

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2013
ANNUAL REPORT 2013



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Áras an Chontae
Cnoc na Radharc
Gaillimhe**

**Fón: (091) 509 000
Fasc: (091) 509 010
Idirlíon: www.galway.ie**

**Galway County Council
County Hall
Prospect Hill
Galway**

**Tel: (091) 509 000
Fax: (091) 509 010
Web: www.galway.ie**

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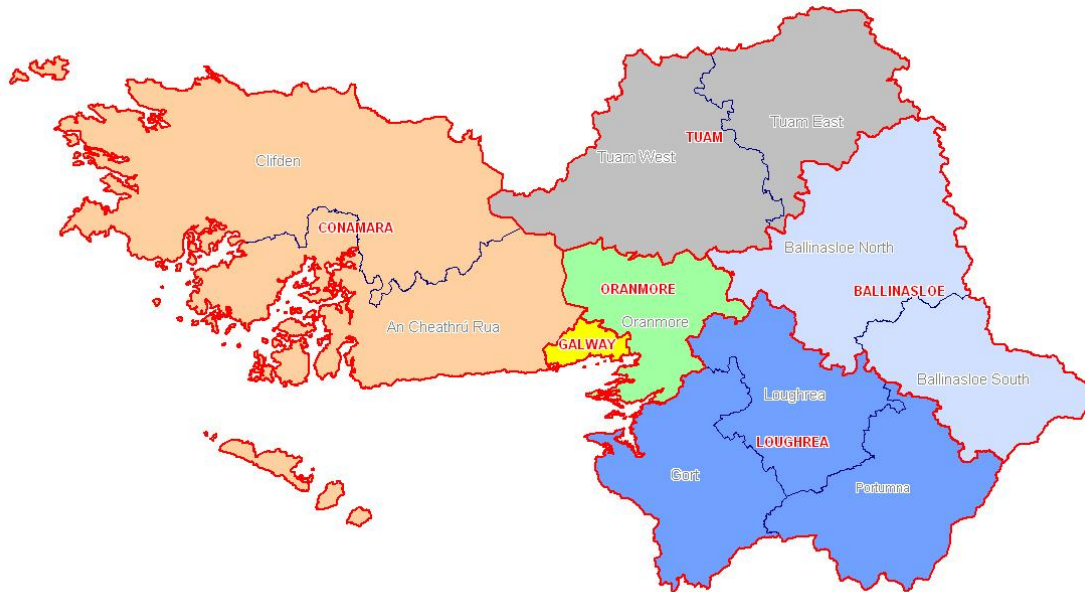
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Important Note: Copies of the Annual Report are available on request in alternate formats contact : Corporate Services Section Áras an Chontae Prospect Hill Galway
Tel: 091- 509000 or email general@galwaycoco.ie

MISSION STATEMENT



TO DELIVER LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES FOR COUNTY GALWAY WHICH ENHANCE THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE OF THE CITIZENS.



CORE VALUES:-

- Democratic
- Inclusiveness
- Transparency and Accountability
- Value for Money
- Responsiveness
- Community Leadership and Public Confidence
- Accessibility



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY



County Galway Local Authorities are among the largest public service providers in the County with a responsibility and an obligation to provide a quality service to all our customers. We seek to continually improve the economic, social, cultural and physical infrastructure throughout the County for all our citizens. We provide a range of services throughout County Galway including housing, roads, water, planning, library, fire, motor tax, recreation & amenity and veterinary. Town Councils operate in Ballinasloe, Tuam and Loughrea to support the local democratic process and also provide a number of functions including housing, amenity services and local representation.

As Mayor of the County of Galway, it gives me great pleasure therefore to introduce on behalf of County Galway Local Authorities, this Annual Report which records the progress of services delivered in 2013.

Galway County Council hosted several Civic Receptions during 2013 including for the Ballinasloe All-Ireland Junior Football Champions, St. Thomas All-Ireland Club Hurling Champions, Baile Chláir (Claregalway) U14 – All Ireland Féile Peile Champions, Galway Senior Camogie Team, All Ireland Champions and the Galway Intermediate Camogie Team All-Ireland Champions 2013. It was indeed an honour for me to acknowledge these wonderful achievements by the youth of our County. There was also a Civic Reception for All Island Pride of Place award winners and I held a Mayoral Reception for Kieran Molloy of Oughterard Boxing Club who captured a bronze medal at the AIBA World Junior Championship in Kiev.

The Annual Mayoral Awards Ceremony in the Claregalway Hotel which I hosted on 19th November 2013 was attended by over two hundred and fifty people from all over County Galway and was a highlight for me. The Awards recognise and celebrate community and voluntary activity around County Galway and I presented eleven awards on the night. Since becoming Mayor of the County I had the pleasure of visiting and working with a very large number of communities around the County and witnessing all the great work that you do. I wish to sincerely thank all those involved and to acknowledge all local community activists for their dedication to enhancing their local communities. One of the significant highlights for me was visiting China with representatives from Inis Oírr who were successful in winning two major LivCom International Sustainable Community Awards.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the County Manager, her Management Team and staff for the tremendous work they carry out on a daily basis for the development of this County. I would also like to thank Councillor Thomas Welby who presided as Mayor for the first six months of the year and also thank my colleagues in the Council for their support and co-operation during my period as Mayor.

Is onóir mhór dom an tréimhse atá caite agam mar Mhéara ar an gContae breá seo. Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a chuir in iúl as ucht an comhoibriú iontach a fuair mé ó fheidhmeannaigh na Comhairle, ó fhoireann na Comhairle ar fad, na Comhairleoirí eile agus pobal na Gaillimhe fré chéile. Cé go bhfuil dúshláin mhór romhainn táim cinnte go bhfuil ar chumas an Chontae seo tarraingt le chéile agus oibriú i dtreo todhchaí thairbheach dúinn ar fad.

Cllr Liam Carroll
Mayor of the County of Galway

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER



As Galway County Manager I welcome the publication of this Annual Report which highlights some of the many achievements of the Council during 2013.

A substantial programme of works was delivered through the Roads and Transportation Unit, notwithstanding the reduction in allocations from the National Roads Authority and the significant reduction in staffing levels in 2013. The grant allocation from the National Roads Authority was €18,091,817 comprising of €16,637,407 for improvement works and €1,454,410 for maintenance works. The purchase of land towards the progression of the M18/M17 Gort to Tuam route continued throughout the year. A County Galway Cycling and Walking Strategy was completed and further progress was made in scoping and developing the Clifden to Galway Greenway Walk and Cycle Way, on a partnership basis with interested parties, such as landowners and tourist bodies. The total grant allocation for Regional and Local Roads was €21,591,543 comprising of €17,583,738 for improvement works and € 4,007,805 for maintenance works which assisted in the overall improvement of our roads infrastructure in 2013.

Galway County Council invested over €100,000 in various schemes promoting Galway as a visitor location during the Year of the Gathering. The MEET WEST business networking initiative continued in 2013 which was attended by 300 companies and approximately 350 delegates over 2 days. Galway County Council supported the economic and enterprise activities of communities throughout County Galway through the investment of over €150,000 in projects undertaken by Chambers of Commerce in the Towns of County Galway, Community Tourism events/projects, and Community Managed Enterprise Centres. A further €200,000 was invested into communities in the County through the Community Support Grants. This funding was allocated to over 200 community projects. €60,000 was invested in communities through the Arts Grants and Awards.

Work commenced on the Clifden Sewerage Network. This contract provides for the construction of a new surface water collection network, and associated works to facilitate the separation of surface water from the existing sewer network for the town of Clifden which is a very popular tourist destination and important economic centre for west Conamara. This work will precede a second contract which will provide a new Sewage Treatment Plant and outfall for the town. The Council continues to invest in the provision of sewerage treatment facilities both in terms of quality and quantity, and 2013 saw the completion of the construction of networks in the villages of Milltown and Claregalway. 2014 will see the transfer of responsibility for Water Services to the new utility company, that is, Irish Water and much work was completed in 2013 to ensure a smooth transition.

The housing framework of contractors for General Construction Maintenance and Retrofit Works was renewed in 2013. The framework enables a more efficient and faster turnover of units and has been used to tender works in lots in order to achieve greater value for money. The housing unit has brought back into use over 67 houses during 2013 using both direct labour and contractors. Works under the Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Programme were also carried out on 659 houses which represents 34% of our total housing stock. The houses were primarily group houses located in estates and were greater than 10 years old. The work involved the upgrade of wall insulation by pumping cavities, installing 300mm of attic insulation along with some draught proofing and ventilation measures to each house. The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit was established in 2013 and is dealing with ASB complaints. The Council's strategy in this area 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. This is part of the Council's overall Estate Management to ensure that estates are better places to live and to further improve the quality of life for tenants.

This Annual Report details the many diverse services delivered by the Council in 2013. I would like to thank all staff for their achievements and contributions in this regard particularly within the ongoing reduction in resources in both staffing and finance, consequent to our national economic environment. I would like to thank the Elected Members who have shown resilience, flexibility and support in responding to those challenges.

As we look forward to 2014 we will experience significant changes and further challenges following the Government's initiative '*Putting People First: Action Programme for Effective Local Government*' which sets out Government policy for the reform and development of Local Government. This initiative provides for the establishment of Municipal Districts and the dissolution of the Town Councils. This will impact on Galway County Council whereby the Town Councils of Tuam, Loughrea and Ballinasloe will be abolished in June 2014 and consequently the total number of Elected County Council Members will increase from 30 to 39 and five Municipal Districts will be established. By working together Councillors, management and staff, can meet those challenges and continue to delivery our services which contribute substantially to the quality of life and the success of County Galway.

Martina Moloney
County Manager

CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA

				
1.Comh. Seosamh O'Cuaig	2. Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin	3. Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi	4. Cllr. Eileen Mannion	5.Comh.Sean O'Tuairisg
				
6. Cllr. Seamus Walsh	7. Cllr. Thomas Welby			

Councillors**Telephone****Mobile**

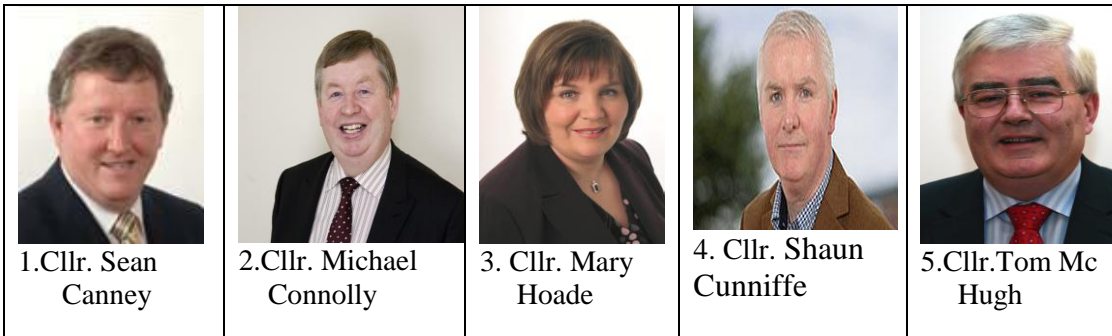
1.Comh. Seosamh O'Cuaig, Aill na Brún,Cill Chiaráin	095 33428	087 2194247
2.Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin, Na Fothraí Maola Thiar, Bearna		087 2933782
3. Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi, Baile an tSagairt, An Spidéal		087 2739909
4.Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Sky Road, Clifden		087 9555645
5.Comh.Sean O'Tuairisg, Aille Thiar, Indreabhán,	091593084	086 3864179
6.Cllr. Seamus Walsh, Glann, Oughterard	091552726	087 0519884
7.Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cregg, Oughterard,	091552959	087 2855676

LOUGHREA ELECTORAL AREA

**Councillors**

	Telephone	Mobile
1.Cllr. Michael Fahy, Caherduff, Ardrahan	091635177	087 2456000
2.Cllr. Peter Feeney, Ballydavid, Athenry	091844735	087 6812403
3.Cllr. Gerry Finnerty, Ballymurphy, Gort.	091 632167/633291	087 2674295
4.Cllr. Pat Hynes, "Dún Guaire", Gort Road, Loughrea	091842399	087 2404404
5.Cllr. Michael 'Moegie' Maher, Clostown, Loughrea	091 842968	087 0409208
6.Cllr. Jimmy Mc Clearn, Tynagh Road, Killimor,	090 9676235	087 2548723
7.Cllr. Bridie Willers, Grannagh, Ardrahan	091635425	086 0847270

TUAM ELECTORAL AREA



Councillors

	Telephone	Mobile
1.Cllr. Sean Canney, Claretuam, Tuam	093 55367	086 2513639
2.Cllr. Michael Connolly, Moyloughmore, Moylough	090 9679465	087 6829049
3.Cllr. Mary Hoade, Main Street, Headford,	093 35763	087 2255979
4.Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe, Ballygaddy Road, Tuam		087 8161663
5.Cllr. Tom McHugh, Kilcolghans, Tuam	093 28486	086 2574192
6.Cllr. Peter Roche, Moyne, Abbeyknockmoy, Tuam	093 49187	087 8251470
7.Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh, Ardeevin, Williamstown	094 9659046	086-8514674

BALLINASLOE ELECTORAL AREA

				
1.Cllr. Tim Broderick	2.Cllr. Kevin Ryan	3.Cllr. Dermot Connolly	4. Cllr. Tomás Mannion	5.Cllr. Michael Finnerty

Councillors	Telephone	Mobile
1.Cllr. Tim Broderick, Corraneena, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe;	090 9686896	087 2728058
2.Cllr. Kevin Ryan , Moylough, Ballinasloe		087 9701125
3.Cllr. Dermot Connolly, Glennavaddogue, Aughrim	090 9642986	0860886160
4.Cllr. Tomás Mannion, Shruffane, Caltra, Ballinasloe	090 9678212	087 6787490
5.Cllr. Michael Finnerty, Tobergrellan, Ballinasloe		087 6133676

ORANMORE ELECTORAL AREA

			
1.Cllr. Liam Carroll	2.Cllr. Jim Cuddy	3. Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh	4.Cllr. Malachy Noone

Councillors	Telephone	Mobile
1.Cllr. Liam Carroll, Frenchfort, Oranmore		087 6488684
3.Cllr. Jim Cuddy, Lydican, Carnmore, Oranmore	091798136	087 6360242
3.Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh, "Teach Shligigh" Turloughmore	091841411	087 2346012
4.Cllr. Malachy Noone, Crusheen, Claregalway	091 798297	087 1333711

GENERAL INFORMATION

Galway County Council is responsible for the administrative area of County Galway, excluding Galway City and Ballinasloe Town Council area. The Council is responsible for the planning, design and construction of roads, water supply schemes, drainage facilities, housing, fire stations, libraries and burial grounds. It is the custodian of the environment and through its planning and environment policies seeks to enhance the county while protecting its unique character and atmosphere. It also plays an active role in the development of the county's industrial, business, social, arts, heritage and cultural affairs.

In accordance with the Irish system of local government, which encompasses both democratic representation and public administration, Galway County Council as a local authority performs both a representational and operational role.

The **representational role** of Galway County Council is performed directly by the elected members of the Council. There are thirty members (Councillors), who are elected from five local electoral areas:-

Ballinasloe	5 members
Conamara	7 members
Loughrea	7 members
Oranmore	4 members
Tuam	7 members

These members are elected for a period of five years and local elections were held in 2009. The Council elects a Mayor from its Members at its Annual Meeting.

The functions performed by the elected Members are called "**reserved functions**". These lay down the framework of policy, under which the County Manager operates.

Such functions include:

- adoption of annual Budget
- making or varying the County Development Plan
- adoption of Scheme of Letting Priorities of local authority housing
- making, amending and revoking bye-laws
- approval for borrowing money
- declaration of roads to be public roads

The Council makes its decisions by resolution at its meetings.

The County Manager and her staff perform the **operational role** of Galway County Council. They are responsible for the day to day administration of the County Council. The County Manager

performs, what are called, the “**executive functions**” and the Manager’s decisions are made by written “Manager’s Order”.

These functions include:

- the letting of houses
- the granting or refusal of planning permissions
- the appointment, of staff etc.,

The County Manager, in making decisions, must act in a way that is consistent with the policy, which has been established by the elected members while, at the same time, advising the members in relation to the performance of their reserved functions.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF GALWAY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

According to the Local Government Act 2001, a primary function of the local authority is to provide a forum for the democratic representation of the local community and provide the community with civic leadership. In addition, the local authority has responsibility for the provision of a range of services, regulatory and enforcement functions.

The thirty elected representatives lay down the framework for the policy under which a Management Team operates. A Corporate Policy Group and five Strategic Policy Committees formulate and agree policy. The SPCs comprise of elected councillors and voluntary/sectoral representatives who review and formulate policy across the range of Council functions. A Management Team consisting of Directors of Services and County Manager operate in an executive capacity.

Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group comprises the Mayor, Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees and is supported by the County Manager. The CPG links the work of the different SPCs and act as a ‘cabinet’ to provide a forum where policy positions affecting the whole Council can be agreed for submission to the full Council. The CPG advises and assists the Council and provides input on matters of general concern. It also has a role to monitor the overall performance of the local authority.

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The SPC structure makes available to elected representatives a framework and opportunity to fulfil their role as overall policy makers and furthermore, enables opportunities for partnerships with local interests and community representatives. SPCs provide a forum for better and enhanced capacity for involvement in policy formulation, review and evaluation, with inbuilt assistance of relevant sectoral interests and supported by a Director of Services. Five SPCs have been established in the Council:

- Housing Fire & Emergency Services
- Roads and Transportation
- Planning, Economic Development & Community
- Environment, & Water Services
- Corporate Affairs and Cultural

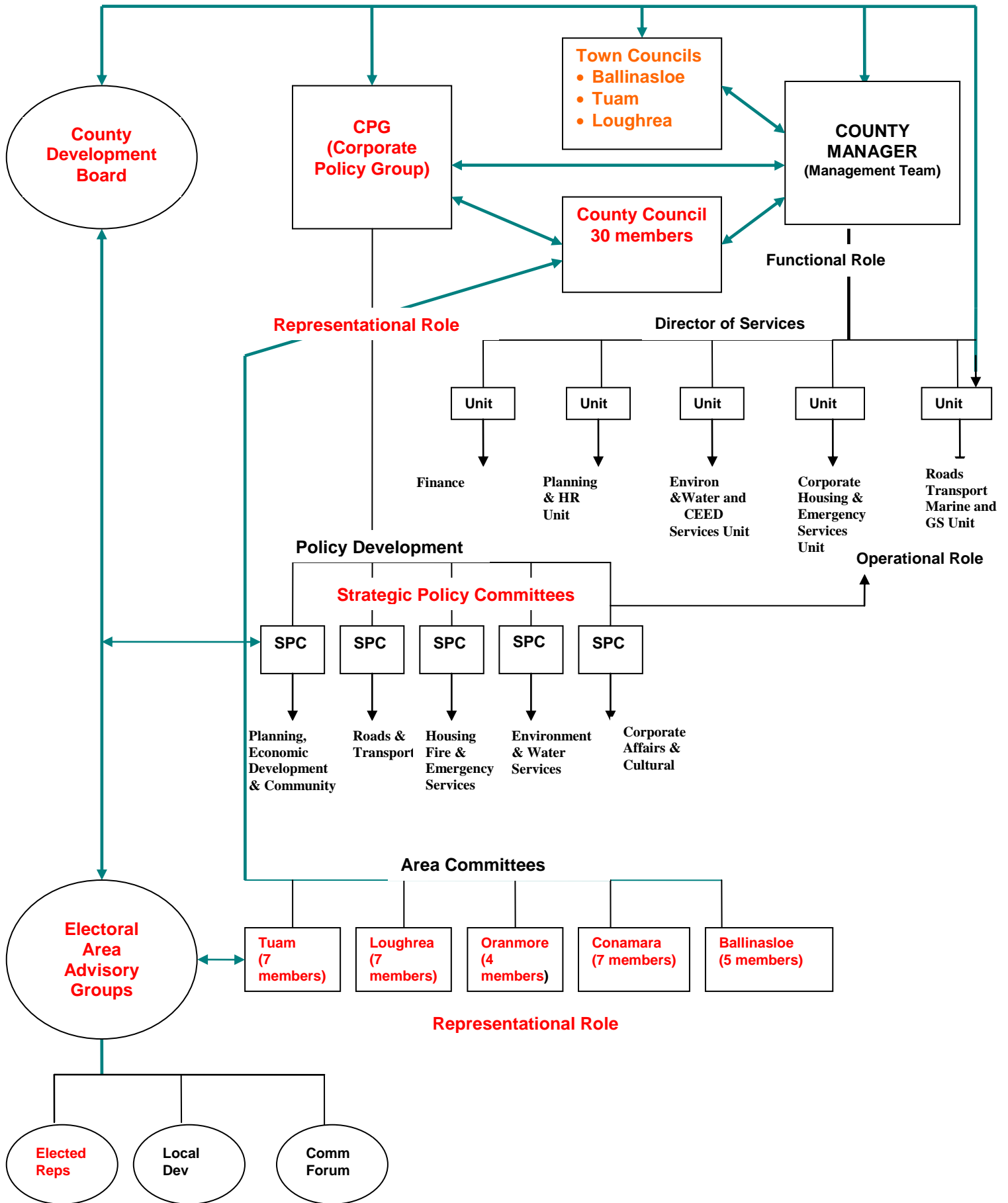
Area Committees

Each Electoral Area of the County is served by the Area Committee comprising the elected representatives from that area. The Area Committee structure enables an area/local-based dimension to the delivery of services and local operational issues of concern. The Area Committee deals with matters relating to the operational delivery of local authority services.

Town Councils

Town Council representative and policy-making structures operate in Ballinasloe, Tuam and Loughrea. Each Town Council has 9 members. Town Councils perform important representational functions and articulate the views of their areas in relation to policy and operational matters. Ballinasloe Town Council is the third largest town authority in the Country in geographical terms and in addition to providing essential services such as public lighting, street cleaning, social housing, development control and physical planning, the Town Council is involved in a wide range of other activities such as the provision and maintenance of recreational and amenity facilities, casual trading, the October Fair and tidy town.

GALWAY LOCAL AUTHORITIES ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2013



CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

The Corporate Plan 2010 – 2014 serves as the strategic framework for the future actions of the Council during that period. It identifies nine Strategic Objectives and Supporting Strategies to achieve the Council’s Mission Statement and Core Values. The strategic objectives and supporting strategies as identified in the Plan are presented in the table below.

Ref:	Objectives	Strategies
1.	To Achieve Balanced and Sustainable Development	Further develop the County in a balanced manner through progressive planning that meets the needs of industry and communities and through the provision of essential infrastructure.
2.	To Preserve and Enhance the Environment	Manage the natural heritage of the County to meet the needs of local communities in the present, while ensuring that future generations can sustain a living in harmony with their environment.
3.	To Develop Sustainable Communities	Strengthen local communities through the provision of community assets and resources through engagement and proactive support.
4.	To Maximise Social Inclusion and Local Governance	Strive to improve the public services in the County which contribute to the quality of life of all citizens and recognise and support communities to play an active part in society.
5.	To Support County Galway’s Unique Culture	Support the Irish language and culture and celebrate cultural diversity and encourage participation in the arts and sports.
6.	To Maximise Organisational Efficiency and Effectiveness	Improve the effectiveness of the local authority to plan and deliver its services based on efficiency, accountability, value for money and optimisation of resources across all areas of the organisation including human, financial and information communications technology.
7	To Enhance Quality Customer Services and Delivery	Implement best practice standards in delivery of quality services to our customers.
8	To Support and Enhance Local Democracy	Facilitate the Elected Members and Community Representatives within our democratic structures in carrying out their representational role in response to the needs of the Community.
9	To Optimise Human Resources	Fully utilise the Performance Management and Development System throughout the organisation and promote Safety, Health and Welfare of all employees.

The progress and achievements of the organisation for 2013 in relation to the Strategic Objectives are presented under each Unit in the following sections.

CORPORATE, HOUSING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT

Corporate Services

The Corporate Unit is committed to the development of a positive corporate image through the provision of efficient professional and competent services to the Council, Senior Management and the general public. The Unit encompasses a wide variety of Council services ranging from Corporate Services to Library Services, Internal Audit, Legal Services and support to the Council in the form of Corporate Secretariat.

Progress and achievements of the Unit for 2013 are presented below appropriate to the relevant objectives contained in the Corporate Plan 2010-2014.

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME

In these challenging economic times, it is clear that Galway Public Libraries are more valuable and relevant to the children, adults and families of Galway City and County, than ever before. 2013 was a difficult year but despite the staff difficulties all our Branch Libraries continue to provide a reader centred service, looking after the needs of their readers. Galway County Libraries has a network of:

- 29 Branch Libraries,
- Mobile Library Service,
- Schools Service for Primary Schools,
- Audio Service for Visually Impaired
- Local History
- 38,804 Registered members (19,282 adults and 19,522 children registered in 2013)
- 565,542 visits to our Libraries
- 713,874 books issued to people in 2013

Developments in 2013

- **The Plans for the new Ballinasloe Library** have gone to tender and work will begin in 2014. It will be located in the old Convent of Mercy building.
- **Oughterard Library** is located in the Courthouse. Essential repairs were carried out on the building. Galway County Council and a local Restoration Group have drawn up plans to renovate the building and an extended Library will be part of the renovated building.
- **Athenry Library** the opening hours were extended in the library during 2013 and this has enabled an improved library service for the area.
- **Westside Library and RFID** – (Radio Frequency Identification) it is a self service system of issuing and returning books. Westside Library was the busiest library in the service in

2013 and this new system is a help in dealing with readers. Between 59% and 75% borrowers per month used RFID in 2013.

LIBRARY SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS

Books and Reading are at the heart of everything we do.

We want to support people in their love of books and their pursuit of knowledge. Galway County Council provides funding for our book fund, which enables us to provide a wide and diverse selection of books for adults and children in all areas of literature and knowledge. We take every opportunity to promote books and reading.

Reading Groups are very popular.

- Reading Groups meet in many of our Branch Libraries on a monthly basis.
- Libraries also support private reading groups, supplying them with books.
- Club Leabhar Ghaeilge was held in Carraroe Library during the year.
- Children's Reading Groups meet in Ballybane, Westside, Headford and Tuam.
- **Over the Edge Poetry Reading** is held every month in Galway City Library for the last ten years. It is very popular with an average attendance of 100 people. A special publication, *Over the Edge-the First ten Years-An Anthology of Fiction and Poetry* was launched in 2013.

Children's Services

Helping children discover the joy of reading is one of the most important things we do at Galway Public Libraries. Children connect to reading one book at a time and we provide all kind of encouragement and incentives.

- **Summer Reading Challenge** is a very successful event built up over twenty years with around 4000 children registered for the Challenge in 24 Branch Libraries in 2013. Children registered to take part in the Challenge and the theme was 'Creepy House'.
- Hundreds of Children were presented with Reading Certificates and Medals at end of summer parties in their local Branch by the Mayor of County Galway Cllr. Liam Carroll. Presentation ceremonies took place in Branch Libraries throughout the County during 2013 including Athenry, Ballinasloe, Carraroe Dunmore, Gort, Killimor, Loughrea, Portumna, Tuam, and Woodford.



Mayor of Galway
Cllr. Liam Carroll
presenting Reading
Certificates in
Portumna Library in
2013

- Deputy Mayor, Eileen Mannion, made presentations in Oughterard and Spiddal libraries.
- Castleblakney Centre with the help of the **Mobile Library** service ran a successful reading event in 2013.
- **One Book One Tuam**; “Faraway Home” by Marilyn Taylor was the chosen book. Tuam Library in conjunction with The Home/School Liaison Team encouraged everybody in Tuam to read the book. Classes from the local schools attended readings in the Library.
- **Children’s Book Festival in October** was celebrated with a storytelling Festival sponsored by The Arts Office, Galway County Council. Branch Libraries were visited by storytellers such as Pat Speight (Cork), Yourman Puppets, Little Gem Puppets, Galway Circus and a number of Irish writers from Futa Fata Publishers in Spiddal.
- **Storytime for Young Children** is a very popular weekly event in Galway City, Ballybane, Westside, Oranmore, Headford, Spiddal, Loughrea and Leenane Libraries.
- **Carraroe Library** hosted a children’s event in conjunction with Cuirt in April and also hosted ‘Tusas leabhar Bheartla Broc’ in November.
- Libraries such as **Leenane and Roundstone** had craft sessions for children including making cards and book marks for Easter and Christmas.

Adult Libraries and the Arts

Libraries are vibrant creative hubs where creativity and ideas are born and nurtured. The Arts are brought to people through their local Library.

- **Art Exhibitions** are a regular feature in many Libraries. Local and visiting artists are accommodated.
- **Carraroe and Spiddal Libraries** have a wonderful space for exhibitions and were in great demand with many exhibitions throughout 2013.
- **The East Galway Art Trail** is in its 7th year. It combines artists and libraries such as Ballinasloe, Portumna, Woodford, Eyrecourt and Killimor branches. An artist is assigned a library for their exhibition and there is an official opening and promotion of the artist over three weeks. It is a wonderful way of promoting art in a local community.

Music Recitals

- **Culture Night in September** was celebrated in Athenry, Galway City, Spiddal and other libraries throughout Co. Galway
- **Loughrea, Carraroe and Tuam** have regular music events. In some cases local musicians who get together performed in the Library.
- Con Tempo played in Galway City, Ballybane, Loughrea, Gort, Clifden, and Portumna.

Arts Festivals;

- **Clifden Library is synonymous with the Clifden Arts Festival** since its inception 26 years ago. This year the Library was the venue for a number of poetry readings and talks and an art exhibition.

- **Gort Library** supported the **Forge Festival in March** and also **The Autumn Gathering in September**.
- **Ballybane and Westside** supported the innovative “Kitchen Poetry Readings” as part of the **Cuirt Festival** in April.
- **Portumna Library** supported the **Portumna Shorelines Festival** of Poetry and Literature
- **Loughrea Library** has an involvement with **The Baffle Arts Festival** for a number of years.
- **Seachtain Na Gaeilge** was celebrated in **Spiddal, Carraroe, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Galway City**.
- **Bealtaine Festival in May** was celebrated in Ballinasloe, Gort, Oranmore, Galway City, Tuam, Ballybane and Westside in conjunction with Age Action.

Other Events and Services to the Community

- **Carraroe Library** hosted ‘Áirneáil an Lae Inniu’ throughout 2013. This successful series of evenings concentrated on a different aspect of life in the country and Connemara and was attended by large numbers of locals and visitors.
- Gaeltacht libraries held events primarily in the **Irish Language** throughout the year particularly **Carraroe, Spiddal, Inis Meáin, Inis Oirr and Cill Rónan libraries**.



Maire Breathnach speaking in Spiddal Library

- A book of condolences was opened in **Galway City library** in September 2013 to honour the late Seamus Heaney RIP.
- **The library Mobile Service** provided books to a number of Health Centres and to some rural community centres throughout the year.

To assist us with our staffing requirements in 2013, we had the support of Library Students from Europe including some from Germany, Italy Students French and Spain. They worked in Library Headquarters, Galway City, Westside, Ballybane, Oranmore and Gort. We also had the support of interns in Ballinasloe, Carraroe, Westside, Tuam and Loughrea.

Many Library Staff retired in 2013 after many years dedicated service including; County Librarian Pat McMahon. Maureen Moran, Senior Executive Librarian retired as did Pat Conneely, Moylough Library, Chloe Walsh, Letterfrack Library, Maura Breathnach, Spiddal Library, Ruth Meally Oughterard Library, Francis Murphy, Tuam Library, and Peter Corley, Galway City Library.

A Strategy for Public Libraries 2013-2017-Strategies for All: the Public Library as a catalyst for economic, social and cultural development was launched by The Minister for the Environment, Community and local Government in 2013. The strategy addresses the positioning of the library service for the local authority as a focal point in the community and as a leader in community engagement. Public libraries promote community cohesion and well being, economic growth, stability and cultural identity. They will enhance self worth and confidence.

Galway Co Library will strive to deliver on the strategy. The public library service needs to provide an effective, vibrant and relevant service for people and communities in this changed and continuously evolving environment. The new national strategy provides the framework to achieve this and to position the public library service to best advantage for the future, for the benefit of the public.

RECREATION AND AMENITY FACILITIES

- Funding was provided to **Athenry Arts and Heritage Ltd** for the operation of Athenry Heritage Centre.
- **Aughrim Interpretative and Visitor Centre:** Aughrim Interpretative Centre which is owned and operated by Galway County Council opened for an extended period in May to September 2013. A GROW Aughrim Team was Established to: Grow new business for the centre, Renew the focus of the Centre on the Battle of Aughrim 1691 as its core authentic purpose, Organise clear policies, structure procedures on its management and development and Work in partnership with other bodies and community to develop the Centre. A Tourism Marketing and Promotion Plan was completed with meetings held with local hotels to agree promotion of Centre to visitors. Approval for Centre Manager position and a new position of Part Time Graduate (Guide Training) achieved. A Gathering Event was held at the Centre – July 12th-14th as part of Aughrim Military History Summer School. Aughrim registered as member of Irish Museums Association for first time. CCTV installed at Aughrim Centre. Contact made with Battle of the Boyne Centre to commence discussion on national ‘Battlefield Trail’.
- **The Lifeguard Programme** is implemented on a seasonal basis from May to September and in 2013 the Programme was delivered at 10 locations in the County including six Blue Flag Beaches, and at five locations in the City as part of a shared service agreement with Galway City Council. Lifeguard Panel Briefing and Official Launch of the Lifeguard Service was held on 23rd May 2013 with a Minimum of two lifeguards provided at all Blue Flag Beach locations in compliance with International Lifeguarding Federation of Europe

(ILSE). Full update on locations and times were posted on Amenities Section of www.galway.ie/www.gaillimh.ie Additional lifeguarding hours were approved during exceptional good weather at City and County beaches during July on the recommendation of the Water Safety Officer with 47 additional hours for July at City and County Beaches.

- **Swimming Pool services** in Tuam and Ballinalsoe continued to be provided in partnership with Kingfisher Ltd. Tender process for new Licence Agreement for operation and management of Tuam and Ballinasloe Swimming Pools completed.
- **Playgrounds** In accordance with commitments previously given under the Play Policy, assistance was provided to playgrounds through direct funding and provision of insurance during 2013 in Ahascragh, Fohenagh, Kilimordaly. To-date, a total of 55 playgrounds have been developed in the County under this policy.
- ROSPA Accredited Training on Playground Inspection was provided for Community Groups and Council Staff as required under the Irish Public Bodies/Council Insurance Scheme for Playgrounds.
- A Smoke Free Playgrounds Policy was formulated, adopted and launched. Under this initiative, signage which was based on the winning entry in a poster competition for primary schools and fully sponsored by a local signage company, was placed in Council owned playgrounds as follows: Palace Grounds, Tuam; Parkmore, Tuam; Ballygaddy Road/Belair Drive, Tuam; Neighbourhood Park & Play, Dublin Road, Tuam; Play Area at Tirboy Housing, Estate, Tuam; Gort Road, Loughrea; Garraibride, Dublin Road, Loughrea; Court Lane, Athenry; St. Joseph's Road, Portumna.
- **National Recreation Week:** Sunday June 30th Rinville Park Outdoor Games and Youth Festival Event held in partnership with Community & Enterprise, Oranmore Tidy Towns, Comhairle na nÓg and Youth Work Ireland. Event part funded by Department of Youth and Children.
- **National Play day:** Events held in Community Park adjacent to Aughrim Visitor Centre Sunday July 7th part funded by Dept. of Youth and Children.
- *'Let's Play'!* -*Guide to Playgrounds in County Galway* an Interactive Map of Playgrounds was launched on National Play Day.
- Further media promotion on social media and web-site to promote the guide and interactive map of play facilities. Guide profiles over 50 Playgrounds in the County.
- **Tuam All Weather Pitches** constructed and Tender process completed for appointment of Operator for the facility.
- **Rinville Park, Oranmore,** continues to provide a significant amenity for local communities and in 2013 the Corporate Service Unit placed further emphasis on the Park and its increased use. A maintenance programme continued to be delivered in partnership with local groups and within the limits of available resources, in accordance with the Habitat Survey and Management Plan for the Park. Concessionaire was in place for March to October 2013 for outdoor ice cream/tea-coffee mobile unit. Forest Management Plan completed for Rinville Park and initial safety works

have taken place. Expressions of Interest for cutting of grass for Hay/Haylage received in August 2013. Walkways through Rinville Park upgraded and resurfaced

- **Outdoor Gyms Rinville Park & Loughrea** –Grant funding of €40,000 secured under Sports Capital Programme. Programme of Works for the installation of the equipment agreed with Contractor and will be concluded in Jan 2014
- **Greenstar Landfill Liaison Fund Committee:** Meetings of the Committee held on 22nd January, 27th March and 24th September. Revised Community Project Funding application forms completed. Funding: €35k funding approved by the Committee for Cappataggle National School for new Multi Games play area.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

- A New single National Awarding Authority (Student Universal Support Ireland) was introduced by Government in 2012 and is operated by the County of Dublin VEC. SUSI is responsible for processing all new student grant applications.
- Over 1,050 renewals including re-assessment of 100 provisional awards were dealt with by the Student Grants Department during 2013. Over 90% of first term maintenance payments were paid by the end of October, 2013. The total amount of Fees and Maintenance paid in 2013 was €6.2m.
- A dedicated twitter account www.twitter.com/galwaystudents, phone line and text service is ongoing for student queries.

COMMUNITY WARDEN SCHEME

The Community Wardens are a uniformed service of the local authority with a number of roles across a range of local authority functions including;

- Enforcement e.g. statutory traffic offences, litter offences, abandoned vehicles, waste disposal/illegal dumping, dog licences and casual trading;
 - Monitoring e.g. housing estates, public amenities such as recycling centres, bring banks, parks, beaches and playgrounds,
 - Assistance e.g. to tourists, elderly, schools, neighbourhoods, communities; Gardaí and state agencies,
 - Observing and Reporting on all the above.
- Litter Pollution/Derelict Sites Surveys were carried out, whilst regular inspections of Playgrounds, Parks, Local Authority Estates, Halting Sites, Piers, Beaches, Bottle banks etc. continued to be undertaken by the Wardens.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Community Wardens continued to assist the Housing Section in implementing the Control of Horses Act 1996 among other duties.
 - Dog Licensing inspection campaigns also 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.
- Updated operational arrangements of the CWS approved by management team in April 2013
- Community Wardens took part in Health & Safety, Lone Worker and ROSPA playground inspection training during 2013.
- Lone Working Devices were issued to the Community Wardens Service.
- Modification and repair works were carried out to Community Wardens Service Vans.

MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The publication date for the Register of Electors is the 15th February each year. The Electoral Act also provides for the preparation and publication of a Supplement to the Register. The closing date for entry on the supplement is 14 working days before an election or referendum.

- The Register of Electors was published on the 1st February, 2013 with a total 132,469 on the register.
- In the context of the Referendum held in October, the Council facilitated the preparation of a Supplementary Register. There were 2,205 people on the Supplement for the Referendum on 4th October 2013.
- Review of Compilers Contracts was completed in 2013 with induction held with the Compilers prior to commencement of the Campaign to update the Register of Electors for 2014/2015 and Supplementary Register.

MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY.



Outgoing Mayor of the County of Galway Cllr. Thmoás Welby congratulates Cllr. Liam Carroll incoming Mayor of the County of Galway following the Council's Annual Meeting on 10th June 2013

DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY.



Outgoing Deputy Mayor of the County Cllr. Peter Roche congratulates incoming Deputy Mayor of the County Cllr. Eileen Mannion following the Council's Annual Meeting on 10th June 2013.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND SUPPORT

Corporate Policy Group	Meetings
Corporate Policy Group	7 meetings
Strategic Policy Committees	Meetings
Housing Fire & Emergency Services	3 meetings
Roads and Transportation	4 meetings
Planning, Economic Development & Community	4 meetings
Environment, & Water Services	4 meetings
Corporate Affairs and Cultural	5 meetings

ACCESSIBILITY

Continued delivery of the Disability Action Plan 2007-2015, within the limits of previously allocated funding, was undertaken in 2013.

- Improved access at City Library by completion of works on accessible sliding doors at the facility.
- Improved access at Áras an Chontae with replacement of accessible doors.
- Invitation issued to secondary schools for participation in the Enabling Access Across Generations Initiative.
- Attendance and participation at National Access Officers Network meetings and National Access Seminar Oct 3rd 2013
- Agreed Accessible Actions for Implement in Galway Age Friendly County Strategy.

SUPPORTING CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTING THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Galway County Council is committed to improving services through Irish and to continuing to meet the relevant obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003 together with the implementation of an Scéim Teanga. The Council also looks to support and promote the Irish language throughout the County.

The following activities were undertaken:

- *Language awareness* and language support material was made available to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe to enhance the provision of services through Irish.
- *Irish Language Service Customer Feedback* - Various issues raised by the public directly or through An Coimisinéir Teangas office were dealt with as they were received and subsequent actions taken with the cooperation of the various units of the Council to enhance service delivery.

- *Staff Awareness* of the obligations under language legislation continued through information briefings that were provided to all staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation.
- *Irish Language Phone Service* - A dedicated Irish language option was added to the phone service provided in Áras an Chontae on a pilot basis towards the end of 2012 and a proposal on improved operation of the Irish language phone service was drafted and proposed to Customer Services Officers Group and approved by Management Team in 2013.
- *Stéibh 2013* - A song writing/performing competition in Irish for Gaeltacht Schools in collaboration with Co. Gal VEC & Óige na Gaeltachta was completed and CD recorded and launched to widespread acclaim in 2013.
- *Dara Scéim Teanga Údaráis Áitiúla Chontae na Gaillimhe* – Discussion with An Roinn Ealaín, Oidhreacht & Gaeltachta continued towards the approval and agreement of the second language scheme. The 2005-2008 Scéim Teanga remains in force until a new Scéim is agreed.
- *Glór na nGael* - Galway County Council continued its support of the Glór na nGael initiative in providing funding for a County Galway award for Communities that promote and enhance the Irish language.
- An Irish language course was made available to elected members in 2013.
- In March a detailed programme for **Seachtain na Gaeilge** was implemented including engaging staff and the general public with competitions, events and exhibitions.
- A Tender process for the provision of Irish translation services for Galway County Council was completed.
- An Irish Language Intern was recruited under the Job Bridge scheme.

MAYORAL AWARDS

Mayor of the County of Galway Cllr. Liam Carroll hosted the third Annual Mayoral Awards Ceremony in the Claregalway Hotel on the 19th November 2013 which was attended by over two hundred and fifty people. The Awards recognise and celebrate community and voluntary activity around County Galway. A call was made in October 2013 for nominations for eleven award categories and over one hundred nominations were received. An independent judging panel shortlisted the nominations. Those shortlisted attended at the Awards Ceremony where the eleven winners were announced.



At the Mayoral Awards Ceremony (seated L – R) Martina Moloney Galway County Manager, Gerry Larkin of Abbey Community Development, Angelea Geoghegan, Killimor and District Development Society, Frank Glynn of Milltown and Deirdte Burke of Tuam Youth Bank. (Standing 1 - R) Petal Pilly, Peigí Uí Chéidigh, Michéal Ó Máille Scoil Bhriocáin Ros Muc, Joe Lynch Kavanagh's SuperValue Clifden, Stewart McCamley of Maree/ Oranmore FC, Kathleen Nic Dhonnacha of Ionad Oidhreachta Leitir Mealláin & Ghruinn and Sharon Finnerty Ahascragh Development Association.

The first Award of the night, the *Business Contribution to Community Award*, was won by Kavanagh's Super Value in Clifden.

The *Community Economic Initiative Award* was won Ahascragh Development Association.

The *Environment Award* was won by Abbey Community Development Association. Abbey was awarded Galway's Tidiest Town in 2013 with a mark of 304, the highest ever received by a Galway entrant.

The *Sports Award* was won by Maree / Oranmore Football Club for their efforts to increase the number of young people taking part in sport.

The *Arts and Culture Award* was hotly contested with Blue Teapot Theatre Company coming out on top.

Killimor & District Development Society won the *Heritage Publication Award*, for their publication "*Killimor: Our Parish and Our People*".

The *Schools Contribution to Heritage Award* which recognises the efforts that schools have made to celebrate and promote the heritage of their area was won by Scoil Bhriocáin in Ros Muc.

Ionad Oidhreachta Leitir Mealláin agus Ghrumna I gcomhpháirt le Muintearas were the winners of the next Award, the coveted *Best Contribution to Heritage Award*. The Heritage Centre has been in existence since 2009

The *Age Friendly Award* which recognises groups who work towards supporting older people was won by Tearmann Eanna Teo.

Tuam Youth Bank were the winners of the *Social Inclusion Award*. They are a group of young volunteers who meet weekly to give grants to other marginalised young people in the Tuam area and surrounds.

The final Award and highlight of the night was the prestigious *Volunteer of the Year Award* and the winner was Mr. Frank Glynn from Milltown who is a founder member of Milltown Development Association.

CIVIC and MAYORAL RECEPTIONS

There were 4 Civic Receptions during 2013

- All Island Pride of Place 28th January
- Ballinasloe All-Ireland Junior Football Champions & St. Thomas All-Ireland Hurling Champions 25th March
- Baile Chláir (Claregalway) U14 – All Ireland Féile Peile Champions 22nd July
- Galway Senior Camogie Team All Ireland Champions 2013 & Galway Intermediate Camogie Team All-Ireland Champions 2013 21st October

A Mayoral Reception was held for Kieran Molloy of Oughterard Boxing Club who captured a bronze medal at the AIBA World Junior Championship in Kiev.

MAXIMISING ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

INTERNAL AUDIT

Internal Audit is an independent unit, attached to the Corporate Services Section, offering a consultancy service to Management and the organisation as a whole. The Internal Audit Team carries out audits and reviews through its Annual Audit Plan, which is drawn up in conjunction with the Management Team and approved by the County Manager and of the Chairperson of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee held 5 meetings during 2013.

- A total of 8 Audits were completed from the 2013 Audit Plan, inclusive of an examination of a sample of income generating activities in the Ballinasloe Town Council
- All of the 2012 Audit Reports' recommendations were reviewed
- Random checks were undertaken on the invoicing of Development Contributions
- Monthly checking of the cash office, quarterly checking of revenue collector's receipts and lodgements, together with weekly 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
- An examination of a 3 month period of plant hire record sheets was carried out to establish compliance with LA tenders.

- Burial ground caretakers receipts and lodgements were examined
- Audit testing was undertaken on a sample of housing rent a/c's to ensure the application of correct rent as per the most recent rent assessment
- Files for a sample of 2013 capital jobs were examined to establish if relevant procurement documentation was in place.

LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

The Department provides legal services for all programme areas, including the purchase and sale of properties, conduct of litigation including District Court Prosecutions, Circuit and High Court Litigation, including Judicial Review. In particular, the Affordable Housing workload, CPO and Oral Hearings for Roads and Transportation projects, work on Register of Lands and the continuation of land acquisitions on inter-urban routes, were substantial areas of work.

- A system of annual meetings with all Units of the Council was held.
- 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 being applied to further work areas
- Register of Lands:- We requested that the Property Registration Authority convert the Entries under our Omnibus Folios to separate Folios. This has been done (except for Omnibus Folios GY23906 – the Largest One which the PRA are in the process of converting) and we have linked the new Folios to our Register of Lands Database with the help of the IT Section.
- Retention Schedule & File Classification Systems has been agreed.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

In 2013, the focus in Office Accommodation and Facilities Management was on maintaining quality environment and value for money.

Tenders

Tenders invited, received and evaluated and contracts signed for the provision of inspection, servicing and maintenance for each of the following:

- Emergency Lighting;
- Intruder Alarms, Access Control, CCTV;
- Fire Detection & Alarm Systems;
- Lift Maintenance;
- Fire Extinguishers

All the above tender processes were for the period 2013-2016

Tenders invited and received for the Cleaning of Office and Library Accommodation for the period 2014-2015.

Energy Reduction Initiatives

- A combined heat and power plant (CHP) was installed at Tuam Leisure Centre and the fuel supply switched over onto Natural Gas towards the year end. This project will significantly reduce the energy consumption at the leisure centre from 2014 onwards. This project is

costing €199,000 is being part funded through BMW Region NSS Gateways and Hubs European Regional Development Grants Scheme.

- The oil fired boilers in County Hall were replaced and switched over onto natural gas at the latter end of the year which should result in significant energy savings and costs for 2014 onwards.
- Photovoltaic Panels were also installed on the roof as part of this project will assist in reducing our electrical consumption. This project cost of €122,000 was part funded through a grant from the SEAI funding initiative Better Energy Communities.

Old Tuam Library

- Ongoing discussions with the OPW regarding the future use of the **Old Tuam Library**.

PAT Testing

- PAT completed in all Area Offices, Fire Stations, City based Libraries and Offices as part of ongoing Safety Management Programme. 2 No. PAT units were procured and 8 no staff trained on it's use so as to allow in-house testing. This will have a cost benefit to the organisation.
- A comprehensive testing programme of the electrical installations at Office and Library Accommodation commenced with the completion of County Hall, Ballybane Library, Loughrea Library and Regional Offices.

Preliminary sketch proposals and costings completed for proposed Council Chamber Reconfiguration to accommodate expanded council in 2014. Sketch Proposals presented to CPG and Elected Members for comment. Design Team has been procured and engaged to progress project to detailed design and to allow Planning Application to be submitted.

MANAGEMENT OF RECORDS AND ARCHIVES

The Corporate Services Department held regular meetings with new supplier OASIS which provides commercial storage for Council's non-current records. Purpose is to manage the procedures for retrieval and return of records held in off-site storage and ensure efficiency and control of costs;

Monthly Workplan for records management in Corporate Services implemented - all current files now have Arclink reference and these references are included on all correspondence issued from the Section.

The majority of non-current files relating to Corporate Services have been removed to storage.

The Archivist continues to liaise with Sections to develop and implement file classification & record retention schedules, and provide advice on records management best practice. 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, are also important for cultural tourism. The Section also provides policy advice to the Council on the care and management of its records.

- 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 processing archive collections, in particular the Tuam Poor Law Union collection (GPL5/)

- Developed the Digital Archive to enable and provide free on-line access to several digitized collections (see <http://www.galway.ie/digitalarchives/>).
- Provided on-going reader services, such as access to collections for research purposes, assistance with research queries, and 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
- Continued the programme of providing security backup and reference surrogates to collections
- Outreach activities included the launch of the Digital Archive in October 2013, participation in and launch of the Explore Your Archives ‘Story Box’ campaign in November 2013, articles in *Irish Root* and the online Irish Lives Remembered eMagazine, and circulation of the *Gleanings from the Archives* exhibition to various branch libraries around the county.
- Managed a conservation project of fragile collection.
- Provided advice on records management best practice and assistance to Sections, as required, in particular Corporate Services.
- Presentation on Records Management delivered as part of Staff Briefing Workshops May 2013, providing update on requirements and procedures.
- Continued the management of non-current record transfers to storage & record retrievals and returns: 832 recall requests were processed in 2013. There are now 70,900 records on the ArcLink records management database

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

A total of 47 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2013 under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 & 2003.

Of these, 4 sought access to personal information and 43 sought access to non-personal information. The following table shows an analysis of the decisions made on these requests:

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	21
Requests Part-Granted	13
Requests Refused	10
Requests Withdrawn	3

WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP

- Three meeting of the Workplace Partnership Committee were held in 2013
- Progress reports on all issues in relation to the Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014 were discussed.
- The Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014 and the Local Government Efficiency Review Group Report were also considered by the Committee
- Tenders invited for provision of Staff Health Screening Programme
- Bi-monthly publication of the organisation’s internal newsletter Aon Scéal.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Corporate Services continued to chair the Galway County Council Customer Services Officer Group during 2013. Made up of representatives from each Department the group met each quarter to review targets in the Customer Services Action Plan.

- Information briefings were provided to all staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding customer services policies, principles, initiatives and procedures.
 - Nine meetings of the Customer Services Officers Group (CSOG) were held in 2013
 - Introduction of customer services email address i.e customerservices@galwaycoco.ie whereby internally all activity within the organisation is communicated to the Customer Services Team and the general public can also email this address with general queries which are investigated and replied to appropriately.
 - Introduction of a centralised system for placement of Advertising to comply with the National Procurement Framework.
 - New centralised system introduced for the updating and amending of the website to ensure compliance with our Irish Language Scheme & Website guidelines.
 - Collation and updating on a six monthly basis a General and Service Contact Information list for the elected members.
 - Initiated a project on the Councils application forms to conclude in a central repository of all of the Councils application forms being available bilingually, in various formats with consistent layout.
 - Work commenced on the development of the first phase of interactive application forms, together with associated on line payment facilities (where necessary).
 - Collation of information on customer service database to focus on the most frequent queries received at the Customer Services desk.
 - Collation of information on phone activity reports.
 - Updating notice boards in Áras an Chontae and maintenance of the atrium internet information kiosk for staff and public
 - Processing of Fix Your Street cases and follow up on outstanding cases
 - Introduction and operation of the increased Social Media presence i.e. Facebook, Twitter etc.
 - In April 2013 a dedicated Customer Services Desk was set up in Áras an Chontae to ensure a professional, welcoming and informative environment is provided for the customer at their first point of contact with Galway County Council in Áras an Chontae.
 - A Customer Services Communications Centre was also initiated in April 2013 which provides a full phone service, the base for the operation of the Council's social media platform on twitter and facebook and coordination of emails to customerservices@galwaycoco.ie, communications via the customer comment facility on www.galway.ie/www.gaillimh.ie and via fixyourstreet.ie
-

Housing Services

The focus on the provision of Social Housing has changed dramatically over the last couple of years. In the past finance was available for the purchase and building of houses to cater for the needs of those on our housing waiting list. Prior to the downturn in the economy Galway County Council had a significant capital programme to cover construction and acquisition of dwellings, however, the reduction in capital spending necessitated a restructuring of the social housing investment programme to allow for the delivery of new social housing through more flexible funding models for the years ahead. The social housing leasing initiative (SHLI), and in particular the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), continue to play their parts as long-term social housing supports. The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government has indicated that it is committed to developing other funding mechanisms that will increase the supply of permanent new social housing. Such mechanisms will include options to purchase on lease agreements, build-to lease, and sourcing of loan finance by approved housing bodies for construction and acquisition.

ACHIEVE BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Housing Construction

Under the current Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government (DECLG) guidelines, house construction is only considered in cases where a special need exists. In 2013, Galway County Council completed the construction of 3 houses under this category, one in Killasolan, Mountbellew and two on Inishmore, Aran Islands.

Extensions to Local Authority Houses

The Council continues to examine all options to meet the needs of housing applicants and existing tenants where needs have changed. This includes the provision of extensions to existing local authority dwellings subject to funding in order to address overcrowding or to meet other special needs of individuals/family members.

Extensions were carried out on two units in 2013 where the individuals had overcrowding and disability issues.

These extensions are in addition to a number of minor works carried out to address mobility issues in our local authority houses e.g. installation of level access showers, grab rails etc.

DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**Housing Waiting List**

Galway County Council completed an assessment of housing need for its functional area on 30th April 2013 under the following headings;

- The provision of Housing Accommodation in its functional area for persons who require or are likely to require accommodation from Galway County Council and who, in the opinion of the County Council, are in need of such accommodation and unable to provide it from their own resources.
- The provision of residential caravan parks for members of the Traveller Community in the functional area of the County Council and in the town of Ballinasloe for persons whom the County Council has reason to believe require or are likely to require sites from the County Council and who, in the opinion of the County Council are in need of such sites and unable to provide them from their own resources.
- Applications from households which are eligible for and in need of social housing support are qualified for such support under the following;
 - Residency Status.
 - Income.
 - Rent Arrears.
 - Availability of alternative accommodation.

During the assessment there were 1,474 households that did not qualify for Social Housing Support. In 2011 there were 2,433 on the housing waiting list. After the assessment was carried out this was reduced to 2,035. All applicants on the housing list were contacted on a number of occasions and where a response was not received they were removed from the housing list. There has been a marked increase in the demand for housing supports and the total net need now stands at 2876.

Void/ Vacant Houses

The framework of contractors was renewed in 2013 for General Construction Maintenance and Retrofit works. A framework of Plumbing Contractors has also been set up. The housing framework enables a more efficient and faster turnover of units and has been used to tender works in lots in order to achieve greater value for money. The housing unit has turned over 67 houses during the year using both direct labour and contractors. These works were carried out in line with our budget allocation under this heading for 2013.

At the start of December 2013 there were 97 vacant houses. Government policy in 2013 changed from targeting the return of vacant units to use to the upgrading of the energy efficiency of occupied stock. This has impacted on the ability of the Council to address voids due to the financial impact of losing funding in this area.

Energy Efficiency & Retrofit Programme (EERP)

The Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (DECLG) presented its revised policy to focus EERP funding towards occupied housing stock. Priority was given to older houses which contain lesser amounts of insulation in attics and cavity walls. The specified standard was labelled a “Comfortable Home Standard”. This involved the upgrade of wall insulation by pumping cavities, installing 300mm of attic insulation along with some draught proofing and ventilation measures to each house.

The houses that were upgraded in 2013 were primarily group houses located in estates and were greater than 10 years old. Works were carried out on 659 houses under the EERP which represents 34% of our total housing stock.

Voluntary Housing

The Council is engaging with the Voluntary Sector with the view to accelerating the number of units acquired to help tackle the growing housing list. New initiatives in relation to regeneration and partnerships with others (e.g. NAMA) to deliver units through funding options such as the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) were explored.

Discussions took place with the Department and a number of voluntary housing associations on a range of proposals that the Council are endeavouring to progress including the finalisation of schemes under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) and the Capital Loan & Subsidy Scheme (CLSS). A number of meetings have also taken place with voluntary bodies in relation to proposals throughout the county under the newer options and it is anticipated that agreements will be entered into which will assist in meeting the housing need of those on the waiting list.

Galway County Council received funding for one unit under the Capital Assistance Scheme Acquisition Programme 2013 in Gort and has received planning permission and funding for 13 units in Letterfrack.

Tenant Purchase

The 2011 Tenant Purchase Scheme came to an end on 30th June, 2013. Under this scheme 31 Council tenants purchased their homes outright in 2013. In addition to this a further 20 Council tenants purchased their homes under the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme during the year. The 1995 Tenant Purchase scheme, which was due to end on 31st December 2013, was extended for a further 6 months giving Council tenants who had received an offer to purchase their house a further opportunity to become homeowners. A total of 51 units were sold during 2013, generating €1.57m in sales receipts for the Council.

MAXIMISE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Housing Aid for Older People, Mobility Aids Grants, Housing Adaptation Grants for Private Houses

During 2013 the Housing Unit continued to prioritise applicants and provide grant aid to those most in need. There was an increase in applications for Mobility Aid grants and Housing Adaptation grants. The qualifying age for the Housing Aid for Older People was increased to 70 years which resulted in a considerable drop in the number of applications for this grant. It was agreed to provide funding to persons less than 70 in certain circumstances depending on their state of health, their current housing conditions and their ability to assist themselves. Supporting documentation is required where the applicant is citing medical needs and this can be in the form of a Consultant's report or an Occupational Therapist's report. Assistance was also provided in cases where the house, whilst not considered to be in poor condition, would, by addressing deficiencies, improve the quality of life of older persons. It was also necessary to enforce the timeframe of six months whereby an application is closed if correspondence is not received from an applicant within this timeframe.

- No. of valid applications received during 2013 for Housing Aid for Older People: 98
- No. of valid applications received during 2013 for Mobility Aids Grant Scheme & Housing Aid Grant Scheme – 139
- The total allocation for 2013 was €1,644,386 of which €328,877 was to be provided from the Council's own resources. The full allocation was expended in 2013, of which 374 grant payments were made over the three schemes.

Housing Adaptation Grants for Local Authority Houses

The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability for Local Authority Houses is made available to assist in carrying out works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment. Galway County Council continues to assess applications under this scheme and prioritise those in most need.

A limited amount of funding was made available to GCC for such work in 2013. A total of 13 local authority houses had housing adaptation works completed during the year with works underway on a further 14 houses at year end.

Homelessness

Galway County Council is part of the Western Region for Homeless Services together with Galway City, Mayo and Roscommon. Galway City is the lead agency and all funding is channelled through the City Council. The Directors of Services in Housing from the four Authorities form the Western Region Homeless Management Group and have the responsibility to assign funding.

There were 155 homeless applicants to Galway County in 2013 i.e. an average of 3 per week. One third of those presenting were female. Emergency temporary accommodation was provided for 76 people, 46 of those being accommodated in Cope Hostels- The Fairgreen or Osterley Lodge; 52 went back to family and friends; 27 were refused accommodation for a variety of reasons. The Social Workers follow up on all Homeless persons with case meetings at hostels with the aim of working towards progression to independent accommodation.

Galway County also grant aids Cuan Mhuire for the provision of accommodation for Homeless persons who are post addiction treatment.

The Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) is the new shared client support and bed management system for homeless services and forms part of the priority actions in the National Homeless Strategy, The Way Home. PASS has replaced all previous systems as the single shared system in operation across statutory and voluntary homeless services. PASS went live in this region on 25th November, 2013. This new system will facilitate generation of statistical reports as required and enhance cooperation and coordination between service providers.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)/Leasing

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. Traditionally 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 need met.

The (RAS) / Leasing is operated on a tenancy by tenancy basis and Galway County Council has been entering into such arrangements, with private landlords, since 2007.

The following table outlines the RAS and Leasing agreements that Galway County Council has entered into with private Landlords.

Number of Applicants in receipt of rent supplement for 18 months plus	Galway City and County End of Q4 latest figures: 2480
Number of Applicants accommodated in private rented accommodation through contracts agreed with private landlords	370
Number of Applicants accommodated currently through contracts agreed with voluntary organizations	144

Private Residential Tenancies Board – Registration of Rented Units

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 Private Residential Tenancies Board. The published register is available on the Private Residential Tenancies Board website at www.prtb.ie

Galway County Council inspected 104 properties up to 31st December 2013, to ensure compliance with standards for rented houses. A total of 91 Properties failed to comply with the current standards and 91 Improvement Notices were served on landlords requiring improvements to be carried out.

Traveller Accommodation

In accordance with Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988, as amended, and Section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Galway County Council assessed and identified the current and projected accommodation needs of Traveller families to be met during the period of this Programme, from 1st January, 2014 to 31st December, 2018.

This assessment relates need estimated to arise across the range of Traveller Accommodation options, including group and standard housing, long term leasing, rental accommodation scheme and proposed new housing assistance payment scheme.

The assessment of need includes the following:

- Annual Count of Travellers recorded on Friday 30th November, 2012
- Housing Needs Assessment completed as at 30th April 2013
- Meetings with individual Traveller households
- A desktop review of applications and household circumstances was undertaken and a cross-referencing exercise was completed to ensure that data was fully up to date and individual accommodation requirements determined.
- Information obtained has informed the total need over the period of this Accommodation Programme, including the estimate of new family formations, and the accommodation proposals to meet that projected need.

The Council assesses Traveller families for the Housing Waiting List and allocations are made in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Letting Priorities. The Annual Count of Traveller Families and their Accommodation Position 2013 identified 544 families in the County. Of those families, 91% were deemed to be living in good quality accommodation.

The Council has, through experience and consultation, identified standard housing as the preferred accommodation option for the vast majority of Traveller families. Standard housing, including RAS and Private Rented Accommodation, provides for the inclusion of Travellers in mainstream housing programmes and aids the integration of Travellers into the community.

The fourth five year Traveller Accommodation programme commences on 1st January, 2014 and is to be reviewed by 31st December, 2016.

Tenancy and Estate Management

The Estate Management Strategy for the county was adopted in 2013 and this provides a strategic framework for Estate Management across the county. The EMS highlights the inter-departmental and inter-agency approach adopted by the Housing Unit and its partners, in an effort to improve the quality of life for residents on our housing estates. The Housing Unit held meetings with the HSE, VEC and Gardai throughout the year and succeeded in working together in a number of areas with tenants requiring support.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Unit was established in 2013 and is dealing with ASB complaints. The Council's strategy in this area 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. There has been very strong relationships developed with the Gardaí and the unit meets regularly with the senior management in the Gardaí to discuss problem areas and how both organisations can work together to address anti-social behaviour. In this regard a special sub-committee of the Joint Policing Committee was established to examine the use of CCTV in housing estates and other areas of need. The unit is progressing plans for CCTV at a number of estates and it is considered that this will assist the Council and the Gardaí in dealing with a number of the issues that cause ongoing concerns for the residents of the estates. Approval was also granted for the employment of a temporary Anti-Social Behaviour Officer in 2013.

Control of Horses

In line with the Protocol issued by the Department in May 2012 between the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (D.A.F.M.) and Local Authorities on the operation of the Control of Horses Act 1996, Galway County Council has made a significant effort in dealing with stray, abandoned and welfare compromised horses. With effect from September 1st, 2013 the Department of Agriculture introduced a ceiling rate of refund to all Local Authorities of €450.00 per horse seized.

The following statistics of horse lifts undertaken from 2011 to 2013 demonstrate a marked increase in activity during this period.

2011- 52 equines seized
2012- 243 equines seized
2013- 331 equines seized

2013 was an extremely busy year where 331 horses and donkeys in total were impounded. Approximately 90% of the abandoned animals were lifted from the public roads. Due to the financial climate Galway County Council cannot sustain the current level of costs now or in the future without greater assistance from the D.A.F.M..

Mortgage to Rent Scheme

The Mortgage to Rent Scheme was introduced by the Department of Environment Community and Local Government in 2012. Under this scheme, people who are having trouble paying their mortgages can switch from owning their home to renting their home as social tenants. If you take up a mortgage-to-rent scheme, you will no longer own your home or have any financial interest in it. The household pays rent, according to their income to the housing association.

To qualify for the scheme the property owner must have participated in their lender's Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP), a process which the lender and the owner must take in order to try and resolve their difficulties. The mortgage must be unsustainable and the family must be eligible for social housing in the area where they live. The property must be considered suitable for purchase by a housing association. Approved applicants will voluntarily surrender possession of their home to their mortgage lender who immediately sells it to a housing association who will then rent it back to the family. The proceeds from the sale of property to the housing association will go towards the mortgage debt and the applicant makes an arrangement with their lender for any remaining payments owed if any. There is a potential to buy back the home after a period of 5 years if the household's financial situation improves. The status from owner to renter will remain confidential. To date the Council received 25 applications under this scheme.

Emergency Services

Galway Fire & Rescue service has the following responsibilities in that it:

- Responds to emergencies other than just fires, such as road traffic collisions, hazardous materials incidents, water rescues, flooding and major accidental hazards;
- Aspires to prevent emergencies happening in the first place through a range of fire prevention and technical fire safety work carried out within the County and City and various community fire safety initiatives.
- Is the Local Authority Principal Emergency Service (PES) for major emergencies in Galway City and County, who as Local Authorities are Principal Response Agencies (PRA) in accordance with the National Framework for Major Emergency Management 2006

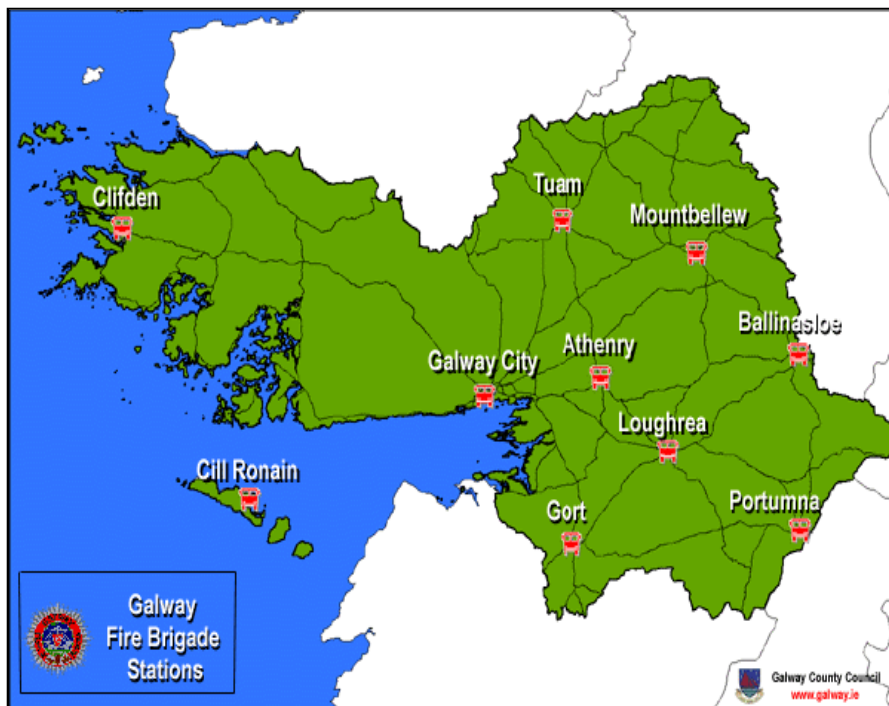


Figure 1 GFRS Fire Station Locations

There are ten stations serving Galway County with a population of 175,127 people and Galway city with a population of 75,414 (CSO statistics 2011) as shown in Figure 1.

- Athenry
- Ballinasloe
- Clifden
- Galway City(Headquarters)
- Gort
- Inis Mor

- Loughrea
- Mountbellew
- Portumna
- Tuam

The Council employ approximately **150-155** personnel at full complement directly in the Galway Fire and Rescue Service including full time and retained fire-fighters in the City and County and senior fire officers and civilian support personnel in the Galway City Fire station.

ACHIEVE BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Keeping Communities Safe

“Keeping Communities Safe”, which is the outcome of a review of Fire Services and Fire Safety in Ireland was published in February 2013. “Keeping Communities Safe” (KCS) is an integrated blue-print for the development of the critical public safety roles performed by Fire Services, to be implemented in the period of 2013-2015, that manages risk, addresses, public safety improvement, incident reduction, response standards and service delivery structures for the decade ahead.

KCS will deal with key issues including reform of service delivery structures, the role of the Fire Service in society and will, identify strategies and, set standards for effectiveness and quality assurance processes. KCS will also set challenging outcome targets to be achieved by the end of the implementation period in December 2015.

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 minimise loss and disruption to society.

Achieving the successful implementation of the main provisions in KCS by the end of 2015 will require commitment and endeavour 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. It is envisaged that the Draft Section 26 Plan will be presented for consideration to the relevant City and County Special Policy Committees outlining the background and content of the document and the associated proposed changes in the Fire Authority Policy as a consequence. The updated Draft Section 26 Plan will then be presented to a full meeting of the Council.

Fire Operations

The total number of emergency incidents attended by Galway Fire and Rescue Service from all 10 fire stations on behalf of Galway County Council and Galway City Council in 2013 was **1564**. This

was a **13% increase on 2012** incidents (1388) and was driven largely by a 180% increase in bog/grass and forest fires compared to the previous year.

Performance indicators are set by DEHLG for the Fire Service and are reported nationally on an annual basis. One of the key performance indicators is time to mobilisation of the fire appliance from time of alert of fire personnel for both full time and retained (part time) fire stations .

In 2012 the average time to mobilise the first fire appliance in Galway City full time fire station in respect of fire incidents was **2.6 minutes (a reduction of 10% on 2012 figures)** and it was **4.8 minutes** on average for the time to mobilise the first fire appliance in the other 9 part time stations (Retained Fire Service) in Galway County (**a reduction of 12% on 2012 figures**).

For all other emergency incidents the average turn-out times were **2.25** minutes for Galway City full time fire station and **4.78** minutes for Galway County retained fire stations. These figures represent a significant improvement on the previous year with a **reduction of 24%** for full time fire station mobilisation times and a **reduction of 13%** for County retained fire stations mobilisation times.

The second performance indicator is the percentage attendance at scene for fires only and was as follows for City and County Brigades;

- Less than 10 minutes - **50.5 %**;
- Greater than 10 minutes and less than 20 minutes – **32.7%**
- Greater than 20 minutes – **16.8 %** .

The performance indicators for all other incidents excluding fires for the same parameters were **43%; 32.8% and 24%** respectively.

This data indicates in the first instance Galway Fire Service attended a higher proportion of Fire Only calls 50.5% in 2013 up from 46% in 2012 in the less than 10 minutes category, indicating that the geographical location of the calls were reached in a shorter time duration. This effect translated similarly across the 10 – 20 minute band. For all other incident types the number of calls reached within the respective bands reflected a similar reduction. These measurement criteria reflect both the geographical spread of calls, traffic conditions and ultimately a possible reduction of both life and building risks at these attended incidents.

All county retained operational personnel are operating under the National Incident Command System (NICS) since 2009 as per the Fire Services Change Programme under the Health and Safety remit. The preparation for roll-out of the NICS for full time personnel for the fire station in Galway City continued in 2013 with the drafting of a Training and Operations Manual for Incident Command. It is envisaged that NICS for Galway City full time personnel will be achieved in 2014 once refresher training has been provided.

GFRS continued to prepare pre-incident plans for City and County risks, with an Assistant Chief Fire Officer assigned to this task which is a statutory duty under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003. The Fire Service's Health & Safety Steering Group continued to meet in 2013 with monthly meetings to manage and drive the Fire Service's Health & Safety Management Plan. A revised Ancillary Safety Statement for GFRS was issued in 2013 as GFRS progress to OSHAS 18001 certification in 2014.

DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Fire safety and Prevention

Work was ongoing in Fire Prevention & Fire Safety Section in 2013.

The Fire Prevention Section carried out **262** inspections of premises in 2013 as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act 1981, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, and Dangerous Substances Act .This was an **increase of 2%** compared with 2012 figures (256).

The Fire Prevention Section received and processed **255** public licence applications in 2013 a slight increase on 2012 figures (254).

The Fire Prevention Section dealt with **154** planning applications for Galway City and County in 2013. This was an **increase of 59%** compared with 2012 figures (97).

The Fire Prevention Section carried out 250 inspections in 2013 for the issue of Fire Safety Certificates etc under the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2007. This was a **decrease of 12%** compared with 2012 figures (280).

The Fire Prevention Section processed **74** Disability Access Certificate applications for the County in 2012 . This was an **increase of 32%** compared with 2012 figures (56).

The Fire Prevention Section dealt with **213** Fire Safety Certificate Applications- all types- under the Building Control Regulations, 121 in the County area and 92 in the City area. The overall number of Fire Safety Certificate applications represented an **increase of 2%** compared with 2012 figures (208). These figures reflect a degree of stabilisation in construction activity in the Galway area in 2013 but are still low compared to previous years

Community Fire Safety

Self contained smoke alarms with long life batteries were procured by GFRS for 300 households and were issued to households in Galway City and County for installation by community groups as in previous years.. 50 smoke detectors for hard of hearing, including vibrating alert systems and flashing alert systems, were also procured and distributed in 2013. This project was completed with the assistance of the Community and Enterprise Units in both Galway City and Galway County Councils.

GFRS continued in 2013 to deliver community based fire safety talks as requested, provide fire appliance visits to schools and participate in National Fire Safety Week with the opening of fire stations to members of the public and a newspaper advertisement campaign. Preparation began in late 2013 for the re-introduction of the Primary Schools Programme in 2014 subject to funding.

Fatal Fires 2013

Fortunately there were no deaths due to accidental house fires attended by Galway Fire and Rescue Service in 2013.

Major Emergency Management (MEM)

The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of New National Framework for MEM continued its work and was chaired by Mr. Eugene Cummins (Director of Services). Work is continuing by the committee in preparation of the Severe Weather & Flood Response Operational Plans, and an Evacuation Sub-Plan.

The 2013-2014 Version 4 edition of Galway County Council Major Emergency Plan was updated and formally issued in 2013. Aide memoires – wallet card size for key appointments were also issued to role holders in the Council MEP.

Mr. Eugene Cummins (Director of Services) handed over the role of Chairperson of the MEM West Regional Steering Group to HSE West. The purpose of this group is to co-ordinate Major Emergency Management in the Galway, Mayo and Roscommon areas. The MEM West Working Group involving members of the Principal Emergency Services (PES) in the West Region (Local Authority Fire Services, Local Garda Divisions and HSE West Ambulance Service) continued to operate, under the auspices of MEM West Regional Steering Group. Galway Co. Co. Headquarters continues as the location of Local Co-Ordination Centre for the three Principal Response Agencies (PRA) – Galway City/County Councils, HSE West and Galway Garda Division – for Major Emergencies in the Galway City and County Galway area.

A new external emergency plan (EEP) for the Topaz bulk oil storage facility in Galway Docks (an Upper Tier Seveso II Site under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances Regulations 2006) was prepared and issued in 2013 by the relevant Primary Response Agencies (PRA) including Galway City Council (including Galway Fire and Rescue Service), Galway Garda Division, HSE West (including the National Ambulance Service) and Galway Harbour Authority (these agencies also called Local competent authorities - LCA) as required under COMAHDS regulations. A table top exercise focusing on a major incident at the Topaz bulk oil storage terminal in Galway Docks was held in Galway City in February 2013.

Subsequently Galway Fire and Rescue Service as PES to Galway City and County Councils conducted a full scale exercise at the TOPAZ facility. The exercise was run in conjunction with other PRA / LCAs - and the operator Topaz to test the new external emergency plan on 2nd May 2013. As part of the exercise the On-Site Coordination Centre (OSCC) was activated and practiced. An independent exercise report was prepared by Reidy Brophy Ltd on the exercise (see Figures 2 and 3).

The ColdChon / Chemoran facility in Oranmore County Galway was notified to Galway County Council in early 2013 as an Upper Tier COMAHDS site (Seveso II Top Tier Site). Initial meetings were held in 2013 with the operator and the local PRAs (Galway County Council, HSE West and Galway Garda Division) and work commenced to produce the External Emergency Plan as required under SEVESO II regulations. It is envisaged that this work will be completed in early 2014.

The County/City MEM integration group, established between the PRA's in Galway City and County under the chair of Mr. Ciaran Hayes (Director of Services - Galway City Council) to deal with issues in the City/County area and in particular large crowd events, continued to operate.

Training for Local Co-Ordination Centre Personnel from both City and County Councils was held in the Local Co-Ordination Centre in County buildings in early 2013.

TETRA digital radio communications equipment was also introduced in 2013 in order to provide reliable and secure communications in support of Major Emergency operations in Galway City and County. Specifically the equipment will improve communications between the Local Coordination Centre (LCC), the On-Site Coordination Centre (OSCC) and the GFRS Incident Commander.



Figure 2 Major Emergency Exercise TOPAZ Galway Harbour May 2013



Figure 3 On-Site Coordination Centre (OSCC) IN Operation During the Major Emergency Exercise TOPAZ Galway Harbour May 2013

Civil Defence

Galway Civil Defence, through their 5 training centres, Galway City, Oranmore, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Clonberne 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 was ongoing through 2013. 17 student EMT's are currently in training and will be qualify in early 2014.

All units responded to their communities requests for assistance at local community events, providing first aid cover and other assistance that was requested. New members are always welcome from their community and training will be provided o all members of the highest standard by the instructor core.

MAXIMISE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Galway City and West of Galway Fire and Emergency Cover Review

The group was set up to review the provision of fire cover in Galway City and West Galway involving members from Galway County Council, Galway City Council, DECLG, Mayo County Council- CAMP West, and outside experts from Limerick City Council and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service in Scotland in mid 2010 . The Review of Fire and Emergency Cover for the City and Western Environs was completed and the report and it's appraisal of options was presented to both the Housing & Emergency Services SPC and full Council in 2013.

The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Planning (NDFEM) published its policy document for the Fire Service *Keeping Communities Safe* in early 2013. The preliminary initial risk categorisation of all 10 Galway Fire Station grounds was prepared for initial consideration by management team – in accordance with KCS procedures.

MAXIMISE ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Capital

Galway Fire and Rescue Service received **NO** capital funding from the Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government in 2013. One new 4x4 was purchased for motorway and wildfire incidents. A second hand vehicle was converted to an Incident Command Unit (ICU) as part of the National Incident Command System (see Figure 4).



Figure 4 **The New GFRS Incident Command Unit**

ENHANCE QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICES AND DELIVERY**Customer Service**

A new customer service counter was introduced at Fire Service headquarters to improve customer service and ensure security of administrative personnel.

OPTIMISE HUMAN RESOURCES**Training & Recruitment**

GFRS recruited and trained 2 new full-time fire fighters for Galway City from existing retained ranks to replace full time vacancies in 2013 & 2014. Full time training was conducted over a 14 week period in conjunction with Cork City Fire Service. GFRS recruited and trained 11 new retained fire fighters in 2013. GFRS have recruited up to 20 retained personnel over the last 2 years. Training for the latest entrants was ongoing in 2013 and will be completed in early 2014. An additional recruitment campaign was conducted in late 2013 to fill upcoming scheduled retained vacancies due to retirements in 2014.

Training continued to be delivered locally in all Fire Stations, and centrally, as in previous years as per the annual training programme for 2013. The number of training courses conducted remained comparable to those of previous years. GFRS endeavoured to ensure that all of its senior and junior fire officers and fire fighters are trained in accordance with new guidance issued by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM).

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.. The first 30 of the national SOGs were substantially rolled out by the end of 2012. Work began in 2013 in relation to the roll out of remaining SOGs including water safety/rescue and hazardous materials incidents, the latter including new training courses for fire fighter awareness, CPC wearers and officers

ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES, AND COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Environment Services

In 2013, **Environment Services** Section continued to progress and develop its extensive and varied work programme, with significant progress being made in many key areas, the details of which are set out below.

ACHIEVE BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE (EWS 4)

There are civic amenity sites in Tuam, Clifden and Ballinasloe, leased for a 3 year period to Barna Waste. The Council provides 90 Bring Bank Centres located throughout the County for the collection of glass and beverage cans for recycling. Timpeallacht na nOilean continues to operate an integrated waste management scheme for the Aran Islands, on a partnership arrangement with the Council.

LOCAL AUTHORITY PREVENTION AND DEMONSTRATION (LAPD) PROGRAMME

The implementation of the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration (LAPD) Programme continued in 2013, with the main focus of the programme to prevent waste and reduce the consumption of water and energy. The implementation of the programme is based on the following initiatives:

- Green Business Initiative
- Public Building Initiative
- Green Community Initiative
- Greening Festivals Initiative
- Stop Food Waste Initiative

Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) collections were organised throughout the year.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (END-OF-LIFE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 2006

Under these regulations, a producer who imports into or manufactures a vehicle, in the state, is responsible for the appropriate treatment and recovery of the end-of-life vehicle. In 2013, 6 producers were registered with Galway County Council.

There are 6 registered Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF's) in the functional area of Galway County Council. ATF's are facilities which will accept vehicles free of charge in accordance with the provisions of Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2006. .

WASTE MANAGEMENT (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) REGULATIONS 2005

Under the above Regulations, retailers are required to take back electrical and electronic equipment from members of the public, free of charge, on a one-to-one basis.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (PACKAGING) REGULATIONS 2007

The above Regulations are aimed at increasing recycling and recovery of packaging waste and place obligations on businesses which sell or supply packaging material or packaged products on the Irish Market.

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT MEASURES (EWS 9)

Sixty-one inspections were carried out on waste permitted sites. Covert CCTV was installed at three sites and overt CCTV at six sites. Fixed penalty notices were issued at bring bank sites and legal proceedings initiated at two of the "black spots". Significant improvement noted in amenities at existing bottle banks and reduction in litter and 90% reduction in illegal dumping recorded by community wardens at a number of bring bank sites.

One hundred and thirty eight inspections carried out at discharge licence sites. Warning letters and prosecution proceedings issued as required. Significant reduction noted in the risk associated with unauthorised and poorly managed discharge licence sites. Following legal action four unlicensed discharges have commenced works on site and licensing process. Approximately 50% of licences fully compliant with their conditions.

Public education campaign was carried out in relation to septic tanks. Thirteen inspections carried out in high risk areas in accordance with the requirements of the NIP. Significant increase in awareness among the general public in relation to location and maintenance of their on-site wastewater treatment system.

Contracts were put in place for check & audit monitoring and raw water monitoring. Drinking water monitoring programme was in compliance with monitoring requirements. 892 samples taken of PWS, Public and Private GWS. PWS was 99% compliant with the standards set in the drinking water regulations.

Investigations were carried out in response to complaints received from the National Illegal Dumping line, general public, GCC staff and EPA referral. There was improved management of complaints system and significant reduction in number of open complaints. 960 complaints resolved.

Blue Flag status was awarded to the following beaches in 2013,

- The Long Point, Loughrea
- Traught, Kinvara
- Tra an Doilin, An Cheathru Rua
- Tra Mor Coill Rua, Indreabhan,
- Tra Cill Mhuirbhigh, Inis Mor

.Green Coast Awards were received by the following

- Dogs Bay, Roundstone
- East End Inishboffin
- Dumhach, Inisboffin
- Inis Oirr, Aran Islands
- Aillebrack, Ballyconneely
- Renvyle.

DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

DERELICT SITES (EWS 11)

There are currently 7 sites entered in the Derelict Sites Register. 8 sites have been removed from the register.

BURIAL GROUNDS (EWS 12)

There are 234 burial grounds situated throughout the County. The Council, with the participation of the many local burial ground committees, carry out works of maintenance and improvements. An annual grant of €450 was provided to committees who maintain the burial grounds in their area and 164 committees were awarded a grant.

Extensions and improvement works were carried out at a number of burial grounds during 2013.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & EDUCATION (EWS 14)

The Environment Awareness Officers were involved in promoting environmental awareness through information meetings with community, voluntary groups, and tidy towns committees. Information leaflets, press releases and radio advertising on environmental issues were produced and circulated.

The implementation of the Green Schools programme is on-going and has been very successful to date with 180 schools being awarded the Green Flag. 94% of the County's schools are now involved in the Green Schools.

The following actions and achievements were also undertaken in 2013:

- Information meetings with the community, voluntary groups and tidy towns committees.
- Reusable shopping bags with anti-litter message distributed.
- A National Spring Clean campaign was undertaken.
- Environmental Information Packs on waste management, energy conservation and water conservation have been published for both the domestic and commercial sectors.

ANIMAL CONTROL & WELFARE (EWS 16)

Animal welfare cases involving dogs, cattle and sheep were investigated in conjunction with Gardai, Dept of Agriculture and welfare groups.

The Council continued to be active in providing pound facilities at Tuam and Ballinasloe (mainly horses) and Ballinasloe Pound was structurally maintained. The Council veterinary service liaised with Housing in the implementation of the Control of Horses Act.

FOOD SAFETY (EWS 17)

The Council provides a Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service under the terms of its 5 year service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

There are 9 local abattoirs in the county which are approved by the Council under Irish and EC legislation. These premises slaughter cattle, sheep and pigs under Council supervision. The Council also supervises 9 approved meat processing premises in both the city and county. Three premises are registered to slaughter their own poultry on-farm in the county.

Water Services

In 2013, the Council achieved significant progress on a number of major capital projects which will further enhance the water services infrastructure in the County and contribute towards future economic success. The importance of this continued investment is vital to ensure that adequate sewerage treatment facilities are in place to protect the environment and also that a clean potable water supply is available for all types of development. The Council continues to support the group water scheme sector to upgrade their treatment facilities. In relation to the divesting of water services functions to Irish Water the Council carried out preparatory work during the year and in December signed a service level agreement to carry out the water services function on behalf of Irish Water from January 2014.

ACHIEVE BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2013 work commenced on the Network contract of the Costello Regional Water Supply Scheme and is substantially completed. The contract provides for the construction of a rising mains and distribution mains and 2 no. new reservoirs for the scheme. When complete, work will commence on the contract for a DBO wastewater treatment plant.



Pictures above show construction work at the 2 reservoirs in Costello



Shown above at the signing of the contract for Costello RWSS Network Contract with the successful contractor MEIC Ltd.

Seated L to R: Michael Dolly Senior Engineer, Martina Moloney County Manager, Cllr. Tom Welby Mayor of Galway, Miguel Dintinho MEIC Ltd., Tom O'Connor MEIC Ltd.

Standing L to R: Luke E. Waldron TOBIN, Brian Downes TOBIN, Cllr. Seosamh O'Laoi, Cllr. Sean O'Tuairisg, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Cllr. Seosamh O'Cuaig.

Energy Reporting in accordance with S.I. 542 of 2009.

Overview of Energy Usage in 2013

Galway County Council actively pursued our Energy Management Action Programme (Energy MAP) in 2013. The main energy consumption across our range services are electricity (73% water services provision, 8 % offices & other buildings, 13% public lighting, 6% other facilities), transport fuel, and heating provision to our buildings and facilities.

The following table summarises the annual cost and consumption of electricity and fuel by Galway County Council in 2012:

2012 Electricity - Total Annual Spend	€3,541,835
2012 Electricity - Annual Spend on Water Services	€2,571,372
2012 Electricity - Annual Spend on Public Lighting	€463,980
2012 Road Fuels (diesel / petrol / biofuel) - Total Annual Spend	€779,201
2012 Heating Fuels (Gas/ oil/ biomass etc) - Total Annual Spend	€245,599
2012 Electricity - Total Annual kWh	20,906,663
2012 Electricity - Annual kWh used by Water Services	15,178,237

2012 Electricity - Annual kWh used by Public Lighting

2,738,773

In 2013 Galway County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

- Energy efficiency measures implemented at Oughterard, Carna/ Cill Chiáráin and Luimneach water treatment facilities, giving potential annual savings of 209,900kWh
- A micro wind turbine installation at Carna/ Cill Chiáráin water treatment plant, which is expected to deliver 60,700kWh of annual savings
- Social Housing retrofit scheme in Ballinasloe, with 134 upgrades being completed. This equates to an annual saving of 380,500 kWh domestic energy consumption
- Social Housing retrofit scheme in 672 houses in Galway County (excluding Ballinasloe), equivalent to an annual saving of 2,419,200 kWh domestic energy consumption
- Installation of energy efficient public lighting in Tuam town centre, saving 20,100 kWh annually and reducing maintenance costs significantly
- upgrades to Aras an Chontae including replacement of the oil boiler with a high condenser gas boiler, new pump controls and re-commissioning of heat pumps, saving up to 38,600kWh/year
- Installation of solar photo-voltaic units at Aras an Chontae, which will generate 3,200kWh/year
- Participation in the Warmer Homes Area Based Programme, the Better Energy Community funding programme, and using allocated funding by the DCENR for energy efficiency retrofitting works, drawing down a total of €255,561
- Participating in the training for SEAI Energy Awareness Campaign pilot programme.

Altogether, these and other energy measures are saving Galway County Council 338 MWh annually, with a potential saving to households of 280 MWh annually. (1 MWh =1000 kWh)

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

The Council continues to invest in the provision of sewerage treatment facilities both in terms of quality and quantity, and 2013 saw the completion of the construction of networks in the villages of Milltown and Claregalway. The investment in both of these villages was long awaited and the Council will now progress the contract to build the DBO Wastewater Treatment Plants.



Pictures above show work in progress on the Milltown and Claregalway Sewerage Schemes.

The contract for the Clifden Sewerage Network Contract was signed in 2013 and work commenced. This contract provides for the construction of a new surface water collection network, and associated works, for the town of Clifden to facilitate the separation of surface water from the existing sewer network. This work will precede a second contract which will provide a new Sewage Treatment Plant and outfall for the town.



Signing of the contract for Clifden SS Network Contract with the successful contractor Wills Bros Ltd. Seated L to R: Martina Moloney County Manager, Charles Wills of Wills Bros Ltd , Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Minister Phil Hogan
 Standing L to R: Michael Dolly Senior Engineer, Ger Gibney of Ryan Hanley, Jim Cullen Director of Services Water & Environment

The Council's water conservation programme is continuing, with Stage 1 completed and Stage 2 substantially completed. In 2013, the Council progressed Stage 3 of the programme. The Phase 1 works of Stage 3 include for the rehabilitation of a total of 11.2km of mains in Oranmore, Headford, Ballinasloe and Athenry. The Phase 2 works of Stage 3 includes for the rehabilitation of a total of 18.7km of watermains in Carraroe, Spiddal, Loughrea and Inishmore. Site investigation works for both phases commenced during 2013. To date the water conservation programme has proved to be very successful and has significantly reduced the unaccounted for water figures in the County.

DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The Council provides support to the group water scheme sector which allows communities to sustain themselves and manage their own affairs into the future. There are a large number of group water schemes in the County and in 2013 the Council has taken 35 schemes in charge. The Council also provides support to group schemes through subsidy grants which are funded by the Department of the Environment and in 2013 this figure was €2.9 million. The Department also provides grant

assistance towards specific source protection works undertaken by Group Water Schemes. The aim of the grant is to assist schemes in the provision of a Source Protection Plan, and the Council processed a number of these grants in 2013.

SUPPORT AND ENHANCE LOCAL DEMOCRACY

The Water Services section continued to facilitate the Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee in 2013 with one meeting held each quarter with the following items indicative of the policy areas examined and considered. The committee can then make recommendations to the County Council.

Water Conservation
Water Services Investment Programme
Reform of the Water Sector
Veterinary Services Programme
Water Fluoridation
Burial Ground Maintenance
Connaught Waste Management Plan
Lagarosiphon Control on the Corrib

Community Enterprise and Economic Development

The Community Enterprise and Economic Development Unit is responsible for co-ordination of the local government services offered to the community, enterprise, cultural and sports sectors. The unit works with local communities to assist them to bring about improvements in their local areas. The unit also works with local businesses and enterprises to create employment in County Galway. The Unit operates over a broad spectrum stretching from sport to culture, employment creation to the physical enhancement of local areas, attraction of Foreign Direct Investment to harnessing the potential of our natural resources and improving the quality of life and employment opportunities for all citizens in County Galway through sustainable development.

ACHIEVE BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Unit operates as the primary point of contact for business within Galway County Council. Initiatives implemented by the Unit in 2013 to progress economic development and employment creation include;

Supported initiatives/event that encourage Entrepreneurism and provided information seminars for business and communities about funding opportunities for job creation in the County.

Supported the MEET WEST business networking initiative in 2013 which was attended by 300 companies and approximately 350 delegates over 2 days.

Supported events that provide a marketplace for Galway Companies (Food Fairs/Farmers/Town Markets) i.e LOCAL Christmas market in Galway, Producers market at Claregalway Garden Show and Galway Food Festival.

Supported the Gathering 2013 in County Galway. Funding and promotional supports were provided to many of these events. Over 100 community gathering events took place in the County over the year.

Three flagship events were held in County Galway, the Aer Lingus/Etihad Airways International Festival of Hurling, The Aquinas reunion in Letterfrack and The Ballinasloe October Gathering. The Aer Lingus Festival of Hurling was shortlisted for County Gathering of the Year in the Chamber of Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award.

In support of Tourism, an on-line calendar of events was maintained on www.galway.ie. Over 500 events that took place were listed on the calendar of events. A printed calendar of events taking place in County Galway was also published in 2013.

Galway County Council invested over €100,000 in 2013 in different schemes promoting Galway as a visitor location during the Year of the Gathering. This included overseas promotion at the Irish Festival in Milwaukee, the Wine and Food Festival in An Jou France and an Expo of Galway Art in The Committee of the Regions office in Brussels. Galway County Council also supported the marketing efforts of individual festivals and events.

Made in Galway Initiative. The number of registered users on Made in Galway increased to 250 businesses. This initiative won the Chambers Ireland, Excellence in Local Government Award 2013 for Services to Business. The traffic to the website continued to increase, and a facebook page and twitter account have been added to increase awareness of the initiative. Exhibition space under the Made in Galway brand were hosted at the Committee of the Regions Office in Brussels, Food and Wine Festival in Anjou, France, the National Ploughing Championships 2013, Galway Food Festival, and Claregalway Garden Festival. The Unit also worked with NUI,G to give marketing students practical experience to promote the Made in Galway initiative.

Galway County Council worked with Galway Rural Development, Forum Connemara and Comhdail na nOilean to put in place a food sector development programme for 2013. The Council has also started up a network of stakeholders in the food sector to further develop this sector in County Galway

Facilitated Galway County Councils participation in the INTERREG IVc project, GRISI plus which involves sharing best practice in Rural Development between rural areas of Europe.

Facilitated Galway County Councils participation in the Atlantic Area Project, APC which involves developing the Marine Renewable Energy Sector in regions along the Atlantic coast of Europe.

Worked with the Connect Ireland Initiative to ensure participation by communities in Galway in the community element of their programme to attract Foreign Direct Investment to Ireland.

Galway County Council supported the economic and enterprise activities of communities throughout county Galway through the investment of over €150,000 in projects implemented by Chambers of Commerce in the Towns of County Galway, Community Tourism events/projects, and Community Managed Enterprise Centres.

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

In the National Tidy Towns competition in 2013, the following areas secured awards

Bronze Medal Winners

- Abbey Development association
- Milltown (Co Galway) Development Co Ltd

Highly Commended

- Monivea Tidy Towns Committee

Endeavour Awards

- Craughwell Tidy Towns

The Unit organised a briefing for participating areas and Galway County Council held a civic reception for areas participating in the National Competition. Funding of €50,000 was allocated in 2013 to support the activities of Tidy Towns Groups throughout the County. This was supplemented with various types of support from the area offices of Galway County Council.

DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

In 2013 the Unit;

- Supported the County Galway Integration & Diversity Committee to develop a five year Integration strategy (2013 to 2017) which was launched in Oranmore Library in March 2013.
- Organised a Galway based learning group for participation in the University of Limerick led EU SONETOR initiative to promote online accredited learning to create an EU community of Cultural Mediators.
- Led the interagency sub-committee on Health and Access to Services under the Integration Committee and commenced actions for training and access to information under the strategy.
- Continued to support the Galway County Intercultural Forum and to identify funding and networking opportunities for the Forum to interact with both the County Community Forum and other neighbouring networks and forums.
- Continued to work with schools and youth organisations to further develop the 6 Local Area Comhairle na nÓg youth networks at Electoral Area Level. Facilitated County Galway Comhairle committee and Annual General Meeting held in NUI, Galway on 26th October 2013. Over 200 young people from around the County participated in the various events organised by Comhairle and contributed to the research to produce a Study Skills Booklet which will be launched in 2014.
- Supported the Young Social Innovators annual 'Speak Out' in the Ardilaun Hotel where young people from schools from Galway City and County spoke out on the social issues that concern them.
- Supported Inis Oirr to participate in the international competition in China LivCom 2013 who were very successful in winning two categories.

Galway County Council has implemented projects using the ERDF BMW Regional Assembly Gateways and Hub Fund to implement sustainable energy projects in Tuam in 2013. These have included the refurbishment of the Millars House, the installation of the CHP in Tuam Swimming Pool and the development of SMARTER Transport projects in various locations throughout the town.

MAXIMISE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Galway County Council invested €200,000 into communities in the County through the Community Support Grants. In 2013 this funding was allocated to over 200 community projects.

The unit continued to deliver on social inclusion projects across a wide range of target groups

A successful application for EU Funding for the integration of Third Country Nationals was made in 2013. This will be delivered in association with a number of other organizations.

Work commenced on the establishment of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in 2013 and a number of meetings took place with stakeholders including the DECLG and other front runners as well as the Local Action Group's and the County Galway Community and Voluntary Forum.

The unit completed the endorsement process for the Local Action Groups and engaged with the housing unit as part of the process to ensure that the works of the Local Action Groups complimented the unit.

The Unit hosts the Social Inclusion Unit who were responsible for the following during 2013

- Organised Community Inclusion Week 2013. Over 40 events took place around the County to highlight social inclusion issues and celebrate communities. A bi-lingual brochure was produced to help promote the week.
- Produced 2 social inclusion newsletters and kept social inclusion information up to date on Intranet & www.galway.ie.
- Promoted National Adult Literacy Week in September 2013.
- Produced Census results reports for County Galway based on Census 2011.
- Promoted plain English campaign internally with Staff of Galway County Council.
- Assisted with Galway City & County Age Friendly Programme roll out. Facilitated meetings of the Older Persons Council. In 2013 considerable work was undertaken in relation to the Age Friendly County programme and it is intended to finalise the actions and the launch of the Age Friendly Strategy in 2014.
- Assisted with organising, roll out and launch of Bealtaine 2013 Festival. Produced brochure to promote the events.
- Facilitated 4 meetings of the County Galway Traveller Interagency Group.
- Coordinated Traveller Pride Week (20th – 26th May) on behalf of the Traveller Interagency Group. Secured €3,200 from the Department of Justice. Events such as a street soccer league, boxing tournament, music sessions, coffee morning were held to celebrate the contribution Travellers make to both their own communities and to Irish society as a whole.
- Organised the Mayors Awards 2013 which took place in November. Eleven awards were given out on the night in areas such as sport, arts, heritage, social inclusion, economic activity, environment and volunteer of the year.
- Facilitated the SIM (Social Inclusion Measures) Committee including coordinating the CDB endorsement of annual plans of the local development companies in County Galway.
- Supported other committees involved in social inclusion activities such as the LGBT Interagency Working Group and Homestart.

The unit facilitated one meeting of the CDB in 2013.

The RAPID Co-ordinators in Tuam and Ballinasloe provided ongoing advisory project management services to agencies and communities. The RAPID Co-ordinators facilitated RAPID Area Implementation Teams (AIT) and sub-groups involving cross-section of agencies and community representatives to progress Strategic Plans in Community Safety & Anti Social Behaviour, Education, Employment & Training and the Physical Environment and assisted in securing funding to deliver.

- Dormant Account Local Sports Partnership Projects in both RAPID areas were completed.
- The agreed actions contained in the Ballinasloe Economic Programme of actions were progressed.

- There was a focus on Employment & Training issues in Ballinasloe and Tuam and supports to those facing unemployment was provided in terms of referrals.
- In Tuam, through the Training Matters group, 80 people were facilitated to complete full and part-time courses in Health & Social Care, while a further 25 adults completed a Level 7 course in Enterprise and Community Development delivered in Tuam but accredited by Athlone Institute of Technology.
- Tuam RAPID brought the Silver Comedy team from England to Tuam and Ireland for the first time. Silver Comedy Manager with two established comedians led 2 comedy engagement sessions in Áras Mhuire (HSE Community Nursing Unit in Tuam) and in Greenpark Nursing Home for over 300 residents and day centre attendees.
- In Tuam two small scale Domestic Violence initiatives were supported by GRD as prioritized by the AIT and the Family Support Sub-Group.
- During National Recreation Week in June, Tuam Library launched the Summer Reading Programme, RAPID launched its Sports Kits for Schools and Communities which are being managed on behalf of RAPID and the Sports Partnership by the Tuam School Completion Programme, and in Ballinasloe, Youth Work Ireland launched their “Consulting with Young People” booklet in Ballinasloe Civic Offices.
- Tuam’s newly established Community Enhancement Forum continued to meet to bring residents associations and their representatives together with LA Housing Officers and key members of other agencies such as HSE Family Support, GRETB, WRTDF and others facilitated by the RAPID Co-ordinator. New projects for progression were identified to roll out during 2014.
- The Tuam Community Allotments, which are a pilot allotments initiative in the County continue to be further developed by the Western Traveller and Intercultural Development Association in conjunction with Parkmore Residents and with support from RAPID, the Housing Unit, and Local Agenda 21 funding from the Environment Unit.
- The RAPID Co-ordinators worked with the Local Development Agency for East Galway (GRD) to ensure prioritisation for the Ballinasloe and Tuam RAPID areas in the implementation of agreed plans. In 2013 10 projects were progressed in the Ballinasloe RAPID area and 15 in the Tuam area.

SUPPORT COUNTY GALWAY’S UNIQUE CULTURE

In 2013 the merger of Galway City & County Sports Partnerships took place with the new entity called Galway Sports Partnership launched on the 7th October 2013.

During 2013 the County Sports Partnership

- Sourced funding from Irish Sports Council and other agencies to continue the work of the Partnership in 2013.
- Finalised merger with the City Sports Partnership by end of January 2013.
- Continued to deliver core activities of the Irish Sports Council locally, Buntus, Code of Ethics, Women in Sport, Girls Active.
- Supported the Tour of Connemara in 2013.
- Supported sports related Gathering Events in 2013
- Organised the Galway Sports Partnership 10k in 2013.
- Implemented the ‘Meet & Train’ projects under the Women in Sport initiative

- Held disability training for leisure centre staff in the county to enable them to facilitate people with disabilities in their establishments.
- Promoted the Partnership through newsletter, website and in local media.
- Delivered the Buntús Start' programme in association with the Galway City & County Childcare committee to encourage early access to sports.
- Established a Physical Activity Centres staff training programme to help them cater for the Over'55's.
- Continued to promote the Link2BActive programme.
- Established a 'Goal to Work' programme, in association with National Governing Bodies of Gaelic, Soccer, Rugby and Basketball/Volleyball to train people who are unemployed to become coaches in their respective fields of sporting expertise.

The following is a summary of activity for 2013

• Courses / Activities Completed	• No. Participants
• Code of Ethics (18courses)	376 club personnel
• Buntús (20 schools)	140 teachers
• Children's Officers Course 4 (Courses)	25
• SAQ	45
• Sports Inclusion Disability Awareness	18
• School Hall Athletics	4 schools
• First Aid (2 courses)	24
• Galway Sports Partnership 10k	
• After Schools Activity Programme	6 schools

Galway Arts Office

In 2013, the Arts office continued to deliver a quality service to foster and develop arts, cultural and creative economy activity in County Galway. In recent years a new emphasis has been put on developing the creative economy to sustain and create further employment in the creative sector. The Arts office provides information and advice to community groups, individual artists, elected members and other sections of the Council on arts activities and works in partnership with both private and public organisations operating in this sector.

- Invested €60,000 in communities through the Arts Grants and Awards.
- Supported development and promotion of new arts activity by 20 Artists resident in County by investing €16,000 on Individual Artist's Bursary Awards.
- Supported access and development of projects in Public Health Facilities, Schools, and Communities and with 'at risk' youth groups using film, visual arts, theatre in partnership with other public and community groups and Arts Council funding of €78,000.
- Promoted development of Coole Park Arts Programme in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Service and local groups to enhance use of this facility in South East Galway.
- Implemented full programme of youth arts and arts & education activities.
- Delivered a programme of Disability Equality Training within the Arts in Galway.

- The unit contributed to the preparation for the bid for the UNESCO creative city status for film in association with Galway City Council.
- Completed a full programme of Age Friendly projects for older people to include Bealtaine & Burning Bright Projects.
- Assisted in the preparation of the Music Education Partnership application

The development of the creative economy offers opportunities for County Galway and Galway County Council continues to support the ‘Screen West’ a web-site and marketing initiative to make it easy for filmmakers to come to the West to make productions - www.screenwest.ie

The Unit organised the Culture Night for County Galway. Funding of €9,000 from the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht was secured to fund events around the County. 35 events were held around County Galway for Culture Night.

MAXIMISE ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

In 2013 all the community supports/grants provided by Galway County Council were administrated in a co-ordinated fashion. This involved heritage grants schemes, community grants schemes and arts grants schemes.

The unit is undergoing a review on allocation of work as it absorbs new programmes and schemes. The Putting People First report contains proposals that will involve a significant role for Local Government in Enterprise and Economic development and in facilitating the development of new Local Community Development Committee in local development and the Unit is reviewing its structure in light of this. The Unit is working with other units of the Council on various programmes as outlined above and will continue to do so.

ENHANCE QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICES AND DELIVERY

All meetings/events organised by the Unit were held in venues that are suitable to the needs of people with a disability. The Unit continues to implement a plain English campaign to ensure that documentation produced by the unit is in a language and format that is accessible to all. The Unit continues to host meetings and events outside core office hours to suit the needs of communities and citizens. This means the majority of meetings/events/workshops are held at night and at weekends. Staff from the Unit deliver these out of core hours services at no extra cost.

OPTIMISE HUMAN RESOURCES

The Unit maintains the level of service despite reductions in staff numbers. Staff work across programmes so that a constant service can be provided all year round. The Unit makes use of the JobBridge programme and other placements to provide workplace experience and support the project work of core staff.

PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES UNIT

PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2013, the Planning & Sustainable Development Unit continued to promote and support development within the county so that our customers can live in vibrant communities, where cultural differences are valued and encouraged, where everyone can be actively involved in economic, social and cultural life, where people have access to an acceptable level of services and infrastructure.

ACHIEVE BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FORWARD PLANNING

- The Amendments to the Gaeltacht Local Area Plan 2008-2018 was adopted in March 2013.
- The Maigh Cuilinn Local Area Plan 2013-2019 was adopted in March 2013.
- The Amendments to the Clifden Local Area Plan 2009-2015 was adopted in March 2013.
- The Gort Local Area Plan 2007-2017 was adopted in July 2013.
- The Local Area Plan review process for the town of Portumna, was commenced in 2013.
- Work continued in 2013 on the County Galway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment screening.
- The review of Galway County Development Plan 2009-2015 commenced in May 2013. A Background Issues Paper was on public display from Thursday 2nd May 2013 to Thursday 27th June 2013 (inclusive) and 54 Submissions was received. The Manager's Report on the Pre-Draft submissions was considered at the County Council on 21st October 2013.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

1420 Planning Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2013.

1233 Planning decisions were made in 2013.

€464,723 was received in Planning Fees in 2013.

€43,673 was received in Mapshop sales in 2013

ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

It is the policy of Galway County Council to secure compliance with Planning Permission and to prevent Unauthorised Development in accordance with the statutory requirements as set out in the Planning and Development Act and the Planning and Development Regulations.

No. of complaints received in 2013	299
Warning Letters served	193
Enforcement Notice served	126
No. of new cases referred to Law Agent and external Solicitors for Summary Proceedings	84

BUILDING CONTROL

379 commencement notices were received in 2013 and the Building Control Officer carried out 124 inspections of new developments to ensure compliance with the Building Regulations.

TAKING IN CHARGE

The Unit has continued to monitor and process applications for the Taking in Charge of Housing estates under the guidelines for 'Taking in Charge of Developments'. A database has been compiled of 398 estates in the County with a view to establishing the current status of each one and prioritizing estates for Taking in Charge.

9 Estates were taken in charge in 2013

13 New Applications for Taking in Charge were received in 2013

The Building Control staff continues to work with the Department of the Environment, Health & Safety Authority and developers in seeking to eliminate safety risks on unfinished estates. All unfinished estates were mapped onto MyPlan (the Irish National Planning Information Service system).

HERITAGE

During 2013, the Co. Council continued its work to promote awareness, knowledge and appreciation of biodiversity. The Heritage Officer works to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in the heritage of County Galway. The following are some of the projects undertaken in 2013.

Lough Derg Heritage Project –

Launched the Lough Derg brochure, iPhone app, podcast and educational resource booklet for the lake. Undertook a Natural Heritage Trail Audit and a Review Audit was undertaken on works to date. Compilation of text for a 'coffee table' book was commenced.

Ecclesiastical Heritage Trail for Connemara –

The Ecclesiastical Heritage Audit was continued in 2013 for Connemara documenting and creating a database of the rich artwork that is contained in the churches.

Field Monument Advisor (FMA) Project -

The role of the FMA is to provide advice and information on field monuments. The area chosen for 2013 was the Slieve Aughty and Kinvara area.

Biodiversity Project -

The 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 in order 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 for a select number of graveyards and the provision of an education and awareness programme for the communities in the county. A Bi-lingual Schools Education pack was produced for Renville Park.

Athenry Town Walls Capital Works –

Funding was received from the Heritage Council and Ministerial consent received towards this Capital project. Work for 2013 concentrated on the Eastern wall adjacent to the South East Tower. The works included wall conditions been recorded using rectified photography, archaeology reports undertaken, and conservation works undertaken.

Athenry Town Walls – The Legacy Project

The Legacy was an awareness and schools project that was developed to increase the knowledge and understanding of the rich heritage of Athenry among the children attending the primary schools in Athenry and visitors to Athenry Heritage Centre. The children became Heritage Ambassadors for Athenry and a local archaeologist and Loughrea Craft Group worked with the two local schools on producing models of some heritage buildings in Athenry and a ‘Junior Heritage Ambassador’ pack for each child. As part of this project, a photographic workshop was held where participants were shown how to put together an exhibition on a shoestring and their photographs were put on exhibition in Athenry Heritage Centre during Heritage Week and featured the streets, walls and buildings and part of buildings of Athenry.

Athenry Walled Towns Day -

This event attracted over 2500 people and took place on Sunday 18th August. The aim of the day was to showcase the rich heritage of Athenry. A number of Junior Heritage Ambassadors attended Walled Towns Day and their models were on display in Athenry Heritage Centre. The photographs from ‘The Legacy’ Photographic Workshop held in June were on public display on this day.



Pictures from the Athenry Town Walls Day

Community Events –

Assistance, advice, and support was given to numerous Town and Community events in 2013.

In July, the annual ‘Aughrim Remembered’ event took place and in September, the popular ‘Feile na gCloch’ weekend was held in Inis Oirr with over 65 participants from all over the world attending the weekend stone wall workshop.

Many Heritage events were held during Heritage Week in August.

In addition, a Local History Seminar, a Remembrance Conference in Loughrea in November, Graveyard and Folklore recording and Conference, a Tuam 400 Conference, and the Woodford Conference, was held throughout the year.

Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County and the Beo Schools Project with DERI also continued. The Mayoral Awards were held in November.

Advice and guidance was also given to individuals, Schools and groups throughout the year.

Golden Mile Competition –

The Awards night took place in the Claregalway Hotel on 17 December 2013 and the Golden Mile Calendar was launched at the Awards ceremony.

**Golden Mile 2013: Awards**

Overall Winner & Best Schools Award:

Scoil na Maighdine Muire gan Smál, Camus



Launch of Golden Mile Calendar 2014

Tom Madden, Chairman of Galway Rural Development Co. Ltd, Mayor Liam Carroll, Mayor of County Galway.



Best Built Heritage Award Recipients – Clostoken Golden Mile Group



Best Natural Heritage Award Recipients – Aughrim Community Development Co. Ltd.



Best Community Effort & Litter Management Award Recipients – Corralough Golden Mile Committee, Williamstown

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION

Galway County Council continued to work to implement the statutory legislation set out in Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) which provides for the protection of the architectural heritage, which is a unique resource for County Galway. This included the provision of advice to the statutory agencies, local communities and to owners and occupiers of buildings and places of special architectural merit.

The Conservation Unit continued in 2013 to promote awareness of historic buildings and places and the traditional skills and materials necessary to secure their survival into the future. Best practice in conservation and traditional skills was promoted through various conservation projects, and in cooperation with national bodies, community groups and owners/occupiers of buildings of special interest.

The following are some of the activities in 2013:

- Commented and provided advice on planning applications for works to Protected Structures and those within Architectural Conservation Areas and provided advice to owners and occupiers of historic structures on good practice and on the availability of assistance, including financial assistance, for such conservation.
- Preplanning consultations and advice given on architectural conservation within the local authority and to the statutory and non statutory bodies.
- Assessed structures on RPS with a view to issuing Declarations as to works that require planning permission and provide pre planning advice to owners /occupiers.
- ***Inspected and assessed structures for inclusion on RPS, including Ministerial National Inventory of Architectural Heritage recommendations.***
- Maintained AIS database of protected structures, including updating owners' details, and incorporating National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) data.
- Carried out Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) assessments, as part of review of County Development Plan.
- The preparation of relevant sections of the Local Area Plans was carried out.
- The Structures at Risk Fund was advertised, inspections carried out, and recommendations made to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, for which one successful application reached completion.
- A Historic Assets Committee was established through Corporate Services. Liaison with LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) regarding funding and local community groups regarding leases etc. was carried out in order to promote the reuse of historic buildings in the care of the Council.
- Liaison with community groups and statutory bodies regarding the conservation of graveyards and condition surveys carried out.
- Liaison with Europa Nostra re Our Place initiative, a Europe wide pilot project.
- Liaised with local communities regarding Tidy Towns.
- Participated in Open House Galway in County Galway.



Inis Oirr Light house



Raford House



Teach Micí Phití, Inis Oirr



Dun Guaire, Kinvara



Portumna Castle



Bookeen Hall, Kiltulla.

Some participants in Open House Galway- Féile Altireachta na Gaillimhe held on 10th-13th October 2013

SUPPORT COUNTY GALWAY'S UNIQUE CULTURE

As part of the 2013 'The Gathering' initiative, the Heritage Section worked with two communities in Ballinasloe and Oughterard to organise festivals of Hidden Heritage. These were perfect opportunities to learn more about Galway's rich heritage and to give one a better insight into our geology, landscape, archaeology, history and people.

The Oughterard Gathering Festival was held over a weekend in April 2013 and a series of talks were held which included 'Geological Heritage of Connemara', 'Emigration from Connemara in the Nineteenth Century', 'Oughterards Heritage on the web', 'Connemara Emerging to modernity', 'Connemara Local History Sources available in Island house Library', '300 Years of Connemara Gardening Heritage', the 'Engineering Heritage of Connemara', 'Early history of Oughterard', 'Connemara Landed Estates' and 'Archival Sources in Galway county Council Archives.

The Ballinasloe Gathering Festival 'An Slúa Mór – the Hidden Heritage of East Galway' was held 18th – 20th October 2013. Talks were held over the weekend which included 'From Poverty to Prosperity:

Assisted Emigration from East Galway in the Nineteenth Century', 'A Journey Through Time - A look at the rich archaeological heritage of East Galway' 'The herdsmen of East Galway in the nineteenth century', 'The Great Famine in the Oral Tradition of East Galway' and 'Upheaval in East Galway 1916-1922' to name a few. This event was one of several events that took Ballinasloe to celebrate the Gathering 2013. A very successful hidden heritage bus tour was held in early October 2013 (as part of the Ballinasloe Gathering events) that introduced people to the Battle of Aughrim Interpretative Centre, Clontuskert Abbey, The Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna, Portumna Abbey and Loughrea wonderful cathedral and town, all hidden heritage that is available in Galway for us all to enjoy and appreciate.

Conferences such as this one offer us the perfect opportunity to learn more about our rich heritage and this in turn gives us a better insight into our geology, landscape, archaeology, history and people. I hope you all have a very enjoyable 3 days and that you get out and about and see our wonderful town.

The Heritage Section worked with the Old Tuam Society to organise events to celebrate the Ecclesiastical history of Tuam as part of 'Tuam 400'. A Seminar was held on 28 September 2013 called 'Glimpses of Tuam through the Centuries'.

The Heritage Section worked in consultation with Oral History Ireland and Clarinbridge Heritage to provide an Oral History and Folklore Training Workshop entitled 'Spreading the Word – how to use your Local History and Folklore Collections' on 18th May 2013 Clarinbridge. Approximately, 50 delegates attended on the day.

ENHANCE QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICES AND DELIVERY

CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Planning and Sustainable Development Unit continues to provide an excellent customer service with reduced resources.

Planning clinics are still being held weekly at County Hall.

The Unit communicated with the public through the use of various media, such as newspapers, Local radio, website, e-mails, and through the usage of the on-line customer comments system.

Public workshops were held in Ballinasloe, Tuam, Loughrea, Clifden, Oranmore, An Cheathrú Rua, during May/June 2013 on the Pre-Draft County Development Plan.

SUPPORT AND ENHANCE LOCAL DEMOCRACY

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Planning and Sustainable Development SPC had 4 meetings in 2013.

The main policy issues discussed during the year included:

- Review of the Galway County Development Plan
- Local Area Plans
- Quarries
- Wind Energy
- Unfinished Housing Estates
- Building Control

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Department supports Line Managers and Employees in achieving an efficient and effective delivery of Galway County Council's corporate and business objectives. It promotes a positive working environment, manages workforce planning, the training and development of staff, staff recruitment, is responsible for the delivery of statutory and non-statutory staff welfare policies and procedures, maintains stable industrial relations and works to create an equitable, consultative and supportive working environment within the Council.

The Human Resources Department engages proactively with staff in promoting their personal and career development thus enabling them to reach their potential and contribute fully to the achievement of the Council's strategic and business objectives.

MAXIMISE ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Industrial Relations

The policy of the Human Resources Department is to foster good industrial relations at corporate level and this has continued during 2013. Every effort to resolve staff issues at the earliest possible stage was made, in an open and co-operative manner with Trade Unions and through the Workplace Partnership process.

Haddington Road Agreement July, 2013 – June 2016

The Haddington Road Agreement became effective from 1st July, 2013 with:

- Changes to standard working hours
- Changes to overtime rules for indoor and outdoor employees
- Changes to Increments
- Changes with regard to reduction in salaries of employees who earn over €65,000 and
- Changes to rates for Pension Related Deductions.

Ongoing restructuring and re-assignment of duties has taken place across the Council to take account of staff reductions and the requirement to maintain critical services. As resources reduce, both human and financial, the Council has prioritised essential services in the assignment of staff and it is considered that increased productivity has been achieved. It is not possible to readily quantify this productivity but most, if not all programmes have been continued despite the staff reductions. Reduction in staffing numbers has impacted the Council's capacity to deliver services however the potential impact has been mitigated by the willingness and flexibility of the remaining staff to meet service priorities and maintain high standards of service.

Staff Welfare

Galway County Council recognise that work is just one part of our employees' lives and the Human Resources Department is responsible for formulating and implementing a range of policies and support mechanisms to help staff manage their work-life balance.

The Human Resources Department manages the sick pay scheme and facilitates the provision of an independent Employee Assistance Programme. Staff across the organisation has access to the Employee Assistance Programme provided by Laya Healthcare. This is a free, confidential and independent counselling service to assist all Council staff with any work, family or personal issue. The service is also available to staff family members.

Galway County Council has a number of Family Friendly Schemes in place and details of which are available on the Council's intranet website, the Human Resources Department and are communicated to all new employees. In the Course of this year 492 staff availed of family friendly policies to include Shorter Working Year Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Work Sharing Scheme, Career Breaks, Cycle to work Scheme, Travel Pass Scheme, Force Majeure leave, Compassionate leave, Paternity and Exam leave.

Superannuation

The Superannuation Unit is responsible for the recording of service for each staff member and for calculating and arranging payment of the Superannuation entitlements of County Galway Local Authorities staff. It also provides staff with estimate of entitlements on request, verifies previous service, determines professional and ill-health added year's entitlements and assesses application for the purchase of notional service and transfer values.

In 2013 a total of twenty six full-time employees and two part-time employees retired from the service of Galway County Council. A further three part-time staff resigned with Gratuity payments. Ten staff members availed of the Voluntary Redundancy Scheme with seven individuals retiring before the 31st December, 2013.

The Management and staff of the Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the retirees for their years of dedicated service and commitment to Galway County Council.

Staff Recruitment

Galway County Council is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to the provision of a work environment that is safe and supportive, where individuals treat each other with dignity and respect. The Human Resources Department processed applications for various positions during 2013. Vacancies were advertised in the local and/or national press and also on the Council and Local Government Jobs websites: www.galwaycoco.ie ; www.localgovernmentjobs.ie. In addition, there were a number of promotional opportunities within the Council and interviews were arranged to have these positions filled. In total, 21 recruitment competitions were held during the year and 206 candidates were interviewed for the various positions and 69 persons were appointed. In addition 25 Beach Life-guards were appointed during the Summer months of 2013. 4 Permanent Staff Members (2x Executive Engineers, 2x Assistant Engineers) were seconded to the Irish Water Programme in 2013. 2 Temporary Staff Members (1x SRE, 1X RE) also seconded to the Irish Water Programme in 2013.

On the 1st of July 2011, the Government launched a new National Internship Scheme as part of its jobs initiative programme. Galway County Council continues to facilitate Internship Placements under the National Internship Scheme as a Host Organisation and facilitated a total of forty interns in 2013. Eight people undertook a two week placement under the FÁS workplace programme. Work on the Gateway Local Authority work placement scheme commenced in Galway County Council in 2013 and continues into 2014.



Pictured from left to right at Intern Induction Day

From Left to Right: Michael Wall, Civil Technician, Planning Department and former Intern, Galway County Council; James Martin, Health and Safety Intern, Roads & Transportation; Enda Corbett, Health & Safety Intern, Roads & Transportation; Bríd Dooley, SEO, Human Resources Department; Daniel Butler, Civil/Mechanical Engineering Intern, Roads and Transportation; Brendan Feerick, Procurement Analyst Intern, Finance Department; Cllr. Liam Carroll, Mayor and Chairperson of Galway County Council; Davina Kelly, Archivist and Records Management Intern, Roads & Transportation; Barry Anderson, Civil/Mechanical Engineering Intern, Roads & Transportation; Gennaro D'onofrio, Civil Engineering and Architectural Intern; Roads & Transportation ; Kevin Kelly, Director of Services; Kerrie Dixon, Archivist and Records Management Intern, Corporate Services.

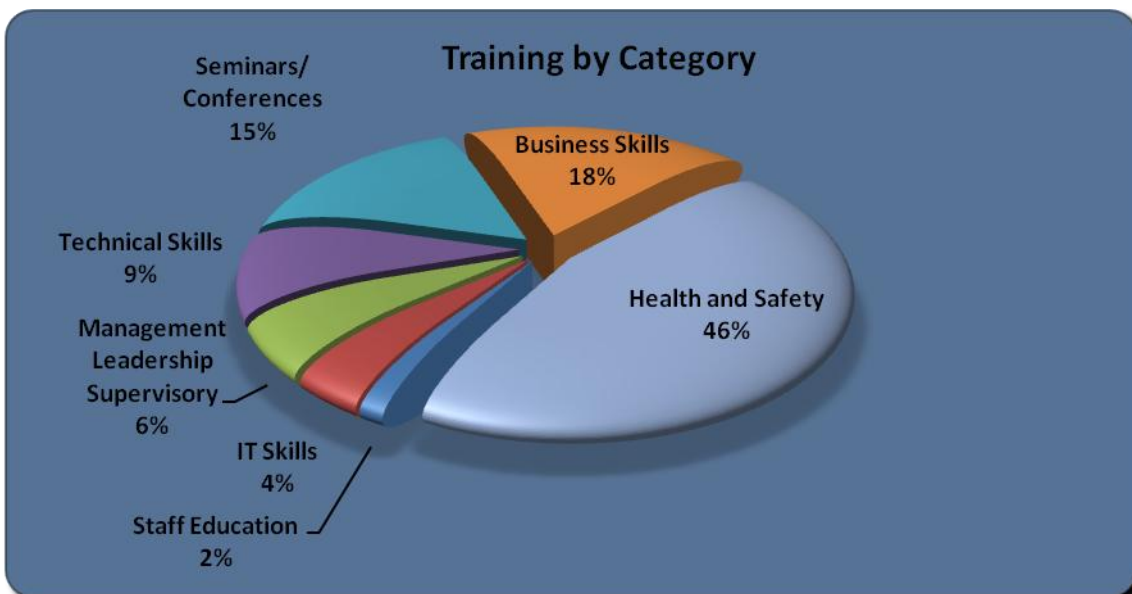


Fire Service Recruits, 2013

Pictured from left to right: Kevin Kelly, Director of Services; FF Luke Casserley, Galway City Retained Fire Service, FF Eoin Mahony, Loughrea Fire Station; FF Michael Carey, Clifden Fire Station; FF Brendan O'Brien, Portumna Fire Station; FF Jason Coll, FF Liam O'Brien and FF Eoin Rooney, Athenry Fire Station; FF Jamie Ward, Ballinasloe Fire Station; FF Vincent Heffernan, Clifden Fire Station; Brid Dooley Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources Department.

Learning and Development

Total Number of Training Days 2013	2742
Total Number of Training Courses /Seminars Attended	435



March 2013- Newly Elected Safety Reps who completed 3 Day Fetac Level 5 Safety Reps Training



Pictured from left to right:
 Eugene Crehan, Housing Maintenance; Ciaran O'Donnell, I.S. Section; Rob Moughty, Galway City Fire Service; John Ryan, Senior Executive Technician (Health and Safety); Julianne Gavin Health and Safety Officer; Johanna Roche, Training Officer, Seamus Hanley, Hanley Consulting; Noel Divilly, Machinery Yard; James Murphy, Payroll; Joe O'Reilly, Tuam Fire Service (Retained); P.J. Lynch, Portumna Fire Service (Retained);. (Missing from the photo is Eamon Coyle, Tuam Area Office)

May 2013 – The Confined Space Mobile Training Unit Visits Luimnagh Water Treatment Plant

In May 2013 the Confined Spaces Mobile unit came to Luimnagh. The mobile unit allows Galway Co. Council to meet Health & Safety training requirements without losing days of productivity when employees are off-site. The simulator challenges staff to realise the risks of Confined Spaces such as air quality, combustible gases, stored energy, physical and environmental hazards, maneuverability and escape. 22 Employees received Confined Space Training in 2013.



22 Employees received confined space training in 2013.

Pictured with the Confined Spaces Mobile Training Unit in Luimnagh from left to right; Patsy O'Donnell Shor Control Safety; Michael Duane; Ciaran Conneely; Padraic Monaghan; Joseph McEvoy; Paul Leonard; Vincent McDonagh; Kevin Larkin; Declan Fitzpatrick

September 2013 – Community Wardens complete a 3 Day Fetac Health and Safety at Work Course.



Back Row L-R; Martin Mannion; John Glennon; Rosina Joyce; David Kelly; Christy Corcoran; Shane Coogan; Tommy Boyle. Front Row L-R: Michael Kelly; Marie Nicholson; Willie Doyle; Pat Roche.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES UNIT

To provide a safe and efficient transport network for the movement of persons and goods within sustainable and integrated transportation policies

The Roads & Transportation Unit is responsible for the design, maintenance and improvement of the National, Regional and Local Road Network throughout the County and also has responsibility for Road Safety, Marine and Arterial Drainage.

A number of significant achievements were recorded by the Roads & Transportation Unit during 2013, including:

- The Draft County Galway Cycling and Walking Strategy was compiled, and following discussion and amendment was published.
- Progress was made in scoping and developing the Greenway Walk and Cycle Way, on a partnership basis with interested parties, such as landowners and tourist bodies.
- A substantial programme of works was delivered, notwithstanding the reduction in allocations from the National Roads Authority and the significant reduction in staffing levels in 2013.
- The purchase of land towards the progression of the M18/M17 Gort to Tuam route continued throughout the year.

ACHIEVE BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The grant allocation from the National Roads Authority, for National Roads, for 2013 is **€18,091,817** comprised as follows:

Improvement Works	€ 16,637,407
Maintenance Works	€ 1,454,410

Funding continued to be provided in 2013 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban Routes. The following major projects are managed by the Galway Roads Project Office during 2013 with the costs associated with this programme recouped in full from the National Roads Authority:

National Road No.	Route Section
M6	Athlone / Ballinasloe
N6	Galway City Outer Bypass
M6	Galway / Ballinasloe
M17/18	Gort / Tuam (incl Tuam Bypass)
M18	Gort / Crusheen
N59	Moycullen Bypass
N59	Oughterard to Clifden

- The M18/M17 Gort to North of Tuam PPP Scheme was advanced through the public procurement process as a public private partnership project. Land acquisition is ongoing on this project. It is planned that a Contract for this scheme will be signed with the PPP company in 2014.
- A lead Consultant has been appointed for the advancement of the new scheme through planning process for Galway Outer ByPass.
- Contract documents preparation is ongoing for the N59 Moycullen Bypass On Line section and Advanced Works are ongoing for the ByPass
- The C.P.O. and E.I.S were confirmed and approved by An Bord Pleanala on the 20th December 2013 for phase 1 Maam Cross to Oughterard. Work on the Clifden to Maam Cross is ongoing with a targeted date of 1st Quarter 2014 for publication of EIS NIS and CPO documentation.

Other milestones achieved relating to the National Primary & Secondary Road Network during 2013 included:

- The development and delivery of a major programme of overlay and realignment projects on National Primary and National Secondary Route.
- The completion of the construction of the realignment of the N17 at Carrownurlaur and N63 at Abbeyknockmoy.

An extensive programme of Pavement & Minor Improvement works was undertaken on the National Primary & National Secondary Road network as follows:

National Primary Pavement & Minor Improvements:

N17 Castletown Realignment	N17 Claregalway to Tuam	N17 Carrownurlaur
N18 Ardrahan to Gort		

National Secondary Pavement & Minor Improvements:

N59 Oughterard	N63 Abbeyknockmoy	N63 Carrownabo
N66 Cahercrea West to Cuscarrick	N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara	N83 Cappagh to County Boundary
N83 Carrowmuniagh	N83 Forty Acres	N84 Luimnagh

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS:

The total grant allocation of €21,591,543 for Regional & Local Roads divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€17,583,738
Maintenance Works	€ 4,007,805

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

Grant Category	2013
Improvement Grant	€11,531,418
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€3,479,050
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€3,764,820
Specific Improvement Grants	€1,250,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€122,500
Strategic Regional & Local Roads (SNNR) Grant	€800,000
Regional and Local Roads Winter Maintenance	€528,755
Training	€90,000

Specific Improvement & Strategic Regional & Local Roads:

The following roads were allocated funding under the **Specific Improvement Scheme** during 2013:

LP4101 Oranhill to Rinville	R333 Castlehackett
R446 Ballinasloe Approach	R341 Ballyconneely
R347 Cemetery Cross Roads	

The following roads were allocated funding under the **Strategic Regional & Local Roads Scheme** during 2013:

Athenry Northern Relief Road – Sections 1 to 5	Baile Chlair Relief Road – Design Stage only
Galway City Western Route	R336 Conamara Access Road (Bearna to Ros a Mhil)

Improvement, Resurfacing & Maintenance Programme for Regional & Local Roads

A total of 123,288 square metres of regional roads were improved under the Improvement Grant at a total cost of €2,715,870 with a further 662,863 square metres of local roads improved under the grant at a cost of €8,789,959.

A total of 133,303 square metres of regional roads were surface dressed under the Restoration Maintenance Programme at a total cost of €598,902 with a further 657,461 square metres of local roads were surface dressed under the Programme at a cost of €2,846,933.

Local Roads Maintenance

The sum provided from the Council's resources in 2013 was **€6,121,000**. The Local Roads General Maintenance allocation of **€3,165,000**, including a provision of **€865,000** for ongoing operational costs provided an allocation of **€565** per km.

The sum of **€2,300,000** was allocated among the different Electoral Areas as follows:

(1)	Ballinasloe	€ 519,041
(2)	Conamara	€ 456,482
(3)	Loughrea	€ 592,083
(4)	Oranmore	€ 151,171
(5)	Tuam	€ 581,223

This sum provides for all types of maintenance including Verge Trimming, Drainage, Renewal and Provision of Signage, Bridge, and General Maintenance.



Roadworks in the Oranmore Area

Funding of €528,755, to supplement the Council's resources for Winter Maintenance operations on regional and local roads was made available by the National Roads Authority in 2013.



Prepared for the Winter Road Gritting Season

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

REGIONAL & LOCAL ROAD BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME 2013

Electoral Area	Bridge Name	Budget Estimate €
Ballinasloe	Killian-Liscuill	5,000
	New Inn Bridge 2	15,000
	Clooncurreen Bridge	20,000
	Lissaniska Bridge	7,500
	Belview Bridge	5,000
	Lurgan Little Bridge 2	7,500
Loughrea	Doonally West	7,500
	Farnaun Bridge Gort	7,500
	Ballynahowna Bridge	15,000
	Ballardiggan Bridge	7,500
	Kilcrimple Bridge	7,500
	Deerpark Bridge	10,000
	Rosturra 2	5,000
	Derradda South	10,000
Tuam	Gortnaloura Bridge	10,000
	Gorteenfadda Bridge	12,500

Oranmore	Nineacres Bridge	4,500
	Castlecreevy Bridge	12,000
	Palmerstown Bridge	5,000
	Cregmore Bridge	12,000
	Cahertuber	4,500
	Ballynamanagh	4,000
	Kilcaimin	4,000
	Kiniska	4,000
	Retention money due on 2012 bridge contracts	80,000
		€282,500

Twenty-four bridges were rehabilitated in 2013, some by contract and some by direct labour using County Council staff.

ARTERIAL DRAINAGE

The Council discharged its statutory responsibility for the maintenance of certain drainage works in the County through the Roads and Transportation Unit and the Council's Regional and Area Offices. The Council allocated €130,000 for these drainage works. The Council has charge of twelve Drainage Districts and there are two Districts in the charge of Joint Drainage Committees with 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
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Mountbellew Drainage District / Shiven River:

Channel maintenance and removal of blockages over a 8.45km stretch of channel was carried out on various tributaries of the Castlegar River in the Mountbellew and Moylough area in consultation with the Inland Fisheries and Landowners.

Ahascragh Drainage District:

Channel maintenance and removal of blockages over a 6.30km stretch of channel was carried out on various tributaries of the Clonbrock River in the Ahascragh/Clonbrock area in consultation with the Inland Fisheries and Landowners.

Annagh Drainage District / Turra, Annagh & Ballycahalan Rivers, Gort:

Channel maintenance and removal of blockages over a 2km stretch of channel was carried out on the Ballycahalan Rivers in consultation with the Inland Fisheries and Landowners.

**Blockages****Blockages**

Kilchreest Drainage District – Channel Maintenance & Accommodation Bridge Repairs

Channel maintenance over a 4.30km stretch of channel was carried out on the drainage channels south of the N66 and Kilchreest village in consultation with the Inland Fisheries and Landowners. Two accommodation bridges were also rehabilitated.

**Before****After**

Boley Drainage District:

Channel maintenance and removal of blockages over a 1.60km stretch of channel was carried out on various tributaries of the Boley River in consultation with the Inland Fisheries, the NPWS and Landowners.

Kellysgrove Drainage District – Channel Maintenance & Accommodation Bridge Repairs

Channel maintenance over a 1.50km stretch of channel was carried out on the Ballinure River in consultation with the Inland Fisheries and Landowners.



Dunkellin Drainage District – Channel Maintenance

Channel maintenance over a 10.7km stretch of channel was carried out on the drainage channels downstream of Loughrea Town in consultation with the Inland Fisheries and Landowners.



FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS & STUDIES

- The Joint Flood Working Group comprising representatives from Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works met regularly during 2013 to identify and progress works aimed at reducing the risk of future flooding.
- A number of areas were examined with a view to determining whether an economically feasible solution to reduce the potential for future flooding existed.
- Arising from the inspection of such areas, funding in the amount of approximately €155,6600 for works at 7 locations has been allocated by the Office of Public Works in 2013 with match funding from Galway County Council. Most of these schemes have been substantially completed to date with design, stakeholder liaison and works ongoing on a small number.
- The Engineering design and the Environmental Assessment of the preferred flood relief scheme for the Dunkellin system progressed slowly in 2013 due to environmental and cost benefit constraints. It is planned to make a planning application to An Bord Pleanála at the earliest possible date in 2014.
- The OPW plan to commence works on the proposed Clare River (Claregalway) Flood Relief Scheme in spring/summer 2014.
- The Council completed 12 Minor Works Flood Relief Schemes in 2013 with a total estimated expenditure of approximately €211,000 supported by the OPW.

The Council supported the OPW will continue to investigate locations where there are reports of flooding and bring forward Minor Works Flood Relief Schemes in 2014 where there is a feasible and cost beneficial engineering solution.

DEVELOPMENT OF PIERS:

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine allocated funding for the development of four piers in County Galway – Cé Sruthán, An Cheathrú Rua; Cé Glinsk, Carna; Cé Eanach Mhéan, Leitirmór, Cé Inis Oírr, Árainn:

Project Location	Works	DAFM Funding	Council Funding	Total
Cé Sruthán, An Cheathrú Rua	New quay wall, access ladders, stairwell, safety toe railing and mooring rings	€112,500	€37,500	€150,000
Ce Glinsk, Carna	Access ladders, construct rehabilitation works to existing slipway	€112,500	€37,500	€150,000
Cé Eanach Mhéan, Leitirmór	New quay wall, access ladders, stairwell, safety toe railing and mooring rings	€112,500	€37,500	€150,000

Cé Inis Oírr, Árainn	Construct rehabilitation works to existing slipway	€112,500	€37,500	€150,000
Total Funding Marine Piers				€450,000

A further allocation of €42,000 Was received from An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta with matching funding of €14,000 provided by the Council to carry out safety improvement works at Cé Inis Oírr, Árainn.

DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

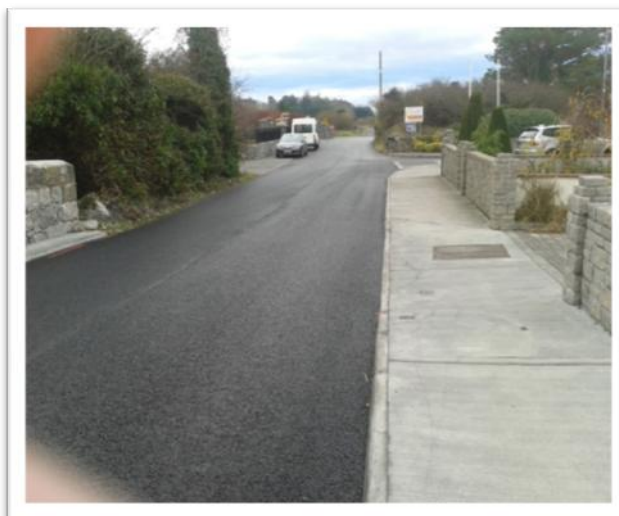
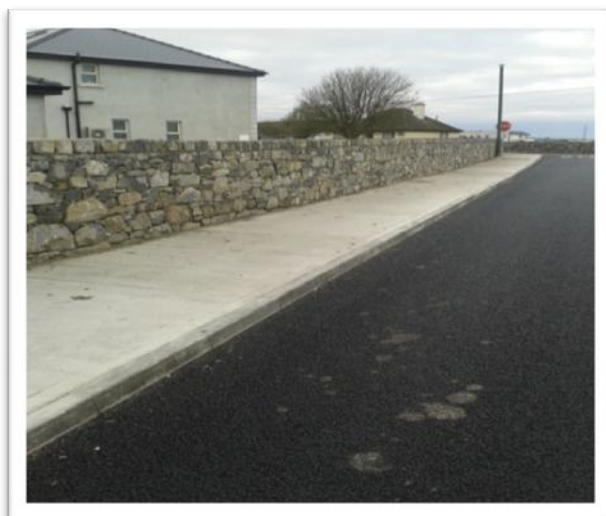
SMARTER TRAVEL & SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY:

The Council continued its proactive role in promoting sustainable mobility by delivering a programme of events to mark Bike Week 15th to the 23rd June 2013. Events included Cycles through Connemara, fun cycles, community cycles and a cycle to work, to encourage people to consider changing travel habits to a more sustainable means of transport such as walking and cycling.

Under the Smarter Travel initiative, smarter travel work plans were undertaken in Tuam, Athenry, Gort Ballinasloe and Clifden. These plans will be reviewed and finalised during 2014.

The draft policy on a Walking and Cycling Strategy for the County was published and it is expected this Strategy was completed during 2013. Applications for funding for the development of the smarter travel towns was submitted in late 2013 for Loughres , Athenry & Gort. Notice of funding will be given in early 2014.

On the National Cycle Network, applications for funding were submitted for the sections from Galway to Leenane. Notice of funding allocations is expected early in 2014.



Smarter travel improvement works along the Bog Road, Oranmore.

ORANMORE RAIL STATION:

The Transportation Unit in partnership with Irish Rail, progressed to completion the rail station in Garraun, Oranmore. Work was completed during 2013 and The Oranmore Rail Station which includes an Access Road and Car Park, is now open with trains stopping at various times on a daily basis.

**ROAD SAFETY:****Road Safety Together Committee:**

- The Road Safety Together Committee continued its active role in the promotion of road safety and held two meetings in 2013.
- As part of a Programme of Events to mark National Bike Week 2013, bicycle repairs workshops were held in National Schools in County Galway.
- Irish Road Safety Week took place between 07th to 13th October, 2013, and the Council raised road safety awareness amongst the general public by the distribution of leaflets e.g. speeding; driver tiredness; drink driving; seat belts; mobile phone use; child safety in cars; motorway driving; cycle safety; roundabouts and medicines & driving and the provision of reflective materials free of charge, and a Road Safety Awareness Poster Competition was also held.

Specific road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2013 included:

- Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for Post Primary Schools.
- Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme.
- Support for the Cycling Safety Training Programme in national schools.
- Road safety awareness messages appeared in 'Aon Scéal', the Council's staff magazine in order to continue raising road safety awareness to its staff members.



Winners of Junior School Wardens Competition 2013 Presentation College, Tuam, Co Galway with Cllr Tom Welby, Mayor of County Galway.

MAXIMISE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Community Employment Schemes:

The Council, in partnership with the Department of Social Protection and the local community, continued to promote and encourage the development of Community Employment. Accordingly, the Council continued to sponsor 5 schemes with 80 participants in the following locations: Maigh Cuilinn / Oughterard, Laurencetown / Abbey, Gort and Environs, Tuam and Environs and Cloch na Rón / Clifden.



Seating area as constructed by Galway County Council CES Scheme Roundstone at centre of Roundstone Village

Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme

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 sum of **€169,575** was allocated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards **14** approved schemes in 2013, land, material and monetary contributions totalling **€169,575** were provided by local communities towards these schemes.

A total of **52** applications were submitted to the Department for funding under the scheme, funding was received for 14 specified projects.

Town & Village Maintenance & Enhancement

The Council continued to support community effort in maintaining and enhancing the physical environment of town and villages and provided funding of **€800,000** in 2013 to facilitate maintenance and small improvement works. An element of the funding was focused to facilitate the Council in further supporting the input and performance of communities involved in the National Tidy Towns Competition.

SUPPORT COUNTY GALWAY'S UNIQUE CULTURE

SIGNAGE

- A grant of **€25,000** was provided in 2013 by the Department of Transport for the ongoing replacement and repair of signage on Regional Roads, a Programme of Works which commenced in 2003. The Council allocated **€19,000** for the improvement of directional signage towards Towns and Villages at junctions.

MAXIMISE ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works worked together on the Joint Flood Working Group and the Steering Group for the Dunkellin & River Clare Flood Relief Schemes to advance suitable projects and measures to minimise the potential for future flooding.

The Council continued to liaise with the Galway Transportation Unit and Galway City Council in advancing the Galway City & Environs Walking & Cycling Strategy including Bearna, Oranmore and Baile Chlair.

The Unit continued to engage with An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta through regular meetings to address a broad range of issues of mutual interest.

MACHINERY YARD:

The supply and maintenance of Plant and Machinery for the Council's use is managed by the Machinery Yard. The Council is committed to the ongoing development of this service in order to provide an efficient and effective resource to facilitate the delivery of the Council's Work Programmes. The plant and machinery available to the Machinery Yard was further supplemented during 2012 with the acquisition of 2 additional salt gritters with additional funding provided by the National Roads Authority.

ENHANCE QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICES AND DELIVERY**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

- The Unit continued to operate an On Line Payment Facility to allow for the payment of Fixed Charge Notices (Parking Fines).
- The Unit continued to avail of www.galway.ie throughout 2013 to provide a Traffic Information Service, providing information on traffic disruptions arising as a result of road works, temporary road closures, roadwork's speed limits etc.
- The Unit communicated with the public through the use of various media, such as newspapers, local radio, website, twitter, e-mails, texts, through the usage of the on-line customer comments system and the new National on-line system Fix Your Street.ie
- The Unit, in conjunction with the IT Unit, worked on developing on-line licence application forms.

SUPPORT AND ENHANCE LOCAL DEMOCRACY**CORPORATE SUPPORT**

The Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee met on 4 occasions during 2013 and considered the following policies:

- Signage, Vehicles or Other Structures on the Public Road
- Control of Horse Drawn Hackney Carriages
- Speed Reduction in Housing Estates

An updated Winter Service Plan was prepared in 2013 as required by the National Roads Authority and the Department of Transport and following consideration by the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee was approved by Council and published on the Council's website. The proposed Galway County Walking and Cycling Strategy was circulated, discussed, amended and published following consideration by the Road and Transportation SPC in 2013.

OPTIMISE HUMAN RESOURCES

The Roads and Transportation Unit successfully and efficiently delivered an extensive programme of works, despite ongoing reductions in staff numbers. Staff were redeployed as necessary to facilitate these works. Office based staff increased their workloads as necessary to compensate for staff reductions, due to retirements, maternity leaves etc.

COUNCILLORS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES & OTHER BODIES

River Suck Joint Drainage Committee

Cllr. Kevin Ryan
Cllr. Seán Canney
Cllr. Tomás Mannion

Road Safety Together Committee

Mayor Liam Carroll

West Regional Authority

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty
Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh
Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Tim Broderick
Cllr. Kevin Ryan
Cllr. Peter Roche

B.M.W. Regional Assembly

Cllr. Gerry Finnerty
Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh
Cllr. Peter Feeney

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Mayor Liam Carroll
Comh. Seosamh Ó Cuaig
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty
Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Tom McHugh
Cllr. Peter Roche
Cllr. Michael Maher

Galway County and City Enterprise Board

Mayor Liam Carroll
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Galway Rural Development Company

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe
Cllr. Michael Finnerty
Cllr. Tim Broderick

County Galway Local Sports Partnership

Cllr. Dermot Connolly

Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd.

Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Michael Maher

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

Association of County and City Councils

Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh
Cllr. Peter Feeney

General Council of County Councils

Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh
Cllr. Seán Canney

Fáilte Ireland West

Cllr. Peter Feeney

County and City Tourism Forum

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

County (Local) Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Kevin Ryan

Loughrea Heritage Committee

Cllr. Bridie Willers
Cllr. Michael Maher

Knock Airport Consultative Committee

Cllr. Jim Cuddy

Board of Directors of Corrib Airport Ltd.

Mayor Liam Carroll

Integrated Transport Coordinating Group

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

LAMA

Cllr. Tom McHugh

Board of Directors of Galway Arts Centre

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

Western Inter-County Rail Committee

Cllr. Michael Connolly

Cllr. Seán Canney

Cllr. Bridie Willers

Cllr. Peter Feeney

Cllr. Peter Roche

Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board

Mayor Liam Carroll

Cllr. Michael Connolly

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

Comh. Seosamh Ó Cuaig

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

Cllr. Kevin Ryan

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

Cllr. Peter Roche

Cllr. Michael Maher

Regional Health Forum Representation, West

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Cllr. Michael Connolly

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Cllr. Michael Finnerty

Cllr. Tim Broderick

Forum Conamara Ltd.

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

Cllr. Thomas Welby

Comhar na nOileán Teoranta

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

Audit Committee

Cllr. Tim Broderick

Cllr. Jim Cuddy

City and County Liaison Committee

Cllr. Bridie Willers

Cllr. Seosamh Ó Cuaig

Cllr. Peter Feeney

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Cllr. Jim Cuddy

Galway County Committee of Agriculture & Rural Development (CCARD)

Cllr. Michael Connolly

Cllr. Dermot Connolly

County Development Board

Mayor Liam Carroll

Cllr. Tim Broderick

Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Cllr. Michael Fahy

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

Cllr. Pat Hynes

Western River Basin District Advisory Council

Cllr. Peter Feeney

Cllr. Thomas Welby

Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council

Cllr. Michael Connolly

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Joint Policing Committee

Mayor Liam Carroll
Cllr. Tim Broderick
Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Cllr. Peter Roche
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe
Cllr. Michael Fahy
Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn
Cllr. Kevin Ryan
Cllr. Malachy Noone
Comh. Seosamh Ó Cuaig
Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin
Cllr. Seosamh Ó Laoi
Cllr. Thomas Welby

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
1	Civil Liability Legislation & how it affects Local Authorities	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 11. – 12.01.2013	2	150.00	387.17	687.17
2	Budget Seminar 2013	Ace Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 11. – 13.01.2013	2	100.00	1,000.56	1,200.56
3	10 th Irish National Radon Forum	Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland	Chartered Accountants House, Pearse St., Dublin 2 17.01.2013	1	0.00	382.73	382.73
4	Clare Tourism Conference 'Tourism in Recessary Times'	Clare Tourist Council	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare 18. – 19.01.2013	3	229.00	963.80	1,650.80
5	The Criminal Consequences of breaching Local Authority Regulations	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 18. – 19.01.2013	1	150.00	350.42	500.42
6	Local Electoral Area Boundaries	Kadenza Consultancies	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 18. – 20.01.2013	3	145.00	1,551.21	1,986.21
7	Policy & Legal Issues relating to Developing Wind Energy	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 25. – 26.01.2013	1	150.00	173.62	323.62

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
8	Debt Solutions – The new Personal Insolvency Legislation	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 25. – 27.01.2013	3	100.00	1,604.44	1,904.44
9	Disputes between Neighbours & the Law	TJK Conferences	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick 25. – 27.01.2013	3	100.00	974.98	1,274.98
10	Winter School 2013 ‘Traditional Culture – from Firesides to Multimedia’	Cumann Merriman	Hotel Westport, Westport, Co. Mayo 01. – 03.02.2013	3	60.00	1,041.75	1,221.75
11	Equal Status (Amendment) Bill 2012	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 08. – 09.02.2013	1	150.00	312.40	462.40
12	Tourism Seminar – Making the Difference	Ace Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 08. – 10.02.2013	4	100.00	1,164.83	1,564.83
13	Tolerance & Diversity in Ireland – North & South	ACCEPT Pluralism / UCD IBIS	University College Dublin 14.02.2013	1	0.00	382.73	382.73
14	Public Seminar on HSE Tobacco Control Policy	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 22. – 24.02.2013	6	100.00	3,046.43	3,646.43
15	18 th Annual Conference – Economic Recovery – Progress in the Regions	Mid-West Regional Authority	Horse & Jockey Hotel, Horse & Jockey, Thurles, Co. Tipperary 28.02. – 01.03.2013	2	100.00	598.18	798.18

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
16	Annual Conference 2013	Association of County & City Councils (ACCC)	Tower Hotel, Waterford 07. – 08.03.2013	5	130.00	2,120.64	2,770.64
17	Creating the New Midlands Economy	Midlands Wind	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly 08.03.2013	1	0.00	289.59	289.59
18	Public Policy Making & the Councillor	Superior Training	Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal 08. – 09.03.2013	2	120.00	672.32	872.32
19	Local Government supporting Volunteerism	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 08. – 09.03.2013	1	150.00	367.53	517.53
20	5 th National Renewable Energy Summit 2013	iQuest Ltd.	Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin 14.03.2013	1	362.85	375.13	737.98
21	Drug & Alcohol Abuse Seminar	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 22. – 24.03.2013	4	100.00	2,008.09	2,408.09
22	Freedom of Information Seminar for Councillors	TJK Conferences	Woodfield House Hotel, Limerick 22. – 24.03.2013	1	100.00	145.37	245.37
23	Tax Entitlements Seminar	Ace Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 29. – 31.03.2013	4	100.00	2,020.12	2,420.12
24	LAMA Spring Seminar 2013	Wexford County Council	Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford 05. – 06.04.2013	8	150.00	4,079.79	5,279.79

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence	Total €
25	Starting & Growing a Chamber of Commerce in your Community	Ace Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 12. – 14.04.2013	2	100.00	942.90	1,142.90
26	11 th National Conference – The Gathering – Diaspora Tourism Matters	Carlow Tourism	Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow 18. – 20.04.2013	2	150.00	848.25	1,148.25
27	Local Government & the Consumer	Superior Training	Holyrood Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal 19. – 20.04.2013	1	120.00	323.80	443.80
28	Water Services Bill 2013	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 19. – 20.04.2013	1	150.00	213.55	363.55
29	Local Property Tax: Logistics, Implications & Consequences for Irish Consumers	TGR Seminars	Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath 19. – 21.04.2013	1	145.00	351.05	496.05
30	Eures Cross Border Partnership Tourism Conference	Dundalk Chamber	Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth 24.04.2013	3	0.00	995.88	995.88
31	Strengthening the Building Control System	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 26. – 27.04.2013	1	150.00	213.55	363.55
32	Meeting Management – Principles & Best Practice	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 26. – 28.04.2013	5	100.00	2,583.46	3,083.46
33	Planning Reform on the Island of Ireland: from Policy to Practice	Co-operation Ireland	Canal Court Hotel, Newry, Co. Down 02.05.2013	1	0.00	365.72	365.72

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
34	Local Tourism & the Councillor	Solution Marketing	Talbot Hotel, Wexford 10. – 11.05.2013	1	120.00	377.03	497.03
35	HSE Tobacco Control Policy	Ace Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 10. – 12.05.2013	3	100.00	1,503.39	1,803.69
36	Dealing with Unfinished Housing Estates	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor Court Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 17. – 18.05.2013	5	150.00	1,841.44	2,591.44
37	West Cork Tourism Seminar	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 24. – 26.05.2013	1	100.00	441.67	541.67
38	Lough Derg on the Shannon – Realising our Potential	Galway Co. Council	Lakeside Hotel, Ballina, Co. Tipperary 28.05.2013	1	0.00	181.49	181.49
39	Key Energy Issues Affecting Ireland	Nuclear Free Local Authorities Ireland	Fingal County Hall, Swords, Co. Dublin 07.06.2013	1	0.00	394.14	394.14
40	European Legislation & Local Authorities	Ace Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 07. – 09.06.2013	1	100.00	505.03	605.03
41	The Future of Rural Society: Opportunities for Rural Economic Development	CEDRA – Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas	NUI Maynooth, Co. Kildare 10.06.2013	3	0.00	748.01	748.01

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
42	Preparing for new National & Regional Strategies	Kadenza Consultancies	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 14. – 16.06.2013	1	145.00	543.05	683.05
43	Contribution of Cohesion & Urban Policy to Economic Recovery	BMW & S+E Regional Assemblies (Joint Annual Confrn)	Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin 19.06.2013	5	0.00	1,604.32	1,604.32
44	Mortgage Resolution Bill 2013	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 28. – 29.06.2013	1	150.00	367.53	517.53
45	European Movement Ireland	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 28. – 30.06.2013	1	100.00	441.67	541.67
46	Drug & Alcohol Abuse for Local Authorities	Ace Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 12. – 14.07.2013	1	100.00	486.02	586.02
47	Aiding Local Communities in Job Creation	Solution Marketing	Talbot Hotel, Wexford 19. – 20.07.2013	1	120.00	396.04	516.04
48	Taxing Goods & Services	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 19. – 20.07.2013	1	0.00	367.53	367.53
49	Community Development – Arts & Sports	BG Seminarz	Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry 26. – 28.07.2013	1	150.00	508.83	658.83
50	Looking to 2016 – How Stands the Republic?	MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Co. Donegal 28.07. – 02.08.2013	1	150.00	805.79	955.79

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence	Total €
51	Rural Crime Prevention & Detection	BG Seminarz	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 02. – 04.08.2013	1	150.00	552.56	702.56
52	Parnell & Kennedy: Lost Leaders	Parnell Summer School 2013	Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow 11. – 16.08.2013	1	60.00	371.33	431.33
53	Milwaukee Irish Festival	Spirit of Galway	Milwaukee & Chicago, USA 13. – 23.08.2013	2	0.00	2,791.50	2,791.50
54	Ireland North & South: two societies growing apart?	Merriman Summer School	Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare 14. – 18.08.2013	1	35.00	215.45	250.45
55	Benefits of Jobs Creation Tax Entitlements Seminar	Ace Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 16. – 18.08.2013	3	100.00	1,340.84	1,640.84
56	European Convention on Human Rights	BG Seminarz	Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry 16. – 18.08.2013	1	150.00	508.83	658.83
57	Changing Social Relations of Housing Tenure	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 30. – 31.08.2013	1	120.00	213.55	333.55
58	Motor Vehicle Road Tax, Duties & Licences	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 06. – 07.09.2013	1	120.00	105.45	225.45
59	Dignity at Work – A Guide to Bullying & Harassment in the Workplace	Ace Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 06. – 08.09.2013	3	100.00	1,398.72	1,698.72
60	World Heritage Seminar	Dept. Arts, H & G	Dublin Castle 12.09.2013	3	0.00	1,034.66	1,034.66

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence	Total €
61	Annual Conference 2013 – Putting the People First	A.M.A.I.	Inchydoney Lodge & Spa, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 12. – 14.09.2013	2	175.00	1,238.21	1,588.21
62	Kerry Environmental, Cultural & Heritage Conference	Rattoo Heritage Society	Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry 18. – 21.09.2013	1	150.00	484.12	594.12
63	James Fintan Lalor Inaugural School 2013	James Fintan Lalor School Committee	Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise, Co. Laois 20. – 21.09.2013	1	0.00	341.32	341.32
64	Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2013	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 20. – 21.09.2013	1	120.00	350.42	470.42
65	Community Mental Health & the Elected Member	BG Seminarz	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 20. – 22.09.2013	1	150.00	552.56	702.56
66	A Decade of Commemorations 1913 – 1923 – The Role of L.A's	Kerry Literary & Cultural Centre	St. John's Theatre & Arts Centre, Listowel, Co. Kerry 26. – 27.09.2013	1	130.00	335.21	465.21
67	25 th Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar – Local Govt. – A New Dawn?	Greystones Town Council	Charlesland Golf & Country Club Hotel, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 27. – 29.09.2013	1	150.00	478.42	628.42
68	How the Elected Member can help Combat Crime	BG Seminarz	Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry 27. – 29.09.2013	2	150.00	1,008.16	1,308.16

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence	Total €
69	New Tendering Requirements for Local Authorities	Ace Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 04. – 06.10.2013	2	100.00	880.17	1,080.17
70	Internet Elections	Councillors Conferences	Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Newlands Cross, Dublin 04. – 06.10.2013	1	89.00	343.22	432.22
71	LAMA Autumn Seminar 2013	Clare County Council	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare 11. – 12.10.2013	5	150.00	1,447.92	2,197.92
72	Sport & Community Planning	Ace Training	Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary 11. – 13.10.2013	1	100.00	322.31	422.31
73	Local Government & Enterprise Development	Superior Training	Holyrood Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal 18. – 19.10.2013	2	120.00	520.50	760.50
74	The Best Way Forward: Inclusive Communities for Older People	Respond	The Convention Centre, Dublin 23.10.2013	1	0.00	382.73	382.73
75	Future Energy Needs: Wind Turbines to Nuclear	BG Seminarz	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 25. – 26.10.2013	1	120.00	443.57	563.57
76	Design Guidelines for the Planning & Development of Rural Housing	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 25. – 27.10.2013	3	100.00	1,616.11	1,916.11
77	Electoral, Local Governments & Planning & Development Act 2013	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 01. - 02.11.2013	1	150.00	207.84	357.84

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence	Total €
78	Council Budgets – Preparation, Adoption & Amendments	BG Seminarz	Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry 01. – 03.11.2013	3	150.00	1,168.10	1,618.10
79	National Agrienvironment Conference 2013	Teagasc	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly 07.11.2013	1	0.00	289.59	289.59
80	Implementation & Enforcement of EU Environmental Legislation	Irish Centre for European Law	Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson St. Dublin 2 08.11.2013	1	240.00	375.13	615.13
81	A Practical Guide to Budget 2014	Ace Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 08. – 10.11.2013	2	100.00	771.18	971.18
82	Aspects of Galway's Military History & Private John Oliver's Remembrance Weekend	Loughrea Memorial Group	Loughrea, Co. Galway 08. – 10.11.2013	12	100.00 (x11) 90.00 (x1)	335.00	1,525.00
83	Corporate Taxation – ensuring a fair system for all	Green Foundation Ireland	European Parliament Offices, Molesworth St., Dublin 2 13.11.2013	1	0.00	382.73	382.73
84	Debt Solutions – The New Personal Insolvency Legislation	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 22. – 24.11.2013	3	100.00	1,617.11	1,917.11
85	Budget 2014 for Canvassing	Councillors Conferences	Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Newlands Cross, Dublin 22. – 24.11.2013	1	95.00	305.45	400.45
86	Early Education & Childcare in your Community	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 29. – 30.11.2013	3	150.00	1,085.48	1,535.48

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
87	Future Weather – Future Farming	Teagasc	Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 05.12.2013	1	0.00	382.73	382.73
88	Changing Trends & approaches to Drug & Alcohol Abuse	Kadenza Consultancies	Cahir House Hotel, Cahir, Co. Tipperary 06. – 08.12.2013	1	145.00	415.68	560.68
89	Local Authority Employment Law, Practice & Procedure	Ace Training	Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary 06. – 08.12.2013	2	100.00	685.88	885.88
90	Tourism Technology & Competitive Strategies for 2014	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 13. – 15.12.2013	1	100.00	508.83	608.83
91	Improving Road Safety Traffic Management	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 20. – 21.12.2013	1	150.00	221.15	371.15
92	Microsoft Excel Training Workshop for Councillors	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 20. – 22.12.2013	1	100.00	550.66	650.66

ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES

Name of Councillor	Annual Allowance (Travel, Subs Miscellaneous)	Representational Payment (Salary)	Mayor's Allowance	Deputy Mayor's Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	County Development Board Chair Allowance	Expenses re. attendance at Conferences	Foreign travel	Mobile Phone Allowance	Total
Broderick, Tim	7,572.28	16,591.00			6,000.00	431.20	302.87		449.32	31,346.67
Canney, Seán	6,108.52	16,591.00					0.00		424.38	23,123.90
Carroll, Liam	5,032.12	16,591.00	20,000.05				0.00	1,356.26		42,979.43
Connolly, Dermot	8,617.84	16,591.00					827.44			26,036.28
Connolly, Michael	7,572.28	16,591.00					3,750.00		221.77	28,135.05
Cuddy, Jim	4,853.92	16,591.00					309.23			21,754.15
Cunniffe, Shaun	6,631.36	16,591.00					3,702.54			26,924.90
Fahy, Michael	6,143.52	16,591.00			6,000.00		4,475.00		101.76	33,311.28
Feeney, Peter	5,763.52	16,591.00					1,642.09			23,996.61
Finnerty, Gerry	6,945.04	16,591.00					0.00			23,536.04
Finnerty, Michael	8,722.36	16,591.00					0.00	1,435.24		26,748.60
Hoade, Mary	6,317.68	16,591.00					3,299.48		386.88	26,595.04
Hynes, Pat	6,631.36	16,591.00			6,000.00		4,443.61		197.47	33,863.44
Maher, Michael "Moegie"	6,526.72	16,591.00					3,933.80		300.03	27,351.55
Mannion, Eileen	9,349.72	16,591.00		4,874.97			1,651.85		217.06	32,684.60
Mannion, Tomas	7,885.96	16,591.00					3,700.77			28,177.73
McClearn, Jimmy	7,885.96	16,591.00			6,000.00	4,846.17	3,770.63			39,093.76
McDonagh, Jarlath	5,690.32	16,591.00					4,005.00		132.23	26,418.55
McHugh, Tom	6,840.40	16,591.00					3,600.00			27,031.40
Noone, Malachy	5,167.60	16,591.00					0.00			21,758.60
O'Cuaig, Seosamh	9,376.82	16,591.00					0.00			25,967.82
O'Curraoin, Tomas	4,958.44	16,591.00					3,730.00			25,279.44
O'Laoi, Seosamh	5,481.16	16,591.00					1,850.70		172.03	24,094.89

O'Tuairisg, Sean	6,004.00	16,591.00					4,455.00		90.42	27,140.42
Roche, Peter	6,735.88	16,591.00		4,874.97			3,455.00			31,656.85
Ryan, Kevin	7,049.56	16,591.00					3,785.41		406.77	27,832.74
Walsh, Seamus	6,422.20	16,591.00					3,530.00			26,543.20
Walsh, Tiernan	8,617.84	16,591.00			6,000.00		3,780.00		385.67	35,374.51
Welby, Thomas	6,004.00	16,591.00	22,174.54				1,472.58		570.41	46,812.53
Williers, Bridie	6,317.68	16,591.00					359.59		600.00	23,868.27
TOTALS	203,226.06	497,730.00	42,174.59	9,749.94	30,000.00	5,277.37	69,832.59	2,791.50	4,656.20	865,438.25

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Corporate & Cultural Affairs SPC

Cllr. Pat Hynes – Chairperson
Comh. Seosamh Ó Cuaig
Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Tom McHugh
Cllr. Malachy Noone
Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi
Cllr. Tom Reilly – Town Council
Ms. Frances O’Reilly
Ms. Maura Kelly Stewart
Ms. Noreen Uí Dhonnacha

Environment, Water & Emergency Services SPC

Cllr. Tim Broderick– Chairperson
Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Cllr. Michael Maher
Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty
Cllr. Michael Finnerty
Cllr. Lucy Lloyd-Keighery – Town Council
Mr. Mark Green
Mr. Diarmuid Mulcahy
Mr. Christy Cunniffe

Housing Services SPC

Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh – Chairperson
Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Tomás Mannion
Cllr. Bridie Willers
Cllr. Thomas Welby
Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh
Cllr. Sally Ann Flanagan – Town Council
Cllr. Sylvia Burke – Town Council
Mr. Joe Naughton
Mr. Dan Dowling
Mr. Noel Tarmey
Mr. Mark Coffey

Planning & Sustainable Development SPC

Cllr. Michael Fahy – Chairperson
Cllr. Dermot Connolly
Cllr. Liam Carroll
Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg
Cllr. Seán Canney
Cllr. Peter Roche
Cllr. Geraldine Bane – Town Council
Mr. Ray O’Donoghue
Mr. Justin Molloy
Mr. Michael Naughton
Mr. Michael Healy

Roads & Transportation SPC

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn – Chairperson
Cllr. Kevin Ryan
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin
Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe
Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Mike Kelly – Town Council
Mr. Aodan MacDonnacha
Mr. Martin Callanan
Mr. Pat Keane
Mr. Michael Long

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

COUNTY MANAGER

Ms. Martina Moloney

CORPORATE, HOUSING, & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director of Services:	Mr. Eugene Cummins
Senior Executive Officer, Housing:	Ms. Jean Brann
Senior Executive Officers, Corporate Services:	Mr. Michael Owens
	Mr. Gerard Scully
Administrative Officer, Housing:	Ms. Margaret Jordan
Administrative Officer, Corporate Services:	Ms. Eimear Dolan/ M.J. Walsh
County Librarian:	Mr. Peter Rabbitt (Acting)
Senior Social Worker:	Ms. Mary Forde
Senior Executive Librarian:	Ms. Bernie Kelly
Senior Executive Engineer, Housing:	Mr. Michael Sheil
Senior Executive Engineer, Corporate Services:	Mr. Steven Lally (Acting)
Law Agent:	Ms. Angela Casey (Acting)
Senior Executive Solicitors:	Ms. Anne McCormack
	Mr. Robert Meehan (Temp)
Executive Solicitors:	Ms. Margaret Flynn
	Mr. Michael O' Doherty (Temp)
Internal Auditor:	Ms. Bernie Welby
Chief Fire Officer:	Mr. Michael Raftery
Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officers:	Mr. Joseph Kelly
	Mr. Michael Clifford
	Mr. Paul Duffy
Civil Defence Officer:	Mr. Brendan Qualter

WATER, ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Director of Services:	Mr. Jim Cullen
Senior Executive Officer:	Mr. Alan Farrell
Administrative Officer, Water Services:	Mr. Enda Moloney
Administrative Officer, Environment:	Mr. Páraic Carroll
Administrative Officer, Community & Enterprise:	Mr. Brian Barrett
Senior Engineers, Water Services:	Mr. Martin Lavelle
	Mr. Michael Dolly
	Ms. Máire Ni Chionna
Senior Executive Engineers, Water Services:	Ms. Martina Connaughton
	Ms. Fiona Holland
	Mr. Diarmuid Croghan
	Mr. Anthony Kelly
	Mr. Mike Melody (Acting)
	Mr. Enda Gallagher (Acting)
	Mr. John McMyler (Acting)
	Mr. Ciaran Wynne (Acting)
Senior Executive Engineer, Environment:	Mr. Tony McInerney
Safety Advisor/Health & Safety Officer:	Ms. Julianne Gavin
County Veterinary Inspector:	Ms. Rita Gately
Veterinary Inspector:	Mr. James Casey

Rapid Co-ordinators:	Ms. Ann Mallaghan Mr. Kieran Coyne
Arts Officer:	Ms. Marilyn Gaughan Redden
Sports Co-ordinator	Mr. Michael Curley

PLANNING & HUMAN RESOURCES

Director of Services:	Mr. Kevin Kelly
Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Bríd Dooley
Administrative Officer, Planning:	Ms. Eileen Keaveney
Administrative Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Anne Gardiner
Senior Planner:	Ms. Catherine McConnell
Senior Executive Engineer:	Mr. Damien Mitchell (Acting)
Senior Executive Planners:	Ms. Saoirse Kennedy Ms. Valerie Loughnane Moran
Heritage Officer:	Ms. Marie Mannion
Conservation Officer:	Ms. Máirín Doddy
Chief Technician:	Mr. Enda Thompson

ROADS, TRANSPORTATION, MARINE & GENERAL SERVICES

Director of Services:	Mr. Frank Gilmore
Administrative Officer:	Ms. Nuala Heffernan
Senior Engineers:	Mr. Evan Molloy Mr. Liam Gavin Mr. Michael Timmins
Senior Executive Engineers:	Mr. John Leahy Mr. Uinsinn Finn Mr. Aengus Breathnach Mr. Sean Breathnach Mr. Fintan O'Meara Mr. Anthony Collins Mr. Rory Timlin Mr. Alan Raleigh Mr. Fran McEvoy (Acting)
Chief Technician:	Mr. John Maloney

AREA ENGINEERS

South Division (Ballinasloe South):	Mr. Adrian Headd
South Division (Ballinasloe North):	Ms. Olive Finnerty
South Division (Portumna):	Mr. Cyril Mitchell
South Division (Loughrea):	Mr. Enda Mulryan
South Division (Gort):	Mr. Fergal Fahy
North Division (Tuam West-Oranmore):	Mr. Sean Langan (Acting)
North Division (Tuam East):	Mr. John Flesk
West Division (South Connemara):	Mr. Kevin Finn
West Division (North Connemara):	Mr. T.J. Redmond

FINANCE UNIT

Head of Finance:	Mr. Gerard Mullarkey
Financial Accountant:	Ms. Áine Fenton
Management Accountant:	Mr. Michael McGovern
Administrative Officer:	Mr. Sean Groarke
Administrative Officer, Motor Tax:	Ms. Mary McGann
Head of Information Systems:	Mr. Morgan Matthews (Acting)

BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk:	Ms. Caitriona Morgan
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WEST REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Director:	Mr. Mark O'Donnell
Senior Executive Planner:	Ms. Teresa O'Reilly (Temp/Acting)

PARTNERSHIP FACILITATOR:	Mr. M. J. Walsh
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OFFICES OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

HEADQUARTERS:

Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill,
Galway.
091 – 509000

FIRE BRIGADE:

Headquarters:
Fr. Griffin Road,
Galway.
091 - 570900

Housing Applications	(091) 509300
Housing Loans and Grants	(091) 509301
Environment	(091) 476402
Human Resources	(091) 509303
Motor Taxation	(091) 509099
Driving Licences	(091) 509305
Water Services	(091) 476427
Community, Enterprise & Economic Dev.	(091) 476400
Planning	(091) 509308
Engineering	(091) 509309
Register of Electors	(091) 509310
Higher Education Grants	(091) 509310

AREA OFFICES:**TELEPHONE NO.**

Athenry	(091)	844042
Ballinasloe	(09096)	42274
Portumna	(09097)	41019
Gort	(091)	631040
An Cheathrú Rua	(091)	595771
Clifden	(095)	21186
Tuam East (Tuam)	(093)	24123
Tuam East (Mountbellew)	(09096)	79221
Tuam West (Milltown)	(093)	51314
Loughrea	(091)	841536
Oughterard	(091)	552353

OPENING HOURS – MONDAY TO FRIDAY:

GENERAL: 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

MOTOR TAXATION: 9.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE COUNTY



BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL

*Ballinasloe Town Council, Civic Offices, Ballinasloe
Tel: (09096) 42263*

Cllr. Jerry Broderick	54 St. Joseph's Place, Ballinasloe
Cllr. Cathal Concannon	Harbour Road Ballinasloe
Cllr. Matthew Ganly	Dunlo Hill Ballinasloe.
Cllr. Carmel Grealy	Brackernagh, Ballinasloe
Cllr. Mike Kelly	4 Oakmill Drive, Derrymullen,
Cllr. Lucy Lloyd-Keighery	27 St. Brendan's Terrace, Ballinasloe.
Cllr. Aidan McGrath	Ardcarn House Shannonbridge Road, Ballinasloe.
Cllr. Pat O'Sullivan	7, Kilgarve Park, Ballinasloe.
Cllr. Johnny Walsh	59 St. Joseph's Place, Ballinasloe.
Town Clerk: Mr. Mark O'Donnell	



TUAM TOWN COUNCIL

*Tuam Town Council, Shop Street, Tuam
Tel: (093) 24246*

Cllr. Tom Reilly	20 Trinity Court Galway Road Tuam
Cllr. Sally Anne Flanagan	12 Woodfield Galway Road Tuam
Cllr. Peter Warren	64 Athenry Road Tuam
Cllr. Mary Loftus	High Street Tuam
Cllr. Eamonn Kitt	Weir Road Tuam
Cllr. Imelda Kelly	3 Waterslade Downs Tullinadaly Road Tuam
Cllr. Larry Bane	3 the Oaks, Ballygaddy Road Tuam
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe	Ballygaddy Road Tuam
Cllr. Martin Ward	36 Tirboy, Tuam
Town Clerk: Ms Angela Holian	



LOUGHREA TOWN COUNCIL

Loughrea Town Council, Barrack Street, Loughrea

Tel: (091) 841536

Cllr. Geraldine Bane	17 Fahy Gardens, Loughrea.
Cllr. Gabriel Burke	Main Street, Loughrea.
Cllr. Sylvia Burke	Hollyhill, Gurty Madden, Loughrea.
Cllr. Jimmy Curley	8 Tullagh Na Corraig, Loughrea.
Cllr. Mary Gunter-Nix	Garrybreeda, Loughrea.
Cllr. Pat Hynes	Gort Road, Loughrea.
Cllr. Michael 'Moegie' Maher	Clostoken Loughrea.
Cllr. Norman Morgan	Bride Street, Loughrea.
Cllr. James Regan	Earlspark, Loughrea.
Town Clerk: Ms. Ann Monaghan	

SERVICE INDICATORS 2013

Completed returns for 2013 shown red.

F: FIRE SERVICE

F1: Fire Service Mobilisation

A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	2.6
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	4.8
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	2.25
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	5.2

F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes

A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	50.53
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	32.71
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	16.76
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	43.17
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	32.73
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	24.10

F.3 Fire Prevention

A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	121	Total consists of County only
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	104	Consists of County only
C. Total number of applications deemed invalid	17	Consists of County only

CP: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme**

Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme 61.11

CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum 644

C: CORPORATE ISSUES**C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness**

A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave 4.76

B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave 0.36

C.2 Staff Training and Development

Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs: 4.95 Includes Galway Co Co & Ballinasloe TC

E: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**WATER****E.1 Unaccounted For Water**

Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for 36.89

E.2 Drinking Water Analysis –Compliance with Statutory Requirements

A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes ---- Nat. Fig Awaited

B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate) ---- Nat. Fig Awaited

WASTE MANAGEMENT**E.3 Waste Segregation**

A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables 99.75 Collected from NWCPO

B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service And are provided with segregated waste collection for organics 23.17 Collected from NWCPO

E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling

A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling 45.43 Collected from NWCPO

B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling 19973 Collected from NWCPO

C. Tonnage of households waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities sent for recycling 4545.87 Collected from NWCPO

E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill

A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	48.74 Collected from NWCP0
B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	21427 Collected from NWCP0

E6: Recycling Facilities

The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area for recycling	86
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4

Glass

A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	86
B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
C. The total number of facilities for recycling	90
D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.57

Cans

E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	85
4F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
G. The total number of facilities for recycling	89
H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.54

Textiles

I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	87
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	90
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.57

Batteries

M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	3
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09

Oils

Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	3
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09

Other materials

U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3

W. The total number of facilities for recycling	3
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09

E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement

A. Number of full-time litter wardens	0
B. Number of part-time litter wardens	15
C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.43
D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	300
E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	91
F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	18
G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	2
H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	0
I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	18
J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	2
K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	11
L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	52
M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	23
N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	10
O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	4

E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	899
B. Number of complaints investigated	1311
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	927
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	465

E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns

A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	91.75
B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	91.67

H: HOUSING**H1: Housing Vacancies**

A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	2506
B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	2388
C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	8.17
D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	77.44
E- The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	22.56

H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let Available dwellings

The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling

15

The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit

12

H3: Housing Repairs

Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received

97.97

H4: Traveller Accommodation

Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme

66.67

H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector

A. Total number of registered tenancies	6106
B. Number of dwelling units inspected	104
C. Number of inspections carried out	104
D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	1.70

H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability

A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application

9

B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application

12

H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses

A. Total number of new local authority tenants	113
B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	100

L: LIBRARY SERVICES**L.1 Library Public Opening Hours**

A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	32.25
B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	11.75
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	20
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	90
E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100

L.2 Library Visits

Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	3097.71	Population includes County & City 250,653
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L.3 Library Stock

A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	0.20	Population includes County & City 250,653
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	2.78	Population includes County & City 250,653
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.06	Population includes County & City 250,653

L.4 Internet Access through Libraries

Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	250.98
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M: MOTOR TAXATION**M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions**

A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	139394
B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	27226
C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	127083
D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	47.46
E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	9.27
F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	43.27

M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications

A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	26428
B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	271

C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	92
D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	435
E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	97.06
F. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	1.00
G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	0.34
H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	1.60

M.3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications

A. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	2143
B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	2201
C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	5155
D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	18248
E. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	7.72
F. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	7.93
G. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	18.58
H. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	65.77

M.4 Public opening hours

Average number of opening hours per week	32.50
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P: PLANNING

P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making

Individual Houses

A. Number of applications decided	259
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	119
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	110
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	30
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	79.38
F. Percentage of applications granted	93.44

G. Percentage of applications refused	6.56
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	58.33
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	41.67

New Housing Development

A. Number of applications decided	13
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	8
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	5
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	79.4
F. Percentage of applications granted	84.62
G. Percentage of applications refused	15.38
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	100
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0

Other: Not requiring Environment Impact Assessment

A. Number of applications decided	623
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	375
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	212
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	35
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	79.12
F. Percentage of applications granted	95.83
G. Percentage of applications refused	4.17
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	60.71
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	39.29

Other: Requiring Environment Impact Assessment

A. Number of applications decided	9
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	6
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	6
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0

E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	80
F. Percentage of applications granted	100
G. Percentage of applications refused	0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	0
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	100

P.2 Planning Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	300
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	128
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	171
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	193
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	126
F. Number of prosecutions	13

P.3 Planning Public opening hours

Average number of opening hours per week	35
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P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation

A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	330
B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	25

P.5 New Buildings inspected

Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	31.94
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P.6 Taking Estates in Charge

A- The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	106
B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	9
C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B	316
278D- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	66.04
E- Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	2
F- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	2

Rec: RECREATIONAL SERVICES**Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds**

A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.09
B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.26

Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities

Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	952.05
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Rev: REVENUE COLLECTION**Rev.1 House Rent**

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	86.32
B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are up to 4 weeks old	6.33
C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	4.54
D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6- 12 weeks old	6.37
E. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	82.76

Rev.2 Housing Loans

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	73.88
B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1 month old	4.35
C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	4.21
D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2 -3 months old	3.17
E. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	88.27

Rev.3 Commercial Rates

Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	65
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Rev.4 Refuse Charges

Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	0 N/A
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Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	54
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R: ROADS

R1: Road Restoration Programme

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum 368.15 kms.

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum 1.5kms

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2013

Galway County Council adopted a Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to apply to all planning decisions made on or after the 8th March 2004. This scheme has subsequently been amended on 22nd September 2008 and on 17th December 2010.

In order to meet the Council's core objectives, as outlined in the Corporate Plan, there is a requirement for significant investment in creating the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of an expanding population. The Development Contribution Scheme is designed to help bridge the funding gap between the actual costs of creating that infrastructure and the exchequer and other funding that will be available. Since the inception of the scheme, whilst significant funding has been raised, the demands being placed on the Council are proving to far exceed the funding available.

The attached table summarises the funds collected since the inception of the scheme of €42.30 million to the end of December 2013, and the allocation of those funds. Also attached is an estimate of commitments for projects due to commence in 2014 and beyond which total €111 million demonstrating the large funding gap that must be bridged to ensure that these projects proceed as planned.

Summary of Development Contribution Scheme to 31 December 2013	
Development Contributions Income	
Pre December 2011	37,138,535
Year ended 31 December 2011	2,384,970
Year ended 31 December 2012	1,436,416
Year ended 31 December 2013	1,339,329
Total Income Received	42,299,250

Development Contributions Allocated	
Water and Waste Water Facilities	22,100,000
Recreation & Amenity	15,750,000
Roads & Car Parking Facilities	4,450,000
Funds Committed	42,300,000
Estimated Future Demands	
Water and Waste Water Facilities	95,000,000
Recreation & Amenity	8,500,000
Roads & Car Parking Facilities	7,500,000
Subtotal of future demands	111,000,000

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2013

EXPENDITURE	2012 €M	2013 €M
Housing	9.632	9.838
Roads	34.765	35.017
Sanitary Services	24.112	23.948
Planning & Development	6.521	6.514
Environmental Protection	16.924	16.319
Recreation & Amenity	7.773	7.842
Agriculture & Education	14.758	8.149
Miscellaneous Services	12.043	11.667
Total Expenditure	126.531	119.294
INCOME		
State Grants	75.878	69.075
Other Sources	53.852	54.458
Total Income	128.730	123.533
Surplus / (Deficit) for year before transfers	2.198	4.238
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	(2,692)	(4.241)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(0.494)	(0.002)
General Revenue Reserve at 1st January	(1.402)	(1.896)
General Revenue Reserve at 31st December	(1.896)	(1.898)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2013				
Net Assets	2012 €M	2012 €M	2013 €M	2013 €M
Fixed Assets		3,765.373		3,753,302
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses		247.553		259.050
Long Term Debtors		59.172		56.307
Current Assets	58.737		55.342	
Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)	(37.623)		(33.361)	
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		21.113		21.980
Creditors (Amounts falling due after one year)		(132.287)		(134.081)
Total		3,960.924		3,956.559
Represented By				
Capitalisation Account		3,765.373		3,753.302
Receipts - Work in Progress		242.417		256.902
Other Reserves		(44.970)		(51.746)
General Revenue Reserve		(1.896)		(1.898)
Total		3,960.924		3,895.559

Further details of the AFS are available on request:

PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT 1997

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL OBSERVES THE REQUIREMENT OF THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT 1997.