

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2012 ANNUAL REPORT 2012



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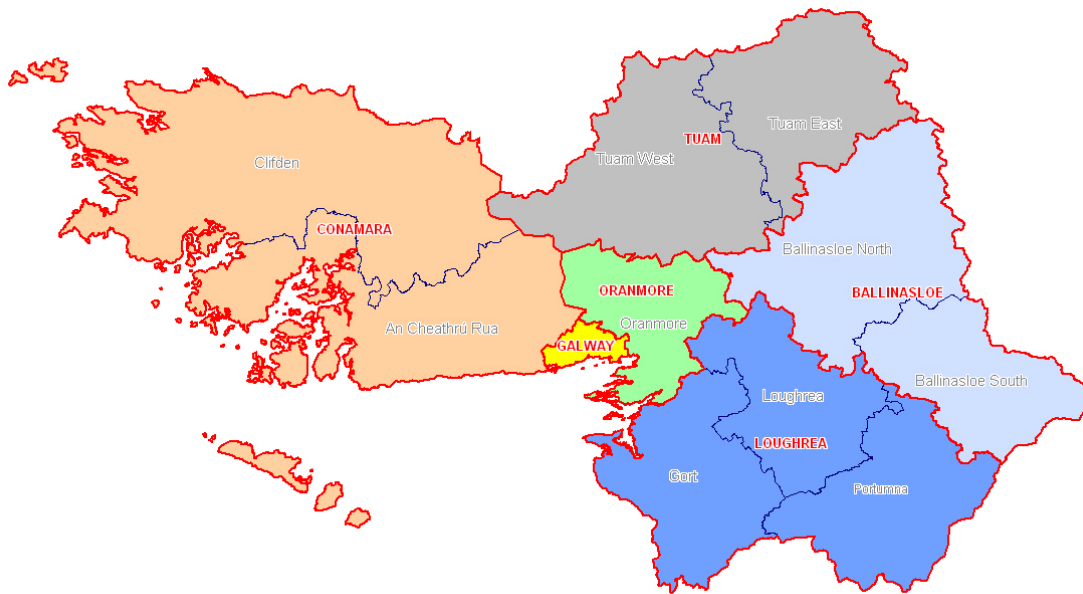
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<p>Important Note: Copies of the Annual Report are available on request in alternate formats contact : Corporate Services Section Áras an Chontae Prospect Hill Galway Tel: 091- 509000 or email general@galwaycoco.ie</p>
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MISSION 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 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 2012.

Galway County Council hosted several Civic Receptions during 2012 including one for President of Ireland Mr. Michael D. Higgins on 24th February 2012. During my tenure I was delighted to host a number of Civic Receptions in County Hall which included the various Tidy Towns Committee's and also a Mayoral Reception for the Ireland Reaching Out 'Week of Welcomes'.

The Annual Mayoral Awards Ceremony in the Lough Rea Hotel & Spa which I hosted on 8th November 2012 was attended by over two hundred and fifty people and was a highlight for me. The Awards recognise and celebrate community and voluntary activity around County Galway. I wish to sincerely thank all those involved and to acknowledge all local community activists for their dedication to enhancing their local communities.

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 Michael Maher 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, na Comhairleoirí eile agus pobal na Gaillimhe fré chéile. Cé go bhfuil dúshlán mhór romhainn táim cinnte go bhfuil ar chumas an Chontae seo tarraingt le chéile agus oibriú I dtreo todhchaí thairbheach dúinn ar fad.

Cllr. Tomás Welby
Mayor of the County of Galway

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER 2012



As Galway County Manager I welcome the publication of this Annual Report which outlines the progress achieved in the delivery of our diverse range of services to the public in 2012.

Major progress continued in the improvement of water services infrastructure in the county. Many long-awaited sewerage schemes such as Clifden, Oughterard, Baile Chláir and Milltown, Kinvara and Athenry are being progressed. The assistance and co-operation of the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in this regard is greatly appreciated. Significant improvement has also been made in the operation and maintenance of schemes since the completion of the Remedial Action List. Galway County Council is responsible for the operation of 35 Public Water Supplies serving a population of 132,270.

The year 2012 also saw progress in the Roads area with many schemes being progressed under the pavement and minor improvements scheme. Progress continues in addressing the issue of flooding throughout the County, in association with the Office of Public Works. The Community Enterprise & Economic Development Unit continued its very valuable work with communities throughout the county. The Council continues to support the strong voluntary commitment evident throughout the county. The success of Galway communities in both the National Tidy Towns competition and the All-Ireland Pride of Place Awards is an acknowledgement of the valuable work undertaken. The 'Living Landscape Conference' in Clifden and the Regional MeetWest in Athlone initiatives were major successes during 2012. Work on the establishment of the 'Made in Galway' brand for local food and craft producers has been beneficial for local producers. The involvement of the Council in the Job-Bridge and other work placement initiatives has proven very beneficial for both the participants and the Council.

Demand for some services is continuing to increase. For example, the net housing need in Galway County in 2008 was 1,077 households; the comparable figure now is 3,116. Usage of the Library Services has increased by 21% since 2008. While the number of planning applications has declined, the revised arrangements in relation to Quarries generated significant workloads. In addition, the review of Local Area Plans has required the assignment of considerable resources. Increased attention is also required to deal with the unfinished estates in the County.

In April 2012, the decision was taken by Government to establish a new public utility company to manage the public water supply and to introduce domestic water charges with effect from 2014. The new company, called Irish Water, will be a wholly owned public water utility and will be a subsidiary of Bord Gais. There will be a transition period from 2013 to 2017 during which responsibilities will transfer to Irish Water from local authorities. The creation of this new entity will have a varied and far-reaching impact on local government.

The Council is co-operating with initiatives at national level to explore the Business Case for Local Authorities sharing services in some areas. This was a key recommendation of the Local Government Efficiency Review. Costs have been reduced through closure of area offices and in the facilities management area. The water conservation programme is also delivering significant savings, as is the leasing of the Civic Amenity sites. Savings have been achieved in the operation of the Coroners and Inquests service. The council is endeavouring to improve Customer service through greater use of on-line services such as 'Fix Your Street'. Savings have been achieved

through revised procurement arrangements and a continued focus on energy efficiency is also yielding savings.

The scarcity of resources both human and financial has resulted in considerable change and contraction in the wake of the changing economic context in which we are operating. The Council has continued to adjust to those circumstances, while at the same time attempting to maintain essential services. During 2012, the Council has focused on effective management of the Council's resources through prudent revenue expenditure controls and limiting exposure to capital projects, timely recoupments, together with a review of work processes and practices in a number of areas. The Council has worked to maximise value for money in the delivery of services, while prioritising legal compliance obligations in the context of reduced resources.

I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the current Mayor Cllr. Thomas Welby, former Mayor Cllr. Michael Maher, all elected members and staff for their collective input, resilience and flexibility in responding to the changed circumstances.

Martina Moloney
County Manager

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS 2012

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

				
1.Cllr. Sean Canney	2.Cllr. Michael Connolly	3. Cllr. Mary Hoade	4. Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe	5.Cllr.Tom Mc Hugh

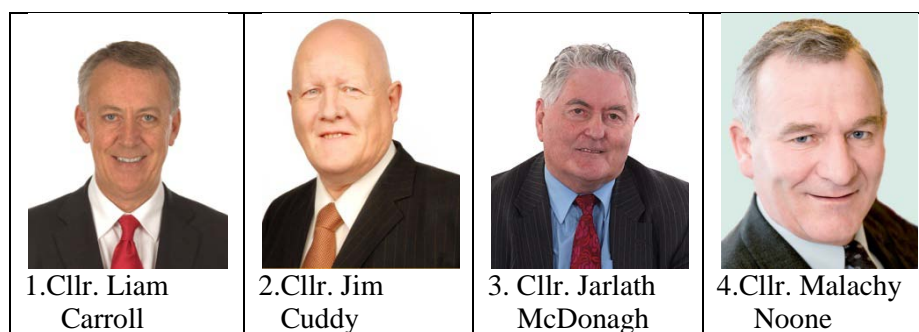
	
6. Cllr. Peter Roche	7. Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh

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**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**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

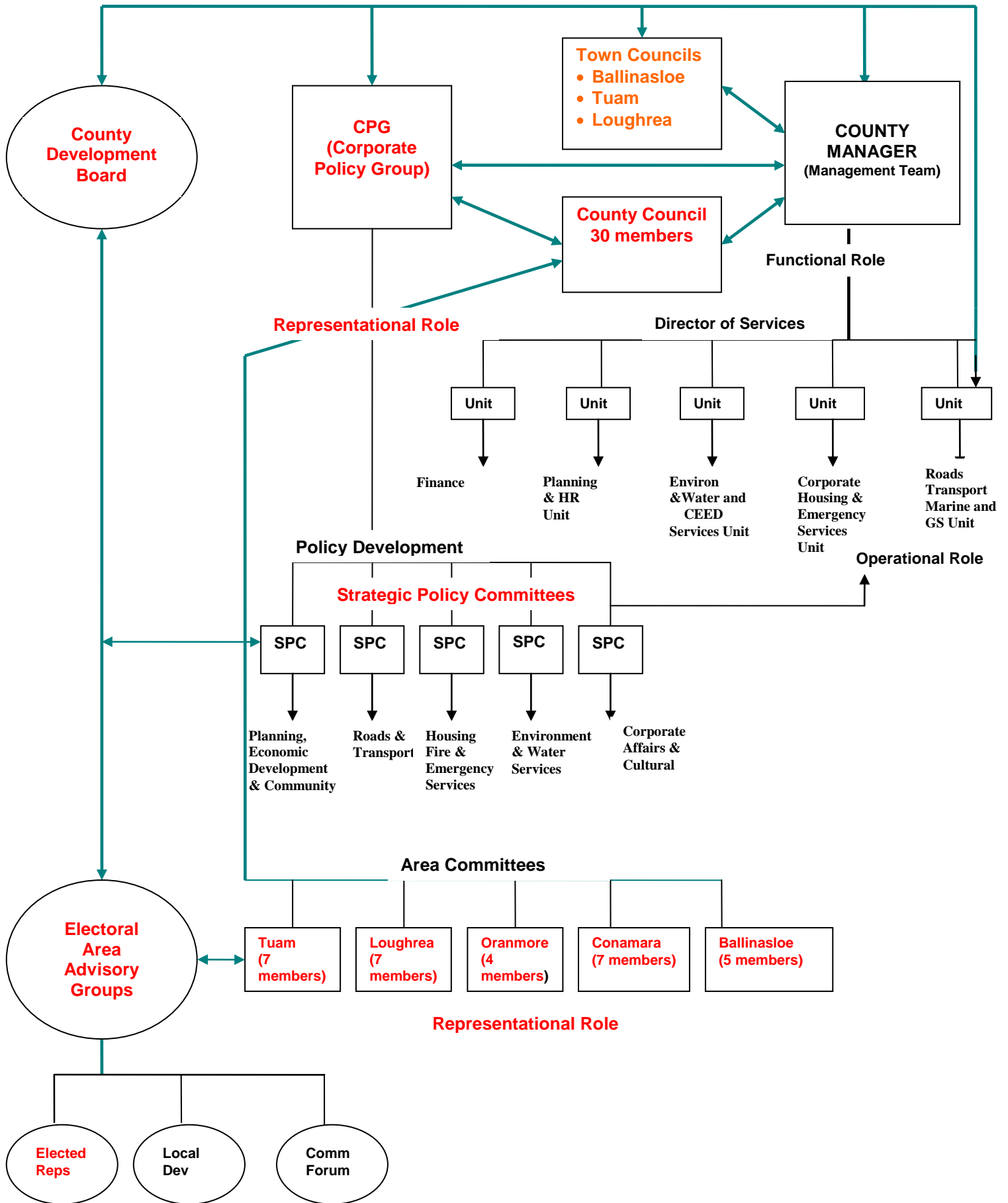
Area Committees

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 2012



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 2012 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 2012 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. 2012 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
40, 497 Registered members
568,663 visits to our Libraries
657,029 books issued to people.

This represents a 20% increase since 2007.

Developments in 2012

- **The Plans for the new Ballinasloe Library** were finalised and sent to the Dept of the Environment. It will be located in the old Convent of Mercy building.
- **Roundstone Library** was officially opened by the Mayor Cllr Tom Welby on the 7th June 2012. It was a great community event with a large local attendance to celebrate the Library.
- **Spiddal Library** was renovated and a kitchen and toilet added. It was officially opened by the Mayor Cllr Tom Welby on the 8th June. The revamped Spiddal Library, with its magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean, is very much appreciated by its many readers.
- **Oughterard Library** is located in the Courthouse. Essential repairs were carried out to the roof of the building. Galway County Council and a local Restoration Group have plans to renovate the building and an extended Library will be part of the renovated building.

- **RFID** – (Radio Frequency Identification) was introduced into Westside Library last December. It is a self service system of issuing and returning books. Westside Library is the busiest library in the service and this new system will be a help in dealing with readers.

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. We are indebted to Galway County Council for their support of 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.

- 20 Reading Groups meet in 15 Branch Libraries on a monthly basis.
- Libraries also support private reading groups, supplying them with books.
- 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 nine years. It is very popular with an average attendance of 100 people.
- **Life Lessons from the Great Books** was a series of ten short talks delivered by Sanja Bentz (a German Student on placement) in Galway City Library during August and September. The major works of literature were presented and debated, exploring their relevance to life in the 21st Century.

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.
- 3,880 children registered for the Challenge in 24 Branch Libraries.
- 1,054 new children registered to take part in the Challenge,
- 2,655 Children were presented with Reading Certificates and Medals at end of summer parties in their local Branch.

The Mayor Cllr Welby presented the Certificates in 10 Branch Libraries.

- **Start Reading Initiative in Ballybane and Tuam.**
- All children who started school in the local schools in Tuam and Ballybane were presented with a Library Membership Card and two books in a special bag on an organised visit with their teachers and parents to the Library.
- **The Start Now Project in Westside Library in conjunction with the Maternity Unit in UCHG.** Staff from Westside Library attend the Ante Natal classes in UCHG and talk to the new mothers about books and the importance of reading and talking to a child. Mothers are also presented with a picture book, a bag and a book list. It is part of a nation wide project.
- **One Book One Tuam;** "Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpugo" 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. 22 Branch Libraries were visited by storytellers such as Pat Speight (Cork), Niall de Burca, Yourman Puppets, Little Gem Puppets 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 and Loughrea Libraries.

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.
- **The Court Room/ Library in Spiddal** is a wonderful space for exhibitions and is in great demand.
- **The East Galway Art Trail**, is in its 6th year. It combines artists and Libraries such as Ballinasloe, Portumna, Woodford, Eyrecourt and Killimor Libraries. An artist is assigned a library for their exhibition, 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, and Spiddal
- Loughrea and Tuam have regular music events. Local musicians who get together and perform in the Library.
- Con Tempo played in Galway City, Loughrea, Gort and Portumna.

Arts Festivals:

- **Clifden Library** is synonymous with the **Clifden Arts Festival** since its inception 25 years ago. This year the Library was the venue for a number of poetry readings, a talk on Oscar Wilde 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 new 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.

To assist us with our staffing requirements in 2012, we had the support of 12 Library Students (4 German Students, 4 Italian Students and 2 French Students) they worked in Library Headquarters, Galway City, Westside, Ballybane, Oranmore and Gort. We also had the support of 5 interns in Ballinasloe, Carraroe, Westside, Tuam and Loughrea.

RECREATION AND AMENITY FACILITIES

- Funding was provided to Athenry Arts and Heritage Ltd for the operation of Athenry Heritage Centre. Aghrim Interpretative Centre which is owned and operated by Galway County Council opened for an extended period in May to September 2012 and attracted just over 2700 visitors.
- The Lifeguard Programme was implemented on a seasonal basis at 10 locations in the County including six Blue Flag Beaches, and at six locations in the City as part of a shared service agreement with Galway City Council. International Lifeguarding Federation of Europe (ILSE) Risk Assessments were completed at all locations in 2012 and further to recommendations an additional lifeguard was provided during scheduled hours at all Lifeguarded County Beaches. Swimming Pool services in Tuam and Ballinalsoe continued to be provided in partnership with Kingfisher Ltd.
- In accordance with commitments previously given under the Play Policy, assistance was provided to playgrounds through direct funding and provision of insurance during 2012 in Galway at Lackagh, Gort, Labane/Ardrahan, and Ahascragh.. To date, a total of 52 playgrounds have been developed in the County under this policy.
- Rinville Park, Oranmore, Co. Galway continues to provide a significant amenity for local communities and in 2012 the Corporate Service Unit placed an 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. Interpretative Signage on the Bio-Diversity and Built Heritage in the Park were launched in 2012, while National Play Day events were held in the Park, on July 1st for children aged 5-12 in partnership with City & County Childcare Committee and local groups. The free events from 2-4pm were on the theme of 'Experiment with Play' and were held to welcome the Volvo Ocean Race and to promote increased use of the Park. A Concession Tender was also issued and awarded for provision of refreshments at Rinville Park during April to September.
- Contractor appointed for the construction of two All-Weather Pitches at Tuam.

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 2,000 renewals including re-assessment of over 600 provisional awards were dealt with by the Student Grants Department during 2012. Over 70% of first term maintenance payments were paid by the end of October, 2012
- Information Workshops on the 2012/2013 Scheme were held in June, 2012.
- A dedicated twitter account www.twitter.com/galwaystudents, phone line and text service is ongoing for student queries.

COMMUNITY WARDEN SCHEME

2012 marks 10 years of valuable service by the Community Wardens Service to communities throughout County Galway.

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.
- The Wardens continued to assist with the operation of pay parking and the implementation of traffic management plans in a number of towns across the County.
 - Environmental Enforcement including the issuing of Litter fines and notices under the Waste Management and Water pollution Acts continued to be undertaken by the Warden Service.
 - Dog Licensing inspection campaigns 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. 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.

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 number of electors registered is **132,564**
- In the context, of the two Referendums held in May and November, the Section facilitated the preparation of the Supplementary Registers. There were 464 people on the Supplement for the May Referendum and 4611 for the Supplement in November. A radio and print media information campaign and revised flyer and leaflet drop was undertaken in advance of the second Supplement. The total number on the Draft Register published on November 1st was 132,374

- Thirty Candidates are elected to Galway County Council in five Electoral Areas.

Ballinasloe	5
Loughrea	7
Tuam	7
Oranmore	4
Conamara	7.

MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY.



Outgoing Mayor of the County of Galway Cllr. Michael Maher (right) congratulates incoming Mayor of the County of Galway Cllr. Thmoás Welby following the Council's AGM on 11th June 2012.

DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY.

Outgoing Deputy Mayor of the County Cllr. Bridie Willers congratulates incoming Deputy Mayor of the County Cllr. Peter Roche following the Council's AGM on 11th June 2012.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND SUPPORT

Corporate Policy Group	Meetings
Corporate Policy Group	Six Meetings
Strategic Policy Committees	Meetings
Housing Fire & Emergency Services	Three meetings
Roads and Transportation	Four meetings
Planning, Economic Development & Community	Four meetings
Environment, & Water Services	Four meetings
Corporate Affairs and Cultural	Four meetings

- Ethics Register – the Register for Members and relevant staff was updated during the year

ACCESSIBILITY

Continued delivery of the Disability Action Plan 2007-2015, within the limits of previously allocated funding was undertaken in 2012.

SUPPORTING CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTING THE IRISH LANGUAGE 2012

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 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 various surveys, reports and ongoing consultation with Sections.
- *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 will be reviewed in 2013 in terms of usage and the most appropriate operational model to support a high quality customer service experience.
- *Ár Seans 2013* - collaborative awareness project with County Galway VEC and Gaeilge Locha Riach inviting national and secondary schools in East Galway to compose new songs in Irish or create new arrangements of traditional songs. This project will be completed in early 2013.
- *Stéibh 2013* - A song writing/performing competition in Irish for Gaeltacht Schools in collaboration with Co. Gal VEC & Óige na Gaeltachta was initiated and will be completed in early 2013.
- *Dara Scéim Teanga Údaráis Áitiúla Chontae na Gaillimhe* – Discussion with An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & 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.

MAYORAL AWARDS

Mayor of the County of Galway Cllr. Thomás Welby hosted the second Annual Mayoral Awards Ceremony in the Lough Rea Hotel & Spa on 8th November 2012 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 September 2012 for nominations for eleven award categories and over 110 nominations were received. An independent judging panel shortlisted the nominations. Those shortlisted attended at the Awards Ceremony where the eleven winners were announced. The winners were presented with a specially commissioned prestigious Mayors Award hand crafted by Loughrea Craft Producer Marcin Calka of Reborn Art Studios and a €500 cheque to use for their work.



Front row, L- R: Martina Moloney, County Manager, Noelle Lyskey from Portumna Arts Group, Arts & Culture winners; County Mayor Cllr. Thomas Welby; Leona Larkin from St. Augustine's National School in Clontuskert, Schools Contribution to Heritage winners; and John Martin Griffin from Ballymoe, Volunteer of the Year winner.

Back row, L – R: Eileen Edwards from Boystown Heritage Store in Ballymoe, Community Enterprise winners; Joe Hansberry from Athenry Community Games, Sports Award winners; Pauline Scott from 'Glink 100', Heritage Publication winners; Anna Casey from Gort Community School, Environmental Award winners; Ann O'Shaughnessy from Clann Family Resource Centre in Oughterard, Intergenerational Award winners; Síle Griffin from Clifden 2012 Committee, Best Contribution to Heritage winners; Alma King from Electronics Concepts Ltd in Oughterard, Corporate Social Responsibility Award winners; Rachel Cunniffe from the Dolman Centre in Kinvara, Social Inclusion Award winners.

CIVIC RECEPTIONS

There were 5 Civic Receptions and 1 Mayoral Reception:

Civic Reception for President Michael D. Higgins (24th February 2012)



Galway Minor A Camogie Panel Minor A All-Ireland Camogie Championship 2011 (28th May 2012)



There was also a Civic Reception for Naomh Pádraig, An Fhairche All Ireland Junior Club Football Champions 2011 (23rd April 2012)



Abbeyknockmoy Set Dancers (28th May 2012)



Mayoral Reception – Ireland Reaching Out “Week of Welcomes” (25th June 2012)



Tidy Towns (26th November 2012)



There was also the Twinning: Clifden & Coyoacan, Mexico (June 2012 – statement of intent & September 2012- Formal twinning)



MAXIMISING ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

INTERNAL AUDIT

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 the Chairperson of the Audit Committee.

- 5 Audit Committee meetings were held during 2012
- The 2012 Audit Plan contained 12 areas of audit focus
- 9 audit reports were presented to the Management Team and the Audit Committee.
- Reviews of the 2011 audit report recommendation's
- Income generating activities in Ballinasloe Town Council were examined and reported on
- Weekly ,monthly, quarterly /annual examinations of receipts ,lodgements and cancellations were carried out in the Motor Tax offices ,Cash office, & Burial Ground Caretakers & Revenue Collectors transactions
- Meetings were held with staff to discuss and evaluate various procedural issues.
- Policy compliance testing was carried out on the following :
 - Low Value Purchase Cards
 - Fuel Cards
 - Use of the 2012 LA Quotes System

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, continues to be rolled out.
- A Framework for the Provision of Legal Services was established in 2012 further to a tender process. The Framework allows for a Panel of specialist and general legal services to be provided as required to the Council.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

In 2012, the focus in Office Accommodation and Facilities Management was on maintaining quality environment and value for money. Savings were achieved through new approach to confidential shredding contracts, renewal of cleaning contracts, while older building unit such as Portacabins removed to improve parking areas. Health and Safety Management remains a priority area, with regular Fire and Evacuation Training provided to staff, continual inspections regimes implemented and new initiatives such as Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) undertaken. During 2012, part of the area office network was reviewed and the Oranmore Electoral Area office previously based in Lackagh were relocated to Tuam Regional Office and County Hall.

Access to the County Art Collection was enhanced in 2012. Items from the Collection were taken out of storage and hung by the County Arts Offices in public spaces, conference rooms and offices throughout County Hall and Centrepoint offices in Liosban, showcasing a diversity of local artistic talent. The public are welcome to view works in the collection in public areas during normal opening hours

MANAGEMENT OF RECORDS AND ARCHIVES

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

- Provided on-going reader services, such as access to collections for research purposes, assistance with research queries, and provision of research advice and guidance.
- The processing, care and management of archival collections was ongoing throughout 2012, with details of collections available on the on-line catalogue.
- Outreach activities included the management, assembly, design and display of *Gleanings from the Archives* exhibition, an archival display for President Higgins' Civic Reception, and talks to local heritage groups and third level students.
- The section continued to monitor the environmental conditions of the archives and endeavoured to ensure their continued protection, preservation and management, in the context of the standard of storage facilities currently available.

- The programme of providing security backup and reference microfilm to collections continued.
- Advice and assistance on records management was provided to sections within Galway County Council.
- The section continued to manage non-current record transfers to storage & record retrievals & returns: 627 controlled recall requests were processed from January to November 2012, with a total of 67,797 records on the ArcLink (records management) database.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

A total of 59 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2012 under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 as amended. Of these, 5 sought access to personal information and 54 sought access to non-personal information. The following table shows an analysis of the decisions made on these requests:

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	19
Requests Part-Granted	32
Requests Refused	6
Requests Withdrawn	2

WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP

- Three meetings of the Workplace Partnership Committee were held in 2012
- Progress reports on all issues in relation to the Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014 local Action Plan were discussed.
- *Putting People First* - Action Programme for Effective Local Government was considered by the Committee and also the report on the national Review of Workplace Partnership published by the Local Authority National Partnership Advisory Group (LANPAG).
- Committee members attended at the national launch of the LANPAG, *New Direction for Workplace Partnership in the Local Government Sector* at the LGMA Offices.
- 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 2012. Made up of representatives from each Department the group met each quarter to review targets in the Customer Services Action Plan. The group oversaw the introduction of 'Fix Your Street' in May 2012. The Service was formally launched by Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government Phil Hogan, T.D. in Loughrea in June 2012. Fix Your Street is a customer web-site where comments and complaints related to Roads, Litter, Public Lighting Graffiti can be posted by customers and locations marked on a map and is an initiative in the Programme for Government. The Council is committed to posting a response within 48 hrs and replies can be viewed by all

users of the site. The site is an additional tool for customers and is not a replacement of the existing On-Line Customer Complaints Site.

Successful implementation of this Customer Forum in 2012 will be expanded in 2013 to include a review of the Council's overall Social Media Policy and how we can provide increased opportunities for Customer interaction and feedback. In 2013, the Council will upgrade its Customer Services Desk and front line services in County Hall.

2012 also saw the introduction of a new phone system in County Hall, which allows customers to gain direct access to Sections, improved messaging systems and group answering within Departments, which is improving our call response and call transfer times.

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, and in particular the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), will both 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:

As outlined above the housing construction budget has declined substantially over a number of years. However, three rural houses were constructed during 2012 and construction commenced on a further three rural houses in late 2012.

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 in order to address overcrowding or to meet other special needs of individuals/family members. Funding was provided for extensions to two Local Authority houses where the tenants had mobility issues. These were tendered and contracts awarded. These extensions are in addition to works carried out to address mobility issues in our local authority houses.

DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Housing Waiting List:

In the triennial Assessment of Housing Need carried out in March 2008, the total net need for social housing was 1,077 households. In March of this year the Assessment of Housing Need was carried out; the total net need for Social Housing was 2,433 households. This was an increase of 145.5% over the 2008 figure. To date, there has again been a marked increase in the demand for housing supports and the total net need at the end of 2012 was 2,911.

Void/Vacant Houses

Approximately 62 houses were turned over during the year using both direct labour and contractors. Of the figure 42 were under the 2012 Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Programme to upgrade the Building Energy Rating (BER)/ energy efficiency. These works were carried out in line with our budget allocation for 2012. At the start of December 2012 the following was the position with regard to vacant houses.

Allocated or in the process of being allocated	37
Works currently being carried out in advance of letting	39
Awaiting inspection to identify the necessary pre-letting works	15
In areas difficult to let or requiring a strategic plan	42
Derelict or beyond economic repair	16
Houses to be sold under the Incremental Purchase Scheme	10
TOTAL	159

Remedial Works

- Scheme housing remedial works include external refurbishment, internal refurbishment in some dwellings, and associated site works to include boundary walls, existing road resurfacing and landscaping. There were no new schemes in 2012.

Voluntary Housing

- In addition to the changing role of the Council in relation to the provision of housing, with emphasis now gone from building to leasing and RAS, the Department is now putting an emphasis on the role of the voluntary sector in terms of the provision of housing and its ongoing management and maintenance. This poses a number of challenges for the Council as well as the voluntary sector whose funding streams have changed quite significantly.
- In line with Government Policy, Galway County Council engaged with the voluntary housing sector in relation to the delivery of units under the various options including leasing and the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF). CALF is a new arrangement whereby Approved Housing Bodies can apply for financial support in the form of a capital equity injection. The purpose of this new facility is to assist Approved Housing Bodies to access finance from financial institutions and the Housing Finance Agency that can be used to acquire or construct dwellings for social housing purposes under the leasing initiative. Engagement with the Voluntary Sector also included specific projects in relation to regeneration works and community participation projects which will have a view to enhancing the quality of life of local residents.
- Galway County Council acquired 7 units in Tuam and 2 units in Ballinasloe through the Voluntary Sector in 2012 and will acquire a further 7 units in Ballinasloe in 2013.

MAXIMISE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

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

- During 2012 the housing unit reviewed the Housing Aid for Older Person and Disability Grant Schemes and policy changes were adopted at the Council meeting in May. The review was necessary due to the demand on recourses. The aim of the review was to ensure that grants were prioritised so that those most in need would be assisted. Some of the changes included refining the priority scheme for people with a disability and to bring it more in line with national guidelines. The council met with the Health Service Executive Senior Occupational Therapist and it was agreed that both organizations would work together to ensure that those in most need were given priority to necessary funding. The Occupational Therapists liaise directly with the Housing Unit in relation to their clients who are in need of grant assistance and this is working effectively and reduces delays in the system for priority cases.
- Under the Housing Aid for the Older Person grants it was also necessary to address prioritisation and targeting of funding to ensure that those most in need could avail of required support. The qualifying age was raised to 70 years old having regard to the general criteria of the scheme including means testing and the needs of the individual applicants.
- It was agreed to provide funding to persons less than 70 depending on their state of health, their current housing conditions and their ability to assist themselves. Supporting documentation is required where the applicant is medical needs and this can be in the form of a consultant's report or an Occupational Therapists report.
- 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 six months.
- In 2012, 113 applications under the Housing Adaptation Grants and Mobility Aids Grants were received and 266 applications under the Housing Aid for Older People category. The total expenditure on grants for 2012 was €2,374,339.

Homelessness

- There has been a marked increase in the demand for homeless services and considerable efforts have been increased to work with applicants regarding their housing needs and options. During the year the housing unit continued to work on the development and implementation of a Homeless Strategy that includes working with the voluntary housing sector and strengthening formal relationships with Galway City Council. Discussions took place with the City Council and voluntary services in relation to supported accommodation and tenancy sustainment services as a follow on from emergency accommodation. The existing funding arrangements currently in place, while 90% recoupable are currently being reviewed so as to ensure that the services provided are in line with the Council's needs.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS):

- The Government has allocated funding for local authorities and approved housing bodies to lease or rent private residential properties. These properties will be used to provide accommodation to people who are currently unable to source suitable accommodation from their own resources. Traditionally RAS is aimed at persons who are in receipt of rent supplement for a period in excess of 18 months and since the 1st April 2011 any housing applicants that are in RAS type accommodation are deemed to have their housing need met. Should their circumstances change they are entitled to apply for a transfer and this application will be considered on the same basis as all transfer applications.
- Currently Galway County Council rents from the private sector to meet social housing needs. Galway County Council enters into agreements with landlords on a tenancy by tenancy arrangement under the administrative options of RAS or Leasing.
- The following table outlines both RAS/ Leasing agreements that Galway County Council has entered into with private Landlords.

Number of applicants in receipt of rent supplement 18 months plus	1566
Number of contracts in place with private landlords (Ras & Leasing) as of 31 Dec 2012	481

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 67 properties in 2012, to ensure compliance with standards for rented houses and issue of rent books. 44 properties failed to comply with the current standards. The main areas where properties have failed to meet the standards are; due to lack of fire blankets, smoke alarms, lagging jackets on hot water tanks and no extractor fans over cooking areas. Under Section 18 of the Housing (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1992, 31 notices were issued, were served on landlords requiring improvements to be carried out. There were no Prohibition notices, under section 18B of the Housing (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1992 were served on landlords,

Tenancy and Estate Management

- The tenancy and Estate Management Unit is continuing to work on the management of the Council's estates by increasing engagement with residents associations and involving tenants/residents in the management and maintenance of their estates. This unit was established in recognition of the fact that tenants and members of the community can assist in ensuring that their estates are better places to live, as well as the need to ensure that there is a strong emphasis by the housing unit on addressing anti-social behaviour. The housing unit is developing an estate management strategy which will provide a blueprint for the strategic development of estate management and will be based on a cross departmental and interagency working basis.
- An Anti-social Behaviour Unit has been established in 2012 to deal with ASB complaints. The problem of Anti-social Behaviour is placing an increasing demand on the Units resources and causing a negative impact on letting units within particular estates. 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 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.

Control of Horses

- The issue of Control of Horses was highlighted nationally in 2012 and the Gardaí raised the problem of wandering horses on busy national roads at a number of forums including the Joint Policing Committee. The issue was also raised at Council meeting and members expressed concern in relation to this growing problem. In response to these concerns the Housing Unit was given the overall responsibility of the Control of Horses in June this year.

Meetings took place between the Council and the Gardaí and a written protocol was put in place with the Garda Síochána and the Council detailing the procedures for impounding stray animals. This is working very effectively and to date approximately 160 horses/donkeys have been impounded during the year. This compares with the figure of 25 last year. The Council recoups this funding from the Department of Agriculture and will continue to carry out this function while funding is made available.

Mortgage to Rent Scheme

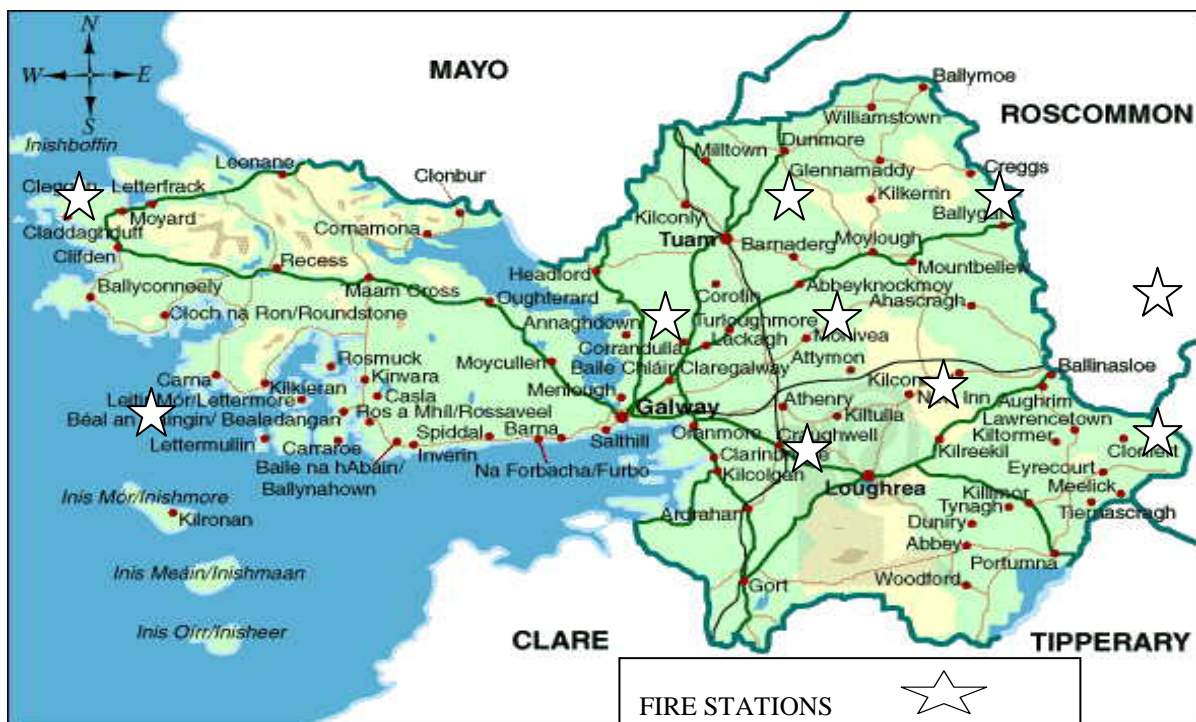
- The Mortgage to Rent Scheme was introduced by the Department of Environment Community and Local Government in 2012. Under this scheme, people who are having trouble paying their mortgages can switch from owning their home to renting their home as social tenants. If you take up a mortgage-to-rent scheme, 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. The Council received a number of applications under this scheme.
- In 2012 Galway County Council received 5 applications under the Mortgage to Rent 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, chemical emergencies, water rescue, 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.
- Is the Local Authority Principal Emergency Service (P.E.S.) for major emergencies in Galway city and county respectively, who as Local Authorities are Principal Response Agencies (P.R.A's) as per national Framework for Major Emergency Management 2006



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)

- a. Athenry
- b. Ballinasloe
- c. Clifden
- d. Galway City(HQ)
- e. Gort
- f. Inis Mor
- g. Loughrea
- h. Mountbellew
- i. Portumna
- j. Tuam

ACHIEVE BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Fire Operations

The total number of emergency turn-outs attended by Galway Fire Service from all 10 Fire stations on behalf of Galway County Council and Galway City Council in 2012 was 1388. This was a significant decrease on 2011 turn-outs (1783) and was driven largely by decrease of about 40% on previous years on bog/grass and forest fires and is the lowest number of emergency turn-outs in recent years .

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 fire Engine from time of alert of fire personnel for both f-t and retained Fire stations

In 2012 the average time to mobilise the 1st fire appliance in Galway City full time Fire stations in respect of fire incidents was 2.87 minutes and it was 5.45 minutes on average for the time to mobilise the 1st fire appliance in the other 9 part time stations (retained Fire service) in Galway County respectively.

For all other emergency incidents the average turn-out times were 2.77 minutes for Galway City and 5.42 minutes for county stations.

These figures are more or less on par with previous years with a slight increase in f-t mobilising time and a slight increase on retained mobilising time on 2011 figures

The second performance indicator is -percentage attendance at scene for fires only -was as follows for city and county brigades; less than 10 minutes 46%; more than 10 minutes and less than 20 minutes 35% and greater than 20 minutes 19% . The performance indicator for all other incidents excluding fires for same parameters was 43%; 37% and 20% respectively.

Insert Text as appropriate:

DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Fire safety and Prevention

Work was ongoing in Fire Prevention & fire safety Department

The Fire Service fire prevention staff carried out 256 inspections of premises as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act 1981, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, Dangerous Substances Act and carried out 280 inspections for the issue of Fire Safety Certificates etc under Building Control Act 1990 and 2007 in 2012 . The Fire section received and processed 254 public licence applications and dealt with 97 planning applications in the city and county in 2011

The Fire Department dealt with 208 Fire Safety Certificate Applications- all types- under Building Control Regulations, 135 in the County area and 73 in the City Area. These figures reflect ongoing downturn in construction activity in the Galway area in 2012, on previous years . Fire officers also processed 56 Disability Access Certificate applications for the County in 2012

Community Fire Safety

Self contained smoke alarms with long life batteries continue to be issued houses in the County for installation by Community Groups in conjunction with the Council's Community and Enterprise Section. The Council also received delivery of 50 smoke detectors for hard of hearing including vibrating alert systems and flashing alert systems in 2012 for issue in 2013

Fatal Fires 2012

Fortunately there were no deaths due to accidental house fires attended by Galway Fire services in 2012.

Major Emergency Management (MEM)

The Major Emergency Development Programme remained ongoing, with the Council involved in West Regional MEM Working Groups and Regional MEM Steering Groups with its partner Principal Response Agencies i.e. other Local Authorities, local Garda Divisions and HSE West. Eugene Cummins DoS Corporate Housing and Emergency Services continued as appointed Chairman West Region MEM Steering Group in 2012, following his appointment to Galway County Council in early 2011.

Work was ongoing in Galway County Council using Galway Major Emergency Development Committee and in Galway region using County Interagency Group chaired by Ciaran Hayes DoS Galway City Council respectively

An interagency table-top exercise involving the local Principal Emergency Services i.e. Galway Fire & Rescue Service, Galway west Garda division; HSE West -including National Ambulance Service- (N.A.S), Galway City Council and Galway Harbour Authority personnel with other relevant Voluntary Emergency Services was held in February 2012 in Galway City simulating a large crowd event as part of preparation for Volvo ocean event. This international event was held subsequently without any major incident in July 2012

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 group continued its work in 2012 under the chairmanship of Eugene Cummins DoS Corporate Housing and Emergency Services, and is expected to complete its work by Spring 2012

The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Planning (NDFEM) launched its Draft policy document for the Fire Service Keeping Communities Safe for public consultation. This document when formally launched in early 2013 will have major ramifications for all Fire authorities including Galway city & County councils and for review group Report of west Galway and Galway City

MAXIMISE ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Capital

Galway Fire Service had been given approval from the Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government in 2011 to seek tenders for a new class B fire appliance for Galway County as a lead partner for a regional Tender for 4 Class B Fire appliances for four County councils in Camp West Region. i.e. Galway Mayo Donegal & Leitrim. The successful tender was awarded in early 2012 to Sidhean Teo; Spiddal County Galway, following approval by DECLG. The Galway Class B appliance was delivered in December 2012 for deployment in Galway Fire & Emergency services fleet in Galway City in early 2013 See attached photograph

ENHANCE QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICES AND DELIVERY

NEW CLASS B GALWAY CITY 2012



OPTIMISE HUMAN RESOURCES**Training & Recruitment**

Training was continued to be delivered in all Fire Stations as in previous years as per annual training programme. Galway Fire Service continued role of out Standard Operating Guidance (SOG's) training to national template, but customised locally in all it's Fire stations. Most Galway fire stations had rolled out up to 35 sets of SOG's by end of 2012

Galway County Council recruited 2 new f-t f- fighters from existing retained ranks, in 2012 into Galway City Fire brigade following retirements/resignations in 2012 The 2 new recruits completed a 12 week full -time recruits course in Firs Service College training Centre in the UK prior to their formal deployment on watches in the December 2012

Galway county council also recruited and filled 3 retained vacancies in the County in 2012 The Council engaged in a further recruitment campaign to replace personnel in the retained Fire Service in the City and County brigades due to consequential vacancies and other vacancies due to retirements/resignations to enable Galway Fore brigade to run a retained recruit course in early 2013 as induction training for new retained recruit f-re fighters

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

Environment Services

In 2012, **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, and the Part 8 for Cashla has been approved. The three sites have been leased for a 3 year period to Barna Waste. The Council provides 86 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 2012, 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

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 2012, 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)**

The Council issued enforcement notices and initiated prosecutions under Waste Management, Litter Pollution, and Water Pollution Legislation. During 2012, the Council issued a total of 78 enforcement procedures in relation to environmental pollution, while 9 prosecutions were initiated and 3 were secured. In the same period, a total of 356 on-the-spot fines for litter were issued. In 2012, 63 letters were issued in relation to the Solvents and Deco Paints Regulations and 74 warning letters were issued in relation to discharge licences. 3 New discharge licences were issued in relation to 7 facilities.

The operations of selected waste collector permit holders and waste facility permit holders were inspected and audited during the year on a priority basis.

CCTV to monitor illegal dumping was extended to 20 locations throughout the County, including several Bring Banks, while 4 covert cameras were deployed in a number of locations.

The registration of Septic Tanks commenced in 2012 and owners of properties connected to a domestic wastewater treatment system were required to register their systems by 1st February 2013. Over 50% of properties registered their systems in 2012

Blue Flag status was awarded to the following beaches in 2012,

- The Long Point, Loughrea
- Traught, Kinvara
- Ceibh an Spideal
- 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 15 sites entered in the Derelict Sites Register. 18 sites have been removed from the register.

BURIAL GROUNDS (EWS 12)

There are currently 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.

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. 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 175 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 2012:

- 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 Gardaí, 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.

The Dog Breeding Act (which requires the registration of all dog breeding premises) commenced on 1st Jan 2012 with a lead in of 6 months and has been implemented since 1st July

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 10 approved meat processing premises in both the city and county. Two premises are registered to slaughter their own poultry on-farm in the county.

Training was provided to abattoir owners from Galway, Mayo and Roscommon in June 2012.

The Council was audited by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland in August 2012 and was found to be in compliance with the relevant food law.

Water Services

The **Water Services** Section has had a number of notable achievements in 2012 which will contribute greatly to the economic success of the county and further enhance the Council's stated Corporate objectives into the future. The importance of enhancing the water services infrastructure of the County cannot be understated. A clean, abundant potable water supply is a prerequisite to all levels of development from the single house to a large industry. At the end of use the availability of sewerage treatment facilities to ensure the environment is protected is equally important. The Council continues to support the group water scheme sector to upgrade their treatment facilities and 2012 saw the completion of the DBO Bundle No. 2 project which saw the rationalisation of 44 schemes into 16 state of the art water treatment plants. The situation in respect of the divesting of water services functions from the Local Authorities continued in 2012 with the formal announcement of Irish Water, a subsidiary of Bord Gais, as the vehicle for the provision of water and wastewater services into the future.

ACHIEVE BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Council continues to invest in the public drinking water infrastructure both in terms of quality and quantity.

The completion of the "Big Dig" in Tuam which was the largest single water services contract ever undertaken by the Council will have an enduring benefit to the town and along with a modernisation of the water services infrastructure the contract facilitated the installation of ducts for broadband and natural gas and is a model of joined up thinking.





Both pictures above showing excavations along Bishop Street.

The Remedial Action Programme also came to conclusion in 2012 and the contract involved the upgrading and future proofing of the Councils water treatment plants to ensure quality of supply into the future. The contract was for some €14m, involved multiple sites, multiple consultants and was a challenging project to manage and co-ordinate but the results have been noted favourably by residents in the county whose supply quality has greatly improved. The Minister for the Environment Phil Hogan T.D. launched the officially opened the project in Gort and visited the nearby Gort and Kinvara Plants .



Martina Moloney, County Manager welcomes Minister Phil Hogan T.D. to the lady Gregory Hotel in Gort to officially open the RAL schemes.



Jim Cullen, Director of Services demonstrates some of the technology to Cllr. Michael Maher Mayor of County Galway, Minister Phil Hogan T.D., Martina Moloney County Manager while Martin Lavelle Senior Engineer keeps a watching brief.



At the upgraded Kinvara Water Treatment Plant are from left Tom Kavanagh Caretaker, Jim Cullen Director of Services, Minister Phil Hogan T.D., Martina Moloney County Manager, Cllr. Michael Maher Mayor of County Galway, Martin Lavelle Senior Engineer, Diarmuid Croghan Senior Executive Engineer, Adrian Grandison Resident Engineer, Adrian Raftery Executive Engineer.

The long awaited new reservoir in Tonabrucky also came to construction in 2012. This will double the water storage capacity serving the suburbs of Knocknacarra right out to Barna and across to

Moycullen. This along with the successful water conservation works will greatly assist with avoiding supply and capacity difficulties which the western areas have experienced over recent years.



Signing the contract for the Tonabrocky Reservoir with the successful contractor MEIC Ltd.

Seated L to R : Miguel Dintinho MEIC, Cllr. Tom Welby Mayor of Galway, Tom O'Connor MEIC Ltd.

Standing L to R : Michael Dolly Senior Engineer, Brendan Mulligan Tobin Consulting Engineers, Brian Gallagher Tobin Consulting Engineers.

Energy Reporting in accordance with SI 542 of 2009

Overview of Energy Usage in 2012

Galway County local authorities actively pursued their Energy Management Action Programme (Energy MAP) in 2012. The main energy types consumed across our services are electricity (65% water services provision, 15% office buildings, 10% public lighting, 10% other buildings/facilities), transport fuel, and heating fuels for our buildings and facilities. Energy use in certain water treatment plants increased significantly in 2012 with the commissioning of further treatment processes such as ozone, UV and dissolved air flotation.

The following table summarises the annual cost and consumption of electricity and fuel by Galway County Council in 2011:

2011 Electricity - total annual spend	€3,347,223
2011 Electricity - annual spend on Water Services	€2,242,639
2011 Electricity - annual spend on Public Lighting	€498,958
2011 Road Fuels (diesel / petrol / biofuel) - total annual spend	€855,909
2011 Heating Fuels (gas/ oil/ biomass etc) - total annual spend	€208,840
2011 Electricity - total annual kWh	20,036,191
2011 Electricity - annual kWh used by Water Services	13,424,248
2011 Electricity - annual kWh used by Public Lighting	3,783,602

Actions Undertaken in 2012

In 2012 Galway County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

- Energy audits were completed at 7 water and wastewater treatment facilities which identified potential annual savings of 855,000 kWh
- A combined heat and power plant was installed at Ballinasloe Leisure Centre which displaced the importation and purchase of 62,000kWh
- The use of Energy Performance Indicators in Luimnagh water treatment plant to monitor performance which resulted in 192,605 kWh of annual savings
- Energy efficient upgrades were completed in County Hall and Centrepont offices in 2011 which delivered 64,843 kWh of annual savings in 2012
- Energy efficient pump control was implemented in Knocknacarrigeen Reservoir in 2011 which resulted in 68,650 kWh of annual savings in 2012
- Submission of energy returns to SEAI in compliance with SI 542 of 2009
- Participated in a national tender for electricity and natural gas supply to avail of competitive prices.

Altogether, these and other energy saving measures are saving Galway County Council 1,181,000 kWh annually.

Actions Planned for 2013

In 2013, Galway County Council intends to further improve our energy performance by undertaking the following initiatives:

- Implementation of the recommendations of the energy audits in the water and wastewater treatment facilities to deliver upon the savings identified
- Energy Performance Indicators to be completed and in use for the top 11 energy consuming facilities
- Continue to audit energy costs and consumption to drive down both the cost and consumption of energy across all of our services
- Installation of energy efficient public lighting in Tuam town centre
- Promote energy efficiency in businesses in conjunction with SEAI and LAPD programme
- Apply for planning permission for energy auto generation at 2 water services sites and install suitable systems to offset grid electricity with a renewable source.

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

In 2012 the Council has progressed a number of sewerage schemes along the planning process and contracts were signed to commence the schemes in Milltown and Claregalway in November 2012. Both villages have waited a long time to get to this stage and once the networks are installed the DBO treatment plants are expected to follow shortly after. The “Big Dig” in Tuam also included large sections of sewer installation and replacement.



Pictured at the signing of the contract for the Claregalway and Milltown Sewerage schemes

Front Row (l – r)
Michael Dolly Senior Engineer, Cllr. Tom Welby Mayor of County Galway, Declan Lydon P&D Lydon Contractors and
Back Row (l-r)
Cllr. Jim Cuddy and Noel Grealish T.D.

DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The support given by the Council to the group water scheme sector allows these communities to sustain themselves and manage their own affairs into the future. The drinking water regulations brought onerous obligations on the group scheme sector in relation to drinking water quality and this challenge was met head on but the schemes with support from the Council and The Department of the Environment and the National Federation of Group Water Schemes which resulted in the completion of the DBO Bundle No. 2 project in 2012 and it's official launch by the Minister.

It was the culmination of many years of hard work and showed the remarkable flexibility and determination of voluntary local groups to embrace a challenge and rise to meet it both in terms of raising funds and in signing up for 20 year operational contracts. It all resulted in a very successful official launch of the schemes in June 2012 by Phil Hogan T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.



The picture above was taken at the Kiltiernan Group water Scheme DBO Plant showing (L to R) Brendan O' Mahony Chairman NFGWS, Sean Clerkin NFGWS, Karen Carney NFGWS, Minister Phil Hogan T.D., Michael Maher Mayor of County Galway, Martina Moloney County Manager, Mattie Hallinan Chairman Kiltiernan GWS.



Pictured are Michael Maher Mayor of County Galway, Minister Phil Hogan T.D. and Minister Ciaran Cannon T.D. with pupils of nearby Kiltiernan National School.



Cllr. Michael Maher Mayor of Galway receives the commemorative plaque from Minister Phil Hogan T.D. along with Martina Moloney County Manager, Jim Cullen Director of Services and Brendan O' Mahoney Chairman NFGWS. The plaque was in respect of the Clonbur/Cornamona Water Treatment Plant which was upgraded as part of DBO Bundle No. 2.

SUPPORT AND ENHANCE LOCAL DEMOCRACY

The Water Services section continued to facilitate the Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee in 2012 with one meeting held each quarter with the following item 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 and enterprise sectors. The unit works with local communities to assist them to bring about improvements in their local areas. The unit 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. Improving the quality of life and employment opportunities for all citizens in County Galway through sustainable development are the primary goals of the Unit.

ACHIEVE BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Unit operates Business Response Service as the primary point of contact within Galway County Council for businesses. This service supported initiatives/events that encouraged job creation in County Galway such as

- 6 workshops were held in conjunction with Galway County and City Enterprise Board and Local Action Groups for business and communities about funding opportunities.
- With Roscommon and Mayo County Councils organized the MEET WEST business networking initiative for 2012. Over 380 delegates attended. Galway County Council was nominated for Excellence in Local Government Awards in 2012 for this initiative. This was shortlisted for an award at the Excellence in Local Government Awards.
- Financial support was provided to Community Managed Enterprise Centres in Ballinasloe, Clonberne and Tuam
- Funding of €7,000 was allocated to community based economic initiatives which include enterprise Centres, tourist offices, and tourism promotional activities.
- Support was provided to Chambers of Commerce in Tuam Portumna Loughrea Clifden and Ballinasloe for the promotional activities carried out by these organizations in their respective towns.

- Undertook promotional activities highlighting Galway as an Enterprise Location and Tourism Location and promoted Galway as a Tourism Location such as ReConnect with the WDC
- Supported events/festivals that provide marketplace for Galway Companies (Food Fairs/Farmers/Town Markets) i.e. Local Christmas market of Galway Producers, Conamara Mussel Festival, Foodie Forum, Galway Food Festival, Food craft villages at the Volvo Ocean Race Finale.
- Supported over 65 events/festivals that enrich the Tourist experience in County Galway including Portumna Outdoor festival, Clifden 2012, Galway County Fleadh, Picnic Thraidisiunta an Spideal, Galway Garden Festival Clarenbridge Oyster Festival, Ballinasloe October Fair & Festival
- Supported tourism activities and tourism product development throughout the County with special emphasis on rolling out the Gathering 2013 Initiative. Over 200 events are planned for Galway in 2013.
- Developed and promoted the **Made in Galway** brand to showcase local craft and food producers. This includes a permanent public display area in County Hall for local producers.
- Organised the Living Landscape Summer School in County Galway on the theme of Contribution of Sport and Outdoor Recreation Activity to the Development of Society.
- Maintained the online Calendar of Events as the point of information for visitors to County Galway. Published a Festivals promotional poster for events in County Galway.

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

The Unit continued to work with Environment, Planning and Roads Units to support Tidy Towns Activities in the County. County Galway featured prominently in this year's results with **Abbey & Milltown achieving a Bronze Medal - only 3 or 4 marks off the Silver Medal standard. This is a significant achievement for these Tidy Towns committees.** The following is the full list of 2012 awards for County Galway entrants;

- National Bronze Medal Award – **Abbey & Milltown**
- National Notice Nature Biodiversity Award Winner – **Abbey**
- National Notice Nature Biodiversity Award Highly Commended – **Athenry**
- Regional Best Bring Bank Award – **Ahascragh**
- County Award Winner – **Milltown 299**
- County Award Highly Commended – **Abbey 298**
- County Award Commended – **Monivea 294**
- County Endeavour Award – **Ahascragh** (Over 4% improvement on their 2011 mark)

DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

In 2012, the Unit invested €140,000 on behalf of Galway County Council in supporting a range of community projects to support the vibrant community activity that takes place throughout County Galway.

Pride of Place

Clifden, Inishbofin and Inis Oírr were proud recipients of three ‘*Pride of Place*’ Awards presented at a gala ceremony in Thomand Park Stadium, Limerick in November 2012. These award winning communities were three of four communities nominated by Galway Council County to represent the county in this year’s Pride of Place competition;

1. The Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna under the Cultural Tourism category
2. Clifden under the category of populations between 1,000 to 2,000
3. Under the Islands Category - Inishbofin
4. Inis Oírr under the previous Awards Winners category

County Galway has once again achieved great success this year. Portumna were commended in the highly competitive category of Cultural Tourism. Clifden won the category of populations between 1,000 to 2,000. Winners of the Islands category were Inishbofin. In addition, Inis Oírr has been selected by the Co-Operation Ireland’s Pride of Place Judging Committee to represent Ireland at International level in the 2013 ‘LivCom’ Sustainable Living Communities competition.

The Galway County Community and Voluntary Forum undertook a re-registration of all community and voluntary groups in 2012 and currently have 620 active groups registered with the Forum. The County Council continue to provide a worker to support the work of the Community forum executive committee and the forum activities countywide. 99% of the membership of the Forum groups use email as the form for communication, thus the forum provides an important and regular distribution service on behalf of the council, other statutory services and the community groups themselves. The forum sends emails on a daily basis to the groups promoting the activities and events of organisations as well as providing other valuable information of relevance to community groups. The Community forum continues to maintain 2 area offices in Killimor and Clonberne. These offices have staff who work 19 hours a week providing support and information to community groups operating in rural areas. The offices are based in community facilities so they are very accessible to the community. The Community forum contributes to provide one to one support to community and voluntary groups on a daily basis, it provides funding workshops, necessary training for volunteers and hosts meetings in each of the electoral areas. These meetings are for the community groups registered with the forum and it is an opportunity for them to network with similar community groups, discuss issues of concern and invite guest speakers to attend to talk on issues of interest to the groups voluntary work and to their communities as a whole.

Promotion of Active Citizenship is an ongoing goal and in 2012 the Unit continued to develop six Local Area Comhairle nÓg youth networks at electoral area level and supported the County Comhairle committee progress their issues with local decision makers. The Unit facilitated County Galway Comhairle committee and Annual General Meeting held in the Meadow Court on 3rd November, 2012 approx 65 young people attended this. The key theme was strengthening the voice

of young people. We 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

MAXIMISE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The Social Inclusion Unit is based in this section of the Council. Its primary goal is to ensure that all citizens in Galway have equal access to quality public services. Below is an indicative list of the services provided by the Social Inclusion Unit;

- 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 2012
- Produced Census results report 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
- Assisted with organising, roll out and launch of Bealtaine 2012 Festival
- Facilitated County Galway Traveller Interagency Group
- 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 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.
- 13 local groups/projects in the Ballinasloe RAPID area were assisted in 2012 using co-financing from the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Community Support Budget and Galway County Council. The type and breath of work here ranged from supporting a local mental health initiative, to the economic promotion of the town, to a care and repair project for the elderly/those living on their own to how adult decision makers consult with young people to the restoration of a non operational local water pump feature just to name but a few.
- With support from Galway Rural Development, Ballinasloe RAPID is working on two local collaborative initiatives. The first of these initiatives focuses on youth involvement in sport and physical activity with an emphasis of sourcing employment while the second initiative is a home and garden makeover project.
- In conjunction with Galway Simon and other organisations ongoing support was provided for the Bridge Resource Centre which looks at the issue of habitual street drinking in the town.
- There is ongoing monitoring and progression of Ballinasloe RAPID Economic Programme of actions. In 2012 the group overseeing this met quarterly. A revised slimmed down set of actions was provisionally agreed and is being implemented.

SUPPORT COUNTY GALWAY'S UNIQUE CULTURE

The County Galway 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 18 Artists resident in County by investing €25,000 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.
- Piloted a new programme of Disability Equality Training within the Arts in Galway (additional funding secured through arts council 2011/2012).
- Assisted in the preparation of the Music Education Partnership application
- Completed a full programme of Age Friendly projects for older people to include Bealtaine & Burning Bright Projects, with over 78 events for older people.



Age Friendly Tea dance 23rd October 2012

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 County served as the location for a number of film productions in 2012.

The Unit organised the first Culture Night for County Galway. Funding of €8,000 from the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht was secured to fund events around the County. 17 towns around County Galway held events for Culture Night.

The County Galway Sports Partnership is managed by Galway County Council. The primary function of the Sports Partnership is to increase participation of citizens in Galway in Sports and recreational activity. In 2012 this was achieved by

- Funding sourced from the Irish Sports Council by way of joint budget application with the City Sports Partnership. This on the basis that both partnerships are due to merge. Total amount €73 802. 00. In addition to the core funding from the Sports Council, a Galway County Council allocated a further €12,500 towards sporting projects in the county.
- Negotiations to merge with the City Sports Partnership were undertaken throughout 2012
- Delivered 15 Buntús Play/Sport involving 36 primary schools. We have delivered 11 Code of Ethics courses and 2 Children Officers courses. Continued delivery of Girls Active Programme to six schools in the county in association with the HSE.2 Coach Education SAQ courses.
- Organised a family day and cycle training in Clifden on date of the Tour of Conamara.
- Organised a very successful 10k road race in Labane in association with local community and athletics club.
- Implemented the 'Meet & Train' projects under the Women in Sport initiative by establishing a new walking club established in Menlough.
- In association with the Cara centre, Tralee delivered the course on disability training for leisure centre staff. Organised an activity day in association with the Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre involving 20 persons with disabilities, to celebrate International Disability day on the 3rd December 2012.
- Buntús Start' programme in association with the Galway City & County Childcare committee to encourage early access to sports. We delivered 3 courses involving 27 childcare services in 2012.
- Funding of €1400 sourced from Go for LifeNew Active Over 55 course being developed by Fizzical Ltd. Galway will be one of the first to pilot this course when ready. 11 Leisure Centres/Gymnasiums express interest in doing this course. County & City Sports Partnerships combined to hold a Go for Life activity day on the 24th May 2012. 74 members of Active retired groups in the county attended.
- Organised a 12 week physical activity programme known as Kick Start to Fitness, for unemployed men in 5 centres, Mervue & Westside in the City and Athenry, Loughrea and Gort in the county. Those attending to be directed to the Link2BActive programme when Kick Start is finished.

- The Sports Partnership organised a lep rugby project, a multi-sports camp and a basketball camp and a fly fishing course, (this in association with the Garda Youth Diversion project) in Ballinasloe funded by monies from Dormant Account funds. We ran a summer activity camp for primary schools in Tuam funded by Dormant Account Funds, and purchased a considerable amount of different sports equipment to be used in the Tuam area funded by the same source.

MAXIMISE ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

In 2012 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. A new single application form and process was introduced in order to achieve this.

The unit is undergoing a review on allocation of work as it absorbs new programmes and schemes. A Local Enterprise Office will be delivered by the Unit in 2013 and preplanning is being undertaken to enable this to happen. The Putting People First report contains proposals that will involve a significant role for Local Government in facilitating the development of new Social Economic Committees 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 AND HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES UNIT

Planning Services

In 2012, 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 Athenry Local Area Plan 2012-2018 was adopted in June 2012.
- The Loughrea Local Area Plan 2012-2018 was adopted in September 2012.
- The Oranmore Local Area Plan 2012 -2018 was adopted in September 2012.
- The Bearna Local Area Plan 2007-2017 was adopted in December 2012.
- The Local Area Plan review process for the towns of Maigh Cuillinn and Gort, and the Amendments to the Gaeltacht and Clifden Local Area Plans was commenced in 2012 to ensure that the objectives of the Local Area Plans are consistent with the objectives of the Core Strategy.
- Work continued in 2012 on the County Galway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment screening.
- Compilation of the Annual Housing returns for the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

New legislation for quarries under Section 261A of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, came into effect on 15th November 2011 and was advertised in December inviting submissions by 10th January 2012. An inspection of 230 quarry sites was carried out in the County in relation to this quarry legislation resulting in 75 Notices being issued to quarry owners or operators, of which 35 are currently being reviewed by An Bord Pleanála and 11 have been referred to the Enforcement Unit.

1636 Planning Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2012.

1515 Planning decisions were made in 2012.

€466,485 was received in Planning Fees in 2012.

€45,860 was received in Mapshop sales in 2012 with a total of 1,117 transactions carried out.

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 2012	275
Warning Letters served	160
Enforcement Notice served	139
No. of new cases referred to Law Agent for Summary Proceedings	71

BUILDING CONTROL

413 commencement notices were received in 2012.

TAKING IN CHARGE

The Unit has continued to monitor and process applications for the Taking in Charge of Housing estates under the new guidelines for 'Taking in Charge of Developments' which were adopted by Galway County Council. 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 2012

15 New Applications for Taking in Charge were received in 2012

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

HERITAGE

During 2012, 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 2012.

Lough Derg Heritage Project -

A heritage brochure, iphone app, voice over and a CD was produced for the lake.

Industrial and Engineering Heritage Audit for Oranmore and Tuam Electoral Areas -

A desk based audit of the Industrial and Engineering Heritage was undertaken of these Electoral Areas. The third phase of the survey primarily consisted of a paper survey to identify sites of Industrial and Engineering Heritage within the Tuam and Oranmore Electoral areas. The primary source for this paper survey was cartographic, namely the Ordnance Survey maps. The locations of identified sites have been marked on digital copies of the current maps, which also accompany the report and database. In total **3430** sites were identified during the survey, with each site entered into the database, and comprising a wide range of industries. Lime kilns were the most numerous site type, accounting for over half the total number of sites identified. Extraction- and Transport-related sites were the most represented categories after Miscellaneous Production, the classification under which lime kilns fall.

Following on from the cartographic survey, documentary research was conducted on a number of trends that the cartographic survey highlighted. This serves as a broad overview of the Tuam and Oranmore area's Industrial and Engineering Heritage and provides a tool to aid in identifying the significance of individual sites at field survey stage. A sample number of sites were selected in consultation with the Steering Committee based on the findings of the paper survey with a view to conducting a sample field survey exercise. These sites represented a broad overview of the

industries and site types identified within the two electoral areas. Detailed records were compiled for these sites and were included in the database.

Ecclesiastical Heritage Trail for Connemara -

An Ecclesiastical Heritage Audit was undertaken for Connemara, the aim of which is to develop heritage tourism products in future years. The Ecclesiastical Audit of Connemara 2012 was undertaken as an Action of the Galway County Heritage Plan 2010-2016, with the aim of obtaining baseline data on the ecclesiastical heritage resource of Connemara including the Aran Islands and Inishboffin. Sites which have, or have been identified as having had a church present, were included in the audit.

A list of relevant ecclesiastical heritage sites in the Connemara Electoral Area was identified through literature review and consultation with the Project Steering Group. Following recommendations and comments from the Steering Group, a starting list of one hundred and two sites was compiled. Each site was assessed under the following criteria through desk research and consultants previous knowledge:

- Presence of a church building
- Condition of building if present
- Intrinsic interest of site from general visitors viewpoint
- Accessibility of site

It sites did not meet the above criteria required they were deselected. This process resulted in a final list of eighty-nine sites being selected for final audit.

Site Categorisation - The sites were divided into categories dependent on the earliest dated and most obvious diagnostic features at the site. The categories are Early Christian, Medieval and Modern Churches.

Compilation of Data - Each site was audited and information collected as per the project brief on location, management, infrastructure, signage, access, interpretation, site descriptions (built, natural and cultural heritage) and potential recreational impacts. Recommendations were made with regard to including the sites in the future development of sustainable heritage products and a potential rating was given for each site in terms of such development (high, medium, low potential). In accordance with the project brief the fieldwork and reporting elements followed a template based on the East Galway Ecclesiastical Heritage Audit. An Ecclesiastical Heritage Audit of Connemara 2012 database was designed to hold the data required by the project brief and generate specific reports. The database includes linked tables, queries and multiple forms and was constructed in MS Access 2007.mdb format in consultation with the GIS section of Galway County Council.

Field Monument Advisor Project -

The role of the FMA is to provide advice and information on field monuments. The area chosen for 2012 was the 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, the provision of an education and awareness programme for the communities in the county.

Athenry Walled Towns Day -

This event attracted over 1500 people and took place on Sunday 19th August. The aim of the day was to showcase the rich heritage of Athenry.

Athenry Town Walls Capital Works –

Funding was received from the Heritage Council towards this project. Work for 2012 concentrated on the Eastern wall adjacent to the South East Tower. Wall conditions recorded using rectified photography, archaeology reports undertaken, Ministerial consent received and conservation works undertaken.

Community Events –

Assistance, advice, and support was also given to numerous Town and Community events in 2012. In July 2012, the Irish American Link – People, Places and Culture was held in Tuam. This was a five day event. 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 60 participants from all over the world attending the weekend stone wall workshop. Many heritage events were held during Heritage Week in August, the Mayoral Awards were held in November and the Golden Mile Calendar was produced in December and the Awards Ceremony is to be held on 18th December. 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 in December 2012 and the Golden Mile Calendar was launched at the Awards ceremony.



Golden Mile 2012: Awards - Overall Winner: Runnymede Golden Mile Group



Golden Mile Built Heritage Award Recipients – Kiltullagh-Killimordaly Foroige Club



Best Potential Award Recipients - Scoil Bhriocáin, Gort Mór, Ros Muc



Road Safety & Community Effort Award Recipients – Kilbeacanty Community Development Development Group



Natural Heritage & Community Effort & Litter Management Award Recipients - Kilchreest-Castledaly Community Group

Launch of the 2013 Golden Mile Calendar



Stone Wall Workshop -

The Stone Wall weekend workshop, organised by the Galway County Council, Comhar Caomhán Teo, and Comhar na nOileán Teo took place in Inis Oirr over the weekend of 20th – 23rd September 2012.

The participants built a traditional Aran stone wall under the direction of stonemason Patrick McAfee. The workshop also included talks on the place of stone walls in the cultural landscape, the new Dry Stone Wall Tradition in Canada and ‘Working with stone: a passionate path’ and ‘The Inheritance of Stone: where the past and future meet creating work today’ and ‘Building with stone: an overview of the traditions of building dry and mortared walls and structures that have evolved around the world that will include examples from Japan, Israel, France, Spain, Greece, Scotland and North and South America’.

The course was aimed at stone wallers, farmers, property owners, architects, builders, craftspeople, archaeologists, local authority staff, Rural Social Scheme participants, FÁS employees, local history enthusiasts, REPS planners, and anyone with an interest in stone walls and up to 50 participants took part in the 2012 weekend workshop.



Some of the participants and helpers at the 2012 Stone Wall Workshop



Finished Wall - 2012 Stone Wall Workshop



Warren of Walls

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 2012 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 2012:

Development Management-

- 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.
- Maintained AIS database of protected structures, including updating owners' details, and incorporating National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) data.
- Commenced series of 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.
- 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 commenced 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.
- Volvo Global Village stall : Awareness raised of Architectural Heritage
- Ballinasloe Town Enhancement Scheme
- Liaised with local communities regarding Tidy Towns with the Community and Enterprise Unit.
- Initiated and promoted Open House Galway in County Galway.
- Liaised with the Council's Arts Officer on promoting projects: Engaging with Architecture; Oileánra on Inis Oirr

Participants in Open House Galway- Féile Altireachta na Gaillimhe 11th-15th October 2012



Inis Oirr Light house



–Lisdonagh House

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.

SUPPORT AND ENHANCE LOCAL DEMOCRACY

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Planning and Sustainable Development SPC had 4 meetings in 2012.

The main policy issues discussed during the year included:

1. Review of Local Area Plans & Department Draft Guidelines for LAP's
2. Unfinished Housing Estates
3. Quarry Legislation
4. Department Draft Guidelines for Development Contributions
5. Review of Record of Protected Structures
6. Preparation for review of County Development Plan
7. Enurements

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.

Staff Training and Development

Galway County Council is committed to develop staff through a range of leadership development programmes, study assistance and training opportunities in order to embed into the organisation a performance culture that recognises, empowers and develops its staff to achieve their own and the Council's goals and objectives, overcome challenges, and lead within the Council. Training opportunities support many areas of the Council such as personal and operational performance and can contribute to employee welfare and satisfaction. A Learning and Development Plan is developed annually and heavily influenced by the training needs identified by staff and their Line Managers through the Performance Management and Development System ensuring appropriate access to learning and development. In 2012, in excess of 4% of total payroll costs were spent on staff training and development and 1468.75 training days (excluding fire fighter training) were provided by both external and internal trainers.

Health and Safety Training formed a considerable part of the 2012 Training Plan. 12 staff members completed a Supervising Safely in Construction training module and 10 staff members completed Signing, Lighting and Guarding training in 2012.

21 staff members completed Chlorine Handling training and a further 29 staff members completed Water Treatment and Distribution Appreciation training.

8 staff members successfully completed a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators training course.

Six staff members undertook the Certificate in Local Government Studies in the academic year 2012/2013, with three staff members are continuing with M. Sc. studies in Bio-Diversity and Land Use Planning in the academic years 2011/2013.

Galway County Council's commitment to training and staff development ensures that staff has the necessary skills and competencies to respond to the ongoing challenges of providing a high quality, customer focused and cost effective service.

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 2012. 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, 19 recruitment competitions were held during the year and 201 candidates were interviewed for the various positions and 16 persons were appointed.

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 53 interns in 2012. Under the terms of the FÁS Apprenticeship Scheme Galway County Council has provided one apprenticeship place this year.

Retirements:

In 2012 a total of thirty six full-time employees and six part-time employees retired from the service of Galway County Council. 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.

Industrial Relations

The policy of the Human Resources Department is to foster good industrial relations at corporate level and this has continued during 2012. Every effort to resolve staff issues, at the earliest possible stage, was made in an open and co-operative manner with Trade Unions, through the Workplace Partnership process and through the Handling Significant Change mechanism.

Public Service Agreement 2010-2014 (Croke Park Agreement)

The Croke Park Agreement has provided a structure to manage change across the public sector in the years ahead. While much has been achieved to date in the Local Government sector and in Galway County Council in particular, further opportunities remain. In addition to the reduction in staff numbers, a number of actions which will impact on Galway County Council are being progressed at National level. The Council has prepared its own local action plan and interaction with the relevant Trade Unions takes place on an on-going basis, with a view to achieving further efficiencies and cost savings. This is essential if the impact on service level of reduced resource availability is to be minimised.

In the second reporting phase of the Public Service Agreement, 2010 to 2014 which spanned the period 1st of April, 2011 to the 31st of March, 2012, Galway County Council achieved payroll savings of €3.05 million which is considered to be a significant saving. In addition to payroll other significant savings have been made in the areas of procurement and work practice changes. Notably, energy usage savings in the region of €387,000 have been achieved during this period.

At a National Level, standardisation of annual leave across the public service came into effect in 2012, resulting in a reduction in leave entitlements for some staff and the removal of concessions such as 'race days'.

Implementation of the outcome of the National Review of Public Sector Allowances is ongoing in Galway County Council.

Priorities in the reform process include the increased use of ICT, more use of the internet for information and service provision, shared services and changes to the process of public procurement. Galway County Council has a long tradition of shared services including the provision of motor tax services, fire service and library service on behalf of the Galway City Council. The Council also carries out a number of services on behalf of Ballinasloe Town Council. Galway County Council is participating actively in all efficiency initiatives identified at local or national level.

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 resource to assist all Council staff with any work, family or personal issue. The service is also available to staff family members.

Details of all family friendly policies are available on the Council's intranet website, the Human Resources Department and communicated to all new employees. In the Course of this year 402 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.

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 2012, 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 2012.
- 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 2012 was **€7,934,773** comprised as follows:

Improvement Works	€36,545,000
Maintenance Works	€ 1,389,773

Funding continued to be provided in 2012 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban Routes. The following major projects were managed by the National Roads Design Office during 2012 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'd Tuam Bypass)
M17	Tuam to Claremorris
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 2013.
- The Supreme Court referred the issue of the interpretation of the EU Habitats Directive to the European Court of Justice, in the context of determining the appeal against the decision of An Bord Pleanála, regarding the Galway City Outer Bypass. A decision of the European Court is expected in 2013.
- The C.P.O and E.I.S was confirmed for the N59 Moycullen Bypass on the 15th November 2012
- The C.P.O. and E.I.S. was published for the N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard on the 3rd October 2012.

Other milestones achieved relating to the National Primary & Secondary Road Network during 2012 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 Castletown.

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 **€20,632,255** for Regional & Local Roads divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€16,030,279
Maintenance Works	€4,601,976

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

Grant Category	2012
Improvement Grant	€9,582,459
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€4,093,000
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€3,764,820
Specific Improvement Grants	€1,250,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€174,000
Regional Roads Signposting Grant	€100,000
Strategic Regional & Local Roads (SNNR) Grant	€1,069,000
Regional and Local Roads Winter Maintenance	€508,976
Training	€90,000

Specific Improvement & Strategic Regional & Local Roads:

The following roads were allocated funding under the **Specific Improvement Scheme** during 2012:

LP4101 Oranhill to Rinvile	R332 Kilbannon to Tuam
R363 Ballyforan to Ballinamore Bridge	R340 Doire Iorrais
R351 Loughrea/Woodford (Ballingar)	

The following roads were allocated funding under the **Strategic Regional & Local Roads Scheme** during 2012:

Athenry Northern Relief Road – Sections 1 to 5	Baile Chlair Relief Road – Design Stage only
Galway City Western Route	R336 Conamara Access Road

Improvement, Resurfacing & Maintenance Programme for Regional & Local Roads

A total of 102,016 square metres of regional roads were improved under the Improvement Grant at a total cost of €1,757,906 with a further 536,090 square metres of local roads improved under the grant at a cost of €7,746,166.

A total of 164,300 square metres of regional roads were surface dressed under the Restoration Maintenance Programme at a total cost of €829,625 with a further 692,339 square metres of local roads were surface dressed under the Programme at a cost of €3,041,075.

Local Roads Maintenance

The sum provided from the Council's resources in 2012 was **€5,541,415**. The Local Roads General Maintenance allocation of **€3,454,215**, including a provision of **€1,153,965** for ongoing operational costs provided an allocation of **€631** per km.

The sum of **€2,300,250** was allocated among the different Electoral Areas as follows:

(1)	Ballinasloe	€ 516,350
(2)	Conamara	€ 479,550
(3)	Loughrea	€ 592,250
(4)	Oranmore	€ 148,140
(5)	Tuam	€ 563,960

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



Roadworks in the Oranmore Area

Funding of €508,976, to supplement the Council's resources for Winter Maintenance operations on regional and local roads was made available by the National Roads Authority in 2012.



Prepared for the Winter Road Gritting Season

PIERS & HARBOURS

Strategic Piers And Harbours:

- Work were completed on the development of Cill Rónáin Harbour at an estimated total cost of approximately €40 million which represents the highest ever spend on island infrastructure in the history of the State. This Harbour was awarded “Best Engineering Project of the Year – 2012” by Engineers of Ireland



An Aerial View of Cill Rónáin Harbour

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

REGIONAL & LOCAL ROAD BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME 2012

Electoral Area	Bridge Name	Budget Estimate €
Ballinasloe	Corrabaun Bridge on Road No. L-3211	15,000
	Shanballymore Bridge on Road No. L-31163	30,000
	Cloonshee Lwr. Bridge on Road No. L-3406	15,000
	Cloonshee Upr. Bridge on Road No. L-3406	15,000
	Carrownafreevy Bridge on Road No. L-7256	50,000
	Aughrim Bridge on Road No. L-7425	10,000
Conamara	Dooghtknockbaun Bridge on Road No. L-13021	10,000
	Finny Bridge	50,000
	Creenagh Bridge on Road No. R374	50,000
	Carrickalleagaun Bridge 1 on Road No. R374	100,000
	Carrickalleagaun Bridge 2 on Road No. R374	100,000
	Aill an Phréacáin Bridge on Road No. L-5391	15,000
	Ballynahown Bridge 2 on Road No. L-5391	10,000
	Ballynahown Bridge 1 on Road No. L-1322	10,000
Loughrea	Graigabbey Bridge on Road No. L-7152	15,000
	Inchaboy South Bridge on Road No. R461	10,000
	Cloonbeg 2 Bridge on Road No. L-8525	15,000
	Rosturra Bridge 1 on Road No. R352	10,000
Tuam	Fram Bridge on Road No. L-2202	20,000
	Cloonadarragh Bridge on Road No. L-6403	75,000
	Leaha Bridge on Road No. L-6368	15,000
Oranmore	Toonagurraun Bridge on Road No. L-2129	20,000
	Retention money due on 2011 bridge contracts	60,000
	Consultant, topographical surveys, site investigation fees	70,000
		€800,000

Twenty Two bridges were rehabilitated in 2012, some by contract and some by direct labour using County Council staff.



Finny Bridge - Before'



Finny Bridge - After' – some minor works to be completed



Aill an Phreacáin Bridge – Before and After'

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 €150,000 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 over a 7km 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.



'Before'



'After'

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

Channel maintenance over a 11.8km stretch of channel was carried out on the Turra, Annagh & Ballycahalan Rivers in consultation with the Inland Fisheries and Landowners.



'Before'



'After'

Kilchreest Drainage District – Channel Maintenance & Accommodation Bridge Repairs

Channel maintenance over a 10.35km stretch of channel was carried out on the Turra, Annagh & Ballycahalan Rivers in consultation with the Inland Fisheries and Landowners. Two accommodation bridges were also rehabilitated.



‘After’



‘Haverty’s Bridge - Before’



‘Haverty’s Bridge - After’



‘Steward’s Bridge - Before’



Steward’s Bridge - After’

Kellysgrove Drainage District – Channel Maintenance & Accommodation Bridge Repairs

Channel maintenance over a 3.0km stretch of channel was carried out on the Ballinure River in consultation with the Inland Fisheries and Landowners. One accommodation bridges were also rehabilitated.



‘After’

Dunkellin Drainage District – Channel Maintenance

Channel maintenance over a 2.0km stretch of channel was carried out on the Dooyërtha River from Oldcastle Bridge to downstream of Ratty’s Bridge 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 2012 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 €40,000 for works at 23 locations has been allocated by the Office of Public Works in 2012 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 2012 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 2013.
- The OPW exhibited the Environmental Impact Assessment with outline scheme plans for the proposed Clare River (Claregalway) Flood Relief Scheme in November 2012 for a period of four weeks. Submissions and observations are being addressed by the design team and subject to funding being available the OPW plan to commence works on this scheme in 2013.
- The works on the new 40m long, three span bridge at Crusheeny on the Clare River were completed in May 2012.
- 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 2013 where there is a feasible and cost beneficial engineering solution.

Flood Relief Culverts at Kiltartan and Caherawoneer South, Gort:

The Jennings O'Donovan's review of the flooding in south Galway recommended the construction of a number of culverts between Kiltartan to Coole and Coole to Kinvara. A number of new culverts were recommended to facilitate large overland flows along the natural overland flow path during flood events. The culverts below were constructed during 2012 on the N18 at Kiltartan and Local Road L-8555 at Caherawoneen South.



N18 at Kiltartan - Before



N18 at Kiltartan – After



L-8555 at Caherawoneen South - Before



L-8555 at Caherawoneen South – After

DEVELOPMENT OF PIERS:

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine allocated funding for the development of four piers in County Galway – Inis Ní Pier, Roundstone; Cé Dooneen, Letterfrack Cé Cúl an Chlaí, Clifden and Cé Caladh Thaidhg, Conamara:

Project Location	Works	DAFM Funding	Council Funding	Total
Inis Ní Pier, Roundstone	Construct extension to pier deck	€52,000	€17,500	€70,000
Cé Dooneen, Letterfrack	Construct stabilisation works partially collapsed quay wall and other necessary health & safety works	€12,500	€37,500	€50,000

Cé Cul an Chlaí, Clifden	Construct new quay walls and deck slab around existing structure. Construct new access ramp.	€12,500	€7,500	€150,000
Cé Caladh Thaidhg	Construct new edge beam/ quay wall to existing slipway	€60,000	€20,000	€80,000
Total Funding Marine Piers				€150,000



Cé Cul an Chlai, Kingstown, Clifden before and during construction.



Cé Caladh Thaidhg Before Development

Cé Caladh Thaidhg After Development

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 16th – 24th June 2012. Events included Cycles through Conamara, fun cycles, pedal a smoothie and 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, work was undertaken in Loughrea Tuam and Athenry to introduce traffic calming measures and improve walking and cycling routes for pedestrians along school routes and within town centres.

The draft policy on a Walking and Cycling Strategy for the County was published and it is expected this Strategy will be completed during 2013.



Smarter Travel - Traffic Calming Athenry



Smarter Travel - Weir Road Footpath, Tuam

GARRAUN RAIL STATION:

The Transportation Unit also progressed the construction of the rail station in Garraun in partnership with Irish Rail to advance the development of the Oranmore Rail Station which will include parking facilities. Work will be completed on this station during 2013.

ROAD SAFETY:

Road Safety Together Committee:

- The Road Safety Together Committee continued its active role in the promotion of road safety and held one meeting in 2012.

- The County Galway Primary Schools Cycling Championship took place on Thursday, 21st June, 2012. The event was organised by the Council as part of its Programme of Events to mark National Bike Week.
- Irish Road Safety Week took place between 8th to 14th October, '12, 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.

Specific road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2012 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 Scoil Naomh Pádraig, Moylough, Co Galway with Cllr Michael Maher, 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 75 participants in the following locations: Maigh Cuilinn / Oughterard, Laurencetown / Abbey, Gort and Environs, Tuam and Environs and Cloch na Rón / Clifden.



Planting by Abbey CES



Stone wall Building by CES Laurencetown

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 **€175,291** was provided from the 2012 Improvement Grant with a further sum of **€22,300** from the Restoration Maintenance Grant provided a total budget of **€397,591** for the scheme.

A total of **41** applications were received to avail of the 2012 scheme. Following assessment **35** were recommended for funding with **31** schemes completed in 2012.

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 **€850,000** in 2012 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 €100,000 was provided in 2012 by the Department of Transport for the ongoing replacement and repair of signage on Regional Roads, a Programme of Works which commenced in 2003.

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, Oidhreacht 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 2012 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

SUPPORT AND ENHANCE LOCAL DEMOCRACY

CORPORATE SUPPORT

The Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee met on 4 occasions during 2012 and recommended the following policies:

- Signage, Vehicles or Other Structures on the Public Road
- Control of Horse Drawn Hackney Carriages

An updated Winter Service Plan was prepared in 2012 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. The proposed Galway County Walking and Cycling Strategy was circulated, discussed, amended and published following consideration by the Road and Transportation SPC in 2012.

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

Galway Harbour Board Company

Cllr. Peter Feeney

River Suck Joint Drainage Committee

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

Road Safety Together Committee

Cllr. 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

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

Galway County and City Enterprise Board

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Galway Rural Development Company

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

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.

Cllr. Liam Carroll

Integrated Transport Coordinating Group

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

LAMA

Cllr. Tom McHugh

Meitheal Forbartha na Gaeltachta/Cumas

Comh. Seosamh Ó Cuaig, Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

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

County Galway Vocational Education Committee

Cllr. Michael Connolly, Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg, Comh. Seosamh Ó Cuaig, Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh
Cllr. Liam Carroll, Cllr. Kevin Ryan, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Cllr. Peter Roche, Cllr. Michael Maher

Regional Health Forum Representation, West

Cllr. Mary Hoade, Cllr. Tomás Mannion, 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

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

Cllr. Tom McHugh, Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, Cllr. Michael Fahy
Cllr. Jim Cuddy, Cllr. Pat Hynes

Western River Basin District Advisory Council

Cllr. Peter Feeney, Cllr. Tom Welby

Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council

Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

County Galway Local Sports Partnership

Cllr. Tomás Mannion, Cllr. Dermot Connolly

Joint Policing Committee 2012

Cllr. Peter Roche, Cllr. Malachy Noone, Comh. Seamus O Cuaig, Cllr. Sean Canney, Comh. Tomas O Curraoin, Cllr. Mary Hoade, Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cllr. Tim Broderick, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cllr. Michael Fahy, Cllr Jim Cuddy, Cllr. Kevin Ryan, Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe, Cllr. Seosamh O'Laoi

Audit Committee

Cllr. Tim Broderick
Cllr. Jim Cuddy

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
1	Restorative Justice for Ireland	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 20. – 22.01.2012	2	150.00	880.80	1,180.80
2	Local Government Seminar	TJK Conferences	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick 27. – 29.01.2012	4	120.00	1,092.84	1,572.84
3	The Role of the Council in Encouraging Enterprise through Tourism & Sport	Smart Marketing	Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary 27. – 29.01.2012	1	155.00	352.95	507.95
4	European Economic Policy – What's in it for Ireland	The European Commission Representation in Ireland	Athlone Institute of Technology, Athlone, Co. Westmeath 31.01.2012	1	0.00	242.06	242.06
5	IPRT & the Community Platform: Social Exclusion & Crime	Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT)	The Carmelite Centre, Aungier St., Dublin 2 02.02.2012	2	0.00	780.67	780.67
6	Renewable Materials Design Strategies, Construction Methods & Technologies	Esperanza Enterprises	Mill Park Hotel, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal 07. – 09.02.2012	1	0.00	474.62	474.62
7	Spring Seminar 2012 – Local Govt. – Renewal & Development	A.M.A.I.	Kilmore Hotel, Cavan 10. – 11.02.2012	5	200.00	1,515.67	2,515.67

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
8	First UCD Garret Fitzgerald Spring School – Democracy in the 21 st Century	UCD College of Human Sciences	Newman House, 85 – 86 St. Stephen’s Green, Dublin 2 10. – 11.02.2012	1	0.00	382.73	382.73
9	Civil Partnership & Certain Rights & Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 17. – 19.02.2012	1	150.00	421.39	571.39
10	2012 Budget Review of Allowances & Benefits & Revenue On-Line Service Workshop	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 24. – 26.02.2012	1	100.00	505.03	605.03
11	Dealing with Personal Insolvency	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 02. – 04.03.2012	2	150.00	726.81	1,026.81
12	Building Community Preparedness & Resilience	Kerry County Council	Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry 09.03.2012	5	75.00	1,679.61	2,054.61
13	Amalgamations & Reforms in Local Govt.	Kadenza Consultancies	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 23. – 25.03.2012	2	145.00	1,072.79	1,362.79
14	Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012	Superior Training	Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 23. – 25.03.2012	1	100.00	313.03	413.03

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
15	What it takes to succeed in the Tourism Sector	Dundalk Chamber	Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth 28.03.2012	1	0.00	386.54	386.54
16	Personal Injuries	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 30. – 31.03.2012	1	150.00	312.40	462.40
17	Looking Globally, Legislating Locally: The Irish Legal Capacity Bill	Amnesty International Ireland	Radisson Royal Blu Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8 03.04.2012	2	0.00	619.75	619.75
18	LAMA Spring Seminar 2012 – The Role of Local Authorities in Enabling Economic Development & Local Government Reform	Waterford City Council	Tower Hotel, Waterford 13. – 14.04.2012	7	150.00	3,034.90	4,084.90
19	Modern Alternatives to the disappearance of Fossil Fuels	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 13. – 15.04.2012	2	100.00	946.55	1,146.55
20	Finance Bill 2012	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 20. – 21.04.2012	1	150.00	312.40	462.40
21	The 2012 EPA Urban Wastewater Discharges Report	TGR Seminars	Kilmurry Lodge Hotel, Castletroy, Limerick 20. – 22.04.2012	2	145.00	464.53	754.53
22	The Economic Potential of Arts & Cultural Tourism	Kerry Literary & Cultural Centre	St. John's Theatre & Arts Centre, Listowel, Co. Kerry 26. – 27.04.2012	3	150.00	933.65	1,383.65

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
23	Putting Human Rights at the heart of the Good Society	Sheehy Skeffington School	Liberty Hall, Dublin 28.04.2012	1	0.00	382.73	382.73
24	Annual Conference 2012 – Renewable Energy – Revitalising Ireland’s Regions	BMW Regional Assembly	TF Royal Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo 30.04.2012	3	0.00	583.86	583.86
25	Annual Conference 2012. On the Verge of Change	Association of County & City Councils (ACCC)	Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny 10. – 11.05.2012	4	125.00	1,587.34	2,087.34
26	Annual Conference 2012 – Rural Communities: Fighting for a sustainable future	Irish Rural Link	Connemara West Plc., Letterfrack, Co. Galway 10. – 11.05.2012	1	80.00	0.00	80.00
27	Community Tourism	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 11. – 13.05.2012	3	100.00	1,610.40	1,910.40
28	First Wave Feminism	Countess Markievicz School	The Teacher’s Club, Parnell Square, Dublin 12.05.12	1	0.00	382.73	382.73
29	Living Landscape – Maximising our Outdoor Resources	Galway County Council	Clifden Station House Hotel, Clifden, Co. Galway 17. – 18.05.2012	10	125.00	1,741.22	2,991.22
30	Draft Performance Standards for domestic wastewater treatment systems	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 01. – 02.06.2012	3	150.00	596.91	1,046.91
31	National Housing Crisis – Policy Statement 2011	Kadenza Consultancies	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 01. – 03.06.2012	2	145.00	1,015.76	1,305.76

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
32	The Councillor & the Environment	Superior Training	Hyland's Hotel, Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare 08. – 09.06.2012	1	100.00	196.44	296.44
33	Planning Seminar	TJK Conferences	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick 08. – 10.06.2012	2	100.00	510.73	710.73
34	Should Ambulances stop at the Border? The Challenge of Co-operation in Healthcare Provision	Institute for British-Irish Studies (IBIS)	Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson St., Dublin 2 13.06.2012	1	0.00	216.11	216.11
35	How to Influence People	TGR Seminars	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 15. – 17.06.2012	1	145.00	316.83	461.83
36	Children in War	Irish Red Cross	McGrattan's Bar, Fitzwilliam Lane, Dublin 2 20.06.2012	1	0.00	254.13	254.13
37	10 th National Tourism Conference: Pride in our County – Pride in our Place	Carlow Tourism	Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Rd., Carlow 21. – 23.06.2012	5	140.00	1,192.58	1,892.58
38	18 th Byrne/Perry Summer School – A Decade of Commemorations 2012 - 2022	Byrne Perry Summer School	Gorey Library & Adult Learning Centre, Civic Square, Gorey, Co. Wexford 22. – 24.06.2012	1	130.00	543.05	673.05
39	Synge Summer School 2012 – Irish Drama: Making it New	Synge Summer School	Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow 28.06. – 01.07.2012	1	250.00	491.72	741.72

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
40	Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2012	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 29. – 30.06.2012	1	150.00	207.84	357.84
41	The Irish American Link – People, Places, Culture	Old Tuam Society	Ard Ri Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway 12. – 16.07.2012	6	785.00 (Total)	224.07	1,009.07
42	Nurturing the Future: Developing the Country & the Irish Language	Fondúireacht Na Gaeilge Teo.	Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow 13. – 14.07.2012	1	15.00	482.22	497.22
43	Local Media & The Councillor	Superior Training	West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, Co. Cork 20. – 21.07.2012	1	100.00	489.19	589.19
44	2012 MacGill Summer School & Arts Week – Reforming & Rebuilding our State	MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Co. Donegal 22. – 27.07.2012	8	150.00	5,218.68	6,418.68
45	Improving the Social Housing Stock	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 27. – 28.07.2012	1	0.00	207.84	207.84
46	Personal Insolvency Bill 2012	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 10. – 11.08.2012	2	150.00	723.65	1,023.65
47	Creating Employment Opportunities in Local Food Production	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 10. – 12.08.2012	1	100.00	0.00 (Claimed from WRA)	100.00
48	Sovereignty & Society	Parnell Summer School 2012	Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow 12. – 17.08.2012	2	160.00	1,226.94	1,546.94

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
49	Utilising your Tax Entitlements & Reliefs	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 24. – 26.08.2012	2	100.00	998.03	1,198.03
50	Local Govt. Reform	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 07. – 09.09.2012	1	100.00	422.66	522.66
51	Local Govt. Reform – Centenary Annual Conference	AMAI	Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway 13. – 15.09.2012	4	175.00	802.65	1,502.65
52	Kerry Autumn Environmental, Cultural & Heritage Conference	Rattoo Heritage Society	Meadowlands Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 19. – 22.09.2012	2	150.00	968.88	1,268.88
53	Revenue Collection & dealing with difficult debt	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 21. – 22.09.2012	1	150.00	333.31	483.31
54	The Value of Wetlands	Waterford Co. Council	Dunhill Multi-Educ Centre, Co. Waterford 27.09.2012	1	35.00	327.61	362.61
55	LAMA Spring Seminar 2012 – The Challenge for Local Authorities – Can we do more with less?	Donegal Co. Council	Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 28. – 29.09.2012	8	150.00	3,597.21	4,797.21
56	La Touche Legacy Seminar 2012 – Local Democracy – Myth or Reality?	Greystones Town Council	Charlesland Golf & Country Club, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 28. – 30.09.2012	1	150.00	546.85	696.85
57	Collecting Local Govt. Revenue / Dealing with Households on low incomes	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 12. – 13.10.2012	1	150.00	213.55	363.55

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
58	Michael Collins & the creation of Irish Democracy	Ace Training	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 12. – 14.10.2012	3	100.00	1,657.67	1,957.67
59	Promoting & Protecting Human Rights in Ireland	Irish Human Rights Commission / Law Society of Ireland	President's Hall, Law Society of Ireland, Dublin 13.10.2012	1	0.00	382.73	382.73
60	Maximising the use of Rural Resources	National Rural Network / Teagasc	Johnstown House Hotel, Enfield, Co. Meath 16.10.2012	3	0.00	840.50	840.50
61	Crisis to Opportunity	FEPS / TASC	Croke Park Dublin 19. – 20.10.2012	1	0.00	382.73	382.73
62	Reform of Local Government II	TGR Seminars	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare 19. – 21.10.2012	1	145.00	341.55	486.55
63	Better Being: Promoting Well-being within Communities	Respond Housing Association	Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork 25.10.2012	2	45.00	719.84	809.84
64	Debt Settlement	Esperanza Enterprises	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 02. – 03.11.2012	2	150.00	706.54	1,006.54
65	Education for Work Initiatives	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 09. – 10.11.2012	1	150.00	259.17	409.17
66	Ireland's Regions for Business – 2020	Association of Irish Regions	Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny 16. 11.2012	4	100.00	1,462.50	1,862.50

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended	Conference Fee €	Travel & Subsistence €	Total €
67	LEADER Funding & the Councillor	TGR Seminars	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare 16. – 18.11.2012	1	145.00	143.47	288.47
68	Local Authority Budgets 2013	Kadenza Consultancies	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 16. – 18.11.2012	4	145.00	1,985.91	2,565.91
69	Information & Communications Technology for Councillors	Superior Training	Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal 23. – 24.11.2012	5	120.00	1,586.70	2,186.70
70	Environmental Implications of harvesting Wind Energy	Esperanza Enterprises	Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 23. – 24.11.2012	1	150.00	105.45	255.45
71	Will we run out of natural resources needed for Food Production?	Teagasc	RDS, Dublin 27.11.2012	2	0.00	780.67	780.67
72	Promoting Justice through better Consultation & Cooperation in Local Gov.	Esperanza Enterprises	Carlton Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 30.11. – 01.12.2012	9	150.00	3,254.51	4,604.51
73	The Local Govt. Budget 2013	Superior Training	Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford 30.11. – 01.12.2012	1	120.00	405.55	525.55
74	'Putting People First' Reform & Strategic Planning for 2013	TGR Seminars	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare 07. – 09.12.2012	1	145.00	362.46	507.46
75	Budget 2013 Seminar	Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork 14. – 16.12.2012	6	100.00	3,258.07	3,858.07

ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES 2012

Elected Member	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/Training/Seminars/Other Events	Mobile Phone Allowance	Total
Bridie Willers	6,352.68	16,666.26		4,883.05			350.00	522.82	28,774.81
Eileen Mannion	9,384.72	16,666.26					1,137.45		27,188.43
Gerry Finnerty	6,980.04	16,666.26					0.00		23,646.30
Jarlath McDonagh	5,725.32	16,666.26					4,300.00	140.77	26,832.35
Mary Hoade	6,352.68	16,666.26					3,273.81	600.00	26,892.75
Michael Connolly	7,607.28	16,666.26					3,535.00	121.48	27,930.02
Michael Fahy	6,382.92	16,666.26			6,000.00		4,675.00	106.62	33,830.80
Michael Maher	6,561.72	16,666.26	19,565.38				3,514.74	258.69	46,566.79
Pat Hynes	6,666.36	16,666.26			6,000.00		4,960.00	343.68	34,636.30
Peter Feeney	5,798.52	16,666.26					3,296.77		25,761.55
Peter Roche	6,770.88	16,666.26		4,874.93			3,150.00	438.82	31,900.89
Seamus Walsh	6,457.20	16,666.26					3,765.00		26,888.46
Tomas Mannion	7,920.96	16,666.26					2,725.85		27,313.07
Tiernan Walsh	8,652.84	16,666.26			6,000.00		3,538.93	272.86	35,130.89
Tom McHugh	6,875.40	16,666.26					2,440.71		25,982.37
Dermot Connolly	8,652.84	16,666.26					216.11		25,535.21
Jim Cuddy	4,888.92	16,666.26			262.88	262.88	363.72		22,444.66

Jimmy McClearn	7,920.96	16,666.26			6,000.00		5,936.07	249.53	36,772.82
Liam Carroll	5,067.12	16,666.26					0.00		21,733.38
Malachy Noone	5,202.60	16,666.26					0.00		21,868.86
Sean Canney	6,143.52	16,666.26					0.00	412.50	23,222.28
Sean O'Tuairisg	6,039.00	16,666.26					4,415.00	136.02	27,256.28
Seosamh O'Cuaig	7,117.02	16,666.26					0.00		23,783.28
Thomas Welby	6,039.00	16,666.26	21,999.95				82.63	511.06	45,298.90
Tim Broderick	7,607.28	16,666.26			5,647.87	5,647.87	600.00	350.26	36,519.54
Tomas O'Curraoin	4,993.44	16,666.26					2,723.26		24,382.96
Kevin Ryan	7,084.56	16,666.26					3,680.00	223.78	27,654.60
Michael Finnerty	8,757.36	16,666.26					1,407.16		26,830.78
Seosamh O'Laoi	5,516.16	16,666.26					1,317.29	82.32	23,582.03
Shaun Cunniffe	6,666.36	16,666.26					2,195.01	92.22	25,619.85
TOTALS	202,185.66	499,987.80	41,565.33	9,757.98	29,910.75	5,910.75	67,599.51	4,863.43	861,781.21

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES 2012

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 2012

COUNTY MANAGER

Ms. Martina Moloney

CORPORATE, HOUSING, & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director of Services:	Mr. Eugene Cummins
Senior Executive Officer, Housing:	Mr. Alan Farrell
Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services:	Mr. Michael Owens
Administrative Officer, Housing:	Ms. Margaret Jordan
Administrative Officer, Corporate Services:	Ms. Eimear Dolan
County Librarian:	Mr. Pat McMahan
Senior Social Worker:	Ms. Mary Forde
Senior Executive Librarians:	Ms. Maureen Moran
	Ms. Bernie Kelly
	Mr. Peter Rabbitte
Senior Executive Engineer, Housing:	Mr. Michael Sheil
Senior Executive Engineer, Corporate Services:	Mr. Steven Lally (Acting)
Law Agent:	Ms. Angela Casey
Senior Executive Solicitor	Ms. Anne McCormack
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:	Ms. Jean Brann
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
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. Páraic Breathnach
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. Anthony Kelly
	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. Enda Gallagher
North Division (Tuam East):	Mr. John Flesk
West Division (South Connemara):	Mr. Feidhlim McGillicuddy
West Division (North Connemara):	Mr. T.J. Redmond

FINANCE UNIT

Head of Finance:	Mr. Gerard Mullarkey
Senior Executive Officer:	Mr. Gerard Scully
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 2012

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	2.64
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	4.92
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	2.35
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	5.05

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	50.06
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	29.69
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	26.25
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	42.86
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	39.29
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	17.86

F.3 Fire Prevention

A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	208	Total consists of County 135 and City 73
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	190	Consists of County 125 and City 65
C. Total number of applications deemed invalid	32	Consists of County 21 and City 11

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 57.14

CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum 583

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

A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave 4.95

B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave 0.47

C.2 Staff Training and Development

Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs: 4.75 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 39.02

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 --- NWCPO Fig Awaited

B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service And are provided with segregated waste collection for organics --- NWCPO Fig Awaited

E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling

A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling --- NWCPO Fig Awaited

B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling ---- NWCPO Fig Awaited

C. Tonnage of households waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities sent for recycling 4859

E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill

A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	--- NWCP0 Fig Awaited
B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	----- NWCP0 Fig Awaited

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	84
4F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
G. The total number of facilities for recycling	88
H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.51

Textiles

I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	72
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	76
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.17

Batteries

M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	4
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.11

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	4

W. The total number of facilities for recycling	4
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.11
E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement	
A. Number of full-time litter wardens	0
B. Number of part-time litter wardens	16
C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.46
D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	366
E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	130
F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	11
G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	3
H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	4
I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	12
J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	3
K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	- Nat Figs Awaited
L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	-- Nat Figs Awaited
M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	-- Nat Figs Awaited
N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	-- Nat Figs Awaited
O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	-- Nat Figs Awaited
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)	781
B. Number of complaints investigated	1215
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	868
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	78
E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns	
A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	90.78
B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	91.43

H: HOUSING**H1: Housing Vacancies**

A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	2646
B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	2630
C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	15.10
D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	82.37
E- The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	17.63

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

18

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

11

H3: Housing Repairs

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

101.41

H4: Traveller Accommodation

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

31.25

H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector

A. Total number of registered tenancies	5523
B. Number of dwelling units inspected	67
C. Number of inspections carried out	67
D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	1.21

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

13

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

6

H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses

A. Total number of new local authority tenants	94
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	33
B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	12
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	20
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	80
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	3251.56	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)	0.80	Population includes County & City 250,653
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	2.56	Population includes County & City 250,653
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.07	Population includes County & City 250,653

L.4 Internet Access through Libraries

Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	252.96
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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	141321
B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	27626
C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	112346
D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	50.24
E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	9.82
F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	39.94

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	27363
B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	163

C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	39
D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	61
E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	99.05
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	0.59
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	0.14
H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	0.22

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	4595
B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	15571
C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	6548
D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	6930
E. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	13.66
F. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	46.28
G. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	19.46
H. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	20.60

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	295
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	133
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	120
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	42
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	78.55
F. Percentage of applications granted	87.80

G. Percentage of applications refused	12.20
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	44.44
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	55.56

New Housing Development

A. Number of applications decided	9
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	3
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	4
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	2
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	80
F. Percentage of applications granted	77.78
G. Percentage of applications refused	22.22
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	726
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	495
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	193
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	38
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	78.42
F. Percentage of applications granted	96.01
G. Percentage of applications refused	3.99
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	70.59
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	29.41

Other: Requiring Environment Impact Assessment

A. Number of applications decided	10
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	7
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	3
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	0
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	100
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0

P.2 Planning Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	275
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	67
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	137
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	160
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	139
F. Number of prosecutions	9

P.3 Planning Public opening hours

Average number of opening hours per week	34
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P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation

A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	249
B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	20.41

P.5 New Buildings inspected

Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	25.42
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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	101
B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	10
C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B	409
278D- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	74.26
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	4
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	4

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

A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.08
B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.24

Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities

Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	969.72
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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	87.36
B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are up to 4 weeks old	6.64
C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	5.78
D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6- 12 weeks old	8.54
E. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	79.04

Rev.2 Housing Loans

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	75.52
B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1 month old	4.97
C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	4.41
D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2 -3 months old	3.12
E. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	87.50

Rev.3 Commercial Rates

Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	68.50
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Rev.4 Refuse Charges

Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	0
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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	48
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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 347.56 kms.

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum 3.5kms

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2012

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 €40.96 million to the end of December 2012, and the allocation of those funds. Also attached is an estimate of commitments for projects due to commence in 2013 and beyond which total €11 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 2012	
Development Contributions Income	
Pre December 2010	33,487,353
Year ended 31 December 2010	3,651,182
Year ended 31 December 2011	2,384,970
Year ended 31 December 2012	1,436,416
Total Income Received	40,959,921

Development Contributions Allocated	
Water and Waste Water Facilities	21,800,000
Recreation & Amenity	14,750,000
Roads & Car Parking Facilities	4,400,000
Funds Committed	40,950,000
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 2012

EXPENDITURE	2011 €M	2012 €M
Housing	10.061	9.632
Roads	39.029	34.765
Sanitary Services	24.843	24.112
Planning & Development	7.261	6.521
Environmental Protection	17.710	16.924
Recreation & Amenity	8.029	7.773
Agriculture & Education	24.238	14.758
Miscellaneous Services	12.252	12.043
Total Expenditure	143.423	126.531
INCOME		
State Grants	91.597	75.878
Other Sources	56.121	53.852
Total Income	147.718	128.730
Surplus / (Deficit) for year before transfers	4.295	2.198
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	(4.314)	(2,692)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(0.190)	(0.494)
General Revenue Reserve at 1st January	(1.383)	(1.402)
General Revenue Reserve at 31st December	(1.402)	(1.896)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2012				
Net Assets	2011 €M	2011 €M	2012 €M	2012 €M
Fixed Assets		3,759.780		3,765.373
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses		241.969		247.553
Long Term Debtors		60.895		59.172
Current Assets	80.713		58.737	
Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)	(53.672)		(37.623)	
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		27.041		21.113
Creditors (Amounts falling due after one year)		(126.631)		(132.287)
Total		3,963.054		3,960.924
Represented By				
Capitalisation Account		3,759.780		3,765.373
Receipts - Work in Progress		238.315		242.417
Other Reserves		(33.639)		(44.970)
General Revenue Reserve		(1.402)		(1.896)
Total		3,963.054		3,960.924

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.
