

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

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**‘Mayor of the County of Galway Cllr. Tom McHugh welcomes signing of contracts for Tuam Water Distribution and Main Drainage (Phase 2) Project’**

Tuam Town Hall will be the venue on Friday morning next January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 for the ‘*signing of contracts*’ marking the next phase of one of the most significant capital investments for Tuam Town in recent years.

Cllr. Tom Mc Hugh, Mayor of the County of Galway commented that, ‘*the Tuam Water Distribution and Main Drainage project involves an investment of over €28 million and will be one of the largest water infrastructural projects to commence in Ireland this year*’.

Galway County Council will enter into contract agreements on Friday with Coffey Construction Ltd for construction and with Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers who will work with Galway County Council on supervising the construction work. Galway County Council has appointed Dermot Collins, as its Project Engineer. Mr. Collins has advised that, the project will take approximately two years to complete and will replace the existing watermains network, leading to reduced leakage and an increased security of the water supply. Specifically the project will deliver;

- 32 km of water mains
- 16 km of sewers
- A new Reservoir and Stormwater tank to service the town
- Installation of Broadband Ducting (10 km), Gas mains (10 km), ESB ducting (1km) and Eircom ducting (1km)

The project he added, ‘*provides an opportunity not only to replace water mains but, we as a Council are taking full advantage of the construction phase to ensure the installation of broadband and gas infrastructure*’. The contracts being signed include the reinstatement of footpaths and a phased ‘*street by street*’ approach to the construction works to ensure the minimum impact on businesses and residents.

Cllr. McHugh in welcoming the signing of contracts stated that the *'status of Tuam as a Hub Town under the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) has been a key reason in securing the funding for this project'*. He added that, the project *'often referred to locally as 'The Big Dig', will generate significant benefits for Tuam residents, businesses, community facilities and schools. The water and waste water infrastructure will be significantly enhanced bringing it up to best international standards.* He believes this *'will help sustain jobs and facilitate future commercial and industrial development of Tuam.'* He noted that, *'Tuam's Hub Status'* means that Tuam will also *'benefit in 2010, from over 2.3m additional community investment under a BMW Hub Town Scheme'*.

Galway County Council has already begun a 'Public Information' Campaign on the works with a public briefing on the project in December 2009, attended by the Mayor Cllr. McHugh, Town Councillors, County Manager Martina Moloney and senior officials of the Council. Many questions were raised about street closures and access during construction.

Coffey Construction are preparing in consultation with the Council, a detailed Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to address these concerns for businesses, schools, emergencies services and residents. This Plan along with other details on the project will be part of the ongoing, 'Public Information and Consultation Campaign' that will run throughout the project and will commence in full once contracts are signed.

END

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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