restricted by the requirements of the Memorandum on Grants for Regional & Local Roads as issued by the Department of Transport.

Marine Works

Indicative Activities in 2016:

Fishery Harbours and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme

Improvement works, costing €765,000, are being carried out on 7 piers in the Municipal District of Conamara. There is a requirement for Galway County Council to provide €192,500 of funding towards this work, with the balance of €572,500 being provided by Dept of Marine. Works are taking place on the following piers - Annaghvaan, Bealadangan; Canower, Cashel Bay; Ceibh Tuairin, Carraroe and Fahy Pier.

Marine Maintenance

A marine maintenance programme is ongoing in relation to the 62 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. A contract was awarded this year for the removal of algae growth on piers in County Galway at a cost of €30,000. A pilot programme looking at long term treatment of Algal growth at Renville Slipway has also been undertaken.

Proposals for 2017:

Strategic Piers and Harbours:

Inis Oírr Harbour

- Funding of €8million for the pier development on Inis Oírr was specified in the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Programme 2016 -2021. There are currently discussions ongoing with Roinn na Gaeltachta with the intention of preparing tenders and liaising with stakeholders during 2017.

Coastal Protection

- The Council will continue to submit proposals to the Office of Public Works for funding to facilitate Coastal Protection Works.
- Residual storm damage repair works on pre-identified sites, in conjunction with funding from the Office of Public Works of €500,000.
- The county-wide continuation of coastal protection works.

Arterial Drainage

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- 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.

Drainage Districts:

Ahascragh	Annagh	Boley
Dunkellin (Gort)	Dunkellin (Athenry)	Dunkellin (Loughrea)
Kellysgrove	Kilchreest	Lavally
Meelick Pollshask	Mountbellew	Oranhill

Joint Drainage Districts:

River Fergus Joint Drainage Committee
River Suck Joint Drainage Committee

Proposals for 2017:

- The Unit will undertake a programme of maintenance on the drainage works under the remit of the Council during 2017, the works carried out will be dependent on the funding available.
- All available sources of revenue will be utilised to undertake remedial and improvement works on the drainage districts under the remit of the Council.

Flood Mitigation Works & Studies

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Galway County Council continued working in partnership with the OPW during 2015 to identify and progress works aimed at reducing the risk of future flooding.

- From 2010 to date over 190 Minor Works Flood Alleviation Schemes were examined with a view to determining whether an economically feasible solution to reduce the potential for future flooding existed.
- A Joint Steering Group comprised of representatives of Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works continued to meet during 2016 to progress works on the Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme and the Clare River (Claregalway) Flood Relief Scheme.
 - Works on Dunkellin have commenced as have works on the Clare River.
 - The Clare River Flood Relief Scheme achieved statutory approval in October 2015 and works commenced in 2016 and will continue into 2017.
- Galway County Council has continued working in partnership with the OPW on the Western and Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management studies during 2014/2015. Draft Flood Maps have been finalised and are being made available to the public for review. Submission on the Draft Western & Shannon catchment flood risk assessment and management status was made during 2016 and final plans are expected during 2017.

Proposals for 2017:

- Outstanding works on all existing minor flood mitigation projects will be completed during 2017 and Galway County Council will liaise with the OPW with regard to minor works schemes that are under consideration with the aim of securing funding for these schemes.
- Progress the Ballinderreen to Kiltiernan Flood Relief Scheme in partnership with the OPW and TII.
- Applications for funding for any further schemes identified as offering appropriate potential to reduce the risk of future flooding will be advanced for submission to the OPW.
- Galway County Council will continue working in partnership with the OPW on progressing the Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme and the Clare River (Claregalway) Flood Relief Scheme.
- Galway County Council will continue working in partnership with the OPW on the Western and Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies during 2017.
- Galway County Council has received approval to progress the development of a flood relief scheme for South Galway/Gort lowlands. This scheme will be progressed and developed in partnership with Office of Public Works during 2017.

Road Safety

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Road Safety Together Committee held meetings and continued its active role in the promotion of road safety.
- Road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2016 included:
 - Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for secondary schools.
 - In February, 2016, the 'Think Twice – Road Safety Awareness Show for Teenagers' was held in Leisureland, Galway, in conjunction with Galway City Council and over 800 secondary school students attended this worthwhile show.
 - Support for the Cycling Safety Training Programme in national schools
 - During 'Slow Down Day' in May and October, 2016, the Council erected variable messaging signs asking the public to slow down
 - Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme and competition held with 4 schools on 17th May, 2016, in Moylough.
 - Regular road safety messages were on iRadio to raise awareness to the general public on Bank Holiday Weekends
 - The RSA 'Check it Fits' event whereby child car seats are checked to ensure they are safely and securely fitted took place at various Galway locations in April, 2016.
 - During the Bealtaine Festival in May, 2016, a High Visibility Vests Campaign took place and vests were distributed, free of charge.
 - The 'European Day Without a Road Death' took place on 21st September, '16, and the event was promoted by the Council.
 - For the national Road Safety Week held from 3rd to 9th October, 2016, joint initiatives took place with NUIG and GMIT where rucksack covers and high visibility vests were distributed to students; Advance Pitstop offered a free 5 Point Vehicle 'Health Check' to members of the public to ensure vehicles are in proper working order for the winter; Specsavers offered eye tests at reduced price to ensure the correct vision for driving and a number of publicans throughout the county were given high visibility vests to distribute to their customers who walk/ cycle home.
 - A Road Safety Video 'The Goal is Zero' was produced to highlight to the public the aim of zero deaths on our roads.
 - A Car Dismantling Demo took place in October, '16, in conjunction with Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, the Fire Service and Civil Defence and the students present enjoyed this educational event
 - Social Inclusion Week took place in October, 2016, and high visibility material and leaflets was distributed.

- During 2016, road safety awareness messages appeared on the Council's social media in order to continue raising road safety awareness to its staff members and also messages were sent to local press aimed at the general public.
- At the meeting of the County Public Participation Network in October, 2016, hundreds of high visibility vests and armbands were circulated to Community Groups.
- During 2016, high visibility vests, armbands and road safety awareness leaflets were distributed, free of charge, to schools, community groups and the general public.

Proposals for 2017:

- The Road Safety Together Committee is to meet regularly and continue its active role in the promotion of road safety.
- Road safety initiatives proposed by the Council during 2017 include:
 - Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for secondary schools.
 - Launch of the '1.5 Stayin' Alive' Campaign aimed at promoting the safety of cyclists on our roads
 - Support for the Cycling Safety Training Programme in national schools
 - Continue to raise awareness of road safety to the general public by regular radio messages and through social media
 - Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme in 4 schools
 - Continue the distribution of high visibility vests, armbands and road safety awareness leaflets, free of charge, to schools, community groups and the general public.

Safety Improvement Works and Measures:

- An allocation of €295,000 was provided by the Department of Transport to enable low cost safety improvement works to be carried out on the following regional and local roads:

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	ROAD NUMBER	LOCATION	ALLOCATION
Athenry/Oranmore	R347	Kilskeagh	€35,000
	LP2119	Gortroe Setback Boundary	€25,000
Ballinasloe	R348 & LP3412	Nutfield Cross	€70,000
	R339 & LS7229	Menlough Commons	€30,000
Conamara	LP1313	Moycullen/Tullykyne Road	€35,000
	R336/LS5207	Junction of road to airport	€30,000
Loughrea	LP4214 with LP4216	Kileenadeema East/West	€25,000
	LP4507	Roo, Tierneevin, Gort	€15,000
Tuam	R332	Barnaderg Village	€20,000
	R364	Kilcornan Kilkerrin Village	€10,000
	TOTAL		€295,000

Speed Limits

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- A 4 year programme of the installation of SLOW ZONE speed limit signage in housing estates continued for the second year in 2016. Funding provided in 2016 for this programme of works was €27,750.
- The Unit continued to implement Road Works Speed Limits; in consultation with the Gardaí and the National Roads Authority, as deemed necessary to facilitate the delivery of the Council's various work programmes.

Proposals for 2017:

- The programme of the installation of SLOW ZONE speed limit signage in housing estates is expected to continue in 2017, depending on funding being made available by the Department of Transport. It is anticipated that funding similar to the 2016 amount of €27,750 will be provided.
- A review of County-wide speed limit bye-laws is continuing in 2017, which will result in a programme of work installing and updating signage as per 2017 bye-laws, which are to be adopted at plenary Council. An allocation of €50,000 has been set aside for this programme.
- 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.

Public Lighting

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- A sum of €1,022,000 was provided in the 2016 Budget to fund the cost of the public lighting programme including the maintenance, energy and upgrade costs.

Proposals for 2017:

- An additional €100,000 will be provided in the Budget for the 2017 Public Lighting Programme. This budget provides for the maintenance and energy costs associated with the existing public lighting network.

Community Involvement Schemes

Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Council continued to actively promote the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme as a means of harnessing community support for road works on suitable local roads. A total of 80 applications were received for the 2016 scheme, for which funding of €428,248 was provided for 25 schemes by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Proposals for 2017:

- The 2016 Draft Roads Programme will include provision of funding to facilitate the operation of the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme. It is anticipated that the criteria for eligibility for the scheme will remain the same as the criteria set down in 2016.

Working in Partnership

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works worked together on the Joint Flood Working Group and the Steering Group for the Dunkellin & River Clare Flood Relief Schemes to advance suitable projects and measures to minimise the potential for future flooding.
- The Unit liaised with relevant stakeholders in advancing the preparation of the Winter Service Plan.
- Galway County Council continued to progress the proposed walking and cycling Greenway from Galway to Oughterard with support from the Department of Transport.
- Galway County Council continued to progress the development of the walking and cycling Greenway from Clifden to Oughterard, with support from Fáilte Ireland.

Proposals for 2017:

- The Unit will continue to take a lead role in working in partnership with Galway City Council and the Galway Transportation Unit in advancing transportation related projects of mutual benefit to Galway County & City.
- The Council will continue to work with the Office of Public Works and other relevant stakeholders to address flood related matters during 2017.
- The Council will continue to liaise with the National Transportation Authority to develop best practice for public roads in rural areas.
- The Council will continue to progress all Greenway projects in the County, offering increased sustainable transport options to both residents and tourists.

Customer Service

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Unit made information available to the general public, in 2016, on our Winter Service Plan for 2015/2016 at www.galway.ie. The information sets out how the Winter Service for ice and snow conditions will be provided for in County Galway.
- The Unit is making increased use of Twitter and Facebook as the appropriate instant social media to advise the public of temporary roadworks, including ongoing updates on timeframes for the works.
- The Unit continues to publish public notices on www.galway.ie regarding planned, longer-term roadworks.
- The Unit continues to operate an On-Line Payment Facility to allow for the payment of Fixed Charge Notices (Parking Fines).
- Notices advising the general public on issues relating to the Roads Act, which affect them, such as hedge cutting, unauthorised advertising etc were made available on www.galway.ie and have been advertised in the local newspaper.
- A nominated person within the Unit deals with all Customer Service queries from whichever source they are received, such as Fix Your Street, Customer Comments system, e-mail, Twitter etc. to ensure response are issued in a timely manner.

Proposals for 2017:

- The Unit shall continue to make use of www.galway.ie and other social media to advise and inform the public of Roads issues which affect them.
- The Unit will continue to train frontline staff on-the-job. This will ensure sufficient knowledge within the Unit, to enable it to continue to operate efficiently and effectively despite the reduction in staffing numbers.
- The option of extending the on-line payments facility for other services will be considered.

Corporate Support

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Unit continued to be responsible for the efficient operation and administration associated with the Municipal District of Tuam.
- The Unit set up and continues to provide support for the new Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee with policy formation. Policies considered by the SPC included Skip Bye-Laws, Horse Drawn Hackney Carriages Bye-Laws and the method of allocation of roads funding.

Proposals for 2017:

- The Unit will continue to actively support the role of the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee in policy formation, with a view to furthering policies previously considered in 2016 and also completing policies on advertising on public roads and traffic calming in built up areas.
- The Unit will continue to work with the Members to ensure that the Municipal District system is an efficient and effective model for addressing operational issues.

FINANCE UNIT

Value for Money, Shared Services and Public Procurement:

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- A Centralised approach at Municipal District level was again used for tender competitions on SupplyGov.ie for Road Making Materials and Plant Hire for 2016 and the results of the Mini Tenders were circulated to the relevant engineering areas. A new DPS (Dynamic Purchasing System) will come into operation in Q4 2016 for Plant Hire.
- 131 RFT's and 37 RFQ's were raised on **SupplyGov** (LA Quotes) during 2016 YTD. There were also 27 Tenders processed through **eTenders**.
- There are some changes and additions to the SupplyGov Frameworks for 2016. Details were circulated to relevant staff. During 2016 Galway County Council engaged with the LGOPC on the following frameworks:
 - Plant Hire Services, Road Making Materials – Supply Only, Road Making Materials – Supply & Placement, Footway & Road Pavement Restoration, Ready-Mix & Concrete Additives (Supply only)
- Galway County Council also engaged with the OGP on the following National Contracts and Frameworks: Bulk Fuel, Electricity, Natural Gas, Fuel Cards, Envelopes, Copying Paper, Personal Protective Equipment, Janitorial, External Printing
- Purchase Cards: During 2016 we continued to use the Lighthouse BCS Portal to process transactions to Agresso. We currently have 164 Active Cards with 2016 YTD Spend of €751K and have processed 5,809 transactions YTD.
- The OGP are currently engaged in running a new Stationery competition. GCC continued to utilise a temporary arrangement following a competition process with three local suppliers and the existing supplier.
- Bulk Fuel: Galway County Council will continue to utilize the OGP national framework. A new framework will be in place in Q1 2017.
- Fuel Debit Cards: We currently have 221 active fuel cards with an YTD spend of €544.7K made up of 8,715 transactions across 67 Filling Stations. Based on an total Lts YTD of 530,000 at an average of 5 Cent difference against pump prices when the discount is applied this represents savings of €26.5K YTD
- The Corporate Procurement Policy Document was updated to include a new Corporate Procurement Plan in line with the New Directives 2014/24 EU which were transposed into Irish Law by April of 2016.

- Cash Collection: GCC are currently involved in a Mini-Competition based on the National Framework and results will be known in late Q4 2016.
- Data Returns: All data returns required by the LGER and the OGP were completed and returned on time.
- The new National Product Coding is now implemented in most LA's. Galway County Council went live with the new coding structure in early 2016.
- Meet West: This will take place on Nov 24th & 25th with over 400 companies likely to attend. GCC's Procurement Officer will provide two X ten to one information sessions for participating companies.
- Contract Management System - LGSPC: Work is continuing on the development of a Contract Management System
- Public Spending Code: The second report on the public Spending code was issued to NOAC at the end of May 2016.
- Circular Fin 07/2012: Under the Public Service Reform Plan – GCC have published a quarterly listing of Purchase Orders greater than €20k.

Proposals for 2017:

- SupplyGov.ie – organise additional training for all clerical staff on both the current system and the new DPS – *Dynamic Purchasing System*
- Review the current fleet arrangement within the organisation with a view to bringing forward a recommendation to replacing and upgrading by means of either Financed Purchase, Long Term Rental or Leasing or a combination of all three and assist in the preparation of tenders for fleet replacement
- Expand the use of SupplyGov and eTenders across the organization.
- Promote the use of National Contracts & Frameworks
- Monitor eTenders and SupplyGov to ensure competition processes are completed in line with EU Directives and guidelines.
- Monitor, Control and reduce non-compliance of National Contracts both OGP and LGOPC lead, particularly in relation to Circular 16/13.
- Carry out further staff training in relation to general procurement to incorporate changes as a result of the introduction of MS4.
- Engage with all stakeholders to ensure that all aspects of the Public Spending Code are carried out.
- Publish details of all new National Frameworks and Contracts on the council intranet: in this regard a new LGMA Procurement Extranet facility is now available for relevant staff members.
- Introduce a simplified Contract Logging/Monitoring system.
- Maximise the use of Fuel Cards to replace and reduce LVP Cards.
- Publish results of competitions run on SupplyGov RFT's on the Intranet for wider use by staff

- Continue to monitor and review the Purchase Card system.
- In light of the introduction of MS4 we will continue to try and reduce the overall number of Purchase Orders generated by increased use of LVP's & Fuel Cards.
- Analyze the 2016 spend profile with a view to identifying possible Cost Saving initiatives in line with OGP and LAQuotes frameworks and contracts.
- Engage with the LGOPC and the OGP and ensure that all relevant Circulars, Guides and instructions are circulated and implemented.

Discharge of Payments

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Continued implementation of electronic payment methods/upgrades to ensure compliance with ePayments
- Review and continue application of best practice within both the Accounts Payable & Payroll functions
- Continued implementation of Directives issued by the Revenue Commissioners
- Ensure Accounts function meets BPI requirements
- Apply the requirements of "Site Identification" to Relevant Contracts.

Proposals for 2017:

- Co-operation with the implementation of Milestone 4 project
- Continued implementation of electronic initiatives such as eTAX Clearance
- Implementation of "Real-time" payroll; ePSWT when rolled out
- Co-operation with implementation of Core V19
- Recommendations to be made on "Out of County" procedure; Scale B T+S application & Mobile phone policy.

Financial Management Systems

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Additional efficiencies achieved re: Budget drafting system (Budgeting / Forecasting by Account Element, additional controls).
- Additional efficiencies achieved re: claims system for travel & subsistence
- Training carried out on the subject of "Relevant Contractors tax" (RCT) among relevant Staff (over 90 trained)

Proposals for 2017:

- Review of Implementation of Agresso upgrade Milestone 4.
- Continuation of the development of the Debtor Module.
- Implementation of any further upgrades in the Financial Management System.
- Investigation of alternative automated methods to achieve BUDGET cycle

Revenue Collection

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Continued review of the Revenue collection function – to ensure best practice is achieved and any new income stream is incorporated efficiently.
- Utilisation of the ASCENDAS system in regard to the management of commercial rate liabilities and rent arrears.
- Implementation of the new Tenancy Warning system to replace the Notice to Quit procedure –as required by the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014.
- Consideration of new legislation which has an impact on revenue collection –Companies Act 2014 (in operation 1-6-2015), Civil Debt (Procedures) Act 2015, Personal Insolvency Acts 2012 & 2015 & the Valuation (Amendment) Act 2015.
- Continued implementation of electronic payment methods e.g Billpay, Household Budget, EFT, online payment facility etc to facilitate customers.

Proposals for 2017:

- Monitor and update the Revenue collection function as regards best practice.
- Continue to review debt collection procedures including the services provided by professional agencies.
- Extension of the online payments option to include Planning Fees, Fire Fees, RAS, PEL etc.
- The unit will continue to offer the Bill Pay option to Rents, Loans, RAS and Rates customers.
- Provide further training to staff on new legislation which has an impact on revenue.

Motor Tax and Driver Licensing Systems

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- 92,177 transactions were processed by Galway Motor Tax Offices up to the end of September 2016 at a value of €15.8. This is €4m less than the corresponding period in 2015, however, revised motor tax rates for heavy goods vehicles were implemented on 1st January 2016 which represented a significant decrease over previous motor tax rates.
- 65% of total motor tax activity for the Galway area was carried out online in the year to date – an increase from 61.8% for 2015.
- 4,218 declarations of non-use were recorded at the Motor Tax Offices in the year to date.
- All driving licence files and records held by Galway Motor Tax Office were securely destroyed during the year. This was as a result of a national decision by the CCMA on

behalf of all Motor Tax Offices, following notification by the Road Safety Authority that they would not be seeking permanent transfer of the records.

- In accordance with Departmental requirements, additional documentary proofs were introduced for owners carrying out first-time taxing of goods vehicles.

Proposals for 2017:

- Work will continue on retrieving and digitizing vintage motor tax records from archives.
- 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 2016:

- Completed rollout of Office 365 suite of products to allow for greater productivity and remote working capabilities.
- Replacement and improvement of Firewall infrastructure for higher security and reporting capability.
- Implementation of a Web Content monitoring and reporting tool.
- Upgrade of backup storage library for greater data recovery capabilities.
- Support and assist staff in the implementation of the new Library Management System.
- Support and assist Finance Section in the Agresso MS4 upgrade.
- Upgrade to integrated Encryption/Anti-Virus System.
- Wan upgrades to a number of remote office with 7 locations upgraded to the Vodafone National network.
- Rollout of public WI-FI to Libraries with 5 Main libraries receiving Wi-Fi Public Internet Service.
- Business process improvements and mobile data collection improvements for Housing Section.
- Mapping and Support for the implementation of the National Property Register
- Upgrade of Network Service / Equipment to 7 retained Fire stations with Secure Wi-Fi to support station appliance handhelds.
- Implementation of a Pay by Weight Eircodes mapping and enquiry system
- Implementation of a choice based letting system for Housing.
- Implementation of the Killconnell Landfill payments system as well as other IT support for the opening of the landfill.
- Mapping and assistance provided for the GCC Tourism Strategy.
- Support and assistance provided for the Galway Invasive Species strategy.

- Implementation of an email security portal to cater for reduction of malicious and non-business related email.
- Continuing development and use of newly installed Microsoft Systems Management product has greatly enhanced ability to send customised software and security updates to all infrastructure thereby increasing efficiencies.
- Infrastructural support to An Cheathrú Rua Firestation start-up.
- Ballinasloe Office complete replacement of existing hardware and connection for telephony System. Major cost saving reduction on old Eircom telephone lines.

Proposals for 2017:

- Implement Managed public Wi-Fi solutions across Galway County Council Premises on a phased basis over 2 years.
- Renew and upgrade Storage Area Network.
- Renew UPS power modules in communications.
- Relocate the Disaster Recovery site from Sandy Road to Centrepont to allow for greater usage and support in the event of a disaster situation.
- Upgrade of Eir connection to Egov network to provide a higher capacity and more resilient service.
- Renewal of the Managed Print Services Contract using OGP framework.
- Map Driven automated AA screening report process for Planners.
- Implement Training and Awareness plans for Staff around current office365 Suite of Tools. In particular, with a focus on One Drive, Skype for Business and SharePoint.
- Develop a strategic roadmap for the migration of Galway County Council Infrastructure to a hybrid cloud model.
- Investigate the suitability of backup to cloud model for Galway County Council.
- Investigate and report on the potential of CRM online and SharePoint online to provide a customer services portal and to facilitate great case management, improved business process and workflow management in Galway County Council.
- Implementation of e-planning solution.

PLANNING, COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Planning for Sustainable Development

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- 1550 Planning applications have been received to date (7 November 2016) – 14% increase on equivalent 2015 applications.
- The Headford Local Area Plan 2015-2021 (as amended following Ministerial Direction of 17 Dec 2015) was updated/finalised in January 2016.
- The Portumna Local Area Plan 2016-2022 was adopted on 9th May 2016 and became effective on 6th June 2016.
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment environmental reports were prepared in-house for the Portumna Local Area Plan and for the Local Economic Community Plan.
- Preparation of Variation No. 1 to the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 to recognise the Galway Transport Plan and the Galway City Ring Road– to be commenced along with City Council in early 2017.
- Preparatory work undertaken on the Amendment of the Bearna Local Area Plan 2007-2017 to recognise the Galway Transport Plan Galway City Ring Road.
- A new Development Contributions Scheme was adopted by the Elected Members in March 2016. The amount being levied on residential units was reduced by 50% by the members for a one year period from March 2016 – March 2017 and by 25% for the following one year period.
- Deliver a workshop/ seminar in November for Local Planning Agents on recent changes, statutory and otherwise in the management of development in County Galway.

Proposals for 2017:

- To commence the statutory process of Variation No. 1 to the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 to recognise for the Galway Transport Plan and Galway City Ring Road – timeframe set out to coincide with Variation No. 1 of the Galway City Development Plan.
- To commence the statutory process on the Amendment of the Bearna Local Area Plan 2007-2017 to recognise the Galway Transport Plan and the Galway City Ring Road.

- To undertake the Mid Term Review and Report of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021.
- To extend the life of or to commence the review of the Athenry, Loughrea and Oranmore Local Area Plans.
- To commence the review of the Tuam Local Area Plan.
- To consider, subject to resources and staffing, the preparation of a number of non-statutory Local Area Plans and to incorporate them into the County Development Plan.
- To commence the Retail Strategy in consultation with Galway City Council.
- To institute 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.
- To undertake a review of the Landscape Character Assessment, subject to the publication of National Guidance.
- Arrange and manage the translation of all new policy (variations to the CDP, relevant Local Area Plans) in accordance with the ScéimTeanga.
- Participate in the National e-Planning initiative.

Building Control / Taking in Charge

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- 432 commencement notices have been received to 31 October 2016.
- A Building Control Officer continued to inspect commenced developments for compliance with the Building Regulations.
- This Unit has continued to monitor and process applications for the Taking in Charge of Housing estates.
- A database has been compiled of 398 estates in the County with a view to establishing the current status of each one and prioritizing estates for Taking in Charge.
- Of the 264 estates currently on the list of estates in Galway submitted to the Department of Environment that are not taken in charge, 140 no. cases are being actively managed and are at various stages of progression.
- To date this year, 17 no. Housing Estates have been taken in charge.
- 4 new Taking in Charge applications have been submitted to date in 2016, with 69 no. Taking in Charge applications on hand.
- The Building Control staff continue to work with the Department of the Environment, Health & Safety Authority to eliminate safety risks on unfinished estates.

Proposals for 2017:

- To streamline and maximise organisational resource, the Taking in Charge team will move to the Roads and Transportation Directorate before the end of 2016.
- The Building Control functions will remain in the Planning Unit.
- Matters relating to compliance with Planning Permission and the satisfactory completion of residential housing estates will be managed within the Planning unit but with close working relationships with other relevant Units and external agencies.

Enforcement Measures

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- 146 Warning Notices/Letters served to 28th October 2016.
- 62 Enforcement Notices served to 28th October 2016.
- 15 Files have been referred for legal action to 28th October 2016.
- 243 New Files opened to 28th October 2016.
- 87 approx. Enforcement Files have been resolved/closed at 28th October 2016.

Proposals for 2017:

- It is proposed to continue to provide resources to the Enforcement Team to ensure the implementation of the Planning Regulations in 2017.
- It is proposed to continue to examine old enforcement files with a view to closing same, where appropriate.
- To prioritise unfinished housing estates for enforcement action as necessary.

Heritage

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Work is underway on the Lough Derg Raptor Education and Awareness Programme in collaboration with Clare County Council. The project was listed on the Responsible Tourism Awards Long List. Ecological Support for EU Life Project was commissioned by Tipperary County Council for the 3 local authorities.
- An ecclesiastical heritage audit was undertaken for the Tuam Electoral Area documenting and creating a database of the rich artwork that is contained in the churches.
- Thirteen persons undertook the 'Reading the Landscape' course in Woodford during summer 2016 and uploaded content onto the new community heritage website.

- The role of the Community Archaeologist is to provide advice and information on archeology and work on community archaeology projects throughout the county. A number of very successful seminars were held during the year.
- The Biodiversity Project operates as a partnership Project between the County Council through the Heritage Office and the Applied Ecology Unit, NUI, Galway in conjunction with Galway Rural Development and Galway County Heritage Forum supported by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council. Funding was sought for the payment of the salary and overheads for the Project Manager and to undertake projects such as producing further biodiversity Action Plans for towns and villages in the county, the development of an invasive species strategy, graveyard management conservation plan for a select number of graveyards and the provision of an education and awareness programme for the communities in the county
- The Athenry Walled Towns Day event attracted over c.3000 people and took place on Sunday 21st August. The aim of the day was to showcase the rich heritage of Athenry.
- The Athenry Town Walls Capital Works project continued and funding was received from the Heritage Council. Work for 2016 concentrated on the south tower and adjoining walls. Conservation works undertaken.
- Funding has been secured from the Heritage Council for this project called ‘Athenry Walled Town – Memory map: By Kids for Kids’, a local historian, artist and expert on podcasting visited the school. The children wrote their stories and they are recorded, translated into Irish and uploaded onto www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org.
- The Loughrea Medieval Festival was held from 26th – 28th August 2016. During the three-day festival held on August 26 - 28, over 15,000 people attended a range of events.
- Assisted the Galway Co Co 1916 team on all GCC 1916 events to include the following:
 - Compilation of a county bi-lingual 1916 publication.
 - Éamonn Ceannt Garden officially opened in Ballymoe on 21st September 2016.
 - Emigration and the Diaspora Conference held on 8th September in Clarinbridge with lectures held throughout the day followed by music, song and dance by Aeraíocht in the evening.
 - Teagasc & Galway County Council – Farming and Country Life 1916 event June 10th and 11th working with Teagasc on this event. Over 55,000 visitors to the event over the 2 days.
 - Produced 5-6 short films on the Route of the Rising. This project is in partnership with Galway Film Centre and Heritage.
 - County 1916 Commemorative Sculpture for Renville Park – work being undertaken on this project currently.
 - Route of the Rising Trail – Text near completion on this project in partnership with GMIT.
 - Women in 1916 Conference –held on 15th October in Ballinasloe library.

- From Galway to the Somme' conference to be held in Loughrea in November 2016.
- The Heritage Office working in partnership with the Museum of County Life Castlebar has developed a county heritage website called www.galwaycommunityheritage.org. Groups received further training on the web and heritage research.
- Under the Tuke Emigration Scheme Project the office worked with the Clifden 2012 Group and Oughterard Heritage Group on two emigration projects.
- Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County continued.
- The Beo Schools Project with DERI and Galway Education Centre is ongoing.
- Community Events – Assistance, advice, and support was also given to numerous Town and Community events in 2016. In September, the popular 'Feile na gCloch' weekend was held in Inis Oirr with over 80 participants from all over the world attending the weekend stone wall workshop. Many heritage events were held during Heritage Week in August. Worked with Milltown Tidy Towns & Community Development to develop a heritage trail for the area. Provided advice and assistance to many individuals, schools and heritage groups within the County on local heritage projects and research.
- Galway County Heritage Forum: Convene meetings and set work programme and implement same.
- Worked with colleagues in other Departments of Galway County Council including Corporate Services (eg. Battle of Aghrim Visitor Centre, Rinville Park); Roads (eg. Connemara Greenway, general heritage advice); Environment Section (eg. graveyards); Housing (eg. naming of estates); Planning (eg. inputs to plans and development management as required).
- Heritage Grants: Assessed grants, drafted conditions, administered grants.
- Cathaoirleach Awards: includes best heritage project, best heritage publication and best Irish/heritage schools project. Organised interview panel.
- Aran Farming for Life Project: Heritage Officer on advisory committee and attends meetings as required.

Proposals for 2017:

- Continue work on the Lough Derg Heritage Project in collaboration with Clare and Tipperary County Councils, subject to funding.
- An ecclesiastical heritage audit will be undertaken for the Oranmore Electoral Area documenting and creating a database of the rich artwork that is contained in the churches.
- 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.

- Consideration to be given to 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.
- 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.
- 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 2017.
- 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 - To hold a 3 day event in Loughrea in August 2017 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. Emigration & Diaspora Conference to be held. The Loughrea Remember Conference to be held in November 2017.
- Propose to undertake a Geological Audit of Part of County.
- 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 to further develop this website.
- Galway 3 D Training Project - This proposed training will offer a short course in the modern non-invasive recording technique of Photogrammetry for heritage. Photogrammetry is the process of recording 3D objects using digital photography. This simple method of recording 3D objects is fast becoming an important skill for those working the field of heritage and archaeology.
- Community Events, Conferences and Workshops – Assistance, advice, and support will also be given to numerous Town and Community events in 2017 including Féile na gClogh, Heritage Week Events, heritage training and relevant local heritage conferences and seminars.
- Burren World Monument Tentative List - Further work to continue on this project.
- Tuke Emigration Scheme Project – To continue to work with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group on this project.
- 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 DERI and Galway Education Centre will be ongoing.
- Participation on Committees such as the Placenames Committee, NUIG Arts Heritage and Cultural Advisory Board, 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.
- Review of the Galway County Heritage Plan.

Conservation

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Consulted with the relevant department, state agencies, voluntary and international organisations on matters of architectural conservation including AACO and ICOMOS.
- Investigated European funding measures; URBACT.
- Liaised with local communities regarding Tidy Towns and community initiatives
- 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 to owners /occupiers. Reported and advised on planning applications where architectural heritage issues arise.
- Monitored the state of repair of structures on RPS, and as necessary, made recommendations on the need, if any, for the planning authority to take enforcement action.
- Historic Assets Framework - Grant funding of €5000 was awarded by the Heritage Council towards professional fees for conservation works to be carried out to St. Andrews.
- Structures at Risk Fund 2016 - Scheme advertised and recommendations made from applications received. Funding of €50,000 was successfully received for three projects: St. Andrews Church Kilconly, Ballynagar House Abbey and Presbyterian Church Ballinasloe and works were successfully brought to completion.
- Maintained the Architectural Inventory System (AIS) database of protected structures in liaison with GIS section.
- Input into Local Area Plans, as required.
- Processed proposals for inclusion and deletion on the RPS as part of the County Development Plan. The Elected Members considered and decided on these proposals at the March 2016 County Council Meeting.

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2016 - €58,000 received under this Scheme for 15 no. projects. Works completed.
- Council's Energy Efficiency Programme - PV panels installed in Oranmore library as part of the Council's Energy Efficiency programme. GMIT Architectural Technology 4th year Students are undertaking study of Maam Courthouse which will provide survey drawing and energy efficiency model.
- Provided advice to local authority on architectural conservation - 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 and energy efficiency in libraries which are protected; Liaise with local area engineers re public realm and issues arising.
- Liaison with Galway 2020 Team as required.
- Decade of Commemorations committee member.

Proposals for 2017:

- Continue to carry out the duties of Architectural Conservation Officer as set out in Circular 5/99 or as amended.
- Propose additions and deletions to the RPS and research and propose ACAs. Liaise with owners and occupiers.
- Promote opportunities to raise awareness of the architectural heritage and its appropriate conservation and reuse.
- Continue to promote traditional skills use and training. , including hosting Irish Georgian Society/OPW Traditional buildings skills open day in Portumna.
- Continue to contribute to the Historic Assets Framework.
- Avail of and promote any funding initiatives available, including Built Heritage Investment Scheme Fund, Structures at Risk Scheme, Rural Towns and Village funding.
- Advice to local authority on architectural conservation - 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 and energy efficiency in libraries which are protected; Liaise with local area engineers re public realm and issues arising.

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Facilitated the Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Advisory Steering Group for the LECP
- Facilitated the preparation of the Local Development Strategy for the LEADER programme working with our Local Development Company partners on behalf of Galway LCDC
- Worked with the HSE to establish and organise the inaugural meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Group to act as a sub group of the LCDC.
- Facilitated the adoption by Galway County Council of the Galway County Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
- Facilitated the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC which played a key role in the development of the LECP
- Supported Galway's application and successful bid to become European Capital of Culture 2020 including assisting with the delivery of pilot projects, the development of the bid book and the jury visit.
- Led the bid process and facilitated the steering group for the successful bid for the European Region of Gastronomy 2018 designation for Galway in partnership with Galway City Council, GMIT and Teagasc as well as a wide range of other public and private sector stakeholders.
- Established and facilitated the expanded Steering Group for the European Region of Gastronomy with wider stakeholder representation.
- Continued to support the integration of Rural Transport provision into a County wide service as Bealach na Gaillimhe, Transport Co-ordinating Unit (TCU) for County Galway. New service established under Service Level Agreement with Galway County Council
- Partnered on the UNESCO City of Film 2016 programme.
- Participation and vice chair of the Children & Young People's Services Committee and provision of direct support to the development of the Children & Young Persons Services Plan.
- Established and facilitated the Galway Resettlement Interagency Group (GRIG), on behalf of Office for Promotion of Migrant Integration, Department of Justice and Equality.

Proposals for 2017:

- Facilitate the Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the coordination of the sub-committees
- Facilitate the Executive Committee and expanded Steering Committee for the European Region of Gastronomy (ERG) and coordinate the development of the ERG programme

- Promotion of the new Transport Co-ordinating Unit (TCU) service and brand name of Bealach na Gaillimhe
- Review of Rural Transport services and needs of agencies and target groups to direct services to meet needs
- Partner on the UNESCO City of Film 2017 programme
- Partner and support Galway's programme as European Capital of Culture 2020
- Award the contract for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in County Galway and support the delivery and review of the programme in line with the funding agreement
- Co-ordination and facilitation of Galway Resettlement Interagency Group (GRIG) , on behalf of Office for Promotion of Migrant Integration, Department of Justice and Equality
- Continue to develop and foster stronger partnerships with LEO and City Council in the areas of Economic Development

CEED Unit - Promoting enterprise and supporting economic development

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Partner for Meet West 2016 which took place in Mayo in 2016. Over 200 delegates attending during 2 days
- Further developed the Made in Galway initiative to support local enterprise to access markets. Held five Made in Galway EXPO events in Galway in 2016
- Supported community enterprise projects and initiatives that are employment creating e.g. Headford Hot Desks, BACD Enterprise Centre, Clonberne Enterprise Centre, Kinvara Enterprise Centre
- Implemented actions assigned to CEED and coordinated reporting for which Galway County Council are responsible for in the Regional Action Plan for Jobs
- Worked with the Galway Film Centre and Local Authorities in Galway City, Mayo and Roscommon to develop a business plan to implement a Regional Film Fund as proposed in the Regional Action Plan for jobs
- Representing Galway County Council on the Northern Broadband Action Group
- Working on the IWAK North West Local Authorities Group to promote the region as a tourism destination
- Representing Galway County Council on the Fisheries Local Action Group West that has secured €1.8m to implement a local development strategy for developing the coastal communities in Counties Galway and Clare

- Supported events that provide marketplace for Galway companies (Food Fairs/Farmers/Town Markets) i.e. Local Christmas market of Galway Producers, Producers market at Claregalway Garden Show, Galway Food Festival, Claregalway Christmas Market, Kinvara Farmers Market, Bia Bofinne, Bia Lover Festival, Connemara Mussel Festival.
- Supported the ongoing development of the Creative Sector as an employment generator for the County
- Continued to promote Galway as a location for investment and job creation
- Compiled, published and circulated a brochure of Festivals taking place in the County for Tourism promotion
- Maintain the on-line Calendar of Events on www.galway.ie promoting over 500 events taking place in the County as the point of information for visitors to County Galway
- Continued to promote Galway in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland
- Supported the Galway Science and Technology Festival, Galway DESIGN week, Local Enterprise Office LOCAL Food & Craft Gift Fair
- Initiated research for the development of a Tourism Strategy for Galway and conducted consultation with a range of Tourism stakeholders, formulating a long term Tourism strategy approach for Galway
- Drafting of the Tourism Strategy, associated environmental assessment and formal consultation process
- Supported the implementation of Tourism infrastructure projects in Portumna and supported Tourism developments in partnership with the Lough Derg Marketing Strategy Group
- Developed a masterplan for Portumna as a Tourism destination
- Supported overseas Tourism marketing and promotion events e.g. Milwaukee Irish Festival.
- Supported the following Flagship Tourism Events in County Galway
National Hot Air Balloon Festival, Claregalway Garden Festival, Loughrea Medieval Festival, Claregalway Medieval Combat Tournament
- Continued to support the development of local festivals to become destination festivals that attract visitors and bed-nights from outside the County
- Worked towards the development of a Food and Rural Innovation Hub including incubation units at the Teagasc campus in Athenry
- Participated and presented at a number of conferences on matters such as the European Region of Gastronomy and Food Tourism
- Continued to work with GMIT in relation to a range of economic development areas including the food, tourism and creative sectors

Proposals for 2017:

- Support Meet West 2017 which will take place in Galway
- Further the development of the Made in Galway initiative to support local enterprise to access markets and to allow for greater product development, marketing and attendance at events. The Unit will work with agency and industry partners to further develop the initiative to highlight the Food and Craft sectors in County Galway
- Development of European Region of Gastronomy (ERG) 2017 programme which will underpin programme of events for year of designation 2018
- Resource to support the coordination and marketing of the ERG programme
- Support community enterprise projects and initiatives that are creating and supporting employment
- Implement actions assigned to Galway County Council in the Regional Action Plan for Jobs
- Support for Development of Food Festivals in Galway namely, Galway Food Festival, Food on the Edge, Bia Bofinne, Clarinbridge Oyster Festival, Bia Lover, Connemara Mussel Festival, Artisan Food and Beer Expo
- Facilitate the development of local markets throughout the County
- Develop a Tourism Strategy for Galway which will be implemented through a series of Action Plans in association with a range of stakeholders and implement key actions for Galway County Council
- Establish and manage a Tourism Steering Group and sub-groups (as required and within resources) for specific actions and coordinate an internal tourism group.
- Support/attract Flagship tourism events to be held in County Galway
- Support the development of proposals by communities for applications for funding under the REDZ and Towns & Villages renewal scheme and implement a capacity building programme for towns and REDZ (subject to resources)
- Continue to support the development of local festivals to become destination festivals that attract visitors and bednights from outside the County
- Participation in Tourism Trade Fairs to promote Galway as a destination. This to parallel with opportunity under ERG designation in promoting food tourism.
- Support key County Access locations Towns/Villages to manage Tourism Information Points
- Prepare a Digital Strategy for County Galway and participate in the preparation for the National Rural Broadband Project
- Support the development of Galway as a design location
- Progress the development of the Food and Rural Innovation Hub in association with SCCUL and Teagasc as well as with other relevant partners

- Continue 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
- Ongoing role in the long term development options for the Former Galway Airport Site at Carnmore to secure optimum long term economic benefit for the Galway region

Supporting Sustainable Communities

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Three communities (Athenry, Clonbur and Cornamona) entered into the 2016 Pride of Place competition with the support of the Unit.
- Continued to work with Tidy Towns groups to progress them within the National Tidy Towns competition. Commissioned particular expertise to work with Tidy Towns groups by organising half day workshops in each Municipal District which took place in early 2016
- Continued to support the Public Participation Network (PPN), working with the Secretariat to further develop a work plan and to deliver to two County Plenaries and community information evenings
- Rolled out the third year of the Community Tourism Diaspora Fund to provide support to local and community event organisers and activities / projects that will harness Diaspora links for the benefit of local and community tourism. 42 projects supported in County Galway in 2016. Progressed the development of the County Galway Diaspora Strategy.
- Approximately €400,900 was approved for projects across 11 categories under the Community Support Scheme in 2016.
- Completed the pilot phase of the REDZ initiative securing €207,000 in the process and submitted 8 projects under the 2016 Town & Village Renewal Scheme. Submitted proposals under the 2016 REDZ initiative.
- Worked with Corporate Services and other unit of the Council to deliver the 1916 Centenary programme particularly around community engagement and social inclusion
- The Unit facilitated continued to facilitate 29 projects supported under the Ballinasloe Special Capital Grant Scheme with a total funding approved amounting to €1,175,682
- Organised the Cathaoirleach's Community Awards 2016.

Proposals for 2017:

- Support communities in the County to participate in the Pride of Place competition in 2017.
- Support Tidy Towns groups in the County to participate in the Tidy Towns National Competition in 2017 and deliver half day workshops in each Municipal District

- Continue 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.
- The Cleaner Communities initiative will recommence in 2017 building on the positive response to the 2015 campaign.
- Finalise County Galway Diaspora Strategy and administer community tourism diaspora scheme if required.
- Deliver the Community Support Scheme in 2017 and seek to support a number of projects specifically related to the European Region of Gastronomy Designation 2018.
- Complete all projects under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and progress proposals under the 2016 REDZ initiative.
- Complete all projects under the Ballinasloe Special Capital Grant Scheme.

Supporting Social Inclusion

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Facilitated the re-establishment of the County Galway Traveller Interagency Group and secured €10,750 from the Department of Justice & Equality for same and to carry out specific Traveller Projects
- Supported other committees involved in Social Inclusion activities such as the LGBT Interagency Working Group, Strengthening Families Programme in Connemara, City and County Childcare Committee, Tuam School Completion Programme, Clár Críochnú Scoile I gConamara.
- Organised the Bealtaine Festival for County Galway
- Co-ordinated Traveller Pride Week on behalf of County Galway Traveller Interagency Group
- Organised Social Inclusion Week 2017
- Organised Culture Night 2017 (in association with Arts Office) for County Galway
- Worked with the Customer Service Officers Group to ensure Social Inclusion is embedded into Customer Service
- Co-ordinated and facilitated the Galway Age Friendly Programme, supported the Galway Age Friendly Alliance, Implementation Group and the Older Persons Council
- Supported the Accessible Ballinasloe initiative through collaboration with a walkability audit for Ballinasloe and promotion of this initiative on the launch of Social Inclusion Week in Ballinasloe Library for 2016.

- Organised Age Wise training for Galway County Council staff, including Area Office staff, Library staff and Elected Members.
- Supported further Touchstone pilot education projects for older people to promote increased participation by older people in community and voluntary activity in Tuam and Doughiska and reviewed these pilots.
- Continued to support the implementation of actions under the Integration and Diversity Strategy for County Galway 2013-2017.
- Review of the next stages in implementing an Integration and Diversity Strategy for the County towards the end of 2016.
- Established and supported the development of a programme to support the Resettlement and Integration of Syrian Refugees to arrive in County Galway as part of a national programme for Refugee Resettlement under the auspices of the OPMI/Dept of Justice and Equality.
- Joint co-ordination and hosting of a national seminar on learning from Resettlement Initiatives across Ireland with the Office for Promotion of Migrant Integration in Dept of Justice and Equality for up to 100 Local Authority and other statutory agencies.
- Provided a range of briefings for Local Authority and other agency staff around issues facing migrants and the Syrian Refugee crisis prior to commencement of Resettlement in County Galway. Joint delivery of a programme of workshops with young Asylum Seekers and Women Migrants for an ESRC funded New Horizons Programme to celebrate the 2016 commemorations with NUI Galway School of Global Gender Studies and the Mary Robinson Centre to deliver migrant youth and women led creative responses to their experiences of modern life in Ireland for the “Inclusive Centenaries” conference in NUI Galway. Production and launch of an Intercultural Resource Booklet for Galway at the Inclusive Centenaries Conference by Mary Robinson, United Nations Special Envoy on Women’s Development and Climate Change.
- Continuation of programme of lunchtime research seminars in conjunction with the Community Knowledge Initiative in NUI Galway, focusing on issues in Interculturalism and Integration.
- Participation by members of County Intercultural Forum in preparation and delivery of workshops and conference activities for Irish Social Research Council Project “Inclusive Centenaries” and provision of key speakers and facilitators for conference.
- Continued to provide support to Comhairle na nÓg on a Countywide basis
- Administration of funding and co-ordination of activities under the Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund.
- Supported Comhairle na nÓg local area committees in organising activities for children and young people during the Teagasc led “Farm Family Day” as part of National Recreation Week for 2016.
- Support to the County Committee of Comhairle na nÓg to present on their work and activities to the Children and Young People’s Service Committee (CYPSC).

- Support to the County Committee of Comhairle na nÓg
- Facilitated hosting of Comhairle na nÓg County Annual General Meeting in October 2016.
- Co-ordinated a Comhairle na nÓg Adult Steering Committee which met 4 times during the year.
- Facilitated attendance of young people from County Galway at training, consultation and networking events including participation in the National Comhairle na nÓg showcase event in Croke Park during 2016.

Proposals for 2017:

- Continue to expand delivery of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme targeting vulnerable people with no alarm or an alarm that has nearly reached its 10 year life span.
- Facilitate the review of the County Galway Traveller Interagency Group and make recommendations on the most effective manner for its development.
- Support other committees involved in Social Inclusion activities such as the LGBT Interagency Working Group and those prioritising other target groups not already catered for at an interagency level.
- Review/ Co-ordinate the Bealtaine Festival for County Galway.
- Co-ordinate Traveller Pride Week on behalf of County Galway Traveller Interagency Group in association with Housing Unit.
- Organise Social Inclusion Week 2017.
- Review/Organise Culture Night 2017 for County Galway having regard to available staffing.
- Continue to work with the Customer Service Officers Group to ensure Social Inclusion is embedded into Customer Service.
- Continue to support Galway Age Friendly City and County Programme.
- Ensure that Comhairle na nÓg is a key vehicle for consultation by existing and newly establishing bodies and committees in County Galway.
- Continue to administer and deliver the Comhairle na nÓg development fund from the DCYA for purposes of supporting Comhairle in County Galway.
- Support development of new local support committees in towns and communities which are hosting refugees under the Refugee Resettlement Programme.
- Identify ways to increase opportunities for integration of migrants, refugees and those leaving direct provision with their host communities, harnessing links with existing community groups registered with the Public Participation Network.

Supporting RAPID areas - Tuam & Ballinasloe

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The RAPID Co-ordinators continued to provide ongoing advisory project management services to agencies and communities to progress Strategic Plans in Community Safety & Anti Social Behaviour, Education, Employment & Training and the Physical Environment and assisted in securing funding to deliver.
- 3 projects were supported in Ballinasloe for community and voluntary initiatives

Proposals for 2017:

- Agree a process for progressing the RAPID programme in light of Local Government Reform agenda given the continued RAPID national designation

Promoting and developing Arts activity

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Invested in communities through the Arts Grants – 74 applications funded
- Supported the development and promotion of new arts activity by artists resident in County Galway - 21 bursaries awarded (Individual Artists Bursaries/Tyrone Guthrie/NYCI Summer School)
- Provided an information and advice service to community groups, individual artists.
- Arts and Education Programme:
 - Artist in Schools Scheme – 10 schools participating with exhibition of work held in October.
 - Writer in Schools in partnership with Poetry Ireland – to give pupils an opportunity to work with a writer.
 - Arts and Libraries Programme – storytelling in libraries.
 - Branar Theatre Residency – “1916 project Maloney’s Dream” and “The Shape of Things”.
 - Scriobh project in partnership with Galway Youth Theatre – workshops in 10 schools.
 - Film Projects in partnership with Galway Film Centre – ID Films, Flying Film Squad, animation workshops.
- Arts and Health / Disability Programme:
 - Burning Bright – artist in residence in nursing homes with exhibition of work held in May.
 - Bealtaine – the month of May celebrated creativity in older people with 90 events around the County (Social Inclusion Unit and Arts Office).

- Hospital Arts Trust – arts programme in UCHG, Merlin Park and Portiuncula Hospital.
- Arts Ability Abú project in partnership with the Brothers of Charity.
- Child Protection Awareness Training – two courses completed
- Culture Night took place on Friday, 16th September with 80 events in 43 towns and villages (Social Inclusion Unit and the Arts Office)
- Supported the development of creative economy www.screenwest.ie
- Supported Aras Eanna (Arts Centre on Inis Oírr)
- Supported Galway's bid in becoming the European Capital of Culture 2020 through the secondment of the Arts Officer
- To take place by year end:
 - Artists Talks
 - Amateur Drama Training Programme

Proposals for 2017:

- Administer the Arts Grants and Individual Artists Bursaries.
- Arts and Education Programme in Schools (Artist, Writer, Film, Theatre).
- Arts and Health / Disability Programme (Burning Bright, Bealtaine, Hospitals Art Programme, Arts Ability Abú).
- Child Protection Awareness Training for artists.
- Manage and deliver a countywide programme of events for Culture Night in co with the Social Inclusion Unit.
- Support Screen Commission West.
- Support Aras Eanna (Arts Centre on Inis Oírr).
- Amateur Drama Training Programme.
- Professional practice seminars/ talks for artists.
- Establish and maintenance of projects with other agencies and institutions.
- Manage a strong arts partnership programme within the county.

Local Sports Partnership

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Launched the Galway Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020
- Established a new website for Galway Sports Partnership
- Sourced funding from Sport Ireland (*formerly the Irish Sports Council*) and other funding bodies e.g. HSE, Local Authorities to fund the operations of Galway Sports Partnership for 2016
- Delivered core programmes of Sport Ireland – Buntús, Child Protection courses, Women in Sport Programme, Be Active ASAP

- Established the men on the Move initiative in at least 4 other areas of Galway outside of those already up and running
- Organised Galway Sports Partnership 10K for 2016
- Organised Galway Walking Week 2016
- In association with Galway City Council and County Council secured funding for Galway Bike Week 2016
- Continued with the implementation of the Disability Programme in Galway including Disability Awareness Training
- Organised the Fit Towns initiative for 2016
- Organised sport and physical activity opportunities for older adults – including Tai Chi, Qi-Gong and dance
- Ran Sportshall Athletics, Xcessible Sportshall Athletics, Xcessible tag-rugby in schools
- Organised events around Operation Transformation in Galway in 2016
- Implemented Bike Tutoring Course for new tutors
- Implemented Bike for Life Training through schools
- Organised a programme known as ‘midnight soccer’ for disadvantaged youths
- Continued the implementation of the Community Walking programme in 5 locations in 2016 – Athenry, Loughrea, Portumna, Gort and Tuam
- Organised the Community Coaching Support programme for Jobseekers programme with Galway Community College and Sport Ireland
- Implemented the Level 1 Award in Sport leadership in association with Galway Community College and Sport Ireland
- Facilitated the Steering Group and Workgroup meetings of Galway Sports Partnership throughout 2016

Indicative Activities 2017:

- Source and secure sufficient funding to fund the operations of Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) throughout 2017 – sources include Sport Ireland, Local Authorities, HSE West, and bodies who make up the Steering Group of Galway Sports Partnership
- Launch the new Galway Sports Partnership website
- Oversee the implementation of all Sport Ireland programmes and locally required programmes throughout 2017 with particular emphases on three main areas of - *Sport Ireland programmes, Women in Sport and Sports Inclusion Disability programme*
- Organise and run training courses for pre-schools and primary schools - *Buntús, Buntús Start, Be Active After Schools Activities, Sportshall Athletics*
- For Second level schools organize and run the *Girls Active programme*
- For Adults organize and run training courses such as *Safeguarding 1,2 and 3, SAQ, First Aid, Cycling Training, Walking leader Training, Activity Leader Training*
- Implement and organize activity programmes such as *Men on the Move, Couch to 5K, establishment of walking and cycling clubs*

- Organise and run the Galway Sports Partnership *10K run/walk*
- Secure funding for and organize a list of programmes for *Bike Week 2017*.
- Provide information to clubs, groups and organisations in Galway on various sources of funding should this become available, eg *Sports Capital Funding*
- Organise and implement the GSP initiative known as *FIT TOWNS for 2017*.
- Organise and run events in conjunction with *Operation Transformation* in Galway.
- Train tutors to run the *Level 1 Sports Leadership Award* in association with Sport Ireland and implement the programme for young people in Galway
- Arrange and facilitate meetings of GSP Steering group and relevant workgroups throughout 2017.
- In association with the FAI, implement the joint initiative between *Galway County Council and the Football Association of Ireland*
- Review the *GSP Programme funding* scheme in association with the Funding workgroup.
- Promote the work of GSP throughout Galway in 2017, through a targeted promotions strategy.
- Organise and oversee the distribution of funding under the *Galway Co. Co. Community Support*.

Customer Service

Indicative Activities Planning Unit in 2016:

- Engaged in consultative meetings with citizens, public meetings, community forum meetings and one to one meetings. Pre-Planning Meetings- 300 scheduled Area based Pre-planning meetings have been held to date this year with another 150 approx. meetings regarding significant / job creation potential projects with the Senior Executive Planner.
- Ongoing planning advisory role with NRDO with relation to the M17 and M18 and GCRR projects. An oral hearing on the N63 improvements was held on 14th June.

Indicative Activities in CEED Unit in 2016:

- Updated CEED section of Council website www.galway.ie to provide up to date useful information for communities, businesses and citizens
- Developed and maintained www.galwaygastronomy.ie as part of the European Region of Gastronomy bid and worked with partners delivering social media information
- Enhanced www.madeingalway.ie website with greater focus on customer needs and accessibility
- Participated in Customer Service initiatives within Galway County Council
- Extended PPN database to include additional groups and continued to provide relevant information including issuing Galway County Council public notices (new initiative)

- Provided considerable services through flexible working arrangement at evenings and weekends to meet customer needs and to ensure the delivery of corporate objectives

Proposals for 2017:

- Continue to provide pre-planning services (both self-service electronic and meetings) to the public with a special emphasis on large housing proposals, development of economic potential and strategic development.
- Promote participation in EU funding programmes for Council services to communities and businesses.
- Continue to review CEED 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.
- Implement agreed actions in Customer Service Action Plan and Irish Language Guidelines.
- Increased engagement with the community and business sector across Social Media platforms.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

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

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Develop an excellent and effective First Stop Shop for businesses in Galway County & City
 - Increase awareness of the 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
 - 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 2017:

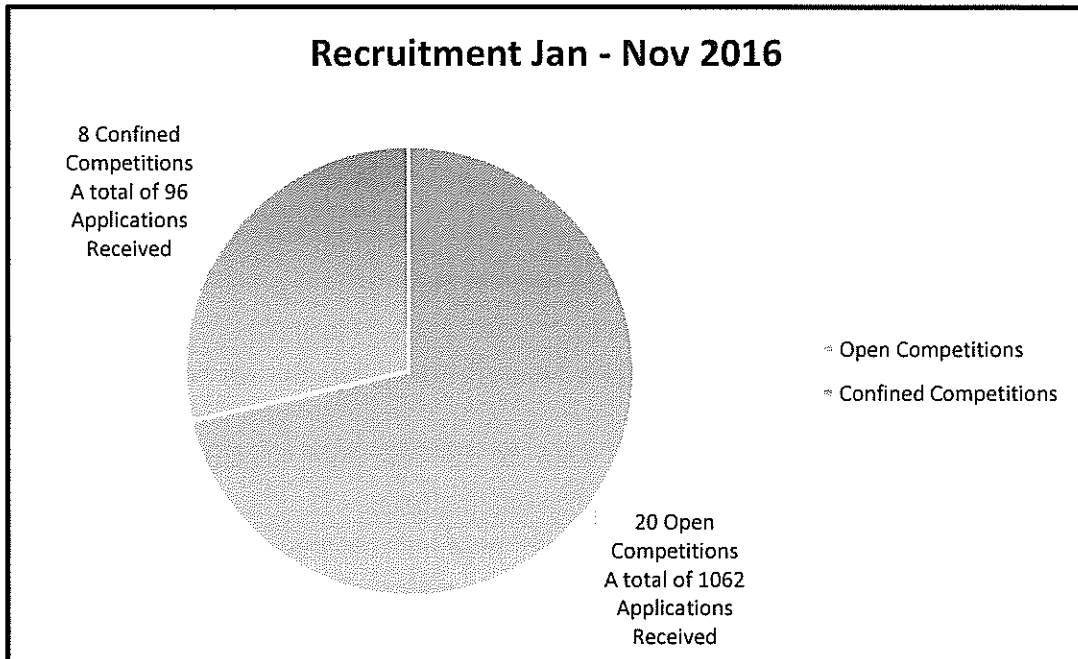
- Information provision – First Stop Shop
- Business Advice, Mentoring & Networking
- Management development, Sectoral development programmes
- Training, workshops
- Funding (direct – limited eligibility, indirect – via Microfinance Ireland)

Summary Targets 2017:

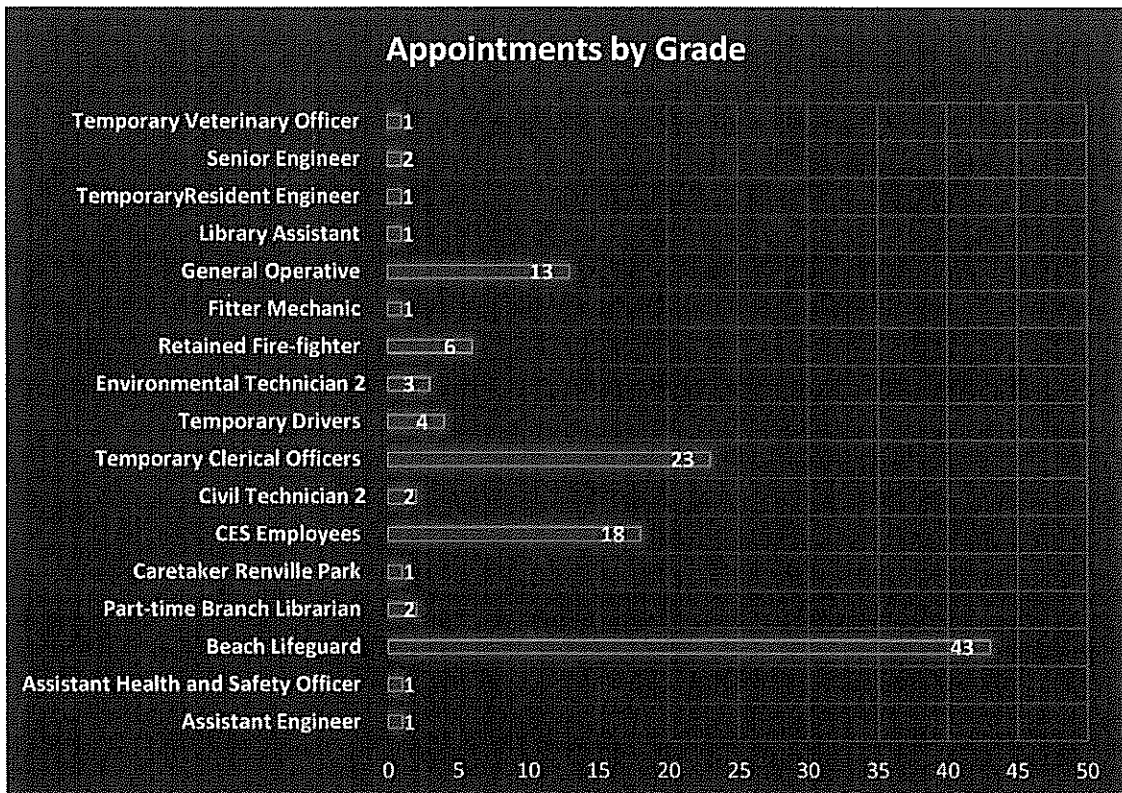
Item	2017 Targets
Value of Grants Approved	€535,000
Feasibility	4
Priming	12
Business Development / Expansion	13
Value of Grants Paid	€250,000
Feasibility	€50,000
Priming	€100,000
Business Expansion	€100,000
Jobs Associated with Funding – WTE¹	115
Total Employment in LEO Clients (Year start) – FT / OT / WTE	
Gross Jobs Created / Lost	190/100
Full Time Created / Lost	120/75
Other Time Created / Lost	70/30
Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Created / Lost	+70
Total Employment (Year End) – FT / OT / WTE	970
Training	
Total No. of Courses Run	40
Total No. of Participants	500
Mentoring	
Total Number of Mentoring Assignments	130
Total Number of Mentoring Clinics	65

Human Resource Activity

Indicative Activities in 2016:



- 28 Recruitment Competitions were held to date and this involved the processing of a total of 1158 application forms.
- A total of 122 appointments were made up to the 8th November 2016 as follows:



- 19 Student Work-placements and 3 Interns were accommodated during 2016.
- Twenty one full time plus three part time employees will have retired from the Council in 2016.
- In excess of 3% of Galway County Council's Total Payroll Costs has been spent on Training and Development in 2016. Health & Safety training formed a considerable part of the 2016 Training Plan including courses as follows: Driver Certificate of Professional Competence Training, Signing, Lighting and Guarding Training, Safe Pass, Chainsaw and Manual Handling Training.
- Galway County Council has a number of Family Friendly Schemes in place including:
 - *Employee Assistance Programme*: A confidential counselling service, the "Employee Assistance Programme" or EAP is available to all Galway County Council employees. Health Assured Ltd delivers this service on behalf of Galway County Council.
 - *Shorter Working Year Scheme*: 40 staff members availed of unpaid leave under the Shorter Working Year Scheme in 2016.
 - *Parental Leave Scheme*: 65 staff members availed of parental leave in 2016.
 - *Work Sharing Scheme*: 54 staff members availed of work sharing arrangements in 2016.
 - *Career Breaks*: 6 staff members availed of career breaks in 2016.
 - *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. 27 applications for participation in the Cycle to Work Scheme have been processed to date in 2016 for Council employees.
 - *Travel Pass Scheme*: There are currently 14 staff members availing of the TaxSaver Travel Pass Scheme.

HR Payroll Shared Services Program

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- 2016 saw the commencement of next stage of the HR Payroll Shared Service Program, with the Superannuation Data Readiness Project Team being appointed in January 2016. This is one of six outstanding sub-projects in the HR Payroll Shared Service Program.
- The Superannuation Data Readiness project involves capturing and updating all Superannuation data in a consistent manner, in preparation for migrating to the Superannuation Shared Services Environment.
- Galway County Council has approximately 996 records for review, with 68% complete at time of issuing this report.
- The launch of the Migration to Core Version 19 sub-project is scheduled for late November 2016, with work commencing on this in February 2017.

Proposals for 2017:

- Recruit and deploy staff in an efficient and professional manner, and in accordance with Government policy.
- Devise and implement tailored training and development programmes which take into account individual and organisational requirements, and implement quality training standards to enable employees to contribute effectively and productively to the overall accomplishment of the Council's goals and objectives. The 2016 Training Plan will continue to focus on the delivery of mandatory Health & Safety Training. Training Programmes that support managers and staff in addressing the challenges of new approaches and greater flexibility in the delivery of work programmes with reduced resources will be prioritised, while having regard to the personal and career development needs expressed by staff members through the PMDS process.
- 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.
- According to service records, a minimum of 16 staff members will retire in 2017.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER and EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT

Water Services Investment Programme

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Since 1st 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 Plan. There are a number of schemes in County Galway that are on the Plan. In 2016 the main schemes which made significant progress were water rehabilitation schemes, Ballinasloe Advance Scheme, Kinvara Sewerage Scheme, Leenane Water Scheme, Oughterard Sewerage Scheme, and Athenry Sewerage Scheme. Some of these schemes will continue into 2017.

Proposals for 2017:

- An updated Capital Investment Plan was submitted by Irish Water to the Commission for Energy Regulation in August which includes projects required to support development growth and other government policy requirements. Once approved it is hoped that further schemes at planning stage in the County will progress to construction such as Glenamaddy and further Water Rehabilitation Phases.

Management and maintenance of Water and Wastewater Schemes

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- 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. This has resulted in the adoption of new practices and new technology while at the same time having to absorb reductions in staff numbers driven by the Commission for Energy Regulation. Emphasis continues to be placed on Health and Safety and quality compliance.

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- The Council will continue to operate the Service Level Agreement and perform within the parameters set out in the Annual Service Plan. Extra performance indicators are included in the 2017 Annual Service Plan and 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.

Water Conservation

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Active leak detection and repair works have continued throughout 2016. Extensive upgrade and maintenance works has been carried out on meters associated with District Metering Areas (DMAs), allowing for complete and accurate data to be gathered on the network. Works are well advanced on the replacement of 19.5km of mains in the county under Phase 2 of the Rehabilitation Programme (Carraroe, Inishmore, Loughrea & Spiddal). Works on this phase of rehabilitation works will be substantially complete before mid-December 2016.

Proposals for 2017:

- To further reduce Unaccounted For Water in the county during 2017, IW will be increasing the available resources through a Find & Fix programme, with additional resources being made available for both leak detection and leak repair works.
- Approximately 1000 leaks will be detected and repaired during the course of 2016. Additional resourcing will be required to reduce the current UFW levels to the international target levels being adapted by IW. New technologies will be fully adapted in 2017 to allow IW gather consistent detection and repair information from LAs on a national basis.
- In addition to the 19.5km of rehabilitation works that are being undertaken in 2016, the Council has submitted proposals to IW for the replacement of an additional 12km of mains within the county during 2017 with recorded histories of high leakage. Where mains are proving uneconomical to maintain, they will be prioritized by IW for replacement in 2017.
- A pressure management programme commenced in the County in 2016 with a preliminary survey of all existing pressure reduction infrastructure and the identification of additional sections of the network for pressure management. This programme will be advancing during the early part of 2017 with a view to reducing unnecessarily high pressures on the network which causes stresses on pipelines and leads to leakage.
- Hydraulic models are being completed at present in both Ros Muc and Tiernee to assist in identifying required upgrades on these networks. Both areas are currently susceptible to regular interruptions to supply.

Waste Management Infrastructure

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Galway County Council has been asked by the Department of Environment and working with the EPA to operate the landfill at Kilconnell for the acceptance of waste for a defined period of time in the 2 remaining cells and in parallel, commence the capital works for the permanent capping of the existing cells 1 to 7. The landfill opened in mid July 2016.
- The contract for the operation of the Civic Amenity Sites at Ballinasloe, Clifden and Tuam has been renewed for a further three years following a tendering process in 2016.
- Waste collectors vehicles were inspected to ensure that their systems could provide invoices/statements on pay by weight charges as required under legislation
- Rehab Glasco continue to provide a collection service for glass and beverage cans at the County's 92 bring bank centres, while the Council has a partnership arrangement with Athchursáil Arainn Teo. (Now 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 (formerly the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration Programme) 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 2017:

- The implementation of the revised pay by weight regulations.
- Ensure that waste collectors who are providing a residual waste collection service will also provide an organic waste service where required to do so.
- Monitor the operation of leased recycling facilities countywide.
- Provide mobile hazardous waste & WEEE collections at targeted locations
- Implement waste collection bye-laws in targeted areas.
- Provide an education campaign in support of separate organic waste collection upon implementation of separate collection by private collectors.

Environmental Monitoring & Enforcement Measures

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Details of enforcement notices, warning letters issued and initiated prosecutions under Environmental legislation in 2016 will be set out in the 2016 RMCEI (minimum inspection criteria for environmental inspection) returns which are due for issue by January 31st 2017.
- The 2016 RMCEI returns detail planned pro-active inspections carried out on regulated facilities and unplanned reactive inspections in relation to complaints received and incidents of environmental pollution. Inspections are 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.
- Producer Responsibility Initiative Inspections continued by Community Wardens, with follow technical inspections and warning notices issued in respect on identified noncompliance issues.
- Contracts were put in place for drinking water, bathing water, river, lake and landfill monitoring in accordance with legislative requirements. Follow-up actions were taken in response to non-compliances.
- Notifications of non-compliance in relation to drinking water were issued to the EPA. Public notices in relation to bathing water quality were issued and investigative monitoring was carried out as required.
- Five Blue Flags and Six Green Coast plaques were awarded to bathing areas in County Galway.
- The Council inspected waste collector permit holders and waste facility permit holders on an ongoing basis with emphasis placed on identification and inspection of unauthorised facilities especially end of life vehicles and waste tyres.
- The CCTV programme to detect illegal dumping continued to be extended to various locations throughout the County and were successful in a number of prosecutions.

Proposals for 2017:

- The Council will set out all planned pro-active inspections of authorised facilities under various Environmental Legislation in the 2017 RMCEI Plan which is due for issue by January 31st 2017. The scale of Enforcement activity in 2017 will reflect the resources available for inspections and will be on a prioritised basis taking consideration of Departmental and EPA 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.
- Introduction of fixed penalty notices under Producer Responsibility Initiatives, for example, failure to register with relevant compliance scheme, failure to display appropriate signage and/or certification of registration.
- Introduction of fixed penalty notices under the Air Pollution Act 1987 in relation to vehicle refinishing and organic solvents.
- Use of CCTV cameras will be extended where required to include use of covert cameras at locations where persistent dumping occurs.
- Inspections of waste water treatment systems will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the EPA.

Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Council continued to exercise its powers under the Derelict Sites Act 1990, in order to compel 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 2017:

- 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 2016:

- 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 2016 with priority given to extensions at Annaghdown, Quansboro, Claregalway, Leenane etc.
- Extensions were completed at Ballygar and Clynagh, while Part 8 approval was received in respect of extensions at Leenane, Bealadangan, Clarinbridge, Creagh, Killursa and Killimordaly.

- Improvement works were supported at a number of burial grounds resulting in increased plots 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 2016 - €600, €450 or €300 with grants made to 163 committees in 2016

Proposals for 2017:

- The Council will continue to progress extensions in conjunction with the local communities. Works will commence to extensions at Leenane, Bealadangan, Clarinbridge, Creagh, Killursa and Killimordaly in partnership with local communities and as resources permit while extensions will be advanced at Abbey, Abbeyknockmoy, Annaghdown, Ballinafad, Ballygar, Claregalway, Clonfert, Kilkieran, Kilmeen, Knock, Lettermullen and Quansboro again as resources permit.

Environmental Awareness & Education
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Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The awareness officers are involved in promoting environmental awareness through ongoing engagement with the domestic and commercial sectors
- Over 40 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, Mobile Hazardous Waste Collections, National Spring Clean initiatives
- Liaising with Community and Enterprise Unit, Heritage Officer, Biodiversity Officer on various environmental projects
- Participating in SEAI Energy Awareness Programme
- Ongoing implementation of the LAPN / Waste Prevention Programme.

Proposals for 2017:

- 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.

Energy Efficiency

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Galway County Council participated in the SEAI run Better Energy Communities Scheme and assisted eight local community groups to implement energy efficiency upgrades in their community buildings and prepare the necessary documentation to draw down funding.
- A major upgrade was carried out at Galway Fire Service Headquarters at Fr. Griffin Rd which included a full external insulation upgrade, an internal LED Lighting upgrade, the installation of an 11kWp Solar PV array and the installation of a state of the art Toprock drying mechanism for all clothing and work wear.
- A 4kWp Solar PV array was also installed at Oranmore Library together with a full retrofit of LED lighting internally. The existing external door has also been mechanized to improve the draft lobby performance at the entrance.
- Galway County Council participated in the SEAI run ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems Programme, with a view to achieving certification to the international standard in 2017.
- A feasibility study was carried out to investigate the potential for a Solar PV system at Poolboy Landfill, Ballinasloe.
- Galway County Council was one of three pilot local authorities selected to carry out a countywide public lighting inventory study with grant aid support from SEAI.
- Energy efficiency information was supplied to all Chambers of Commerce in the County.
- Energy efficiency information was provided at Meet West, Local Enterprise days and environmental sessions with local communities.

Proposals for 2017:

- Consider further participation in the SEAI run Better Energy Communities grant aid scheme.
- Continue upgrading Council owned buildings with improved insulation and lighting and other energy efficiency measures.
- Complete county wide inventory national programme for energy efficient street lighting.
- Continue the energy efficiency fabric upgrade and deeper retrofit programme for local authority housing.

- Continue with provision of information at local community and business events and explore further opportunities.
- Consider progression to certification audit for ISO 50001 Programme subject to funding.

Animal Control & Welfare

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- Animal welfare cases involving dogs, cattle, sheep and horses were investigated where appropriate in conjunction with Gardai, Dept. of Agriculture and welfare groups.
- The Council continued to be active in providing pound facilities for impounding of horses, sheep, cattle and goats. Structural improvements were made to Ballinasloe Pound. The Council veterinary service liaises with Housing in the implementation of the Control of Horses Act including the tendering processes.
- 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'.
- Under the Control of Dogs Act, increased compliance with dog licensing was achieved by targeting resources.
- The Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015 came into force for all dogs on 31 March 2016. An information campaign using leaflets and the website was implemented to inform the public.

Proposals for 2017:

- The Council will continue to provide pound services and are carrying out further improvement works to Ballinasloe Pound.
- Ongoing improvements to the efficiency of the Dog Control service will be implemented during the year to include continuing targeting of resources with a view to increased compliance with dog licensing.
- The Council will continue to investigate cases of animal welfare breaches in conjunction with Dept of Agriculture, Gardai and welfare groups.
- The Council will implement and enforce the new micro-chipping law.
- 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.

Food Safety

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Council provided a Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service for both City and Galway County Councils under the terms of its 5 year service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. The present contract expired on 30th June 2016 and was temporarily rolled over on a monthly basis pending a FSAI required section 85 agreement with Galway City Council. This is now in place and a three year contract is due to commence on the 1st Dec 2016.
- There are 11 local abattoirs in the county which are approved by the Council under Irish and EC legislation. These premises slaughter cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry under Council supervision. One abattoir processes wild game.
- The Council also supervises 12 EC Approved meat processing premises in both the city and county.
- Specific EC required welfare training at time of slaughter, was organised for staff of Galway abattoirs. Participants were awarded and presented with their certificates at a presentation night. Training in Labelling, Hygiene and Risk Assessment was provided to Council supervised food businesses in conjunction with SafeFood.

Proposals for 2017:

- Resources for this service have been included in the budget for 2017
- Developments in the area of shared clustering of veterinary services will be responded to.
- It is proposed to organise further training for Food Business Operators and veterinary inspectors in 2017.
- Continued operation of Food Safety compliance activities to standardised procedures.

CHES : MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT(MEM)

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of the New National Framework for MEM is ongoing and was chaired by Mr. Peter Gavican (Director of Services). Work is continuing by the committee in preparation of the Severe Weather & Flood Response Operational Plan.
- The MEM West Regional Steering Group 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 Working Group involving members of the Principal Emergency Services (PES's) in the West Region, i.e. Local Authority Fire Services, Local Garda Divisions and HSE West Ambulance Service, continues to operate, under the auspices of MEM West Regional Steering Group.

- Galway Co. Co. 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. It should be noted that the City Council LCC is located at City Hall.
- The County/City MEM integration group, was established between the PRA's in Galway City and County under the chair of Mr. Joe O' Neill Director of Services - Galway City Council to deal with issues in the City/County area and in particular large crowd events, continues to operate.
- A Major Emergency exercise involving the 4 Local Competent Authorities (LCA's,) -i.e. Galway City Council –including GFRS as PES to City Council-, Galway Garda Division, HSE West, Galway Harbour Authority,- and the Site operator TOPAZ involving an simulated incident at the Top Tier Seveso III site in the Galway City Docks, was held in November in 2016 as part of the testing and validation of the statutory External Emergency Plan as revised by the 4 LCA'S as required under SEVESO III regulations.
- A major emergency table top exercise involving the 3 PRA's and other relevant agencies i.e OPW , IDF to test Council new Flood Response document based on national Guidance was held in Ballinasloe in March 2016
- Regional training is ongoing for relevant personnel in the eight PRA'S in the west region
- Galway County Council procured an Onsite Coordination Centre (OSCC) Vehicle for MEM on behalf of the 8 PRA's in the West, MEM region in 2016 .It is hoped to procure some capital support for the outfitting of vehicle from MEM RSG in 2016

Proposals for 2017:

- 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) which was established by the Council as part of the New National Framework for MEM is ongoing will be chaired by Mr. Jim Cullen (Director of Services) from 2017 onwards as GFRS is now part of Council's Water Services and Environment Directorate
- Validation and updating of the existing County Council Major Emergency plan is envisaged to continue in 2017, subject to ACFO MEM vacancy been filled.
- Work on the Major Emergency Regional co-ordination plan is ongoing.
- Council personnel and Galway fire service personnel will continue to support Regional Steering Group and Regional Working Groups and local MEDC and the Galway County/City integration group.

- Galway County council will hope to procure a second tempoary mobile body storage unit for the 11 Local Authorites in the West North West And Midlands MEM regions to increase capacity inn these regions respectively
- The upgrading of OSSC Vehicle, will be finished by end of 2016 and OSSC vehicke which is been managed by GFRS will be deployed in 2017 and will be used in future exercieses as an ON Site Co-Ordination Centre OSSC

CHES: FIRE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Schools Fire Safety Program was rolled out again in primary schools in County Station Areas
- Self-contained smoke alarms with long life batteries are been procured by GFRS for 500 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.

Proposals for 2017:

- It is hoped to have the Schools Fire Safety Programme restarted in 2017 involving local fire officers visiting 4th class in a number of national schools in Galway City Brigade Area. This program delivers a national fire safety message but is subject to the availability of financial resources.
- Self-contained smoke alarms will be issued in 2017 in both city and county from allocations received in 2016.

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 are all 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 title – “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 by the end of 2017 will require ongoing commitment from the Fire Service, the City and County Management Teams along with the City and County Elected Representatives. It will be necessary to prepare a Service Development Plan/ Action Plan which will be reflected in the form of a new Draft Section 26 Plan prepared by the Fire Service Management. The Draft Section 26 Plan has been presented for consideration to the County Council housing & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee in May 2014 outlining the background and content of the document and the associated proposed changes in the Fire Authority Policy as a consequence.

All the work on KCS has been put on hold currently, until discussions between NDFEM and unions at national level are concluded, which is ongoing with the establishment of FSNOIG nationally. SIPTU withdrew its objection to the approval of Section 26 plan by Local Councils in April 2016 as it is a statutory duty of local authorities.

The updated Draft Section 26 Plan will be presented to a full meeting of the Council in late 2016 or early 2017 for approval after it has been presented at Water & Environmental Services SPC.

Indicative Activities in 2016:

- The Council’s Chairman Cllr. Peter Roche in the presence of the Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs, Sean Kyne TD formally opened GFRS’s 11th Fire station with a new retained Fire station in an Cheathru Rua on 7th June 2016, The station itself went operational in 21st February 2016. The personnel at the new Fire station have responded to 77 emergency calls by end of Q3 2016 -01-09-2016 -.
- There are **11** Fire Stations in the City and County located at Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Galway City, Gort, Loughrea, Mountbellew, Portumna, Tuam, Inis Mór and 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.

- The Council employs approximately **154** fire-fighting personnel at full complement directly in the Galway Fire Service including full time and retained fire-fighters in the City and County. There are also **11** supervisory and fire prevention senior fire officers, including Chief Fire Officer(CFO), 4 civilian support personnel, a Brigade Mechanic and Civil Defence Officer (CDO) working in the Galway City Fire station.
- During 2015, the fire service responded to a total of **1,540** emergency incidents, **879** by the County Brigades and **661** by the Galway City Brigade in its City and County fire ground. This represented a marginal **2.2 %** increase in overall emergency calls when compared to **2014** -see **FIG 1a** for Emergency calls attended by GFRS 2009-2015. It should also be noted that there was a **5.7%** decrease in calls attended in city brigade area and a **9%** increase in calls attended in county brigade areas from 2014-2015
- **Fig1b** shows a breakdown of calls for city and county in respectively by main call type from 2009-2015. There appears to be a trend of decrease in fire calls and a marginal increase in special service calls which largely consist of Road Traffic Collisions RTC's
- The Fire Brigade continue to attend at emergency incidents in the City and County, as in previous years. The total number of emergency calls attended –approximately-in Galway City and County attended by all 11 brigades to **1st September 2016** was **1192** - **1,127** in same period in 2015 , of which **460** were in Galway City Brigade Area.
- The percentage increase in fire and emergency calls attended for first 3 quarters this year 2016 is about **5%** when compared to same period last year, again the same trend reduction in calls in city brigade area – now reduced with new Fire station in a Cheathru Rua and increase in calls attended in County station areas.

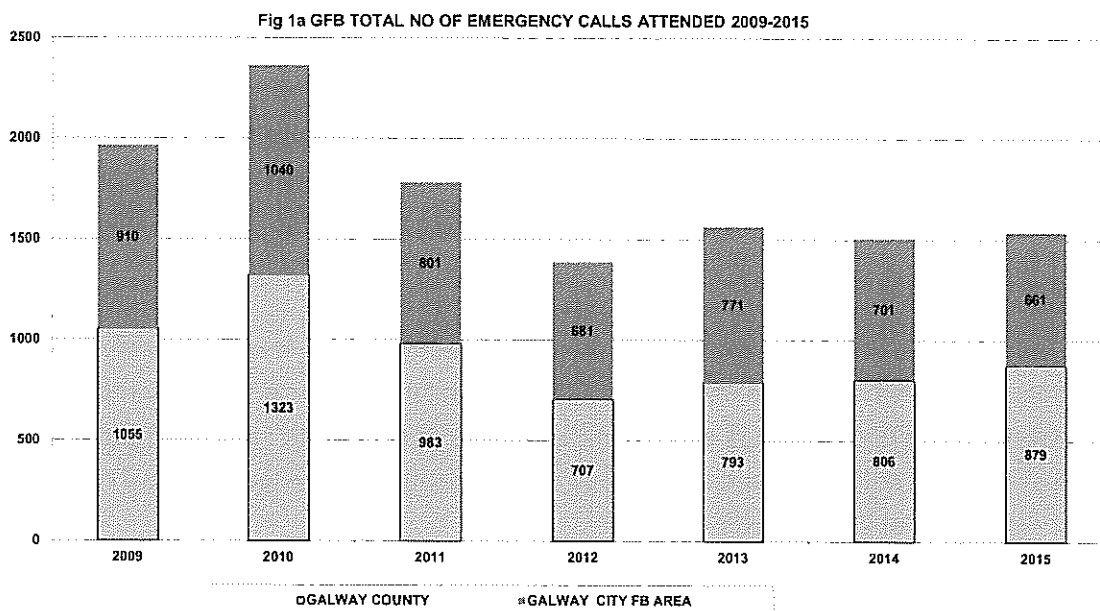
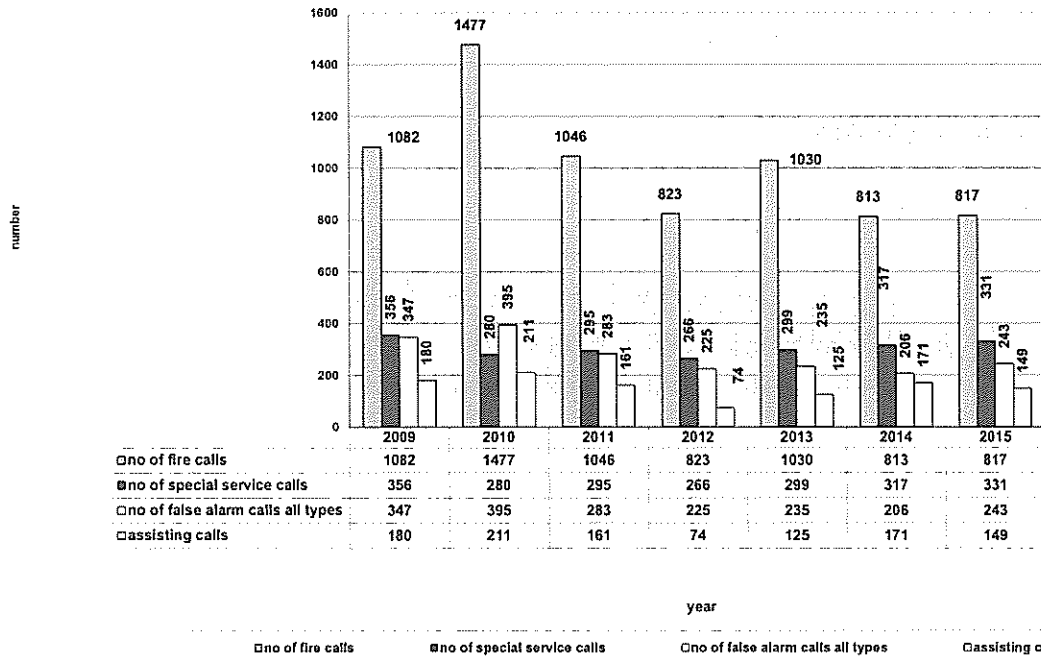


Fig 1b Galway Fire Service Calls Summary By Type 2009-2015



- The Council endeavored 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 annual training program for 2015 as per previous years.
- All county retained operational personnel are operating under the National Incident Command System since 2009 as per Fire Services Change Program under the Health and Safety remit. The roll-out of the GICS for the fire station personnel both f-t and retained in Galway City was implemented in October 2014.
- The Council intend to continue to prepare pre-fire plans for City and County risks, which is a statutory duty under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003.
- The Fire Service's Health & Safety Steering Group continued to meet in 2016 with monthly meetings to manage and drive the Health & Safety Management Plan throughout the fire services with the intention of obtaining OSHAS 18001 Accreditation before end of 2016.
- National Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) that underpin generic risk assessments in the fire service Ancillary Safety Statement (ASS) will form the backbone for our training plans throughout the City and County for all fire personnel to the end of 2016.
- The preliminary initial risk categorization of all 10 Galway Fire station grounds was prepared for initial consideration by management team as per KCS procedure. The

output of the preliminary Risk categorization has been presented to both housing & Emergency Services SPC and Connemara area committee in 2014 with one of the key outputs being the need for a new retained Fire station in an Cheathru Rua.

- Fortunately there have not been any deaths due to accidental fires in Galway City and county in 2016 to date. There were 4 accidental fire deaths in 2015

Proposals for 2017:

Operational

- The revised Draft Fire and Operations Plan, which was approved by the Housing & Emergency Services SPC in 2014 will be revised in light of KCS. The new draft will be put before Council for formal approval in late 2016 or early 2017, and will take cognizance of the outcome of the city and west review and risk categorization process.
- 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 training with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Planning Training will be carried out with as per annual training program for 2016 subject to budgetary provisions.
- National SOGs will continue to form the backbone of our training plans throughout the City and County for all fire personnel in 2017. The next set of SOGs will be rolled out in 2017 and Galway Fire Brigade continues to role-out with the national program as SoG's are issued
- The National Framework 2010-2015 and Keeping Communities Safe", by National Directorate will inform the service of other work to be carried by Galway Fire Brigade in 2016.
- The new retained Fire Service in An Cheathru Rua will be continue to be imbedded into our operational response

See Figs attached showing 11 new New Fire Station grounds in Galway City and County post 2016

Area of Operations incl GY22



- **Fig existing 11 FIRE STATION GROUNDS INCLUDING An Cheathru Rua GY22**

CAMP WEST

- The Fire Authorities of Connacht and Donegal and the HSE West are involved with this Central call-out and communications project, which is run by Mayo County Council as Contracting Authority from the Western Regional Communications Centre (WRCC) in Castlebar. HSE West Ambulance Service have withdrawn from the WRCC by end of December 2014. All Local Authority partners' contributions will increase accordingly in 2016-2017 to make up for the HSE contribution shortfall. All three regional Camp Projects are currently being reviewed by NDFEM as a part a new CAMP II project. GFRS - along with all other LA Fire Services is migrating to a new national digital Private Mobile Radio (PMR) and mobilizing platform known as TETRA, similar to partner PES's e.g. Gardai and National Ambulance Service (NAS), who have changed already. Out station communications equipment will be changed over in Galway Fire stations in 2016 as part of CAMP II Project. The change over to the Tetra digital radio system will have financial implications for all Local Authority Fire services in the future as there will be an annual fee for each Tetra device in use , to be paid to Tetra Ireland, who won the national digital communications project all Emergency services in Ireland
- It is understood that as Camp migrates from a regional to a national model a new national funding model will be established. This might have benign implications for Council budgets from 2018/2019 onwards

Regional Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Project

- Galway County Council is the Contracting Authority to roll out the CISM system to the 6 No. Fire Authorities of Connacht and Donegal. Provision is being made in 2017 budgets to continue this project, with Galway County Council acting as the contracting authority. A contract for 2013-2016 was issued by Galway County Council as contracting authority for the West to VHI as CISM service provider to Fire authorities in the WEST and Donegal after a tender competition in e-tenders in 2012-2013
- Currently there is national review of CISM systems used LA Fire services in Ireland, which reported in 2016.
- The existing contract was extended for a 12 months to Sept 2017

Proposals for 2017:

- A new tender will issue in 2017 for provision of CISM Services for period 2017-2020

CHES : FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATES AND FSA 1981 INSPECTIONS

Indicative Activities in 2016 (based on 2015 data):

- In 2015, the Fire Service fire prevention staff carried out **339** inspections of premises as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act (FSA) 1981 & 2003, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, Dangerous Substances Act and also carried out inspections for the issue of Fire Safety Certificates (FSC's) under Building Control Act 1990 respectively. The Fire Prevention Department processed **246** public licence applications in 2015 and issued **200** public licence applications to the courts in 2015
- The Fire service have received 307 licence applications all types to date in 2016
The Fire Prevention Department dealt with **120** planning applications in 2015 and dealt with **100** planning applications to date in 2016 -all from Galway City Council -
- The Fire Prevention Department dealt with **256** Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Applications –all types- in 2015 under Building Control Regulations, **151** in the County area and **105** in the City.
- The Fire Prevention Department have received the following number of FSC Applications all types; **100** for the City and **112** in the County from January to November 2016.
- Fire officers processed **92** Disability Access Certificate Applications (**DAC's**) on behalf of the County in 2015 with **66** processed to date in 2016.
There has been less inspection of premises under Fire Services act 1981& 2003 as there has been a vacant AFO position for all of 2016

Proposals for 2017:

- Fire prevention staff will continue to process all FSC type applications on behalf of County and City and DAC certificates on behalf of County.
- Process licence applications and planning applications as received in 2016.
- Continue the program of inspection of retail petroleum stores in the city and county.
- Continue to process DSA licences of retail petroleum stores in the city and county as received.
- Continue to inspect nursing homes in the City and County.
- Commence an inspection program of hostels and hotels in the city and county.
- Carry out inspections in city and county on foot of complaints on a prioritized basis.

GALWAY CIVIL DEFENCE

Indicative Activities in 2016

- Galway Civil Defence, through their 5 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, Occupational first Aid, Emergency First Response is currently ongoing through 2015 and again in 2016. 17 student EMT's are currently in training and will be qualified in 2016.
- Search Management training in 2015 was conducted in the Garda Training College in Templemore.
- 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.

Proposals for 2017:

- Focus on training for 2017 will centre in developing the Search Management capability and Swift Water Rescue training with members partaking in courses rolled out by the Civil Defence College, Roscrea.
- Instructors who qualified in 2016 and training will commence with unit members from thereon.
- New members are always welcome from their community and training will be provided to all members of the highest standard by our instructor core.

Report on 3 Three Year Capital Programme 2016 – 2018

Galway Fire & Rescue Service

- G.F.R.S is the Principal emergency service (P.E.S.) for Galway City And County Councils respectively The followings sets out the indicative Capital programme for G.F.R.S. for 2016-2018.
- Please note all projects are subject to Department Of Housing planning & Local Government Funding and specific approval by project.

Fire Appliances

- There is a very limited national capital budget for FS appliances/equipment. Galway County Council has submitted a request to Department Of Housing planning & Local Government for capital funding/support the following items in late 2016:
 - IS Van
 - Heavy lifting equipment
- DECLG have approved the procurement a new Class B appliance for Galway County Council Fire Authority, as part of Regional Tender for the West & North West Regions for 5 number Class B appliances in 2015. This Project is being led by Roscommon County Council, who issued tender documentation in the summer of 2015. Expected delivery of new Class B appliance is early 2017.

Fire Stations

I refer to DECLG capital announcement 2016-2020 for new Fire station projects in early 2016 Subject to Department of Housing Planning and Local Government, approval & funding as outlined above, Galway County Council intend to:

- Progress Galway City Project - new HQ station i.e. site selection and progress planning - following outcome of the review of the Fire Services and external consultant's report.
- Progress new Fire station Project in Tuam, Co. Galway approved in 2008, design consultants appointed in 2009, planning permission granted in 2010, full working drawings were submitted to Declg in Dec. 2010. Galway County Council have submitted request for approval to Department of Housing Planning And Local Government to proceed to tender stage, in the summer of 2016 after formal review of the project and we await a response.
- Identify and procure a new Site for a new fire station in Athenry as approval in principle was given by the Declg in 2008, & then make a case to Department of Housing Planning And Local Government to procure & appoint Design consultants for a new fire station in Athenry.

- Make a case to Department of Housing Planning And Local Government for approval for a site for a new Fire station in Loughrea. A possible potential site in Council ownership has been identified in the area
- Ballinasloe Fire Station Extension Project –application lodged with DECLG in 2008. We will continue to make a case to Department of Housing Planning And Local Government for an interim project for Ballinasloe Fire Station, in existing location
- Mountbellew Fire Station Project – continue to make case to the Department to advance the project. An application for approval in principle was lodged with DECLG in 2009.

It should be noted that essential health and safety works has been carried out at Athenry Fire Station, Loughrea Fire Station, Mountbellew Fire Station & Tuam Fire Station respectively at an estimated cost of €450,000 from our own resources from 2014 to 2016. Similarly about €250,000 has been spent in Galway City Fire station on health and safety & energy efficiency improvement works in 2016.

All of above was done as part of process of seeking OHSAS 18001 health & safety accreditation

Other- Small Projects Capital

- Procure smoke alarms for 2017, as part of National Community Smoke Alarm Scheme as per previous years. A submission has been made to DECLG to procure about 600 smoke alarms in 2016 and continue distribution via Galway County and City Community Smoke Alarms' Schemes in 2016 to vulnerable households.
- Seek partial funding from national MEM Budget for outfitting of a regional OSSC Vehicle for Galway city and County
- Similarly GFRS procured a mass fatality unit – portable refrigerated temporary body storage facilities – a LA Function under MEM Framework -, on behalf of 11 Local Authorities in West, North West and Midlands Regions at a cost of €35,000 in 2014. The DECLG have recouped up to 50% of above funding in 2015 to Galway County Council. This allocation will be used as seed capital to procure extra capacity by way of a second unit for the 3 regions in 2017.

Roads & Transportation

- 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.
- 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 & National Secondary Road Network. This Programme is dependent on annual allocations from Transport Infrastructure Ireland 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.

NATIONAL ROADS (including Major Inter Urbans):

Project:	Status:
N6 Galway City Ring Road	A planning application is to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in early 2017.
N18/ N17 Gort to North of Tuam	Works have commenced on the project since Qtr 1 2015 with an expected completion date is Feb 2018.
N59 Clifden to Oughterard	Maam Cross to Oughterard has been granted Planning Approval. Land acquisition is ongoing. Construction works will commence in 2018, dependent on environmental approval and funding being made available. Clifden to Maam Cross planning application to be resubmitted in 2017.
N59 Moycullen Bypass	This project has been included in the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Programme 2016 -2021. Tender documents have been prepared and land acquisition is ongoing. Approval to proceed to tender is awaited and is expected in 2018, with construction to commence in 2020.
N63 Annagh Hill to Abbeyknockmoy	Tender advertised in late 2016. Contract to be signed and construction to commence in 2017, subject to funding being made available.
N67 Kinvara to Ballinderreen	A CPO has been confirmed for this section of road. Land acquisition is ongoing. Construction is anticipated in 2018, subject to funding being made available...
N17 Milltown to Carrownurlaur	Design documentation being prepared in 2017, tender documents to be issued in 2018 with construction also in 2018, subject to funding being made available.

N59 West of Letterfrack	Design documentation to be prepared in 2017, tender documentation to issue in 2018, and project to be constructed in 2019, subject to funding being made available.
N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Liss	Design of project currently underway. Tender documentation is to be issued in 2019, with construction commencing in 2020, subject to funding being made available.
N83 Tinkers Hill	Design of project and planning application to be submitted in 2018.
N84 Shrule to Headford	Design of project to be completed in 2018/2019.
Athenry Ring Road	The design of these works is to be completed in 2017, tender documentation to issue in 2018, and construction to take place in 2019.
Ballinasloe Inner Relief Road	Design documentation will be prepared in 2017 and a planning application submitted, with construction to take place in 2019, subject to funding being made available.
N63 Horseleap Cross	Planning application to be submitted in 2018, tender documentation to be prepared in 2019, with construction to commence in 2020, subject to funding being made available.
Oranhill to new roundabout on N18	The design of this Non-National route will be prepared in 2017, with construction to commence in 2019.

- 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 & WINTER MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES:

Project:	Status:
Purchase of replacement items of plant to facilitate the continued operation of the Machinery Yard and to meet essential operational requirements.	It is intended to proceed with the Plant Acquisition Programme within the limits of available funding with a particular emphasis on the renewal of essential plant and equipment. Initially 2 new trucks are to be purchased and a report is being prepared on a proposal to renew the fleet on an ongoing basis. The cost of replacing essential plant will be met by means of charge-out, in accordance with Machinery Expense Account procedures.

FLOOD RELIEF/MITIGATION SCHEMES:

Project:	Status:
To directly advance and assist in the advancement, as appropriate, of Flood Relief/Mitigation Schemes including the Dunkellin River Flood Relief Scheme, Clare River Flood Relief Scheme and South Galway.	The Council will continue to work with the Office of Public Works 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.
Dunkellin/Aggard Flood Relief Scheme	Tenders have been received for the clearance of vegetation to facilitate scheme works. The vegetation removal will be done in Q3 2016 and Q1 2017, subject to environmental restrictions on the time frame. Bridge works are to be carried out on Rinn, Dunkellin and Killeely Beg Bridges during Spring and Autumn 2017. The scheme works to include channel deepening and widening will be done in between May and September in both 2017 and 2018.
Ballinderreen/Kinvara	The Office of Public Works and Transport Infrastructure Ireland agreed funding for the development of this scheme. Galway County Council will progress the planning and development of the scheme during 2017.
South Galway Flood Relief Scheme	The Office of Public Works has agreed to fund the cost of a project engineer to progress this project from 2017. The documentation for the scheme will be prepared in 2017/2018 and a planning application submitted to An Bord Pleanála in Q4 2018/Q1 2019.

STRATEGIC PIERS & HARBOURS PROGRAMME:

Project:	Status:
Inis Oírr Pier Improvements	The proposed development at Inis Oírr comprises the following main elements: the construction of an attached breakwater to the seaward side of the pier, the construction of a pier extension including additional berthage and limited dredging works to provide a safe approach channel.

	<p>Funding of €8million for the pier development on Inis Oírr was specified in the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Programme 2016 -2021 and confirmation has been received that the funding has now been made available to Galway County Council. Preparatory surveying work will commence in 2017, following the appointment of consultants. Tender documentation will also be prepared in 2017.</p>
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SMARTER TRAVEL:

Project:	Status:
<p>Conamara Greenway</p>	<p>An 8km section of the Conamara Greenway is to be constructed in 2017 at Ballinahinch. Necessary access to the lands has been received.</p> <p>A planning application for the section of the Greenway from Galway to Oughterard is to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2017.</p>

HOUSING

House Construction:

- Under the Social Housing Strategy 2020 the Council has been provided with funding to construct 88 units, subject to planning. These projects are located at Weir Road, Tuam, Gilmartin Road, Tuam, Garbally Drive & Esker Fields, Ballinasloe and 6 rural dwellings. The Council has been provided an allocation of €15.58m of Capital funding to carry out the work and it has engaged Architects to prepare drawings for submission for Part 8 Planning approval stage. Also where planning approval is in place, projects will progress to tender stage. It is envisaged that these projects will be complete by the end of 2018. Further sites may be considered during this time and the members will be kept informed of any new proposals that may be brought forward.
- Nationally provision has been made for works under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) to be carried out on our occupied stock. The Council is working towards the completion of Phase I fabric upgrade of its entire occupied stock. To date approximately 90% of our stock has been upgraded. We will seek to expand the programme to achieve deeper retrofitting of our stock in the future.
- The Council currently has a number of applications under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) to fund Social housing through Approve Housing Bodies (AHBs). Under the 2016 CAS call 28 housing units will be delivered at a cost of € 3.5M over the lifetime of this plan, 25 of which are acquisitions and 3 are to be constructed.
- The DHPC&LG have previously granted approval for 51 units at a total cost of € 8M which are also to be delivered during the life of the current plan. These include 17 acquisitions and 34 to be constructed units with the larger proposals to deliver 17 units at Dunloe, Ballinasloe and 12 units in Claregalway.

House Purchase Loans:

- Loans up to the approved limit of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community 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.

Acquisitions:

- We continue to pursue acquisitions of properties on the open market to meet our housing requirements subject to the availability of funding.

Social Housing Investment programme Estimated Capital Funding 2017 to 2019

Description	2017	2018	2019
Main Construction	€ 11,600,000	€ 7,680,000	€ 1,000,000
Acquisition Programme	€ 8,650,000	TBD	TBD
Capital Assistance Scheme	€ 5,000,000	€ 3,500,000	€ 3,000,000
Traveller Accommodation	€ 800,000	€ 860,000	€ 000,000
Energy Efficiency/Voids Retrofitting	€1, 550,00.00	€1,000,000.00	€1,000,000.00

Please note all projects are subject to Department Of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government Funding and specific approval by project

CORPORATE SERVICES

Progress on all projects is subject to continued availability of internal and external funding together with necessary statutory and legislative approval as appropriate on a project by project basis.

Libraries Development

The following projects are proposed for capital investment to ensure the sustainability and growth of Library Services. Galway County Council manages the Library Service for both the City and County Local Authorities.

- A flagship investment is to advance new Galway Community Library, to include educational and cultural event spaces which is joint project between Galway County and City Councils, to provide state of the art library services.
- Complete Necessary Health and safety Works and provision of Disability Access Gort Library in line with conservation best practice and regulations associated with this Protected Structure.

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 and support for continual improvements at Rinvilla Park, which is jointly owned by the City and County Local Authorities and managed by the County Council.

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)	€90,000	Development Contribution Scheme, limited to existing commitments under the Playground Policy.
Walking Routes and Passive Recreation	€67,000	Limited to meeting existing commitment under the Recreation and Amenity Framework

Clarinbridge Cowpark Amenity Development	€95,000	Development Contribution Scheme - Recreation and Amenity
Loughrea Town Hall Regeneration	€650,000	External Grant Aid and Galway County Council
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.
Galway County Leisure Centres –Tuam and Ballinasloe	€55,000	Essential Investments in Pool Infrastructure to ensure quality assured plant and water quality and
Tourism and Amenity Projects	€1.5 million	Development Contribution Scheme

Service Centres Development - Customer Access and Energy Efficiency Investments

In addition to Revenue Maintenance and Health and Safety Programmes, 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 Loughrea Regional Office	€75,000	Boiler Conversion and Ancillary Works to avail of Natural Gas Investment in Tuam Town Safety Investments
Áras an Chontae	€300,000	Three year programme to address Heating Control measures Customer Service Spaces and Access

APPENDIX A

Increase in Annual Rate on Valuation 1977 to 2016

	COUNTY COUNCILS*	€ RATE IN 2016	€ RATE IN 1977	% increase 1977 to 2016
1	MEATH	69.62	8.32	837%
2	KILDARE	68.95	9.02	764%
3	CARLOW	69.56	10.67	652%
4	OFFALY	66.00	10.18	648%
5	LOUTH	60.00	9.35	642%
6	CLARE	72.99	11.43	639%
7	WEXFORD	71.52	11.34	631%
8	SLIGO	66.95	10.65	629%
9	LAOIS	64.63	10.54	613%
10	WESTMEATH	54.54	9.02	605%
11	WICKLOW	72.04	12.02	599%
12	CORK	74.75	12.61	593%
13	MONAGHAN	58.76	10.03	586%
14	KILKENNY	54.90	9.62	571%
15	ROSCOMMON	71.44	12.58	568%
16	KERRY	79.25	14.28	555%
17	LONGFORD	65.35	12.02	544%
18	GALWAY	66.59	12.48	534%
19	LEITRIM	62.15	12.49	498%
20	TIPPERARY	56.77	11.52	493%
21	CAVAN	56.85	11.68	487%
22	DONEGAL	68.39	15.54	440%
23	MAYO	68.76	16.51	416%

ABOVE TABLE EXCLUDES SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL, FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, DUNLAOIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, WATERFORD CITY*/COUNTY COUNCIL & LIMERICK CITY*/COUNTY COUNCIL AS THEY HAVE MOVED TO A REDEFINED VALUATION BASIS & ARE NOT DIRECTLY COMPARABLE

APPENDIX B
Annual Rate on Valuation 2016

	COUNTY COUNCILS	€ RATE IN 2016
1	KERRY	79.25
2	CORK	74.75
3	CLARE	72.99
4	WICKLOW	72.04
5	WEXFORD	71.52
6	ROSCOMMON	71.44
7	MEATH	69.62
8	CARLOW	69.56
9	KILDARE	68.95
10	MAYO	68.76
11	DONEGAL	68.39
12	SLIGO	66.95
13	GALWAY	66.59
14	OFFALY	66.00
15	LONGFORD	65.35
16	LAOIS	64.63
17	LEITRIM	62.15
18	LOUTH	60.00
19	MONAGHAN	58.76
20	CAVAN	56.85
21	TIPPERARY	56.77
22	KILKENNY	54.90
23	WESTMEATH	54.54

ABOVE TABLE EXCLUDES SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL, FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, DUNLAOIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, WATERFORD CITY*/COUNTY COUNCIL & LIMERICK CITY*/COUNTY COUNCIL AS THEY HAVE MOVED TO A REDEFINED VALUATION BASIS & ARE NOT DIRECTLY COMPARABLE