



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

CUNTAS BUISÉADACHTA 2018

DRAFT BUDGET 2018

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CHUIG GACH BALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE
DRAFT BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2018

To: The Cathaoirleach and each Member of Galway County Council

Re: Draft Budget for financial year ending 31st December 2018

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

Dear Member,

I enclose, for your consideration, the Draft Budget for 2018, 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 12th September 2017 & 7th November 2017.

The financial and budgetary position of the Council was considered by the Finance Committee at meetings held on 7th March 2017, 3rd April 2017, 23rd May 2017, 7th June 2017, 26th July 2017, 12th September 2017 and 7th November 2017.

The Council considered and made its determination on the Local Property Tax adjustment at its meeting held on 29th September 2017 and each of the Municipal Districts considered the Budgetary Plan for each Municipal District at a series of meetings held between the 24th October 2017 and the 27th October 2017.

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 adjournment, if necessary, of the Budget Meeting which is scheduled for 27th of November, provided the process is completed on December 10th.

General

The Members will be aware that much of the budget in any year is comprised of non-discretionary costs such as loan charges, payroll, statutory demands, insurances, pensions etc or is comprised of expenditure that is assigned to the delivery of particular services

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 in almost all areas.

There are a number of aspects of budget 2018 which have been previously advised

- Reduction in income from Local Property Tax
- Increased costs of insurance premia
- Reduced dividend from IPB
- Part funding (80%) of the increased costs arising from the National Pay Agreements
- Additional new ratable valuations
- Reduced funding from NPPR

In addition there are significant costs arising from new requirements in respect of housing maintenance.

Overall while the total gross expenditure budget shows an increase of €7m the net increase over the estimated outturn for 2017 as outlined in Table A is €89,000 (page 1 of the Statutory Tables). Additional expenditure in respect of roads and water services recorded in the 2018 budget is a contra item.

Keeping within budget in 2018 will require very careful monitoring by all units throughout the year and no contingencies have been provided for in the budget for 2018.

Local Property Tax

The funding previously derived from the Local Government Fund has been replaced by the proceeds from the Local Property Tax / Pension Related Deduction. The base funding from this source in 2018 is estimated to be largely the same as the amount received each year since 2014.

The decision of Council not to maintain the increase in the Local Property Tax reduced our income from this source by €1.45m and this was partly reflected in the Municipal District budgets already considered by the Members.

The funding from the Local Property Tax/Pension Related Deduction has been estimated to produce income of €14.5m in 2018.

	2015	2018
LPT Raised in County Galway	14,967,018	14,569,385
20% to Equalisation Fund	2,993,404	2,913,877
80% Retained	11,973,614	11,655,508
Received from Equalisation Fund	532,767	2,862,382
Total LPT received	12,506,381	14,517,890
PRD as per AFS	1,985,695	
Total LPT plus PRD	14,492,076	14,517,890

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

Financial position

The current financial position of the Council has been discussed in detail by the Finance Committee by the Corporate Policy Group and by the full Council and the revenue funding available to Galway County Council remains a critical issue. There is a requirement for additional funding in almost every area of activity of the Council including housing, property maintenance, road maintenance, fleet replacement, street cleaning, verge trimming, public lighting, economic and tourism development, ICT Development, the requirement for additional staffing in key areas and new programmes such as HAP. It is likely that future cost increases in many areas will be beyond our control giving rise to ongoing budgetary issues in the coming years.

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. As outlined to the Members the county rate could be increased if an administrative arrangement were introduced to limit the impact on the businesses in Ballinasloe. The budget has been formulated on the basis of bridging 33% 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 proposed Ballinasloe rate is €61.00 which was increased for 2016 and 2017 but prior to that had been unchanged since 2008. The following table shows a comparison of the rate on valuation with the other counties in the region.

Ballinasloe (Proposed Rate)	€61
Galway County	€66.59
Roscommon	€71.44
Mayo	€68.76

While the commercial rate has not increased since 2009 a general rate increase has not been included in the formulation of the draft budget. Our overall financial situation suggests that a commercial rate increase will be essential in respect of the budget for 2019. The issue of refunding 100% of commercial rates on vacant properties has been discussed as being a disincentive to the economic use of such properties. Section 31 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides that a local authority may determine the proportion of a refund of commercial rates on vacant properties that would apply to each electoral area. No provision for income from this change has been made in respect of the draft budget for 2018 pending further consideration by the Members.

Work Programme

In addition to routine service delivery there are many projects that Galway County Council is currently leading will lead or is otherwise engaged in. These include the resolution of flooding problems in South Galway, Ballinasloe and elsewhere, the development of the harbour at Inis Oirr and similar projects, collaboration on the rollout of Broadband, implementing Government Policy and initiatives in respect of Housing delivery and maintenance, the delivery of the Galway City Ring Road, the commencement of the Ballinasloe Town Enhancement Scheme, the operation and remediation of the East Galway Landfill, the progression of a Food Hub in Athenry, the improvement of the N59, the advancement of Greenway proposals, the advancement of Masterplans for the former Galway Airport Site and the lands adjacent to the railway station at Garraun, the development of a Climate Change Strategy, the advancement of initiatives under the Tourism and Amenity Infrastructure Scheme, the development of a Digital Strategy, the delivery of European Region of Gastronomy 2018 and many other initiatives across the organisation. All of these and other projects will continue to advance in 2018.

Staffing

The Members will be aware that our staffing level is one of the lowest per head of population which impacts on our capacity to delivery services. Many positions have become vacant and remain unfilled due to financial necessity and I am in no doubt that the current staffing level is insufficient to deliver the quality of service that the Members and the public expect and demand. We have been as efficient as possible in filling posts and sourcing funds to defray the costs but further costs in respect of staffing are inevitable. As

outlined elsewhere some posts are part-funded at least in the short term including an officer to lead on our role in respect of the Broadband Strategy while other requirements such as our responsibilities under the General Data Protection Regulations must be funded from our budget. There are a number of positions that are the subject of acting arrangement due to posts not being filled permanently and in this regard administrative post competitions have been held in recent months. Therefore over the coming period there will be some filling of positions and a resultant movement of staff which together with consideration of the remit of each directorate is designed to give the organisation more certainty and stability for the period ahead. It is anticipated that there will be 23 retirements in 2018 which reflects the age of our workforce and such retirements incur additional costs in respect of pensions and gratuities.

Housing

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

Economic and Community Development

Notwithstanding the limited resources available in recent times the Council has continued to support communities and advance the economic development of the County. Two staff positions which are part funded by the Department have recently been filled in the Community and Enterprise Unit and the position of Public Participation Network Co-coordinator which is also part funded has been put in place. Galway County Councils involvement and support, financial and otherwise, is critical for many projects to progress with examples of the proposed Food Hub in Athenry and the Innovation / Enterprise space in Ballinasloe (both of which are the subject of EI funding applications), the establishment of the Western Region Audiovisual Producers (WRAP) Fund and the Music Generation Partnership being some examples from 2017. The financial support element of some of these projects is more significant than others but it is essential that we are able to play the role envisaged for us in both economic and community development under the Local Government Reforms of 2014.

Galway County Council will continue to provide funding to various groups and bodies. This includes funding under the headings of Festivals, Economic Development, Community Facilities, Tidy Towns, Social Inclusion, Youth, Sport, Arts, Heritage and the Irish Language. This support by Galway County Council makes a significant contribution to the efforts of many communities and organisations to deliver initiatives and improvement in their areas. While it has been the practice to continually review this spend there will be careful consideration of how to target the funding available to achieve the best outcomes overall and to make any appropriate adjustments that may be identified. The Community & Enterprise Unit will continue to ensure optimum alignment with Galway County Councils objectives and complementarity to programmes such as ECOC and EROG.

E-Planning

There is a national project underway to introduce e-planning to all local authorities and I am currently Chair of the Project Board. The system development is scheduled for completion in the first Quarter of 2018 after which its rollout will commence on a phased basis most likely with pilot sites. While at one level this is simply the replacement of a manual system with an electronic version of same in practice it is a process of significant change. The main elements will be the ability to make planning applications and submissions on-line together with the making of on-line payment with electronic communication with applicants, prescribed bodies, An Bord Pleanála and the public. This transition will be a significant piece of work for the planning department in the year ahead.

Capital Scheme for Tourism and Amenity:

Given that Council is to support economic development including tourism the Members will recall that last year we introduced 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 scheme to be funded from development contributions will focus on projects that would be of benefit to tourism while also enhancing the lives of our communities and the scheme sets out key criteria in regard to same. The closing date for submission of Expressions of Interest has recently passed and a total of 28 proposals were received with an estimated cost of €6m. This far exceeds the €1.5m that was signaled as the budget for the scheme, but I emphasise that no preliminary assessment has yet been completed including whether the applications made meet the terms of the scheme.

Town Centres.

The Members will be aware of initiatives which were designed to assist in the support of our town centres including development contribution exemptions and reduced rates for residential developments 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 2018. We are all conscious of the need to support our Towns therefore we must consider further initiatives that might be of benefit including capital type projects whether delivered directly by Galway County Council or through working with Chambers of Commerce and/or Tidy Towns Committees. There may be opportunities to align any initiatives with increased Central Government grants schemes and the funding available under the Rural Development Programme and it is intended to bring forward further proposals in this regard.

Roads funding

The level of resources available for road maintenance and improvement has been consistent in recent years but falls short of that which would be desirable and necessary. Unfortunately it has been necessary to reduce our own contribution to roads in respect of 2019 but this can be revisited should further funds become available.

TII have by letter indicated that the level of funding for National Road Ordinary maintenance will be reduced by between 17% and 30% in 2018 but it is not anticipated that other grants will be affected.

Public Lighting.

The Members will be aware from previous discussion that the costs of public lighting are continuing to increase. Unfortunately I have been unable to make increased provision for public lighting in 2018. There are a number of issues in respect of public lighting that pertain to all Local Authorities relating to age and type of lighting, maintenance and energy efficiency and it is an area that will require significant investment in the forthcoming period.

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

Budgetary Trend

2008 - Adopted Budget	€160 M
2014 - Adopted Budget	€122 M
2015 – Adopted Budget	€105.2 M
2016 – Adopted Budget	€104.3M
2017 – Adopted Budget	€105.3M
2018 – Draft Budget	€112 M

Expenditure proposals

The following tables set out the expenditure and income breakdown proposed for 2018:

Expenditure by Programme Group	2017 Budget	2017 Estimated Outturn	2018 Draft Budget
	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,218,531	12,236,637	13,541,145
Road Transportation & Safety	33,241,054	36,479,146	35,087,990
Water Services	11,111,241	12,673,086	12,847,920
Development Management	7,886,795	7,897,832	8,577,247
Environmental Services	17,590,829	17,704,954	17,677,719
Recreation & Amenity	8,133,813	8,372,883	8,565,054
Agriculture, Education Health & Welfare	3,022,680	2,935,483	2,826,756
Miscellaneous Services	12,026,230	12,261,467	13,143,199
Total	105,231,173	110,561,488	112,267,030

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

Estimated Revenue Income	2017		2018	
	€	%	€	%
Local Property Tax / Pension Related Ded	15,973,316	15	14,517,890	13
NPPR	550,000	0	450,000	0
State Grants & Subsidies	32,266,970	31	36,240,279	32
Irish Water Income	7,173,719	7	8,705,854	8
Local Determined Income	34,122,044	33	36,499,727	33
Other Income	15,145,124	14	15,853,280	14
	105,231,173	100	112,267,030	100

Conclusion

The preparation of the Draft Annual Budget for 2018 has been the most challenging yet. The proposed gross expenditure of €112.3M together with the capital programme spend estimated at €70m still 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 2017. I wish to record my appreciation to the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eileen Mannion, and the former Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael Connolly 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 Finance Committee and the Corporate Policy Group in the discussion on the draft budget and the overall finances of Galway County Council.

I also want to thank the staff of the Council for their dedication and flexibility during 2017 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 2018. 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 2018 will undoubtedly bring further 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 2018 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 SERVICES & HOUSING UNIT

1. Library Development Programme

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Library usage continued to increase in 2017. The Library Service of Galway County Council is one of the most heavily used services in Ireland and libraries are established FREE civic and cultural centres in their communities.
- Libraries remain the most visited public spaces in County Galway, with 500,000 visits in 2017.
- The Summer Reading Challenge took place throughout the county with 4,500 children registering for the challenge and 3,150 completing. Nearly 45,000 books were read by the children of Galway city and county during July/August 2017. Award ceremonies were held in most branch libraries. 548 new children's memberships were recorded during July/August.
- The National Distribution system has opened up the collections of all public libraries to the communities of rural Galway. To date since July 2017, 15,000 requests have been processed by library staff in Galway. Public reaction has been hugely positive to this service due to the accessibility of out of print titles, the availability of course books and access to new titles. The community library has now become an important educational aid to more isolated areas of the county and being able to order books online and collect them has increased the relevance of the library.
- Digital Literacy programmes continued including the continuance of IT classes in bigger branch libraries, facilitated by Age Action, Vodafone, and Rural Alliance. Initiatives included the extension of *Digitise the Nation* classes to An Cheathrú Rua, Dunmore, Loughrea, Portumna & Eyrecourt libraries. Customer training was also delivered on the range of online resources now available. To date Galway library members have downloaded 7500 e-book and e-audio titles.
- Customer led IT solutions included installing SurfBox in a number of libraries. SurfBox allows members of the public to send a print job to a printer in their local library. The print job can be sent from home, and it is released and collected at the library. Surfbox has been installed in Ballybane, Galway City, Westside, Tuam and Loughrea. Princh, which offers the same service, has been installed in the following three libraries. – Clifden, Dunmore and Moylough.
- Libraries are vibrant creative hubs. Innovative events delivered in 2017 included
 - *Strings Festival - Ballinasloe Library and Church Gallery*, 1350 people attended the two day festival, enjoying 13 performances featuring Strings as the common theme.

The festival was funded by Europe Direct and the Creative Ireland programme. Planning is already underway for the Strings Festival 2018.

- Continued expansion of Galway's Great Read programme, funded by Creative Ireland. 2017 featured Padraic O'Conaire, his life, his works and his legacy. A new initiative of the 2017 Great Read is the introduction of a primary and secondary element into the programme. The aim is to work with teachers and students in various schools throughout the County to bring the life of O'Conaire and his writings, both in the Irish language and in translation, to a younger audience. A school in each municipal district was selected.
- Westside Public Library in conjunction with community partners held its first 'Family Day' to encourage community participation in library events. The day was to promote the 'Summer Stars' reading programme and encourage wider community engagement through the provision of workshops, music, face-painting, balloon crafting and storytelling. 2,500 people engaged with this 'Family Day' through attendance or social media engagement.
- Participation in the consultation process for the new National Spatial Planning Strategy
- *One Book, One Island*, Inishboffin, where a community endeavours to all read the same title.
- Event programme on the mobile library service at Castleblakeney Heritage Centre and Central Park Nursing Home, Clonberne.
- Regular events include:
 - Art exhibitions, book clubs, music performances, Culture Night, support for the various Arts Festivals throughout the county and city;
 - Europe Direct centres in Galway continue to facilitate a number of annual events, both in branch and outreach.
 - Children's Book Month was run in October 2017. New authors were invited this year and proved very successful. The month was launched in Clifden library and over 1,670 children enjoyed 55 events throughout the city and county for CBF.
 - Seachtain Na Gaeilge was celebrated in An Spidéal, An Cheathrú Rua, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Galway City.
 - Bealtaine Festival in May was celebrated in e.g. Ballinasloe, Gort, Oranmore, Galway City, Tuam, Ballybane and Westside in conjunction with Age Action.
- 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 Book Tender, provision of online services, and the implementation of Right to Read strategy.
- Infrastructural improvements were carried out on a number of Branch Libraries including Oranmore and Gort.

Proposals for 2018:

- Work will continue, based on available funding, to maintain and improve, where possible, the Library Services in Galway as per the Galway Library Development Programme 2016-2021 and the new National Public Library Strategy, due to be launched in 2018.
- Work will continue on progressing the new Galway Community/Cultural Library.
- The Healthy Ireland, Work Matters and Right to Read campaigns will be rolled out across the library branch network, availing of national funding streams, with the aim of ensuring a range of service in both urban and rural branches.
- Efforts to enhance the use of technology will continue, including self-service technologies, while further promotion of the online resource package will be delivered.
- The computerization of branch libraries in the Galway service will continue, subject to staffing levels and financial resources.
- Galway Libraries will continue to develop our events programme, engaging with individuals and communities through our branches, availing of national funding opportunities where possible, including Creative Ireland, while operating within the constraints of local funding.

2. Legal Advisory Services

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- The Department provided legal services for all programme areas, including the purchase and sale of properties, conduct of litigation including District Court Prosecutions, Circuit, High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court Litigation, including Judicial Review. In particular, District Court Litigation (Rates, Planning Enforcement & Environmental prosecutions, Judicial Review and the completion of land acquisitions on inter-urban routes and acquisition of residential units, 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 has continued to update and complete our Register of Lands.

Proposals for 2018:

- Concentrate on and continue to provide efficient legal advisory services for all programme areas throughout the organisation.
- The continued completion of any residual work arising from Compulsory Acquisition on inter-urban routes.
- Workflows for the Case Management System will continue to be created, enhancing work delivery and capacity.

- Appropriate scanning of documentation and correspondence and Time recording to be implemented in full across the unit through our case management software package.
- 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 2017:

- The Water Safety Programme involved the recruitment of a panel of 50 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 25th May and 29th June, 2017.
- Upgrading of some equipment supplies was undertaken as well a Hut Preparation and Repairs-Maintenance Schedule agreed and delivered. The Service commenced on the 3rd June and continued until the 10th September, 2017.
- Following approval by Council, Funding of €6,150 was advanced to the Irish Water Safety Council.

Indicative Proposals for 2018:

- Implement Lifeguard Programme, subject to funding being available, on a Seasonal Basis including induction training. Any reduction in funding will impact on the service delivery i.e. duration of Water Safety Programme for the summer period 2018 and/or a reduction in lifeguard hours, with the potential to impact on Blue Flag accreditation.
- Promotion of the Lifeguard Programme 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 funding and the approval of Council, provision of a financial contribution to Irish Water Safety.
- Roll-out next phase of the Ringbuoy Renewal Programme, subject to funding, – including consideration of an inspection 'app' to build a record of sites within Council responsibility.

Parks, Pitches, Open Spaces and Playgrounds:

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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 2017, the Council commenced a programme of replacing & installing new concrete bases and marine grade stainless steel picnic benches in a number of areas across the park, with an emphasis on increasing accessibility to all users of this recreational amenity. 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 – no expressions received
- 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 2017.
- Applications were submitted under the Sports Capital 2017 scheme for funding for outdoor gym equipment for Dunlo Park Ballinasloe, Castle Avenue, Portumna and Palace Grounds, Tuam.
- The Unit provided administrative and advisory support to community groups to advance proposals for recreational facilities in their respective areas and to access available funding under several programmes such as CLÁR and the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme 2017. Funding was awarded to several groups under these schemes with works required to be completed by the end of November.
- Accessibility enhancements including wheelchair swings were installed at playgrounds in the Palace Grounds, Tuam and Sarsfields Rd., Ballinasloe. Co-funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation 2017
- Refurbishment works were completed to the tennis courts in the Palace Grounds, Tuam and Portumna Playground.

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.
- Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centres were successful in attracting significant funding in excess of €200,000 for energy efficiency improvement works in a joint project between ESB, SEAI and Coral Leisure. These works involved the installation of new LED energy efficient lighting, VSD controllers, new pool covers, new sand media filter and metering of utilities linked to the BMS. The works which were completed in October should lead to significant reductions in energy consumptions at both Leisure Centres.

Pitches / Running Track / Leisure Centres and Swimming Areas

- A Licence Agreement is in place with Tuam Celtic Football Club, to operate Galway County Council's All Weather Pitches in Tuam. A Liaison Committee is established to review operation of the facility.
- Dunlo Recreational Park, Ballinasloe Running Track was fully operational for most of the year, but was closed for approximately 6 weeks due to essential repairs being undertaken on the Track.
- A Schedule is made available on www.galway.ie indicating public times and bookings by local clubs.
- Concessions were continued in 2017 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, while another applicant was issued with a licence to operate at one beach.
- 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 2017. 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.
- ROSPA Inspections of the 15 Council Owned playgrounds also took place in October.
- 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. National Play days were held at Rinville Park and Gort Playground.

Proposals for 2018:

- Parks maintenance programmes, including grass cutting, will be developed and implemented in line with available resources for Rinville Park, Oranmore, the Palace Grounds, Tuam, Dunlo Park, Ballinasloe and other amenity and open spaces, with priority afforded, within available resources, to public parks and amenity areas.
- Continue maintenance required in Rinville Park under the Woodlands Plan to ensure newly planted Trees thrive.
- The maintenance of Council owned and operated Playgrounds, including the repair and/or replacement of play equipment, will be undertaken in line with resources. Annual ROSPA Inspections, required as a condition of insurance cover, will also be arranged for the 15 Council owned playgrounds.
- Endeavour to continue to provide administrative and advisory support to community groups wishing to advance proposals for recreation and to access available funding insofar as staff resources allow.

<p>4. Council Facilities for Local Economic & Community Benefit / Heritage/Interpretative Facilities Operations</p>
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Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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 29th May to 1st September, 2017. A Dutch Group of 36 people from Amerongen (which was the birthplace of Godard Von Ginkell) visited the Centre on the 2nd May, 2017 Heritage Week took place from the 20th to the 27th August where a variety of Heritage Events took place and were free to members of the public. Aughrim Remembered Weekend took place in July.
Historic Assets: An application under the "Structures at Risk Fund 2017" was successful with a grant of €30,000 being made available to Galway County Council towards Phase 2 of the consolidation, stabilisation and safety remedial works project at St. Andrew's Church, Kilconly. The works which concentrated on the Bell Tower were successfully completed in November 2017.

Proposals for 2018:

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

5. Community Warden Service

Indicative Activities in 2017:

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

Proposals for 2018:

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

6 Disability Action

Indicative Activities 2017:

- Continued delivery of the Disability Action Plan.

- Supported the Accessible Ballinasloe initiative to develop Ballinasloe as an accessible, inclusive environment.
- Provision of two independent Track Systems to be installed in Nov 2017 in Ballinasloe Leisure Centre, to allow transfers, in the assisted changing room, from the wheelchair to the changing bed and, in the assisted wc/shower room, to allow transfers from the wheelchair to the wc/shower.
- Support improved Access for Persons with a Disability to Recreation and Amenity Facilities by the provision of Wheelchair Accessible Swings in Ballinasloe Playground (Double Wheelchair Swing) and in the Palace Grounds, Tuam (Single Wheelchair Swing), with additional minor accessibility groundworks to include the marking of a disabled parking bay and some footpath improvements in both areas.
- Accessible picnic table sets have been installed in both the Ballinasloe Park, adjacent to the Ballinasloe Playground, Sarsfield Road, the Palace Grounds, Tuam and a number of additional accessible picnic tables have also be installed in Rinville Park, Oranmore.

Proposals for 2018:

- Support implementation of the Customer Service Action Plan to continually improve access to services for persons with a disability.
- Support improved Access for Persons with a Disability to Recreation and Amenity Facilities, subject to finance being available.
- The Council is advancing plans for the provision of 2 no. Beach Wheelchairs on a pilot basis in two beaches commencing with An Trá Mór, Indreabhán beach and Trácht beach, Kinvara. The project is being led by the Corporate Section, working in consultation with the Water Safety Officer and the Galway Speeders Sports Group.

<p>7. Promoting the Irish Language</p>

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- In March, a detailed programme for Seachtain na Gaeilge (1-17 March 2017) was implemented including engaging staff and members of the public with competitions, various events, musical showcases and more.
- Irish language classes (beginner and intermediate levels) were organized for staff and Members of the council.
- Website content approval procedure continues to be implemented in association with Customer Services and IS, to ensure bilingualism on www.galway.ie / www.gaillimh.ie, in line with our language scheme and legislation.
- As part of the schedule of events for the Cruinniú na Cásca Easter Monday Creative Ireland National Day of Creativity, a seisiún comhrá as Gaeilge was included to help promote the Irish Language.

- Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais 2017 / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships 2017 were provided again this year by Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in collaboration with Summer Colleges in Conamara. 10 scholarships in total were provided to second level students in the County of Galway to attend Gaeltacht Summer Courses.
- The third annual Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh / Pádraig Pearse Summer School was held in Ros Muc over the course of three days, on the 27/28/29 July 2017.
- A promotional video of the Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh event was also recorded and produced.
- Community Support Grants – The Irish language was specifically included as a category in the Community Support Scheme in 2017. Grants totaling €4,525.00 were approved for projects in Schools, Community & Voluntary Organisations to support the promotion and increased use of the Irish language.
- Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe continued to work in partnership with other organisations, inform them of our Language Scheme and ensure that the measures of the Scheme were implemented where such was within the Council’s control. e.g Fáilte Ireland and their development of a series of interpretive panels for Conamara “Conamara – Fiáin go smior / Wild at Heart”, support and advice was provided, along with proofing services.
- Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe also continued its support of the promotion of Irish in communities throughout the County, by helping to promote events e.g Irish Hot Air Balloon Championships, National Heritage Week, etc through the Irish Language Media – Radio and TV. Interviews were provided as Gaeilge on site.
- Mobile Simultaneous translation equipment continued to be used at Council meetings or other meetings at which translation may have been required.
- Drafting of the Third Language Scheme for Galway County Council has commenced and an internal review of the Second Language Scheme is underway.
- 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 2018:

- Continue to provide information to all staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation.
- Continue to provide appropriate language awareness and language support material to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, to enhance the provision of services through Irish.
- Continue to provide and build on the amount of Irish classes/courses provided throughout the year for staff and Members of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe and council, focusing in particular on conversational Irish, based on available funding.
- Aim to continue Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships in partnership with Irish Colleges in the county.

- Promote the Irish language category for Gradaim an Chathaoirligh and community support grants, on a priority basis.
- Operate web-site approval process in partnership with Customer Services and Information Systems.
- Lead participation of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in activities and events for Seachtain na Gaeilge and where possible expand on these events for March 2018.
- Continue to organize and host the annual Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh event (or equivalent event) within the Gaeltacht Community as resources allow.

8. Facilities Management – Council Properties / Health & Safety

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Corporate Services continued to provide caretaking and facilities management services for the Council's network of offices, libraries and civic functions.
- The Unit continued to deliver on its requirements under the Safety Management Programme in areas such as PAT testing, periodic testing of electrical installations, VDU assessments.
- Energy efficiency monitoring and management continues to be a priority focus in the facilities unit. Display Energy Certificates were completed and put on display for 18 offices and libraries which are greater than 250 sqm.
- Further works at Gort Library were undertaken to improve Accessibility and Safety with the installation of a new ramp, new fire exit door and a new fire alarm system. New fire alarm and emergency lighting systems were installed at Eyrecourt Library.
- Tender processes were completed and new contracts put in place for fire alarms, emergency lighting, access control, CCTV for all offices & library accommodation.

Proposals for 2018:

- Maintenance contracts will continue to be the subject of ongoing review with the aim of maintaining costs reductions achieved in recent years and if feasible in limited areas achieve further cost reductions. New tender documents will be prepared in 2018 for contract implementation for Plumbers, Electricians, Lift Maintenance and Fire Extinguishers for all offices & library accommodation.
- In order to operate within available budgets it may be necessary to limit the maintenance of office and library facilities to focus on priority health and safety requirements and critical operating systems. In relation to County Hall, a significant number of management and maintenance systems are at or near end of life with an increased potential for systems failure and related response maintenance costs.

- The Unit will aim to further reducing energy consumption across its offices and libraries. Display Energy Certs will continue to be displayed to the public in all our offices and libraries.
- A Legionella Monitoring and reporting programme will be developed and commenced for office and library accommodation.

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 2017:

- 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.
- Conservation of Piers & Harbours public notices and other items.
- Outreach activities included production and launch of a new online exhibition on Piers and Harbours, Public Notices collections (GC/CSO2/)¹; and the display of the exhibition From Colonial State to Free State, in Portumna Workouse Centre and Ballybane Library.
- 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: 518 recall requests were processed from January to-date (06/11/2017). There are now 110,833 entries on the ArcLink records management database.

¹ See www.galway.ie/archives/exhibitions

Proposals for 2018:

- 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 2017:

- The Register of Electors for 2017/2018 was published on the 1st February, 2017 and came into force on 15th February, 2017.
- The Draft Register of Electors for 2018/2019 was published on 1st November 2017 and was made available for inspection by the public at Post Offices, Garda Stations, Public Libraries and the offices of Galway County Council and online at www.galway.ie enabling any person whose name was not on the Draft Register to submit a claim on Form RFA1, to Galway County Council not later than 25th November, 2017. Claims are considered by the County Registrar at Revision Courts held in December each year.

Proposals for 2018:

- The Council will publish the Register of Electors for 2018/2019 by 1st February 2018.
- The approach to and extent of the field and awareness campaign to be undertaken in support of the Draft Register of Electors for 2019/2020 will be determined by available resources.
- The Draft Register of Electors for 2019/2020 will be published on 1st November 2018, and will be made available for public inspection, with Revision Courts to follow.
- A Supplementary Register of Electors will be compiled and published within the relevant timeframe in the event of a Referendum or Election.

11. Corporate Planning & Support / Local Representation/ Civic Leadership

Indicative Activities 2017:

- 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.
- 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 & Development 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, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Local Community Development Committee, Road Safety Together Committee.
- Facilitate the compilation of the Public Register of all Attendances and Payments of the Councillors.
- Maintenance of Ethics Register for Councillors.
- Facilitating the Members in the return of Donations Declarations
- Facilitation of Civic Receptions is supported by the Corporate Team in response to proposals of the Plenary Council –
A Civic Reception was held in Áras an Chontae on 24th April, 2017 to honour the following:
 - Galway County Under 16 Camogie Team, Winner of the All Ireland Under 16A Championship in 2016 beating Kilkenny
 - Eanach Dún/Annaghdown Ladies Football Team, Winners of All Ireland Intermediate Club Championship, 2016.
- A Civic Welcome to honour the victorious Galway Hurling Teams and their Management, on winning the All-Ireland Senior & Minor Titles 2017 was held in the Fair Green, Ballinasloe on 4th September, 2017.
- The Members also proposed that the following be afforded a Civic Receptions:
 - Glenamaddy Credit Union to honour Two Fileue Awards awarded in London, 2016.
 - Galway Minor and Senior Hurling Teams on winning the All-Ireland Titles in 2017
 - Galway U16 Camogie Team on winning third All-Ireland in a row in August 2017
 - Galway U14 and U16 Ladies Teams on winning the All Ireland A Football Title
 - Ms. Sinead Keon, medal winner at the World Dwarf Games, Canada August 2017

- Kiltormer Karate Club, medal winners at the Karate Tournament 2017 in China.

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 18th September 2017 and its Public Meeting on 6th November 2018. Ordinary Meetings of the JPC were held on 6th February, 8th May, 18th September and a further Meeting is to be held on 11th December, 2017.
- Meeting Administration is provided by Corporate Services for the Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District. The AOMD has met monthly and held its AGM on June 13th.

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.
- Corporate Services continued to serve as liaison for the Office of the Ombudsman in relation to queries raised by the Office in relation to service delivery by Galway County Council. All correspondence is co-ordinated via Corporate Services, with a tracking system in place

Proposals for 2018:

- 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.

Galway Commemorative Strategy for the Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023

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

- Decade of Commemoration Easter Monday event in Athenry – A special ceremony, including flag raising with the Defence Forces, was held at the Athenry 1916 Commemorative Garden on Easter Monday. The Garden, which was developed and is a labour of love by the Athenry Tidy Towns Committee, is the exact site where Liam Mellow marshalled the Volunteers and organised them in the lead up to the 1916 Rising. A screening of the ten documentaries which Galway County Council in conjunction with the Galway Film Centre and the Heritage Council produced to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising was screened in the Athenry Community Hall.
- Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail (bi-lingual) Guide: A 350 page Guide was produced that allows the public to explore the historic sites and monuments in County Galway relating to 1916.
- Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail (bi-lingual) Signage Project: To enhance one's journey on the 1916 Rising Heritage Trail, an interpretative signage has commenced which will see signage being put in place for 12 no. selected sites of Galway County Council's 1916 Heritage Trail – Go Explore the Historic Sites and Monuments.
- "The Fenians, Colonel Kelly & The Manchester Martyrs" Conference was held in Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew on 11th November 2017. During the day, an exhibition was hosted by the Holy Rosary College Students and Mountbellew Heritage and Tourism Network on the Fenians, Colonel Kelly & The Manchester Martyrs and students from Coláiste An Chreagáin showcased an art exhibition on the same theme. Two original paintings were on display during the Conference relating to Colonel Kelly and the Smashing of the Van. Courtesy of Marie Cogavin.
- A Conference entitled "Galway 1917: Social Conditions and Political Change" to be held in Loughrea on 16th November 2017. During the day, there will be an exhibition on display relating to the Connaught Rangers who were killed in 1917 in France and Flanders.
- Galway County Council Archives digitised several small collections relating to the revolutionary period. These included three small files relating to the Munitions factory (GC/CSO/3/2,3 & 6) in the city, dating from 1916 to 1918, and also from the County Secretary's office it digitised a Dáil Éireann file, dating from 1919-1921 (GC/CSO/3/1). The material will shortly be made available on the Archives' Digital Archive at www.galway.ie/digitalarchives .

- The Galway County Council Archives exhibition 'From Colonial State to Free State, what they said...' was hosted by the Portumna Workhouse Centre in April, and by Ballybane Library in June 2017.

Creative Ireland Programme / Clár Éire Ildánach 2017-2022

- Creative Ireland is the Government's Legacy Programme for Ireland 2016 and is a five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. It is a culture-based programme designed to promote individual, community and national wellbeing.
- The Corporate Services Section managed the inaugural *Cruinniú na Cásca*, which was a day-long national celebration of culture and creativity which took place around the country on Easter Monday. County Galway's *Cruinniú na Cásca* was held in the medieval town of Athenry, with the theme 'Draíocht - Experience the Magic of Creativity'.
- Athenry Community Park was the venue for the creative, fun and learning day which was officially opened by the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Michael Connolly. Families gathered and participated in creative fun: by having a go at tag-archery, juggling, beating a drum, dancing with Kidisco, got involved in arts and crafts activities and workshops, and watched traditional crafts people at work. There was lots to see and do which included a treasure hunt, balloon modelling, face-painting, Irish Cómhra, with an animal display and a look into the wonderful world of beekeeping. Entertainment and dance was provided by 'The Wheel Barrow & the Accordion'. A giant pop-up audio visual sculpture The Gramophone also provided 1920's – 1940's music.
- At Athenry library, children gathered to hear wonderful stories from Pat Speight who is one of Ireland's best known Storytellers, carrying on the timeless art and oral tradition of storytelling for young and old.
- Fun filled craft events were provided by Athenry Heritage Centre keeping children busy making Easter crafts throughout the day. Athenry Castle provided guided tours to allow people explore the castle experience
- The *Cruinniú na Cásca* event drew to a close with a spectacular concert in the Community Hall. 'Spraoi', showcased world class performances of song, music and dance and provided a perfect finale for this cultural event for all ages.
- *Cruinniú na Cásca* was organised by Galway County Council in co-operation with Athenry Community Council, Athenry Tidy Towns, Athenry Library, Athenry Heritage Centre, Athenry Castle/OPW, Athenry Historical Network, Galway & Athenry Film Clubs, Creative Ireland and working in collaboration with the local artists, craft persons and entertainers.

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

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

Freedom of Information Indicative Activities in 2017:

133 requests received up to end October, 2017. Decisions were issued as follows:

- 43 granted, 38 part granted, 35 refused, 4 transferred/withdrawn, 13 remain to be decided.
- 6 Appeals for an Internal Review of FOI Decision received and decisions issued as follows:
 - 4 decisions upheld, 2 decisions varied
 - 4 Appeals to the Information Commissioner – 2 Decisions of the Council have been affirmed by the Commissioner, 2 are pending.

Access to Information on the Environment Activities in 2017:

6 requests were received to end October 2017 Decisions were issued as follows

- 2 part granted, 3 refused, 1 pending decision
- 1 Appeal to the Commissioner for Environmental Information and decision is pending.

13. Educational Support Services/Student Grants

Indicative Proposals 2017:

- 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 5 students for the 2017/2018 Academic Year.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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 2018.

14. Customer Service

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- The Customer Services Officers Group (CSOG) continued to meet over 2017. 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 2017 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 continues to maintain the system of re-formatting new application forms and updating existing forms when requested. We now have 215 forms and memorandums in total on our register/coding system, available via our website.
- Door access system cards and car park fobs continue to be issued and maintained by Customer Services.
- A newly formatting poster version of the Customer Charter, Code of Conduct and Services through Irish was created and will be available at all Council public counters.

Customer Services Desk and Communications Centre

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

Communications and Social Media

- Further increased use of Social Media (Twitter, FB) with over 5,631 likes on Facebook and 10,890 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.

Proposals for 2018:

- Co-ordinate implementation of the Customer Service Action Plan 2018 in line with agreed targets and goals in the Quality Customer Services Strategy.
- Continue to facilitate the Customer Services Officers Group meetings, information sharing and joint actions across all sections.
- Research Customer Service Models to apply to local needs and implement benchmarking process to further develop our standards as resources allow.
- Continue to implement 'Fix Your Street' to meet agreed targets.
- Facilitate updating of the Council Website in both languages and maintain a central deposit and coding system for all County Council Application Forms available via the website.
- Continue to focus on the development of the County Council's use of Social Media as a source of information and an efficient communication channel for our customers.

<p>15. Operation of Coroner Expenses</p>

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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. 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. Information on the Panel (Funeral Directors taking part in the Agreed Scheme for an agreed Fee) is circulated to An Garda Síochána, who are the first point of contact in an unexpected or unexplained death.
- In Oct 2017, an extensive review of the Agreed Scheme for Funeral Directors/Undertakers was undertaken and changes were proposed to include an increase to the rates paid. Implementation of these recommendations are contingent on the necessary funding being available.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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, and subject to funding.
- In the event that additional funding is provided in 2018, the recommendations arising from the review of the Agreed Scheme for Funeral Directors/Undertakes may be implemented. A continuation of the existing Agreed Scheme, based on the current payment terms, may impact on service delivery and standards during 2018.

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

Indicative Activities 2017:

- Casual Trading Licenses were issued for a fee for a number of towns and villages throughout the County including Athenry (3), Ballinasloe (15), Clifden (8), Gort (11), Loughrea (2), Mountbellew (4), Dunmore (1), Headford (1), Tuam (8); in line with Casual Trading Bye-Laws.
- Continue to promote trading where bays are vacant by contacting those on the waiting lists and continued to monitor data on Casual Trading through Community Wardens Work Plans returns.
- In addition, special events licences were processed for the Ballygar Carnival, Dunmore & Loughrea Festivals and the Ballinasloe Horse Fair.
- 6 Requests from film makers etc. to use public property for filming were also processed.

Proposals for 2018:

- Continue to issue Casual Trading Licenses and consider reviewing existing Bye-Laws as staff resources allow.
- 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.
- Review the funding model for the Ballinasloe Horse Fair with a view to maximizing available income in the context of the requirement for additional event management measures.

17. Internal Audit Activity

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

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

The internal audit work programme is driven by the annual Internal Audit plan which is drawn up in conjunction with the Executive Team and the Audit Committee.

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- A total of 8 audits were completed from the 2017 Audit Plan with 6 presented to the Audit Committee.
- As part of the quality assurance requirement of the Public Spending Code in depth reviews of the appraisal ,planning and implementation stages of both the N17 Carrownurlaur to Ballindine roads project and the Kilconnell landfill site were undertaken . The increase in expenditure, on the revenue service division, relating to rates administration was also examined.
- The 2016 Audit Report recommendations were reviewed and necessary follow up measures were taken.
- Policy compliance testing on the use of low value purchase cards and fuel cards was examined.
- 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 and An Cheathrú Rua.

Proposals for 2018:

- The Internal Audit Unit will continue to facilitate the work of the Audit Committee.
- Reviews of recommendations made in the 2017 audit reports.
- Completion of audits as per the 2018 Audit Plan.
- Compliance with the Quality Assurance requirements of the Public Spending Code.
- Continued work on Policy compliance and value for money testing.
- Quarterly and periodic checks on the various income collection streams.

- Periodic checking and stock taking in the motor tax sub offices in Ballinasloe and An Cheathrú Rua.

Housing Construction

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Under the Social Housing Strategy 2020 Galway County Council has, to date, received approval for funding in the order of €24.5m to progress the design, planning, tendering and construction of 104 units.
- In addition, to date in 2017 project proposals for a further 58 units at an estimated cost of €13 million have been submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government for approval.
- Projects at Weir Rd., Tuam; Garbally Drive & Esker Fields, Ballinasloe comprising a total of 42 units were progressed through various stage and statutory approvals during 2017.
- Most significantly, the Construction Contract for 40 units and the refurbishment of 21 units at Gilmartin Rd., Tuam, is to be awarded imminently, subject to the final stage approval of the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.
- In addition, 4no. single rural dwellings are under construction at present.

Proposals for 2018:

- The construction programme will remain a key priority in 2018 with a clear focus on progressing all capital projects through design, planning, tendering & construction stages.
- Identifying further potential sites for development in line with the housing needs for various areas; including turnkey developments, will also remain a priority in order to provide a pipeline of projects to 2021.

Strategic Development and Management Plan for Housing Lands

The active management of the housing land bank is part of a range of actions being taken under Rebuilding Ireland designed to accelerate and increase housing output.

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Strategic Development and Management Plans have been developed for lands in the Council's ownership, prioritising those sites that have the most potential to deliver housing in the short to medium term.
- A number of strategic sites have been identified for the development of master plans that will support the development of these sites to meet a range of housing needs on a phased basis, building high quality homes and sustainable communities.

Proposals for 2018:

- The Housing Unit will continue to review and update the Rebuilding Ireland Land Map on a quarterly basis.
- Continue to drive the implementation of the Strategic Development and Management Plans in order to advance sites to development stage at the earliest date possible
- The Council will invite Expressions of Interest from Approved Housing Bodies and Builders to build on selected sites within the land bank to maximize the delivery of units in the short-medium term, delivering sustainable communities.
- The Council is committed to maximizing the potential of the land bank to support housing need, including affordable housing and rental options, subject to the introduction of appropriate schemes and funding streams by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

Social Housing

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- The Council continued to meet the significant and increasing demand for social housing supports during 2017 through the provision of accommodation by various means including the Rental Accommodation Scheme, the Housing Assistance Payment, and nominations to Approved Housing Bodies and through the allocation of social housing.
- The Council completed the purchase of 21 units thus far in 2017, 4 of which were delivered under the Buy and Renew Scheme which was introduced in 2017 with the dual aim of improving the urban realm and making vacant derelict property available to meet housing need.
- Expressions of Interest were invited for the provision of turnkey developments. To date 5 submissions have been received and are currently being assessed.
- A Housing Needs Assessment was completed in 2017 and there are currently approximately 3,500 applicants on the record of qualified households.
- During the period January – September 2017, a total of 157 offers were made to applicants on the record of qualified households for social housing. In addition, 50 nominations were made for voluntary housing provided by Approved Housing Bodies with the support of the Council.
- During 2017 the housing unit submitted a proposal to the SPC and Plenary Council to revise the existing areas of choice from over 50 to 15 for social housing applicants. This proposal was approved by both SPC and Plenary Council.

- A new Housing Allocation Scheme was adopted by Plenary Council in May 2017. The new Scheme incorporate provision for the operation of Choice Based Letting (CBL) to enable qualified households to exercise greater choice and involvement in selecting a new home.

Proposals for 2018:

- The Council will continue its' progress in the provision of social housing supports for persons on the record of qualified households.
- The Council will seek to increase the supply of housing units through all available channels. In particular the focus will shift towards delivery through construction including turnkey units in the coming year in accordance with national policy.
- As the focus of capital funding shifts from acquisitions to construction, the approach to acquisitions will be centred on delivery through Part V and the Buy and Renew Scheme.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) & Leasing

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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 256 households accommodated currently through the RAS Scheme.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP has been in operation in Galway County Council for two years and there have been almost 750 tenancies created to date. HAP allows recipients to take up full-time employment and still retain their housing support.

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.

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 750 applicants transferred to the HAP scheme by the end of October 2017.

- Lack of supply of available properties remains a significant issue for HAP applicants.
- Information sessions were held with Cope, Citizen's Information Centres, Mental Health and Family Support units working in the community, to increase awareness of HAP.
- Additional Information sessions were held with Estate Agents across the County.

Proposals for 2018:

- To continue transferring long term rent supplement recipients from the Department of Social Protection over to the HAP scheme, within the limits of available resources. 1,500 people are in receipt of long term rent supplement payments.
- Process all new housing applications for the HAP scheme.
- Continuation of inspection process for all properties under the HAP Scheme.

Vacant Housing Repair and Leasing Scheme

Indicative Activities in 2017:

A key component of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness is a new scheme, the Vacant Housing Repair and Leasing Scheme, which targets the delivery of social housing and also ensures that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible.

The basis of the scheme is that repair and improvement works to suitable vacant properties are funded to bring them up to the standard for rented accommodation and the cost of the works is then deducted from lease payments over an agreed lease term.

Galway County Council undertook an extensive campaign to attract property owners to the scheme

- Press releases on Social media
- Extensive advertng in local newspapers and local radio
- Two evening roadshows were held in Ballinasloe and Tuam
- Estate agents and solicitors were contacted directly throughout the county
- Notices published in community newsletters
- To date, 60 expressions of interest have been received from property owners with some files currently being progressed.

Proposals for 2018:

- Galway County Council will assist property owners to develop the scope of works and also aid the property owner in the completion of the repair works. Property inspections are carried out by Galway County Council staff that will identify the works required to bring the dwelling to the required standard.

- The Council will, subject to the appointment of a Vacant Homes Officer, proactively engage with owners of suitable vacant properties in need of repair, with the aim of making the property available under the Repair & Leasing Scheme to meeting housing need.

Buy & Renew Scheme

Under the Rebuilding Ireland Action plan a new scheme called the Buy and Renew Scheme was launched in July 2017. This new initiative provides funding to buy and renew vacant properties to meet housing needs while also addressing dereliction in towns and villages.

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- The Council has delivered 4 Units under the Buy and Renew Scheme which was introduced in 2017.

Proposals for 2018:

- Galway County Council will continue to endeavour to acquire and renew Housing Units in need of remediation and make them available for social housing use in the areas of high demand.
- The Council will, subject to the appointment of a Vacant Homes Officer, develop a Vacant Homes Strategy and Action Plan, to maximising existing housing stock by returning suitable vacant properties to meet housing need.

Residential Tenancies Board - Registration of Rented Units

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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
- A significant emphasis was placed on increasing the number of inspections of private rented houses in 2017, resulting in a total of 653 properties being inspected up to 31st October 2017.

Proposals for 2018:

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

Voluntary Housing

Indicative Activities in 2017:

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

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

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

- 1 Project with CAS funding was completed in 2017: Acquisition of 1 Unit in The Pines, Ballinasloe (Tuath Housing Association)

Other CAS Projects progressing:

- Respond Housing Association, Headford – 4 units (Acquisition)
- Tearmann Eanna Teo, Eannach Mhein – 13 units (Acquisition)
- Tearmann Eanna Teo, Old Post Office, Inverin – 4 units (Acquisition)
- Clargalway & District Day Care Centre, Cregboy – 14 units (Construction)
- Mountbellew Housing Association, Mountbellew – 5 units (Construction)
- Cluid Housing Association, Dunlo Hill, Ballinasloe – 17 units (Construction)
- Respond Housing Association, Fairgreen Heights, Tuam – 1 unit (Acquisition)
- Respond Housing Association, Woodfield, Tuam – 1 unit (Acquisition)
- Tearmann Eanna Teo, Rossaveal Cottages – 8 units (Acquisition)
- Peter Treist Housing Association, Caheroyn – 1 unit (Acquisition & Construction)
- Peter Treist Housing Association, Springfield, Ballinasloe – 1 unit (Construction)
- Cluid Housing Association, Letterfrack (Phase 2) – 11 units (Construction)
- Applications for projects under the 2017 CAS Call at the following locations are being processed and await full approval for CAS funding:
 - 1 Project – Peter Triest Housing Association, Aggardmore, Craughwell – 1 unit (Construction)
 - The 2017 CAS Call remains open and the Council welcomes all applications from Approved Housing Bodies.

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

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

- To date 88 units have been delivered at various locations around the County including Athenry, Tuam, Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Mountbellew, Clifden and Portumna. Galway County Council has 100% nomination rights on all units.
- Departmental approval received for 34 units in addition to the above.
- Proposals for a further 124 units across the County are currently being progressed.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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 this funding model.
- We will examine the potential for AHBs to deliver additional housing units on Council held lands.

<p>Housing Strategy for People with a Disability</p>

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

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- The Housing Strategy for People with a Disability was adopted by Council in 2017 in compliance with National Strategy for Housing People with Disabilities 2017- 2020. The Strategy was devised with cooperation of the Disability Steering Group.
- Work continued throughout 2017 with de-congregating persons with a disability and moving them to standard housing.

Proposals for 2018:

- Continue to work with approved housing bodies and disability service providers to provide suitable accommodation in individual tenancies or in shared accommodation.
- A review of all housing applicants with a housing need on the basis of disability or medical grounds will be undertaken in 2018.

<p>Homelessness</p>

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- There has been a marked and unprecedented increase in the demand for homeless services and in particular the number of families presenting as homeless during 2017.

- The Homeless Framework Action Plan was adopted by Council during 2017 and serves to guide the actions of the Council in responding to the many challenges of homelessness.
- The limited availability of private emergency accommodation presented many challenges in responding to homelessness and placed significant demands on the limited resources of the Housing Unit.
- The increased emphasis on care and case management and “move on options” for service users while proving useful was limited by the lack of move on options either in private rented sector or supported accommodation.

Proposals for 2018:

- It is anticipated that the increased demand for homeless services experienced in 2017 will continue in 2018 due to the limited supply of housing and in particular the limited availability of housing in the rented sector.
- The establishment of the Homeless Action Team, an action of the Homeless Framework Action Plan, will be a priority in 2018 to assist with a coordinated inter-agency approach to homelessness.
- Progress a Housing led approach with all forms of social housing including transition accommodation for families in cooperation with Approved Housing Bodies and with supports tailored to needs.
- Progress step down/ transition accommodation for single people needing some supports in cooperation with Approved Housing Bodies and with supports tailored to needs.
- Work with Voluntary & Statutory bodies to prevent Homelessness (e.g. Threshold, Tusla etc.) with a focus on tenancy protection and sustainment.
- Continue with case management with an emphasis on move on to appropriate accommodation.
- To continue to provide long term accommodation with all the necessary supports for both families and single homeless applicants.

Housing Grants

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- To date the number of applications for Housing Aid for Older People paid in 2017 is 150 with the number of Mobility Aids Grants & Housing Aid Grants totaling 124.
- Department funding was made available in the sum of €1,942,606 for 2017. Galway County Council must provide co-funding of 20%, €325,000 was sanctioned from the Councils own resources.

Proposals for 2018:

- The Council will continue to administer the Housing Aid for Older People, Mobility Aids Grants and Housing Aid Grants availing of grant funding from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government to the extent that co-funding provided by the Council and the staffing levels in 2018 allows.

Traveller Accommodation Programme
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Indicative Activities in 2017:

- The Council undertook a mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018 with the Plan updated to include capital projects, a focus on fire safety and increased targets for the provision of accommodation in 2017 and 2018.
- To date in 2017 the housing needs of 63 applicants have been met through the provision of standard housing, housing in Traveller specific group schemes and halting sites.
- Significant capital investment was secured for the provision, refurbishment and remedial works of traveller specific accommodation in Craughwell, Capira, Creggane and Tuam.
- Fire Safety and awareness was a key priority in 2017, with fire safety improvement works undertaken and awareness training delivered in Creggane, Tuam, Craughwell and Capira.
- The Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on 3 occasions to date in 2017 with the Committee visiting Traveller specific accommodation in Craughwell, Capira and Tuam.

Proposals for 2018:

- Progress the construction of 6 houses and 2 bays at Dunkellin Park Halting site, Craughwell
- Construction of 1 house at Creggane Group Housing Scheme, Ballinasloe.
- The Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee will continue to play a lead role in overseeing the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018.
- A further programme of fire safety awareness training will be delivered.

Local Authority Housing Stock Management

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Funding was made available from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in 2017 to support Galway County Council in returning 30 vacant

houses back to productive use. The housing unit are on target to complete the programme of works and have these houses available for letting in 2017.

- Over 95% of Local Authority housing have benefitted from cavity wall and attic insulation under Phase 1 of the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme. This national programme was introduced in 2013 to ensure better energy efficiency for all our housing stock.
- Funding was made available from the Department for the refurbishment of 14 derelict houses at Tirboy, Tuam. The programme of works within the estate is ongoing.
- A proposal for funding has been submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for funding towards the costs of returning 25 derelict houses back to productive use.

Proposals for 2018:

- The ability of the Housing Unit to continue to return void housing unit for occupation will be dependent on the continuation of funding from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government under the Voids Programme. In the absence of the continuation of the Voids Programme, it may not be possible, within the resources of the Council, to continue to return void properties for occupation.
- Progress with Phase 2 of the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme, where funding becomes available from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, insofar as the Council is in a position to provide the necessary co-funding required.
- Progress the Radon Remediation Programme in risk areas within the limits of available resources.
- Deliver a Response Maintenance Programme on a priority basis within the constraints of available funding, with priority afforded to statutory requirements.

Local Authority Housing Stock Management - Minimum Standards and Preventative Maintenance
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Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Minimum standards for rented accommodation are applicable to local authority housing stock, subject to limited exemptions, with revised minimum standards implemented from July 2017.
- It is recognised and a source of significant concern that not all local authority housing stock currently complies with the minimum standards and proposals to address this were the subject of consideration during 2017.
- The need for a stock inventory to identify and quantify the work required to comply with statutory requirements, including minimum standards, and to support the introduction of a preventative maintenance programme was identified as a priority action, with additional staff resources assigned to this area.

Proposals for 2018:

- It is essential that all available revenue and capital resources are assigned to achieving compliance with statutory requirements relating to local authority housing stock, including minimum standards and electrical testing, at the earliest possible date.
- In the absence of the necessary funding required to achieve full compliance in 2018, it will be necessary to utilise all available funding to deliver a work programme on a priority basis, with an initial emphasis on the installation of fire detection systems/smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, fire blankets and the installation of appropriate window restrictions on the first floor and above of all local authority housing stock.
- It will also be necessary to deliver a programme of electrical testing and for the servicing of boilers in order to achieve compliance with statutory requirements on a programme basis, given the constraints imposed by the current financial position of the Council.
- In order to deliver the priority elements of the work programme, as detailed above, it will be necessary, in addition to availing of the additional resources provided, to prioritise existing funding for this purpose. This may significantly reduce the level of funding available for response maintenance and impact on the ability of the Council to avail of funding streams for housing stock that may require an element of co-funding.
- A stock inventory will be undertaken during 2018 to identify the works, additional to the above, required to achieve compliance with statutory requirements, including minimum standards and electrical testing, and to inform the development and delivery of a Preventative Maintenance Programme. It is recognized that the delivery of a Preventative Maintenance Programme will delivery savings and efficiencies in the medium/long term and will allow for improved service delivery for our tenants.

Tenancy and Estate Management

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- The Housing Unit continued to work with vulnerable families in assisting them in sustaining their tenancies in accordance with the Tenancy Sustainment Strategy which was adopted by Council in March 2017.
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Officer continued 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.
- The Council's Tenancy and Estate Management Strategy involves active community engagement/participation at local level on an ongoing basis with an emphasis on the early identification of anti-social behaviour and breaches of tenancy agreement. The Council continued to engage with the 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 at various locations across the County.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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.
- Estate management staff will continue to assist tenants with the sustainment of their tenancies as per the Tenancy Sustainment Strategy
- A revision of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy is required to take into consideration updates and changes.
- Planned upgrades to existing CCTV locations is planned for 2018 to better enhance the cameras ability to capture night time incidents subject to the availability of funding.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

The introduction of the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2016 afforded eligible Local Authority Tenants the opportunity to purchase their Local Authority homes. This scheme has generated considerable interest throughout the county however a number of the conditions associated with the current scheme is limiting the number of eligible applicants.

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- To date in 2017 the Housing Unit have received 35 completed applications, 25 properties have been approved for purchase and sales for 7 properties have been completed, total proceeds from sales amount to €319,420.

Proposals for 2018:

- Galway County Council will continue to process all tenant purchase applications in a timely manner as they are received.

House Purchase Loans (Private & Tenant Purchase Loans)

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

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- To date in 2017 the Housing Unit have approved and paid four tenant purchase home loans and one private home loan to the value of €268,150. Two further tenant purchase

loan applications have been approved by the credit committee but have not yet been drawn down by the applicants, these amount to €105,105.

Proposals for 2018:

- Galway County Council will continue to assess and process all housing loan applications in a timely manner as they are received.

Housing Rents

Whilst the collection of rents rests with the Finance unit, the assessment of rents and the setting of the Differential Rent Scheme is a function of the Housing Unit.

Indicative activities in 2017:

- The Differential Rent (DR) Scheme was revised and the following changes were implemented:
 - Max rent increased from €84 to €130
 - The Galway County Council DR Scheme was extended to include tenancies previously assessed under the former Ballinasloe Town Council DR Scheme. This required a review of 276 rent accounts with rent increased introduced on a phased basis for low income families.
 - The Rent review has been completed in Loughrea, Ballinasloe & Tuam Municipal Districts.
 - The rent review has commenced in the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District.

Proposals for 2018:

- The rent review will be finalized in Athenry/Oranmore and Connemara Municipal Districts in 2018.

Control of Horses

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- The Council continued to implement its protocol in conjunction with the Gardaí on the Control of Horses during 2017. The number of stray and abandoned horses continues to reduce significantly.
- 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 2018:

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

Housing, Cultural & Recreation SPC

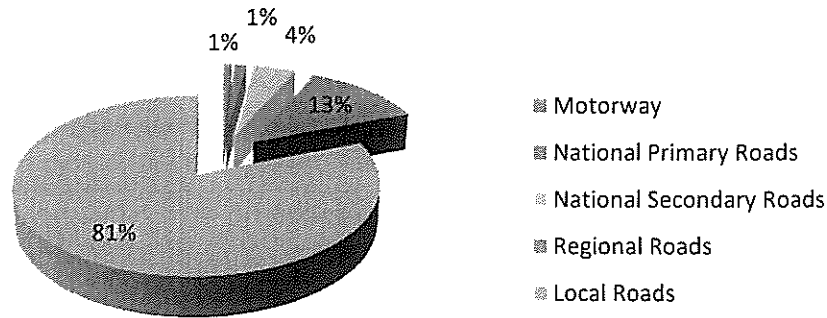
Indicative Activities in 2017:

- The Housing & Emergency Services SPC met on 4 occasions to date in 2017. Areas covered included Social Housing Strategy, New Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme, Tenancy Sustainment Strategy, Housing Construction/Supply, Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018, Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability, Homelessness Action Plan 2017-2018, Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, Review of Areas of Choice and Creative Ireland.

Proposals for 2018:

- In 2018, it is anticipated that the committee will examine, a range of additional policy areas relating to Housing, Culture and Recreation.

Classification of Road Network



The road grants for 2018 will be announced in February 2018. It is anticipated that there will be specific provision for bridges on non-national roads. Notification has been received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland advising that the level of funding for National road maintenance will be significantly reduced by at least 17% and possibly by as much as 30%.

Road Condition Survey

All Non-National roads were surveyed in 2017 by Galway County Council, a grading applied to them and they were mapped on the Pavement Management System. This was the first comprehensive survey carried out since the initial surveying and grading in 2012. The Pavement Management System assists with the management of the network and provides an updated inventory of the network. The road condition is graded from 1 to 10 with 10 being the best condition. The continuation of the local tertiary road repair programme which was commenced in 2014 is extremely beneficial and it is intended to continue the programme in 2018.

The results of the survey carried out in County Galway are used as a tool to assist in setting out priorities for the Road Restoration and Reconstruction Programme. 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 2017:

- Funding was provided in 2017 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban. 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
M17	Gort to Tuam
N59	Clifden to Oughterard
N59	Moycullen Bypass
N67	Ballinderreen to Kinvara
N6	Galway City Ring Road
N59	Maam Cross/Clifden
N59	Maam Cross/ Oughterard
N84	Luimnagh
N17	Carrownurlaur/ Ballindine
N83	Forty Acres
N63	Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh

- The M6 Galway/Ballinasloe and M18 Gort Crusheen Schemes have some minor landowner issues outstanding.
- The M17/M18 opened to traffic, ahead of schedule, at the end of September 2017.
- Consultants have been appointed for the Galway Ring Road and are based in the Project Office in Ballybrit. Publication of this scheme is programmed for the first quarter of 2018.
- Maam Cross to Oughterard has been granted Planning Approval and is the subject of ongoing discussions with NPWS.
- Contract Documents are being prepared for the N59 Moycullen ByPass. Land acquisition is ongoing.

- The annual resurfacing and maintenance programme for National routes was undertaken in accordance with the budget for maintenance works notified by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Proposals for 2018:

- N67 Ballindereen Kinvara – permission was granted for this scheme in 2016. Construction is programmed to commence in 2018.
- N63 Annagh Hill to Abbeyknockmoy - construction works are ongoing, with an expected completion date of the second quarter of 2018.
- 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 Overlay works will be undertaken on the National Primary and National Secondary Road Network in the context of the 2018 grant allocations from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Regional & Local Roads

Indicative Activities in 2017:

The total grant allocation of **€19,576,451** for Regional & Local Roads divides as follows:

Improvement Works	€16,753,091
Maintenance Works	€ 2,823,360

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

Grant Category	2016 Allocation
Improvement Grant 2017	€11,182,610
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€2,823,360
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€4,816,031
Specific Improvement Grants – Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	€415,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€210,000
Training	€95,000
Road Safety in Housing Areas	€34,450
OVERALL TOTAL	€19,576,451

The following 8 bridges were allocated funding, totaling €415,000, under the Specific Improvement Grant –

ROAD NUMBER	BRIDGE
LT31071-1	Graigabbey 2
R356	Ballinakill
R336	Munterowen
LS5343-0	Drimneen
R347	Ballinderry
R347	Ballyglooneen Bridge no. 1
LS5104	Shanaveag
LT11051	Loughfadda

Works were completed on the following 5 bridges, which were allocated funding from the Discretionary Maintenance allocation:

ROAD NUMBER	BRIDGE
LP3120	Barrack Lane
R348	Eskerroe
R352	Crewaun (Phase 1)
LS8761	Fairfield (Phase 1)
R347	Ballinderry
R347	Ballyglooneen Bridge no. 1
LS6232	Ballabbert

Works are ongoing on 2 other bridges:

- Cloonabricka Bridge
- Curraghduff East Bridge

Proposals for 2018:

A programme of bridge improvement and maintenance works will be compiled when notification of the 2018 funding is received.

Council Funding –

Indicative Activities in 2017:

The sum provided from the Council's resources in 2017 is **€6,340,350**, 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 2018:

- The Unit will prepare the 2018 Roads Programme in the context of available funding from the Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Department of Transport and the Council's own resources. The Programme will be presented to the Council for their approval in February 2018.
- The distribution of the Local Roads Budget 2018 will be presented to Council for approval in the context of the 2018 Roads Programme. The level of discretion that will be available to the Council in the allocation of funding in 2018 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 2017:

Fishery Harbours and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme

Improvement works, by direct Council labour, costing €150,000, are being carried out on 1 pier – Bealcarra Pier - in the Municipal District of Conamara. There is a requirement for Galway County Council to provide €37,500 of funding towards this work, with the balance of €112,500 being provided by Dept of Marine. Safety improvement works are ongoing at Crumpán Pier which will continue in 2018.

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, including the removal of algae growth on piers in County Galway.

Proposals for 2018:

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 and an executive engineer has been appointed to progress and deliver the extension to the existing pier, with the support of An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta. Contract documents for the project will be prepared in 2018, with a possibility of tendering for the works, dependent on the funding available.

Caladh Mór Pier, Inis Meáin

- Phase III Caladh Mór, Inis Meáin options are being evaluated.

Fishery Harbours and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme:

- A dive survey has been carried out at Roundstone Pier. A detailed structural analysis is to be carried out to establish the required works and funding is to be sourced for same in 2018.

Coastal Protection

- The Council will continue to submit proposals to the Office of Public Works for funding to facilitate Coastal Protection Works.
- Options for coastal protection works at specific locations in the County are being considered.

Arterial Drainage

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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 2018:

- The Unit will undertake a programme of maintenance on the drainage works under the remit of the Council during 2018, 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 2017:

- Galway County Council continued working in partnership with the OPW during 2017 to identify and progress works aimed at reducing the risk of future flooding.
- In 2017 18 Minor Works Flood Alleviation Schemes were completed, at a cost of €816,000, with a further 10 ongoing, to be completed in 2018.
- A Joint Steering Group comprised of representatives of Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works continued to meet during 2017 to progress works on the Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme.
- The contract for the Kiltiernan to Ballinderreen Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded.
- Vegetation clearance and the construction of a Craughwell bypass channel was completed in 2017 on the Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream.
- An engineering consultant and an environmentalist will be appointed by the end of 2017 to progress the South Galway/Gort Lowlands flood relief scheme.
- Galway County Council has continued working in partnership with the OPW on the Western and Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management during 2017.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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.
- The Ballinderreen to Kiltiernan Flood Relief Scheme will continue to be progressed in partnership with the Office of Public Works and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
- Works on the Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream, on the channel and bridges downstream of Craughwell will be completed in 2018.

- A scheme of works for the South Galway/Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme will be developed in 2018, with the intention of going to contract in 2019, construction to commence in 2020.
- 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 the Western and Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management during 2018. Finalised flood risk management plans will be published in 2018. The Office of Public Works will prepare a priority list in early 2018 which will be circulated to Local Authority members for their consideration.

Road Safety

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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 2017 included:
 - Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for secondary schools.
 - In January and July 2017, 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.
 - Support for the Cycling Safety Training Programme in national schools
 - The Council supported the Galway Rally in February 2017, and arranged for the distribution of road safety awareness material
 - Support for the Cycling Safety Training Programme in national schools
 - The Council supported 'Slow Down Day' in May and October 2017
 - Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme and competition held with 4 schools on 18th May 2017, in Mountbellew.
 - During the Bealtaine Festival in May 2017, a High Visibility Vests Campaign took place and vests were distributed, free of charge.
 - In June 2017, Galway and Mayo County Councils ran a joint campaign for the Connacht Semi-Final in Pearse Stadium where they were encouraged to drive safely to the event.
 - In June 2017, the Road Safety Plan for Galway City and County 2017-2020 was launched and circulated to the general public, libraries, Council offices, etc.

- In July 2017, Galway, Mayo and Roscommon Road Safety Officers ran a joint campaign for the All Ireland Football Quarter Finals in Croke Park where they were giving drink driving the 'red card'.
- In July 2017, Galway and Roscommon Co. Councils ran a joint campaign for the Connacht Final in Pearse Stadium, Galway, where they were encouraged to drive safely with the message 'Get There-No Regrets'.
- Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme and competition held with 4 schools on 18th May 2017, in Mountbellew.
- 'European Mobility Week' took place from 16th to 22nd September, 2017, and one of the initiatives undertaken that week was a 'Walk to School Day' where 3 local national schools took part in a walk from Kenny Park, Athenry, to their schools, wearing their high visibility vests.
- The 'European Day Without a Road Death' took place on 21st September 2017, and the Council promoted the 'Are You Daylighted' Campaign which encourages all road users to use their dipped headlights during daylight hours.
- 'Be Safe, Be Seen' initiative took place with Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, on 28th September, 2017, whereby high visibility vests were distributed to the Transition Year.
- For the national Road Safety Week held from 2nd to 8th October, 2017, joint initiatives took place with NUIG and GMIT where 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 and Specsavers offered eye tests at reduced price to ensure the correct vision for driving.
- A Car Dismantling Demo took place on 3rd October 2017, in conjunction with Coláiste Cholmcille, Indreabhán and Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal. The Fire Service, Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána were present at this educational event
- Social Inclusion Week took place from 16th to 22nd October, 2017, and high visibility material and leaflets was distributed.
- During 2017, 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.
- During 2017, high visibility vests, armbands and road safety awareness leaflets were distributed, free of charge, to schools, community groups and the general public.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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.
 - 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
- Various initiatives to raise awareness to the general public
- 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 €210,000 was provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport 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	LS7108	Lisheenkyle	€30,000
Ballinasloe	R358	Mountbellew – St Mary’s National School	€30,000
	LP3210	Castlefrench East – Ballyforan to Castlefrench	€30,000
Conamara	R341	Market Street & Bridge Street Junction	€30,000
Loughrea	R355 & KS8737/LS8738	Section of the R355 (Portumna-Ballinasloe Road) between junctions with LS8737 & LS8738	€30,000
	R4446 & LP4212	Junction of the R446 with the LP4212 at Ballynahistle	€30,000
Tuam	LP2113 & LP2135	Junction of LP2113 & LP2135 at Churchview, Tuam	€30,000

Speed Limits

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- A 4 year programme of the installation of SLOW ZONE speed limit signage in housing estates continued for the second year in 2017. Funding provided in 2017 for this programme of works was €34,450.
- The Unit continued 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.

Proposals for 2018:

- The programme of the installation of SLOW ZONE speed limit signage in housing estates is expected to continue in 2018, depending on funding being made available by the Department of Transport.
- 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 bye-laws, which are to be adopted at plenary Council.
- 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 2017:

- A sum of €1,122,000 was provided in the 2017 Budget to fund the cost of the public lighting programme including the maintenance, energy and upgrade costs.

Proposals for 2018:

- The Council will continue to maintain and upgrade the public lighting in County Galway. The budget provided covers the maintenance and energy costs associated with the existing public lighting network.

Community Involvement Schemes

Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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 €346,822 was provided for 24 schemes by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Proposals for 2018:

- The 2018 Draft Roads Programme will include provision of funding to facilitate the operation of the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme, dependent on the funding made available.

Local Improvement Schemes

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Notification of the recommencement of the Local Improvement Schemes was received in late August 2017. An allocation of €942,000 was notified in October 2017 and this has facilitated the commencement of works on 42 schemes. These works are ongoing.

Proposals for 2018:

- An allocation, similar to that received in 2017, is anticipated for 2018. It is intended to advertise the scheme, seeking submissions, in early 2018, with a view to carrying out works at further locations.

Greenways

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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 2018:

- 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 2017:

- The Unit made information available to the general public, in 2017, on our Winter Service Plan for 2017/2018 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. This method of communication was also used during the severe weather event – Storm Ophelia.
- 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 2018:

- 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.

<p>Corporate Support</p>

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- The Unit continued to be responsible for the efficient operation and administration associated with the Municipal District of Tuam.
- The Unit continues to provide support for the Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee with policy formation. Matters considered in 2017 included the allocation of roads funding,

Proposals for 2018:

- 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 2017 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 2017:

- SupplyGov have established and are operational in Galway County Council:
 - A new DPS (Dynamic Purchasing System) for Road Marking Supplies and Services January 2017.
 - A new DPS for plant hire came into operation April 2017
 - A New Electrical and Plumbers Framework September 2017.

All information was circulated to relevant staff regarding these new procedures. During 2017 Galway County Council engaged with the LGOPC on the following frameworks/DPS: Plant Hire Services, Road Making Materials – Supply Only, Road Making Materials – Supply & Placement, Footway & Road Pavement Restoration, Ready-Mix & Concrete Additives (Supply only).

- 17 Requests for Tender (RFT) and 63 Requests for Quotation (RFQ) were raised on SupplyGov (LA Quotes) during 2017 YTD. There were also 44 Tenders processed through eTenders.
- Galway County Council is also engaged with the OGP on the following National Contracts and Frameworks: Bulk Fuel, Electricity, Natural Gas, Fuel Cards, Envelopes, Copying Paper, Manage Print Services, Print Panel, Stationery, Personal Protective Equipment, and Janitorial supplies.
- Purchase Cards: During 2017 we continued to use the Lighthouse BCS Portal to process transactions to Agresso. We currently have 174 Active Cards with 2017 YTD Spend of €807,000 and have processed 6361 transactions YTD.
- Fuel Debit Cards: We currently have 238 active fuel cards with an YTD spend of €529,000 made up of 8,141 transactions across 66 Filling Stations.
- High level training was rolled out for engineers and administration staff on eTenders in March 2017.
- Data Returns: All data returns required by the LGER and the OGP were completed and returned on time.
- Public Spending Code: The public Spending code was issued to NOAC at the end of May 2017.
- Circular Fin 07/2012: Under the Public Service Reform Plan – GCC have published a quarterly listing of Purchase Orders greater than €20k.

Proposals for 2018:

- SupplyGov.ie – organise additional training for all buyers and administration staff on the new DPS – *Dynamic Purchasing System*

- To review the Corporate Procurement Plan and the Corporate Procurement Policy.
- Expand the use of SupplyGov and eTenders across the organisation.
- 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.
- 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.
- Implement a Spend Data Analysis System and expand the Procurement function through Agresso MS4.
- 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.
- To continue to strive to reduce the overall number of Purchase Orders generated by increased use of LVP's & Fuel Cards.
- Analyse the 2017 spend profile with a view to identifying possible Cost Saving initiatives in line with OGP and SupplyGov 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 2017:

- 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.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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

Financial Management Systems

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Additional efficiencies achieved re: Budget drafting system (Budgeting / Forecasting by Account Element, additional controls) & full engagement with a software provider.
- Additional efficiencies achieved re: claims system for travel & subsistence/utility accounts.
- Policy notes developed for Accounts Payable including supplier statements /fraud prevention.

Proposals for 2018:

- Continued review of procedure/best practice of Agresso upgrade Milestone 4.
- Investigation of alternative automated methods to achieve BUDGET cycle (use of Prevero). Enhancement review of CCAS Budgetary Modules & full implementation of functionality.

Revenue Collection

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Continued review of the Revenue collection function – to ensure best practice is achieved and any new income stream is incorporated efficiently.
- Continued utilisation of the ASCENDAS system in regard to the management of income streams such as rates, rents & development levies.
- Continued utilisation of the MARPS process in regard to housing loans.
- Liaison with the Law Agent in regard to the Implementation of the Tenancy Warning system in regard to rent arrears and Section 12 Applications for Possession under the terms of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014.
- Continued implementation of electronic payment methods e.g Billpay, Household Budget, EFT, online payment facility etc to facilitate customers.

Proposals for 2018:

- Monitor and update the Revenue collection function as regards best practice
- Continue to review debt collection procedures including legal enforcement measures with the Law Agent.
- The unit will continue to offer the Bill Pay option to Rents, Loans, RAS and Rates customers.
- Provide appropriate training to staff on debt collection procedures.

Motor Tax and Driver Licensing Systems

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- A special report on the Administration and Collection of Motor Tax was carried out on a joint basis by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General and Local Government Audit Service and published in early 2017. One of the recommendations contained in the report was that the factors influencing the decision of customers to tax online or at Motor Tax Offices should be established, and evaluation of these factors and the costs of collection should inform the future development of motor tax collection, and of other related services currently provided only in motor tax offices. Customer Survey forms were received from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government in September 2017 – these were given to all customers and completed responses were returned to the Department.
- 91,617 transactions were processed by Galway Motor Tax Offices up to the end of October 2017 at a value of €15.4m.
- 68% of total motor tax activity for the Galway area was carried out online in the year to date – an increase from 65% for 2016.
- 3,647 declarations of non-use for vehicles were recorded at the Galway Motor Tax Offices up to the end of October 2017.
- A review of vehicles taxed at island rate was commenced during the year, in consultation with Community Wardens and An Garda Síochána.
- The criteria for converting a vehicle to a goods vehicle (with 2 rows of seats) was clarified at national level, and Motor Tax Offices are required to refuse applications which do not meet the national requirements.

Proposals for 2018:

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

Information Technology Systems

Indicative Activities for 2017:

- 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.
- Renewal of the Managed Print Services Contract using OGP framework which will deliver 40% reduction in printing costs over 3years.
- Implementation of a Web Content monitoring and reporting tool.
- Upgrade of VOIP call manager solution and introduction of SIP communications protocol
- Upgrade to Sophos integrated Encryption/Anti-Virus /Ransomware toolset
- Business process improvements and mobile data collection improvements for Housing Section.
- Mapping and Support for the implementation of the Rebuilding Ireland
- Implementation of an email security portal to cater for reduction of malicious and non-business related email.
- Implementation of new Enforcements system and AIS System in Dynamics 365
- 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.

Proposals for 2018:

- Implement Managed public Wi-Fi solutions across Galway County Council Premises on a phased basis over 2 years.
- Renew and upgrade Storage Area Network to converged solution to avail of cloud capabilities
- Relocate the Disaster Recovery site from Sandy Road to Centrepoint to allow for greater usage and support in the event of a disaster situation.
- Upgrade WAN Connection to GCN (Government Cloud Network) in Ballinasloe, Tuam and Gort to provide a higher capacity and more resilient service.
- 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.
- Continue migration of Galway County Council Infrastructure to a hybrid cloud model.
- Continued leverage of Dynamics 365 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 2017:

- 1596 Planning Applications have been received to date (8th November 2017)
- 2 Pre-application consultations have been attended with An Bord Pleanála under the new regulations for housing developments over 100 units, Troiscaigh Thoir, Bearna and Ballygaddy Road, Tuam
- Completion/Adoption of Variation No. 1 to the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 to recognize the Galway Transport Plan and the Galway City Ring Road– to be commenced along with City Council in early 2017.
- Produced Draft Variation No. 2(a) and 2(b) to incorporate the Bearna Plan and Gaeltacht Plan in County Development Plan 2015-2021
- Prepared submission on Pre- Draft and Draft National Planning Framework – Our Plan 2040
- Prepared submission on the Mid- term Review of the Capital Investment Plan 2016-2021
- Preparation work on Tuam Local Area Plan
- Preparation work on Clifden Local Area Plan
- Completed the statutory process in relation to Deferral of notice of the Athenry, Loughrea and Oranmore Local Area Plans.
- Prepared a submission to Galway City Council on the Draft Ardaun Plan.

Proposals for 2018:

- To proceed and complete the statutory process of Variation No. 2(a) and (b) to the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 to incorporate the Bearna Plan and Gaeltacht Plan in County Development Plan 2015-2021
- To commence the statutory process on Tuam Local Area Plan
- To commence the statutory process on Clifden Local Area Plan
- To consider, subject to resources and staffing, the preparation of a number of non-statutory Local Area Plans/Masterplans 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.
- To undertake a review of the GTPS in preparation of the Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027
- Arrange and manage the translation of all new policy (variations to the CDP, relevant Local Area Plans) in accordance with the Scéim Teanga
- Participate in the National e-Planning initiative.
- To commence the preparatory work on the Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027

Building Control

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 550 commencement notices have been received to 9th November 2017, which represents a 28% increase on this time last year
- 88 completion certificates have been submitted and validated to 9th November 2017.
- 61 inspections have been carried out by the Building Control Officer to ensure compliance with the Building Regulations to 9th November 2017.
- The Building Control Officer liaised with the Taking in Charge Unit as appropriate to ensure compliance with their requirements where commencement notices are received for new housing estates.

Proposals for 2018:

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

Enforcement Measures

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 160 Warning Notices/Letters served to 9th November 2017.
- 55 Enforcement Notices served to 9th November 2017.
- 17 Files have been referred for legal action to 9th November 2017.
- 216 New Files opened to 9th November 2017.
- 519 approx. Enforcement Files have been resolved/closed at 9th November 2017
- The Enforcement Database was replaced by Dynamics 365 in the interests of data security.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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 2017:

- Geological Heritage Audit Phase 1: There are currently an estimated 135 County Geological Sites (CGS) in County Galway that have been provisionally listed by the Geological Survey of Ireland. Co Galway will be audited in a phased approach, the priority for 2017 was to cover around 40 CGS sites in the north-western part of County Galway, including the 25 sites within the Joyce Country Aspiring Geopark area and any additional site/s of significance (following approval by the relevant Expert Panel).
- 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 worked with various groups, schools and individuals in the county to increase awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the archaeological heritage of the county. He also provided guidance and assistance on undertaking archaeological heritage based projects to best heritage practice. In addition to this a number of conferences and events were held throughout the county.
- 'Stories from the landscape'. Galway County Council, Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council worked with Galway Film Centre and each county produced 3 high quality films on various aspects of heritage. This initiative received funding from the Heritage Council.
- 'Go Wild' Summer Camps. Developed two children's biodiversity 2 day summer camps with BirdWatch Ireland, Oughterard Heritage, Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna and the Heritage Council. These successful courses were delivered in Portumna and Oughterard.
- A six week course took place in Tuam Library in May and June 2017 entitled 'An Introduction to Publishing and Archival Best Practices'. The course was delivered by various lecturers and was developed in partnership with the Old Tuam Society and Tuam Library. 25 people attended this course.
- 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 from the Heritage Council 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

- Athenry Walled Towns Day – Funding will be sought from the Walled Towns Funds of the Heritage Council and Athenry Walled Town Day took place in Sunday 20th August 2017. An estimated 3000 people attended this family fun day.
- Athenry & Loughrea Walled Towns Educational Project – Funding was sought from the Heritage Council to develop z-cards for both towns. The z-cards are in the final stages of production.
- Loughrea Medieval Festival – This 3 day event was held in Loughrea 25th – 27th August 2017 in partnership with Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee. In the region of 15,000 people attended this very successful event.
- Decade of Commemoration - Further development and updating of the bi-lingual website for the Decade of Commemoration. Launch of 'Voice of the Rising', Galway County 1916-2016 Memorial in Renville Park, launch of Éamonn Ceannt Memorial in Ballymoe on 30th May 2017. A bi-lingual heritage 1916 Heritage Trail was developed in partnership with GMIT and will be launched in Gort on 14 December 2017. 'The Fenians, Colonel Kelly and the Manchester Martyrs' conference will be held in Mountbellew on 11th November 2017. The Loughrea Remember Conference will be held on 16th November 2017.
- ICAN – Community Heritage website. The Heritage Office continued to work in partnership with the Museum of County Life Castlebar and community groups around the county to further develop this website.
- Féile na gClogh, Inis Oírr took place from 14th – 17th September 2017. In the region of 100 people attended the stonewall workshop, lettering and carving workshops and the sketch outs around the island. In addition to this a large number of other people stayed on the island who connected to workshop participants.
- Heritage Week Events August 2017. A very successful bus tour relating to the food and heritage of south Connemara took place during heritage week. This linked in with Galway West of Ireland Region of Gastronomy initiatives. Promoted and assisted local communities in the delivery of their heritage week events around the county.
- Community Events, Conferences and Workshops – Assistance, advice, and support was also be given to numerous Town and Community events in 2017 including heritage training and relevant local heritage conferences and seminars.
- Diaspora and Emigration: Tuke Emigration Scheme Project – Work continued with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group on this project. This project

and other emigration and diaspora Projects were launched in Cloonacauneen Castle on 6 November 2017.

- Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County –this continued with several graveyards being mapped and memorial inscriptions being recorded and up loaded to www.galway.ie
- The Beo Schools Project with Insight, NUIG and Galway Education Centre ongoing.
- Participated on Committees such as the Placenames Committee, Loughrea Heritage and Development Company and the Aran Life Project.
- Roll out of the Heritage Grant Scheme as part of Community Grants.
- The Golden Mile Calendar to be produced and launched in December 2017.
- Development of a new Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022 took place during the year. This included public consultation sessions, review of submissions to the new plan, meetings with Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum and presentation to SPC.
- Galway Gastronomy Heritage Project: The heritage office has engaged with several groups through the county collecting and showcasing their work on www.heritae.galwaycommunityheritage.org To date over 800 individual items have been digitised and made available on the website. The project was officially launched in Claregalway Castle on 6 September. The project is being delivered in partnership with the Social Inclusion Unit and Creative Ireland.
- Worked with colleagues in other Departments of Galway County Council including Corporate Services (eg. Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre, Rinville Park and 1916 Signage Project); 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). Part of Creative Ireland team and Galway County Council – Region of Gastronomy team.
- Seafest- Devised and delivered a programme of events relating to the sea and out boating heritage tradition.
- Assisted communities in Creggs, Monivea, Moylough, Tuam, Killimor, Cornamona, Oranmore and Gort to develop heritage trails (both digital and paper based).

Proposals for 2018:

- Undertake Phase 2 of a Geological Heritage Audit of County Galway in partnership with the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Heritage Council.
- Galway West of Ireland Region of Gastronomy Heritage Projects 2018 – continue to work with local communities and organisations gathering information relating to the gastronomical heritage of the county and produce written, audio and video outputs for the website. Produce a publication entitled ‘101 Great Galway Heritage Recipes’ and hold a number of events around the county as part of the year long initiative.

- Produce a publication and exhibition on highlights of the rich Ecclesiastical Heritage resources of the county.
- 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 and continue to work in partnership with NUIG and GRD.
- 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 2018.
- 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 2018 in partnership with Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee.
- Decade of Commemoration - Further development and updating of the bi-lingual website for the Decade of Commemoration with additional information and podcasts. The Loughrea Remember Conference to be held in November 2018.
- Cathaoirleach Awards - These Awards include an Award for the best heritage project, best heritage publication and best Irish/heritage schools project.
- ICAN – Community Heritage website. The Heritage Office will continue to work in partnership with the Museum of County Life Castlebar and various communities throughout the county to further develop this website.
- Community Events, Conferences and Workshops – Assistance, advice, and support will also be given to numerous Town and Community events in 2018 including Féile na gClogh, Heritage Week Events, heritage training and relevant local heritage conferences and seminars.
- Emigration and Diaspora Projects: Tuke Emigration Scheme Project – To continue to work with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group on this project. Further develop online information relating to emigration and diaspora. Hold a conference relating to diaspora and emigration.

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

Conservation

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Consulted with the relevant department, state agencies, voluntary and international organisations on matters of architectural conservation including AACO, ICOMOS, Irish Georgian Society, and Construction Industry Federation etc.
- Investigated European funding measures; URBACT, Europa Nostra.
- 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
- Offered advice to owners /occupiers of traditionally built structures.
- Reported and advised on planning applications where architectural heritage issues arise both in Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and with Protected Structures (individual buildings or groups of buildings) where development was proposed.
- Monitored the state of repair of structures on the Record of Protected Structures, and as necessary, made recommendations on the need, if any, for the planning authority to take enforcement action.
- **Historic Assets** group – the internal inter disciplinary- inter departmental working group continued its work to maintain Protected Structures in the care of the local authority. The Conservation office funded professional services for conservation works to be carried out to St. Andrews, Kilconly, and Tuam.

- **Structures at Risk Fund 2017** - Scheme advertised and recommendations made from applications received. Funding of €60,000 was successfully received for three projects: St. Andrews Church Kilconly; Ballynagar House Abbey and the former Gasworks Ballinasloe. Conservation elements of the works were successfully brought to completion in accordance with best conservation practice.
- Developed replacement **Architectural Inventory System (AIS)** database of protected structures in liaison with Information Technology Department
- Input into Local Area Plans, as required.
- Processed proposals for inclusion and deletion on the Record of Protected Structures as part of regular review of the Record of Protected Structures. The Elected Members considered and decided on these proposals at the March 2017 County Council Meeting.
- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017** – €154,453 was allocated by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. 28 projects were completed leveraging private funds of €189,574 which is 56% of the total expenditure of € 340,119. A total of 1078 days of employment was achieved.
- Energy Efficiency Awareness – Workshop in Gort Library in August included lectures and information on energy efficiency in traditionally built buildings.
- Sustainable Development; Liaised with University of Pennsylvania study group in localizing Sustainable Development Goals in Gort which included cooperation with *Baile* , the ICOMOS working Group on Small Towns and Villages and the local development group Burren Lowlands
- Provided advice to local authority on architectural conservation –
 - Liaised with roads re conservation of masonry stone arch bridges;
 - Liaised with corporate services re historic assets in LA ownership;
 - Liaised with Environment re graveyards;
 - Liaised with local area engineers re public realm and issues arising.
- **Architecture at the Edge**; Liaison with *open house* element of inaugural festival celebrating architecture in the county which attracted widespread interest
- **Creative Ireland** funded Entopia project to highlight the uniqueness of the urban space in small towns and villages
- The Long Walk Project, Loughrea; project development to further conservation of an important urban space.
- Promoted **traditional skills training element of Built Heritage Investment Scheme** with a demonstration in the use of hot lime in association with the house owner at the Coastguard Station Cleggan, Building Limes Forum Ireland and HMO.
- Liaison with Galway 2020 Team as required.
- Decade of Commemorations committee member.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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.
- Promote the initiatives and funding made available by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- Continue to promote traditional skills use and training initiatives.
- Continue to contribute to the Historic Assets working group and work with local communities to incorporate the historic built environment into the community life of towns and villages
- Prepare costed project outlines and plans in order to be in a position to avail of capital funding as it becomes available.
- Avail of and promote any funding initiatives available, including Built Heritage Investment Scheme Fund, Structures at Risk Scheme, Rural Towns and Village funding etc.
- 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; Liaise with local area engineers re public realm and issues arising.

CEED Unit - Promoting co-ordination of agencies
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Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Facilitated 4 meetings the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.
- Established and facilitated the expanded Steering Group for the European Region of Gastronomy 2018 designation for Galway with wider stakeholder representation.
- Facilitated the Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).
- Worked with the HSE to facilitate the Health & Wellbeing Group to act as a sub group of the LCDC and prepared a submission to Healthy Ireland.
- 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. Submissions prepared and submitted for new routes and services in County Galway.

- Partnered on the UNESCO City of Film 2017 programme.
- Participated 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.
- Worked with Galway Film Centre, Irish Film Board and Western Development Commission to establish the €2 million West Regional Audiovisual Production Fund in the Western Development Commission region.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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 implementation of the ERG programme.
- Promotion of the Transport Co-ordinating Unit (TCU) service and brand name of Bealach na Gaillimhe.
- Partner on the UNESCO City of Film 2018 programme.
- Partner and support Galway's programme as European Capital of Culture 2020.
- Facilitate the County Galway LCDC to 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-ordinate and facilitate the 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 Galway City Council in the areas of Economic Development.
- Implement the Healthy Ireland Fund in 2018.

<p>CEED Unit - Promoting enterprise and supporting economic development</p>
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Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Supported community enterprise projects and initiatives that are employment creating e.g. BACD Enterprise Centre, Kinvara Enterprise Centre, Beechtree Business Park Tuam.
- Further developed the Made in Galway initiative to support local enterprise to access markets. Held six Made in Galway EXPO events in Galway in 2017.

- Implemented actions assigned to CEED and coordinated reporting for which Galway County Council are responsible for in the Regional Action Plan for Jobs.
- Represented 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. Funding of €400,000 secured through REDZ for a flagship project to improve the visitor experience on arrival to Knock Airport.
- Participated in the REDZ Flagship project for Lough Derg Blueway with Clare and Tipperary County Councils. Funding of €200,000 secured to promote Lough Derg Blueway.
- Partner with National Heritage Council on the Beara Breifne Way Flagship project. Funding of approximately €1million secured for works on the greenway from Cork to Leitrim.
- 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, Kinvara Farmers Market, Bia Bofinne, Bia Lover Festival, Connemara Mussel Festival, Food on the Edge.
- 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.
- Continued to promote Galway in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland.
- Supported the Galway Science and Technology Festival, and Local Enterprise Office LOCAL Food & Craft Gift Fair.
- Supported the implementation of Tourism infrastructure projects in Portumna and supported Tourism developments in partnership with the Lough Derg Marketing Strategy Group. Launched the first Recreational Vehicle Park in County Galway at Portumna Marina in conjunction with OPW and Waterways Ireland. This project has been shortlisted for an Excellence in Local Government Award by Chambers Ireland.
- 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 Loughrea 2017, Claregalway Garden Festival, Loughrea Medieval Festival, and Claregalway Medieval Combat Tournament and Clifden Arts Festival.
- Continued to support the development of local festivals to become destination festivals that attract visitors and bed-nights from outside the County.

- Established and rolled out the Strategic Tourism and Amenity Infrastructure Investment Scheme.
- 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.
- Worked towards the development of a Food and Rural Innovation Hub including incubation units at the Teagasc campus in Athenry. Planning process is in train and a significant funding application has been made to Enterprise Ireland.
- Developed and published a map of Tourism attractions in County Galway for Visitors to the region.
- Developed European Region of Gastronomy (ERG) 2017 programme which will underpin programme of events for year of designation 2018. Part of this involved securing funding to employ a full time Coordinator for a two year term. This position commenced in August 2017.
- Supported the development of proposals by communities for applications for funding under the REDZ and Towns & Villages renewal scheme and commenced implementation of a capacity building programme in 5 REDZ Zones.
- Continued to support 8 projects under the approved 2016 Town & Village Renewal scheme and secured over €1m for 13 projects under the 2017 Town & Village Renewal Scheme.
- Facilitated the BOI Enterprising Towns Awards competition in County Galway.
- Partner with Roscommon County Council, WESTBIC and BACD in funding submission to Enterprise Ireland REDF for funding to develop a branded network of enterprise facilities in East Galway/Roscommon.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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.
- Organisation of Programme for European Region of Gastronomy (ERG) for year of designation 2018.
- Complete the 2016 REDZ capacity building programme in 5 REDZ zones and the 2016 and 2017 Town & Village Renewal Schemes.
- Progress the development of the Food and Rural Innovation Hub in association with SCCUL and Teagasc as well as with other relevant partners.
- 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.
- Implement projects under the Strategic Tourism and Amenity Infrastructure Investment Scheme.
- 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.
- Continue to support the development of local festivals to become destination festivals that attract visitors and bednights from outside the County.
- In partnership with representatives of the Tourism sector, participate in Tourism Trade Fairs in Dublin, Belfast and Limerick to promote Galway as a holiday 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.
- 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 2017:

- Three communities/projects (Burren Lowlands, Oughterard and Comhairle nÓg) entered into the 2017 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 expertise to work with particular Tidy Towns groups.
- Approximately €398,000 was approved for community projects across 11 categories under the Community Support Scheme in 2017.
- The Unit completed the facilitation of 29 projects supported under the Ballinasloe Special Capital Grant Scheme with a total funding approved amounting to €1,175,682.
- The County Galway Diaspora Strategy was launched in 2017.

- 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.
- Implemented the Community Facilities Fund 2017 where funding of €64,000 was allocated to community projects in County Galway.

Proposals for 2018:

- Support communities in the County to participate in the Pride of Place competition in 2018.
- Support Tidy Towns groups in the County to participate in the Tidy Towns National Competition in 2018.
- 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.
- Support communities in the County to participate in the Pride of Place competition in 2018.
- Deliver the Community Support Scheme in 2018 and seek to support a number of projects specifically related to the European Region of Gastronomy Designation 2018.
- Implement the Town & Villages Renewal Scheme in 2018.
- Complete the REDZ initiative.
- Implement the Community Facilities Fund 2018.
- Support communities to secure funding under the Outdoor Recreational Fund in 2018.

<h4>Supporting Social Inclusion</h4>

Indicative activities for 2017:

- Continued 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.
- 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 Conamara.
- Continued to support the implementation of actions under the Integration and Diversity Strategy for County Galway 2013-2017.
- Organised the Bealtaine Festival for County Galway in May, 2017 which incorporated over 84 events in County Galway during the month.

- Co-ordinated Traveller Pride Week on behalf of County Galway Traveller Interagency Group in association with Housing Unit.
- Organised Social Inclusion Week 2017 incorporating 30 events throughout the County 16th – 22nd October, 2017.
- Supported Culture Night 2017 (in association with Arts Office) for County Galway incorporating over 88 Events taking place on the night throughout the County.
- Continued to work 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
- Continued to provide support to Comhairle na nÓg on a Countywide basis.
- Ensured that Comhairle na nÓg is a key vehicle for consultation by existing and newly establishing bodies and committees in County Galway.
- Continued to administer and deliver the Comhairle na nÓg development fund from the DCYA for purposes of supporting Comhairle in County Galway.
- Supported the Resettlement and Integration of Syrian Refugees to County Galway as part of a national programme for Refugee Resettlement under the auspices of the OPMI/Dept of Justice and Equality. Twenty-one families of 90 persons in total have been resettled in County Galway in 2017. A further 4 families incorporating 30 people were resettled under the Refugee reunification programme.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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.
- 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.
- Facilitate the Bealtaine Festival for County Galway, May, 2018.
- Co-ordinate Traveller Pride Week on behalf of County Galway Traveller Interagency Group in association with Housing Unit.
- Organise Social Inclusion Week 2018.
- Support Culture Night 2018 for County Galway in conjunction with the Arts Office.
- 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.
- 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.
- Continue to support the Resettlement and Integration of Syrian Refugees to County Galway as part of a national programme for Refugee Resettlement under the auspices of the OPMI/Dept of Justice and Equality.

Supporting RAPID areas - Tuam & Ballinasloe

Indicative Activities in 2017

- 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.
- 6 projects were supported in Ballinasloe for community and voluntary initiatives.
- Implemented the Recast RAPID programme 2017.

Proposals for 2018:

- Implement the Recast RAPID programme 2018.

Promoting and developing Arts activity

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Invested in communities through the Arts Grants under the Community Supports Scheme 2017 – 74 applications funded.
- Supported the development and promotion of new arts activity by artists resident in County Galway - 20 bursaries awarded (Individual Artists Bursaries/Tyrone Guthrie/NYCI Summer School).
- Provided an information and advice service to community groups, individual artists.
- Implemented the Arts and Education Programme: 8 schools funded under this programme in 2018.
- Implemented the 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.
- Delivered Child Protection Awareness Training.
- Organised Culture Night took place on Friday, 16th September with 88 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 this initiative.

Proposals for 2018:

- Appoint a Temporary Arts Officer as replacement for Arts Officer on secondment to Galway 2020.
- 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-operation with the Social Inclusion Unit.
- Support Screen Commission West.
- Support Aras Eanna (Arts Centre on Inis Oírr).
- Support and deliver Professional development/seminars/ talks for artists
- Establish and maintenance of projects with other agencies and institutions.
- Manage a strong arts partnership programme within the county.
- Lead Galway County Council's Creative Ireland Programme, a five year initiative from 2017 -2022, with direct emphasis on delivering Pillar 2 of the national programme – Enabling Creativity in Every Community.
- Support delivery of Public Arts Commissions.
- Work collaboratively with Galway 2020 to support delivery of programmes within the county.
- Support Music Generation Programme 2017-2020 in Galway County.

Indicative Activities 2017:

- Sourced funding for operation of Galway Sports Partnership from Sport Ireland, HSE and Galway County Council. Also secured funding for the position of a temporary Sports Development Officer on a 12 month contract and for a Sports Hub in Doughiska.
- Launched the new Galway Sports Partnership website in conjunction with the Strategic plan.
- Implemented the following programmes - the Men on the Move, (4), Couch 2 5K (3), Bike Week events (11), Disability – (swimming programme (3), Disability Open day (1), Physical Activity Programme for persons with disabilities, Tigh Nan Dooley (1), Off Shore islands programme (1), Outdoor Recreation programme (1), Fit Towns programme (1), Programme Funding programme (24 applications).
- Organised and run training courses for pre-schools and primary schools including – One Buntús Start, No Buntús Play/Sport (discontinued), Be Active After schools (6 schools), Sports Hall Athletics (6 schools).
- Five Girls Active programmes organized and run by Sports Partnership in 2017, funded by HSE.
- Delivered a total of 26 Safeguarding courses, three SAQ courses, two First Aid courses, and one Activity leader course.
- Implemented activity programmes such as *Men on the Move (4), Couch to 5K (3)*.
- Organised the Galway Sports Partnership *10K run/walk on May 7th 2017*.
- Secured funding of €8000 from the Dept. of Tourism, Transport and Sport and run 11 programmes for Bike week, including Family fun cycles, trips to Mayo Greenway, Heritage cycle tour.
- Funding information provided to all groups/clubs and organizations who enquired under Sports Capital, Dormant Accounts, Galway Co. Co. Community Scheme, Community Facilities scheme.
- FIT Towns Initiative 2017 organised between 13th February and 27th March. Presentation of awards on the 2nd November.
- Organised seven walks organized in Galway, involving a total of 740 people in conjunction with *Operation Transformation* in Galway.
- Three tutors trained to run the *Level 1 Sports Leadership Award* in association with Sport Ireland.
- Four meetings of Galway Sports Partnership have taken place to date and one more by end of December. Two meetings of GSP workgroups – Programme funding workgroup and Fit Towns workgroup.

- Ongoing implementation in association with the FAI, the joint initiative between *Galway County Council and the Football Association of Ireland*.
- Reviewed the *GSP Programme funding* scheme in association with the Funding workgroup.
- Promotion of the work of GSP throughout Galway in 2017, achieved through website, facebook, database communications & press releases.

Indicative Activities 2018:

- Source and secure sufficient funding to fund the operations of Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) throughout 2018 – sources include Sport Ireland, Local Authorities, and other bodies.
- Oversee the implementation of all Sport Ireland programmes and locally required programmes throughout 2018 with particular emphases on three main areas of - *Sport Ireland programmes, Women in Sport and Sports Inclusion Disability programme, Community Coaching and Development Officer programme*.
- Organise and run training courses for pre-schools and primary schools -, *Buntús Start, Be Active After Schools Activities, Sportshall Athletics, Mile Walk*.
- For Second level schools organize and run the *Girls Active programme* and seek funding for *Beginner to Row programme for TY students*.
- 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 from *Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport* and organize a list of programmes for *Bike Week 2018*.
- Provide information to clubs, groups and organisations in Galway on various sources of funding should this become available, eg *Sports Capital Funding, Dormant Accounts, GSP Funding, Galway County Council Community Support Scheme and Galway City Council club grant*.
- Carry out review of *FIT TOWNS initiative* in 2018, with a view to improving its uptake and delivery.
- Organise and run events in conjunction with *Operation Transformation* in Galway.
- Deliver 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 2018.

- In association with the FAI, implement the joint initiative between *Galway County Council and the Football Association of Ireland*, in this the final year of the initiative.
- Deliver the GSP *Programme funding* scheme in 2018.
- Promote the work of GSP throughout Galway in 2017, through a targeted promotions strategy and implement staff training.
- Deliver the Sports Hub programme in Doughiska/Ballybane.
- Participate in a new Community Physical Activity research programme with a number of other Sports Partnership and Waterford Institute of Technology.

Customer Service

- Organise and oversee the distribution of funding under the *Galway Co. Co. Community Support*.

Indicative Activities in CEED Unit in 2017:

- 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.
- Held Community Consultation events in regard to funding schemes and programmes.
- Operated the www.madeingalway.ie website and facebook page.
- 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 2018:

- 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.
- Hold community consultation events in conjunction with the Public Participation Network in regard to funding schemes and programmes operated by the CEED unit.

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 2017:

- 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 2018:

- 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 2018:

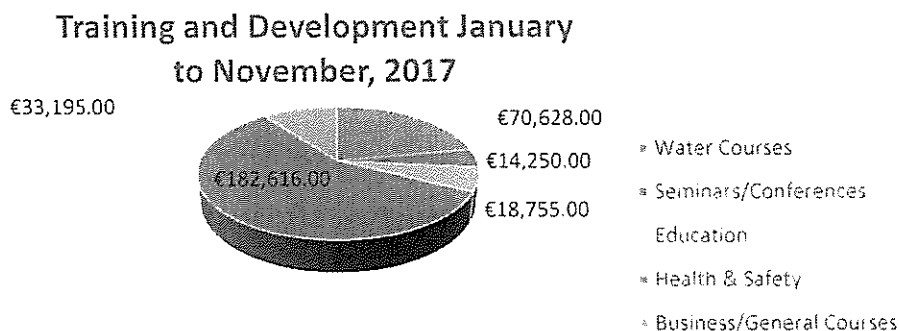
Item	2018 Targets
Value of Grants Approved	€535,000
Feasibility	4
Priming	12
Business Development / Expansion	13
Value of Grants Paid	€250,000
Feasibility	€50,000
Priming	€100,000
Business Expansion	€100,000

Jobs Associated with Funding – WTE ¹	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 2017:

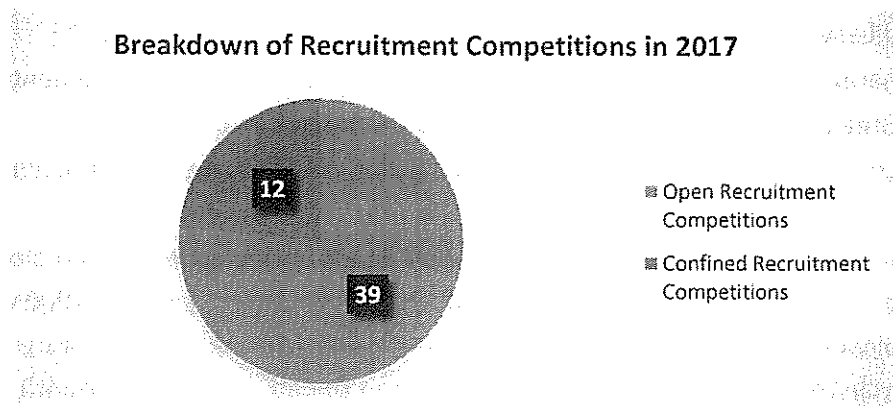
Staff Training and Development:



The Training and Development Section provides a wide range of training programmes to enable staff and management carry out their duties in a confident and competent manner and in a safe working environment. Staff investment in training benefits the organisation through the upskilling of employees and it also facilitates continuous personal development. There have been approximately 1948 training days provided from January to November in 2017.

Health & Safety training formed a considerable part of the 2017 Training Plan which included the following courses: Driver Certificate of Professional Competence Training, Signing, Lighting and Guarding Training, Safe Pass and Chainsaw training; Manual Handling Training; Confined Spaces Emergency and Rescue Training; Occupational First Aid and CSCS Health & Safety @ Roadworks Training. 28 Fire Wardens renewed their training and all indoor staff received Fire Evacuation Training in 2017.

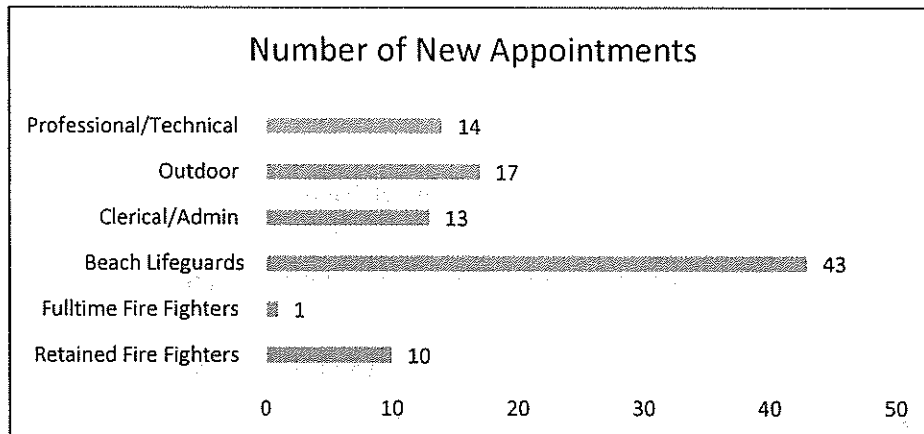
Recruitment:



The recruitment competitions which attracted the greatest level of interest were as follows:

Recruitment Competition	Number of Applications
Clerical Officer	1,212
General Operative	445
Fulltime Fire Fighter	195

- A total of 98 appointments were made up to the 13th of November, 2017 and 19 Student Work-placements and 3 Interns were facilitated in 2017.



Staff Welfare:

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 was renewed as our service provider on behalf of Galway County Council.

- Shorter Working Year Scheme: 30 staff members availed of unpaid leave under the Shorter Working Year Scheme in 2017.
- Parental Leave Scheme: 59 staff members availed of parental leave in 2017.
- Work Sharing Scheme: 57 staff members availed of work sharing arrangements in 2017.
- Career Breaks: 10 staff members availed of career breaks in 2017.
- Parent Leave Scheme: 13 staff members availed of the new parent leave scheme in 2017.
- 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. 18 applications for participation in the Cycle to Work Scheme have been processed to date in 2017 for Council employees.
- Travel Pass Scheme: There are currently 17 staff members availing of the Tax Saver Travel Pass Scheme.
- According to service records, 23 full-time staff members and 2 part-time fire personnel are due to retire in 2018.

HR Payroll Shared Services Program:

The Superannuation Data Readiness Project was completed in 2017 and the Migration to MyPay, Local Government Shared Service Centre took place. MyPay Shared Services Centre now administer Superannuation/Pensions for Galway County Council with effect from the 14th August, 2017.

Proposals for 2018:

- Recruit and deploy staff in an efficient and professional manner, and in accordance with Government policy.
- Continue within the available resources to deliver training and development programmes. The 2018 Training Plan will focus on the delivery of mandatory health & safety training and certification requirements taking into account individual and organisational requirements.
- Develop, implement and communicate appropriate human resource policies in line with existing and new legislation, and in keeping with best practice.
- Support and advise Line Managers on the implementation of workplace policies.
- Promote dignity at work, diversity and equality for all employees of the Council.
- Continue to promote a climate of good industrial relations and strengthen the partnership approach to joint problem-solving in the interest of employee and customer relations.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER and EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT

Capital Investment Programme

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Since 1st January 2014 the Council continues to implement the Capital programme as an agent of Irish Water. The investment decisions and timing of investment are decided by Irish Water based on business case and need the approval of the Commission for Energy Regulation. The Water Services Investment Programme as we knew it has been replaced by Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme. In 2017 the main schemes which made significant progress were water rehabilitation schemes, Kinvara Sewerage Scheme, Leenane Water Scheme, Oughterard Sewerage Scheme, and Athenry Sewerage Scheme. Some of these schemes will continue into 2018.

Proposals for 2018:

- Throughout 2018 it is planned to commence works in at Athenry WWTP and continue the planning for the network upgrade also. Progress is expected to be made on the planning of a wastewater solution for Glenamaddy and the completion of the long awaited plant in Oughterard. Long term planning has also started for the expansion of the area served by the Tuam RWSS and the provision of water also from the Lough Mask scheme into north east Galway.

Management and maintenance of Water and Wastewater Schemes

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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 2018:

- The Council will continue to operate the Service Level Agreement and perform within the parameters set out in the Annual Service Plan. New performance indicators are proposed for 2018 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 2017:

- Active leak detection and repair works have continued throughout 2017. 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 on the Rehabilitation Programme (Carraroe, Inishmore, and Loughrea & Spiddal) were completed in 2017 and further phases will be rolled out under the Capital Investment Programme.

Proposals for 2018:

- To further reduce Unaccounted for Water in the county during 2018, 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. These resources will include contractors being retained to carry out all aspects of water conservation works.

Waste Management Infrastructure

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Galway County Council is continuing 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.
- Civic Amenity Sites continue to operate under contract at Ballinasloe, Clifden and Tuam.
- Tier 2 Site Investigations and Tier 3 GQRA were carried out at Historic Landfill sites at Glenamaddy and Ballygar, funded directly by Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA).
- 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 2018:

- The final capping works on cells 1-7 at the Kilconnell landfill which commenced in 2017 will continue during 2018.
- 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 2017:

- Details of enforcement notices, warning letters issued and initiated prosecutions under Environmental legislation in 2017 will be set out in the 2017 RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) returns which are due for issue by January 31st 2018.
- The 2017 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.
- Joint Producer Responsibility Inspections were carried out by wardens and enforcement officers, focusing on food waste disposal and commercial brown bins in agglomerations of >500.
- Joint inspections were carried out with REPAK on non-compliant businesses, under the CU WERLA pilot packaging programme.
- 8 litter 'black spots' were cleaned up, barriers and signage erected and CCTV installed with funding provided by DCCAE under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2017. Over 100 tonnes of waste was removed during the Initiative which was publicised locally on Council's social media and in local newspapers.
- Approx. 70,000 waste tyres were removed from illegal dump sites with funding provided by DCCAE, prior to introduction of new Waste Tyre Regulations on 1st October.
- Warning letters were issued to all businesses who had not registered with REPAK ELT under amended Waste Tyres Regulations.
- Multi-agency inspections were carried out at 2 unauthorised ELV sites which had been identified in 2016. Aerial photography of sites was provided by CU WERLA prior to inspections.

- Monitoring was carried out in relation to drinking water, bathing water, rivers, lakes and landfills in accordance with legislative requirements both directly and via contracts with external laboratories. Follow-up actions were taken in response to non-compliances.
- Enforcement actions included the enforcement of 126 discharge licenses for large scale private wastewater treatment systems and the inspection of 35 farms and 91 domestic wastewater treatment systems.
- Public notices were issued and investigative monitoring was carried out as required in response to drinking water and bathing water non-compliances. Six Blue Flags and Six Green Coast plaques were awarded to bathing areas in County Galway.
- Portumna Bathing Area achieved the Blue Flag Award for the first time in 2017 bring the total number of Blue Flags to six and Six Green Coast plaques were awarded to bathing areas in County Galway.
- Activities which have the potential to cause air pollution such as dry cleaning and vehicle refinishing were regulated.

Proposals for 2018:

- The Council will set out all planned pro-active inspections of authorised facilities under various Environmental Legislation in the 2018 RMCEI Plan which is due for issue by January 31st 2018. The scale of Enforcement activity in 2018 will reflect the resources available for inspections and will be on a prioritised basis taking consideration of Departmental, EPA and WERLA guidance.
- The Council will continue to carry out investigations and monitoring under environmental legislation, in accordance with government policy and EPA directions, and take enforcement measures as required for non-compliance with environmental legislation.
- CU WERLA pilot packaging programme will be rolled out to all local authorities in 2018 and joint inspection campaign with REPAK to take place on all unregistered businesses in County. Follow up enforcement action to be taken, as advised by WERLA.
- Covert CCTV cameras will be sourced and purchased for temporary deployment at locations where persistent dumping occurs.
- Further enforcement action including warning letters and prosecutions to be taken for all tyres retailers who have not registered with REPAK ELT by 31st December 2017.
- 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.
- The Council will work with the public and other agencies, including the WFD Office, on the improvement of water quality in identified priority catchments, through public awareness and through a concentrated programme of inspections of potentially

polluting sources including large scale private wastewater treatment systems, farms and domestic wastewater treatment systems.

Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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 2018:

- 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 2017:

- 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 2017 with priority given to extensions at Annaghdown, Quansboro, Claregalway, Leenane etc.
- Extensions were completed at Killursa, while Part 8 approval was received in respect of extensions at Leenane, Bealadangan, Clarenbridge, Creagh 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 2017 - €600, €450 or €300 with grants made to over 160 committees in 2017.

Proposals for 2018:

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

Environmental Awareness & Education

Indicative Activities in 2017:

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

Proposals for 2018:

- 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.
- Continuation of Cleaner Greener Galway initiative in conjunction with Garda Siochana
- Liaising with European Region of Gastronomy campaign

Energy Efficiency

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- Galway County Council achieved certification to the international standard ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems in 2017.
- 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 2018:

- Continue the energy efficiency fabric upgrade and deeper retrofit programme for local authority housing.
- Provide real time metering software for Galway County Councils significant energy users to identify energy saving opportunities.
- Continue with provision of information at local community and business events and explore further funding opportunities.

Animal Control & Welfare

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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 ongoing information campaign using leaflets and the website continued throughout 2017.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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 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 2017:

- The Council provided a Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service for both City and Galway County Councils under the terms of its service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.
- 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 supervised 9 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.

Proposals for 2018:

- The Council will provide a Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service for both City and Galway County Councils under the terms of a 2.5 year Service Contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. The present contract commenced on the 1st January 2017 and expires on the 30th June 2019
- Resources for this service have been included in the budget for 2018
- 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. Inspections on these premises will continue under the FSAI contract.
- The Council continues to supervise 9 EC Approved meat processing premises in both the city and county.
- 3 new Premises are presently engaging with our Veterinary Officers in order to achieve approval
- Training for Food Business Operators and veterinary inspectors will continue during 2018.
- Continued operation of Food Safety compliance activities to standardised procedures.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (MEM)

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of the New National Framework for MEM is ongoing and is chaired by Mr. Jim Cullen (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 (RSG) under chair of an Garda Siochana continues to meet in its role of co-ordinating Major Emergency Management between the eight Principal Response agencies (PRA's) -i.e. 3 Local Garda divisions, 4 Local Authorities and HSE West - in the Galway, Mayo and Roscommon areas.
- The MEM West Regional Working Group (RWG) involving members of the Principal Emergency Services (PES's) in the West Region, i.e. Local Authority Fire Services, Local Garda Divisions and HSE 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. The information management (IM) facilities at LCC in County hall are been upgraded currently in late 2017
It should be noted that the City Council LCC is located at City Hall and was used during Flood Ophelia in 2017
- 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, and continues to operate.
- 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 The outfitting of vehicle with financial support from MEM RSG was completed in 2017
- Galway County council will procure a two tempoary mobile body storage units for the 7 Local Authorites in the West & North West MEM regions to increase capacity in these regions respectively see capital 2017-2020 report

Proposals for 2018:

- 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 2018.
- 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.
- The upgrading of OSSC Vehicle, which was finished in 2017 and OSCC vehicle -which is been managed by GFRS,- will be used in future exercises as an ON Site Co-Ordination Centre OSSC
- A Major Emergency exercise involving the 3 Local Competent Authorities (LCA's,) -i.e. Galway County Council –including GFRS as PES to County Council-, Galway Garda Division, HSE West, and the Site operator Chemoran involving an simulated incident at the Top Tier Seveso III site in the Oranmore Industrial Estate, will be held in 2018, as part of the testing and validation of the statutory External Emergency Plan as revised by the 3 LCA'S as required under SEVESO III regulations.
- The upgraded temporary body holding unit will be deployed as part of planned MEM Exercises in 2018 in west region.

CHES: FIRE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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 300 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 2018:

- It is hoped to have the Schools Fire Safety Programme restarted in 2018 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 2018 in both city and county from allocations received in 2017.

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.

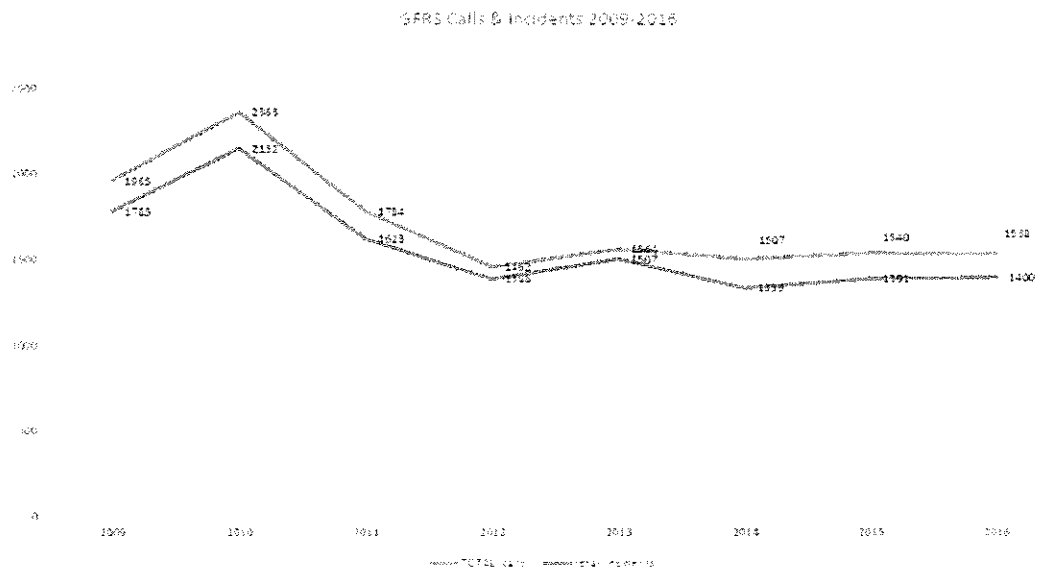
Achieving the successful implementation of the main provisions in KCS by the end of 2018 will require ongoing commitment from the Fire Service, the City and County Management Teams along with the City and County Elected Representatives. It will be necessary to prepare a Service Development Plan/ Action 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 had 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 had been put on hold subsequently, 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 2017 or early 2018 for approval after it has been presented at Water, Environmental & Emergency Services SPC.

Indicative Activities in 2017:

- 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.



note indicative trend of reduction in emergency calls attended from peak in 2010 with flatlining in last three years

- 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 2016, the fire service responded to a total of **1,538** emergency incidents, **925** by the County Brigades and **613** by the Galway City Brigade in its City and County fire ground. This represented a tiny decrease in overall emergency calls when compared to **2015**-see **FIG 1a** for Emergency calls attended by GFRS 2009-2016. It should also be noted that there was a **7.3%** decrease in calls attended in city brigade area and a **5%** increase in calls attended in county brigade areas from 2015-2016
- 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 2017** was **1210 -1, 1927** in same period in 2016 -, of which **488** were in Galway City Brigade Area.
- The percentage increase in fire and emergency calls attended for first 3 quarters this year 2017 is marginal at about **1.5%** 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 retained County station areas.

- 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 and obtained OSHAS 18001 Accreditation in December 2017.
- 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.
- Unfortunately there has been one death due to accidental fire in Galway City and county in 2017 to date. There were no accidental fire deaths in 2016

Proposals for 2018:

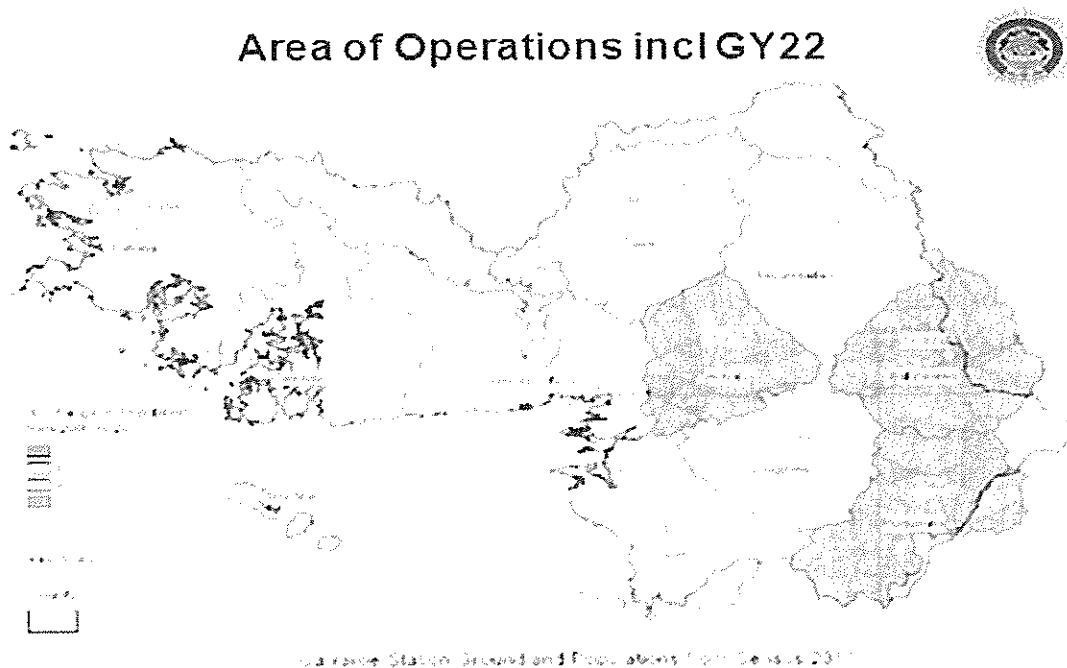
Operational

- 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 -both SPC & full council -for formal approval in late 2017 or early 2018, 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 2018 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 2018.
- 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.



- **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

2017-2018 to make up for the HSE contribution shortfall. All three regional Camp Projects are currently being reviewed by NDFEM as a part of a new CTRI 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 have been changed over in Galway Fire stations in 2016 and 2017, as part of the CTRI 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 have won the national digital communications project for 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 2018 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
- There was a 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
- A new tender was issued in 2017 for provision of CISM Services for period 2017-2020 in West region and a new contractor Inspire workplaces from Northern Ireland won the tender for next 3 years from 1st October 2017

Proposals for 2018:

Embed new service provider in provision of CISM Services for 2018

CHES : FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATES AND FSA 1981 INSPECTIONS

Indicative Activities in 2017 (based on 2016 data):

- In 2017, the Fire Service fire prevention staff carried out **260** 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 (as amended) respectively. The Fire Prevention Department processed **246** public licence applications in 2016 and issued **152** public licence applications to the courts in 2016

- The Fire service have received **270** licence applications all types to date in 2017
The Fire Prevention Department dealt with **111** planning applications in 2016 and dealt with **92** planning applications to date in 2017 -all from Galway City Council -
- The Fire Prevention Department dealt with **251** Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Applications –all types- in 2016 under Building Control Regulations, **133** in the County area and **118** in the City.
- The Fire Prevention Department have received the following number of FSC Applications all types; **94** for the City and **115** in the County from January to November 2017.
- Fire officers processed **81** Disability Access Certificate Applications (**DAC's**) on behalf of the County in 2016 with **66** applications received to date in 2017.
There has been less inspection of premises under Fire Services act 1981& 2003 as there has been a vacant AFO position for first half of 2017.

Proposals for 2018:

- 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 2018.
- 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 2017

- 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 2016 and again in 2017. 17 student EMT's are currently in training and will be qualified in 2017.

- Search Management training in 2017 was conducted in the Garda Training College in Templemore.
- SUA (Drones) teams and ground search teams were extensively involved in the search for the missing crew members of the Irish Coastguard Helicopter R116.
- SUA teams have now received and continue to train in the use of Infra-red Cameras supplied by the Civil Defence Branch and continue to operate as a regional response team.
- A 4x4 vehicle was supplied by the Civil Defence Branch Technical Dept. for the purpose of SUA Operations.
- 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 2018:

- Focus on training for 2018 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 2017 and training will commence with unit members from thereon.
- An additional unit to be established in the West of the County in Clifden in 2018 to expand the scope of operations and to provide a Civil Defence presence to the Connemara area.
- To partake in Re-certification training in line with the Civil Defence College programme for 2018.
- EMT's and EFR's to be up-skilled to the new Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG's) in early 2018.
- Continuous liaison with the PRA's to develop and promote Civil Defence as a support organisation.
- 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 Three Year Capital Programme
2018 – 2020**

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 2018-2020.
- Please note all projects are subject to Department Of Housing, Planning, Community & 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 2017:
 - IS Unit for County
 - 3 Pre Owned Class b appliances
 - 4by4 vehicle
- The DHPCLG had 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 November 2017.
- The DHPCLG allocated a new class B Appliance to Galway County Council as part of a national Procurement plan from 2018 -2020. This class B appliance will be procured centrally as part of a national procurement process by OGP.

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 new 4 bay retained Fire station Project in Tuam, Co. Galway:
Galway County Council have received approval from Department of Housing Planning, Community and Local Government to proceed to construction stage. Construction is expected to start before end of November 2017. It will be a 9-12 month contract, hence opening of new Fire station in Tuam, expected in autumn 2018
 - 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.

- 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 had been previously identified in the locality.
- Ballinasloe Fire Station Extension Project –application lodged with DECLG in 2008. Approval was given by the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government for an interim project for Ballinasloe Fire Station, in existing location. It is intended to procure design team for this project and bring the project to planning stage and submit cost plan to DHPCLG for approval in 2018
- 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.

Galway Fire and rescue service attained OHSAS 18001 Health & Safety accreditation in late 2017 on foot of some of above works

Other- Small Projects Capital

- We are procuring smoke alarms for 2018, 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 2017 and continue distribution via Galway County and City Council's Community Smoke Alarms' Schemes in 2017/2018 to vulnerable households.
- We are seeking partial funding from national Major Emergency Management (MEM) Budget for upgrading information management (IM) system digitally at Local Co-Ordination Centre (LCC) in County Buildings for Galway city and County
- Similarly GFRS procured a mass fatality unit – portable refrigerated temporary body storage facilities – a Local Authority 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.

Galway County Council are currently procuring two refrigerated body holding systems for West and North West MEM Regions to be partly funded by DHPCLG. The Local Authorities in West and North West region will make up remainder of funding. This will bring number of units in west and north west to about 45 -50.

Roads, Transportation, Marine and General Services

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

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

NATIONAL ROADS (including Major Inter Urbans):

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 Q4 2017.
N18/ N17 Gort to North of Tuam	The M17 M18 from Gort to Tuam was formally opened to traffic by Minister for Transport Shane Ross on 27 th September 2017, two months ahead of schedule. The motorway scheme extends the M18 from its terminal at Gort for a distance of 57 kilometre northwards providing safe efficient driving conditions between Gort and Tuam.
N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard	CPO and EIS approved for this scheme. Construction expected to commence in 2018 for the Maam Cross to Bunakill section.
N59 Moycullen Bypass	This project has been included in the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Programme 2016 -2021. Tender documents have to be prepared and land acquisition is ongoing. Approval to proceed to tender is awaited and is expected in 2018, with construction to commence thereafter
N63 Annagh Hill to Abbeyknockmoy	Tender advertised in late 2016. Contract signed in 2017 and construction commenced in April 2017.

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 are being prepared, no date set for construction, 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.
N84 Shrule to Headford	Design of project to be completed in 2018/2019.
Athenry Ring Road	Funding being sought to recommence construction works.
Ballinasloe Inner Relief Road	Continuation of the project, completion of design and planning application are subject to funding being made available.
N63 Horseleap Cross	Funding being sought to commence design of this project
Oranhill to new roundabout on N18	The construction to commence in conjunction with a Housing Development.

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. There is a requirement to address the aging fleet of the Council.	Two new trucks were purchased in 2017. There are no immediate purchases contemplated under funding is made available.

FLOOD RELIEF/MITIGATION SCHEMES:

To directly advance and assist in the advancement, as appropriate, of Flood Relief/Mitigation Schemes including the Dunkellin and Aggard FRS, and South Galway (Gort Lowlands) FRS.

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.

Project:	Status:
Dunkellin/Aggard Flood Relief Scheme	The channel and bridge works in Craughwell village have been substantially completed. Channel deepening and widening works up and down stream of Craughwell are to be completed in 2018. Bridge works at Rinn, Dunkellin and Killeely Beg will also be completed in 2018.
Ballinderreen/Kiltiernan Flood Relief Scheme – Maintenance and rehabilitation	The scheme works were tendered in 2017, with a contractor to be appointed by the end of the year. The works - which consist of vegetation clearance, culvert and pipe replacement - will be completed in 2018.
South Galway (Gort Lowlands) Flood Relief Scheme	A project engineer was appointed in December 2016. An engineering consultant and an environment consultant are to be appointed in late 2017. It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted An Bord Pleanála in early 2019. Construction will commence in mid 2020 with an anticipated completion date of early 2021.

STRATEGIC PIERS & HARBOURS PROGRAMME:

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

Project:	Status:
Inis Oírr Pier Improvements – construct breakwater and pier extension, carry out dredging and provide additional berthage	A Project Engineer was appointed in June 2017 with responsibility for development of Inis Oírr and Caladh Mór piers. The consulting engineering brief has been advertised with the appointment of a consultant expected in early 2018. Tenders published for surveys relevant to the improvement works. Detailed design and tender documentation will be completed by end of 2018. Construction works expected to commence in 2019.
Caladh Mór Pier, Inis Meáin Improvements	A Project Engineer was appointed in June 2017 with responsibility for development of Inis Oírr and Caladh Mór piers. The extent of the scheme is to be agreed with An Roinn, Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta.

SMARTER TRAVEL:

Project:	Status:
Conamara Greenway – advance the Greenway through landowner agreements for permissive access	<p>A 6km section of the Conamara Greenway has been constructed in 2017 at Ballinahinch. A decision on applications for further funding totaling €5million for the provision of a further 30km is currently being considered Fáilte Ireland.</p> <p>A planning application for the section of the Greenway from Galway to Oughterard is to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2018.</p> <p>The Council is awaiting a Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport decision on land acquisition policy.</p>

HOUSING

The delivery of housing under Rebuilding Ireland 2016 – 2021 will remain a key priority for the Council with a focus on providing high quality homes and building sustainable communities. The Council remains committed to utilising all available capital funding streams to maximise the delivery of housing including construction, acquisitions, turnkey developments, Part V and Buy & Renew. The Council will also actively support Approved Housing Bodies in availing of the Capital Assistance Scheme to deliver housing. A number of capital projects will also be delivered under the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Description	2018	2019	2020
Main Construction*	€17,832,650	€15,181,828	€3,314,346
Acquisition Programme (includes Part V's & Buy and Renew scheme) **	€10,759,755	See footnote	See footnote
Capital Assistance Scheme	€ 5,363,667	€ 3,000,000	€3,000,000
Traveller Accommodation	€ 3,100,000	€ 250,000	€ 250,000

* The Council will continue to actively engage with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to additional proposals for construction projects to be delivered under Rebuilding Ireland, currently approval for a further 13m for 58 units is pending.

** The Council will continue to pursue the appropriate acquisition of properties on the open market to meet our housing requirements in accordance with national policy. Funding for acquisitions (including Part V's where previous agreements existed) has been made available under the Government's Social Housing Strategy and the completion of the purchase of 12 units is expected early in 2018 with a further 47 units at sale agreed expected to be delivered before the end of 2018. The ability of the construction programme, including turnkeys, to delivery units will influence the funding available and the extent of the acquisitions programme in future years. As the focus of funding in the future shifts from acquisitions to construction, greater focus in terms of acquisitions will be on delivery through Part V as well as the Buy and Renew Scheme to meet demand as determined by the record of qualified households.

As a result of increased activity in the construction sector the Housing Unit's engagement with developers in relation to Part V has increased. Current indications, subject to planning being

granted, are for 64 Part V units to be delivered over 2019/20, with costs to be determined. Delivery of units under the Buy and Renew scheme is subject to the identification of suitable units which meet the eligibility criteria.

The Council has a number of applications under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) which funds delivery of social housing by Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs). In total 81 units are currently being progressed at a cost of €11,363667m, 32 of which are acquisitions and 49 units are to be constructed. The 2017 call for proposals under the Capital Assistance Scheme remains open and the Council continues to actively engage with Approved Housing Bodies.

House Purchase Loans:

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

Capital Investment in Local Authority Housing Stock

Energy Efficiency, Voids Retrofitting & Preventative Maintenance Programme	€1,300,000	€1,000,000	€1,000,000
Derelict House Programme –	€1,500,000	€1,500,000	€1,500,000

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

Provision has been made for works under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) to be carried out on our occupied stock. The Council is working towards the completion of Phase I, cavity wall and attic insulation upgrade of its entire occupied stock. To date approximately 95% of our stock has been upgraded. We will seek to expand the programme to achieve deeper retrofitting of our stock in the future, subject to the availability of co-funding.

It is intended to avail of housing internal capital receipts, to fund an improvement programme in

existing stock to achieve compliance with statutory requirements, including minimum standards, and to commence a preventative maintenance programme. These programmes will be afforded priority in the allocation of available capital funding during the period 2018 – 2020.

In addition, project proposals for the rebuilding/refurbishment of derelict housing stock will be advanced subject to approval and funding from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

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

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 capital project is to advance the development of a new Galway Community Library, to include modern educational, cultural, event and archive facilities.
- Continued investment to enhance the use of technology, including RFID and Open Libraries, providing the match funding necessary to avail of national funding streams.
- A programme of minor improvements to address health and safety and access issues across the branch network, in line with conservation best practice and regulations associated with this Protected Structure where applicable.

Recreation and Amenity Development

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

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

Proposed Project	Budget	Sources of Funding
Playground Projects (Limited to existing commitments)	€90,000	Development Contribution Scheme, limited to existing commitments under the Playground Policy including co-funding of Playground in Corrundulla which advanced to Planning Permission in 2017 will advance to implement as part of the Corrundulla Town and Village Scheme.
Walking Routes and Passive Recreation	€67,000	Limited to meeting existing commitment under the Recreation and Amenity Framework including works on the creation of Passive Recreation Areas Project in Sliabh Aughty, on

		shore of Lough Derg in partnership with ESB and Waterways Ireland.
Clarinbridge Cowpark Amenity Development	€95,000	Development Contribution Scheme - Recreation and Amenity. Subject to resources, it is proposed to develop lands for passive Walking and Cycling with appropriate carpark and access routes.
Recreation & Amenity	€200,000	Match funding to avail of national funding streams relating to recreation and amenity including Sports Capital, CLAR and Town & Village Renewal.
Historic Assets and Re-generation of Structures for Community Benefit as part of continued rollout of Historic Assets Strategy	€130,000	Subject to additional External Grant Aid to address Structures at Risk and those with potential for re-use for Community and Economic Benefit, with priority afforded to necessary works to Tuam Town Hall.
Tourism and Amenity Projects	€1.5 million	Development Contribution Scheme – A competitive expression of interest scheme was launched in 2017 seeking to invest in progressing Tourism and Amenity Projects throughout the County. These will be prioritised based on tourism potential and feasibility and roll-out by community, business and Council over the period.

Service Centres Development - Customer Access and Energy Efficiency Investments

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

Tuam Regional Office	€150,000	Boiler Conversion and Ancillary Works to avail of Natural Gas Investment in Tuam Town.
Loughrea Regional Office	€75,000	Safety Investments.
Áras an Chontae	€300,000	Three year programme relating to building management systems and controls including heating, access and customer services. The Building occupies over 5000sq m and is 20 years old requiring necessary investment and upgrade as a flagship asset and HQ for the Local Authority.

APPENDIX A

Increase in Annual Rate on Valuation 1977 to 2017

COUNTY COUNCILS*	€ RATE IN 2017	€ RATE IN 1977	% increase 1977 to 2017
MEATH	69.62	8.32	837%
KILDARE	68.95	9.02	764%
CARLOW	69.56	10.67	652%
OFFALY	66.00	10.18	648%
LOUTH	60.00	9.35	642%
CLARE	72.99	11.43	639%
LAOIS	66.57	10.54	632%
WEXFORD	71.52	11.34	631%
SLIGO	66.95	10.65	629%
WESTMEATH	54.54	9.02	605%
WICKLOW	72.04	12.02	599%
CORK	74.75	12.61	593%
KILKENNY	54.90	9.62	571%
ROSCOMMON	71.44	12.58	568%
MONAGHAN	56.20	10.03	560%
KERRY	79.25	14.28	555%
LONGFORD	65.35	12.02	544%
GALWAY	66.59	12.48	534%
LEITRIM	62.15	12.49	498%
TIPPERARY	56.77	11.52	493%
CAVAN	57.50	11.68	492%
DONEGAL	68.39	15.54	440%
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 2017

COUNTY COUNCILS	€ RATE IN 2017
KERRY	79.25
CORK	74.75
CLARE	72.99
WICKLOW	72.04
WEXFORD	71.52
ROSCOMMON	71.44
MEATH	69.62
CARLOW	69.56
KILDARE	68.95
MAYO	68.76
DONEGAL	68.39
SLIGO	66.95
GALWAY	66.59
LAOIS	66.57
OFFALY	66.00
LONGFORD	65.35
LEITRIM	62.15
LOUTH	60.00
CAVAN	57.50
TIPPERARY	56.77
MONAGHAN	56.20
KILKENNY	54.90
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

