

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2019 ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

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 **GalwayCounty**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	Mission Statement / Core Values / Vision	4
	Message from the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway	5
	Message from the Chief Executive	7
	Local Electoral Areas / Municipal Districts	9
	Elected Members by Municipal Districts	11
	General Information	16
	Organisational Structure in Galway Local Authorities	17
	Governance	20
	Progress on Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019	23
CORPORATE SERVICES	CORPORATE SERVICES	25
	Corporate Planning and Support	
	Civic Receptions	28
	Twinning	31
	Register of Electors / Freedom of Information	33
	Recreation, Amenity Parks and Open Spaces	38
	Promotion of the Irish language	46
	Historic Assets	49
	Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023	51
	Facilities Management / Internal Audit	55
	Legal Advisory Services	56
	Library Development Services Programme	57
	Archives and Management of Records	68
	Community Wardens Service	70
	Customer Services	71
	ECONOMIC, RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	74
	Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	
	Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN)	77
	Investment and Job Creation Initiatives	79
	Tourism Promotion Initiatives	81
	Arts	82
	Social Inclusion	85
	Community Support Schemes / Community Enhancement Programme	86
	SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) 2018-2022	87
	Healthy Ireland	88
	Pride of Place / Tidy Towns	89
	Age-Friendly	90
	Galway Sports Partnership	91

HOUSING	HOUSING UNIT	95
	Rebuilding Ireland	
	Housing Construction Activity / Design & Planning Activity	97
	House Purchases / HAP	98
	Record of Qualified households (Housing Waiting list)	99
	Rental Accommodation Scheme / Short-term Leasing / Minimum Standards for Rented Accommodation / Repair and Leasing Scheme	100
	Mortgage to Rent Scheme / Rebuilding Ireland Loan	101
	Voluntary Housing / Tenant Purchase	102
	Housing Aids / Housing Adaptation Grants	
	Housing Maintenance / Energy Efficiency & Retrofit Programme (EERP) / Homelessness	104
	Traveller Accommodation Programme	105
	Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019–2024: Targets	106
	Disability Strategy	108
	Tenancy and Estate Management	109
PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, WATER & EMERGENCY SERVICES	PLANNING UNIT	111
	Forward Planning	
	Development Mgt / Enforcement Measures / Building Control	112
	Heritage	113
	Architectural Conservation	126
	ENVIRONMENT UNIT	133
	Environmental Awareness / Waste Services	
	Beaches	135
	Burial Grounds / Veterinary Services / Dog Control	136
	Green Initiatives	137
	WATER SERVICES	138
	Infrastructure Programme and Capital Works Programme	
	Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021 / Group Water Schemes	140
	EMERGENCY SERVICES	143
	Fire Operations Response	147
Community Fire & Prevention	148	
Civil Defence	158	
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, MARINE & GENERAL SERVICES	ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, MARINE & GENERAL SERVICES	162
	2019 Roads Programme	163
	Land Acquisitions	164
	Regional and Local Roads	165
	Regional and Local Road Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	166
	Marine Maintenance / Strategic Harbours	168

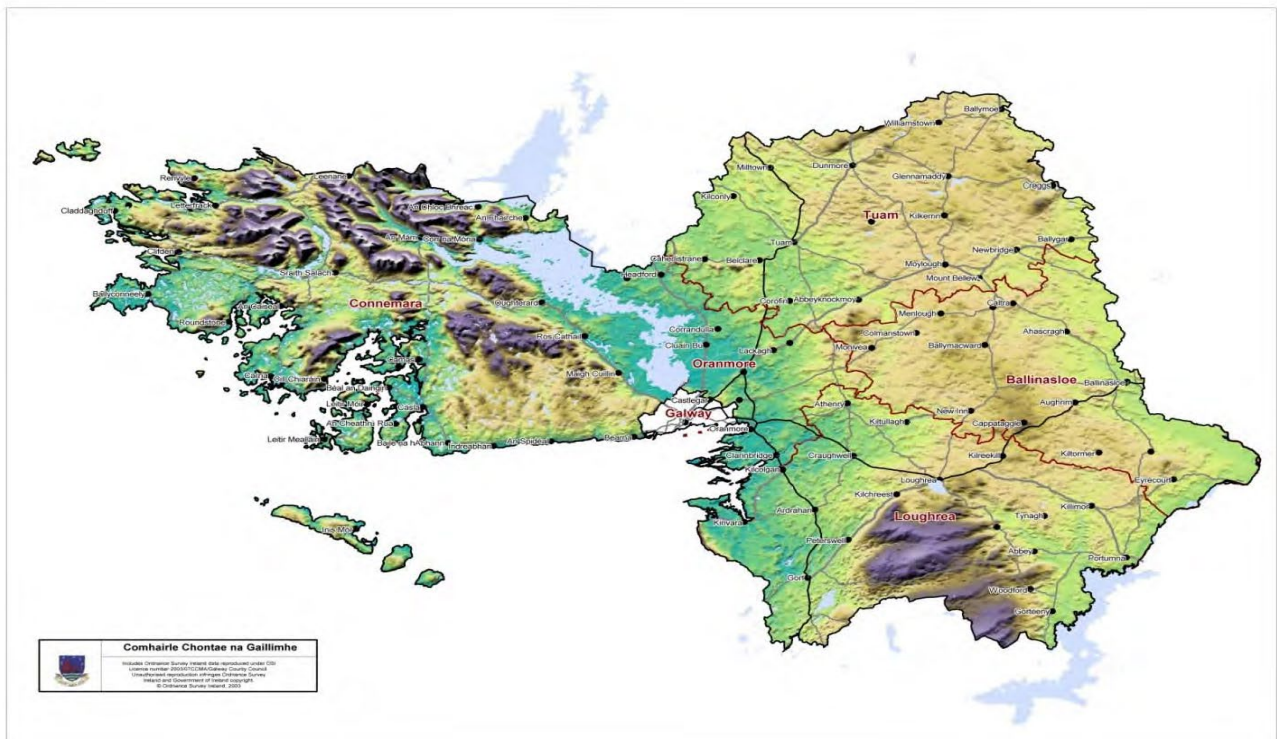
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, MARINE & GENERAL SERVICES	Working in Partnership: Connemara Greenway / Public Lighting	169
	Flood Relief Schemes	170
	Flood Mitigation Works / Drainage Districts	172
	Machinery Yard / Clár / Town and Village Renewal Scheme	173
	Smarter Travel and Sustainable Mobility	174
	Road Safety Together Committee	175
	Community Employment Schemes / Community involvement in Roadworks Schemes	176
HUMAN RESOURCES	HUMAN RESOURCES	179
	Workforce Management / Recruitment	
	Staff Training and Development	180
	Staff Welfare / Pensions	181
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	183
	Information Technology Systems	
PERFORMANCE REPORTING	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	184
	ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE	193
STRATEGIC POLICY REPORTS & MUNICIPAL DISTRICT REPORTS	STRATEGIC POLICY REPORTS	223
	Economic Development and Enterprise SPC	
	Housing Culture and Recreation SPC	224
	Roads, Transportation and Marine SPC	225
	Planning and Community SPC	227
	Environment, Water and Emergency Services SPC	228
	MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS REPORTS	229
	Ballinasloe Municipal District	
	Tuam Municipal District	230
	Loughrea Municipal District	231
Conamara Municipal District	232	
Athenry Oranmore Municipal District	234	
ELECTED MEMBERS NOMINEES TO COMMITTEES, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING, EXPENSES	Elected Members nominated to Committees and other Bodies	238
	Conferences attended by Elected Members	241
	Training Events attended by Elected Members	242
	Elected Members' Expenses	244
PRINCIPAL OFFICERS / COUNCIL OFFICES	Principal Officers of the Council	250
	Council Offices	253
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	Update on the Development Contribution Scheme	255
	Annual Financial Statement 2019	256

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

MISSION STATEMENT



To provide civic leadership and effective democratic representation, while leading on sustainable economic, social, cultural and community development and delivering coordinated, effective and good value services, aimed at realising the full potential of the County of Galway.



CORE VALUES

- *Democratic*
- *Helpful*
- *Progressive*
- *Accountable*
- *Value for Money*

Vision for Galway County Council

Galway County Council will be a local authority with strategic capacity, good governance, effective civic leadership and with committed staff working effectively with its partners.

MESSAGE FROM THE CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY

As Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, it is a great honour and pleasure to introduce on behalf of Galway County Council, this Annual Report which is a very comprehensive record of what Galway County Council has delivered for its customers and the citizens of the county during 2019 with over €129.9m Revenue expenditure and €105m Capital expenditure.

Galway County Council is among the largest public service providers in the County, and as such we have a responsibility and an obligation to provide a quality service to all our customers. The range of facilities and services provided by Galway County Council across the county is considerable and the Council continued throughout 2019 to ensure that our citizens received an efficient, trustworthy and reliable service in a cost-effective manner. My elected colleagues and I worked closely in 2019 with the Council management to make financial provision for various services and projects in the county in a competitive and challenging operating environment.

I was greatly honoured to be elected as Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council on 7th June 2019 and to represent Galway as its first citizen for the County following the local elections. While it is an exciting time to be Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway there are many challenges for smaller towns, rural areas and for people in our communities, they face not just social and economic challenges but health challenges where ‘care’ is needed, and care services are vital. My Mayoral Charity Ball to be held in February 2020 will allow me the opportunity to recognise and contribute financially to the work of organisations and people who dedicate their time and energy to ‘caring’ as proceeds from this event will go to Galway Cancer Care West and Pieta House.

The key to achieving a range of infrastructural improvements and service provisions throughout the County was the ongoing collaboration and productivity between the elected members, the Council’s executive and officials, Oireachtas members, government departments and other stakeholders and partners.

I was honoured to lead a delegation from Galway County Council, together with the Chief Executive, to showcase Galway at the 39th Annual Milwaukee Irish Fest.

The All-Ireland success by the Galway Camogie team was an outstanding achievement and a source of pride and happiness for the people of Galway in 2019.

As in any year there were also moments of sadness. It was with great regret that we learned of the death of our serving colleague Cllr. Michael Fahy, Ardrahan. He was a friend to us all and was held in the highest esteem by all his fellow Councillors. He will be sadly missed. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

As Cathaoirleach of the Council, I wish to sincerely thank the staff of the organisation for the tremendous work they carry out daily for the development of this County. Their dedication and professionalism exemplify the important public service provided by the local authority.

I wish to thank our Chief Executive (Interim), Kevin Kelly and his Executive team for supporting me and my fellow Elected Members in our work with a united aim of improving the quality of life for all the people of Galway.

I would also like to thank former Councillor Sean O'Tuairisg who presided as Cathaoirleach for the first six months in 2019 and also sincerely thank my colleagues on the Council for their support and co-operation during my term as Cathaoirleach of the County with a special word of thanks to my Leas-Chathaoirleach, Gabe Cronnelly. I wish to pay tribute to the councillors who decided not to contest the local elections in 2019 and would like to wish them well in the future. I welcome all the newly elected councillors and wish them the very best in their new roles, and I know that they will play their part in continuing the development and promotion of the county in the years ahead.

In 2020, Galway will become the European Capital of Culture Galway 2020 which is a hugely prestigious designation for Galway and it was good to learn that more than 60 per cent of the communities that had engaged with the programme's "Small Towns, Big Ideas" initiatives were based outside Galway city.

Is onóir mhór dom an tréimhse atá caite agam mar Cathaoirleach 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. Jimmy McClearn,
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway.*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

As Chief Executive, I welcome the publication of the Annual Report for 2019 which details the Council's further progress on delivering the strategic priorities, objectives and strategies of the Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 and highlights the ongoing valuable work, and some of the many achievements, of the Council during the year. Much of what we do can only be achieved by working in partnership with our various stakeholders and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their on-going support and cooperation.

Galway County Council advanced a diverse range of projects during 2019 ranging across continued work on the resolution of flooding problems in South Galway, Ballinasloe and elsewhere, progression of the proposed harbour development at Inis Oírr, the continuation of the Ballinasloe Town Enhancement Scheme, the remediation of the East Galway Landfill at Kilconnell, the progression of the Bia Innovator Food Hub in Athenry, the advancement of Greenway proposals, the development of a Climate Adaptation Strategy, and the development and delivery of projects under RRDF/URDF were among the many initiatives commenced/undertaken across the organisation. All of these and other projects will continue to advance in 2020.

Galway County Council, working under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water, continued to progress water services projects throughout 2019. An upgrade to the Athenry Wastewater Treatment Plant was officially opened by the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy T.D., on 8th July 2019. This upgraded plant has a treatment capacity of 9,500 population equivalent and is essential in supporting the development of Athenry, while improving the water quality in the Clarin River. Significant progress was also achieved on the Tuam Regional Water Supply extension to Loughrea, which will convey water from Lough Corrib, treated at the Luimnagh Water Treatment Plant, to Loughrea, Craughwell and environs. Approximately 90% of the network was completed along with the commencement of construction of the pumphouses and completion of an additional reservoir at Seefin.

Galway County Council responded proactively to the priority of housing delivery. The Council met the housing needs of 652 households during 2019, bringing 253 new homes into active social housing stock through build, acquisitions, voids and leasing programmes. The Council also met the accommodation needs of 56 households under the Traveller Accommodation Programme in 2019 which represented 50% of the initial target of 111 households to be accommodated over the period 2019 – 2024.

The Council continued to advance the economic and community development of the County. Notwithstanding the limited resources available in recent times, the Council continued to support local communities and organisations to deliver initiatives in their areas. Under the Community Development Scheme, the Council supported 78 projects which included funding for amenity works and biodiversity initiatives, works at community facilities to improve fire safety, energy efficiency or access; funding for age friendly and youth activities and events; and funding for capacity building activities by non-profit organisations working with the disadvantaged or marginalised. The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) provided 52 funding grants to communities to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas or to promote the inclusion of disadvantaged groups which included grants towards equipment and/or works in community facilities, renovating or repurposing buildings as community facilities and grants to Men's Sheds for upgrade works, tools and equipment. Through

the work of Galway County Council's Local Enterprise Office, financial and non-financial supports were provided to micro enterprise based in County Galway.

The appointment of a Tourism Officer in 2019 gives a clear signal of the Council's support for the development of tourism in Galway including a focus on initiatives for the east and north of the county which are weaker from a tourism perspective. The Council, with funding support from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), continued to advance the extension of the Connemara Greenway in the townlands of Derryvickrone and Ballinahinch, to include the design and construction of a new bridge over the Cloonbeg river, which is an iconic bridge along the dismantled railway line. In conjunction with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Galway County Council will aim to develop the outstanding sections of Greenway between the town of Clifden and the village of Sraith Salach through 2020 and 2021.

In May the Council welcomed 16 new Elected Members, following the 2019 Local Elections which took place shortly after the passing in April 2019 of the late Councillor Michael Fahy who had 40 years' service with Galway County Council. May he Rest in Peace.

I would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the assistance and support of the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn and the former Cathaoirleach Comh. Sean Ó Tuairisg, and I would like to thank all the Elected Members for their collective input and support in responding to the challenges in 2019.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Executive Team and all the staff and their professionalism, support, valuable contribution, effort, and commitment in delivering all our services in 2019. It is the dedication, commitment and hard work of both the Members and staff that makes Galway County Council such a vibrant and progressive organisation.

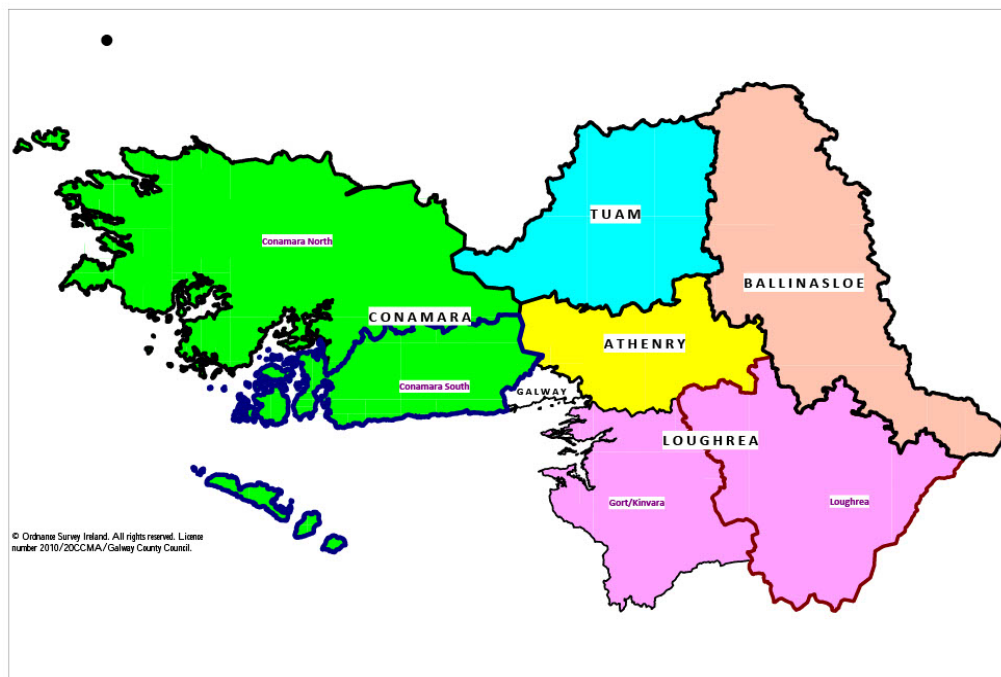


Mr. Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive

LOCAL ELECTORAL AREAS/ MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

In accordance with Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 618/218 - *County of Galway Local Electoral Areas and Municipal Districts Order 2018*, “the County of Galway shall have the following municipal districts for the purposes of section 22A (inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (No. 1 of 2014)) of the Local Government Act 2001 (No. 37 of 2001)”. The effect of the Order is to amend the division of County Galway into local electoral areas, to fix the number of members of Galway County Council to be elected for each such area and to determine the Municipal Districts for County Galway as follows:

- (a) The Municipal District of Ballinasloe consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Ballinasloe;
- (b) The Municipal District of Conamara consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Conamara North and the Local Electoral Area of Conamara South;
- (c) The Municipal District of Loughrea consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Loughrea and the Local Electoral Area of Gort — Kinvara;
- (d) The Municipal District of Athenry consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Athenry-Oranmore;
- (e) The Municipal District of Tuam consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Tuam.

Municipal Districts Map

Local Electoral Area Boundary Review

Section 23 of the Local Government Act 2001 empowers the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to divide a local authority area into local electoral areas and to amend those areas. Mr. John Paul Phelan T.D., Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform, established two independent Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees in 2018 to review and make recommendations on local electoral areas (LEAs) having regard to, among other things, the results of Census 2016 as well as the commitment to consider reducing the size of territorially large local electoral areas and ensuring adequate levels of representation for towns and urban areas.

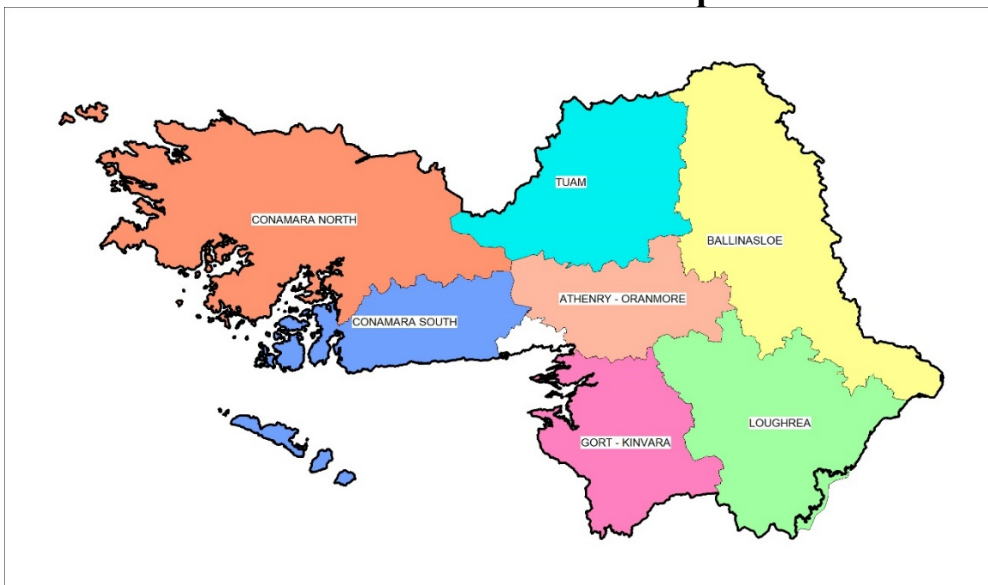
On 3 May 2018, Mr. John Paul Phelan T.D., announced the appointment of the existing Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees to review and make recommendations on local electoral areas in Galway County and Galway City. The boundary committees completed their reports in June 2018 (in accordance with section 32(2) of the Local Government Act 1991), following 3 public consultations. A total of 12 submissions was made in respect of Galway County, all of which are available to view on the boundary commission website www.boundarycommittee.ie/galwaycounty_submissions.htm.

The Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No. 1 Report 2018 recommended a total of 7 Local Electoral Areas for the county of Galway, an increase of 2 LEA's on the current total of 5.

The full list of Local Electoral Areas for county of Galway which came into effect for the 2019 Local Elections scheduled held on 24th May 2019 were as follows:

Name of Local Electoral Area	Number of Elected Members for each Local Electoral Area
Athenry – Oranmore	7
Ballinasloe	6
Conamara North	4
Conamara South	5
Gort – Kinvara	5
Loughrea	5
Tuam	7

Local Electoral Areas Map

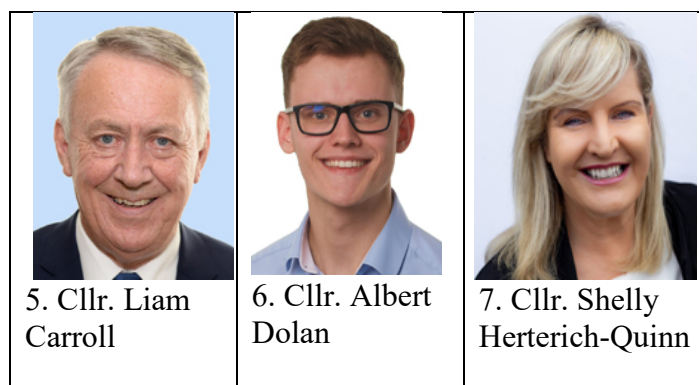


ELECTED MEMBERS BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The following pages list the Elected Members of Galway County Council for each Municipal District /Local Electoral Area:

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ATHENRY - ORANMORE

Athenry – Oranmore Local Electoral Area (7 Members)



	Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1.	Cllr. James Charity, Tonegurrane, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway.	-	087 2191792
2.	Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly, Cloonkeen, Athenry, Co. Galway.	-	087 2066810
3.	Cllr. Jim Cuddy, An Laighdeacán, An Carn Mór, Oranmore, Co. Galway.	091 798136	087 6360242
4.	Cllr. David Collins, Waterview, Turloughmore, Co. Galway.	-	087 7831687
5.	Cllr. Liam Carroll, Frenchfort, Oranmore, Co. Galway.	091 794677	087 6488684
6.	Cllr. Albert Dolan, Monivea, Athenry, Co. Galway.	-	086 7358081
7.	Cllr. Shelly Herterich-Quinn, The Forge, Old Church Street, Athenry, Co. Galway.	-	087 2871355

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE
Ballinasloe Local Electoral Area (6 Members)



	Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1.	Cllr. Tim Broderick, Corraneena, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	090 9686896	087 2728058
2.	Cllr. Dermot Connolly, Glennavaddogue, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	090 9642986	086 0886160
3.	Cllr. Michael Connolly, Moyloughmore, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	090 9679465	087 6829049
4.	Cllr. Aisling Dolan, Poolboy, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	-	086 3690719
5.	Cllr. Declan Geraghty, Williamstown Via Castlerea, Co. Galway.	094 9643355	086 2543304
6.	Cllr. Peter Keaveney, Bushtown, Glenamaddy, Galway.	094 9659388	087 2533098






MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA
Conamara North Local Electoral Area (4 Members)
Conamara South Local Electoral Area (5 Members)

Conamara North Local Electoral Area (4 Members)

			
1. Cllr. Eileen Mannion	2. Cllr. Thomas Welby	3. Cllr. Séamus Walsh	4. Cllr. Gerry King

	Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1.	Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Sky Road, Clifden, Co. Galway.	-	087 9555645
2.	Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cregg, Oughterard, Co. Galway.	091 552748	087 2855676
3.	Cllr. Séamus Walsh, Glann, Oughterard, Co. Galway	091 552726	087 0519884
4.	Cllr. Gerry King, Errislannan, Clifden, Co. Galway.	-	086 1798749

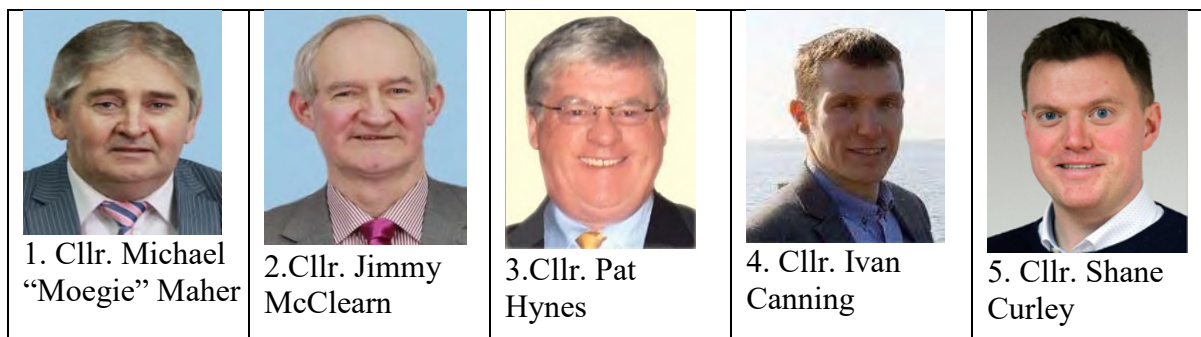
Conamara South Local Electoral Area (5 Members)

				
1. An Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin	2. Cllr. Noel Thomas	3. An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin	4. An Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	5. Cllr. Alastair McKinstry

	Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1.	An Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin, Na Foráí Maola Thiar, Bearna, Co. Galway.	-	087 2933782
2.	Cllr. Noel Thomas, Gort an Chalaídh, Maigh Cuilinn, Gaillimh.	-	087 7372147
3.	An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin, Cor na Rón Láir, Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe.	-	087 9023755
4.	An Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire, Na Doireadh, Baile na hAbhann, Co. na Gaillimhe.	091 572974	087 9213795
5.	Cllr. Alastair McKinstry, Croílár, Baile na hAille, Maigh Cuilinn, Co. na Gaillimhe.	091 868678	087 6847928

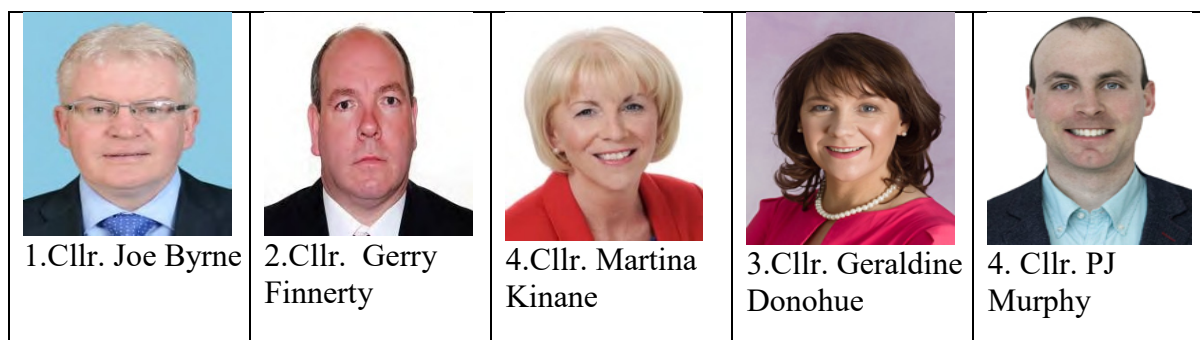
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA
Loughrea Local Electoral Area (5 Members)
Gort-Kinvara Local Electoral Area (4 Members)

Loughrea Local Electoral Area (5 Members)



	Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1.	Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher, Clostoken, Loughrea, Co. Galway.	091-842968	086 8109185
2.	Cllr. Jimmy Mc Clearn, Tynagh Road, Killimor, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	090 9676235/9676963	087 2548723
3.	Cllr. Pat Hynes, Dun Guaire, 2 Spring View, Gort Road, Loughrea, Co Galway.	091-842399	087 2404404
4.	Cllr. Ivan Canning, Lecarrow Gortanumera, Portumna, Co. Galway.	-	087 1376666
5.	Cllr. Shane Curley, Raheen, Loughrea, Co. Galway.	-	086 2706550

Gort-Kinvara Local Electoral Area (5 Members)



	Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1.	Cllr. Joe Byrne, Highfield House, Cloonassee, Kinvara, Co. Galway	091-638130	087 2625775
2.	Cllr. Gerry Finnerty, Ballymurphy, Gort, Co. Galway	091-632167 /091-633291	087 2674295
3.	Cllr. Martina Kinane, Stradbally North, Clarenbridge, Co. Galway.	-	087 2692102
4.	Cllr. Geraldine Donohue, Springvale, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway	-	086 1692827
5.	Cllr. PJ Murphy, Ballindive, Ardrahan, Co. Galway	-	087 7905401

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM
Tuam Electoral Area (7 Members)



	Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1.	Cllr. Mary Hoade, Main Street, Headford, Co. Galway.	091 789854	087 2255979
2.	Cllr. Peter Roche, Moyne, Abbeyknockmoy, Tuam, Co. Galway.	093 49187	087 8251470
3.	Cllr. Donagh Mark Killilea, 171 Palace Fields, Tuam, Co. Galway.	-	086 6079563
4.	Cllr. Karey Mc Hugh Farag, Brooklodge Demesne, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway.	-	087 2822225
5.	Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Kilcreevanty, Tuam, Co. Galway.		087 6776812
6.	Cllr. Andrew Reddington, Coarsepark, Headford, Galway.	-	087 6458115
7.	Cllr. Joe Sheridan, Milltown, Tuam, Co. Galway.	093-38903	087 9897072

TRIBUTE to the late Cllr. Michael Fahy (RIP) Loughrea Municipal District



Cllr. Michael Fahy, who was from Ardrahan, ran for the County Council for the first time in 1979 and successfully defended his seat on Galway County Council for the next eight election campaigns regularly topping the pole, which was an amazing achievement.

Cllr. Fahy who was due to contest the June 2019 local elections in the Gort/Kinvara area passed away on 2nd April 2019.

“Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis”

GENERAL INFORMATION

Galway County Council is responsible for the administrative area of County Galway, excluding Galway City. The Council is responsible for the planning, design and construction of roads, drainage facilities, housing, fire stations, libraries and burial grounds. Galway County Council 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, economic, 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 functions performed by the elected Members are called "**reserved functions**". These lay down the framework of policy, under which the Chief Executive operates.

Such functions include:

- adoption of annual Budget;
- making or varying the County Development Plan;
- adoption of the Allocation Scheme for social 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 Chief Executive and staff perform the **operational role** of Galway County Council. They are responsible for the day to day administration of the County Council. The Chief Executive performs, what are called, the "**executive functions**" and the Chief Executive's decisions are made by written "Chief Executive Order".

These functions include:

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

The Chief Executive, 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

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, and Local Government Reform Act 2014 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 and for the development of key areas including economic, business, heritage and cultural affairs.

The Reform Act which established the Municipal Districts and dissolved the Town Councils also introduced Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) to be established as committees of the local authority in each local government area. The legislation provided for the cessation of the County Development Boards and the introduction of the Public Participation Network.

The Council

The thirty-nine elected Councillors from the Municipal Districts collectively lay down the framework for the policy under which an Executive Team operates. A Corporate Policy Group and six* Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) 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. The Executive Team headed by Chief Executive operates in an executive capacity. *Six SPC's was set up following the Local Elections in May 2019.

Municipal Districts

Five Municipal Districts are established in the County of Galway, (with seven Local Electoral Areas*), and are served by the elected representatives from that Area. The Municipal Districts are designed to enhance democratic governance, subsidiarity and accountability. These arrangements are also intended to improve operational efficiency and value for money, with a single county-wide executive and operational structure. The Municipal Districts are decision-making entities rather than corporate structures. *The Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No. 1 Report 2018 recommended a total of 7 Local Electoral Areas (LEA) for the county of Galway, an increase of 2 LEA's on the current total of 5.

Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group comprises the Cathaoirleach of the County Council, Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees and is supported by the Chief Executive. The CPG links the work of the different SPCs and provides 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.

6 Meetings of the CPG took place in 2019.

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.

Six Strategic Policy Committees have been established in the Council, with the Strategic Policy Committee Scheme adopted on 25th November 2019.

In accordance with the terms of the scheme, members of the Strategic Policy Committees will comprise of Councillors and Sectoral Representatives as set out in the following table:

SPC	Elected Members	Sectoral Representations	Committee Total
Housing	7	4	11
Economic Development & Enterprise	6	4	10
Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services Community	7	4	11
Transport & Infrastructure	7	4	11
Community & Cultural Development	6	4	10
Climate Change & Biodiversity	6	4	10

Out of a total of 63 Strategic Policy Committee positions, 39 are to be filled by County Councillors and 24 by Sectoral Representation from the following 7 sectors:

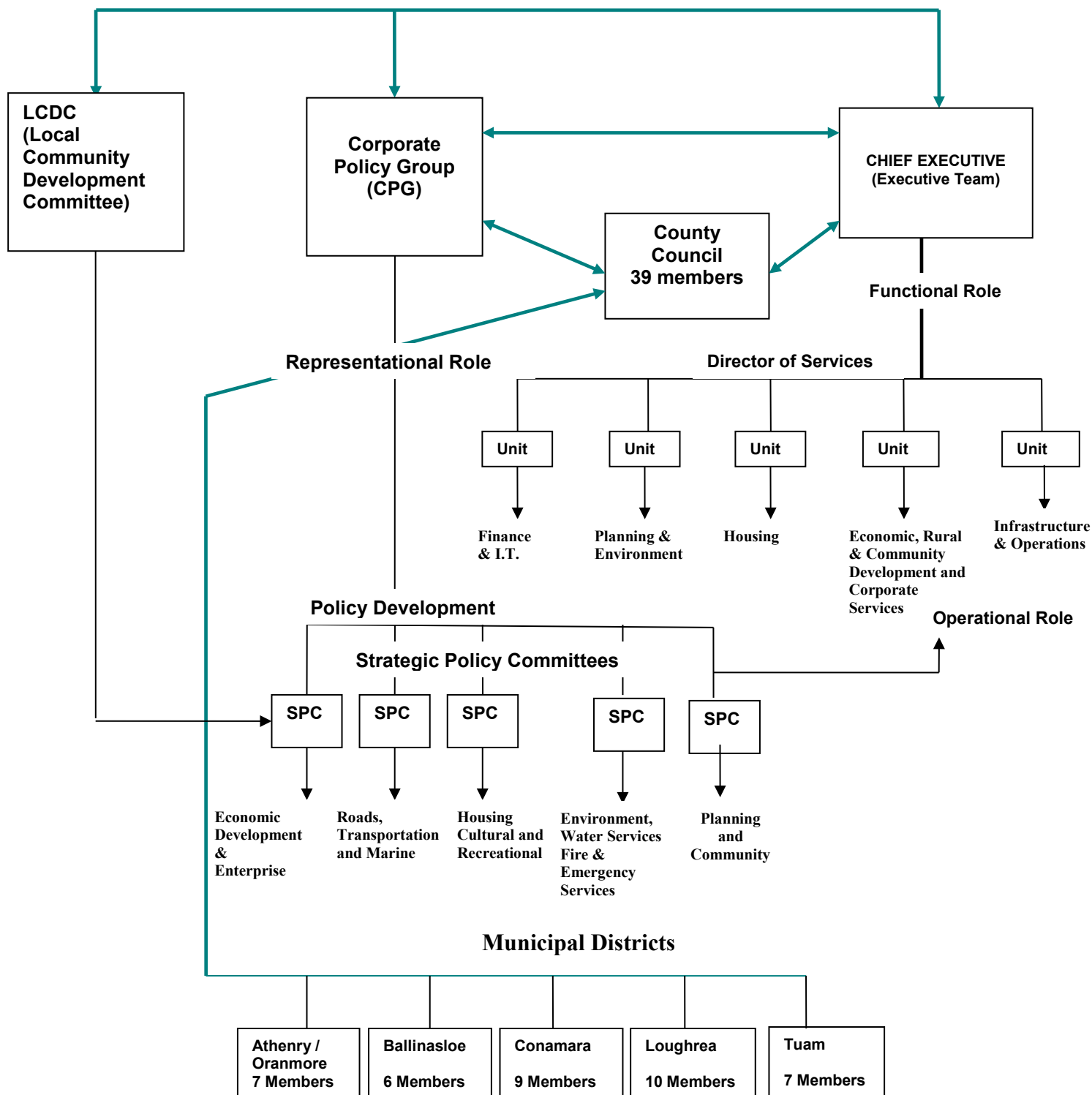
1. **Agriculture / Farming**
2. **Environmental / Conservation**
3. **Development / Construction**
4. **Business / Commercial**
5. **Trade Union**
6. **Community / Voluntary**
7. **Social Inclusion**

11 SPC Meetings had taken place prior to the Local Elections in May 2019.

Executive Team

The Executive Team is headed by the Chief Executive and consists of Directors of Services, Head of Finance and Law Agent.

GALWAY LOCAL AUTHORITIES ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2019



GOVERNANCE

Governance is concerned with developing the appropriate structures and processes for directing and managing Galway County Council so that stakeholders can be assured that Galway County Council is operating effectively and efficiently. Governance focuses on the legal, regulatory and service obligations and on the sets of relationships between the Council, the Committees, the individual Members, the Chief Executive, the Executive Team, staff and stakeholders in determining the direction and performance of this Council.

The following six good governance principles and supporting principles, help to guide Galway County Council in its delivery of service.

Core Principle 1

Good Governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on the outcomes that deliver sustainable economic and societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.

Supporting Principles

1. Exercising strategic leadership by developing and clearly communicating the authority's purpose and vision through the corporate plan and ensuring that service users receive a high-quality service.
2. Ensuring that the authority, through its service delivery plan, makes best use of resources to ensure achievement of outcomes is optimised.

Core Principle 2

Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

Supporting Principles

1. Exercising effective leadership throughout the authority, being clear about reserved and executive functions and the respective roles and responsibilities of members and officials.
2. Creating a constructive and respectful working relationship between members and officials and ensuring that the functions of the Authority are performed to a high standard.

Core Principle 3

Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

Supporting Principles

1. Ensuring members and officials, in exercising leadership, behave in ways that exemplify high standards of conduct, ethical behaviour and effective governance.
2. Fostering a culture and ensuring mechanisms that encourage and enforce adherence to ethical values and to the organisational values as espoused in the corporate plan.

Core Principle 4

Good governance means taking better informed and transparent decisions and managing risk and performances.

Supporting Principles

1. Being rigorous and transparent about the decision-making process and having good quality information, advice and support available to decision makers.
2. Ensuring that an effective risk, financial and performance management systems are in place. Which address uncertainties and exposures, enforce financial discipline, and emphasises strategic resource allocation and the efficient and effective delivery of services

Core Principle 5

Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and the purpose of the organisation.

Supporting Principles

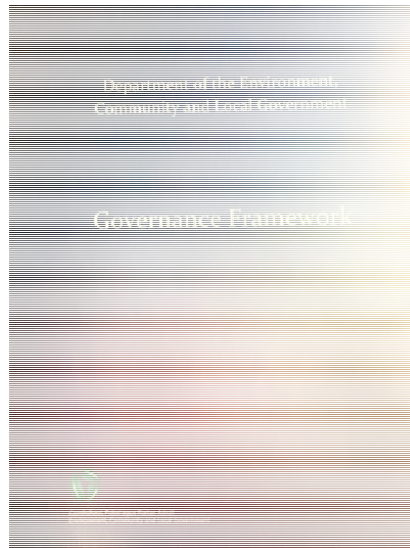
1. Ensuring that members and officials have the supports and appropriate structures they need to perform effectively in their roles.
2. Developing the capability of those with governance and leadership responsibilities to ensure outcomes achieved are consistent with good governance obligations.

Core Principle 6

Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

Supporting Principles

1. Providing clarity in relation to accountability relationships and organisational assurance, audit and scrutiny functions.
2. Ensuring there is a process and mechanism that deliver clear communication, effective stewardship and accountability to stakeholders.



Progress Report on Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019

The Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019, adopted on the 24th November 2014, details the strategic priorities, objectives and strategies of the Council, its core values and our vision for the County of Galway and Galway County Council.

The Plan serves as the strategic framework for the future actions of the Council during that period. It identifies eight strategic priorities, together with their objectives and supporting strategies to achieve the Council's Mission Statement and Core Values. These strategic priorities as identified in the Plan are presented below.

The focus of Galway County Council over the period of the Corporate Plan is to deliver on the following strategic priorities:

- To serve as the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level enhancing the quality of life in our county.
- To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.
- To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise.
- To support the balanced and sustainable development of a cohesive county through the provision of essential infrastructure and progressive planning.
- To preserve and support our unique culture, environment, heritage and language.
- To optimize our resources and maximize organizational efficiency, effectiveness, cohesiveness and value for money.
- To enhance the wellbeing of the county, its communities and people, developing sustainable communities, maximizing social inclusion and supporting active citizenship.
- To foster a culture of excellence in delivery of Customer Services.

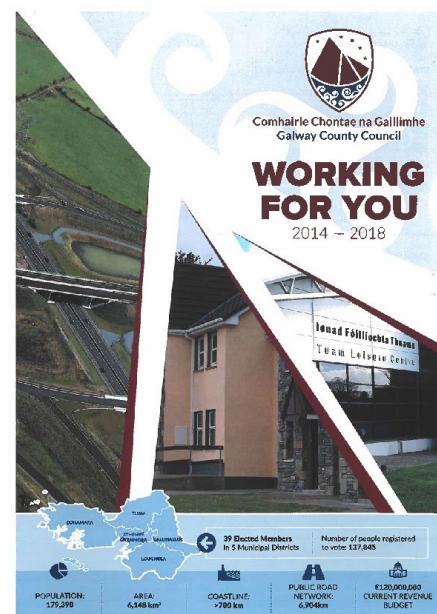
The Corporate Policy Group considered and noted, on 24th April 2019, the document 'Working for You 2014-2018' which gave an overview of the depth and breadth of service across the organisation. The document set out the achievements, the broad range of functions and service delivery carried out by the Council during the period of the current Council from 2014 -2018.

An assessment of our performance against the targets set in the 2019 Service Delivery Plan is also included on pages 193 to 221, while details of our performance against the national performance indicators is included on pages 184 to 192.

Note: Please refer to Galway County Council's Annual Budget 2020 for additional information on the Annual Progress Report on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019.

This Document can be located at: -

<http://www.galway.ie/en/services/yourcouncil/finance/annualbudgets/>





Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

CORPORATE SERVICES
AND
ECONOMIC, RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CORPORATE SERVICES

The Corporate Services Unit offers trusted and consistent excellence in administrative services to the Elected Members, Plenary Council, Senior Management and the general public. The Unit aims to continually develop a positive Corporate image of the Council, through the provision of efficient professional support services in the form of Corporate Secretariat to the Council and its sub-structure as well as a wide variety of services including the Register of Electors, Freedom of Information, Promotion of the Irish Language, Recreation & Amenity Policies, Customer Services, Casual Trading, Corporate Policies, Management and Servicing of the Council Office Network, Archives and Records Management, Library Services, Internal Audit and Legal Services.

Progress and achievements of the Unit for 2019 are presented below appropriate to the relevant strategic priorities contained in the Corporate Plan 2015-2019.

Strategic Priority

To serve as the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level enhancing the quality of life in our County.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND SUPPORT

Galway County Council's Plenary Council of 39 members continued to meet monthly in 2019 to carry out their Reserved functions and consider social, economic and cultural issues critical to the sustained development of the County in line with the Strategic Priorities and Objectives of the Corporate Plan.

The Annual Meeting of the Plenary Council was held on June 7th, 2019 and Cllr. Jimmy McClearn was elected to replace Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg as Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly was nominated to replace Cllr. Peter Keaveney as Leas-Chathaoirleach.

The Council held its Annual Statutory Budget Meeting on November 25th, 2019 to consider and adopted the 2020 Revenue Budget and Three-Year Capital Programme.



Cllr. Jimmy McClearn elected as Cathaoirleach - Accepting the Chain of office from outgoing Cathaoirleach, Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg on June 7th, 2019.



Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach accepting the Chain of office from outgoing Leas-Chathaoirleach Cllr. Peter Keaveney on June 7th, 2019.

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Monthly Meetings of the Council	Meetings
Ordinary Monthly Meetings	11
Special Meeting	1
Annual Meeting	1
Budget Meeting	1

Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group is organised and administered by Corporate Services and is supported by the Chief Executive.

Corporate Policy Group	Meetings
Corporate Policy Group	6 meetings

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

In accordance with Section 35(4) and 36(1) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 Galway County Council operates a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in conjunction with local Garda Síochána management and in accordance with Revised JPC Guidelines issued in 2014. The function of a Joint Policing Committee is set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states: “*The joint policing committee’s function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area*”. The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, the Local Authority, Community Representatives, and the Elected Local Representatives. During 2019, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work, in addressing local issues collectively and strategically.

The JPC held its regular JPC Meetings on 11th February 15th April and 30th September 2019 and its Annual Public Meeting of the JPC was held on 4th November 2019 in Tuam, in the Municipal District of Tuam. Public meetings offer an excellent opportunity for local communities to participate and engage in relation to general policing matters affecting the policing of the County of Galway and in particular policing matters affecting their areas.

The continuing work of three sub-committees afforded the JPC the opportunity to progress strategic objectives of the 6-Year Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan.

Membership of the JPC

The following table shows the numbers applicable for each category of membership for the County Galway Joint Policing Committee.

Local Authority Elected Members	Oireachtas Members	Local Authority Officials	Garda Síochána	Community/Voluntary Representatives
15	5	2	2	7

Strategic Priority

To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.

Civic Receptions

Facilitation of Civic Receptions is supported by the Corporate Team in response to requests of the Plenary Council in accordance with the Council's agreed Civic Honours Protocol.

A Civic Reception was held on 28th January, at Áras an Chontae, to honour the achievements of the following teams:

- **Athenry Minor & U15 Girls Rounders Teams, All Ireland Winners 2018.**



Members of the Athenry Minor and U15 Rounders teams pictured with the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Comh. Sean Ó'Tuairisg and Mr. Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim) at the Civic Reception.

- **Black Dragon Kickboxing Club/Gym** on their outstanding achievements for 2018.



Pete Foley and the Black Dragon Kickboxing Club/Gym honoured at a Civic reception by the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Comh. Sean Ó Tuairisg together with Mr. Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim).

- **Turloughmore U14 Team, Féile All Ireland Winners 2018**



Turloughmore U14 Team, Féile All-Ireland winners 2018 with Kevin Kelly Chief Executive and Cathaoirleach Sean Ó Tuairisg.

Special Meeting

Galway County Council hosted a Meeting in Committee with Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform, John Paul Phelan TD on 11 October 2019.



Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, together with the Elected Members and the Council's Executive team welcome Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform, John Paul Phelan TD, to Galway County Council.



Meeting in progress

Twinning

Tuam has a long-standing town twinning relationship with the Bavarian town of Straubing. In October 2019, 34 school students from Straubing stayed with host families in Tuam and surrounding areas for a week. The students attended school in the town to allow the students experience another country/town, different culture and to practice other languages.



In August 2019, a delegation from Galway County Council, led by the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Jimmy McLearn, and the Chief Executive (Interim), Mr. Kevin Kelly, attended the 39th Annual Milwaukee Irish Fest.

The 2019 showcase stage at the Milwaukee Irish Fest shone a light on Galway, where its culture, music and history were on full display throughout the festival grounds in Milwaukee.



The delegation also visited Washington County as the County of Galway is twinned with Washington County, Wisconsin, USA, since 2003.



Clifden is also twinned since 2012 with the Borough of Coyoacan, Mexico City, based on the historical ties created by the contribution of a native of Clifden, John Riley and the San Patricio Battalion, in the Mexican American War of 1846-48.

Image: Cllr. Eileen Mannion with the Ambassadors representative at the 2019 Festival in Clifden.



San Patricios Celebration, Clifden

Galway Associations

The contribution of the Galway Associations in supporting the Galway Diaspora was acknowledged with Comh. Sean O’Tuairisg, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway accepting an invitation from the Galway Association Bedfordshire to attend their Annual Dinner Dance in February 2019.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Council is responsible for the compilation of the Register of Electors for County Galway (excluding Galway City area).

The Register of Electors for 2019/2020 was published on the 1st February 2019.

The total number of Electors on the 2019/2020 Register of Electors was 138,529.

The Local Elections, European Elections & Referendum on Divorce Arrangements took to the polls on Friday, 24th May 2019.

The total number of Electors on the Supplementary Register of Electors for the Local Elections, European Elections & Referendum on Divorce Arrangements held on 24th May 2019 was 1952.

The Draft Register of Electors was prepared in line with statutory deadlines in November 2019 and Revision Claim Courts were facilitated during December throughout the County to adjudicate on claims/submissions received and were presided over by the County Registrar, who ruled on the submissions made to Galway County Council.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

A total of 207 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2019 under the Freedom of Information Act.

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	110
Requests Part-Granted	52
Requests Refused	33
Requests Withdrawn	10
Requests Transferred	0
Granted outside of FOI	2

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

A total of 8 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2017 under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 – 2014.

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	7
Requests Part-Granted	0
Requests Refused	0
Requests Withdrawn/Transferred	1

Strategic Priority

To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise.

OPERATION OF MARKETS, CASUAL TRADING & FILM LICENCES

Casual Trading Licences are issued annually on payment of a fee for a number of towns and villages throughout the County including Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Dunmore, Gort, Headford, Loughrea, Mountbellew and Tuam in line with the Casual Trading Byelaws.

Special Event Licences are issued for various festivals and fairs which take place throughout the year, e.g. Ballygar, Dunmore & Loughrea Festivals, the Maam Valley Fair, the Clifden Pony Show as well as the Kinvara Cruinniú na mBád Festival and Christmas markets in Athenry, Ballinasloe and Tuam.



Tuam Christmas Market

The Corporate Services Unit was also involved with the co-ordination of trading at the Fair Green for the Ballinasloe Horse Fair in October, which is considered one of the oldest Horse Fairs in Europe. In addition to trading, the Unit worked with the Municipal District office with regard to parking, security and access to the trading area and the Unit also worked with the Community and Enterprise Section and local organisations on the promotion of Ballinasloe and ancillary festival events during the Annual Horse Fair.



Views of the Ballinasloe Horse Fair



CASUAL TRADING BAYS

Annual Licences	
Area	No. of Licences Issued
Athenry	4
Ballinasloe (St. Michael's Square)	10
Clifden	5
Dunmore	2
Gort	8
Headford	1
Loughrea	2
Mountbellew	5
Tuam	9

Special Event Licences	
Area	No. of Licences Issued
Athenry Christmas Market	1
Ballinasloe Fair	102
Ballinasloe Christmas Market	2
Ballygar Festival	23
Clifden Pony Show	8
Clifden Festivals	5
Dunmore Festival	40
Kinvara – Cruinniu na mBád	12
Loughrea Medieval Festival	18
Maam Valley Fair	16
Tuam Christmas Market	1

Permits for Ice Cream Vendors at Designated Beaches/Park	
Area	No. of Licences Issued
Trácht, Kinvara	1
Céibh Nua, An Spidéil	1
An Trá Mhór, Indreabhán	1
Trá na bhForbacha	1
Renville Park, Oranmore	1

FILM LICENCES

Requests (6 no.) from film makers to use the public property for filming were received.



Special Event Licences - Loughrea Medieval Festival

Strategic Priority

To support the balanced and sustainable development of a cohesive county through the provision of essential infrastructure and progressive planning.

RECREATION, AMENITY-PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Playgrounds

Galway County Council continues to invest in play facilities in the County by providing public liability insurance to a number of community managed playgrounds as part of formal maintenance agreements with local groups, as well as the direct maintenance of playgrounds in our main towns. In accordance with previous commitments under the Council's Play Policy, assistance has been provided to playgrounds through direct funding and provision of insurance. To-date, a total of 71 playgrounds have been developed in the County, under this policy which provides one of the most extensive networks of playgrounds in any County available free of charge to residents of all main settlement centres and in key tourist locations.

The Smoke Free Playgrounds Policy was ongoing in 2019. New non-smoking signs, funded through the Healthy Ireland programme, were designed and distributed to each playground in the County



Information on all sites are available to download in the Council's Guide to Playgrounds – 'Let's Play' available on www.galway.ie and an interactive map on the Mapzone section of the web-site.

Triennial playground inspection training for Council Community Wardens and community playground groups, took place in September and November 2019. This course was delivered by an approved ROSPA (Royal Society of Prevention of Accidents) Certified Official. On successful completion of the course, participants are ROSPA trained to undertake playground inspections and provided with Certification for a period of 3 years. ROSPA Inspections of Council Playgrounds also took place in November 2019.

The on-line inspection 'app' continued to work well in 2019 as it assists Community Wardens carry out inspections using their smartphones and submit reports automatically. Reports are automatically filed providing a record of weekly inspections required for maintenance and insurance purposes.

Inclusive Play

Access to two of Galway County's popular beaches for people with mobility issues was made much easier thanks to the introduction of beach-friendly wheelchairs at Trácht and An Trá Mór Indreabhán beaches. The beach wheelchairs were unveiled on Tuesday 6th August by the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway in Trácht and by the Leas- Chathaoirleach Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly in An Trá Mór, Indreabhán.

Galway County Council acquired the specially designed chairs which are available free of charge at Trácht and An Trá Mór Indreabhán beaches during lifeguard hours. Registration for the use of the Beach Wheelchair can be made with the lifeguard on duty. They are available to wheelchair users or people with mobility issues who have a carer or assistant present to aid them transfer to the chair and push the chair. For many people with a disability or limited mobility, the beach wheelchair provides the opportunity to enjoy what most people take for granted - a day at the beach and a dip in the sea.



Beach Wheelchair in use at Trácht beach



Unveiling of the Beach Wheelchair by Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly at An Trá Mór Indreabhán with L-R: Comh. Dáithí O’Cualáin, members of Galway Speeders, Corporate Services staff, Comh. Padraig MacLomaire, Marty Mannion Community Warden, Beach Lifeguards on duty and Shane Coogan, Water Safety Development Officer.

Adult outdoor fitness gym facilities – Ballinasloe & Portumna

Comh. Sean O’Tuairisg, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council together with Cllr. Donal Burke, Cathaoirleach of Ballinasloe Municipal District unveiled the new adult outdoor gym facility at the Dunlo Park Recreational Centre on 10th April, with Katie Codyre, Galway Sports Development Officer, providing a demonstration of the equipment.



Cathaoirleach, Comh. Sean Ó’Tuairisg, with L-R: Eamon Lydon & Marian Donohue Galway County Council, Cllr. Michael Connolly, Marion Ruane Ballinasloe Fit Towns, Cllr. Dermot Connolly and Cllr. Donal Burke, Chair of Ballinasloe Municipal District and in the back, Mick Curley and Katie Codyre, Galway Sports Partnership.



‘Getting stuck in’ - A Brother of Charity member testing out the Handcycle under the guidance of Katie Codyre, Galway Sports Development Officer, Galway Sports Partnership.

Galway County Council in conjunction with Ballinasloe Fit Towns and with the benefit of financial assistance from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport - National Sports Capital Programme added this addition to the running track at Dunlo Park which incorporates eleven exercise stations which includes a walker, cross-trainer, bicycle, stepper, chest press, hand cycle, arm stretch, chin-up bars, leg press and rower which offers adult users the opportunity to avail of eighteen exercises targeting different areas of the body.



Members of the Ballinasloe Active Retirement (first image) and Members of Brothers of Charity (second image) with the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Comh. Sean Ó Tuairisg at the launch of the outdoor gym in Ballinasloe.

Adult outdoor fitness gym facilities –Portumna

On 9th November, a new adult outdoor gym facility was officially launched by the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, at Castle Avenue Portumna. This outdoor gym facility is intended to complement the adjacent walking trails within the Forest Park and offers a range of exercise stations including wheelchair accessible exercise. The outdoor gym is made up of eight double exercise stations which includes a walker, cross-trainer, bicycle, stepper, chest press, accessible hand cycle, shoulder flexor, chin-up bars, leg press and rower which offers users the opportunity to avail of sixteen exercises targeting different areas of the body.





The Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn cutting the ribbon of the new outdoor fitness gym in Portumna, together with Minister Ciaran Cannon, TD, Anne Rabbitte TD, Cllr. Ivan Canning, Marian Donohue Galway County Council and members of the Mighty Oak and Arch Club Portumna and Portumna Cycling Club.

Galway County Council provided this facility with the benefit of financial assistance from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport - National Sports Capital Programme and with support from the Mighty Oaks Arch Club.

The Water Safety Programme

The Water Safety Programme involved the recruitment of a panel of 52 trained Lifeguards to provide services at ten 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, with two lifeguards provided at all beaches in compliance with International Lifeguarding Federation of Europe (ILSE).

Lifeguard Induction training was held on 24th May and 21st June 2019. Services commenced on the 1st June and continued until the 15th September.

The upgrading of some equipment supplies, and a significant review of procedures was undertaken, as well as a Hut Preparation and Repairs-Maintenance Schedule agreed and delivered, with a new hut provided at Knock, Indreabhán in June.

A Water Safety Development Officer continues to be appointed on a part-time basis. The role includes supervision of the Water Safety Lifeguard Programme, development of the service as well as commenting on the water safety aspects of applications to both County and City for events involving use of water e.g. Triathlons.

Regular updates on Lifeguarding Hours and locations were posted to the Amenities Section of www.galway.ie/www.gaillimh.ie. The Council also made a contribution to Irish Water Safety Council of €6,150.

Concessions were continued in 2019 to permit applicants to sell ice creams and soft drinks at Trácht Beach, Kinvara, Beach at An Spidéal New Pier, Na Forbacha Beach and An Trá Mhór Indreabhán, for the summer season.

Swimming Pools / Leisure Centres (Tuam and Ballinasloe)

Galway County Council owns Leisure Centres comprising of swimming pools, gym and studio room facilities in the Palace Grounds Tuam and in Sarsfields Road, Ballinasloe. A four-year management, operating and maintenance licence was signed with Coral Leisure Ltd for Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centres in January 2016. A Joint Liaison Committee is chaired by Corporate Services with Coral Leisure to review implementation of the Licence Agreement. The Management Company continues to promote and grow its membership base.



Tuam Leisure Centre

Rinville Park, Marea, Oranmore

Rinville Park is one of the County’s largest parks, with a network of walkways, a playground, and an outdoor gym. Renville Park is managed by Galway County Council is owned jointly by Galway County Council and Galway City Council. It is a designated location on the ‘Wild Atlantic Way’. It is used extensively by local residents, visitors, and local organisations such as Scouting Groups.

A seasonal Caretaker was employed by the Council from May to October. A Concession for the provision of refreshments at Renville Park from March to September was continued. The Parks’ Maintenance Programme continued to be delivered in partnership with local groups.



Picnic seating at Renville Park Oranmore

Palace Grounds, Tuam

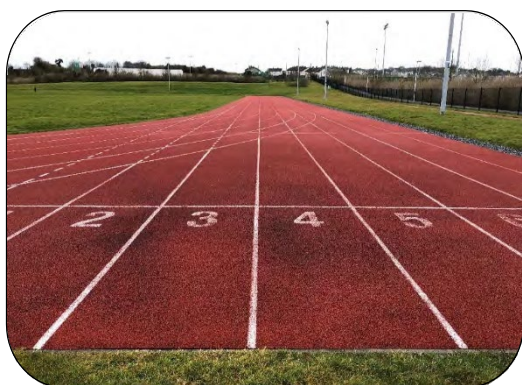
Support was provided for Palace Grounds Park area in Tuam and a maintenance programme was implemented by the Tuam Municipal District Office in association with a Council sponsored Community Employment (CE) Scheme.



Dunlo Athletic Track Ballinasloe

Dunlo Recreational Park is a valuable amenity for the community of Ballinasloe and East Galway region in the ownership of Galway County Council.

Galway County Council greatly welcomes the support of the TUS programme in provision of services at the facility. The support services provided under the Scheme supports the operation of the facility and ensures that the facilities can be made available for the enjoyment and benefit of the local community and clubs. A Schedule is made available on www.galway.ie indicating public times and bookings by local clubs.



Dunlo Recreational Track



L-R: David Finneran, Tús, Cathaoirleach Comh. Sean Ó'Tuairisg, Cllr. Donal Burke and Brian Mongan Tús.

Tuam All Weather Pitches

Tuam All Weather Pitches continued to be operated under a Licence Agreement put in place with Tuam Celtic Football Club. A Liaison Committee met on a regular basis to review operation of facility. Local schools and youth groups were advised on the availability of the pitches free of charge at designated times, with provision for 40 hours free usage per week.

Tennis Courts

Tuam Tennis Court is managed by Galway County Council.

Clár Funding for Recreational Projects

The Corporate Services Unit provided administrative and advisory support to community groups to advance proposals for recreational facilities in their respective areas and to access available funding under several programmes such as CLÁR and the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme 2019.

Strategic Priority

To preserve and support our unique culture, environment,
heritage and language.

PROMOTION OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Galway County Council is committed to improving services through Irish and to continue to meet the relevant obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003 together with the implementation of an Scéim Teanga. The Council also looks to support and promote the Irish language throughout the County. Some of the activities undertaken in 2019 were:

Lá na Gaeilge

In March, a special event, ‘Lá na Gaeilge’, was organised during Seachtain na Gaeilge (1-17 March 2019), in which an opportunity was given to local members of the public, businesses, community groups and so on, who conduct their business through Irish, to showcase their work to the general public in Áras an Chontae for the day. A musical showcase was also organized during this time, in which a primary school group from County Galway performed for staff and the general public.



*Lá na Gaeilge, Déardaoin 14 Márta, 2019 Atrium, Áras an Chontae, Cnoc na Radharc Gaillimh
- Scoil Mhuire, Maigh Cuilinn*



Roinnt grianghraf ó Lá na Gaeilge 2019

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais 2019 / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships 2019

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais 2019 / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships 2019 were provided again this year by Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in collaboration with Summer Colleges in Conamara. 12 scholarships in total were provided to second level students in the County of Galway to attend Gaeltacht Summer Courses.

Scéim Teanga Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe / Galway County Council Language Scheme

The Third Language Scheme for Galway County Council was finalised and implemented in 2019.

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe continued to work in partnership with other organisations, inform them of our Language Scheme and ensure that the measures of the Scheme were implemented where such was within the Council's control. Support and advice were provided, along with proofing services.

Information and consultation continued to be provided to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation.

Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga

The Council continued to co-operate with Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, in dealing with issues raised by members of the public, regarding Irish language services and legislation.

Community Support

The Irish language was specifically included as a category in the Community Support Scheme in 2018. Small scale grants totalling €8,230.00 were approved for projects in Schools, Community & Voluntary Organisations to support the promotion and increased use of the Irish language.

Cathaoirleach Awards

An Award for the Irish Language continued to be included in the Cathaoirleach's Awards this year for Gaeltacht and Non-Gaeltacht communities and schools.

Promotion of Gaeilge

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe continued its support of the promotion of Irish in communities throughout the County through the Glór na nGael Award, which was presented to Comhlacht Forbartha Inis Meáin, Co. na Gaillimhe, in February 2019, and also by helping to promote events as Gaeilge e.g. National Heritage Week, etc through the Irish Language media.

The email address gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie continues to be promoted to customers as part of enhanced service delivery.

Irish language classes (beginner and intermediate levels) were organised for staff of the local authority and classes were also available for Councillors.

HISTORIC ASSETS

Athenry Heritage Centre

The Council provided funding to Athenry Heritage Centre located in St. Mary's Church in Athenry Town Centre which is the in ownership of Galway County Council and subleased to the Development Association who oversee the management of the Centre. The Centre employs a Centre Manager and staff through various schemes. The funding contributed to promotion, events and basic upkeep of this historic asset, which attracted over 9,800 visitors in 2019, which includes over 4,000 attending the Athenry Towns Wall Day event held in August.



Athenry Heritage Centre

Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre

The Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre is managed and funded by Galway County Council.

The Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre aims to interpret the most significant and devastating battle fought as part of the wider struggle for the Throne of England in the 1690s, between the largely Irish Jacobite army loyal to King James II and the forces of King William III on 12th July 1691 (old style: equivalent to 22nd July new style). The engagement by the visitor through the various experiences (interpretative panels, film, battlefield diorama with model soldiers, costumes and artillery/artefacts, reading material, battlefield map board activity, and battlefield self-guided maps) allows the visitor to gain an insight into, connect with, learn and imagine this bloody battle.



Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre, adjacent to Community Playground & Park, Aughrim, Ballinasloe.

The Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre opened for the 2019 season from 30th May to 6th September.

The Centre held a series of events during 2019 with fortnightly talks held covering a variety of heritage/history/local topics to include ‘The Heritage, Archaeology and Folklore of some Sacred Wells from East Galway’, ‘Reporting on the Silent Century – Co. Galway News Items 1900-1799’, ‘Aspects of the Heritage of East Galway as reflected in the coins in the Aughrim Museum collections’ and ‘Death and Burial in an Irish Poor Law Union (30th August)’.

The Aughrim Visitor Centre
will host a series of lectures on
GALWAY'S
LOCAL PLACES ~ LOCAL HERITAGE
JULY ~ AUGUST
LECTURE SERIES 2019
ALL LECTURES ARE FREE

The lectures will give an insight into local customs, folklore, news items and objects of East Galway from the past.
All Talks start at 2pm.

Friday, 19th July 2019
‘The Heritage, Archaeology and Folklore of some Sacred Wells from East Galway’
by **Christy Cunniffe**
Dr Christy Cunniffe manages the Galway Community Archaeology Advisory Project for the Heritage Office of Galway County Council.

Friday, 5th July 2019
‘Níl an tinteán mar do thinteán féin (there's no hearth like your own hearth)’
by **Brendan McGowan, Education Officer, Galway City Museum**
Brendan McGowan holds MA degrees in Heritage Studies from GMIT, Galway and Museum Practice and Management from University of Ulster. Since graduating, he has worked at Gleneveagh National Park, National Museum of Ireland - Country Life and Galway City Museum. He is the author of several books including The Irish in Leeds, 1921-89, Eyre Square 300: Aspects of its History and Galway City Through Time.

Friday, 2nd August 2019
‘Reporting on the Silent Century - Co. Galway News Items, 1700-1799’
by **Steve Dolan, Portumna Workhouse**
Steve Dolan is a Historian based in East Galway. He holds an MSc from NUIG and an MA in History from UL. He is manager of the Irish Workhouse Centre, editor of the *SIGANS* journal, and course manager / lecturer of the Local History Certificate for the University of Limerick.

Friday, 16th August 2019
‘Aspects of the Heritage of East Galway as reflected in the coins in the Aughrim Museum collections’
by **Paul Durfy**
Paul has lectured and published extensively on engineering and numismatic heritage with particular reference to County Galway.

Friday, 30th August 2019
‘Death and Burial in an Irish Poor Law Union’
by **Mary Healy & Claire Doyle, Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna**
This lecture will discuss the death and end of life conditions of people who lived and died in an Irish Workhouse. The inmates died from a range of illnesses and diseases despite the fact that the physical building was constructed to prevent the spread of disease. It will examine the burial practices undertaken within the poor law union workhouse using the 2011 archaeology excavation of primarily hengeh workhouse (now Nerragh hospital). This will give us an understanding of how the dead were buried within a workhouse system what practices were used.
Claire Doyle is a genealogist at Wild Atlantic Research and a tour guide at the Irish Workhouse Centre. Mary Healy is an Archaeologist and Education officer with The Irish Workhouse Centre.

Walk & Talk
Saturday 20th July 2019
1.30pm
As a parallel event to the ‘Aughrim Remembered’ Summer School, a short battlefield tour (see map below) and talk will take place on 20th July 2019.
The tour will commence at 1.30pm from St. Catherine's Hall Aughrim returning to the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre at 2.30pm for the talk ‘The Battle of Aughrim’ by Dr Pádraig Lenihan NUIG.
Further information on the ‘Aughrim Remembered Summer School’ event can be obtained at www.aughrim1691.com

A 1.30pm Meeting at St. Catherine's Hall
B Aughrim Castle
C The Pass
D 4.15pm Return to the Visitor Centre

Pádraig Lenihan is a lecturer in history at the National University of Ireland Galway. Before entering academia he served in the Irish Army (1976-1980), rising at the rank of Captain. The study of Irish, British and continental warfare in the period 1641-1715 forms the backbone of his research and writing career. He considers weaponry, tactics and manoeuvre as being of equal importance to such ‘war and strategy’ themes as state-building, recruitment, logistics and strategy.

‘Irelands-Game Changer’ was the title for the Heritage Week event held in the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre on Saturday 24th August. The event organised by ‘Cath Eachroma 1691 (Battle of Aughrim 1691 Historical Group), in co-operation with Galway County Council had up to 90 persons in attendance. On the day, along with a full account of the events of July 12th, 1691 (Julian Calendar), there were talks exploring the folklore and traditions surrounding the battle, the artillery used, and what the everyday soldier would have faced. There were also delightful performances of traditional music, with musicians from the Committee providing their respective talents throughout the day. The day ended with a guided tour of some of the battlefield sites.



Portumna Courthouse

Initial investigations were undertaken to examine the adaptive reuse of Portumna Courthouse.

Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023

During 2019, a range of events and initiatives were delivered under the Galway Commemorative Strategy for the Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023.



The Corporate Services Unit facilitated and supported the Decade of Commemorations Committee on the delivery of events to commemorate the First Dáil.

On Monday 21 January 2019, Galway County Council presented two lectures, delivered in two separate venues (Áras an Chontae and in the Claregalway Hotel), to mark the centenary of the first Dáil.

The first lecture, entitled ‘*Revolution at the ballot box: County Galway and the 1918 general election*’ was delivered by Conor McNamara, and the second lecture, entitled ‘*From suffrage to Soloheadbeg*’ was delivered by Síobhra Aiken.



First Dáil Launch 21 January 2019, Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae.

To commemorate and as part of a programme of events to mark the first public sitting of Dáil Éireann in 1919, Galway County Council hosted an exhibition (Oireachtas Exhibition) entitled ‘Dáil 100’ from mid-August to mid-September.



The exhibition marked 100 years of Irish Parliamentary democracy and educated the general public about the role and importance of the Irish Parliament. The role of the first members of Dáil Éireann from Galway was highlighted –

Four elected representatives for Galway were to the fore at the meeting of the first Dáil on 19 January 1919:

- Pádraic Ó Máille (Connemara, the constituency also included Galway city);
- Bryan Cusack (North Galway), Galway's 1916 Rising leader;
- Liam Mellows (East Galway); and
- Frank Fahy (South Galway).



A launch event was held on 9th September in Áras an Chontae to mark the 100 years of Irish Parliamentary democracy.

Dáil 100 Launch with Oireachtas in Áras an Chontae



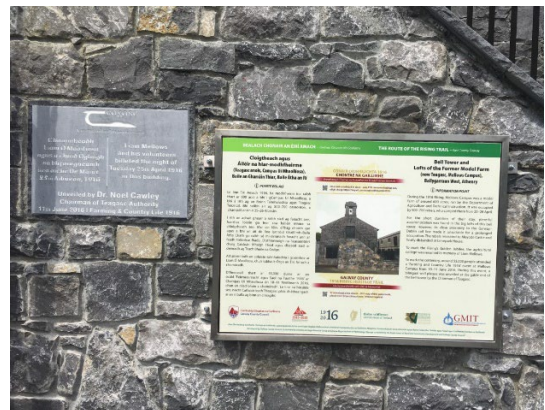
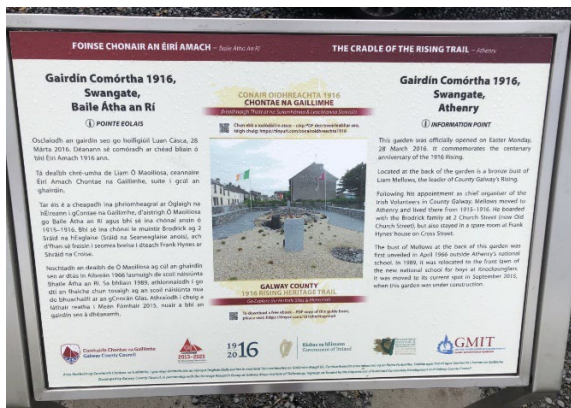
The events held and initiatives undertaken which afforded both our communities the opportunity to continue to play an active part in the commemorations, included as follows:

- The Loughrea Remembered Conference entitled ‘Democracy and the People’ was held on 7th November 2019. This event was undertaken in partnership with Loughrea Memorial Group.



L-R: Colman Shaughnessy Loughrea Memorial Group, Dr Conor McNamara NUIG, Marie Mannion Heritage Officer, Caroline Healy & Grainne Smyth Heritage Section Galway County Council and Joe Loughnane Loughrea Memorial Group, at the ‘Democracy and the People’ Conference.

- The Heritage Section continued to work with GMIT on a digital heritage project on the documenting sites of significance in the county.
- Further development and updating was undertaken on the bi-lingual website for the Decade of Commemoration with additional information and podcasts.
- Interpretative signage, part of the ‘Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail (bi-lingual) Signage Project’, was put in place at 12 no. selected sites of Galway County Council’s 1916 Heritage Trail – Go Explore the Historic Sites and Monuments in 2019.



Strategic Priority

To optimize our resources and maximize organizational efficiency, effectiveness, cohesiveness and value for money.

Facilities Management - Office Accommodation and Libraries

Corporate Services continued to provide caretaking and facilities management services for the Council's network of offices, libraries and civic functions.

- The Unit continued to deliver on its requirements under the Safety Management Programme in areas such as PAT testing, periodic testing of electrical installations, VDU assessments.
- Energy efficiency monitoring and management continued to be a priority focus in the facilities unit. Display Energy Certificates were completed and put on display for 18 offices and libraries which are greater than 250 sqm.
- Ongoing review of refurbishment requirement to Council office buildings took place in order to facilitate the provision of additional office and meeting room accommodation
- The Unit continued to undertake procurement processes for a range of facilities management related contracts to ensure value for money and quality of service are maintained.
- Plans to install a new back-up electrical generator was commenced in 2019.

Internal Audit

The 2019 Internal Audit Plan which forms the Internal Audit annual programme of work was drawn up in conjunction with the Chief Executive, Audit Committee and the Head of the Internal Audit Team.

The plan contained eleven areas for audit examination with audit reports on the following areas completed and presented to the Audit Committee at various meetings held during 2019:

- Expenditure & Recoupment on a sample of Housing Capital Project's (2018 Audit Plan);
- Corporate Governance Issues- Customer Complaints, FOI requests, Registers of Electors- (Deletions and Additions), Ethics -Declaration of interests for staff and members (2018 Audit Plan);
- 2017 Schedule of Uncollected Rates 2018. (2018 Audit Plan);
- Review of the Division of Roles between HR & Payroll Units under The My Pay Service Level Agreement;
- Review of Fuel Card and Low Value Purchase Card Transactions;
- Mobile Phone/Printing Costs;
- Coding of Bitumen Supply & Spray Services;
- Travel & Subsistence Claims;
- Product Codes Used for the Purchase of Goods and Services.

The following audits from the 2019 Audit Plan were commenced during 2019 and completed in January 2020

- Housing Grants paid in 2018;
- Heritage Grants /Conservation Funding paid out in 2018;

Three audits from the 2019 Audit Plan were carried forward to the 2020 Internal Audit Plan.

Throughout 2019, ongoing reviews were carried out on issues raised in the Local Government Statutory Auditors report on the 2017 Annual Financial Statement.

The following activities were carried out as part of Internal Audits checking & reconciliation function:

- Checking of Motor Taxation receipts against lodgements along with an examination of documentation held in relation to cancelled discs and duplicate tax discs;
- Annual and bi-annual stocktakes in the Ballinasloe, An Cheathrú Rua and County Hall Motor Tax offices;
- Periodic reviews of Galway County Councils cash office receipts against lodgements along with Revenue Collectors cancelled receipts.

Legal Advisory Services

The Department provided legal services for all programme areas and Directorates, including the acquisition and sale of properties, the conduct of litigation to include District Court enforcement prosecutions, Circuit, High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court Litigation, including Judicial Review. In particular, District Court Litigation (Rates, Planning Enforcement & Environmental Enforcement prosecutions) and Judicial Review were areas of significant workload in terms of overall litigation. The completion of land acquisitions and CPOs on inter-urban routes and acquisition of residential units, were also substantial areas of work for the Law Agent Unit.

The Case Management System, which facilitates the use of templates to create workflows for the efficient and cost-effective delivery of legal services, continued to be updated and applied to existing and new work areas.

Work continued in 2019 to manage and update our Register of Lands in co-operation with our partners in other units such as IT, Finance and Housing.

Strategic Priority

To enhance the wellbeing of the county, its communities and people, developing sustainable communities, maximizing social inclusion and supporting active citizenship.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME

Galway Public Library continued to provide a valuable service to communities and individuals in 2019. Libraries continue to be relevant to the children, adults and families of Galway City and County.

Galway Public Library has a network of:

- 29 Branch Libraries
- Mobile Library Service
- Schools Service for Primary Schools
- Audio Service for Visually Impaired
- Local History Service
- Archives

The active library membership of Galway Libraries for 2019 is **24,766**.

In 2019, Galway Libraries had **638,608** visits to its libraries, and it issued **619,789** items (NOAC indicator).

Internet desktop sessions were **37,893** with **53,830** wi-fi sessions.

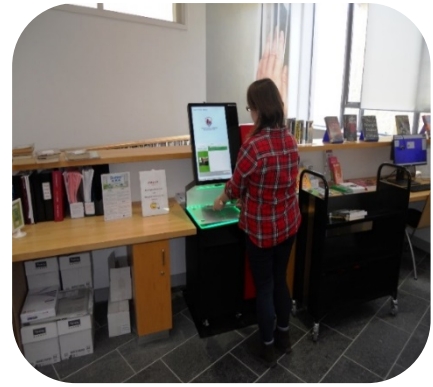
21169 e-books and **23603 e-audio books** were downloaded by Galway members.

Compared to 2018, in 2019 the e-book loan usage increased by **17%** and the e-audio loans increased by **33%**.

Indicative Activities in 2019:

- Library usage continued to increase in 2019. The Library Service of Galway County Council is one of the most heavily used services in Ireland and libraries are established FREE civic and cultural centres in their communities.
- Libraries remain the most visited public spaces in County Galway, with **638,608** visits in 2019, an increase of **17,084** on 2018.
- The National Distribution service continues to prove popular. In 2019, we had **56,031** requests filled. This is an increase of **27%** on 2018. Public reaction has been hugely positive to this service due to the accessibility of out of print titles, the availability of course books and access to new titles. The community library has now become an important educational aid in more isolated areas of the county and being able to order books online and collect them locally has increased the relevance of the library.
- Internet PC's were upgraded in branch libraries throughout the County and City.
- Digital Literacy programmes continued including the continuance of IT classes in bigger branch libraries, facilitated by Age Action, Vodafone, Digitise the Nation and Rural Alliance.

- Staff training on the use of online resources and active promotion of same has contributed to the significant rise in usage.
- New self-service machines were installed in Athenry, Ballybane, Clifden, Galway City, Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua, Loughrea, Oranmore, Portumna and Tuam.



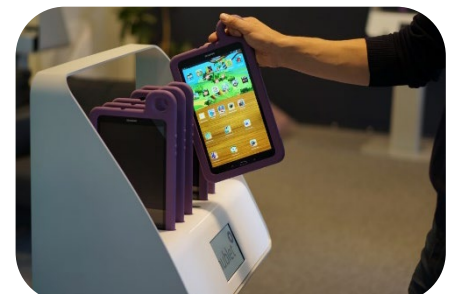
- Customer led IT solutions included extending SurfBox to a number of libraries. SurfBox allows members of the public to send a print job to a printer in their local library. The print job can be sent from home, and it is released and collected at the library.

- Electronic tablet OPAC's were installed in Athenry, Ballinasloe, Ballybane, Clifden, Dunmore, Galway City, Gort, Leabharlann an Spidéal, Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua, Loughrea, Oranmore, Portumna, Tuam, Westside and Woodford.

- Digital signage to aid the promotion of library services was introduced in Athenry, Ballinasloe, Ballybane, Clifden, Galway City, Gort, Loughrea, Oranmore, Portumna, Leabharlann an Spidéal and Tuam branch libraries.
- Interactive panel screens were purchased for Westside and Galway City Library. Flip screen interactive screens were supplied to Ballinasloe, Oranmore and Tuam.
- Tovertafels were installed in Ballybane and An Cheathrú Rua libraries. This technology is an interactive light projector which stimulates physical, social and cognitive activity in individuals living with dementia along with adults and children with additional sensory needs.



- A Tablet Hublet was installed in the Tuam library, allowing all library members to borrow a tablet for use within the library.



- A Laptop dispenser was installed in Galway City branch and provides free access to laptops for library members.
- ISO45001 accreditation was achieved for the Library Service as part of overall accreditation process.

LIBRARY SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS

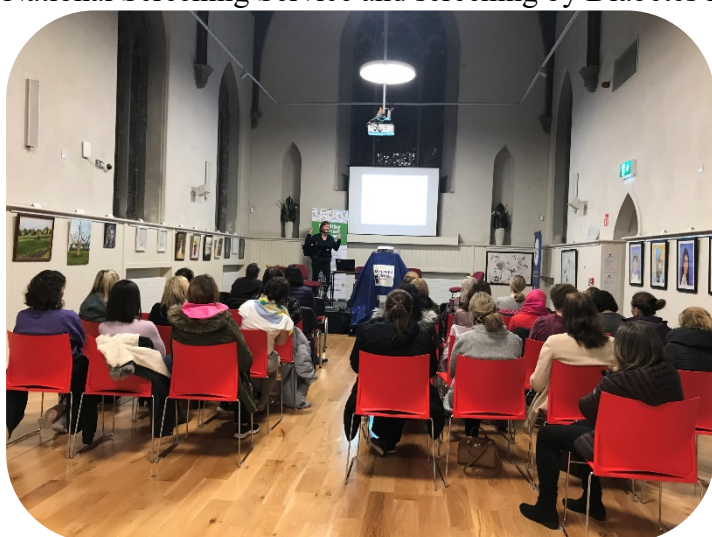
National Library Initiatives:

Healthy Ireland @ your library:

The Department of Health has seen the potential to work with Public Libraries across Ireland, to deliver the *Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme* which aims to establish libraries as a valuable source within the community for health information.

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme addresses 6 key areas:

- Healthy Childhood
 - Healthy Eating and Active Living
 - Wellbeing and Mental Health
 - Positive Ageing,
 - Alcohol and Tobacco
- The Programme enhances current health information in Galway Libraries by providing a comprehensive collection of new books, e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and online courses on health and wellbeing. The Healthy Ireland Book Stock and online resources have been complimented by a series of talks, discussions and workshops with a focus on physical health, mental health and health literacy.
 - In 2019, 57 events have taken place in Galway Libraries with 1,491 people attending phase two of Healthy Ireland at Your Library. Topics covered have been Heart Health, Dementia Awareness and Parenting. Information sessions have also taken place on Cancer Care and Prevention, by the National Screening Service and screening by Diabetes Ireland.



Psychotherapist Stella O'Malley speaking to parents in Ballinasloe library as part of Healthy Ireland at your Library.

- A cross-group programme was delivered to the Island communities as part of a Healthy Islands initiative. Galway libraries worked in partnership with Croí, Galway Rural Development, Western Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce; Galway Sports Partnership; Galway Citizen Information Centre; Irish Rural Link; Pieta House; and AIDS West.



- The *Healthy Galway City 2019-2021 Strategy* was launched in Westside Library by the Minister of State with responsibility for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy, Ms. Catherine Byrne, TD.



Healthy Harvest Day at Westside Library

Work Matters:

- *Work Matters* is a service to support (together with local partners) people seeking employment, up-skilling or developing small businesses. It includes:
 - Dedicated, branded spaces with computers, broadband and wi-fi, printing and scanning facilities;
 - Book-stock and online resources to support employment and business activities;
 - Expertise of library staff providing support through the relevant resources;
 - Events and programming on business and work-related topics;
 - *Work Matters* and *Online Resources* brochure developed.



Work Matters Area Clifden and Loughrea Library



Work Matters areas have been developed in Clifden, Portumna, Oranmore, Loughrea, Tuam, Ballinasloe and Galway City.

Books and Reading - At the heart of everything we do

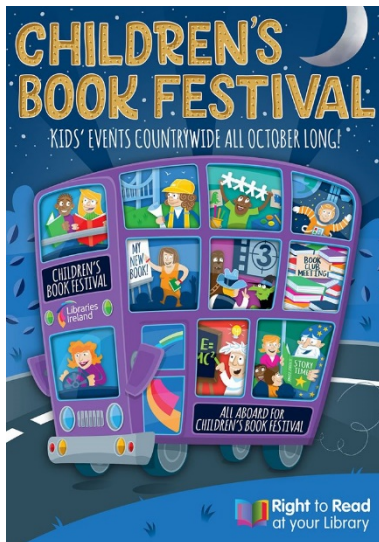
Galway Libraries want to support people in their love of books and their pursuit of knowledge. A wide and diverse selection of books and other items for adults and children in all areas of literature and knowledge is provided. The Library service take every opportunity to promote books and reading.



Children's Services:

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

- **Children's events** – *Spring into Storytime* was delivered in branch libraries in April, delivering story times to branches throughout the county.

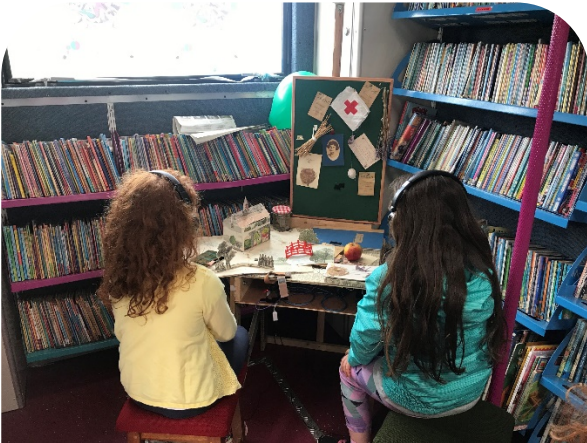


- **Children's Book Festival** was successfully run in October 2019 in conjunction with Galway Council Arts Office. 68 children's events were enjoyed by 2,300 children.
- The **Summer Reading Challenge** took place throughout the county with 4,600 children registering for the challenge and 3,000 completing.



- Galway Library Service received its Right To Read award. Award ceremonies took place in branches in September 2019.

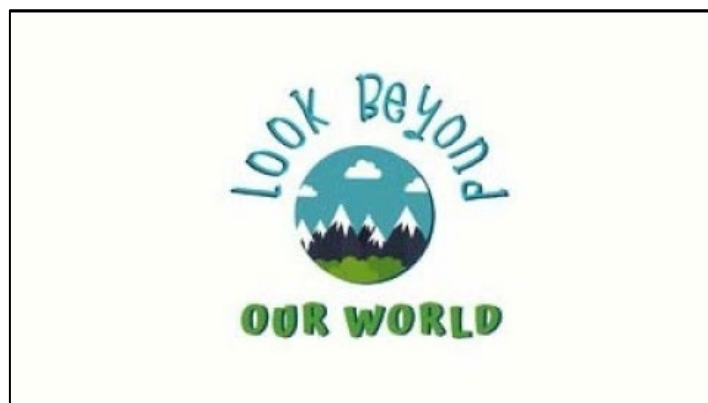




Creative Ireland Initiatives:

Creative Ireland is a culture-based programme designed to promote individual, community and national wellbeing. Galway Libraries played a role in the local delivery of a number of Creative Ireland events during 2019 which included:

- **Galway's Great Read – 'Look Beyond Our World' and 'Words, Camera, Action!'**



Look Beyond Our World: Read My World

Galway Public Libraries' insightful initiative included 4 schools, 7 classes, 24 titles, 8 workshops, 2 facilitators and over 400 school children.

The Look Beyond Our World project, and collection of books, involved reading and examining diverse stories in an open and non-judgmental way...stories of Syrian refugees, student protestors, wartime evacuees and economic migrants, teenagers with autism, and families with same sex parents. Many lives are represented in the stories, and the participating children explored topics of inclusion, equality, appreciation of difference, and understanding of other people's lives and circumstances.

Words, Camera, Action!

Words, Camera, Action! was an initiative of Galway Public Libraries, funded by Creative Ireland and kindly supported by Pálás Cinema.

Tuesday 3 December

11.30am: Ballybane Library hosts a talk by Chelsea Morgan Hoffmann entitled 'Adaptation: Books to Screen (and beyond)'

6.30pm: Screening of 'Election' at Pálás Cinema, based on the novel by Tom Perrotta, starring Reese Witherspoon. Screening will be followed by Book/Film Club discussion, hosted by Charlene Lydon. New Book/Film Club members welcome.

Wednesday 4 December

12 noon: Reading with Alan Glynn followed by Q&A at Westside Library

3pm: Alan Glynn and Gerard Stembridge in conversation at Galway City Library

6.15pm: Screening of Shakespeare's 'The Winter's Tale' at Pálás Cinema. Live from Branagh Theatre, starring Kenneth Branagh and Judi Dench

Thursday 5 December

11am: Peter Sheridan and Gerard Stembridge in conversation at Ballybane Library

Saturday 7 December

11am: Screening of 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' at Pálás Cinema followed by refreshments

It celebrated two-fold the art of reading and the influence of literature in film and Galway's status as a UNESCO city of film.

These free events were held from the 3rd - 7th December both in Ballybane Library and in the Pálás Cinema Galway.



Peter Sheridan and Gerry Stembridge in conversation in Ballybane Library as part of Words, Camera, Action!



Galway's Great Read seminar at Ballinasloe library

Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg is an annual national initiative celebrating the creative potential of children and young people.



Cruinniú na nÓg was celebrated on June 15th, facilitated by Creative Ireland, in several library branches throughout the municipal districts.

It included events such as 'Pop Up Worlds' where Moonfish Theatre transformed the Galway mobile library service bus into an adventure through history.

This was no ordinary library bus, its books were doorways to the past - open one, and you were carried on an epic historical adventure. The event was held in Abbeyknockmoy, Moylough and Mountbellew.



Pop Up Worlds – Mountbellew



Pop Up Worlds - Abbeyknockmoy

A 'multi-sensory fun' event with artist Phillida Eves was held at Ballinasloe Library.

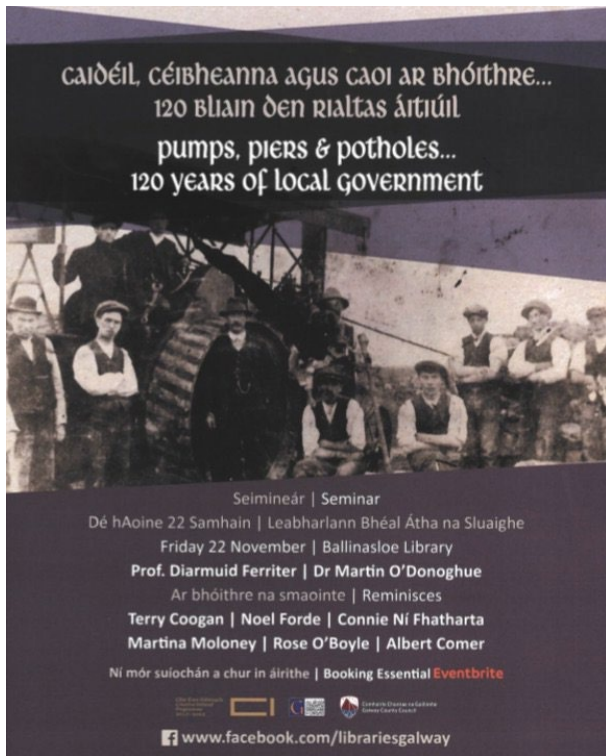


- **Lego clubs** were established in Tuam, Portumna, Ballinasloe and Westside.

- **One Book One Town** - Both Tuam and Galway City Libraries participated in 2019. This initiative in conjunction with the Home/School Liaison team encourage everyone to read the same book. Classes from the local schools attended readings in Tuam and Galway City Libraries.

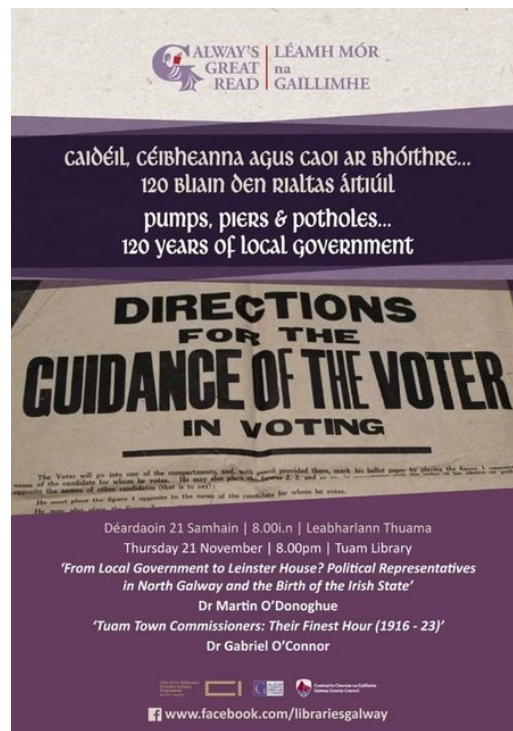
Adult Events in the Libraries and the Arts

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



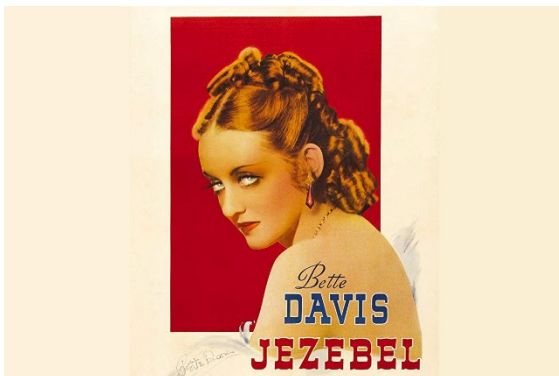
- The Galway's Great Read programme continued in 2019, funded by Creative Ireland.

2019 featured 'Pumps, Piers & Potholes: 120 years of Local Government' which explored the history and significance of local democracy in Ireland.



The events also formed part of our Decade of Commemoration programme.

- Westside Public Library in conjunction with community partners delivered the Westside Arts festival.
- Oranmore participated in the local arts festival.
- Outreach events were facilitated at Glenamaddy, Menlough, and an Age Friendly Alliance event.



- Culture Night 2019 for County Galway in conjunction with the Arts Office. 'A tribute to George Brent and Screening of the Movie 'Jezebel' which celebrated the career of hometown native and Hollywood leading man and director Brent from the 1930's until his death in 1978 was held in Ballinasloe library as part of Culture Night 2019.

- Galway Age Friendly City and County Programme. Galway was awarded its Age Friendly Charter by LGMA.
- Various collaborative projects with Galway2020.
- Festivals throughout the County and City including Cúirt Festival, Bábaró, Shorelines and East Galway Art Trail.
- Europe Direct Centres in Ballinasloe and An Cheathrú Rua continue to facilitate a number of annual events, both in branch and outreach. First Citizen’s Dialogue as Gaeilge took place in An Cheathrú Rua library in November.



Soapbox event held on 7th November at the Europe Direct Ballinasloe Library where 25 students from 7 schools shared their views on climate change.

- Bealtaine Festival in May was celebrated in several libraries.
- Art exhibitions, book clubs, book launches etc. were held in libraries throughout the year.

Patricia Glynn performing with Kasia Voetter at Circle of Life garden Galway. Photo by Markus Voetter.

A creative and fun movement and dance event with choreographer Patricia Glynn. Celebrating creativity in older age for the month of May. Suitable for ages 50+

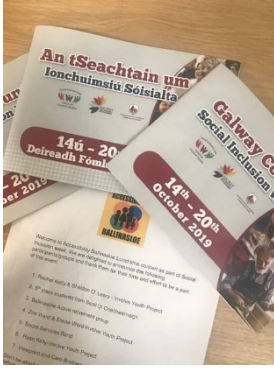
Ballybane Library, Castlepark Road, Ballybane Galway Phone 091 500244 Email Ballybane@galwaycoco.ie



Art exhibition launch at Portumna library



Climate Change Adaption Sectoral Plan Workshop at Ballinasloe Library



- Social Inclusion Week and Galway Pride Week were supported in branch libraries.
- Work progressed on the MOL project in Ballinasloe and Oranmore libraries.
- Branch libraries got new opening hours signage.
- Ballygar and Woodford Library went online and are now part of the National Library Management System.
- Building improvement works were carried out in several Branch

Libraries including Clifden, Ballygar, Galway City, Westside, Oranmore, Oughterard, Tuam and Portumna.

Library students

The support of Library Students from Germany and France greatly assisted the libraries staff in 2019. They worked in Westside, Ballybane and Galway City Library.

Proposals for 2020:

- Work will continue, based on available funding, to maintain and improve, where possible, the Library Services in Galway as per the Galway Library Development Programme 2016-2021.
- Work will continue progressing the new Galway Community/Cultural Library.
- The Healthy Ireland, Work Matters and Right to Read campaigns will continue to be rolled out across the library branch network, availing of national funding streams, with the aim of ensuring a range of service in both urban and rural branches.
- Efforts to enhance the use of technology will continue, including self-service technologies, while further promotion of the online resource package will be delivered.
- The computerization of branch libraries in the Galway service will continue, subject to staffing levels and financial resources. It is hoped that Leenane and Letterfrack along with the mobile library will be computerised in 2020.
- Galway Libraries will continue to develop our events programme, engaging with individuals and communities through our branches, availing of national funding opportunities where possible, including Creative Ireland, while operating within the constraints of local funding.

ARCHIVES AND MANAGEMENT OF RECORDS

The collective memory of the people of Galway is of vital importance in preserving cultural identities, in bridging the past and the present and in shaping the future. The documentary heritage residing in Galway County Council Archives constitutes a major part of that memory and reflects the diversity of the people, history and culture of the county. The Archives strives on a continual basis to preserve, manage and make accessible that memory. It undertakes to provide *bona fide* users access to the archives consistent with preservation requirements and within the limitations of available resources. The Section also provides policy advice to the Council on the care and management of its records.

- ❖ Continued to provide access to information on Galway County Council’s archival holdings through its descriptive lists and its fully searchable on-line catalogue, and through various archival portals, and social media posts.
- ❖ Continued processing archive collections¹.
- ❖ Continued the programme of providing security backup and reference surrogates to collections, through the digitisation programme. Items included in the 2019 programme include approx 30 volumes of Manager’s Orders (1942-1960) and Boyhill, Athenry (1917-2012).
- ❖ Following a major project to transcribe and index records from the Archives’ [Burial Ground Records](http://www.galway.ie/archives/burialgroundrecords/) the resultant database, with over 40,000 searchable entries, was made available free online, with the assistance of the ICT section.

The screenshot displays the 'Index of burial ground register books' website. On the left, there are search filters for 'Burial Ground: All' (Creagh Protestant Section, Creagh-B slope, Gurteen Roundstone), 'Date of Death / Burial' (18/05/1875 to 06/06/1890), 'Surname: All', 'Christian name: All', and 'Locality: All'. The main content area shows a bar chart of records by year and a table of search results. The URL <http://www.galway.ie/archives/burialgroundrecords/> is prominently displayed.

Img	Burial Ground	Christian name	Surname	Age	Date of Death / Burial	Locality
	Tuam	Mary	Cleary	45	18/12/1889	Dublin Road;
	Tuam	Honor	Coleman	10	02/11/1889	W House;
	Tuam	John	Collins	67	19/03/1890	Mall; Tuam
	Tuam	Catherine	Conaghton	86	09/05/1888	W House;
	Tuam	Honor	Concannon	70	27/05/1884	W House;
	Tuam	William	Concannon	99	09/06/1888	; Tuam
	Tuam	Catherine	Conneely	84	23/03/1889	W House;
	Tuam	Mary	Conneely	70	03/06/1888	W House;
	Tuam	Honor	Connell	43	02/03/1890	W House;
	Tuam	Mary	Connelly	65	11/06/1884	W House;
	Tuam	Mary A	Connolly	9	13/02/1883	W House;

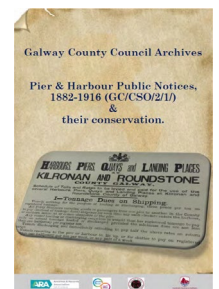
- ❖ Facilitated the conservation of several volumes of Loughrea Board of Guardian minutes, (GP2/).
- ❖ Provided on-going reader services, such as access to collections for research purposes, assistance with research queries, and provision of research advice and guidance.
- ❖ Monitored the environmental conditions of the archives and endeavoured to ensure their continued protection, preservation and management, despite storage facilities not meeting internationally acceptable preservation standards.

Footnote: ¹ GC/CSO/003/013-018; GJ/01/1899; GC/F/4/1-65; GC/CSO/002/ (various accruals); GP14/; GS19/01-05



Commemorative Bookmark produced to mark 120 years of Local Government

- ❖ Outreach activities were primarily concentrated on marking 120 years of local government, and included:
 - ◆ liaising with the Local Government Archivists and Records Manager's group to research and curate the exhibition *Celebrating the History of Irish Local Government*, funded by the Dept of Housing, Planning & Local Government;
 - ◆ curated and produced a short dual language online exhibition to celebrate 120 years since Galway County Council's 1st meeting,
 - ◆ the production of a commemorative bookmark.
 - ◆ organising and hosting, together with library colleagues, a series of school visits, talks and seminars as part of *Pumps, Piers & Potholes.... 120 years of Local Government*. This project was funded under the Creative Ireland /Galway County Council Cultural and Creativity Strategy, 2018-2022.
- ❖ Facilitated the loan of an item (GS01/5) included in a prestigious international exhibition, *Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier* held in the Museum of the American Revolution in USA October 2019-Mar 2020).
- ❖ Provided advice on records management best practice and assistance to Sections, as required.
- ❖ Continued the management of non-current record transfers to storage (approx. 7,070 boxes of managed material currently in commercial storage); 1,546 recall requests processed in 2019. At the end of 2019 there were in the region of 123,000 entries on ArcLink, the records management database.



COMMUNITY WARDENS SERVICE

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

- Enforcement e.g. statutory traffic offences, litter offences, abandoned vehicles, waste disposal/illegal dumping, dog licences and casual trading;
- Monitoring e.g. housing estates, public amenities such as recycling centres, bring banks, parks, beaches and playgrounds,
- Assistance e.g. to tourists, elderly, schools, neighbourhoods, communities; Gardaí and state agencies,
- Observing and Reporting on all the above.
- Litter Pollution/Derelict Sites Surveys were carried out, whilst regular inspections of Playgrounds, Parks, Local Authority Estates, Halting Sites, Piers, Beaches, Bottle banks etc. continued to be undertaken by the Wardens. Community Wardens carried out over 150 community clean ups in 2019.
- 1331 investigations under Air Pollution, Waste Management and Water Pollution legislation were carried out in 2019, 445 of which were initiated from the Community Wardens routine inspections.
- 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. 132 litter fines were issued in 2019.
- 262 surveys were carried out by the Community Wardens Service in relation to litter pollution in accordance with National Service indicators.
- Businesses in the County continued to be inspected by the Community Wardens Service in relation to compliance under the waste management producer responsibility categories, e.g. compliance in relation to plastic bag levy, packaging, waste tyres, WEEE, waste batteries, hazardous waste disposal.
- The Wardens continued to assist with the operation of pay parking and the implementation of traffic management plans in several towns across the County.
- Community Wardens continued to assist the Housing Section in implementing the Control of Horses Act 1996 among other duties.
- Dog Licensing inspection campaigns also continued throughout the year.
- The Wardens continued to implement the provisions of the Roads Act 1993, in relation to abandoned vehicles, with vehicles identified, reported and removed as necessary throughout the year.



Refuse check at Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua by Mairtín Mannion, Community Warden

CORONERS SERVICE

The Council continued to provide administrative support for the processing of all payments of fees for the City and County Coroners Service. The full cost of the Coroners Service is borne by the Council through its revenue budget, with no mechanism for recoupment.

Strategic Priority

To foster a culture of excellence in delivery of Customer Services.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

- The email address, customerservices@galwaycoco.ie and gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie remains a central point of access to information for Staff and Customers alike. Staff are asked to submit information on projects, campaigns, events, works etc. so that the Customer Services Team are aware what events are taking place across the Council and are better informed to handle queries. The general public can also email these addresses with general queries, which are acknowledged and directed to the relevant sections as required for their attention and direct reply.
- The Customer Services Officers Group (CSOG) continued to meet over 2019. The CSOG is comprised of staff representatives from all the main service areas.
- Customer Services continued to moderate and process Fix Your Street cases and follow up on outstanding cases with relevant sections. Fix Your Street is a national programme and is an on-line public forum where issues can be submitted by location to the relevant local authority.
- The centralised system for Public Notices continued in 2019 to enhance our Corporate Image in the Print Media, to generate savings through shared advertising space and meet our requirements under National Procurement Framework. Advance copies of public notices prior to notices appearing in the various newspapers appear on Social Media and are sent to Elected Members with relevant contact details included.
- Customer Services is the central point of contact on behalf of Galway County Council for the new government portal for Public Consultations.
- Customer Services continues to maintain the system of re-formatting new application forms and updating existing forms when requested. We now have 256 forms and memorandums in total on our register/coding system, available via our website.
- Door access system cards and car park fobs continue to be issued and maintained by Customer Services.
- A formatted poster version of the Customer Charter, Code of Conduct and Services through Irish was made available at all Council public counters.

Customer Services Desk and Communications Centre

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

Communications and Social Media

- Further increased use of Social Media (Twitter, FB) with 10,858 followers on Facebook and 13,801 followers on Twitter as of end of December 2019 and this is continuing to grow daily.
- Social Media has been integrated with Advertising and other Promotional Campaigns of the Council and specific attention given to the use of Social Media during severe weather events. There has been an increase in the posting of events on behalf of staff with a focus on Road Works, Water Disruptions and any other day to day events happening throughout the County.
- The Customer Services team participated in ‘Your Council Day’ twitter campaign nationally as coordinated by the LGMA on the 12th April 2019.



Launch of the reusable recyclable cups for staff #YourCouncilDay



Mobile Library out in East Galway – #YourCouncilDay



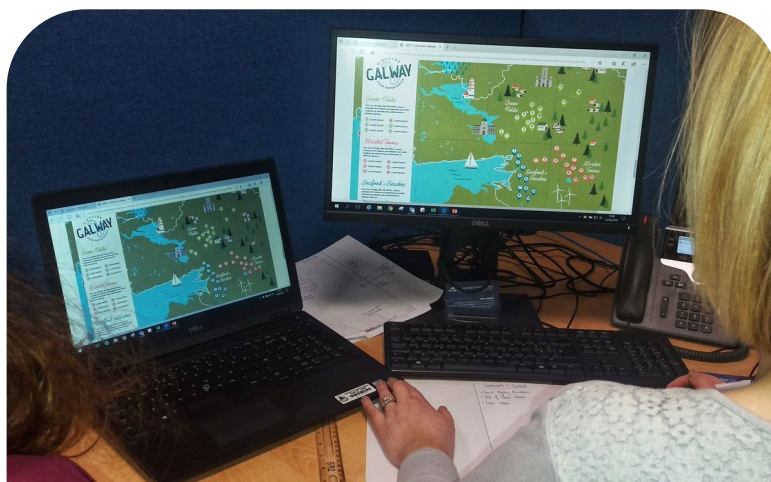
First aid course for staff members #YourCouncilDay



Works being carried out by Laurencetown/ Abbey Community Employment Scheme #YourCouncilDay



Westside Library Easter Storytime - All welcome for Spring into Story Time during April #YourCouncilDay



Members of the Galway Gastronomy team planning future Agri-Tourism projects in Galway. #YourCouncilDay

ECONOMIC, RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

Strategic Priority

To serve as the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level enhancing the quality of life in our county.

Local Community Development Committee

The Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has 19 members drawn from the public and private sectors. The membership brings together the expertise and skills of people actively working in local development and community development with local authority members, officials, and state agencies, to implement a joined-up, cross-sectoral approach to local and community development programmes.



The Membership of the LCDC comprised of the following at 31st December 2019:

Pillar	No. of Nominees	Nominating Body / Agency	Name of Nominee
Public Sector - 9			
Local Authority Elected Members	3	Galway County Council Members	Cllr. Noel Thomas Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag An Comh. Pdraig Mac An Iomaire
Local Authority Officials	2	Galway County Council Executive	Kevin Kelly, Interim Chief Executive Breda Fox, Head of Enterprise
State Agencies	4	Health Service Executive	Michael Keady, Regional Co-Ordinator
		Department of Social Protection	Antoinette Brown, A/Divisional Manager West.
		Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board	Donal Walsh, Adult Education Officer
		Údarás na Gaeltachta	Ruairí Ó Néill, Bainisteoir Réigiún an Iarthair

Private Sector - 10			
Local Development & Community Development Bodies	3	Galway Rural Development	Delia Colahan, CEO
		FORUM Connemara	Terry Keenan, Chairperson
		Comhar na nOileán CTR	Enda Conneely, Treasurer
Economic Interests	2	Employers & Business Interest	Conor O'Dowd, Galway Chamber
		Agriculture & Farming Interest	Tom Turley, Irish Farmers Association (IFA) - Chairperson
Community & Voluntary Interests	5	PPN – Social Inclusion College	Martin Ward
		PPN – Social Inclusion College	Kathleen Aspel Mortimer
		PPN – Community & Voluntary College	Dan Dowling - Vice-Chairperson
		PPN – Community & Voluntary College	Sean Ó'Coistealbha
		PPN – Environmental College	Margaret Sheehan

The LCDC appoints a Chairperson for a maximum term of 3 years, who consults with the Chief Officer on matters relating to the LCDC's administration and operation and has an overall co-ordination role and responsibility for the effective functioning and management of meetings.

Mr. Tom Turley, I.F.A., is the Chairperson of the LCDC since October 2017.

A review of the sectoral membership took place in 2019 and a report was submitted to the Corporate Policy Group recommending that the current sectoral bodies/agencies be retained.

The quorum for the LCDC Meetings is 11 members (58% of total membership) and a quorum was in place for 5 of the 6 meetings of the LCDC held in 2019.

The dates of the meetings and % attendance was as follows:

Date	% Attendance
13 th February	58%
9 th April	63%
12 th June	53%
9 th July	74%
11 th September	58%
12 th November	58%

Sub-Committees of the LCDC have been established for particular functional areas which comprise of selected LCDC Members and additional stakeholders relevant to the programmes in question. These Sub-Committees play a key role in carrying out an in-depth analysis of the programme activity

and enhancing the strategic effectiveness of the LCDC. The Sub-Committees which met during the year were as follows:

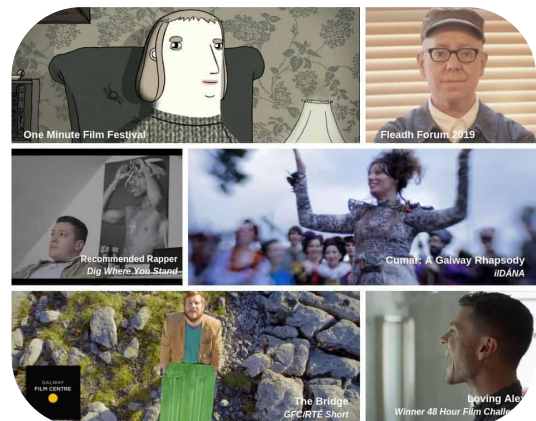
- Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee – 2 meetings held
- SICAP Sub-Committee – 2 meetings held
- Funding Schemes Sub-Committee – 2 meetings held

The Department of Rural and Community Development published a national review of LCDC's in July 2019 to assess their operational and strategic development since their establishment following the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The review found that LCDC's had successfully delivered their operational and oversight role of programmes, and the LCDC structures had enhanced collaboration between agencies across all areas.

At a strategic level, the review found that the LECP (Local Economic & Community Plan) needed to become more of the day-to-day work of the LCDC, and more guidance was required from the Department around the areas of implementation and monitoring.

In relation to community engagement, the review found that more engagement was needed between LCDC's and communities, particularly marginalised communities, and between LCDC's and CYPSC's. The recommendations arising from the review will be implemented through the 5-year Strategy to Support the Community & Voluntary Sector in Ireland and revised Guidelines for the operation of LCDC's to be issued by the Department in 2020.

- Facilitated 2 meetings of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.
- Facilitated the County Galway LCDC in the implementation of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) to the value of €1.6 million in County Galway and monitored the financial and non-financial reporting of the programme in line with the Funding Agreement.
- The Department of Health approved a third round of funding for the Healthy Ireland Fund and Galway County LCDC co-ordinated and submitted a Programme of Works to Pobal for consideration and funding approval is awaited. The funding provides for a Coordinator to manage the schemes and the recruitment process is in train.
- Supported community groups in the development of their festival and events including their Food Tourism offer, building on the European Region of Gastronomy 2018 designation.
- Supported festivals and events in terms of the sustainability & long-term growth of festivals. The unit is currently working with Fáilte Ireland and other partners to put a development and support programme in place.
- Promotion of the Transport Co-ordinating Unit (TCU) service and brand name of Bealach na Gaillimhe.
- Partnered with Galway Film Centre and other relevant partners on the UNESCO City of Film 2019 programme and the rollout of the WRAP Fund. Currently engaging with partners in the development of a multi annual plan to maximise the opportunities presented by the designation and to further develop the audio visual and film sector.





- Partner and support Galway 2020 in the development and delivery of the programme for the European Capital of Culture 2020. Work with the 2020 team to ensure the opportunities and return on investment for the County is maximised, to ensure capacity is built at community level, that towns/villages in the County benefit from the designation and that there is a legacy post next year.

Maam Cross Burns Bright for Lóchrann Chonamara celebrating mid-summer on St. John's Eve, Sunday 23 June

- Continue to develop and foster strong partnerships with LEO and Galway City Council in the areas of Economic and Enterprise Development, ensuring that the County benefits from the range of supports available and that services are tailored to meet the needs of the County, supporting jobs and communities.
- Participated and continued to act as Vice Chair of the CYPSC and facilitate a coordinated approach with the LCDC.

Strategic Priority

To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.

Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN)

Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN) is a network which is open to all community and voluntary groups based in the County.

The purpose of the PPN is to allow these groups to have their voices heard within the formal decision-making structures of the Council and the PPN is also the main link through which the Council connects with groups active throughout the County. The PPN has a representative group called a Secretariat which manages its activities on an ongoing basis and communicates with the full membership (plenary) at meetings throughout the year. It does not cost anything to register with the PPN and the Council encourages all eligible voluntary, community and environmental groups to register.

At the end of 2019, there were over 900 Member Groups registered with the Galway County PPN.

The activities of the PPN are divided into 3 main categories:

Information-Sharing and Communication:

Information-sharing is a major element of the PPN and throughout the year, e-mails were issued advising members of all upcoming internal and external funding schemes and consultation events. The Secretariat met quarterly to monitor the programme of work of the PPN and 2 plenary meetings of the PPN were held during the year to discuss issues of concern and feed into the Programme of Work for the following year. The PPN continued to communicate with local support organisations



Galway County
Public
Participation
Network

Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Phoiblí
Chontae na Gaillimhe

to expand delivery of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme targeting vulnerable people with no alarm and commenced a review of those whose alarms have reached their 10-year life span.

Build Capacity of PPN to contribute to their local area:

Training was held in areas such as Governance and GDPR to assist Members to operate at local level, and focused workshops were held for Groups such as Tidy Towns Committees. Funding workshops were organized in November & December in each Municipal District to inform PPN Members of all funding schemes operating with the Council and the areas targeted by the various schemes.

Facilitate Participation in Decision-Making and Representation:

As part of its role to facilitate and enable the public to articulate a diverse range of views and interests within the local government system development, 25 nominees represent the PPN on various policy-making bodies such as the Strategic Policy Committees, Local Community Development Committee, Joint Policing Committee, Galway Sports Partnership, Joint Policing Committee, Western Region Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce, City & County Childcare Committee, and the Fisheries Local Action Group. Following the local elections, the election process for nominating community & voluntary, social inclusion, and environmental representatives to these Committees and Bodies began.

The PPN organized the Cathaoirleach Awards in conjunction with the Council, to acknowledge the achievements of PPN Members under various Award Categories.



Recipients of Cathaoirleach Awards 2019 together with Back Row: Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg and Front Row: Kevin Kelly Chief Executive (Interim) and Vincent Lyons, Galway PPN Secretariat

The Award Winners for 2019 were as follows:

- Community Facilities Award: Domestic Violence Response Oughterard
- Environment Award: Abbey Community Development Association
- Sports Award: Fit 4 Life Group, Woodford
- Arts & Culture Award: Yeats Thoor Ballylee Development Ltd
- Heritage Publication Award: Moycullen Heritage/ Cumann Staire Ruaidhrí Ó Flaitheartaigh
- Best Contribution to Heritage: Fochoiste Dhumhnach
- Promotion of the use of the Irish language Award: Club na bhFoghlaimoirí Gaeilge
- Social Inclusion Award: Mighty Oaks Arch Club in Portumna
- Volunteer of the Year: Rosemary Hanley from Maam

Strategic Priority

To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise.

The Community, Enterprise and Economic Development Unit represented Galway County Council on various bodies and continued to work in partnership with other agencies on a range of economic development initiatives in the food, tourism and creative sectors.

Investment and Job Creation Initiatives

- Progressed the development of the BIA Innovator Campus, Ireland West Food and Rural Development Innovation Hub in association with all relevant partners. Facilitated the development of the detailed design for the campus, a revised Part VIII and the procurement process for the construction of the development. Working with HR, the unit facilitated the recruitment of the General Manager position for the BIA Innovator Campus CLG. Continued to provide strategic leadership in an advisory capacity and at Director level on the Board.
- Reviewed the range of producer supports and any producer liaison work/preparation that needs to be completed in advance of the BIA Innovator Campus build.



Image Source: BIA tender documents



- Commenced initial scoping work on a Galway Food Strategy with next stages and a course of action to be teased out and decided upon.
- Continued to work with GRD on monies and supports available through the three-year Artisan Fund.
- Support for Development of Food and other local community Festivals in Galway assisting existing festivals to grow and assisting new festivals, events and experiences to develop.



Bia Lover – Festival of Food Festival, Athenry - June 2019

- Facilitated the development and growth of local markets throughout the County by subsidising new producers at particular times and promoting local markets through various media.
- Continued to work with Teagasc in relation to supporting and developing key strategic projects in relation to the agriculture and food sectors to assist increasing the value added to primary production in County Galway.
- Worked with the Broadband Officer and other stakeholders in the preparation of the Digital Strategy for County Galway and participate in the preparation for the National Rural Broadband Project.
- Ongoing role in the management of the site including the management of several short-term leases/licences such as the Galway Flying Club, Fever Pitch music festival and Galway International Arts Festival. Worked with the Planning Department and engaged with a number of stakeholders in relation to the longer-term development options for the Former Galway Airport Site at Carnmore to secure optimum economic benefit for the Galway region.
- Supported Communities to secure funding under the Outdoor Recreation fund Outdoor Recreation and infrastructure scheme – (ORIS) 2019.
- Facilitated the BOI Enterprising Towns Awards competition in County Galway working with Tuam, Oranmore, Portumna and Clifden.



National Enterprise
Town Awards 2019

Tourism Promotion Initiatives

- Progressed the Tourism Strategy for Galway with a view to publishing same in early 2020.
- Developed opportunities for the Agri-Tourism Sector, building on the funding secured through the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine which supported over 40 local producers in Galway County through the Discover Galway series.
- Supported the development of tourism in the county including a range of festival and events, the development of visitor experience including the Connemara Greenway, participation on the Connemara and Aran Islands Tourism Network (CAITN) in the rollout of the Connemara Visitor Experience Development Plan, participated on and contributed to the Lough Derg Marketing group and commenced discussions with a number of key national and local partners for the development of destination experiences and investment in product development and business support. Worked with HR to recruit the Council's first Tourism Officer and supported Costa Gaelach Conamara & Arann in partnership with CAITN, FLAG West and Údarás na Gaeltachta to enable the engagement of a Tourism Officer and rollout of tourism initiatives for Connemara.
- Continued to development strong working relationships with Fáilte Ireland to support the development and rollout of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and the Wild Atlantic Way destination brands including scoping out key opportunities for the east of the County for the IHH brand which is a very welcome addition that will provided investment and growth in this region.
- Ireland West Airport – Continuous provision of Tourism Promotional material
- Provision of tourism promotional material at Galway Showcase Event at Milwaukee Irish Festival, linking with over 100,000 attendees, with cultural, heritage and ancestral links to Ireland.
- Development of ERG legacy projects such as the Discover Galway series to be continued beyond 2019.



Leas-Chathaoirleach Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly launching the Discover Galway project

Strategic Priority

To support the balanced and sustainable development of a cohesive county through the provision of essential infrastructure and progressive planning.

The Economic, Rural & Community Development Department supports the revitalisation of towns and villages to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future.

- Submitted 2 proposals under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) initiative of a significant scale. The proposals submitted were Ballinasloe and Tuam. Sanction was secured for the establishment of a GCC regeneration team with these positions being filled in the latter part of 2019 and into 2020.
- Progressed the 2018 Town & Village Renewal Schemes and submitted the 2019 Town & Villages Renewal Scheme.
- Roll out funding approvals under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).
- Supported communities to secure funding under the Outdoor Recreational Fund in 2019.

Strategic Priority

To preserve and support our unique culture, environment, heritage and language.

ARTS

The Arts Office continued to promote all elements of the arts, supporting an ethos of participation, access and inclusion in the arts without compromising on quality. Involvement in the arts in the County is strong; the demand for cultural services and supports is growing with many artists living and working in the county.

- Designed and administered Arts Grants 2019.
- Began a large-scale regional Invitation to Collaboration Award “Agents of Change”, a regional producer model in collaboration with Irish Theatre Institute, Drama at NUIG, Galway City Council and Roscommon County Council in partnership with Dublin Culture Company.
- Provided a professional arts information and advice service to community groups, individual artists, festivals in the county.
- Administered Individual Artists Bursaries and Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursaries. 18 artists were directly supported with arts bursaries, of these, 3 were young/ emerging artists receiving support by the Arts Office for the first time.
- Supported 3 professional music critics from County Galway to take part in new Music Writer Scheme with Journal of Music.
- Drafted an Arts Plan 2020 – 2024 for adoption by Galway County Council in consultation with artists, communities and professional arts organisations.

- Delivered a revised Arts and Education Programme through the Artists in Schools Programme with 8 schools in the county.
- Expanded the Children’s Book Festival to include a short residency with writer Alan Durant for teens, broadening the programme and offering opportunities for older children to take part. This is created in conjunction with the county library service. Re-branded Children’s Book Festival 2019 to BOOK IT!



- Developed Youth Arts Initiatives to include Circus/Street Arts and Music across several locations in collaboration with Macnas, Galway Community Circus, Atmos Collective and youthwork agencies.

- Supported the Arts Council Creative Places Tuam initiative and led out on public consultations in collaboration with the Arts Council totalling €450,000 over 3 years.



- Supported Dig Where You Stand, the documentary funding scheme for young filmmakers.
- Currently partnering with the following professional arts organisations to deliver work in the county and community including Galway Community Circus, Galway Music Residency, Macnas, Galway Arts Centre, Galway Film Centre, Brú Theatre Company, TULCA, Baboró, Galway Dance Project, Blue Teapot and That’s Life.
- Supported 2 Artists in a Healthcare Setting Residency in Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe with Saolta Arts.
- Supported an Arts and Disability Programme in collaboration with Brothers of Charity. and Ability West.



- Worked directly with a number of key festivals and artists to further support projects in the community to include: Shorelines Arts Festival, Ballygar Theatre Space, Headford Lace, Oranmore Arts Festival and Traidphicnic.



Clifden Arts Festival 2019

- Initiated a new work commission for Galway County Arts Festivals in 2019. Offer social media, PR and producer supports to festivals.
- Supported and delivered Professional development/seminars and one to one professional mentoring for artists and delivered Child Protection Awareness Training for artists.
- Curated a large countywide programme of events for Culture Night 2019, collaborating with venues, community groups and artists across the county.
- Supported Screen Commission West, UNESCO City of Film and Wrap Fund.
- Support Aras Éanna (Arts Centre on Inis Oírr).
- Created a new age friendly residency with a dancer working with older people in the county.
- Lead Galway County Council's Creative Ireland Programme 2019 and produced Cruinniú na nÓg (national creative day for children) 2019. Cruinniú na nÓg is an annual national initiative celebrating the creative potential of children and young people. Galway County Council hosted a series of wonderful events across the county on Saturday 15th June, following on from the success of last year's inaugural event in collaboration with Creative Ireland.
- Developed a draft Public Art Policy for consideration at SPC.
- Worked collaboratively with Galway 2020 to support delivery of programmes within the county.
- Supported Music Generation Programme 2018-2021 in Galway County.



Strategic Priority

To optimize our resources and maximize organizational efficiency, effectiveness, cohesiveness and value for money.

In 2019, all the community supports/grants provided by Galway County Council were administrated in a co-ordinated fashion. This involved heritage grants schemes, community grants schemes and arts grants schemes.

The Unit is undergoing a review on allocation of work as it absorbs new programmes and schemes.

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

Strategic Priority

To enhance the wellbeing of the county, its communities and people, developing sustainable communities, maximizing social inclusion and supporting active citizenship.

Social Inclusion

The Community Development Section work closely with the Public Participation Network (PPN) to provide supports to communities across the County, through small-scale general funding programmes in addition to targeted programmes and supports.

Examples of some targeted programmes and events are as follows:



- Social Inclusion Week which took place from 14th to 20th October 2019, and included 40 events to celebrate participation, equality and inclusion and an opportunity for the Council to raise awareness of the excellent work being done by local Groups and Organisations right across the County.

- Participation in the NUI Galway University of Sanctuary committee and promotion of linkages between migrants, Travellers and other ethnic-minority groups and third level opportunities.

- The Unit co-ordinated 3 meetings of the Traveller Interagency Group in 2019 in association with Housing Unit, to discuss implementation of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy.

- National Play Day and Recreation Week was celebrated in Galway on 16th June 2019.

It took place around the Courtyards in Rinville Park, and it focused around a 'Back to Basics' theme of getting children and young people involved in free play in their natural environment.

This family fun day in Rinville Park, included migrant families in recognition of World Refugee Day.



Community Support Schemes

The Community Development Scheme supported 78 projects with a total fund of €100,000 and the types of activities which were funded were:

- Funding for amenity works and biodiversity initiatives undertaken by Tidy Towns Groups;
- Other amenity works undertaken by Town/Village Committees in public open spaces;
- Works at Community Facilities to improve fire safety, energy efficiency or access;
- Funding for age friendly activities and events;
- Funding for youth activities and events;
- Funding for capacity building activities by non-profit organisations working with disadvantaged or marginalised groups or individuals;
- Funding for community safety initiatives.

Community Enhancement Programme

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) builds on and replaced the Communities Facilities Scheme and the recast RAPID programme and provides funding to communities to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas or promote inclusion of disadvantaged groups.

It is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area.

A total of €165,652 was allocated across 3 categories as follows:

- €38,401 was approved for 31 small-scale grants towards equipment and small-scale works in community facilities, and local amenity works
- €105,000 was approved for 7 medium-scale grants towards renovating or repurposing buildings as community facilities and improving connectivity in local communities
- €22,251 was approved for 14 grants to Men's Sheds affiliated to the Irish Men's Sheds Association for upgrade works, tools & equipment.

SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) 2018-2022

The aim of SICAP is to reduce poverty and long-term unemployment, and promote social inclusion, through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organizations and public-sector agencies. SICAP addresses high and persistent levels of deprivation through targeted and innovative, locally led approaches.



It supports disadvantaged communities and individuals including unemployed people, people living in deprived areas, people with disabilities, single parent families, people on a low income, members of the Traveller and Roma community and other disadvantaged groups.

Galway LCDC manages and oversees the programme for County Galway (Lot 27) and is the key decision-maker in terms of annual planning, monitoring and oversight.

Galway Rural Development CLG (GRD) are the Programme Implementer for County Galway and administer the annual budget of €1,601,582, which is paid on a quarterly basis subject to review and approval by the LCDC.

The Budget is divided across 2 goals – one for individuals and the other for local community groups. The position regarding the achievement of KPI's for these goals in 2019 was as follows:

- 113 Local Community Groups were supported through practical supports ranging from training courses such as Digital Training, GDPR and Governance, to seminars on Positive Parenting and Drugs Information & Awareness, to support for the setting up of a New Communities Women's Group and groups in areas of rural isolation. Booklets on Rural Resources, Lone Parenting & Disability Resources were prepared and circulated. Grants totalling €39,891 were awarded to 33 Community Groups, primarily for equipment upgrade and replacement. Small grants totalling €8,070 were awarded to 7 Social Enterprises in addition to targeted training and mentoring, in addition to additional funding awarded by the Department of Rural and Community Development in the amount of €19,620. There was a continued focus on identifying local needs by conducting a detailed needs analysis in 3 new locations throughout the County. In line with the spirit of the LCDC, programmes were provided in collaboration with other agencies, for example; Start Your Own Business in collaboration with Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Health Checks in collaboration with Family Resource Centres, GDPR & Governance in conjunction with Galway County PPN.
- 1,340 Individuals were supported through Outreach Offices across the County with emphasis on identifying the capacity building and training needs of each individual and creating a Personal Action Plan to guide their development. The majority of individuals engaged under the programme were unemployed and activities were geared at addressing barriers to employment by providing training such as Manual Handling, Safe Pass, English Language, Driver Theory, etc., and circulating a Jobs Bulletin comprising all jobs available throughout the County. The LCDC's key target group for the year were "socially isolated rural dwellers" and support was provided for this grouping through free Health checks at Marts and in community settings and providing training such as IT for Farmers to build capacity in the area of online returns. Individual Grants totalling €10,029 for 24 individuals to progress particular educational and training courses were also awarded throughout the year.

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland is a Government-led initiative which aims to create an Irish society where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health, and where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society.

Funding was allocated to each LCDC and CYPSC (Children and Young Peoples Services Committee) under Rounds 1 & 2, and Galway County LCDC, in collaboration with Croí, won the Award for “Best Public Health Initiative of the Year” at the Irish Healthcare Awards in November 2019 for the Healthy Islands Roadshow which involved a series of events aimed at addressing health inequalities and building healthier communities on the offshore islands of the County.



Round 3 was announced during 2019 and expressions of interest sought for inclusion in a Programme of Work.

The completed Programme encompassing the following projects totalling €246,050, was submitted to Pobal and the Department of Health for formal approval in September 2019:

1. To develop and deliver a programme of tailored nutrition and cooking supports, and training, for adults with intellectual disabilities who are living in residential care or with aging parents, to support them in moving to independent living.
2. To deliver the Healthy Food Made Easy (HFME) programme in Community & Voluntary Organisations & Community Facilities by training Community Leaders who will deliver the 6-week programme in healthy eating & nutrition within their local communities.
3. To complete a series of off-road trails in Ballinasloe and deliver a Go-For-Life Programme aimed at older people, by training volunteers to deliver the Programme and granting the equipment to community facilities to ensure sustainability of the programme.
4. To expand the WISER (West Ireland Sex Education Resource) across the County to promote positive, respectful approaches towards relationships and gender; and also reduce the prevalence of HIV in Ireland by providing Rapid HIV & Syphilis Testing.
5. To conduct a pilot RIAI Toolkit initiative in a village, with professional architectural input, to identify physical improvements to places & spaces which will enhance the sense of place, walkability, potential for social interaction and environmental sustainability.
6. To deliver a mental health campaign on a county-wide level promoting positive mental health behaviours and using local ambassadors to increase the reach and impact of the message across all ages.



Workshops, such as “Taking Control” will be delivered to empower participants to effect positive changes in their lives and take control of both their physical and mental health. Other targeted measures will include a Social Farming programme over 12 weeks, and a 6-week DUMP Campaign (dispose of unused medicine properly) aimed at protecting the general population and children from harm and self-harm by arranging for safe collection and disposal of unused medication. Small grants totalling €30,000 will also be allocated by the LCDC for various wellbeing initiatives under this Action.

National Community Weekend (The Big Hello!)

Funding of €10,000 was provided to each LCDC to support local events to strengthen community ties and help tackle the problem of social isolation. A total of 24 events were funded ranging from Street Feasts, Inter-generational events, Men's Shed Open Days, Community Clean-Ups and Celebrations, and 9 of the events were held through the Irish Language. There was a very positive response to the initiative at local level and a full programme of events over the May Bank Holiday Weekend.



Pride of Place

Pride of Place is an All-Island competition which acknowledges the work being done by communities right across the country and celebrates volunteerism and community involvement – it has been dubbed the ‘Oscars of the Community’. Each year, local authorities nominate projects or communities within defined categories and a Gala Awards Ceremony is held in November each year to announce the winners.

In 2019, Galway County Council nominated the communities of Maigh Cuilinn and Creggs with judging taking place over the summer months which involved a presentation and tour for the judges, showcasing the unique features and heritage of each area. Although neither community were successful in the national awards, there was huge input and interest displayed by all sectors of their community, which certainly demonstrates their pride in their place!



Judging day for Pride of Place in Creggs

Tidy Towns

A total of 42 towns & villages from County Galway entered the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition in 2019, which judges participating areas across categories such as tidiness and litter control, streetscape and public places, green spaces and biodiversity and the visual appearance of approach roads and residential areas.

Tidy Towns has a huge beneficial effect on a local area and the continued effort and commitment shown by these volunteers makes their communities better places in which to live, work and visit – support from individual volunteers and other Community Groups is always welcome! Support for Tidy Towns Groups is co-ordinated through the Community Development Section and targeted workshops and materials are produced to assist the Groups in implementing new projects and initiatives.

The performance of Groups in the national competition continues to improve year by year and in 2019, some of the achievements were as follows:

- Rosscahill and Gort entered the national competition for the first time
- Milltown retained their place as County Winner and were silver medallists at national level
- Abbey retained their place as Counter Runner-Up and were silver medallists at national level
- Monivea retained their 3rd place in the County results
- Kilkerrin won the County Endeavour Award for achieving an increase of 15 marks since 2018
- Glenamaddy won the Regional Water & Communities Award in recognition of their continued efforts to improve their amenity area at the turlough on the Creggs Road.
- English National School, Ahascragh, won the National Schools Award for their biodiversity and planting initiatives.



Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg are youth councils established to give young people under voting age a voice in the development of local services and policies, by linking with adult decision-making bodies.

In Galway, the County Committee of Comhairle na nÓg link to a Steering Committee comprising representatives of public and private agencies involved in youth services and facilities. There were 3 meetings of the Steering Committee in 2019 and activities were organised to coincide with Cruinniú na nÓg, National Recreation Week, Young Social Innovators and the National Youth Assembly on Climate Change.

The County AGM was held in October with 152 young people in attendance, and workshops were held on various aspects of the topic selected for 2019 which was climate change, i.e. zero waste, plastic free, fast fashion, food waste & transport. The local Committee in Ballinasloe/East Galway was shortlisted for an award for the National Young Social Innovator for their work on challenging prejudices which was the 2018 theme.

Age Friendly Programme

Ireland has become the first country to be acknowledged as age-friendly by the World Health Organisation as all 31 local authorities have signed up an Age Friendly Programme committed to improvements in areas such as housing, transport, outdoor spaces and buildings through universal design, and providing supports and information to make Ireland a good place in which to grow old.

Some of the activities which took place in 2019 were:

- Three meetings of the Age Friendly Alliance were held, which is a joint committee comprising 20 Organisations/Agencies to co-ordinate and oversee the implementation of the Galway Age Friendly City and County Programme.
- Funding for 30 events during the Bealtaine Festival, which is a month-long celebration of creativity in older people, in partnership with Active Retirements Groups and support Organisations.
- A Housing Official was trained as an Age Friendly Housing Specialist for the Council in 2019, with a view to ensuring that age friendly principles are included in all our housing and public realm infrastructural projects.
- Funding to improve access to community facilities and connectivity within communities was provided through our grant schemes and further emphasis will be placed on identifying these needs through Walkability Audits in 2020.
- An Information Session to develop the Older Persons Council for the City and County was held on 22nd October 2019 and over 100 people attended the event.
- Over 40 events were organised for Social Inclusion Week.



Galway Sports Partnership (GSP)



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) plays a lead role in the co-ordination, development and delivery of sport and physical activity opportunities for the communities of Galway, and key activities throughout 2019 included:

- Sourced and secured sufficient funding from available sources – Sport Ireland, Dormant Accounts, Local Authorities, HSE and Government Departments to fund the Operations of Galway Sports Partnership in 2019. Funding from Sport Ireland, HSE Dormant Accounts Funds and Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport was secured to run all programmes in 2019.
- Extended the sports hub to include Ballinasloe where the Council secured capital funding for sports equipment from Dormant Accounts Fund.
- Secured funding for and oversaw the implementation of Sport Ireland Programmes and other programmes in our five-year Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020, with emphasis on the GSP main target groups. Programmes included Outdoor Adventure, Women on the Water, Youth at Risk Programme, Walking Football for Older Adults, Senior Circuits, Buggy Buddies, Midnight Soccer, Meet & Train.



Women on The Water – Meelick Eyrecourt Kayak Club

- Established Sports Linkage Groups in consultation with the County PPN.
- Organised community walks as part of Operation Transformation in association with local communities across Galway. – 11 walks organised; 1574 people took part altogether across Galway.



- Increased participation in sport and physical activities, through GSP Programme Funding. Activity programmes – Be Active Night, Women on the Water, Youth @ Risk, Senior circuits.
- Delivered Training Programmes – Safeguarding 1, 2 and 3, Activity leader, First Aid, SAQ, Walking leader, Cycle Training, Disability Inclusion Training, Disability Awareness Training, Coaching Children Workshops, Sports Leader Award for TY students. - Training and Education programmes – Safeguarding 1, 2 and 3, First Aid, Coaching Children workshop, Sports Level 1 Award, Disability Awareness were all completed during 2019.



Safeguarding Training

- Delivered Disability specific programmes – boccia, walking football, learn 2 cycle, ID tennis and Vi tennis. Boccia ongoing, walking football taster session completed in Duniry, learn to cycle programme delivered in Claddagh National school, ID and a visually impaired tennis programme.
- Delivered walking programmes, swimming programmes, Men on the Move programmes and Couch 2 5K programmes across Galway. HSE funded programmes, - 4 x Men on the Move, 4 x Couch25K, 3 x Buggy Buddies programmes, with the Disability Swimming programme held in three centres – Renmore, Ballinasloe and Tuam.
- Delivered the Sportshall Athletics Be Active After Schools and Mile Walk programme to primary schools across Galway. Three programmes were delivered in 2019.

- Arranged and facilitated meetings of GSP Steering group and relevant workgroups throughout 2019. Four meetings completed, one extra meeting (with Sport Ireland) on future funding and capacity of Galway Sports Partnership.



- Secured funding from the DTT&S towards the delivery of events and programmes for Bike Week 2019. Funding applied for and received.
- A total of 31 events, 13 in the county took place as part of Bike Week celebrations involving a total of 605 persons, adults and children.
- Organised and deliver physical activity programmes for older adults as part of the Bealtaine festival 2019. Go4Life games delivered as part of Bealtaine celebrations 2019.

- Completed a review of the Fit Towns initiative.
- Completed the establishment of Sports Linkage Groups through the County PPN.

Strategic Priority

To foster a culture of excellence in delivery of Customer Services.

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 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.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

HOUSING

HOUSING UNIT

Delivering Homes – Building Communities

Rebuilding Ireland

Rebuilding Ireland - The Action Plan on Housing and Homelessness launched in July, 2016 sets out a road map, for Local Authorities as well as the Voluntary and Private Sectors, regarding Social Housing provision through a number of concrete actions, timelines and importantly, financial resources for the delivery of new social housing units.

The plan is comprehensive and aims to address all aspects of the housing system under five pillars which are as follows:

Pillar 1: Address Homelessness

Pillar 2: Accelerate Social Housing

Pillar 3: Build More Homes

Pillar 4: Improve the Rental Sector

Pillar 5: Utilise Existing Housing



The Housing Unit of Galway County Council has delivered a significant number of houses through various programmes in 2019:

- 652 - the number of new households that had their housing need met under Rebuilding Ireland in 2019.
- 253 new homes were brought into active social housing stock through build, acquisitions, voids and leasing programmes in 2019. This number is comprised of
 - 152 build
 - 47 acquisitions
 - 54 leasing

The renovated voids to be counted as a delivery element of Rebuilding Ireland was limited to 7, however, a further 32 renovated voids were delivered part-funded by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and a further 12 renovated voids were fully funded by Galway County meeting the housing needs of some 51 households through the Voids Programme in 2019.

455 number of new build social housing units are now at various stages of approval to be delivered directly by Galway County Council and Approved Housing Bodies on 22 sites.

The Council supported an additional 387 households to meet their housing need by means of the Housing Assistance Payment enabling individuals to work and have autonomy in choosing the location and type of accommodation, depending on their own particular preference. Over 1,531 recipients have now signed up to the Housing Assistance Payment scheme to date.

In addition to the delivery of new social housing supports, 201 housing adaptation grants (66 adaptation grants and 135 Mobility aid grants) were awarded by Galway County Council in 2019 to support individuals to remain in their own homes. This represents an increase of 15.5% on 2018.

56 households were accommodated in 2019 under the Traveller Accommodation Programme, with a total of 111 households to be accommodated over the period 2019 – 2024.

In a very challenging housing and rental sector, with limited opportunities for leasing, 54 homes were delivered through direct leasing and long-term leasing schemes.

Galway County Council continued to prioritise the installation of fire safety equipment, signage and the provision of fire safety training in its halting sites during 2019. This prioritisation reflects the responsibilities of the Council and those of the residents of Traveller accommodation to enhance and maintain appropriate and necessary fire safety standards.

Galway County Council engaged in extensive works through a series of projects in Traveller accommodation, including at Capira, Creggaun, Gort Bride and Ballydavid.

Strategic Priority

**To serve as the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level
enhancing the quality of life in our County.**

The Housing Unit of Galway County Council strives to provide a service for those individuals and communities that require assistance in the areas such as social housing provision, social housing tenancy and estate management, housing adaptation/alteration, assisting homeless, regulation of standard in the private rented sector and control of horses. The housing unit carries out its activities within the governance frameworks of the local authority sector.



Designing the Future: Plás Iarla, Barrack Street, Loughrea

Strategic Priority

To support the balanced and sustainable development of a cohesive county through the provision of essential infrastructure and progressive planning.

Housing Construction Activity

- Works were finalised on 28 units at Gort an Chláir and 12 units at Cúil Ghréine, Tuam;
- 3 refurbished units were completed in Gilmartin Road, Tuam in 2019;
- The completion of 10 units at Garbally Drive, Ballinasloe;
- The completion of 2 units with disability access at Esker Fields, Ballinasloe;
- 4 units were constructed at Culleen, An Cheathrú Rua;
- 1 single rural dwelling completed in 2019;
- 40 Turnkey properties were substantially complete in 2019.



Delivering homes - construction underway: Cnoc na Carraige Roundstone

Design & Planning Activity

Other construction projects currently being progressed through design and planning stages were:

- 26 units in Clifden, which includes conservation works to two protected buildings;
- 10 units at Bridgecourt Ahascragh to be replaced by 6 refurbished units and 12 new units;
- 30 units in Phase 1 at Gort Uí Lochlainn, Maigh Cuilinn;
- 10 units at Carton, Kinvara;
- 10 units at Caisleán Raithlín, Ardahan;
- 5 units at Barrack Street, Loughrea being developed under one contract;
- 14 units at Fairgreen, Cloch na Rón (Roundstone).



Building Sustainable Communities: Garbally Drive Ballinasloe

House Purchases

Under the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan a total of 47 properties were purchased in 2019 by Galway County Council and Approved Housing Bodies.

HAP

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a social housing support that has been in operation in Galway County Council since November 2015. HAP is available to anyone with a confirmed social housing need. The introduction of HAP means that housing authorities can now provide housing assistance to many more households with a long-term housing need, including many long-term rent supplement recipients.

HAP will provide for the transfer of responsibility for recipients of Rent Supplement with a long-term housing need from the Department of Social Protection (DSP) to housing authorities and provides a new approach in responding to households with a social need.

However, unlike Rent Supplement recipients, HAP recipients can work full-time and retain their HAP support - thus removing a barrier to employment. HAP recipients will source their own accommodation in the private rented market and will enter into a tenancy agreement with the landlord of the property.

Those households eligible for HAP are:

- Any household that qualifies for social housing support;
- Any current Rent Supplement recipients who qualify for social housing support.

In order to further assist homeless households in exiting emergency accommodation, the Homeless Place Finder Service is also available in Galway County Council. It is a targeted support for homeless households who are finding it difficult to secure HAP tenancies. It provides additional financial and related supports to tenants and landlords.

The Council supported an additional 387 households to meet their housing need by means of the Housing Assistance Payment in 2019 enabling individuals to work and also have autonomy in choosing the location and type of accommodation, depending on their own particular preference. Over 1,531 recipients have now signed up to the Housing Assistance Payment scheme to date.

Strategic Priority

To enhance the wellbeing of the county, its communities and people, developing sustainable communities, maximizing social inclusion and supporting active citizenship.

Record of Qualified Households (Housing Waiting List)

Galway County Council completed an assessment of housing need in 2019. The applications of 1,631 households, which had not been reviewed since 11th June 2018, were reviewed and assessed to ascertain if they still qualified for social housing supports. The assessment of housing need was completed under the following headings:

1. Provision of Housing Accommodation in its functional area for persons who require accommodation from Galway County Council and who, in the opinion of the County Council are in need of such accommodation and unable to provide it from their own resources.
2. Provision of residential caravan parks for members of the Traveller Community in the functional area of the County Council for persons who are likely to require sites from the County Council are in need of such sites and unable to provide them from their own resources.

Applications from persons who are eligible for and in need of social housing support are qualified for such support under the following headings:

1. Income;
2. Residency Status;
3. Availability of accommodation;
4. Rent Arrears.

The total number of valid housing applicants received during 2019 was 632.

The total number of offers of social housing issued to applicants was 323, 188 of these were accepted & 103 were refused with 32 outstanding at year-end.

The total number of Housing Applicants on the Housing List at 31st December 2019 was 3,434.



Delivering Homes – Building Communities: Cúil Ghréine, Tuam

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) / Short-Term Leasing

The Government has allocated funding for local authorities and approved housing bodies to lease or rent private residential properties for applicants on the housing list. Traditionally RAS is aimed at persons who are in receipt of rent supplement for a period in excess of 18 months. Since the 1st April 2011, any housing applicants that are in RAS type accommodation are deemed to have their housing need met.

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

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

Description	Galway County End of Q4 2019:
Number of Applicants accommodated in private rented accommodation through contracts agreed with private landlords	188
Number of Applicants accommodated currently through contracts agreed with voluntary organizations	123

Table 1: RAS and Leasing agreements that Galway County Council has entered into with private landlords

Minimum Standards for Rented Accommodation

Galway County Council undertook some 977 inspections in 2019, to ensure compliance with standards for rented houses. This includes some 686 first inspections, with a further 291 re-inspections having been carried out. Some 616 or 89.8% of dwellings first inspected were found not to be compliant with the required Regulations.

70 properties were compliant following on from re-inspections.

Repair and Leasing Scheme

The scheme is a key action under Pillar 5 of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, which is aimed at better utilisation of existing housing stock. The houses to be targeted under RLS are in areas of social need in town centres, urban and rural areas all around the country. Properties must be vacant for at least 1 year, and property owners and contractors engaged under the scheme must demonstrate that they are tax compliant through the provision of tax clearance certificates on request.

The ideal units targeted under the RLS will require a low level of investment to bring them to the required standard for renting. Capital repairs cost on a single unit must not exceed €40,000 (inc VAT), or in the case of a bedsit €50,000. All direct leases must be for duration of between 5-20 years. No shorter terms will be eligible. The cost of the repairs shall be offset against the agreed rental payment until the value of the works is repaid.

The benefits of the RLS in conjunction with the long-term lease arrangement to the property owner include -

- Guaranteed rent on a property that has not been generating an income;
- Upgrade of property that might otherwise become derelict;
- No loss of rent during vacant periods;
- No dealing with tenants and day-to-day maintenance;
- No need to collect rent or find a new tenant;
- Avoid advertising costs;
- The property will be returned to the property owner at the end of the term in good repair order and condition, save for fair wear and tear.

In 2019, Galway County Council received 37 expressions of interest. One property is advancing with Galway County Council and 4 Repair and Lease are under consideration by an AHB.

Of the 50,000 social housing homes to be delivered under Rebuilding Ireland, some 10,000 are targeted to be delivered using a combination of the social housing leasing arrangements under Pillar 2 – “Accelerate Social Housing”.

Mortgage to Rent Scheme

The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme is a government scheme which was introduced in 2012 to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. It lets homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants.

The MTR scheme is a social housing option only available if one is eligible for social housing support and the mortgage is unsustainable. 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 financial difficulties.

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 potential to buy back the home after a period of 5 years if the household’s financial situation improves.

22 applications were received in 2019 with 14 applications receiving approval.

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

A Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a new Government backed mortgage for first time buyers. It became available on the 1st February 2018.

As a first-time buyer one can apply for a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build a home. The loan is a normal Capital and Interest-bearing mortgage which is repaid by direct debit on a monthly basis.

- Maximum market values of the property that can be purchased or self-built are €320,000.
- Approved applicants may borrow up to 90% of the market value of the property.

- This limits the amount that can be borrowed to no more than €288,000.

100 applications were received during 2019 with 10 applications drawn down and 13 offer letters issued. The average loan approved was €130,673.



Na Clocha Rua, An Cheathrú Rua

Voluntary Housing

The (Capital Advance Leasing Facility) CALF is a facility available to Approved Housing Bodies to assist them in accessing Private or Housing Finance Agency finance for the purchase or construction of units. The units are made available exclusively for social housing purposes under a leasing agreement for a set period of time, typically 20 years.

28 units were delivered in 2019 under the Capital Assistance Scheme and a further 9 units were also delivered under the CALF scheme.

Several potential units have been identified and agreements are under active consideration for inclusion under both schemes in the future.

There are 64 units in progress under the CAS scheme and 18 units in progress under the CALF Scheme.

Tenant Purchase

During 2016 the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 came into effect and replaced the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme which came to an end on 30th June 2014. Under this scheme, eligible local authority tenants can apply to buy their local authority home, at a discounted rate based on the applicant's income. If approved, the purchaser must continue to live in the house for as long as they own it. An incremental purchase charge is placed on the house which will be equal to the discount applied on the purchase price of the house. The charge will remain in place for 20, 25 or 30 years (depending on the discount given). The purchaser will be able to resell their home at any time if the

local authority agrees. However, if the purchaser sells before the end of the 20, 25 or 30 years, they will have to pay back the value of the outstanding charge on the house to the local authority.

Throughout 2019, Galway County Council received 24 applications from local authority tenants to purchase their house and issued 36 house purchase offers, of which 11 were completed.



Single rural dwelling at Cor an Dola

Housing Aid for Older People, Mobility Aid Grant and Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability

Housing Aid for Older People grant continues to provide funding to persons aged less than 66 in certain circumstances depending on their state of health, their current housing conditions and their ability to assist themselves. Supporting documentation is required where the applicant is citing medical needs. Assistance was also provided in cases where the house was not considered to be in poor condition, but the works would, by addressing deficiencies, improve the quality of life of older persons.

- 289 valid applications received during 2019 for Housing Aid for Older People:
- 259 valid applications received during 2019 for Mobility Aid and Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a disability Scheme.

Housing Adaptation Grants for Local Authority Houses

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

A total of 71 local authority homes had housing adaptation works completed during 2019. Funding of €616,420.23 was spent on housing adaptation works on Galway County Council housing stock in 2019.

Housing Maintenance

The Council has a housing stock of 2,541 properties at the 31st December 2019. A significant programme of maintenance works is ongoing in these properties. 2091 repair requests were received in 2019, 1169 of which were deemed to be valid. Net expenditure of € 1,980,553 was spent from Galway County Council's own resources on the maintenance of Galway County Council housing stock in 2019.

Major refurbishment works were carried out in 51 vacant properties which facilitated the enabling of new tenancies.

Energy Efficiency & Retrofit Programme (EERP)

In County Galway works commenced under Phase 2 of the Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Programme (EERP) in 2019, wherein the retrofitting of windows and doors of some 82 properties in the Conamara Municipal District was undertaken.

Funding of €380,806 was allocated under the Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Programme to Galway County Council in 2019, all of which was spent on the 82 properties.



Sustainable housing delivery: Gort an Chláir, Tuam

Homelessness

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

There was an average of 13 new applicants per week presenting as homeless in 2019. An average of 18 families per week accommodated by Galway County Council in Emergency Temporary Accommodation for 2019. Single people accommodated in homeless accommodation averaged at 32 at any time in 2019. Currently, there are 7 transitional houses in the County, located in Tuam, Athenry,

Loughrea, and Ballinasloe. A total of 29 applicants deemed homeless were offered a permanent tenancy by Galway County Council during 2019.

Homeless Place Finder Service

The appointment of the Homeless HAP Place Finder in November 2018 has played a significant role in reducing homeless numbers in County Galway. In 2019, some 59 families with children, couples and single people were assisted in securing HAP properties, with most of these having been long-term homeless who had resided previously in Emergency Accommodation. Others who have been assisted under the highly successful programme include those who have been served with Notices-to-Quit from their accommodation, people leaving hospital or other institutions after long-term care and those from Direct Provision.

Traveller Accommodation Programme

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires that each Housing Authority adopts a Traveller Accommodation Programme for its functional area.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme, adopted in September 2019, outlines the accommodation requirements of the Traveller Community over a five-year period from 2019 – 2024. County Galway has the highest number of Travellers in the country with a total of 2,647 Travellers living in the County.

In developing this Programme, a strong emphasis was placed on consultation with all interested parties including adjoining local authorities, the Health Service Executive, local Traveller organisations, individual Travellers, the Local Traveller Consultative Committee (LTACC) and the public in general. This extensive consultation was to ensure that the interests of all concerned with or affected by proposals for Traveller accommodation were considered and to facilitate a planned and comprehensive response to the accommodation needs of Travellers.

In the preparation of this Programme, the Galway County Traveller Interagency Group and the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee agreed to develop an equality and human rights statement to reflect our commitment to equality and human rights.

It addresses our obligations under the Irish Human Rights Equality and Commission Act 2014 to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and protect human rights in carrying out our functions.



Additional Welfare unit and new surfacing at Capira Halting Site

Our commitment to equality and human rights is motivated by a particular set of values, that have been established as shared values in motivating the work of the Galway County Traveller Interagency Group. These values are **Dignity, Diversity and Participation**.

Galway County Council with the agreement of the LTACC invited independent experts to assist in a review and verification exercise in relation to the preferences identified by Travellers in their application for social housing support. This exercise was conducted in partnership with the Galway Traveller Movement and the Western Traveller Intercultural Development group. This review which took place in February 2019 established that 80% of travellers interviewed confirmed a preference for standard housing, i.e. local authority accommodation.



New Chimneys and Structural Roof Repairs at Creggane Traveller Specific Group Housing

In accordance with Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988, as amended, and Section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Galway County Council assessed and identified the current and projected accommodation needs of Traveller families to be met during the period of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019–2024. The Programme identified a requirement of 111 accommodation units to meet the then current and projected need, comprised of a current need of 71 and a projected need estimated at 40 units.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019–2024: Targets

The Projected Need over the 5-year period of this Accommodation Programme is for 40 households which added to the existing need gives a total estimated need of 111 houses.

Accommodation Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2024	Total
Group Housing Scheme – Existing	1	1	1	1	1	5
New Group Housing	0	6	0	0	0	6
Permanent Halting Site Service Block - Existing	1	3	1	1	1	7
Local Authority Standard Housing	7	9	11	11	11	49
Rental Accommodation Scheme / Long term Leasing	1	0	1	0	1	3
Voluntary Housing	2	2	3	2	3	12
Purchase by Travellers		1		1		2

Housing Assistance Payment/ Private Rented Accommodation with/out Rent Supplement	5	7	5	5	5	27
Totals	17	29	22	21	22	111

Table 2: Targets & Delivery 2019-2024

The expressed accommodation preference of the majority of Traveller housing applicants is for standard local authority housing or private rented accommodation. Accordingly, it is anticipated that the overall housing need will be met over the period of this Accommodation Programme predominantly through the provision of standard Local Authority Housing and through Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

Galway County Council has continued to prioritise the installation of fire safety equipment, signage and the provision of fire safety training in its halting sites during 2019.

This prioritisation reflects the responsibilities of the Council and those of the residents of Traveller accommodation to enhance and maintain appropriate and necessary fire safety standards.



Fire Hose Reels Installed at Tuam Halting Site

In 2019, Galway County Council engaged in extensive works through a series of projects in Traveller accommodation. This involved the development and upgrade of traveller specific accommodation at various locations, including:

- Improvement works completed to service facilities at Capira Halting Site;
- Structural & Chimney Replacement at Creggaun;
- Treatment Plant Upgrade & other improvement works at Gortbride, Loughrea;
- Improvement works at Ballydavid, Athenry;
- Refurbishment of single dwelling;
- Final preparations for the commencement of works at Craughwell.



The Annual Count of Traveller Families and their Accommodation Position 2019 identified 554 families in the County.

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

56 Traveller families were accommodated in 2019 in standard Local Authority housing and under the HAP and RAS Programmes. In the absence of an ethnic identifier there is a reliance on local and historical knowledge of staff in relation to the identification of individuals as travellers.

New Boundary Walls and Removal of Rear Access Road at Gortbride Halting Site

Disability Strategy

The vision of the “*The National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities 2011- 2016*”, which was extended to 2020, is equal access, opportunity and choice, with regards to housing and supports, for persons with disabilities. The first priority is to offer persons living in congregated settings accommodation in the community. With Interagency cooperation significant work has already taken place in this area over the past 2 -3 years in the County. The strategy covers all persons with disabilities and categories referred to in the Strategy are: (a) sensory disability (b) mental health disability (c) physical disability and (d) intellectual disability.

In co-operation with Approved Housing Bodies, Galway County Council has housed people under the disability strategy in shared housing, with supports in Loughrea and Ballinasloe. 1 person was housed in Ballinasloe in 2019. The Council continues to offer greater flexibility to people with disabilities with the provision of shared housing with support services, which may be provided by visiting or live-in services.



Finishing Disability Access Units – Esker Fields, Ballinasloe

Tenancy and Estate Management

The Tenancy & Estate Management Unit was established in 2013 within the Housing Unit of Galway County Council to develop, support and maintain stable, sustainable communities.

The Tenancy Sustainment Strategy for the County was adopted in 2017 and it outlined the interventions and supports available to assist our tenants in sustaining their tenancy and contribute positively to their neighbourhood and community.

An inter-departmental and inter-agency approach is adopted by the Housing Unit and its partners, in an effort to improve the quality of life for residents in our housing estates. Staff members from the Housing Unit held meetings with the Health Service Executive, Galway and Roscommon Educational and Training Board and Gardaí throughout the year and succeeded in working together in a number of areas with tenants requiring support.

Galway County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2018 – 2020 was produced in consultation with relevant stakeholders and adopted by the Council. It is recognised that anti-social behaviour can have an adverse effect on the quality of life of our tenants and the stability and sustainability of communities. It was introduced to prevent and reduce incidences of anti-social behaviour through multi-agency partnership and co-operation.

This Strategy outlines the responsibilities and contributions of both the Council and the tenants to the development of sustainable communities. It also lays out the process for investigating and dealing with complaints including setting out the actions that may be taken by the Council in relation to same. This can include the use of CCTV systems, in accordance with Galway County Council's CCTV and Data Protection Policies. CCTV systems have been installed in 8 locations in Cullairbaun, Athenry; Gortbride, Loughrea; Bridgecourt, Ahascragh; Crowe Street, Gort; Gilmartin Road Tuam; Tuam Halting Site; Tirboy, Tuam and Parkmore, Tuam.



Gort an Chláir, Tuam



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

**PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, WATER
AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES**

PLANNING UNIT

In 2019 the Planning 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.

Strategic Priority

To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Planning and Community SPC had 2 meetings in 2019. The main policy issues discussed during the year included:

- Landscape Character Assessment update
- Regional Spatial Economic Strategy (R.S.E.S) update
- Initiation of the County Development Plan (C.D.P)
- Update on the Working Group for Wastewater Treatment Plants.
- St Bridget's Ballinasloe site.
- Tuam Local Area Plan
- Flemish Decree

Strategic Priority

To support the balanced and sustainable development of a cohesive county through the provision of essential infrastructure and progressive planning.

FORWARD PLANNING

- Commenced the preparatory work for the Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027 and a Local Authority Renewable Strategy.
- Appointed Environmental Consultants for the Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027 and the associated Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES).
- Commenced the implementation of a Vacant Site Register (statutorily required from January 2017 under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015), to include a review of sites in local area plan areas;
- Participated in the Planning Spatial Data Capture Pilot initiative with Department of Planning Housing and Local Government;

- Undertook preparatory work on the Framework Plan for Garraun, Oranmore;
- Reviewed the Galway Transport Planning Study in preparation of the Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027;
- Managed the translation of all new policy documents (variations to the CDP, relevant Local Area Plans) in accordance with the Scéim Teanga;
- Participated in the National e-Planning initiative;
- Prepared returns for Departments of Education, Housing Planning and Local Government as required;
- Provided advice, consultation and engagement in relation to outdoor events in relation Galway 2020.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

- 2,041 Planning Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2019.
- 1,690 Planning decisions were made in 2019.
- €790,825 was received in Planning Fees in 2019.
- 78 Exempted Development Declaration Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2019.
- Strategic Housing Development 5 preplanning meetings held with developers, 2 pre-application consultations with An Bord Pleanala facilitated and 2 decisions made by An Bord Pleanala during 2019.

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 2019	216
Warning Letters served	201
Enforcement Notice served	120
No. of new cases referred to Law Agent and external Solicitors for Summary Proceedings	26

BUILDING CONTROL

The Building Control staff carry out the following duties in conjunction with other Statutory Bodies.

- (a) Validating and registering Commencement Notices/7 Day Notices through the Building Control Management System;
- (b) Processing applications for Fire Safety Certificates and Disability Access Certificates through the Fire Service;

- (c) Advising Designers/Assigned Certifiers in relation to issues of compliance with the Building Regulations 1997;
- (d) Validating and registering the Certificate of Compliance on Completion;
- (e) Maintaining the Statutory Register;
- (f) Inspecting construction works in progress in relation to compliance with the Building Regulations 1997 and carrying out enforcement as necessary;
- (g) Ensuring compliance of Construction Products in line with EU (Construction Products) Regulations 2013(S I No. 225 of 2013);
- (h) Ensuring compliance of Building Energy Rating Certificates in line with the EU (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulation 2012 (SI No. 243 of 2012).

Commencement Notices 2019:

Number	Status on BCMS
1 no.	Incomplete
777 no.	Complete (761 complete Valid 16 complete invalid)
31 no.	Revised Information

Strategic Priority

To preserve and support our unique culture, environment, heritage and language.

HERITAGE

During 2019, the Heritage Office of County 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 2019:

- **‘Go Wild’ Summer Camps**

The Heritage Section developed two children’s biodiversity 2-day summer camps with Birdwatch Ireland, Mountbellew Heritage Group and Williamstown Tidy Towns Group. These successful courses were delivered in Mountbellew and Williamstown in August 2019. The camps were funded by NPWS and Galway County Council.



Children attending the ‘Go Wild’ summer camps

- **Geological Heritage Audit**

Over the last three years Galway County Council, in conjunction with the Heritage Council, has been working with Geological Survey Ireland in the completion of a Geological Heritage Audit of the county. This support for a Geological Heritage Audit is critical in raising the profile of geological heritage in County Galway and for maximising its potential, since some of the sites may be otherwise overlooked. In total, 74 sites were surveyed and mapped in detail in 2019, in total over the 3 years, 134 County Geological Sites have therefore been designated in County Galway.



The bare limestone pavement of Inis Mór on the Aran Islands.

The high sea cliffs exposing the bedded limestone can be seen to the right of the photograph.

Deep cutting into limestone bedrock at Rahally, New Inn, on the M6 Motorway.

The pure limestones of the Burren Formation are promoting the growth of well-developed tufa curtains atop the high cliffs.



- **Cruinniú @ Portumna**

This one-day event was held on Saturday 20 July in Portumna. The event was developed by Galway County Council, Waterways Ireland, the OPW, Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna GAA, Portumna Anglers to showcase the rich heritage of Portumna and Lough Derg. Over 1000 people attended this free event. This event was funded by the Heritage Council, Galway County Council, Waterways Ireland, OPW, Irish Workhouse Centre.



Front row L-R: Anne Rabbitte, TD, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Cllr. Ivan Canning, Gráinne Smyth, Galway County Council.

Back row L-R: Seán Canny, TD, Caroline Hannon, Galway County Council, David Harris, Portumna and District Anglers Association, Cormac McCarthy, Waterways Ireland, Paul Martin (Heritage Boat Association)

- **Galway West of Ireland Region of Gastronomy Heritage Project**

The Heritage Office continued working with local communities and organisations gathering information relating to the gastronomical heritage of the county and produce written, audio and video outputs for the website - www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org.

This included working with Killimor Heritage working on their Gastronomy Heritage book.

- **The Athenry Town Walls Project**

The Athenry Town Walls Project incorporates the conservation, management and interpretation of the medieval town walls, with the project having transformed how the monument is presented and appreciated.

Over the last twelve years, the conservation of the medieval town walls of Athenry has progressed through small-scale but strategic projects. This work is being carried out in accordance with the Conservation & Heritage Management Plan prepared by Gifford Consulting; with funding from Galway County Council and the Heritage Council and in collaboration with a steering Group. Galway County Council have carried out ten phases of works around the walled circuit with grant assistance from The Heritage Council and from their own resources. This work was overseen by Howley Hayes Architects and managed by Galway County Council.

In addition to the physical works it was felt that it was very important to create an awareness, knowledge and pride in the rich medieval heritage and assets that Athenry possesses. In this regard a Conservation Management Plan (2008) and a Heritage Trail (2018), together with a publication outlining the history, heritage and conservation works (2015), a 3D Model of Medieval Athenry, with a Schools Bi-lingual Memory Map have been produced and developed.



- **Athenry Town Walls Capital Works 2019 – North Gate**

Funding was sought from Heritage Council and under the RRDF funds for works to the North Gate. The various permissions needed were sought, and the project tendered for a contractor to carry out the programme of works for 2019 to complete the conservation of the North Gate.

The North Gate is an essential component of the medieval fortifications of Athenry. The wall is a National Monument and along with the rest of the town is included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP ref. no. GA084-001) and as such are protected by the National Monuments Acts, 1930 – 2004. Previous works were carried out to the North Gate in 2016 and 2018.

The works included:

- Full repointing of all façades;
- Removal of cement pointing to south façade;
- Installation of stainless-steel mesh pigeon deterrents;
- Application of a protective EPDM roof covering to the existing concrete slab;
- Code 6 Lead capping to the existing parapet walls;

- Installation of a new zinc coated steel downpipe and parapet hopper with below ground drainage at pavement level;
- Closing off the portcullis and murder hole openings with ply board to prevent pigeon ingress.

- **LAMA Awards: Galway County Council won best heritage project in LAMA awards for Athenry Town Walls Project**

Following twelve years of dedicated work on the Athenry Town Walls Project, the efforts of Galway County Council, Athenry Heritage Centre, Athenry Community Council, Athenry Tidy Towns, property owners, the GAA, the Heritage Council and the Irish Walled Town Network and those of the wider community in Athenry were rewarded when the Athenry Town Walls Project won Best Heritage Project at the recent All Ireland Community and Council Awards.



Athenry Town Walls Project wins at All Ireland Community and Council Awards

The All Ireland Community and Council Awards presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA, highlight and recognises communities and councils working together, bringing national recognition to projects and developments that may otherwise go unrecognised.

- **Athenry Walled Towns Day 2019**

This family fun day was held on Sunday 18th August.

It showcased the wealth of the built, natural and cultural heritage in medieval Athenry.

Over 3500 people attended this event with the event funded by The Heritage Council and Galway County Council.



- **Alcock and Brown 100**

Galway County Council Heritage Office held a very successful aviation Conference entitled ‘*Irish Aviation: Past, Present and Future*’ in Clifden on Friday 14th June 2019 as part of the ‘*Alcock and Brown 100*’ Festival. This Conference commemorated the centenary of the first non-stop transatlantic flight, achieved by Sir John Alcock and Sir Arthur Whitten-Brown in 1919 and was organised in co-operation with the Alcock and Brown 100 Committee.

150 people attended this Conference.

In addition to this we also have worked on the development of an Alcock and Brown school’s education pack, which was funded by Creative Ireland and Galway County Council.



IRISH AVIATION
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Friday 14th June 2019

Programme

10.00am ~ 10.30am	Registration & Tea/Coffee
10.30am ~ 10.45am	Official Opening <i>by Group Captain A.J.H. Alcock MBE, RAF (Retired)</i>
10.45am ~ 11.30am	"Alcock and Brown - Dispelling the Myths" <i>by Kevin Glynn</i>
11.30am ~ 12.15pm	"Colonel James Fitzmaurice and the First East-west Transatlantic Flight 1928" <i>by Teddy Fennelly</i>
12.15pm ~ 12.30pm	Questions and Answers Session
12.30pm ~ 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm ~ 2.15pm	"Irish Air Corps - The History of Military Aviation in Ireland" <i>by Brigadier General Rory O'Connor</i>
2.15pm ~ 3.00pm	"Alcock & Brown: Archives and Artefacts in the RAF Museum's Collections" <i>by Peter Elliott</i>
3.00pm ~ 3.15pm	Tea/Coffee
3.15pm ~ 3.45pm	"The Role of Irish Airports in Irish Aviation - On a Wing and a Prayer, the Story of an Iconic west of Ireland Airport" <i>by Joe Gilmore</i>
3.45pm ~ 4.30pm	Moderated Session to deal with 'The Past, Present & Future of Irish Aviation' <i>Moderator: Senator Pádraig Ó Céidigh</i>



Irish Aviation Conference, Clifden

- **Loughrea Medieval Festival 2019**

This 3- day heritage event was held on 23rd to 25th August 2019 in partnership with Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee.

Over 20,000 people attended various heritage events over the 3 days including Walled Town Day which was held on Sunday 25 August. The event was funded by The Heritage Council and Galway County Council.



Enjoying the Puppet Theatre display at the Loughrea Medieval Festival



'Combat in action' Display at the Loughrea Medieval Festival

- **National Heritage Awards**

The Loughrea Medieval Festival won the ‘Le Chéile san Eoraip’ award for the event entitled ‘*A Taste of the Past: Exploring Our European Connections*’ held during Loughrea Medieval Festival 2018.



Colman Shaughnessy and Joe Loughnane represented the Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee receiving the ‘Le Chéile san Eoraip’ Award at the closing ceremony of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, at the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

- **Heritage Grant Scheme as part of Community Grants**

40 Grants were assessed and assigned conditions and grants awarded.

- **Creative Ireland**

The Heritage Officer is part of Creative Ireland Team, which worked on Alcock and Brown Education Pack, ‘*Reading the Landscape*’ course and ‘*120 Years of Local Government*’ films and events.

- **Food and Heritage Bus Tour (Free Tour Celebrating Heritage Week 2019)**

A Connemara Food and Heritage Bus tour took place on Thursday 22nd August. The tour was led by Michael Gibbons, Archaeologist and Padraig O’Raighne, Food Tour Expert and the tour visited Inagh Valley Lodge, Ballinakill Graveyard, Tullycross and Renvyle Castle.



- **Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre**

Worked with the Manager of the Centre on the development of educational resources and programming events during the summer season.

- **Biodiversity Project**

- Provided advice and guidance on various aspects of biodiversity including tree planting, dealing with invasive species and pollinator plans to Tidy Towns, community groups and schools throughout the county.
- Set up the 'Boxes for Bees' School Project where a number of schools received a school visit and a box and seeds for planting.
- Worked with the Environment Section on the development of brochures for Portumna Bathing area. Provided input into the development of Kilcornan Heritage Trails.
- Worked with Creggs Tidy Towns on their Heritage and Biodiversity Audit.



Ceardlann arna tabhairt ag An Dr Janice Fuller (Éiceolaí) agus an Dr Christy Cunniffe (Seandálaí Pobail)



Cén lá?
Deardaoin an 7 Samhain

Cén áit?
The Forge, Maigh Cullinn

Cén uair?
7.30pm - 9.30pm

Cé na daoine ar chóir dóibh freastal air seo?

Baili de Ghruaig Oidhreachtá, Timpeallachta agus Bailte Slachtmara, Úinéirí Talún, Oibrí 7/15, baili de chuid Bóige agus non duine a bhfuil suim aige/aici san oidhreacht, sa bhithéagsúlacht agus sa timpeallacht.

Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil déan teagmháil le Gráinne Smyth, Pleanáil Chion Chn, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ar an uimhir 091 509 121, níomhphost: gsmlyth@galwaycoco.ie

Arna mhórtáil ag an Seirbhís Páircéanna Náisiúnta agus 'Fadhbha agus Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe i gcomhair le Lianna Oidhreachtá & Turasóireacht an Chrogaí



- Applied for funding from NPSW to run workshops, produce leaflets and short films relating to biodiversity issues.

Working with Heritage MOUNTBELLEW WORKSHOP

Finding the right balance in biodiversity & built heritage projects

Workshop to be delivered by Dr Janice Fuller (Ecologist) and Dr Christy Cunniffe (Community Archaeologist)

When? Tuesday 12th November

Where? Galway Telework CO-Op, Ballygan Road, Mountbellew, H53 TN 67

Time? 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Who should attend?

Members of Heritage, Environmental and Tidy Towns Groups, Landowners, Anglers, RSP/715 workers, Graveyard Committee members and anyone with an interest in Heritage, biodiversity and the environment.

Topics to be covered include: working near water, tree management, planning for pollinators, protecting monuments, graveyard maintenance, holy wells etc.

Feel free to bring along information on a project you are working on if you have any questions or queries.

For more information please contact Gráinne Smyth, Forward Planning, Galway County Council, phone 091 509121, email: gsmlyth@galwaycoco.ie

Funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Galway County Council in partnership with Mountbellew Heritage & Tourism



- **Hidden Heartlands**

The Heritage Officer participated in a tourism training course organised by Fáilte Ireland to help promote the Hidden Heartlands area.

- **Cathaoirleach Awards**

These Awards included an Award for the best heritage project and the best heritage publication.

- **Decade of Commemoration**

Further development and updating of the bi-lingual website for the Decade of Commemoration with additional information and podcasts. Held two events for the First Dáil on Monday 21 January, with lectures given by Dr Conor McNamara and Siobhra Aiken in the Council Chamber and in the Claregalway Hotel. Worked with GMIT on a digital heritage project re documenting sites of significance in the county. The Loughrea Remembered Conference entitled 'Democracy and the People' was held on 7 November 2019. Held Dáil 100 exhibition (Oireachtas Exhibition) in Áras an

Chontae from mid-August to mid-September. This included a launch event on 9th September in Áras an Chontae.

- **Invasive Species Working Group**

Worked on an invasive species strategy with other sections of the Council in particular with the Roads Section, Community Wardens, Environment Section, Community Waters Office and IT. Invasive Species Seminar was held on 23rd May in Baile Chláir and in the region of 150 people attended this event.



Invasive Species Seminar was held on 23rd May in Baile Chláir

- **Emigration and Diaspora Projects**



Tuke Emigration Scheme Project –

Continued to work with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group and the Emigration Centre Carna on this project.

Developed and produced online information relating to emigration and diaspora with a Conference held in Carna on 4th and 5th October, with over 150 people in attendance.

- **ICAN – Community Heritage website**

The Heritage Office continued to work in partnership with the Museum of County Life Castlebar and various communities throughout the county to further develop this website. Both technical and heritage training was provided to the groups throughout the year.

ICAN members also embarked on the development of an exhibition entitled 'Our Irish Women' - this exhibition travelled throughout the county in 2019. On 4th December an ICAN meeting was held jointly by the Heritage Office, Galway County Council and the National Museum of Ireland, County Life in Claregalway Castle. Over 50 people from various heritage groups in Galway, Mayo and Clare attended this event.



- **Féile na gCloch 2019**

Over 100 people attended Féile na gCloch on Inis Oírr which took place from Thursday 19th to Sunday 22nd September 2019.

Participants had a choice of engaging in stone wall building, lettering, carving, paving, sketching and hot lime demo as well as listening to various related talks.



Stone Wall paving workshop

- **Community Events, Conferences and Workshops**

Assistance, advice, and support was also given to numerous Tidy Town, Community Heritage and schools groups in 2019 which included advice and guidance on heritage publications, development of heritage trails, oral heritage recordings, Heritage Week events, heritage training and relevant local heritage conferences and seminars etc.

The Heritage Section worked with Ard Scoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe on the development of their 100 anniversary commemorations. It also worked with CDS Cornamona on their townland research project. The Heritage Officer assisted Caherlistrane/Knockma Group develop their local heritage initiatives and worked with the Athenry Active Retirement Group on their heritage book.

The Heritage Officer also worked with Forum Connemara, GRD, Oughterard, Dunmore, Emigration Centre Carna on their townland research projects, whilst also assisting Aillebrack School with their history book; Killaghton Drama Group, Corrib Beo and other community heritage groups and schools throughout the county.

- **Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County**

The Heritage Section continued to work with Galway Rural Development on mapped and memorial inscriptions to be recorded and up loaded to www.galway.ie which included work on Ballymacward and Killerorin (Ballygar).

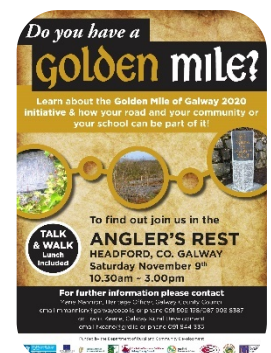
- The Heritage Section assisted on the ongoing *Beo Schools Project* with INSIGHT, NUIG and Galway Education Centre.

- Participation on Committees/teams such as the *Placenames Committee, Loughrea Heritage and Development Company, Creative Ireland.*

- **Townland Research**

Working with Galway Community Heritage, GRD, Forum Connemara, Carna Emigration Centre and Cornamona on recording and documenting townland historical research.

- The *Golden Mile Calendar 2020* was produced in December 2019 and a Golden Mile Training Day was held in Headford with Galway Rural Development and Headford Environment Group.



- Unveiling of Rare Fossil in Tuam:** Tuam Regional Office was packed to capacity on Monday 30th September when an extraordinary rare exotic fossil of the type known as *Phanerotinus cristatus* was unveiled for the first time by Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway and Seán Canny TD, Minister of State Community Development, Natural Resources & Digital Development.



L-R: Matthew Parkes, National Museum of Ireland, Cllr Jimmy McClearn, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Brendan Arrigan, anon, and Seán Canney, TD

This very rare giant fossil snail dating from the Carboniferous Period around 340 million years ago, was spotted in a wall in Tuam by Galway based Chartered Surveyor and geological enthusiast Brendan Arrigan in 2017, and it was subsequently rescued for safe keeping. The Tuam find is also special in having both pieces of the rock that was originally split by a stonemason to expose both the fossil itself and the counterpart impression.



Anne Tierney Old Tuam Society and Rúairí o'hAodha, Tuam Library

- **Reading your Local Landscape Training Course**



Reading your Local Landscape Training Course participants with Back Row L-R: Dr Christy Cunniffe Galway Community Archaeologist, Zena Hctor Environmental Consultant and Marie Mannion Heritage Officer Galway County Council

On Friday August 15th 2019, a magnificent showcase of heritage research and practical application was held in the Teleworks Centre, Mountbellew. This was the culmination of a ‘*Reading Your Local Landscape*’ training course which was held at the centre between April and July. This project was funded by Galway County Council and Creative Ireland, in association with Mountbellew Heritage and Tourism Network. Eleven participants received training in all aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage between April and July.

The aim of the course was to enable the local participants to identify, examine and record the heritage features of the Mountbellew area through desk research and fieldwork. Following skills training through classroom work and field trips to local heritage sites, the participants completed practical projects. These included the development of a heritage trail and biodiversity action plan for Mountbellew and the development of a detailed tour itinerary and content to guide visitors around Carrownagappul Bog, where Galway’s Living Bog project is based. On Friday morning, the participants wowed the audience when they presented the fruits of their work.

The outcomes of the course compliment the aim of the **Creative Ireland Strategy** to enable citizen engagement and mainstream creativity into the conservation of local heritage, through community collaboration.

- **Galway Community Archaeology Advisor Project**

The role of the Galway Community Archaeology Advisor Project is to provide advice and information to communities and landowners on the care and conservation of field monuments.

The work of the Community Archaeologist is twofold in its focus:

- 1) The Community Archaeologist targets a specific region of the county each year where intensive fieldwork is undertaken. This involves a visit to each archaeological monument in the area meeting

the landowner and discussing the site and its conservation needs. This is a slow task and can be very time consuming. Local knowledge is critical in tracing the landowners of some of the sites as farms are often at a remove from where the farmer lives.

2) Added to this the Community Archaeologist responds to many queries and requests from individuals, landowners and community groups requiring advice or information about archaeological monuments. The number and dates of all these queries are not all reflected in this report.

The community archaeologist has undertaken various projects and events to create greater archaeological awareness. Over the year the Community Archaeologist responded to ongoing queries by phone, email and through Facebook. He has also undertaken several archaeology training events with communities.

In 2019, he worked with the Mountbellew Tourism and Walled Garden Committee in conjunction



with the Adopt a Monument Scheme and worked with the Transition Year Students from Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew to reveal the pathways and other elements of historic garden archaeology within the walled garden.

Photogrammetry course with Transition Year Students of Holy Rosary college and volunteers in Mountbellew Walled Garden

The Community Archaeologist undertook several children's events. He worked in conjunction with the Heritage Officer to provide fun digs at Athenry Walled Town Day and Loughrea Medieval Festival. This consisted of an archaeological excavation for children of national school age where the participants were encouraged to dig and identify and describe the various artefacts they recovered and explain their uses. He also held a Fun Dig at the Loughrea Medieval Walled Town Festival. Both events comprised of a mini archaeological dig, pottery making and Ogham writing workshops.

The Community Archaeologist continues to upload material of archaeological interest to Galway Community Archaeology i.CAN site.

The community archaeologist is continuing with a descriptive survey of dovecotes in County Galway and contributed a lecture on the topic of Dovecotes in Co Galway at The Big House Conference in Portumna at the Irish Workhouse Centre.

The Community Archaeologist contributed a paper on the 'Augustinians in Clonfert' for a book on the Augustinians entitled *Households of God: The Regular Canons and Canonesses of St Augustine and of Prémontré in Medieval Ireland* Edited by Colman O'Clabaigh OSB and Martin Browne OSB. He has spoken to several historical and heritage groups and societies throughout the year.

He undertook a number of days fieldwork examining Holy Wells around East Galway with a focus on those in the Aughrim region. He met and worked with several local graveyard committees around the county.



Fieldtrip with Paul Rondelez examining the Sliabh Aughty blast furnaces

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 2019 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 and community groups in securing the conservation of traditional buildings of special interest.

The following are the core activities undertaken in 2019:

- Identified, evaluated and provided advice on structures, groups of structures, areas and other features of architectural heritage significance 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 Record of Protected Structures (RPS) with a view to issuing Declarations as to works that require planning permission and provide preplanning advice to owners /occupiers. Reported and advised on planning applications where architectural heritage issues arise.
- Monitored the state of repair of structures on RPS, and as necessary, made recommendations on the need, if any, for the planning authority to take enforcement action.
- Inspected and assessed structures for inclusion on RPS, including a Section 55 review of proposed additions and deletions. The Elected Members considered and decided on these proposals at the March 2019 County Council Meeting.
- Carried out Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) assessments, including of historic demesnes.
- Carried out major update of the Architectural Inventory System (AIS) database of protected structures in liaison with GIS section.
- Liaison with community groups and statutory bodies regarding the conservation of graveyards.
- Liaised with local communities and tourism development bodies regarding Tidy Towns.
- Liaison with Galway 2020 and ICOMOS Ireland

Historic Structures Fund 2019

The aim of the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) is to reduce the risk of deterioration of Ireland's architectural heritage while continuing to support employment for conservation professionals, contractors and specialists. The fund is a support to owners/occupiers in their long-term commitment to securing the future of the architectural heritage. Thus, the HSF represents a method of prioritizing funding to ensure that monies are spent in the most efficient way on vulnerable aspects of Ireland's architectural heritage.

The HSF is intended to assist with works to safeguard structures into the future that are protected structures under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The HSF is not intended to

assist in the carrying out of routine maintenance, alterations or improvements. All works carried out under the HSF must be capital works.

Historic Structures Fund 2019 Funding Approvals:

Number	Name & Address of building	Proposed Works	Amount Approved
HSF 19/4	Lough Cutra Castle, Gort	Consolidation & reintegration of battlements	€30,000
HSF 19/11	St Comans Church, Kinvara	Conservation works	€14,387.20
HSF 19/14	Duras House, Dooras, Kinvara	Repair of external walls of Duras House and repair consolidation of walls of walled garden	€15,000



HSF 19/4: Lough Cutra stonework repairs with lime render mortar to stabilise terrace



*HSF 19/11: St Coman's Church, Kinvara, Co Galway –
Final phase of works to consolidate the historic fabric completed.*



HSF 19/14: Duras Housewalled garden; repairs to capping of walls

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme seeks to encourage the investment of private capital in a number of small-scale, labour-intensive projects to repair and conserve historic structures and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craft workers and tradespeople. The scheme is designed to assist the owners/occupiers of protected structures.

€79,000 received under this Scheme for 10 projects. Works completed leveraged €296,540 spending on the conservation of the historic fabric, providing 410 days of employment

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019 Funding Approvals:

Ref Number	Structure	Works	Amount Paid
BHIS 19/1	Park Cottage, The Mall, Eyrecourt	Restoration of windows	€6,000
BHIS 19/3	Walled Garden, The Demesne, Mountbellew	Repair & capping wall	€4,350
BHIS 19/4	Presbyterian Church, Ballinasloe	Replacement of roof structure & coping stones	€9,965
BHIS 19/8	Gatelodge Castlegrove	Repair of roof	€6,500
BHIS 19/10	Kirra Cottage, Ballycuddy, Kilchreest	Rethatch of roof	€9,990
BHIS 19/12	Thatch Oranhill Oranmore	Repair of roof	€8,000
BHIS 19/13	College House, The Pines, Ballinasloe	Replace roof	€15,000
BHIS 19/16	Tombstone, Ballynacourty, Maree	Repairs	€2,500
BHIS 19/17	Cross St, Athenry	Repair to roof	€8,500
BHIS 19/20	Keane Cottage, Carragh Belclare Tuam	Repair of thatch, ridge and windows	€7,381



BHIS 19/12: Stabilising thatch Oranmore



BHIS 19/17: Reslating of roof at Cross Street , Athenry



BHIS 19/20: Rethatch of roof of Keane's Cottage, Corrandulla



BHIS 19/3: Mountbellew walled garden; repair capping of wall and removal of ivy

Historic Assets

The Historic Assets group works in a cross departmental manner within Galway County Council to manage strategically buildings in the ownership of the local authority which are on the Record of Protected Structures or landmark buildings in an Architectural Conservation Area.

Portumna Courthouse was the focus of initial investigations and reports to further its adaptive reuse so that it can continue to contribute to the life of the town.



Portumna Courthouse

Raising Awareness of Architectural Conservation

Galway Architectural Conservation Unit supported **Architecture at the Edge** which was a weekend celebration of architecture in the West of Ireland held on 12th and 13th October 2019 on the theme of ‘*Adapt Reuse Reimagine*’. The weekend featured a series of talks, tours, workshops and exhibitions and the festival invited people of all ages to explore the built environment of their city and county.

Expert guides offered tours of homes, buildings and spaces that are typically off limits. Architecture at the Edge encourages debate on standards of urban design, planning and sustainability through public engagement in a variety of events.



Adapt Reuse Reimagine – Architecture at the Edge

Heart of Gort Festival

The Architectural Conservation Office supported ICOMOS *Baile* Small Town and Village group with Gaillimh 2020 Galway Cultural Capital of Europe **Small Towns Big Ideas**, and Burren Lowland Development group in delivering an integrated festival showcasing the town and its historic environment in May 2019.



Creative Ireland

The Irish Architecture Foundation's '*Reimagine...*' project brings together local communities, architects, designers and planners to develop projects which will enhance the local built environment of each of the towns.

The IAF, in partnership with Galway County Council Architectural Conservation Office and Loughrea The Walks Project Steering Group is supported by the Galway County Council Creative Ireland Programme. Creative Ireland and Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture's Small Towns Big Ideas programme sought applications from architect and design practices in 2019 to design an architecture installation to be erected in 2020.



The Walks Loughrea

Strategic Priority

To foster a culture of excellence in delivery of Customer Services.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Planning and Sustainable Development Unit continued to provide an excellent customer service with reduced resources. Planning clinics were 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 on-line customer comments system.

ENVIRONMENT

The role of the Environment Section is to protect and enhance the Environment in the County of Galway in the interests of quality of life, economic development, and regulatory compliance. This is to be achieved through the implementation of numerous plans, measures and programmes to be delivered throughout the Unit.

Strategic Priority

To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise

Environmental Awareness

The Environmental awareness team continued to engage with the domestic and commercial sectors in promoting environmental awareness:

- Community awareness events have taken place focusing on waste management, waste prevention, food waste, home composting, household hazardous waste, energy conservation and water conservation;
- Information was provided on awareness and environmental activities through local media, social media, libraries, schools, voluntary groups etc.;
- There was ongoing involvement with Tidy Towns groups;
- The Green Schools programme continues with over 90% of county schools involved;
- A number of Anti-Litter initiatives were funded;
- Grants given to communities who maintain bring banks and burial grounds;
- Delivery of WEEE, National Spring Clean, Community Clean Up Initiatives, National Tree Week & Christmas Tree Collections.
- The Local Authority Prevention Network continues its work to identify actions within community, business and public sectors in areas such as waste prevention, energy conservation, water conservation, training and awareness.

Strategic Priority

To support the balanced and sustainable development of a cohesive county through the provision of essential infrastructure and progressive planning.

Waste Services

- Barna Waste agreed to continue the operation of Civic Amenity Sites at Clifden, Tuam and Ballinasloe. It is planned that the contract will be retendered in 2020. The contract for the waste services on Inishboffin was renewed on the 1st April 2019 for one year.

- The waste services on the other three islands continues to be managed, on a partnership arrangement with the Council, by Athchursail Teo.
- Bring Banks are located at 93 centres throughout the County for the collection of glass, beverage cans for recycling and clothing.



- In conjunction with the EPA and the Department, Galway County Council continued to assist in site management of Kilconnell Landfill and to operate the landfill. The acceptance of Municipal Solid Waste ceased mid-year, and the facility continued to accept recovery material which is scheduled to cease early 2020. Site remediation works were carried out and it is expected that these will be completed in 2020.



Strategic Priority

To preserve and support our unique culture, environment, heritage and language.

- 23 inspections were carried out on waste permitted / certified sites. -
- 127 inspections were carried out at discharge licence sites and warning letters and prosecution proceedings were issued as required. There was a significant reduction noted in the risk associated with unauthorised and poorly managed discharge licence sites
- 122 inspections were carried out in accordance with the requirements of the NIP including verification inspections. 32 farm inspections were carried out.
- Contracts were in place for check & audit monitoring and raw water monitoring. 400 samples were taken of private GWS and private water supplies.

- Investigations were carried out in response to complaints received from the National Illegal Dumping line, general public, council staff and EPA referral. There was improved management of complaints system and significant reduction in number of open complaints. 1438 complaints were closed.
- Joint inspections were carried out with REPAK on non-compliant businesses, under the CU WERLA pilot packaging programme.
- 6 litter “black spots” were cleaned up, barriers and signage erected, and CCTV installed with funding provided by DCCAIE under the Anti- Dumping Initiative 2019.

Strategic Priority

To optimize our resources and maximize organizational efficiency, effectiveness, cohesiveness and value for money.

Beaches

Blue Flag status was awarded to the following beaches in 2019

- Long Point, Loughrea
- Trácht (Traught), Kinvara
- Trá an Dóilin, An Cheathrú Rua
- Trá Mór Coill Rua, Indreabhán,
- Trá Cill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór
- Portumna Bathing Area



Long Point, Loughrea

Green Coast Awards were received for six beaches in 2019

- Trá Poll Na gCaorach, Inis Oírr
- East End Inishboffin
- Dumhach, Inishboffin
- Inis Oírr, Aran Islands
- Aillebrack, Ballyconneely
- Renvyle Beach, Tully.

Burial Grounds

- There are 233 burial grounds listed on the Council's burial ground register. Several extensions were completed or advanced during the year while with the participation of the many local burial ground committee's improvement and maintenance works were carried out throughout the county. An annual grant of between €300 - €600 was provided to committees who maintain burial grounds in their area and 150 committees were awarded a grant.

Veterinary Services

- The Council provides a Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service under the terms of its 3-year service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.
 - There are two fulltime veterinarians in the service.
 - There are 11 low throughput abattoirs in the county which slaughter cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry, and process wild game.
 - The Council also supervises 14 approved meat processing premises in both the city and county. A further two premises are registered as meat delivery businesses.
 - Three new meat processing premises were granted EC approval in 2019.

Galway County Council's Veterinary Service also has an advisory role for prospective meat food business operators at start-up phase and is involved at steering level in the development of the BIA Innovator campus Athenry.

Dog Control

- Dog control continues to be monitored by our two fulltime wardens, utilising 2 leased dog holding facilities. A 6% increase in dog licensing on 2019 was achieved by targeting resources and with the assistance of the community warden service. 29 fines were issued during 2019 with one case going forward for prosecution.
- Structural improvements were made to Galway County Council's Dog Pound during 2019 to help improve disease control & safeguard the well-being of dogs that are housed in this facility. The Council also provides a large Animal Pound facility at Ballinasloe. The Council veterinary service liaises with Housing in the implementation of the Control of Horses Act.
- Training was given to Dog Wardens and Veterinary Personnel on carrying out Dog Breeding Establishment Inspections following the introduction of new guidelines issued by the Department of Rural and Community Development which came into effect in January 2019.
 - ❖ Specific onsite training was also given to Housing Staff on dealing with aggression in dogs.
 - ❖ Nine DBE's are registered with Galway County Council and these are inspected as per the legislation.

A detailed submission was made by the Veterinary Section to the Department of Rural and Community Development in respect of the Department's review of measures relating to the Control of Dogs in Ireland.

- Galway County Council's Veterinary Service continued to participate in the Western Zoonosis Committee alongside the HSE & DAFM. Animal Welfare cases were logged and where relevant, investigated in conjunction with the competent authorities, providing assistance where necessary.

Strategic Priority

To enhance the wellbeing of the county, its communities and people, developing sustainable communities, maximizing social inclusion and supporting active citizenship.

Green Initiatives

- Information meetings and workshops on waste prevention, food waste prevention, home composting, energy conservation and water conservation have been delivered throughout County Galway in conjunction with community groups, voluntary groups and tidy towns committees. The Galway Food Waste Prevention Programme was also delivered to communities, which assists householders reduce food waste quantities.
- The implementation of the Green Schools programme is ongoing and has been very successful to date with 193 schools being awarded the Green Flag in the County.
- Anti-Litter Initiatives such as the National Spring Clean, the Galway Dog Fouling Campaign and the Gum Litter Campaign have been implemented throughout the county.



Galway Dog Fouling Campaign

Strategic Priority

To serve as the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level enhancing the quality of life in our County.

The Environment Unit within Galway County Council provide a number of services to the public including Waste Management, Litter Management and Environmental Enforcement, Environmental Awareness, Burial Grounds and Veterinary Services and Control of Dogs.

WATER SERVICES

Water Services projects have been progressed by Galway County Council, working under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water, under the **Infrastructure Programme and Capital Works Programme** throughout 2019. Planning, design and construction of new and upgraded infrastructure continues in the county to deliver Irish Water's Investment Plan 2017-2021 targets and to ensure regulatory compliance, which in turn, provides enhanced protection for the environment, improved services for consumers and clean potable drinking water for all users.

Strategic Goals

Infrastructural Capacity

To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life.

Economic & Enterprise Development

To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county.

Progress has continued through 2019 with significant upgrades to the water services infrastructure in the county. Under Irish Water's Infrastructure Programme, an upgrade to the Athenry wastewater treatment plant was officially opened by the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy T.D., on 8th July 2019.



Official opening of the Athenry Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The upgraded plant now has a treatment capacity of 9,500 population equivalent. The new plant is a critical piece of infrastructure and is essential in supporting ongoing population and economic growth in Athenry, while improving the water quality in the Clarin River, and further enhancing the town's tourism and commercial potential. Substantial progress has also been made on the planning of the upgrade to the sewer network for Athenry and it is envisaged that construction will commence towards the end of 2021 or early 2022.

Strategic Priority

To preserve and support our unique culture, environment, heritage and language

Significant progress was also achieved on the Tuam Regional Water Supply extension to Loughrea, which will convey water from Lough Corrib, treated at the Luimnagh Water Treatment Plant, to Loughrea, Craughwell and environs. Approximately

90% of the network was completed by the along with the commencement of construction of the pumphouses and completion of an additional reservoir at Seefin.



Completed 1,000m³ capacity reservoir at Seefin.

Upgrade works on the water distribution network and drainage network in Ballinasloe continued through 2019, with completion of all works expected in early 2020.

A new wastewater treatment plant, with a capacity of 700 population equivalent, was commenced at Glenamaddy by Ward & Burke at the beginning of the year and substantially completed by year end. A new pumping station and rising main to the plant has also been completed on the eastern side of the town. It is expected that commissioning of the new plant will be completed in early 2020.

The planning phase for new wastewater treatment plants at An Spidéal, An Cheathrú Rua, Ahascragh and Roundstone progressed throughout 2019. It is envisaged that the An Spidéal and Ahascragh plants contracts will be ready to go to tender in 2020, with An Cheathrú Rua and Cloch na Rón (Roundstone) to follow in 2021.

Upgrade works at Tuam Wastewater Treatment Plant to optimise capacity of the plant were progressed throughout the year and new sludge reception facilities were completed at the plant. Process optimisation works were substantially completed at Gort and An Spidéal Water Treatment Plants.

Planning permission was granted for proposed reservoirs for Gort, Letterfrack and Kilkerrin/Moylough RWSS at Slieveroe.

Mains rehabilitation works are on-going throughout the County via the Leakage Reduction Program. Since the start of 2019 mains rehabilitation works have been completed at the following locations:

Rosmuc, Clifden, Kinvara, Bearna Ó dheas, and substantial completion has been achieved in Tuam, An Spidéal and Oughterard. Further works identified for progression in 2020 are at Ahascragh, Craughwell and Casla.

Other key work streams running in parallel and expected to deliver further benefits within the County include the following:

- Capital Find & Fix utilising the resources of Galway County Council Operational and Find Fix crews and Contractors across several District Metering Areas (DMA's) throughout the County;
- Pressure Management utilising the resources of Galway County Council Operational and Find Fix crews and Contractors across all Water Service Divisions North South & West;
- Mains Rehabilitation (including lead replacement) are continuing via the Contractor Mains Rehab Crews in the North Division (Tuam Town);
- First Fix activities are ongoing countywide via the Contractor Mains Rehab Crews;
- Metering (Non-Domestic) via the Contractor Mains Rehab Crews at location throughout the County.

The combined effects of these work streams delivered as part of the Leakage Reduction Programme will achieve significant water savings over the next few years with tangible benefits to both customers and the greater economy.

Strategic Goal – Community Participation & Social Inclusion

“To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.”

In 2019 the Council had to submit funding requirement details to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the new **Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021**.

The funds approved under the programme allows the Council to provide support to the group water scheme sector which allows communities to sustain themselves and manage their own affairs into the future. The programme has migrated from an annual block grant-based system to a multi annual scheme specific programme where submissions for funding are considered by a national expert committee and scheme specific allocations of funds are made to each local authority.

The Council in its submission sought a total of allocation of €11.1m but the final allocation is likely to be in the region of €7.5m.

Group Water Schemes

The Group Water Schemes themselves provide policy oversight to the Programme by representation on the Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee through the National Federation of Group Water Schemes which meets up a number of times each year. The Programme provides support to group

schemes through new group scheme grants, grants for scheme improvements, individual well grants and subsidy grants towards ongoing operation and maintenance.

All the various Rural Water programmes are fully funded by the Department of the Environment with the level of grant support varying from 75% to 100% depending on the category of works.

In 2019, Capital Grants in the region of €0.5m were paid out and Subsidies of in the region of €4.3m were also paid out.

The Department also provides grant assistance towards specific source protection works undertaken by Group Water Schemes. The aim of the grant is to assist schemes in the provision of a Source Protection Plan. The Council works very closely with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes in the implementation of the programme and the primary focus of the programme continues to be to improve the quality of water supplies to members of Group Water Schemes. The details of the funding measures under the programme are set out below.

Measure 1: Source Protection (GWS Sector) – Protection of raw water source of existing GWS (Was 2(e)). This is Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Phase 1 was the ZOC reports (€3,000 X 85% max grant).

Phase 2 is at 100% subject to max per house of 9,000 across all funding headings.

Measure 2: Public Health Compliance – Upgrading of Treatment Facilities

- a. Water Treatment Improvements (RAL) 100%
- b. Amalgamation/rationalisation 100%
- c. Capital replacement costs 85%

Measure 3: Enhancement of Existing Schemes Including Water Conservation (GWS Sector)

Water conservation and network upgrades including storage.

- a. Water Conservation (85%)
- b. Network Upgrades (85%)

Measure 4: New Group Water Schemes

- a. Standalone Schemes
- b. Extensions

85% subject to normal limits or 90% in exceptional cases.

Measure 5: Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes to the Public (Irish Water) Water Sector – Existing schemes that wish to be taken in charge.

Measure 6: Community Connections (Water and Wastewater): Extensions off the public network.

Measure 7: Innovation and Research

- a. Proposals for use of new technology in the group water sector
- b. Projects in the rural water sector to support Water Framework Directives objectives, including raising awareness

Measure 8: Individual Wells (75%) and on-site wastewater treatment systems (means tested

All the funding measure have certain conditions and ceilings which will apply and be explained when applying.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Galway Fire and Rescue Service and Galway Civil Defence

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

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

There are currently 11 stations serving Galway County with a population of 179,048 people and Galway city with a population of 79,504 (CSO statistics 2016) as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: GFRS Fire Station Locations

Fire Stations are located at:

- Athenry
- Ballinasloe
- Clifden
- Galway City (Headquarters)
- Gort
- Inis Mór
- Loughrea
- Mountbellew
- Portumna
- Tuam
- An Cheathrú Rua

An Cheathrú Rua Fire station went operational in February 2016 as the 11th Fire station in the county. The Council now employs 167 fire-fighting personnel in Galway Fire and Rescue Service including full time and retained fire-fighters in the City and County, senior fire officers, a brigade mechanic and a Civil Defence Officer. In addition, Galway FRS has 4 civilian administrative support staff as Headquarters staff who are based in Galway City Fire station.

In October 2018 the new fire station and training centre in Tuam (see Figure 2) became operational. Constructed at a cost of €2.4 million including site and design team costs, the station significantly enhances crew safety, training delivery and the services provided in North Galway.



Figure 2: New Fire Station in Tuam Operational October 2018

Strategic Priority

To support the balanced and sustainable development of a cohesive county through the provision of essential infrastructure and progressive planning.

Keeping Communities Safe - A Framework for Fire Safety in Ireland

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

The draft area risk categorisation (ARC) for all Fire Station grounds in Galway had been completed and was submitted to NDFEM in summer of 2015 to form part of the 1st National External Validation

Group (EVG) report, as requested by NDFEM Circular 05/2015. A national EVG 1 Report was issued by NDFEM in 2016. A second round of EVG visits is due to take place in 2020. Galway County Council's (GCC) Section 26 Fire and Emergency Operations Plan has been updated and should be brought before the SPC and Council for adoption in 2020.

Camp West (West Region Fire Control)

Galway FRS continued to run and pilot the CAMP Next Generation mobilisation trial at Galway City fire station as part of roll-out of new out-station equipment in Fire Stations in West region as part of Camp CTrí project. Technical preparatory work has been carried out in 2018 and 2019 in all Fire stations to enable the transfer over to the National digital radio system (TETRA) in all vehicles and HQ Fire Station which has now been completed. This system replaced the existing VHF network and will be followed by an upgraded command and control system common to all regional fire communication centres in 2020.

Health and Safety Management

Galway FRS Health and Safety policy is contained in Galway County Council's Local Authority Safety Management System Manual / Safety Statement. The Council Safety manual as customised for Galway FRS addresses the working environments encountered by the Fire Service, where combining need, risk and resources in a wide range of situations has long been a feature of service management. Galway County Council's Local Authority Safety Management System Manual / Safety Statement sets out the approach, which this Fire Authority adopts in relation to managing safety and in particular meeting its statutory obligations under Section 20 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

ISO 45001: Occupational Health & Safety Management System

Having achieved accreditation to the OHSAS 18001 safety management system in December 2016 the retention of this accreditation and the H&S management programme have been major drivers of much of the fire service's H&S related activities in 2019. and are briefly summarised as follows: -

- **ISO 45001:** In October 2018 Galway FRS successfully achieved accreditation to the new Internationally Recognised Standard ISO 45001 Surveillance audits conducted by the accreditation body (NSAI in this case) play a key role of the ISO 45001 system to ensure that safety management systems are constantly maintained and consistently improved as per the requirements of the code of practice. In this regard Galway FRS successfully passed the surveillance audit that that was conducted in 2019 and the next audits are scheduled for June 2020.



Figure 3: OHSAS 18001 Presentation 2018

- **Fire Station Safety Checks:** A new initiative of carrying out regular safety checks in fire stations was commenced in 2017. The purpose of these checks, which are conducted on a six monthly basis for county retained fire stations and on a quarterly basis for Galway City fire station, is to augment the existing suite of static risk assessments of our fire stations (which are reviewed on a three yearly basis). They also allow for the early identification of potential hazards in the fire stations thus expediting the implementation of appropriate control measures and corrective actions.
- **Meetings / Consultations:** Galway FRS H&S Steering Group continued to meet monthly in 2018. H&S Operational Group meetings for the City & City Retained personnel and separately for County Retained personnel continued every two months in 2019.
- **Audits:** As mentioned above the last ISO 45001 surveillance audit was conducted in May and November 2019 by the NSAI. The fire stations of Portumna and Athenry (May) and Tuam and Mountbellew (November) were selected as the locations of the audits. Fire service personnel at all locations made significant efforts to ensure that their fire stations were well presented. The NSAI found that there was no area of concern to warrant the withdrawal of certification and the ISO 45001 certification was successfully retained. The next audits are scheduled for June 2020.
- **Legionella Control:** Following the legionella risk assessments of the fire stations that took place in 2016 a Legionella Control programme was developed and instigated in 2017. The programme involves the monthly monitoring of water services infrastructure in all fire stations by a specialist contractor. In parallel to this particular programme, a separate programme of carrying out remedial works to water services infrastructure in all fire stations was initiated to address issues identified in the legionella risk assessments. These works were predominantly concluded in December 2017. Legionella monitoring continued in 2018 and 2019 in order to continue to lower the legionella risk rating in fire stations.
- **Hygiene Sub Group:** Following international research into the potential health consequences of exposure to the products of combustion to fire fighters, and in response to discussions held during the Health and Safety Operational Group meetings, a Hygiene Sub Group was established consisting of representatives of fire service management and retained and full time fire fighters. This group is looking at national and international research and has produced a draft report containing possible control measures to be considered to reduce any potential risks.
- **H&S Documentation:** A number of documents relating to the safety management system were reviewed & updated in 2019 and copies of same issued to fire stations. We have continued to upload documentation relating to the safety management system onto the Library function of the Incident Control Room software system and appliance tablets. It is planned to keep all such H&S documentation in this manner thus ensuring that the most up to date documentation will always be available to all fire crews. All operational guidance is circulated in the same manner.
- **Incident Reporting:** 34 incidents were reported in 2019 and were broken down as follows:
 - 8 Dangerous Occurrences
 - 13 accidents without injury
 - 12 accidents with minor injury (4 of which involved lost time)
 - 1 near miss

While there is an increase in reported incidents and dangerous occurrences from last year, from an organisational point of view, it is considered beneficial for a heightened level of incident reporting to help prevent future occurrences.

Fire Operations (Response)

The total number of emergency responses by Galway Fire Rescue Service (GFRS) in Galway City and County respectively, in 2019 was 1537 (1385 incidents) with 563 in Galway City Fire and 974 emergency responses in remainder of Galway County. The overall call rate represents a decrease of 12% from 2018.

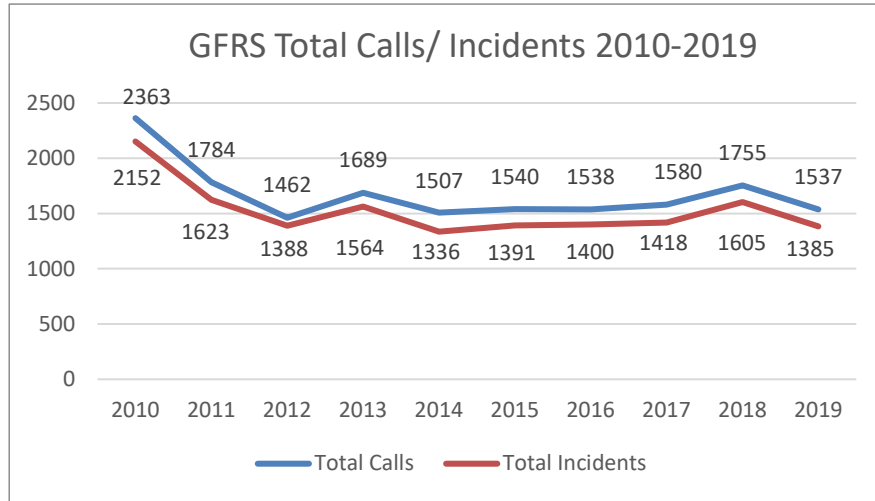


Figure 4: Incident Trends for Galway City and County 2010 – 2019

Figure 4 shows the trend of incidents /responses from 2010 – 2019 for Galway City and County. Following in increase in the trend of the number of incidents / responses attended in 2017 and 2018 there was a significant drop in the number of incidents attended in 2019. Figure 5 shows trends of incidents / responses in the City and County Fire ground areas respectively from 2009 -2019.

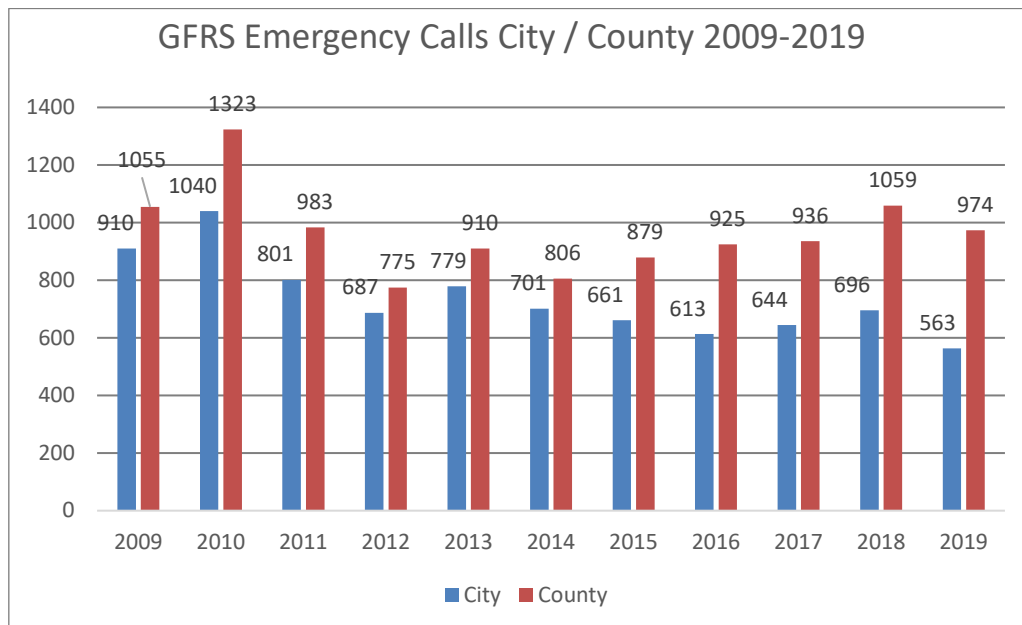


Figure 5: Incident Trends for City & County Fire Ground Areas 2010-2019

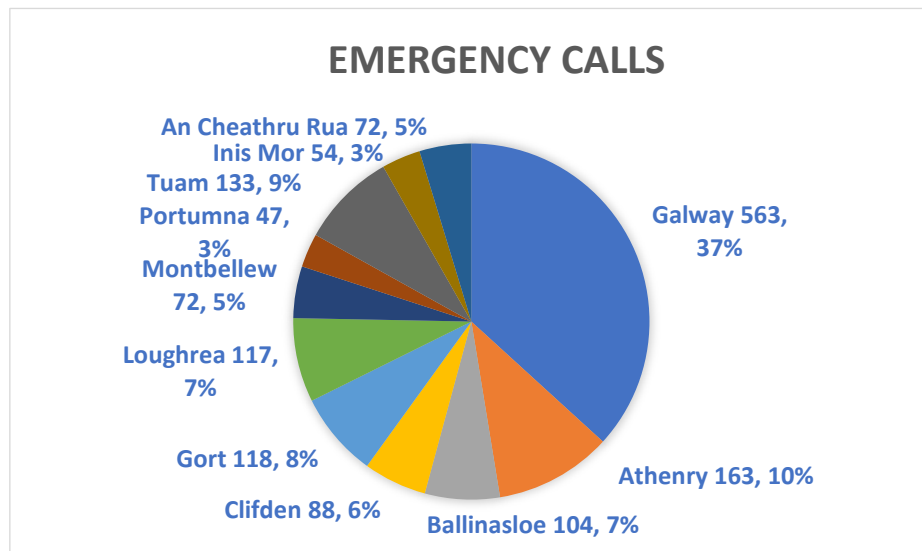


Figure 6: Breakdown of Emergency Calls Including Assisting Calls in 2019

Figures 6 & 7 give a breakdown of emergency responses and incidents by Fire Station for 2019 including and excluding assistance calls respectively. Overall activity levels have decreased by 12% from 2018 levels with the percentage activity per station remaining relatively steady.

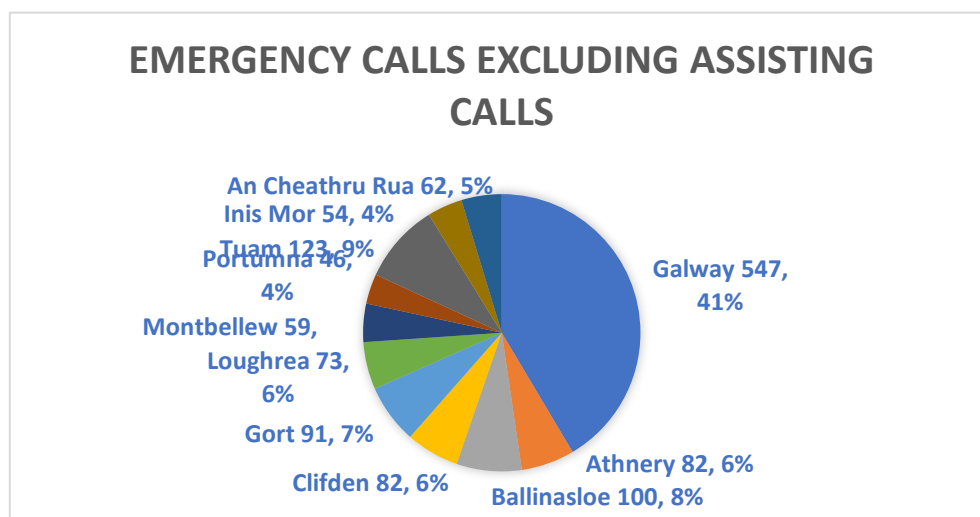


Figure 7: Breakdown by Station Excluding Assisting Calls in 2019

Operational Performance indicators 2019

The average cost per head of population for providing the Fire Service in Galway City and county was €49.50 in 2019. Performance indicators have been set nationally for local authority Fire Services:

Average response times for all incidents for first attendance vehicles in the City full-time and County retained stations were 2.28 mins and 5.29 mins respectively.

The second performance indicator is the percentage attendance at scene for fires only for different time periods from mobilising time, and was as follows for City and County Brigades;

- Less than 10 minutes – 35.0%;
- Greater than 10 minutes and less than 20 minutes – 43.3%
- Greater than 20 minutes – 21.7 %.

The performance indicators for all other incidents excluding fires for the same parameters were 47.2%; 38.3% and 14.5% respectively.

There were no fatalities due to accidental fires in 2019 in Galway city and county.

New Equipment

2 new water bowsers were purchased in 2018 for wildland fire fighting located in Ballinasloe for the East of the County and Inis Boffin for the islands as shown in Figure 8. A second-hand water tanker was also procured, and refurbishment and was located in An Cheathrú Rua. Two New 4 x 4 Jeeps were procured and located in Portumna and An Cheathrú Rua. Two Second-hand fire appliances were procured and located in Gort and Ballinasloe.



Figure 8: Wildland Water Bowers

Strategic Priority

To enhance the wellbeing of the county, its communities and people, developing sustainable communities, maximizing social inclusion and supporting active citizenship.

Community Fire Safety and Prevention

Work was ongoing in the Fire Prevention & Fire Safety Section throughout 2019.

Inspections

The Fire Prevention Section carried out 309 inspections of premises in 2019 as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act 1981, Building Control Act 1990 and 2014, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, and the Dangerous Substances Act. This figure represents an increase in inspections of 28% over the 2018 inspections

Public License Applications

The Fire Prevention Section received 204 applications and processed 157 public licence applications in 2019. The overall number of Public License applications was the same as 2017. Public license activity from 2008 to 2019 is shown in Figure 9.

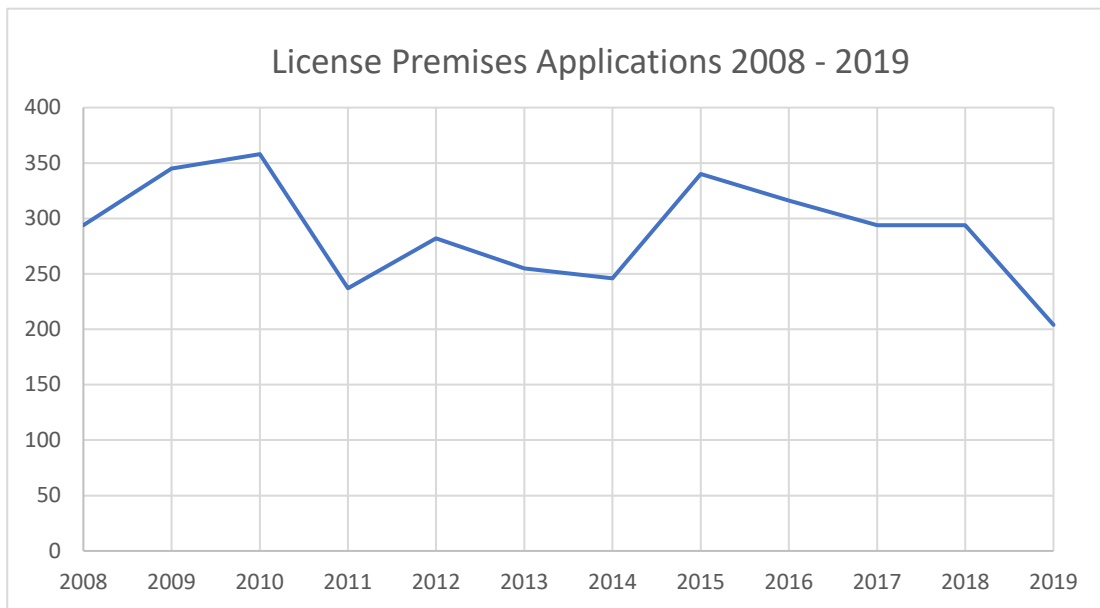


Figure 9: Public License Applications 2008- 2019

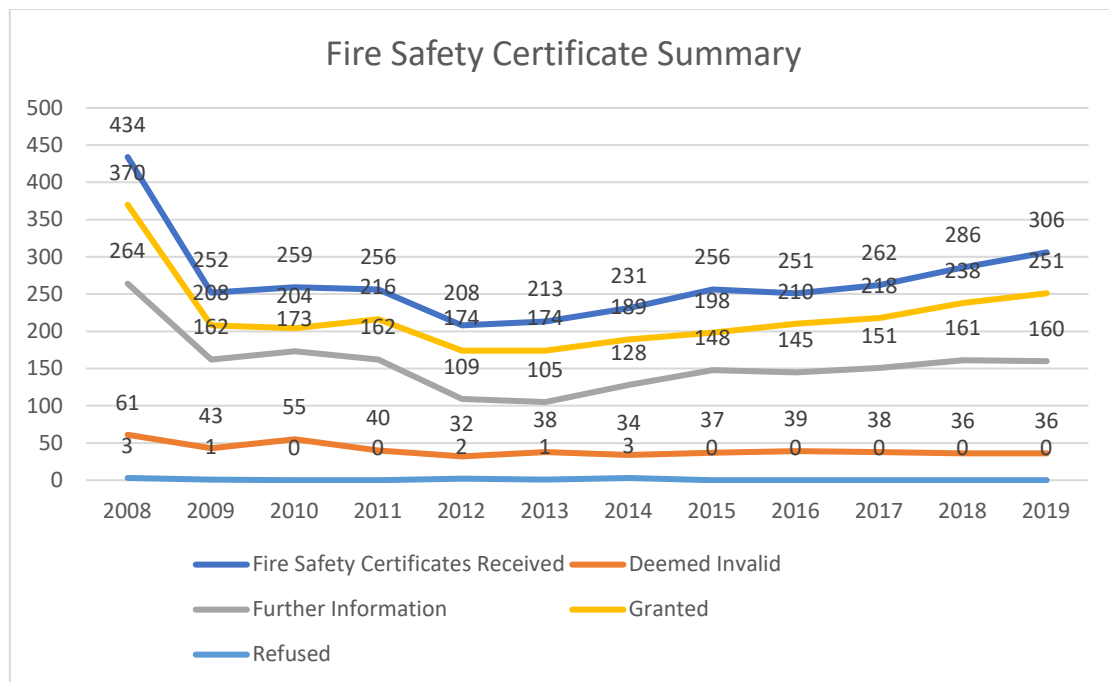


Figure 10: Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Activity 2008- 2019

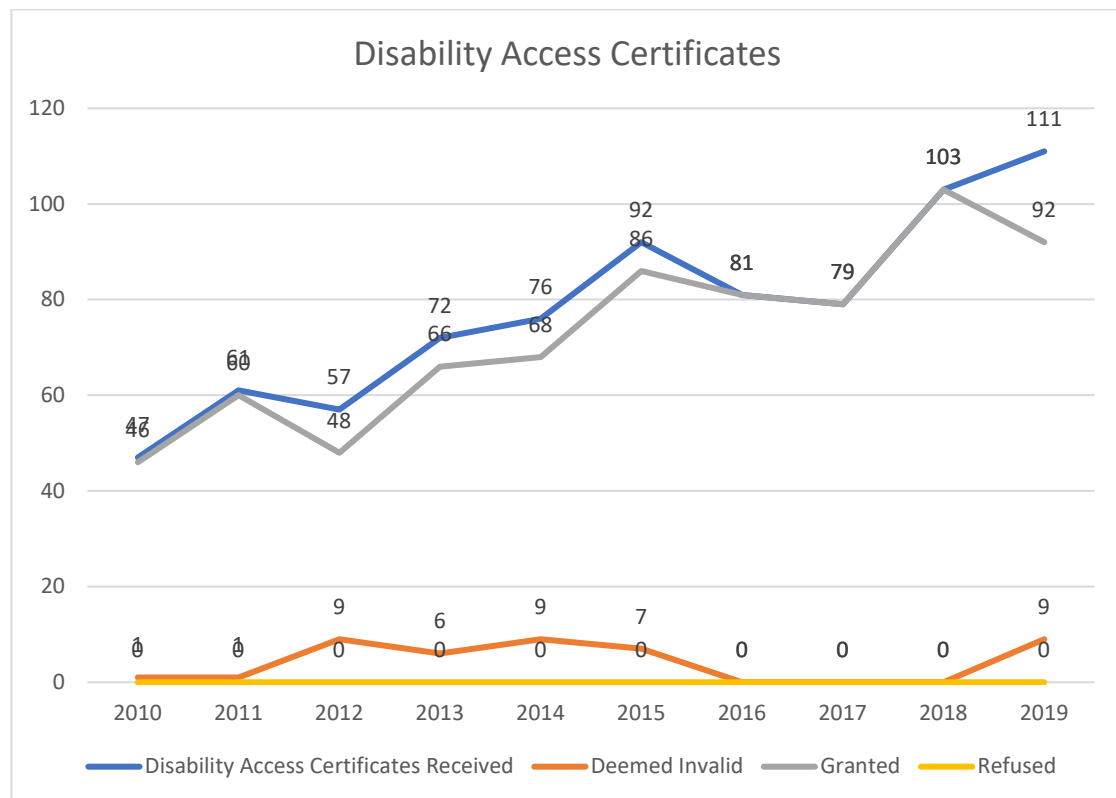


Figure 11: Disability Access Certificate Activity 2010-2019

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

The Fire Prevention Section dealt with 306 Fire Safety Certificate Applications of all types under the Building Control Regulations, 177 in the County Council area and 128 in the City Council area. The overall number of Fire Safety Certificate applications represents an increase of 7% from 2018. Fire Safety Certificate activity from 2008 to 2019 is shown in Figure 10.

These figures reflect a flat recovery in planned commercial construction activity in the Galway area in 2019 but are still low compared to boom years. However, the increasing number of FSC applications received in 2019 shows that they are returning to boom year levels with increasing size and complexity of commercial construction being proposed for development.

Disability Access Certificates

The total number of Disability Access Certificates dealt with in 2019 was 111 and increase of 8% from 2018. Disability Access Certificate activity from 2010 to 2018 is shown in Figure 11.

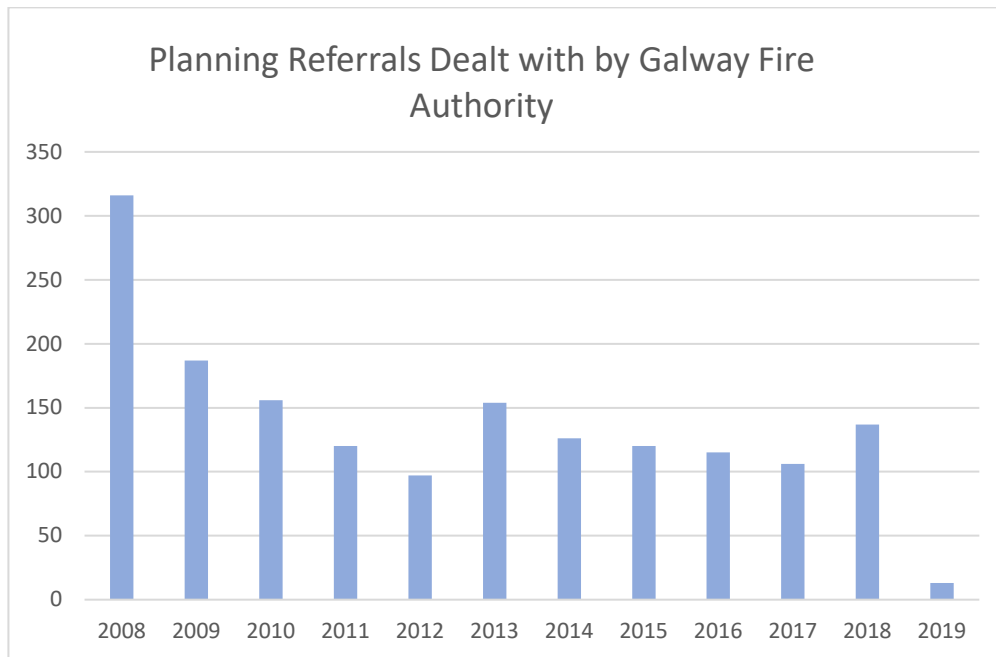


Figure 12: Planning Referrals 2008-2019


Planning Referrals

The was a considerable decrease in planning referrals in 2019 with the total number of planning referrals in 2019 for the City and County was 13 and the planning referral activity from 2008 to 2019 are shown in Figure 12.


Community Fire Safety

Self-contained smoke alarms with long life batteries were procured by Galway FRS for 250 households and were issued to households in Galway City and County for installation by community groups as in previous years.

This project was completed with the assistance of the Community and Enterprise Units in both Galway City and Galway County Councils.





Galway Fire & Rescue Service
Seirbhís Dóiteáin & Tarrthála na Gaillimhe



Wildfire Information for Farmers & Landowners

- It is **illegal** to burn on open ground for the control of growing vegetation between February 28th and September 1st
- Farmers and landowners in breach risk prosecution and or penalties under the Dept. of Agriculture's support payments for farmers (Single Farm Payment, AEOS, REPS, Disadvantaged Area Scheme)
- Galway County Council will impose a charge on the owners or the beneficial occupiers of the land or property in relation to the attendance of the Fire Service

Wildfire Information for the Public

- Avoid lighting fires outdoors when there are high winds or high temperatures
- Do not discard cigarette ends – make sure they are extinguished completely
- Report anyone acting irresponsibly or carelessly with fire in the countryside

PLEASE REMEMBER!

Wildfires are a serious drain on Fire Service resources. Fire crews may be delayed in attending life threatening house fires or road traffic collisions when fighting wildfires.

Figure 13: Wildfire Prevention Campaign Poster



Figure 14: Appliance Community Fire Safety Message

Galway FRS continued in 2019 to deliver community-based fire safety talks as requested, provide fire appliance visits to schools and participate in National Fire Safety Week with the opening of fire stations to members of the public and a newspaper advertisement campaign. The Primary Schools Programme to 3rd class primary schools continued in 2019 in the county.

Galway FRS also ran a wildfire ad campaign (see Figure 13) in local newspapers and on social media to try to reduce the number of wildfires particularly in Conamara and the South of the County. The posters were also displayed in prominent business in the areas. Galway FRS also commenced a trial of a community safety message on fire appliances reflecting the National STOP Fire campaign. It is hoped to extend this initiative to all first turn out appliances during 2020.

Major Emergency Management (MEM)

The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of New National Framework for Major Emergency Management (MEM) continued its work. Work was ongoing on reviewing the GCC Major Emergency Plan and this was completed in March 2019. As part of this review the GCC Severe Weather and Flood Response Sub-plans were reviewed and considerable progress was made in the development of a revised Mass Fatality Plan. As part of the Severe Weather planning Galway County Council developed a Severe Weather Management Application, a package for reporting and recording on an ARC GIS live map the locations and incidences of all flooding events in the Galway County Council functional area. This map is updated live on the GCC Website for the public to see.

Locally, the MEM committee continued their work on the revision of External Emergency Plans (EEP) for Upper Tier Seveso Site (under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances Regulations 2015). Under these regulations the relevant Principal Response Agencies (PRA's), termed Local Competent Authorities (LCA's), must review EEPs every three years including the running of exercises. The agencies (LCA's) involved include Galway County Council (including Galway Fire and Rescue Service as it's PES), Galway Garda Division, HSE West (including the National Ambulance Service (NAS)) and the site operator and other agencies including the Port Authority.

The following plans were reviewed and tested in 2019;

- Circle K (Upper Tier COMAH Site)
- The Inter-Agency Island Response Plan

Work was also ongoing on the completion of an External Emergency Plan for Tynagh Power Station (a lower tier site) which currently exists in draft format. To assist in the formulation of this plan a familiarisation exercise was conducted in Tynagh Power Station.

The following major emergency exercises were held in 2019;

- Circle K on the 17 May 2019
- Island Response (Aer Arann) at Conamara Airport and Inis Mór on the 12 November 2019
- An interagency Tabletop exercise was also conducted on the 19 November for Inis Óir

As part of these exercises GFRS continued to embed the Mobile On-Site Co-Ordination Unit (based in Gort fire station) as shown in Figure 15 and the refurbished Local Co-Ordination Centre as shown in Figure 16. Both use the new electronic information management system (eIMS). During and following the Circle K exercise a 30-minute summary video was produced for the key personnel that would be required to respond to an emergency at the site.

Galway County Council personnel also continued their participation in both the MEM West Regional Steering and the MEM West Regional Working Groups involving members of the Principal Emergency Services (PES) in the West Region (Local Authority Fire Services, Local Garda Divisions and HSE West Ambulance Service).

Galway County Council Headquarters continues as the main location of the Local Co-Ordination Centre (LCC) for the three Principal Response Agencies (PRA's), Galway County Council, HSE West and Galway Garda Division, for Major Emergencies in the Galway City and County area. In mid-2018 a case was submitted to the NDFEM for funding to provide a back-up generator for the LCC as part of GCC's business continuity plan. That generator has been procured and a claim for recoupment for the cost of the generator is being processed by Galway Fire and Rescue Service.

Galway County Council also managed the annual regional claim on behalf of the 8 PRA's in the West region in 2019 as in previous years.

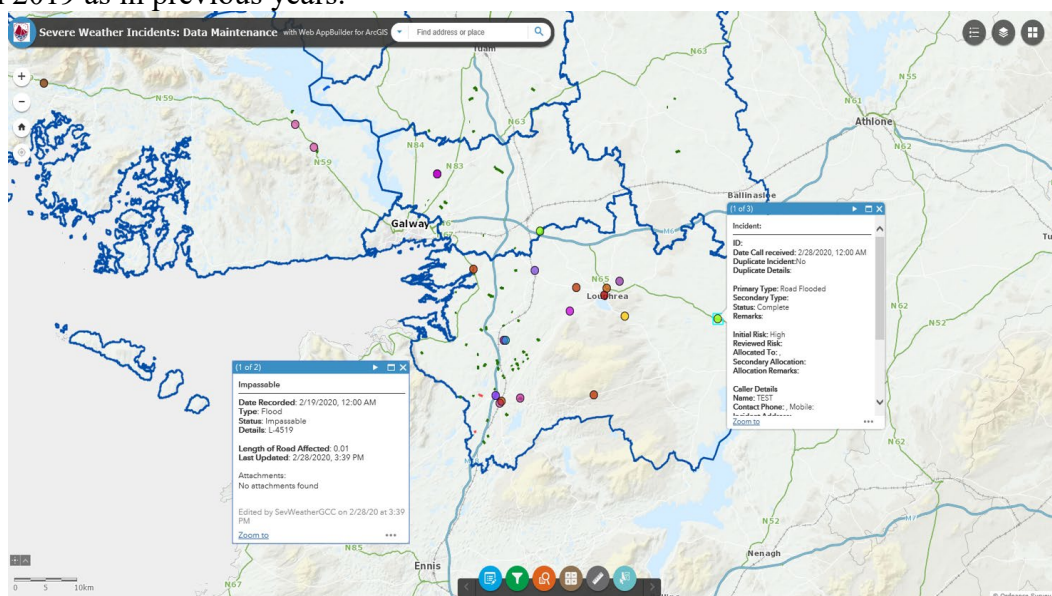


Figure 15: Severe Weather Incidents Mapping System



Figure 16: Circle K External Emergency Plan Exercise
17th May 2019



Figure 17: Galway Regional MEM On-Site Co-Ordination Centre (OSCC) Unit

Critical Incident Stress Management

Galway County Council as contracting authority for the local authority Fire Services in the CAMP West region continues to manage a contract by Inspire Ltd for the provision of CISM services to Fire Services in the West region from October 2017 to September 2020.

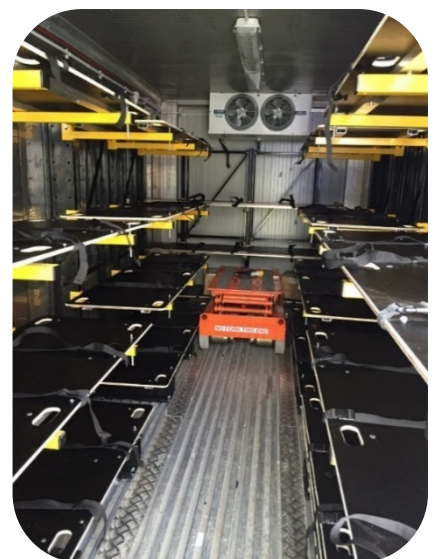


Figure 18: Fleximort Refrigerated Multiple Fatality Storage Unit



Figure 19: Refrigerated Multiple Fatality Storage Container Unit

Figure 20: Internal Layout Multiple Fatality Storage Container Unit



Strategic Priority

To optimize our resources and maximize organizational efficiency, effectiveness, cohesiveness and value for money.

Capital

In 2019, Galway Fire and Rescue Service applied for recoupment of capital funding of approximately €394,000 from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management of the Department of Housing, Planning, and Community & Local Government. This related to the following;

- New Tuam Fire Station contract payments and professional fees
- Procurement of a new Class B Fire Appliance for Galway City
- Smoke alarms procurement
- Annual Regional MEM claim

We acknowledge the receipt of this vital support to the Council, in supporting the provision of fire and emergency services by the Council in the city and county area.

Training

As in previous years a significant amount of training was conducted by Galway FRS in 2019. This training is delivered by the following means:

- Drill night training at retained stations in the City and County
- Daily watch training in Galway City full-time station
- Centralised training courses both initial and refresher

Drill Night Training Programme

On-station training in accordance with the drill night training programme continued to be delivered locally in all retained Fire Stations in 2019. This training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station.

Daily Watch Training Programme

On-station training in accordance with the watch daily training programme continued to be delivered locally Galway City Fire Station for full-time personnel in 2019. This training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station. Skills maintenance for specialist roles was also carried out based on special appliances located at the station including the:

- Hazmat unit
- Foam unit
- Emergency tender
- Aerial ladder platform (ALP)

Centralised Training Programme

Initial training courses and refresher courses were organised centrally, as in previous years, as per the annual training programme for 2019. Courses conducted included:

- Recruit Course
- Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers
- Breathing apparatus refresher
- Compartment fire behaviour initial and refresher

- Positive pressure ventilation
- Emergency Medical First Responder
- Winch operation
- Heavy rescue
- Working at height / chimney fire procedure
- Rope rescue
- Water Rescue and Water Rescue Advanced
- Pump and Compressed Air Foam System operator
- Confined space rescue for incident commanders / rope rescue supervisors
- Aircraft Fire Fighting

A specialised training course, confined space rescue for incident commanders / rope rescue supervisors, was delivered by the NDFEM in 2018. The students on this course then rolled out of confined space training for all officers and fire fighters in 2019 which will be concluded in 2020. Firefighters across the county also attended both initial and refresher training in Emergency Medical First Responder training to support their life support skills at incidents.

A 3 weeklong Initial Recruits Course to the NDFEM curriculum, which provides the foundation level training for our retained firefighters, was held in Clifden Fire Station. Subsequently these firefighters progressed with their training when they attended an intensive two-week Breathing Apparatus Wearers course in Clonmel Fire Station, Co. Wicklow.

A full-time recruit fire fighter for Galway City successfully completed a 10-week recruits' course at the Dublin Fire Brigade Training Centre and went operational in 2019.

Centralised National Training

Galway FRS also continued to send students on centralised training courses conducted by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) at various training centres around the country.

These included:

- Road traffic collision instructor course
- Hazardous materials course
- Heavy Rescue Instructor Course
- Breathing Apparatus Instructor Course
- Ships & Ports Course
- Hydra incident command training
- Fire engineering and operational command seminars for senior officers



Figure 21: Compartment Fire Behaviour Training in Clifden



Figure 22: Confined Space Rescue Training in Tuam



Figure 23: Official Opening of Tuam Fire Station on 15th April 2019

Fire Station Re-Development

A new 4 bay retained fire station became operational in Tuam in late October 2018 following a 10-month contract and was officially opened on the 15th April 2019. Additional capital appraisals were submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management for Athenry which received approval for funding in October 2019 and work was also progressed in relation to site procurement for Galway City and Loughrea Fire Stations.

New class B Fire appliance

Tenders for the delivery of a new class B Fire Appliance were completed on a regional basis as part of the National Procurement Process from 2018-2020 and the new appliance was delivered to Galway City fire station in 2019.

Personnel

Maintaining crew numbers is a constant issue in the retained service and difficulties in recruiting make it difficult to maintain required availability arrangements. Ongoing recruitment continues on an annual basis.

Civil Defence

Galway Civil Defence, through their five training centres in Galway City, Oranmore, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Clonberne had an intensive year with duty activities and training, locally and centrally through the Civil Defence College, Roscrea. A programme of training in Cardiac First Response, First Aid Responder and Emergency First Response was ongoing through 2019. Specialized training in Flood Water Responder, Severe Weather Driver Training and Sea Survival Training were also conducted by out-side agencies in 2019.

Ongoing training through the Civil Defence College in Roscrea took place during 2019 in conjunction with the 2019 training programme. Instructor re-certification in various disciplines within the service was also held in the college.

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

Civil Defence continued their use of the e-vetting system for new and current members in 2019. This system continues to prove more efficient and vetting status returns are received in a much shorter timeframe.

Galway Civil Defence were involved in 3 missing person search and recovery tasks in 2019, 2 of which were in the city area and 1 in the Clifden area. SUA (Small Unmanned Aircraft) teams and boat teams were involved in the city searches and SUA teams assisted in the Clifden search in support of An Garda Síochána and the Irish Coastguard. Assistance of our SUA team was requested by other counties during the year to assist in missing person searches.

Civil Defence SUA operators also maintained their Flight Training with many weekends attending tuition and upskilling at the Civil Defence Phoenix Centre in Dublin and various host counties around the country.

Ballinasloe Civil Defence with the assistance of the County unit again provided medical cover at the annual Ballinasloe Fair over a 10-day period. Civil Defence members also attended planning meetings over the course of the year for the annual fair.

Galway Civil Defence assisted the PRA's during Storm Lorenzo in October 2019. Crews also responded to Tidal Weather Events that posed potential flooding issues to the city during 2019. Galway Civil Defence received a new 4x4 Ford Ranger crew cab from the Civil Defence Branch through funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund. It will enhance Civil Defence response when requested.

Civil Defence members continue to assist and build on their relationship and profile within their communities with their presence at duty/events, with over 250 events attended throughout the city and county in 2019. Civil Defence intend to remain in readiness to assist again in 2020.



Figure 24: Civil Defence SUA Team conducting a missing person search near Galway Harbour.

Strategic Priority

To foster a culture of excellence in delivery of Customer Services.

Customer Service

Galway Fire and Rescue Service processed and addressed fire prevention complaints as received on a prioritised basis. A new Customer Service section has been included in the Draft Section 26 Fire and Emergency Operations Plan.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES

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 has responsibility for Road Safety, Marine and Arterial Drainage.

Strategic Priority

**To serve as the main vehicle of governance and public service
at local level enhancing the quality of life in our County.**

A number of significant achievements were recorded by the Roads & Transportation Unit during 2019 include:

- A request for further information (RFI) was received from An Bord Pleanála in April 2019 in relation to the N6 Galway City Ring Road (N6 GCRR). The request was responded to by the required deadline of the end of August. The significant additional information submitted required a further period of public consultation. An oral hearing for the N6 GCRR is expected early in Q1 of 2020.
- The contract was awarded for the N59 Maam Cross to Bunnakill Scheme. Construction is to commence in early January 2020 and has an expected duration of 18 months. The works involve the realignment of a section of the existing N59 starting at Maam Cross and running east to Bunnakill. The section is approximately 5.2km in length.
- The contract was also awarded for the N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara Scheme. Construction is to commence in early January 2020 and has an expected duration of 18 months. The works involve the realignment of a section of the existing N67 starting south of Ballinderren and extending south to Dunguaire Castle at the entrance to Kinvara. The section is approximately 3.2km in length and will include a cycleway.
- The contract was also awarded for the N59 West of Letterfrack Scheme. Construction is to commence in early January 2020 and has an expected duration of 6 months. The works involve the realignment of a section of the existing N59 starting at the entrance to the Connemara National Park in Letterfrack and running west towards Clifden. The section is approximately 0.5km in length.

Strategic Priority
To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.

2019 ROADS PROGRAMME

The 2019 Roads Programme was prepared following allocations for National and Non-National road construction, repairs and maintenance grants totalling **€50,322,364** from Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and an allocation from Galway County Council:

National Roads -	€21,491,934
Non-National Roads -	€28,830,430

The Roads Programme was prepared in consultation with the elected members, reviewed and adopted by each Municipal District.

Strategic Priority
To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise

The grant allocated by Transport Infrastructure Ireland for the Motorway & National Roads for the year 2019 was **€21,491,934**.

The 2019 allocation divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€ 19,874,781
Maintenance Works	€ 1,097,153
PPP Related costs	€ 520,000

Funding continued to be provided in 2019 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban Routes. The following major/minor projects were managed by the Galway National Roads Project Office and the costs associated with this programme recouped in full, from Transport Infrastructure Ireland:

M6	Galway City Bypass	€1,500,000
N59	Maam Cross to Bunnakill	€2,000,000
N59	West of Letterfrack	€3,000,000
N63	Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh Hill	€1,115,000
N63	Maigh Cuilinn Bypass	€500,000
N63	Liss to Abbey Realignment	€100,000
N67	Ballinderreen to Kinvara	€3,000,000

LAND ACQUISITIONS

- Land acquisitions were ongoing for the N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass and consultants were appointed in 2018 and it is intended that the scheme will go to tender in 2020
- Purchase of land continued to facilitate the N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh Hill road projects
- Purchase of land continues to facilitate the N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara realignment Phase 2 road project
- Land acquisitions were ongoing for the N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard scheme between Maam Cross and Bunakill
- Land acquisitions were ongoing to facilitate the N63 Carrowmunniagh Safety Scheme (Twenty Minute Hill)

Other milestones achieved relating to the National Primary & Secondary Road Network during 2019 included:

- Consultants were appointed for the delivery of Phases 0 to 4 of Transport Infrastructure Irelands Project Management Guidelines (up to and including the statutory planning process) for the N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment Scheme
- Galway County Council design team have commenced the N65 Kilmeen Junction Prioritisation Scheme.
- Galway County Council Project Engineers have recommenced the N59 Clifden to Maam Cross Scheme.
- Galway County Council Project Engineers are advancing the N84 Galway City Boundary to Clonboo Scheme.
- Phase 1 of N63 Ballygar Street Enhancement Works was completed
- N63 Rooaunmore Safety Works was completed
- Phase 1 of N83 Poll Caoin Safety Works was completed
- Part VIII Planning was approved for N83(formally N17) Baile Chláir Street Enhancement Scheme
- N59 Sraith Salach Pavement works complete to augment the works done in 2018. Between 2018 and 2019, 12km of pavement works complete between Maam Cross and Sraith Salach.
- N60 Ballymoe North pavement works were completed.
- N18 Northern Approach to Carrowmoneesh Roundabout was complete

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The expenditure incurred by Galway County Council for Regional and Local Roads, as funded by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, in 2019 was €28,830,430 divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€25,123,430
Maintenance Works	€ 3,707,000

The expenditure can be classified under the following broad headings:

Grant Category	2019
Improvement Grant	€14,497,500
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€ 3,707,000
Discretionary Grant	€ 5,607,500
Specific Improvement Grants	€ 1,204,920
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€ 286,500
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	€ 415,000
Speed Limits in Housing Estates	€ 25,970
Strategic Regional and Local Roads	€ 65,000
Drainage Works	€ 1,380,000
Training	€ 95,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€ 546,040
Former National Roads	€ 1,000,000
Overall Total	€28,830,430

Local Roads Maintenance:

The sum provided from the Council's own resources in 2019 was €6,025,436. The Local Roads General Maintenance allocation of €2,575,436, which includes a provision of €1,161,950 for ongoing operational costs.

The sum of €1,413,486 was allocated amongst the Municipal District for Local Roads Maintenance as follows:

Athenry/Oranmore	Local Roads Maintenance	€129,823
Ballinasloe	Local Roads Maintenance	€276,694
Conamara	Local Roads Maintenance	€285,016
Loughrea	Local Roads Maintenance	€354,786
Tuam	Local Roads Maintenance	€367,167
	TOTAL	€1,413,486

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

An allocation of €265,000 was provided for Winter Maintenance in 2019, from the Discretionary Maintenance Grant allocated by the Department of Transport. This allocation funds the gritting of priority routes in the county in accordance with the Winter Service Plan 2019-2020.

REGIONAL & LOCAL ROAD BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME 2019

Funding of €415,000 was allocated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards the rehabilitation of 5 specific bridges in County Galway being completed in 2019, along with residual works from 2018 and a further two bridges partially completed by year end:

Bridge	2019 Expenditure €
L7173-33 Gortmore Bridge	103,216
L4203-0 Bolagh Bridge Woodford	20,784
L4512-0 Ballybackagh Bridge	97,283
R336-219 Aughawollia Bridge	12,807
R336-219 Derrough North	20,587
L53286-0 Tullyboy Bridge	92,852
L1301-43 Knocknafaughy	22,241
Completion of 2018 bridge works	45,230
Total Bridge Rehabilitation	415,000

Funding of **€360,500** was allocated from the Discretionary grant for the repair of Regional and Local Roads Bridges:

Bridge Repairs Programme				
Municipal District	Road No.	Bridge	Allocation	Total Municipal District
Athenry / Oranmore	L - 31171	Derroogh, Monivea	€40,000	€ 40,000
Ballinasloe	L – 74462	Gortlemon, Woodlawn	€ 15,000	€ 15,000
Conamara	L – 12016	Doiriú, Ros an Mhíl	€ 10,000	€ 95,000
	L – 12053	Derryadda East, Sraith Salach	€ 40,000	
	R343	Crusheen, Cashla	€ 25,000	
	L – 5102	Tooreena, Tullycross	€ 20,000	
Loughrea	R461	Inchaboy, Gort	€ 10,000	€ 70,000
	L – 42177	Sonnagh, Kilchreest	€ 60,000	
Tuam	L – 6501	Laughil, Clonbern	€30,000	€ 100,000
	L – 2226	Cloondahamper, Tuam	€50,000	
	R328	Castlefarm, Dunmore	€20,000	
All		Design & Land Acquisition	€40,500	€ 40,500
Total				€ 360,500

Works were completed at nine of the bridges along with one from the 2018 programme.

Strategic Priority

To support the balanced and sustainable development of a cohesive county through the provision of essential infrastructure and progressive planning.

MARINE MAINTENANCE

Galway County Council has begun a review of the marine and maintenance programme prioritising works as the budget will allow. There are in excess of 180 coastal piers listed following the last review within the County. A priority list of 62 landing places had previously been identified in order to implement a programme of necessary works including repairs and replacements to ladders and railings, regular removal of algal growth on slipways, and safety improvements to piers. Marine Maintenance also includes maintenance of visitor yacht moorings and the navigation lights that are in the charge of Galway County Council.

In 2019 improvements were carried out at Canower; Ervellagh; Ardmore Carna; and Roundstone. Lights were repaired on Inis Oírr, Inisboffin and Kilronan. Approximately 27 slipways were cleaned. Natura Impact Statement and/or screening reports are being completed for Crumpán and Drom piers.

There are approximately 60 moorings spread over 8 separate locations.

As part of a 2-3 Year programme, 34 were replaced in 2019.

STRATEGIC HARBOURS

Caladh Inis Oírr

Galway County Council appointed Punch Consulting to advance the design and construction phase of the harbour development. Surveys were completed to support the contract documents that have been prepared for the tender process. CPO documents have been prepared to satisfy the scheme needs. This work will continue into 2020 and the County Council is working to progress the implementation of the project with Roinn na Gaeltachta.

Caladh Mór Inis Meáin

A review of the feasibility study of 2009 supported the Business Plan application which has been submitted to Roinn na Gaeltachta for consideration. Galway County Council has commissioned the National Maritime College in Cork to carry out modelling to inform the design of the pier.

Strategic Priority

To optimize our resources and maximize organizational efficiency, effectiveness, cohesiveness and value for money.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Connemara Greenway

In January 2019, Galway County Council was successful in their application under the Outdoor Recreation & Infrastructure Scheme and secured funding amount of €500,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

The funding sought was for works for the extension of the Connemara Greenway in townlands of Derryvickrune and Ballinahinch. This section will connect the 6km section of Greenway that was completed in 2018 at Ballinahinch. The funding secured from DRCD was specifically used for the design and construction of a new bridge over the Cloonbeg river, which is an iconic bridge along the dismantled railway line. The intention is to retain the existing steel girders and design a new deck.

In September 2019 a grant amount of €2,600,000 was allocated to Galway County Council by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport toward the development of the outstanding sections of Greenway between the town of Clifden and the village of Sraith Salach. Works will be ongoing through 2020 and into 2021.



Connemara Greenway at Derryvickrune

Public Lighting

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) allocated €346,000 in 2019 which facilitated the retrofit of 532 lanterns on national roads to energy efficient LED units. A further 426 lanterns on non-national roads were retrofitted with energy efficient LED units at a cost of €270,000. Ongoing repair and maintenance of existing public lighting continued during 2019.

The Roads Management Office (RMO) have been tasked by the National Public Lighting Steering Group to explore options to reduce energy consumption and upgrade the existing Public Lighting asset nationally. The National Public Lighting Upgrade project will help Local Authorities and TII reach their national energy efficiency targets, reduce energy and maintenance cost to improve and provide a better service to the public.

The RMO is progressing the development of contract documentation to facilitate the roll out of regionalised large scale retrofit contract which Galway County Council intend to participate in 2020.



FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES

Galway County Council and the OPW work in partnership to deliver Flood Relief Schemes (substantial schemes) and Flood Mitigation works (local mitigation). The OPW funds all major flood relief schemes - schemes are carried out directly by the OPW under the Arterial Drainage Acts or can be carried out by Galway County Council under the Planning & Development Acts. The OPW also provides 90% funding towards local flood mitigation works. A steering group meets regularly to ensure timely delivery of proposals that will reduce the risk of future flooding.

The OPW also provides advice and assistance to Galway County Council when flood events occur.

Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme:

All substantial works on the scheme, including works on five bridges, riverbed deepening, and creation of a kilometre long two-stage channel have now been completed. The remaining culverts and maintenance works on the Aggard Stream will be completed in 2020 along with minor accommodation works on the Dunkellin river.



Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme – Newly constructed span at Dunkellin bridge

South Galway, Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme:

Due to the complexity and unique nature of the turlough environment and the fact that this project is the first in the country to deal with so many variables over a 270 sq.km. area there has been considerable time required to ensure that the final flooding solution will be based on the very best scientific data available. Work on inputs for complex modelling has now been completed with preferred options identified and consideration of environmental constraints being finalised.

The Feasibility Report is due to be completed in 2020, with public exhibition scheduled for the latter part of 2020.



South Galway, Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme – Flood waters at Castletown, Gort

Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme:

The design team consisting of ARUP as the Design Engineers and Ryan Hanley as Environmental Consultants were appointed in late 2019, early 2020. For 2020, it is intended that the design team will progress with data collection & review, procurement, and management of surveys. It is expected that public consultation will take place in the first quarter of 2020, along with collaborative workshops with stakeholders.

Clifden Flood Relief Scheme:

In 2019, the OPW has granted funding to Galway County Council for the implementation of a flood relief project in Clifden as part of the “*Flood Risk Management Plans – Small Project Funding Application*”.

Galway County Council is currently in the process of liaising with a Consultant with a view to progressing this scheme through the preliminary scoping phase.

Kinvara Individual Property Protection:

Galway County Council applied to the OPW in December 2019 for funding under “*OPW – Coastal Flooding Minor Works Application*”.

Discussions are ongoing between Galway County Council and the OPW regarding how an IPP scheme (Floodgates) will be administered in Kinvara.

FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS

The Council carried out works at 20 locations in 2019, under the OPW funded Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme with a total funding received of €703,527, which cover 90% of the total cost with the balance funded by Galway County Council. The amount includes €242,550 received for the completion of the Kiltiernan to Ballinderreen Flood Relief Scheme.

Funding of €205,975 has also been approved by the OPW for works to be carried out at a further 11 locations for completion in 2020. Funding applications were submitted for a further 8 locations in 2019 to the OPW for consideration.

Funding of €76,500 was received and coastal protection works completed at 2 locations with a further €135,000 approved for works to be completed in 2020 at Leenaun.

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

The Council discharges its statutory responsibility for the maintenance of certain drainage works in the County through the Roads and Transportation Unit and the Council’s Municipal District Offices. The Council has charge of twelve Drainage Districts and continues to allocate funds towards two former Joint Drainage Districts that were dissolved in 2014. The Council spent €151,240.82 on Drainage District works in 2019.

In 2019 maintenance works were carried out in the following Drainage Districts: - Ahascragh, Dunkellin, Kellysgrove, Kilchreest, Lavally, Mountbellew, Oranhill and Suck.

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.

Strategic Priority

To enhance the wellbeing of the county, its communities and people, developing sustainable communities, maximizing social inclusion and supporting active citizenship.

CLÁR

In September 2019 County Galway received an allocation of €264,300 from the Department of Rural and Community Development for 6 projects under the CLÁR Measure 1 projects – support for schools and community safety measures in rural areas. The facilities to be provided and/or upgraded, by the Council, included footpaths, safe & secure drop off areas at schools, line markings, zebra crossings and parking facilities in designated CLÁR areas. Given the late allocation of this funding, completion of works

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

With financial support from the Department of Rural and Community Development Galway County Council continued to support the revitalisation of towns and villages to increase their potential for their communities, both their living environment and improved economic development. In 2019 Galway County Council was successful in securing funding for four more projects under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme:

- Provide foot and cycle paths and refurbish the Green Space in the village of Oranmore €250,000
- Extend the footpath from the community centre to sport and recreational facilities in Craughwell €125,000
- Installation of a pedestrian crossing, new footpaths, tactile paving and public realm works in Corofin - €125,000
- Upgrade and extend footpaths in four areas in the village of Killimor - €125,000

The Council has further supported communities in directly accessing funding under this scheme by providing advice and assistance in developing suitable schemes for various locations. Approval on the 80% grant allocation for the above was announced by the Department of Rural & Community Development in late 2019 with works to be completed on the above projects by October 2020.

Ballinasloe Town Enhancement project:

Street enhancement works have been completed on Dunlo St. and Main St. in 2019, with works continuing into 2020 for Society St., Bridge St. and the final sections of pipework being completed on Sarsfield road. It is anticipated that the project will be completed May/June 2020.



SMARTER TRAVEL & SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY



The Council continued its proactive role in promoting sustainable mobility by delivering a programme of events to mark Bike Week 22nd to 30th June.

Thirteen events took place which included fun family cycles, bike repair workshops and initiatives such as ‘Move 4 Health’ promoting cycling to individuals with disabilities.

Two events brought in our local and neighbouring County Greenways into use - one event involving the Mayo Greenway for children, teachers and parents from the primary schools from the off-shore islands (Aran and Boffin) took part in a cycle from Mulranny to Newport. While 90 students from Scoil Mhuire in Clifden took in 16km of the Conamara Greenway. As in previous years both Local Authorities in Galway, in association with Galway Sports Partnership cooperated in the promotion and advertisement of all Bike Week events.



ROAD SAFETY TOGETHER COMMITTEE

The Road Safety Together Committee met on three occasions in 2019 – continuing its active role in the promotion of road safety in Co. Galway.

Specific road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2019 included:

- Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for Post Primary Schools
- Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme
- Funding of Cycle Training to National Schools

‘Arrive Alive’

Galway Co. Council launched the ‘Arrive Alive’ road safety initiative on 4th October 2019 in Áras an Chontae. The campaign involves the distribution of hundreds of Disc Holders (Tax/ Insurance/NCT) to customers in NCT Centres in Clifden and Ballinasloe and to motor tax renewal customers in the Council’s Motor Tax Offices in Co. Hall, An Cheathrú Rua and Ballinasloe. The Disc Holder advises on ‘No Texting and Driving’.

L-R: Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, Deirdre Caufield, Road Safety Officer and Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim)



Be Safe, Be Seen!



Galway County Council, in conjunction with NUI Galway’s Students Union, ran a road safety awareness campaign encouraging students who walk or cycle to college to arrive safely. High visibility vests were distributed to students attending the college during Road Safety Week 2019, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority.

Irish Road Safety Week took place in October 2019 and the Council raised road safety awareness amongst the general public by the distribution of leaflets such as speeding, drink and drug driving, driver tiredness, mobile phone use, correct use of roundabouts, etc., and free reflective materials were provided. Free Eye Tests were offered to the public, in

conjunction with Specsavers, to ensure the correct vision for driving. Advance Pitstop offered free 5-point safety check to the general public to ensure their vehicle’s tyres; brakes; shocks; lights/ levels and wipers are in proper working order. The Council teamed up with GMIT’s Students Union and a road safety awareness campaign took place which ensured pedestrians and cyclists visibility on our

roads whereby high visibility vests, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority, were distributed to students attending the college.

‘Be Bright’

A road safety awareness talk was given to young pupils in Scoil Éinne, An Spidéal, on seat belt wearing; travelling by car and by bus, walking and cycling and the importance of being visible at all times by encouraging the pupils to wear their high visibility vests.



Pupils and teacher in Scoil Éinne, An Spidéal and Ms. Deirdre Caulfield, Road Safety Officer

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES



The Council, in partnership with the Department of Social Protection and the local community, continue to promote and encourage the development of Community Employment.

In 2019, the Council continue to sponsor five schemes with 75 participants in the following locations: Maigh Cuilinn/Oughterard, Laurencetown/Abbey, Gort & Environs, Tuam & Environs and Cloch na Ron/Clifden.

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 €578,583, of which €531,290 was grant funding with the remaining covered by local contribution by the applicants, was incurred toward the completion of 35 project under the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme.

Strategic Priority**To foster a culture of excellence in delivery of Customer Services.****CUSTOMER SERVICE**

- The Unit continued to operate an Online Payment Facility to allow for the payment of Fixed Charge Notices (Parking Fines).
- The Unit continued to avail of www.galway.ie throughout 2019 to provide a Traffic Information Service, providing information on traffic disruptions arising as a result of road works, temporary road closures, roadworks speed limits etc.
- The Unit communicated with the public through the use of various media, such as local radio, website, twitter, local newspapers, e-mails, texts, through the usage of the on-line customer comments system and the national on-line system Fix Your Street.ie.
- The Roads and Transportation Unit successfully and efficiently delivered an extensive programme of works in 2019, which included works in addition to those included in the Roads Programmes, funded by other Government Departments such as Department of Rural and Community Development, An Roinn Cultúir, Oidreacht agus Gaeltachta.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

HUMAN RESOURCES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Having the right culture in our organisation is critical to realising our vision and all our staff play their part in creating a desirable culture for the Council. It is built by people who demonstrate behaviours and attitudes that are aligned with our values of integrity, accountability, respect and excellence.

The Human Resources Department engage with line managers and staff in promoting their personal and career development thus enabling them to reach their potential and contribute fully to the achievement of the Councils strategic and business objectives.

The Human Resources Department through the implementation of Council policies and procedures support good governance and provide transparency and clarity to all employees about the principles, rules and guidelines that apply to their work and conditions of employment; promote a positive working environment for our dedicated and highly skilled workforce; work to attract and retain the workforce we need to deliver on our commitments; provide training and development opportunities for staff within financial constraints; make provision for flexible work arrangements and deliver statutory and non-statutory leave variations and staff welfare policies which create a positive work environment to improve work life balance and maintain stable industrial relations.

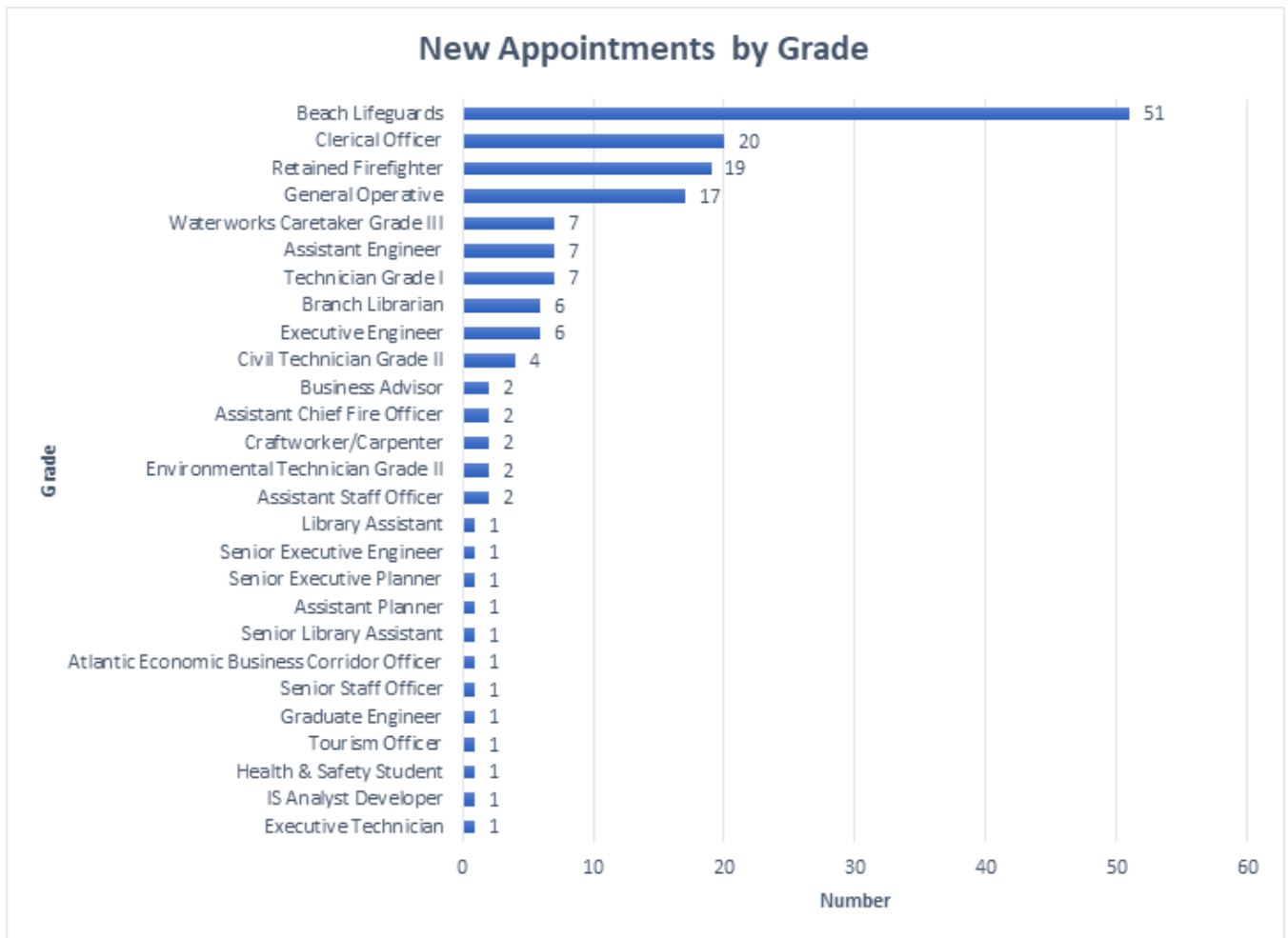
Workforce Management / Recruitment

Workforce management is a critical function carried out by the Human Resources Department as it facilitates the assignment of staff throughout the organisation to achieve balance between service areas in accordance with organisational priorities and recent national agreements. This balance, while maintaining service delivery and planning for further local government reform, is a significant challenge for the Council. A detailed workforce plan was submitted to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in March 2014. The objective of the Workforce Plan is to enable effective and efficient service delivery with the staff level available within financial resources.

Galway County Council's Staff Headcount at the end of Quarter 4, 2019 is as follows:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Headcount</i>
<i>Core Staff</i>	<i>813</i>
<i>Retained Fire Fighters</i>	<i>112</i>
<i>Non DoHP&LG</i>	<i>84</i>

The Human Resources Department ran 56 recruitment competitions up to the end of Quarter 4, 2019 which resulted in 166 new appointments and 102 promotional appointments. Staff recruitment and re-deployment has been targeted at the priority areas of Housing, Economic, Rural & Community Development and the National Roads Project Office.

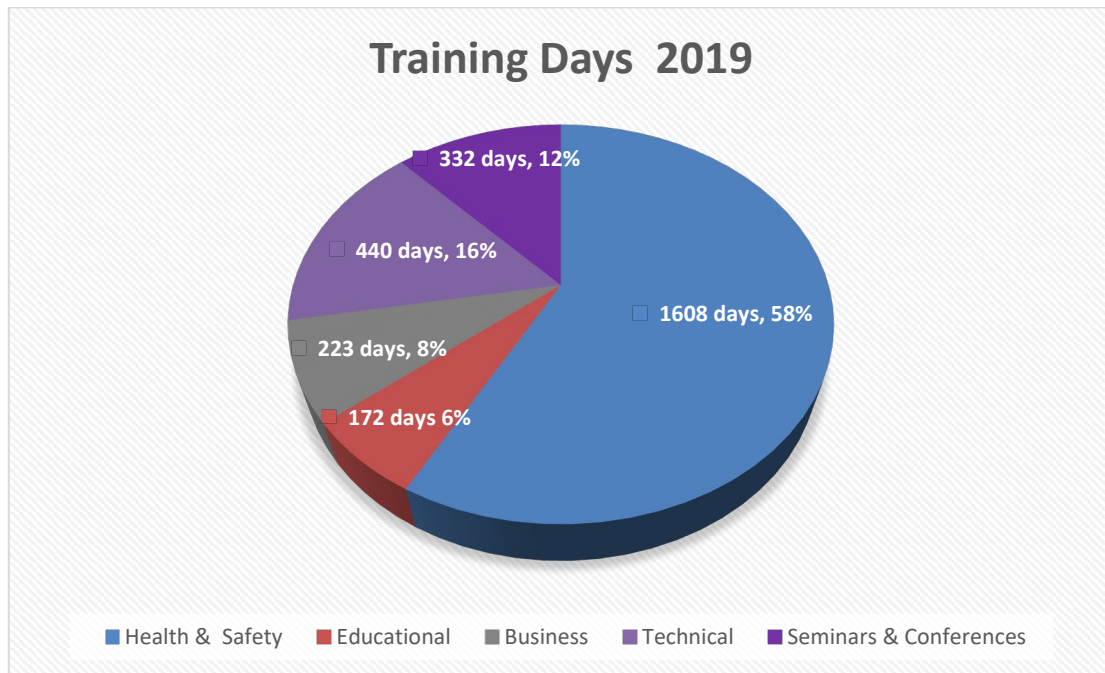


Galway County Council continues to facilitate community employment scheme placements and work experience placements from third level institutions.

Staff Training and Development

Comprehensive training for staff was carried out in 2019 with the main focus on Statutory and Health & Safety Training. National Training Grants in the areas of Water Services, Environmental and Non-National Roads supported the Council in the provision of this training. Other essential training was determined in conjunction with the utilisation of the Performance Management Development System. The Council continued to support further education, IPA Local Government Programmes and the attendance of staff at Seminars and Conferences in 2019.

The total number of Training Days in 2019 was 2775 as set out hereunder:



Staff Welfare

Galway County Council in recognising that work is just one part of employees' lives, the Human Resources Department makes available a range of work/life balance schemes to assist staff in achieving a work-life balance. In 2019 eight hundred and sixty-two staff availed of family friendly schemes, which were managed by the Human Resources Department, and include Shorter Working Year Scheme, Maternity Leave Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Paternity Leave, Work Sharing, Career Breaks, Carer's Leave, Cycle to work and Travel Pass Schemes, together with Force Majeure leave, Bereavement leave and Exam leave.

New Parent Leave and additional Parental Leave entitlements were introduced in 2019.

The Human Resources Department continues to implement the standardised provisions of the Public Service Management (Sick Leave) Regulations 2014 and facilitates the provision of an independent Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). This EAP Programme is a free, confidential and independent counselling service and provides support in relation to, e.g. family issues, work issues, addiction, bereavement and financial matters.

Pensions

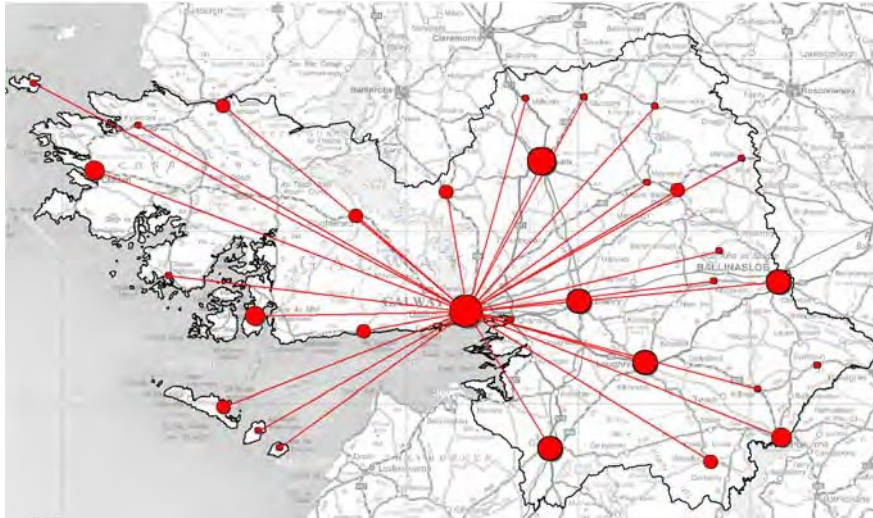
In 2019, eighteen fulltime employees retired from the service of Galway County Council and two retained fire service personnel also retired from their posts with Galway County Council.

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



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

Galway County Council's IT network

Galway County Council's IT Unit undertook and supported several key projects in 2019 including:

- Storage Area Network tender completed, and commencement of installation and migration project completed by year end;
- Upgrade to Regional Offices Tuam, Loughrea and Ballinasloe completed to Government Cloud Network (GCN);
- Government Network Services Wi-Fi for 8 largest Offices to facilitate Members, Staff and Guests secure access;
- Extensive replacement of Staff and Members laptops and PC's for high energy efficiency and preparation to have all Windows 10;
- Implement new Data centre grade backup and recovery software and hardware platform with subscription tier and volume services;
- N6 Galway City Ring Road update with response data to An Bord Pleanála;
- Automation workflow processing enhancement for increased and more reliable service offerings for Planning Mapping and notifications for both staff and public;
- Business Reporting Analytics and Process Improvement Citizen Feedback /Queries FOIs, HLO tenant interviews, rental inspections, environmental complaints, invasive species;
- Provision of Mobile Laptop charging and security container training facility for staff;
- Location mapping and mobile data collection for Personal Injury Claims, Playgrounds, Wi-Fi Hotspots, Graveyard Plots, Recycling Centres;
- Planning Systems improvements for preplanning and notifications of applications.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – TO BE UPDATED JULY 2020

Section 126(c) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided for the establishment of a National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC). A function of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) is to scrutinise the performance of any local government body against or in comparison with relevant indicators that the Commission considers it appropriate to refer to, and which includes relevant indicators relating to customer service.

Local Authorities are asked to validate and submit information and data on 39 Performance Indicators. This data is collated by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and is made available to the NOAC for further analysis and publication as part of a National report on Local Authority Performance Indicators. In addition to information supplied from the Council, data is provided by external bodies (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's (D/TTaS) Vehicle Registration Unit (VRU), the EPA, Road Management Office (RMO) which is based on other national reporting systems to which the Council must submit data. This information is saved and validated by the Council as part of the national returns using an on-line e-returns system.

The indicators attempt to deliver a common approach to measurement and benchmarking and the availability of the information is intended to support all local authorities to improve the services they provide to local communities. NOAC believes that, by learning from one another, there is scope to develop and enhance best practice in the performance by local government bodies of their functions. Work on refining the indicators is an on-going process and NOAC recognises that a number of the indicators require modification or replacement with a more relevant data set.

For 2019, there were 39 local authority performance indicators, as outlined below.

Each Indicator is provided with a reference as follows:

- Housing (H1 to H6)
- Roads (R1 to R3)
- Water (W1 and W2)
- Waste/Environment (E1 to E5)
- Planning (P1 to P5)
- Fire Service (F1 to F3)
- Library/Recreation (L1 and L2)
- Youth/Community (Y1 and Y2)
- Corporate (C1 to C5)
- Finance (M1 and M2)
- Economic Development (J1 to J4)

Performance Indicators

01/01/2019 - 31/12/2019 (Annual)

Galway County Council

Status: Not Complete – Not due until July 2020

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2	A. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/2019		
	B. No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2019 (whether constructed or acquired)		
	C. No. of LA owned dwellings sold in 2019		
	D. No. of LA owned dwellings demolished in 2019		
	E. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2019		
	F. No. of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme		
	H2: A. The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2019		
	H4 A. Expenditure during 2019 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, divided by the no. of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2019, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure		
	Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works or the Fabric Upgrade Programme but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).		
	Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works or the Fabric Upgrade Programme but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).		
Housing: H3 & H4 & H5	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2019 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2019		
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2019, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2019		
	H4 A. Expenditure during 2019 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, divided by the no. of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2019, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure		

	H5 A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2019		
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2019		
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2019 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations		
	D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2019		
Housing: H6	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2019		
Roads: R1 & R2	The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2019		
	The % of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2019		
	The % of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2019		
	The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2019		
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2019		

	A1. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2019		
	A2. The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2019		
	B1. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2019		
	B2. The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2019		
	C1. Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2019		
	C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2019		
	D1. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2019		
	D2. The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2019		
Motor Tax: R3	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2019		
Water: W1	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2019		
Water: W2	% of Registered Schemes audited		
Waste: E1	A. The number of households, which are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3-bin service at 31/12/2019.		
	B. The % of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on the 2016 census).		
Environmental Pollution: E2	A. The total no. of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2019, the number of pollution cases closed from 1/12/2019 to 31/12/2019 and the total no. of cases on hand at 31/12/2019.		
Litter Pollution: E3	A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2019 was unpolled or litter free		
	A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2019 was slightly polluted		
	A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2019 was moderately polluted		
	A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2019 was significantly polluted		
	A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2019 was grossly polluted		
Green Flag Status: E4	A. The % of schools that have been awarded green flag status		
Energy Efficiency Performance E5	A. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2019 relative to baseline year (2009)		

Planning: P1	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority		
Planning: P2 & P3	A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2019		
	B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA		
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019 that were investigated		
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2019		
	C. % of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development		
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations		
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings		
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2019		
Planning: P4 & P5	A. The 2019 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census		
	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt		
	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant		
	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	98	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	66	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	32	
Fire Service: F1	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2019 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports		
Fire Service: F2 & F3	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire		
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire		

	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents		
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents		
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes		
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes		
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes		
	D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes		
	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes		
	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes		
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019		
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes		
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes		
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes		
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019		
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes		
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes		
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes		
Library Service: L1	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census		
	B. Number of items issued to borrowers in the year		
	Library Registered members per head of population.		
Library Service: L2	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2019 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census		
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2019 to 31/12/2019.		

Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme		
	A. Number of organisations included in the County Register @ 31/12/2019 and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN		
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2019		
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2019		
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2019		
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019, divided by the WTE no.		
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure		
Corporate: C3	A. Total page views of the local authority's websites in 2019		
	B. Total number of followers at end 2019 of the LA's social media accounts		
	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS		
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS		
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS		
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS		
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS		
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2018 as a percentage of Total Income in 2019 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS		
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2019		
	The 2019 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS		
	The 2019 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS		
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015		
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016		
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017		
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018		

	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2019		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2019		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2019		
Economic Development: J1 to J4	A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019		
	A. The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2019		
	B. The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2019		
	A. The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019		
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	In train	Strategy process being finalised by the recently appointed Tourism Officer
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes	Tourism Officer in position since November 25th 2019



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE

2019 ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE

HOUSING			
Service area	To create balanced and mixed communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic background and socio-economic status and to endeavour to facilitate the provision of well managed and well maintained social housing within an environment that is attractive, safe and secure in a community which people will want to live.		
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Social Housing Supports 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome 2019
<p>Delivery and management of homeless services in accordance with the Regional Action Plan and Framework Plan for County Galway.</p> <p>Establish on a pilot basis Outreach Clinics in Loughrea & Tuam in partnership with Galway Simon.</p>	<p>To ensure that priority is afforded in the operation of the Housing Allocation Scheme to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support.</p> <p>No. of Adults in Emergency Accommodation that are Long-Term Homeless as % of the Total No. of Homeless Adults in Emergency Accommodation at the End of 2019 (KPI H6A).</p> <p>No. of Families in Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA) as % of the Total No. of Homeless Families at the End of 2019.</p> <p>No. of Homeless Households accommodated via the HAP Place Finder Service at the End of 2019.</p>	<p>Number of allocations to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support in 2019.</p> <p>Less than 25%</p> <p>Less than 50%</p> <p>25%</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Outreach Clinics established.</p> <p>32%</p> <p>21%</p> <p>37%</p>
<p>Adopt and implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.</p>	<p>Meet the targets for 2019 as detailed in the adopted Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024.</p> <p>Complete capital projects at Tuam and Capira Halting sites.</p> <p>Progress capital works at Craughwell and Creggaun.</p> <p>Ongoing fire safety awareness and training for Halting Sites.</p>	<p>Total No. of Traveller families accommodated as a % of overall targets set in the Programme.</p> <p>Complete capital works at Tuam and Capira and commence works at Craughwell and Creggaun.</p>	<p>135%</p> <p>Works completed.</p> <p>Works commenced at Craughwell. Creggaun delayed due to ongoing Court action.</p>

		Q2 and Q4 2019.	Ongoing training Ongoing monitoring, management and replacement of equipment in 2019.
Implement the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability for County Galway.	Targets as detailed in the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability. Disability Steering Group to agree details of allocations procedures & nominations to Voluntary bodies as well as information sharing re care plans and risk assessments.	Meet Targets for all categories of housing provision.	Achieved targets, information sharing in place
Use Choice Based Letting (CBL) in the allocations process.	Allocate GCC units under Choice Based Letting (CBL) scheme.	Minimum of 50% of GCC relets via CBL.	Achieved target
Social Housing Supports.	Process valid applications for social housing and engage with applicants in a timely manner, maximising the information available to applicants on their housing options.	Process valid applications for Social Housing and engage with applicants within 12 weeks of receipt of application.	Achieved target
Objectives	Increase Supply of Social Housing		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Housing Supply	Progress the Housing Capital Programme in accordance with the targets and funding as per the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing & Homelessness. Work in close partnership with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) to assist in progressing their Capital & SHCEP projects.	Deliver a minimum of 156 housing units under the capital programme by the 31.12.2019. Increase the number of units delivered via Approved Housing Bodies in 2019 v 2018.	199 units delivered 2019: - 28 units incl. in 199 units above) 2018: 27 units
Delivery of Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) & Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). Delivery of revised Repair & Lease Scheme.	No. of Units Provided Under the RAS in 2019 (KPI 1C). No. of Units Provided Under HAP in 2019 (KPI 1D). No. of Units Provided Under Repair & Lease in 2019.	Targets as determined by Department. of Housing, Planning, and Local Government.	2019 - 12 RAS Units 2019 - 387 HAP Units 2019- 54 Units

Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Preventative Maintenance Programme for Housing Stock.	<p>Complete stock survey and establish programme of works for housing preventative maintenance.</p> <p>Progress the delivery of a priority programme of works to improve fire and electrical safety in all Council dwellings, following completion and analysis of stock survey.</p> <p>Progress contracts for further priority works as identified in stock survey.</p>	<p>Q4 2019</p> <p>Q4 2019</p> <p>Q4 2019</p>	<p>Stock survey approx. 90% complete. Sufficient to facilitate start of PMP rollout.</p> <p>Works commenced on rolling out fire and electrical to all council dwellings – contracts prepared.</p> <p>Contract preparation started for Radon (PMP)</p>
Housing Repairs.	Number of repairs completed as a % of valid repair requests received by 31.12.2019 for Priority, Urgent and Routine requests.	95%	95%
Effective Management of Housing Vacancies.	<p>Reduce level and duration of vacancies in Housing Stock: % of housing vacancies @ 31.12.2019 (KPI H2A).</p> <p>Average Time Taken from Date of Vacation of Dwelling to the Date in 2019 When a New Tenancy had Commenced (Weeks) (KPI H3A).</p>	<p>To achieve a reduction in the % of housing vacancies at 31.12.2019 v 31.12.2018</p> <p>To achieve a reduction in the average re-let period in 2019 v 2018.</p>	<p>Vacancies Increased as supply of houses increased</p> <p>Achieved Target</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Tenancy & Estate Management to support Sustainable Communities. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Effectual Tenancy Sustainment & Estate Management.	<p>Implementation of the Tenancy Sustainment & Estate Management Strategy. Complete initial visit/inspection for all properties.</p> <p>Review and revise tenant and Council responsibilities document.</p> <p>Review and revise tenancy agreement.</p>	<p>Number of home visits/inspections carried out by the 31.12.2019.</p> <p>Revised document in situ by 30.09.2019.</p> <p>Revised document in situ by 31.12.2019.</p>	<p>764</p> <p>National document being devised.</p> <p>Tenancy agreement to be revised in 2020 in consultation with Housing SPC.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the effective regulation of the Private Rented Sector 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Property Inspections (RTB, HAP & RAS).	No. of Inspections Carried Out (KPI H5B).	Minimum of 15% of registered tenancies to be inspected by 31.12.2019.	Target met for Residential Rental Standards Property Inspections 2019.

			Total 977 Residential Rental Standards Property Inspections carried out by G.C.C. Inspectorate up to 31.12.2019.
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CORPORATE SERVICES

Service area	Provision of consistent, professional administrative services which support the highest governance standards in democratic representation and decision-making processes of Council and Executive Team.		
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support effective, open and transparent democratic representation and decision-making 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Maintain and publish the Electoral Register (2018/2019)	To publish and make available to the public the Register of Electors (RoE) 2019/2020 within Statutory Deadlines. To facilitate the Local Elections 2019.	By the 15th February 2019 Draft by November 1st, 2019	Deadline met Deadline met
Co-ordinate public right of access to Council Records.	Percentage of FOI and AIE requests for Corporate Services Unit processed in accordance with statutory requirements. Update FOI Publication Scheme for Corporate Services Number of complaints upheld by the Office of the Ombudsman	100% Compliance with Statutory deadlines Quarter 4 2019 Less than 5	100% Target met <i>Target met</i>
Support Democratic Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Council meetings - Sustain monthly publication of Council Correspondence and Meeting Information to Extranet Monthly publication of Council Minutes to Council Website Establish Strategic Policy Committees Appointment of members to several Committees. 	Sustain usage of Extranet by 90% of Members during 2019	Target met Target met SPC Policy Adopted 25th November 2019
Co-ordinate County Joint Policing Committee	Number of actions delivered annually as set out in the JPC Strategic Plan	3 Strategic Actions Agreed and Delivered in 2019.	Met target – actions delivered outlined in JPC 2019 Annual Report
Implement Members Training Plan	Compliance with Training & Conference Approval Regulations	100% compliance	Target met

Administer Local Government Ethical Frameworks Standards.	Publication of Public Registers and Staff Registers (Ethics/Donations) by Statutory Deadlines. Implementation of Lobbying Act and Protected Disclosures.	Meet Statutory Deadlines Compliance with Legislation	Target met
Objective 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Inclusive Access to Recreational and Leisure Amenities that contribute to Community Wellbeing 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Manage Ballinasloe & Tuam Leisure Centres (Swimming Pools & Gyms).	Total footfall per Leisure Centre Leisure Centres per annum	Ballinasloe 112,000 Tuam 165,500	Ballinasloe: 118,079 Tuam: 180,505
Provide Lifeguard Services in City and County (Shared Service)	Number of Swimming Areas provided with Beach Lifeguard Service in City and County Number of Lifeguarded Hours provided in 10 County Locations for 2019 Season	16 City (10 in the County) 6,700 hours in County	Target met 7,067 hours
Access to Playgrounds	Number of playgrounds provided directly by the Local Authority per 100 population of children under 12 years of age i.e. 11,618 - Census 2016 (15 no. playgrounds Council owned) Number of Playgrounds facilitated per 100 population of children under 12 years of age (facilitated refers to the community managed facilities insured by the Local Authority- 56 no.)	9.21 31.32	12.9 48.20
Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces (Tuam All-Weather Pitch, Dunlo Recreational Park)	Number of free Community hours available per week at Tuam All-Weather Pitch Number of Public Hours per Week at Dunlo Recreational Park	40 hours 48 hours	40 hours 51 hours
Visitor/Cultural Centres	Number of Seasonal Visitors (Irish and International) Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre, (Centre directly managed by Corporate Services)	1,000	1,010 visitors 9881

	Number of Annual Visitors (Irish and International) to Athenry Heritage Centre (Centre in receipt of financial support from Local Authority);	3,400	(incl. Athenry National Town Walls Day) 7537 Irish & 2344 International)
Objective 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster a culture of excellence in delivering customer services. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Customer Services	Review the Customer Service Plan Number of followers on Twitter @GalwayCoCo Number of Likes on Facebook (Galway County) Total page views of Council website at end of 2019 Sustain a consistent incoming call answer rate on 091-509000 (main switch) throughout the working day	Q4 13,000 10,000 1.1m Sustain a minimum 90% call answer of less than 25 seconds	ongoing 13,801 10,858 1.5m Of >21,000 calls received, over 95% of calls were answered in under 30 seconds
Casual Trading	Percentage of Casual Trading Licences applications and Filming Licences for processing within 15 working days.	100%	100%
Manage safe, accessible service areas for public	Agreement of targets and compliance with OHSAS Inspections Rates and Standards for Corporate Facilities	Sustain OHSAS Accreditation in 2019	Met Target
Objective 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the daily use of Irish in the provision of services and recognise the unique contribution of the Irish language to the cultural diversity of Galway. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Promotion of Irish Language & Culture	Number of complaints upheld by An Coimisinéir Teanga in relation to Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Scéim Teanga. Number of Gaeltacht Scholarships Awarded Publication of Irish/English simultaneously on www.gaillimh.ie / www.galway.ie	Less than 3 10 Bi-lingual compliance	> 3 12 Ongoing

Objective 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve universal access to public spaces and amenities and to foster equal access to information and services 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Accessibility	Number of complaints upheld under the Disability Act 2005	0	0

LIBRARY SERVICE

Service area	To ensure the delivery of an effective public library service in County Galway and to strengthen and expand the library in the local community		
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to liaise, inform and participate with public representatives, government agencies, LGMA, LCDC and community groups as necessary and relevant - Libraries to be accessible and welcoming 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Library Awareness	Ensure that all local communities are aware of their local library service and what each library has to offer	To organise public events in each library & deliver an awareness and promotion campaign for the Library Service.	<p>Outreach community events regularly attended by library staff including Age Friendly events.</p> <p>EU Community and Outreach events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ‘#thistimeimvoting roadshow’ - The EDIC organised a roadshow in GMIT and GTI to inform and encourage young people to register to vote with a particular emphasis on the EU elections. Attendees 200. · “Make the Link” Education, Training and Employment Roadshow - EDIC hosted a stall at the highlighting the opportunities for working in Europe. Attendees 400. · Glenamaddy District Ploughing and Agricultural Show. The EDIC hosted an information stand at the show. Attendees at the show on that day was 6000. · Time to Move - Midlands and the West 2019. A 1-day conference in Westside Library focusing on the opportunities for young people to

			<p>work, study and volunteer abroad. Attendees 30.</p> <p>· Presentation College Athenry Careers Fair – the Centre manned a stall at the careers fair informing young about the opportunities for studying in Europe. Attendees 500. Library staff gave talks to local groups, classes and promote through social and traditional media.</p> <p>Varied event programme delivered in local library branches tailored at needs of local community.</p> <p>County wide programming for adults included: Galway’s Great Read 200 adults attended events.</p>
Library Conditions	Maintenance of existing buildings and services within the confines of our budgetary position	Identified risks addressed in a timely manner - Correct/timely reporting of accident/incidents - Planned maintenance programme implemented.	<p>Increased reporting of incidents/accidents and near misses Inspection reports completed all libraries</p> <p>Complete refurbishment of reference room in Galway City Library.</p>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library Collection Management and Development - developing an appropriate physical and online collection. Marketing and Social Media 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Library and Local History information and service	Collecting the County's Culture and Memory	<p>Strategy in place for local history collection – No of queries responded to.</p> <p>Participate in Decade of Commemorations projects.</p>	<p>Approx. 170 queries responded to in 2019.</p> <p>Participated in the ‘First Dáil’ launch and exhibition event.</p>
Libraries collection	Provide relevant stock and information	<p>Stock management policy developed and implemented - new stock tender successfully implemented - No's using online</p>	<p>New post of Librarian managing collection development.</p> <p>Compared to 2018, in 2019 our e-book loan usage increased by 17% and our e-audio loans increased by 33%.</p>

		resources - social media statistics	
Libraries collection	Provide book/items utilising the national library transport service	Support and co-operate with the inter-library lending system	In 2019, we had 56,031 requests filled through our Library Management System. This is an increase of 27% on 2018.

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Libraries as culture centres for lifelong learning and recreation and encourage engagement by all. Support the quality of life agenda through literacy, information, education, and recreation and reader development. Libraries to offer creative activities and collaborate with others in the community 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Libraries and Children	Encourage library usage by children.	<p>To promote at least one public event per quarter per library focused on children and young people. Participate in National Initiatives including Spring into Storytime and Summer Reading Challenge and Children's Book Festival.</p> <p>Continue to develop the role of the Schools' Library Service in Education, by:</p> <p>(a) collaborating with the teaching profession to encourage a love and appreciation of reading in pupils;</p> <p>(b) assisting teachers in their book choices with regard to literacy and numeracy;</p> <p>(c) provide scheduled visits to national schools in the county during the school</p>	<p>County wide programming for children included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summer Reading Challenge 3,500 children completed the challenge. - Spring into Storytime – 60 story time sessions hosted in libraries. - 67 events were held as part of Children's Book Festival with approx. 2010 children participating. - Family Time at Your Library was held in December with 46 events taking place in branch libraries. <p><u>School Library Service:</u></p> <p>School visits took place as per schedule.</p> <p>Classroom novel scheme heavily used.</p> <p>Schools' Library Service facilitated</p>

		<p>year to facilitate a school's library stock exchange.</p> <p>Assess service provision and focus delivery on targeted schools.</p> <p>Continue to promote reading for pleasure amongst key target groups.</p>	<p>events on the library van and in schools.</p>
Libraries and Senior Citizens	<p>Encourage library usage by maturing members of our community.</p>	<p>To execute one event per library with Age Action/Age Friendly Ireland.</p> <p>To work on implementation of Age Friendly library services in consultation with other departments.</p> <p>Designate age-friendly library, action and promote current services.</p> <p>Continue to provide digital skills training for older people through a variety of agencies</p> <p>Install and foster usage of dementia tables in Ballybane and An Cheathrú Rua</p>	<p>Libraries worked with the following groups to support older people with continued learning particularly in the digital sphere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Action • Vodafone Ireland • Irish Internet Association • Rural Alliance • Digitize the Nation • Bealtaine Festival <p>Tovertafel's were installed in Ballybane and An Cheathrú Rua</p>
Libraries and services to the community	<p>Maintain and develop the Europe Direct centre at Ballinasloe and An Cheathrú Rua.</p> <p>Deliver programmes in conjunction with other cultural partners promoting active citizenship including ECOC, Creative Ireland, Healthy Ireland @ library, right to read, Seachtain na Gaeilge etc.</p>	<p>Programme delivered. Number of events held. Review of programmes Advocate for This Time I'm Voting – key plank of campaign for European Elections 2019</p> <p>Continue to deliver programmes in conjunction with Creative Ireland, Healthy Ireland @ your library, Right to Read, Seachtain na Gaeilge Develop co-operative work with Galway2020.</p>	<p>Approx. 1310 attendees at events in The Europe Direct Information Centre, Ballinasloe Library.</p> <p>In 2019, 57 Healthy Ireland events have taken place in Galway Libraries with 1,491 people attending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulfilled all national Right To Read Requirements. • Worked in conjunction with Galway 2020 to develop events program. • Promoted events as Gaeilge during

			Seachtain na Gaeilge. Numerous Creative Ireland projects took place throughout City and County including Galway's Great Read.
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Objectives	Libraries to support the local community		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Libraries and IT	Provide communities with internet access via public access computers and/or Wi-Fi	Roll out the availability of secure Wi-Fi in all our libraries (pending broadband availability). Continue Roll Out Work Matters areas in designated branch libraries	Wi-Fi was introduced to Leenane library. <i>Work Matters</i> areas have been developed in Clifden, Portumna, Oranmore, Loughrea, Tuam, Ballinasloe and Galway City.
	Update Online Services	Continue to monitor the provision of online services. Continue to promote the usage of online services.	21169 e-books and 23603 e-audio books were downloaded by Galway members. Compared to 2018, in 2019 our e-book loan usage increased by 17% and our e-audio loans increased by 33% .
	Services to Visually impaired	Maintain and improve library Services to the Visually impaired	Audio stock was purchased, along with increased expenditure of e-audio.
	Facilitate self-service option via RFID Implementation of ICT up-grade in library branches and creation of collaborative learning spaces.	Complete RFID in designated libraries in Q1 2019 All Public Access PC's to be replaced, creation of maker space in library. The promotion of STEM throughout the City and County libraries.	RFID was implemented in Athenry, Ballybane, Clifden, Galway City, Leabharlann na Ceathrun Rua, Loughrea, Oranmore, Portumna and Tuam. Public Access PC's were replaced in branch libraries, enhancing the service to the communities. STEM workshops took place in branch libraries, including coding, LEGO sessions and STEM story times.

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries to plan and implement proposals in each Municipal District in the Library Development Programme 2016-2021. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Library Development Plan and the Municipal Districts	Maximise available resources to deliver a cohesive service both at fixed service points and via mobile library service and online.	Complete review of Library opening times throughout all Municipal Districts. Implement 'My Open Library' on a phased pilot basis in Ballinasloe & Oranmore.	ongoing
Proposed Library Services and Developments	Library Developments and service to the community Implement GDPR requirements	Plan, review and implement if required proposals in the plans.	Review as required
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To acquire, preserve and manage the Archives of Galway County Council, and when resources permit acquire archives, through private purchase or donation, which relate to the history, heritage, and culture of the county. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Archive Services	Ensure the preservation of material Manage the Archives in accordance with best practice and make accessible to the public.	Maintain current environmental conditions to ensure no adverse damage occurs to the Archives. Process collections, to ensure their physical and moral protection in accordance with archival standards (ISAD). List on the archives management database (Adlib) and provide appropriate public access.	Ongoing. Despite current storage does not meet international standards, there was no discernible derogation of the archives. Included the conservation of number of items, and creation of preservation surrogate copies of others. Ongoing, with the number of records listed on the Adlib database, increased by 141; primarily small collections or additional accruals to existing collections, and 16 new acquisitions. Staff provided ongoing access to material in the Reading Room and via the Digital Archives and continued to assist with researcher queries.

			<p>The Burial Ground Register Database, with over 40,000 searchable and index entries, was launched online in mid-2019. There were just over 9000 hits to the Archives webpages, which includes the Digital Archives.</p>
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ROADS, TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES

Service area	To provide a safe and efficient road network for the movement of persons and goods and to support balanced economic development and the development of sustainable communities.		
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advance major road schemes. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
N6 Galway City Ring Road	Scheme submitted to An Bord Pleanála Preparation for Oral Hearing	Q2 2019	Q4, 2019
M17/M18 Gort to Tuam Motorway	Finalise land agreements Complete Works	Q2 2019 Q2 2019	Q2, 2019 Q2, 2019
N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass	Tender Award Construction to commence Complete Land Acquisitions	Q2 2019 Q3 2019 Q4 2019	Ongoing, Q4, 2020 Q1,2021
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advance strategic minor works schemes 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
N17 Milltown to Gortagunnad	Options selection report complete Preliminary Design to be completed	Q1 2019 Q3 2019	Q4,2019
N17 Baile Chláir Traffic Calming	Progress to Part 8 planning permission	Q2 2019	Q3, 2019
N17 Tuam Town	Pavement completed	Q1 2019	Q1,2019
N59 Maam Cross to Bunnakil	Design completed Tenders to be awarded	Q1 2019 Q2 2019	Q4,2019
N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard	Land Acquisitions	Q4 2019	Q4,2019
N59 West of Letterfrack Widening	Land acquisition completed Request for Tender Commence Construction	Q4 2019 Q1 2019 Q3 2019	Q4, 2019 Q4,2019
N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh Hill	Construction completed Land Acquisitions ongoing	Q1 2019 Q4 2019	Q1, 2019
N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment	Appointment of Consultants	Q2 2019	Q2, 2019

N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara	Progress land acquisitions Request for Tender Commence Construction	Q4 2019 Q2 2019 Q3 2019	Q4, 2019
N84 Luimnagh Realignment Scheme	Complete land acquisitions	Q2 2019	Q2, 2019
N17 Carrownurlaur to Ballindine	Finalise land acquisitions	Q1 2019	Q 2, 2019
N59 Eastern Approach to Oughterard Pavement Strengthening	Construction completed	Q3 2019	Q3, 2019
N60 Ballymoe North Pavement Overlay	Construction completed	Q2 2019	Q3, 2020
N65 Kilmeen Pavement Strengthening	Construction completed	Q3 2019	Ongoing Q3, 2020
N67 Kinvara Pavement Strengthening	Construction completed	Q3 2019	Q3, 2019
N84 Bunnaconeen Pavement Overlay	Construction ongoing	Q1 2019	Q2, 2019
N63 Rooaunmore	Tender documents in progress Construction Complete	Q1 2019 Q3 2019	Ongoing Q2, 2020
N83 An Poll Caoin	Tenders awarded Construction Complete	Q1 2019 Q2 2019	Ongoing Q3, 2020

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and improve the road network of 6,700 kms throughout the County 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Improvement of Road Network	Number of Local Tertiary Roads repaired	47	48
Improvement of Road Network	Number of kilometres of Regional Road improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	26km	26km
	Number of kilometres of Local Roads improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	97km	101km
Improvement of Road Network	Number of bridges improved	19	18
Improvement of Road Network	Number of kilometres of Regional Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant	40km	41km
	Number of kilometres of Local Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant	115km	110km
Maintenance of Road Network	Pothole Repairs – response time – number of working days, dependent on resources available:		
	National Roads	2	2
	Regional Roads	5	5
	Local Primary and Secondary Roads	10	10
	Local Tertiary Roads	20	20
Improvement of Road Network	Completion of coastal storm damage repair programme, subsequent to 2014 coastal storm.	Programme of works completed by December 2019	Ongoing
Maintenance of Road Network	Continue programme of upgrading of Council fleet	Ongoing upgrading of fleet by December 2019	Ongoing
Maintenance of Road Network	Winter Service Programme – monitor weather conditions, and implement gritting programme on identified priority routes as required	Ongoing Winter Service	Ongoing
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the programme of Piers and Harbours improvements. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Improvement of Pier Network	Number of piers upgraded/improved, as co-funded by Department of Agriculture,	4	Repair works carried out at Roundstone, works ongoing

	Food, and Marine and Galway County Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crumpan Pier • Droim Pier • Ceibh an Ard Thoir • Roundstone 		for remaining project subject to NIS & Planning approval
Construction of Strategic Pier	Substantially progress the procurement of contractor for new pier at Inis Oirr, including completion of all surveys and ground investigations works.	Appointment of Contractor by December 2019	Awaiting approval on funding to proceed with appointment of contractor - ongoing
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the OPW in relation to flood risk management 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Drainage Maintenance	Number of kilometres of drainage maintenance completed by year end	3km by December 2019	3km
Minor Works Scheme	Continue to identify and submit projects for funding for minor flood relief works	20 submissions by December 2019	19
	Complete minor flood relief works	20 schemes completed by December 2019	20
Minor Works Scheme – Coastal	Identify and submit projects for funding to OPW	3 schemes to be submitted by December 2019	2
Flood Relief Schemes	Progress Dunkellin/Aggard Flood Relief Scheme	Complete works on Dunkellin Bridge & Craughwell Pedestrian Bridge by September 2019 Complete Aggard Stream Maintenance works by December 2019	Works substantially complete on 5 bridges, river bed deepening & 2km channel. Remaining culvert & maintenance works to be complete on Aggard stream in 2020
Flood Relief Schemes	Substantially progress Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme	Feasibility study completed and draft flood risk management plans completed by December 2019	Ongoing, feasibility study to be completed in 2020

Flood Relief Schemes	Substantially progress Clifden Flood Relief Scheme	Work to be substantially completed by December 2019	Liaising with consultant, project ongoing
Flood Relief Schemes	Substantially progress Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme	Appointment of Consultants and preliminary report to be completed by December 2019	Consultant & design team appointed; project ongoing
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance Traffic Management 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Traffic Management	Number of parking permits issued annually Number of parking tickets issued annually	210 1,600	203 1707
Traffic Management	Introduction of pay parking in Garraun train station car park (Oranmore)	Pay parking in situ Q4 2019	Not complete, ongoing
Traffic Management	Review of pay parking in County Galway	December 2019	Not complete, ongoing
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop road safety initiatives 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Road Safety	Number of schools for which support will be provided for Cycling Training Programme Number of schools for which support will be provided for Drive for Life Programme Successful operation of Junior School Warden scheme in County Galway 3 school wardens in operation in Loughrea and Ballinasloe	25 10 JSW scheme operations in 4 schools 3 school wardens in situ	22 7 4 complied
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of Safety of Road Network 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Safety Improvement of Road Network	Number of Low-Cost Safety Improvement Schemes in place by year end. – locations to be advised by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.	13	15 projects completed
Introduction of Slow Zones in Housing Estates 2015 -2018	Phase 4 – Slow Zone Byelaws implemented and adopted – 2018 allocation	20 by end of December 2019	24 completed
Revision of Road Traffic	Implementation of speed limit byelaws review 2019	By 1 st March 2019	Complete

Speed-Limit Byelaws in County Galway			
Control of Invasive Species	Develop programme for identification, recording and monitoring of invasive species Treatment of invasive species at priority locations	Ongoing Ongoing	Ongoing Ongoing
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and support community involvement and participation 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Enhancement of Physical Environment	Sponsorship of 5 Community Employment Schemes	80 employees	75 CES employees & 5 CES Supervisors
Road Safety	Facilitate applications for road improvement works under the Community Involvement Scheme and complete relevant works with Community support	Completion of CIS works at 28 locations by December 2019	35 completed
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development of tourism & social initiatives 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Economic & Social Development	Finalising transfer of land surrounding Pearse's Cottage. (Teach an Phiarsaigh)	Land transfer complete by December 2019	Substantially complete, ongoing into Q1 of 2020
Economic & Social Development	Conamara Greenway – Galway to Oughterard Submit Planning Permission to An Bord Pleanála	December 2019	Ongoing, Q2 2020
Economic & Social Development	Conamara Greenway – Oughterard to Clifden Complete Ballinahinch Section including Cloonbeg Bridge On Approval of funding, advance construction on next section	December 2019 Pending approval of funding	<i>Ballinahinch section complete, Cloonbeg Bridge complete by Q1, 2020</i>
Economic & Social Development	Climate Change – support development of adaptation plan for Galway County Council in line with climate change requirements	Provision of ongoing support as necessary	Ongoing
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver quality services in accordance with our Customer Services Action Plan. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome

Responding to customer complaints	Responding to Fix Your Street Complaints, subject to relevant information being available	2 days	2 days for acknowledgment, detailed responses followed upon investigation of issue raised
Economic Development	Number of responses issued annually to Roads and Services queries Number of responses issued to Roads and Services queries within 15 days	520 450	735 applications received in 2019 500 ≤ 15days 210 >= 15days 25 did not proceed
	Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued annually Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued within 5 days	150 150	122 121
	Number of Road Opening Licences issued annually	260	921 app rec
	Number of Scaffolding Licences issued annually Number of Scaffolding Licences issued within 5 days	30 30	25 18
Emergency Response	Provide necessary response to serious flooding incidents	As required	Timely, efficient response to all serious incidents

PLANNING			
Service Area	To secure the sustainable balanced development of the county in an impartial and uniform manner through the discharge of our core statutory responsibilities and in initiatives taken to make provision for the long term future development of the county.		
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prudent, impartial and responsive Planning Service for the Development Sector and the general public. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Development Management within the statutory and regulatory frameworks and in a fair and impartial manner.	Number of Applications dealt with in 8 weeks	60%	83%
	Number of Appeals to An Bord Pleanala	Less than 10% of all decisions.	5%
	% of Appeals upheld / overturned	50% or more of GCC decisions upheld	73%
	Number of Complaints to the Ombudsman.	5 or less	3
	Average time to process Section 5 Applications	4 weeks for initial response	Complied
	Enurement queries responded to in a 2-week timeframe	A response to issue within 2 weeks of receipt of correspondence	Complied
	Introduction of E-Planning Services	QT 3 - National Decision	Ongoing
Pre-Planning meetings facilitated	Number of Self-Service Planning Queries generated	Maintain existing numbers	Complied
	Number of scheduled Pre-Planning Meetings facilitated.	40 average over 1-month period –	Complied
County Development Plan Objectives	Commence the preparation of the County Development Plan review and background works - review core strategies, Landscape strategies, renewable energy strategies (including wind energy strategies. Preparation of settlement plans	100% (pending the adoption of the RSES)	Commenced
	Landscape Character Assessment	100%	Complete
	Preparation of submissions and draft RSES/MASP	70%	100%

	Preparation of Public Realm Schemes (in conjunction with Heritage & Conservation)	50%	complete
	Preparation of Masterplan/Development frameworks for strategic County sites	30%	Deferred
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of Standards and Effective Enforcement 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Enforcement	All complaints acknowledged within 1 week and investigated within the statutory period.	90% target achieved	Complied
Building Control Inspections	To meet the minimum target for inspections – within statutory timeframes	15% inspection rate	Complied
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and relevant Development Plans and Local Area Plans • To create awareness, knowledge, pride and to protect the built, natural and cultural heritage 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Built Heritage (Architectural Conservation)	Number of Statutory notices issued under the Planning & Development Act (Architectural Conservation)	All requests responded to within 4 weeks.	Complied
	Department Grants/funding opportunities availed of	All funding opportunities availed of.	Complied
	Number of recorded advisory sessions with individuals	100% of all requests facilitated	Complied
Built, Natural & Cultural Heritage	Department Grants/funding opportunities availed of	All funding opportunities availed of.	Complied
	Number of recorded advisory sessions with individuals	100% of all requests facilitated	Complied
	12 Specific Actions under the Heritage Plan executed	12 named projects completed by year end	Complied

ECONOMIC, COMMUNITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT			
Service Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist communities to develop in a sustainable, healthy and inclusive manner. To facilitate, promote and participate in the integrated development of the local economy and to position the local authority as a driver of economic and social development in the County. 		
Objectives	To bring a strategic focus to our activities in relation to the promotion and support of economic development in the county.		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Support of Economic Initiatives in Co Galway	No. of economic initiatives supported through the Community Support Scheme	45	41
	No. of economic initiatives supported (other than CSS)	5	4
Further develop the <i>Made in Galway</i> initiative to support the Food and Craft Sectors	<p>Increase traffic to Made in Galway website and Facebook site</p> <p>Participation at Expo events</p>	<p>+ 10% Website Traffic</p> <p>+10% Facebook likes</p> <p>2 Expo Events</p> <p>25 Businesses supported to attend events</p>	<p>21% follower increase</p> <p>5 events with over 40 Business supported. Along with Discover Galway Food Experiences hosting up to 50 events in the county.</p>
Development of Tourist Facilities	Co-ordination and progression of project proposals applied for under Outdoor Recreational Scheme 2018	Business Plans finalised for 5 prioritised projects	3 projects completed. Extensions sought for remaining 2
Post ERG 2018 designation	Agreement on programme of work between partners going forward	Agreed Programme	Because ERG Coordinator moved to a new position prior to end of the contract for the position agreement of a way forward closed out in 2020.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) as a strong, well-functioning committee. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Local Community Development	No. Of meetings Facilitate sub-committee meetings	6 meetings Meetings of 3 sub-committees:	6 meetings 3 Sub committees met on 1, 2 and 4

Committee (LCDC)	Implement funding schemes assigned to LCDC: Oversight of SICAP 2018 – 2022 Programme Community Enhancement Scheme 2019 CLÁR	Health & Wellbeing Education SICAP No. of reviews and payments approved Implement schemes per Departmental Guidelines and timeframes	occasions respectively 2 reviews 4 payments 52 projects supported
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop and adopt the Local Economic and Community Plan as a cornerstone of Galway County Council's enhanced role as a driver of economic development. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Local Economic and Community Plan	Action Plan for 2018 set out and adopted by LCDC Monitoring system for LECP to be put in place and operating LECP review to be undertaken in line with national review of LCDCs	In accordance with LECP review guidelines Data collection & analysis To be implemented in accordance with Dept Guidelines	Awaiting national guidance in relation to review.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a culture that is supportive of economic development across all areas of business and services of the local authority. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Support the Strategic Economic Development Role of Galway County Council	No. of meetings of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC and Business Incentive Scheme Finalise implementation of the Rural Economic Development Zone funding scheme. Support the development and regeneration of town and village centres	4 Meetings Q1 Secure resources from Departmental schemes (RRDF, Town & Village Renewal) Formation of CLG and appointment of company manager	4 Meetings Finalised Funding secured for RRDF initiatives in Athenry, Tuam, Dunmore, Kinvara & Loughrea and for 7 T&V projects

	Progress the development of the Bia Innovator campus in Athenry		In place
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Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully integrate the Local Enterprise Officer (LEO) into the Economic Development activities of the local authority to position Galway County Council as a major driver and supporter of economic development in the county. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Integration of Local Enterprise Officer (LEO) into the economic and enterprise development activities	No. of joint initiatives with LEO	5	3
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Support to support communities in their activities. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	
Provision of funding support through the <i>Community Support Scheme</i>	Communities invited to apply for funding Workshops/information evenings facilitated Applications assessed and recommendation to Council Issue notification letters and conditions Target No. of grants to be approved	January February March Plenary Council Meeting April 260	On target with process. 232 applications supported
Tidy Towns	No. of communities supported for Tidy Towns initiatives under the CSS	30	36
Pride of Place	No. of Communities nominated for Pride of Place competition Site visits by national judges facilitated Attendance at National Awards Ceremony	2 June/July/Aug November	2 Communities nominated
The provision of Arts and Cultural Services/Supports in the County	No. of arts grants approved No. of Arts Programmes supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arts & Disability Programme ➤ Arts & Education Programme ➤ Arts & Health Programme ➤ Arts & Libraries Programme ➤ Artists Support Programme ➤ Galway Music Education Programme (MEP) No. of artists supported under the Artist Bursaries No. of artists supported under Tyrone Guthrie scheme No. of schools/artists supported under Artists in School Programme	65 Budget allocations not finalised due to status of GMEP 2 10 Dependent on Applications Ongoing Dependent on Applications Budget allocations not finalised due to status of GMEP 10 2 12	63 2 8 2 30 3 Ongoing 10 2 12

	Development of the County Galway Creative Ireland Strategy Implementation of the Creative Ireland Funding Scheme in County Galway	To be completed	Done Done
Healthy Ireland Scheme	Secure funding under the Healthy Ireland Scheme 2018 Implement projects funded under the Healthy Ireland Scheme 2017	Q2 Ongoing	Finalised HIF Round 2 projects Application made for Round 3 HIF and funding approved
The facilitation of the Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) and delivery of sports support	No. of meetings of GSP No. of Meetings of Steering Group Workshops No. of sports participation programmes (e.g. Men on the Move, Bike Week, Galway Walking Week, Park Run, Girls Active Programme, Couch to 5 k etc.) delivered	4 4 40	4 4 51
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the transition from Community & Voluntary Forum to the new Public Participation Network (PPN) structures and support their activities and input into local government 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	
Support the development of the <i>Public Participation Network</i> and community engagement	No. of organisations registered with PPN No. of meeting of County PPN Plenary No. of meeting of County PPN Secretariat No. of meetings of MDs Plenary	750 2 4 10 (2 in each MD area)	883 1 3 6
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imbed Social Inclusion across the organisation in ethos and implementation. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	
Social Inclusion Awareness/Development	No. of training events delivered for staff and Elected Members	1	0
<i>Bealtaine</i> – Celebrating Creativity as We Age	<i>Bealtaine</i> organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	May 35	31
<i>Traveller Pride Week</i>	<i>Traveller Pride Week</i> organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	June 10	Groups applied directly to Dept for funding for events. Not facilitated by GCC

<i>Culture Night</i>	<i>Culture Night</i> organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	September 75	37 events
<i>Social Inclusion Week</i>	Social Inclusion Week organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	October 35	40 events
Cathaoirleach Community Awards	Cathaoirleach Community Awards hosted	May	Target met
Age Friendly Programme	No. of meetings of Age Friendly Alliance & Age Friendly County Implementation Group (now amalgamated) No. of meetings of Older People's Council	3 12	3 meetings of Age Friendly Alliance 10 (monthly meetings – break for summer)
Youth & Children – Facilitation of <i>Comhairle na nÓg</i>	No. of youth and children participating in <i>Comhairle na nÓg</i> Percentage of schools and youth groups participating (KPI)	27 65%	27 77%
Implementation of Syrian Resettlement Programme	Provide ongoing supports to families being resettled in County Galway in line with Departmental guidelines and funding supports	Ongoing	Ongoing
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support and drive the European Capital of Culture Designation to ensure maximum returns at community and economic levels to the County. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	
Support and drive the European Capital of Culture Designation and maximise UNESCO Creative City designation/network	Develop the ECOC in conjunction with City Council with significant county focus and geographical spread UNESCO Creative City of Film office established in co-operation with partners	Ongoing	Completed Ongoing

ENVIRONMENT SERVICES			
Service Area	Protect and Enhance the Environment of County Galway in the interests of the quality of life of its citizens, economic development and to achieve water regulatory compliance.		
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection and Improvement of Water Quality and Catchment Management. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Protect Water Quality	Completion of national inspection plan for septic tanks (101 tanks) Completion of farm inspection programme (35 farms)	100% 100%	100% 100%
Monitoring	Carry out monitoring of rivers, lakes, discharge licences, bathing waters and drinking water private supplies in accordance with programme.	100%	100%
Discharge Licences	No. High Risk Licenced Sites	24 (Baseline 2018 - 27)	28
Protect Bathing Water Quality	No. of beaches achieving either Blue Flag or Green Coast status No. beaches monitored	12 26 (Baseline 2018 – 24)	12 26
Implement Irish Water SLA	Completion of monitoring programme and incident response	100%	100%
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate Monitoring and Enforcement Measures and Implementation of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Environmental Enforcement in line with National Priorities	% of Environmental Complaints Closed (National Indicator) Carry out inspections of high-risk waste facility permits and certs, household, and commercial premises, permitted and bogus waste collectors, illegal dumping, and C&D sites.	75% (Baseline 2018 - 69%) Investigation of 100% of identified high risk sites / collectors	66% 100%
Provide Recycling Facilities	No. of facilities available for recycling	91	96
Derelict Sites	Investigate and report on all complaints received and if appropriate enter on Derelict Sites Register	100%	100%

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased community involvement in Environmental Enhancement and Awareness. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Promote Environmental Awareness and Community Involvement	% of primary Schools participating in Environmental campaigns No. of Schools participating	95% 192	95% 192
	% of secondary schools participating in Environmental campaigns No. of Schools participating No of other educational establishments participating	95% 34 16	95% 34 17 registered, 5 active
	No. of groups in campaign's / events	94	163
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of Burial Grounds in association with the community 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Burial Grounds	No. of sites where extensions facilitated	4	4
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of Dogs in accordance with legislative requirements 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Control of Animals	No. of Dog licences issued	10,000	9,806
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of a responsible approach to energy usage 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019	Outcome
Energy	Promotion of sustainable energy initiatives with business and the community	20	20



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORTS
& MUNICIPAL DISTRICT REPORTS**

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES REPORTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S
ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2019

Membership

Name	Chair	Economic Development & Enterprise
Cllr. Peter Feeney	2	2
Cllr. Joe Byrne		1
Cllr. Tom Healy		1
Cllr. Sean Ó Tuairisg		1
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn		1
Cllr. Mary Hoade		1
Cllr. Karey McHugh		0
Community/Voluntary		
Mr. Dan Dowling (Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd)		2
Trade Union		
Mr. Paul Quinn		0
Development and Construction Sector		
Mr. Paul Mannion (RIAI), Scott, Tallon, Walker Architects, 22 Eyre Square, Galway		1
Business/Commercial Sector		
Ms. Michelle Murphy (Galway Chamber), Collins McNicholas, Unit 27, Briarhill Business Park, Galway		0

4 Meetings of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC took place in 2019.

The Unit facilitated 2 meetings of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC during the year. There were only two meeting in 2019 with the local elections and the new SPC scheme, some of the items for discussion were as follows:

- Departmental schemes T&V 2018, ORIS 2018, CLÁR 2018 (review of the process and future strategy)
- Key presentations on the up to date work of the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC), the Community Support Scheme with the reduced matching funding requirement by applicants particularly welcomed, update on the 1st call on the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund application process and approvals.
- Key updates on the Bia Food Innovation Hub in Athenry, The 2018 & 2019 Town & Village Renewal Scheme, the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP), the Cleaner Communities competition, the Enterprise Awards initiative, tourism designations of the Wild Atlantic Way and Hidden Heartlands, outdoor recreation scheme.
- Contributions from members were recorded and noted in the context of the presentations and updates received. Much of the work undertaken in 2019 will contribute to the ongoing economic and enterprise development of Galway and will continue to be priority actions over the coming years as per the agreed LECP.

**HOUSING, CULTURE & RECREATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S
ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2019**

Membership

Name	Chair	Housing Culture & Recreation
Cllr. Seamus Walsh	1	1
Cllr. Malachy Noone		1
Cllr. Eileen Mannion		1
Cllr. Pat Hynes		1
Cllr. Donagh Killilea		1
Cllr. Tom McHugh		1
Cllr. Michael Fahy (RIP)		1
Community/Voluntary Sector		
Mr. Declan McKeon		1
Development and Construction Sector		
Ms. Helena McElmeel (RIAI)		1
Social Inclusion Sector		
Mr. Padraic Maher (Irish Wheelchair Association, Tuam)		1

The Housing, Culture & Recreation SPC met on two occasions in 2019, prior to the Local Elections in May 2019, on the 14th February 2019 and the 12th April 2019.

The following are the main policy issues relating to Housing discussed and considered by the Housing, Culture and Recreation SPC in 2019:

1. Tenancy Induction Programme
2. Traveller Accommodation Programme
3. Rebuilding Ireland update
4. Tenant Purchase Scheme
5. Affordable Housing Scheme

**ROADS, TRANSPORTATION AND MARINE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S
ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2019**

Membership

Name	Chair	Roads, Transportation & Marine
Cllr. Des Joyce		1
Cllr. Jim Cuddy		1
Cllr. Martina Kinane		1
Cllr. Michael Connolly		1
Cllr. Michael Finnerty	1	1
Cllr. Michael Maher		1
Cllr. Peter Roche		1
Cllr. Seosamh Ó Cualáin		1
Agriculture/Farming		
Mr. Michael Healy		1
Business/Commercial Sector		
Mr. Bryan Egan (GABC), Bryan Egan & Associates, Consulting Engineers, 12 St. Francis Street, Galway.		1
Community/Voluntary		
Mr. Tom Madden, Ballinasloe Training for Employment Ltd., Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre, Creagh Road, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.		1
Development and Construction Sector		
Mr. Mark Coffey (CIF), Coffey Construction, Castlewood, Moanbaun, Athenry, Co. Galway.		1

The Roads Strategic Policy Committee convened twice in 2019. The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

1. Dunkellin Drainage Project Update
2. 2019 Road Grant Allocations
3. Road Signage
4. Greenways – Conamara and Dublin to Galway Updates

An update on the Dunkellin Drainage Project was given to the SPC in their first meeting of 2019. The Elected Members found the information provided and public consultation very informative.

The issue of additional signage on the M17 Gort to Tuam continued into 2019 and the committee continued to challenge the response being received from TII with respect to the additional signage for

the villages of Abbeyknockmoy, Mountbellew and Ballygar. The Roads & Transportation SPC also issued correspondence to Minister Séan Kyne in relation requesting that bilingual signage be erected for Baile Chláir (Claregalway).

Safety on Bridges formed part of the discussions during the meetings and the SPC sought that an application be made to the Department for funding.

A presentation was given to the committee with regard the progress of the Conamara Greenway and the progression of the Dublin to Galway route. The Committee supported the proposal of the site office for the Dublin to Galway route to be in the County of Galway, which has since opened in the offices above the Library in Ballinasloe in 2019.

With the dissolution of the Council in May 2019, this too dissolved the membership of the Roads SPC. No further meetings were held for the remainder of 2019.

**PLANNING AND COMMUNITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S
ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2019**

Membership

Name	Chair	Planning & Community
Cllr. Albert Dolan	1	1
Cllr. PJ Murphy		1
Cllr. Donagh Killilea		1
Cllr. Michael Maher		1
Cllr. Dáithí Ó Cualáin		1
Cllr. Dermot Connolly		1
Cllr. Shane Curley		1
		1
PPN		
Mark Green An Taisce (PNN)		1
Aodán Mac Donnacha Comhlacht Forbartha An Spidéal Teoranta (PNN)		1
Irish Farmers Association		
Anne Mitchell		1
Construction Industry Federation		
Colm Ryan		1

2 Meetings of the Planning and Community SPC took place in 2019.

The main policy issues discussed during the year included: -

- Landscape Character Assessment update
- Regional Spatial Economic Strategy (R.S.E.S) update
- Initiation of the County Development Plan (C.D.P)
- Update on the Working Group for Waste Water Treatment Plants.
- St Bridget's Ballinasloe site.
- Tuam Local Area Plan
- Flemish Decree

**ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2019**

Membership

Name	Chair	Environment, Water Services, Fire & Emergency Services
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly		1
Cllr. Tim Broderick		1
Cllr. Niamh Byrne		1
Cllr. Tomás Ó Curraoin		1
Cllr. Noel Thomas		1
Cllr. Shane Donnellan	1	1
Cllr. Ivan Canning		1
Cllr. Peter Keaveney		1
Community/Voluntary		
Mr. Aodhan Mac Donnacha		1
Business/Commercial Sector		
Mr. David Courtney (GABC), David Courtney & Associates, Planning and Building Consultants, Cathertymore, Athenry, Co. Galway		1
Environment/Conservation		
Mr. Mark Green (Galway Environmental Network)		1
Mr. Diarmaid Kelly (Cuan Beo)		
Agriculture/Farming		
Mr. Henry Walsh		1

1 Meeting of the Environmental, Water and Emergency Services SPC took place in 2019.

The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

- Climate Action Plan
- Veterinary Services

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS REPORTS**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE - 2019

The members of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe met monthly with the exception of August in 2019.

At their meeting on 20th February 2019 the members approved the Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) 2019 (to include Roads Programme and Environment, Housing, Recreation and Amenity Schedule of repairs and maintenance) for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 12th June 2019 where Cllr. Tim Broderick was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Aisling Dolan was elected Leas Cathaoirleach for 2019/2020.

At the Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on the 10th July 2019 the members approved:

- The appointment of 1 member Cllr. D. Connolly to the CPG.
- The appointment of 2 members Cllr. M. Connolly and Cllr. Dolan to the Ballinasloe October Faire Co-Ordinating Committee.
- The appointment of Cllrs. M. Connolly and Dolan as joint Director of Ballinasloe Area Community Development (BACD) Company Ltd.
- The appointment of 2 members Cllrs. D. Connolly and Broderick to the Ballinasloe Twinning Committee.

On the 23rd October 2019 at the Draft Budgetary Plan 2019 Meeting, the members adopted the draft General Municipal Allocation of €7,791,781 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

In accordance with the Roads Act, 1993 the Municipal District of Ballinasloe declared 7 roads to be public roads in 2019.

At the Municipal District Meeting of 9th October 2019, the Litter Management Plan 2019 – 2022 (Draft) was adopted.

During 2019 the members received:

- A Presentation by the OPW on Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme.
- An update on the National Broadband Plan by Mr. Noel Madden, Executive Engineer.
- A landscape character assessment presentation by Mr. Conor Skehan from Cass Ltd on behalf of Galway County Council.
- A Briefing by Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance CLG on Affordable homes and the co-operative Housing Model.
- A Presentation from Mr. Paddy Matthews, Fáilte Ireland on Hidden Heartlands.
- A Deputation with Representatives of Creagh Road/Ruane/Parkmore Residents.

REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2019
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM - 2019

The members of the Municipal District of Tuam held eight meetings during 2019, including a budget meeting and the Annual General Meeting, at the Municipal District of Tuam offices on High Street, Tuam, Co Galway to discuss the provision of services for the district, community issues and concerns and matters appertaining to their representational role.

The Schedule of Works for the Municipal District was approved by the Members on the 19th February 2019 which amounted to €533,120 in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). They also considered and approved the Annual Roadworks Programme for the Municipal District of Tuam for 2019 including a specific allocation for Non-National roads in the Municipal District of Tuam totalling €6,171,332.

The general election was held on the 26th May 2019 and due the boundary changes made to the district, the membership of the Municipal District of Tuam was reduced from nine to seven elected members.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 13th June 2019, Cllr. Mary Hoade was elected as Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Joseph Sheridan was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Tuam for a period of 12 months.

Members received presentations on the following:

- Landscape Character Assessment by Conor Skehan from CAAS Ltd
- National Broadband Plan by Noel Madden, Broadband Officer
- Creative Places Ireland Tuam 2019-2022 – by the Arts Council
- Litter Management Plan 2019-2021 by Mike Melody, Environment
- Part 8 planning for construction of 51 Units and upgrade of Tirboy estate (LA07/19)

A number of roads in the Municipal District were declared to be public roads, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

The members approved the draft General Municipal Allocation of €6,074,031 on the 24th October 2019 in advance of the 2020 Annual Budget meeting in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2019
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA - 2019

The Municipal District of Loughrea includes the towns of Loughrea, Portumna, Gort and environs. The Municipal District held 10 monthly meetings, 1 Annual Meeting and 1 Budget Meeting during 2019.

The Members considered a wide range of topics which included

- Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach
- The adoption of the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District
- Schedule of Works for 2019,
- Roads Programme 2019
- Flooding
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- The adoption of Municipal District Standing Orders
- Taking in Charge
- Litter Management Plan 2019-2020
- CCTV Programme for Anti-Dumping Initiative

Members also met several deputations during 2019 to hear and take actions on their concerns.

Cllr. Pat Hynes was elected Cathaoirleach at the Annual Meeting held in June 2019, while Cllr. Michael Maher was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2019 **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA 2019**

The members of the Municipal District of Conamara held 9 meetings during 2019 to discuss the provision of services for their district, policy matters, the draft budgetary plan, community issues and concerns and matters appertaining to their representational role. They considered and approved the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District on the 18-2-2019 in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014 which also incorporated the Roads Program for 2019.

They considered progress on the Conamara Greenway following a presentation by C. Wynne S. E. E and K. Lydon S. E Technician. Following the completion of the 6.5 km section by direct labour at Ballinahinch -the Council has commenced work on a 3.5 km section between Cloonbeg Bridge back towards Clifden which involved the construction of a footbridge over the Cloonbeg River. The land valuer has been in contact with 46 landowners and has been securing agreement as regards the purchase of the land- the next phase is the construction of another 5.5 km section towards Sraith Salach.

The Council has made an application for more funding to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport in accordance with the Strategy for National & Regional Greenways published in July 2018 and was successful in securing €2.4 million. Works are underway on a 2.5 km section in Clifden. With regard to the section between Galway-Oughterard, an agronomist has been appointed to conduct an AIA (Agricultural Impact Assessment) to assess the impact on agricultural properties and the management of same. The Council has appointed RPS Consultants to undertake the GAP analysis and the E.I.S which involves a detailed assessment of the environmental & planning issues. Planning permission for the Clifden-Oughterard section was granted by Bord Pleanála in 2013 along the route of the old railway line and the Council intends to submit a planning application to Bord Pleanála for the Galway-Oughterard section towards the end of 2020.

The members welcomed the commencement of major improvement roadworks on the N59 National Secondary Road between Bunnakill & Maam Cross which will involve road widening, realignment and junction works-the contract was awarded to Clare Civil Engineering Ltd- further improvement works on the N59 are planned.

They requested that a re-appraisal of the planning for the stalled R-336 Bearna-Ros a'Mhíl road development be conducted and the route corridor reservations be removed by the Council due to the detrimental effect on landowners as regards applying for planning permission. They were advised by the Director Of Infrastructure & Operations that the planning process on this had stalled as there was little or no support for the emerging preferred route recommended by the Consultants and there was a significant risk in advancing any of the other route options including the Brown Route voted for by a majority of the Councillors- as Bord Pleanála was highly unlikely to grant planning due to the SAC and HAP designations. He referred to the decision of Bord Pleanála regarding the N59 Clifden-Maam Cross route as a precedent and an indication of this. He explained that with the passage of time the feasibility, environmental, planning and other studies underpinning the process had become dated and that a re-appraisal of the project would depend on the decision of An Bord Pleanála in regard to the GCRR (Galway City Ring Road) following the Oral Hearing scheduled for 2020. It would also be influenced by the progress on the N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass and would be unlikely to receive consideration by the Department of Transport until these factors are advanced. He confirmed that the

existing route corridor reservations have been lifted and the Planning Department has been notified and that the Climate Change Action Plan as regards potential flooding and rising sea levels would also have to be a consideration for the future re-appraisal.

The members approved the Part 8 Development for 26 housing units in Conamara under the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 and discussed the plans the Council has for Social Housing in Conamara under Rebuilding Ireland at a meeting attended by the Director of Housing. They held a special meeting in regard to the procurement of land for burial grounds which was also attended by a number of the local T.Ds They discussed matters such as the management of water leaks and repair initiatives by Irish Water in conjunction with the Council and also the procedure as regards the trimming of trees, bushes, hedges & verges adjoining public roads. They considered the draft General Municipal Allocation on the 25-10-2019 in advance of the Annual Budget for 2019 in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The Annual Meeting was held on the 12-6-2019 and Cllr. Noel Thomas was replaced as Cathaoirleach by Comh. Tomás O'Curraoin.

The members also considered the following at meetings in 2019:

- Prospecting and Mining Licences in Conamara.
- Hedge and verge trimming program/procedure.
- Schedule for Taking-in -Charge of roads & registration of roads which have a public right of way.
- Irish Water- water leak detection and repair program and water connection charges. Roll out procedure for water & wastewater schemes.
- Process/procedure for Voluntary & Community Group Applications
- OCSC Consultant Engineers Report on the causeways/bridges at Ceantar na nOileán.
- Re-instatement of roads & footpaths after trenches dug by utilities-road opening licence conditions.
- Update on N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass and the design of the junctions.
- Update on Caladh Mór Harbour, Inis Meáin and Inis Mór Pier.

The following presentations/ deputations were received during 2019:

- National Broadband Plan-Presentation by Noel Madden, Broadband Officer.
- Update on the Conamara Greenway-Presentation by C. Wynne S.E.E & K. Lydon S.E Technician
- Landscape Character Assessment-Presentation by Conor Skehan CAAS (to form background information for the County Development Plan 2021-2027 & future planning policy)
- Review of Litter Management Plan-Presentation by M. Melody Senior Engineer & Mark Molloy Environmental Awareness Officer.
- Provision of Social Housing in Conamara-Presentation by M. Owens DOS & R. Lowe Senior Engineer
- Deputation from Knockferry Roads Committee
- Deputation from Foran Iorras Aithneach.
- Deputation from Cearta Chonamara.

REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2019

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ATHENRY ORANMORE

The Municipal District of Athenry consists of the Local Electoral Area of Athenry-Oranmore. The Municipal District Members are elected to the Council at the Local Elections for a term of five years. The Local Elections 2019 were held on 24th May 2019.

The following were the Members of the Athenry Municipal District Council prior to the May 2019 Local Elections:

- Cllr. Frank Kearney (Cathaoirleach)
- Cllr. Martina Kinane (Leas Chathaoirleach)
- Cllr. Peter Feeney
- Cllr. Jim Cuddy
- Cllr. Malachy Noone
- Cllr. James Charity
- Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly

Nine Meetings of the Athenry Municipal District Council were held during 2019. The Members dealt with a wide range of topics including funding, Rinville Park, Burial Grounds, Flooding, Playgrounds, Housing Estates, Town & Village Renewal, Budgets, Waste Management, carparks and parking fees, Municipal District Schedule of Works and Roads Programme. The Members placed a particular focus on issues relating to roads, including maintenance, hedge cutting, road safety measure and footpath provision. Updates were given to the Members by the Engineering Staff for the area at each Meeting in relation to all of these issues. The Members also discussed policy matters, community issues and concerns and matters relating to their Representational role. Eight of the Meetings were convened in Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway while the September Meeting was convened in the Board Room, Centrepoint, Liosbán Industrial Park, Tuam Road, Galway.

The final Meeting of the outgoing Municipal District Council prior to the Local Elections, which was held on 13th May 2019, was the 50th Meeting of the Municipal District since it was established following the 2014 Local Elections.

Report of Municipal District Council – January to May 2019

At the January 2019 Meeting of the Athenry Municipal District Council, the Members approved the Declaration of Road at Kiltroque, Baile Chláir, to be a public road.

Also at the January Meeting, the Members were informed that Deputy Michael Ring, Minister for Rural and Community Development and Ms. Orla Carroll, Director of Strategic Development with Fáilte Ireland, had jointly announced the approval of funding for Measure 2 of the 2018 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for the Kilcornan Trail Project, Clarinbridge, which would receive an allocation of €199,766.

At the February Meeting, the Municipal District Schedule of Works, which included the Roads Programme 2019, was presented to the Members and, following consideration and discussion, the Members approved the Schedule of Works and Roads Programme.

Also, at the February Meeting, the Members were informed that Galway County Council was successful in its application under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for the Bia Innovator project at the Teagasc Campus, Athenry together with development works in Athenry town. The amount allocated for this project, in the sum of €3,554,000, represents a very significant and welcome investment in Athenry and the wider area.

The Members received a presentation in relation to Burial Grounds in the County at the March Meeting, from the Environment Section.

At the May Meeting, the Members received the following Presentations:

- Landscape Character Assessment – Presentation by Mr. Conor Skehan, CAAS, on behalf of Galway County Council.
- Strategic Housing Development Application to An Bord Pleanála – 212 Residential Units at Moneyduff and Oranhill, Oranmore - Presentation by Ms. Valerie Loughnane, Senior Planner, Galway County Council
- Update on the National Broadband Plan – given by Mr. Noel Madden, Broadband Officer, Galway County Council.

As the May Meeting was the last Meeting of the outgoing Municipal District Council prior to the Local Elections, the Members and Executive acknowledged the contribution and distinguished public service of Cllr. Kearney, Cllr. Noone and Cllr. Feeney as they retired from local government and as Members of the Municipal District.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Kearney thanked his fellow Councillors for all their support and co-operation during his term on the Municipal District Council. He wished the outgoing Councillors well, both those joining him in retirement and those running for re-election. He thanked the Directors of Service, Mr. Peter Gavican and Mr. Michael Owens, for their guidance and support during his five years as a Member of the Athenry Municipal District and he also thanked Ms. Eimear Dolan, Ms. Rose O'Boyle and Ms. Geraldine Healy for their support as Meetings Administrators during this period. He especially thanked the Staff of the Municipal District, including the Engineering Staff, Administrative Staff and the outdoor staff for their hard work and dedication, particularly during the severe weather events which had occurred.

Report of Municipal District Council – June to December 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the newly elected Municipal District Council was convened on 11th June 2019 and the names of the Persons Elected to the Municipal District of Athenry, consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Athenry-Oranmore, at the Local Elections 2019, were read into the Meeting, as follows:

- ❖ Cllr. Liam Carroll, Fine Gael
- ❖ Cllr. James Charity, Non-Party
- ❖ Cllr. David Collins, Fine Gael
- ❖ Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly, Non-Party
- ❖ Cllr. Jim Cuddy, Non-Party
- ❖ Cllr. Albert Dolan, Fianna Fáil,
- ❖ Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn, Fianna Fáil.

The Members unanimously elected Cllr. Cuddy as Cathaoirleach for the year 2019/2020 and Cllr. Carroll as Leas Chathaoirleach. Both Members thanked the Members for electing them unopposed and said they would carry out their duties to the best of their ability for the citizens of the Municipal District of Athenry during the year ahead.

At the July Meeting, the Members agreed a Notice of Motion to trial free parking in the Backlawn Carpark in Athenry from September to November 2019 in order to encourage the use of the carpark by business owners, residents and visitors and to free up on-street parking in the town for shoppers.

The Members were informed by the Director of Service at the September Meeting that the Council's application to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, under the Services Sites Fund 2019, in respect of Council lands at Raheen, Athenry, had been successful. He said that €1.5m has been approved, with matching funds required from the Council, in the sum of €165,000. He said that, subject to approval of the Department, a Design Team would be appointed so that proposals to construct approximately 30 Affordable Housing Units could be put through the Planning Process

The Municipal District Budget Meeting was held on 22nd October 2019 and the Budgetary Plan 2020 for the Municipal District of Athenry, as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive, was adopted by the Members.

Prior to the November Meeting, the Members met a Delegation from the River Oaks Residents Association, Baile Chláir, who made a presentation to the Members in relation to flooding of the estate, access onto the main road and also in relation to traffic congestion in the village.

At the November Meeting, the Members adopted the following:

- Standing Orders Regulating Proceedings at Meetings of Athenry Municipal District Council.
- Litter Management Plan 2019 – 2022.
- Declaration of Roads at Summerfield, Baile Chláir and River Oaks Estate, Baile Chláir to be public.
- Resolution that the free parking introduced from September to November 2019 at Backlawn Carpark, Athenry, remain in place for one year from 2020 - 2021 and that two designated bus parking spaces be provided at the carpark.

The Members passed a number of Resolutions during 2019 in relation to roads; fencing; carparks; playgrounds; control of wandering horses; installation of electric car charging ports; free parking initiatives; insurance costs; opposition to the E.U. Mercosur Trade Deal; issues regarding Athenry, Oranmore and Attymon Train Stations.

The Municipal District Council is supported by a Director of Service, a Meetings Administrator, the Municipal District Engineering, Administrative and Roads Staff.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

COUNCIL NOMINEES TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES

ELECTED MEMBERS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES & OTHER BODIES

Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees Committee	Membership Date
Mr. David Luskin	07.06.2019
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019

Northern & Western Regional Assembly Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Tim Broderick	07.06.2019
Cllr. David Collins	07.06.2019
Cllr. Joseph Sheridan	07.06.2019

Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd. Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. David Collins	07.06.2019
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	07.06.2019

Association of Irish Local Government Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Mary Hoade	07.06.2019
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	07.06.2019
Cllr. Tom Welby	07.06.2019

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd. Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019

Loughrea Heritage Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. PJ Murphy	07.06.2019

Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Tom Welby	07.06.2019

Western Inter-County Rail Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael Connolly	07.06.2019
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	07.06.2019
Cllr. Alastair McKinstry	07.06.2019
Cllr. PJ Murphy	07.06.2019
Cllr. Joseph Sheridan	07.06.2019

Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board (Formerly VEC) Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Shane Curley	07.06.2019
Cllr. Aisling Dolan	07.06.2019
Cllr. Colm Keaveney	07.06.2019
Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019
Cllr. Tom Welby	07.06.2019

Regional Health Forum Representation, West Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019
Cllr. Aisling Dolan	07.06.2019
Cllr. Donagh Killilea	07.06.2019
Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin	07.06.2019
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019

Joint Policing Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Jim Cuddy, Chair	07.06.2019
Cllr. Joe Byrne	07.06.2019
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019
Cllr. James Charity	07.06.2019
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	07.06.2019
Cllr. Mary Hoade	07.06.2019
Cllr. Colm Keaveney	07.06.2019
Cllr. Gerry King	07.06.2019
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	07.06.2019
Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag	07.06.2019
Cllr. PJ Murphy	07.06.2019
Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin	07.06.2019
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	07.06.2019
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019

Galway Rural Development Company Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Martina Kinane	26.06.17
Cllr. Peter Roche	26.06.17

Forum Conamara Ltd. Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Seamus Walsh	21.10.19

Comhar na nOileán Teoranta Committee	Membership Date
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	21.10.19

Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Galway Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael Connolly	01.02.16

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

	Conference	Organised By	Venue	Attendees
1	Energy in Agriculture 2019	Energy in Agriculture	Roscrea, Co. Tipperary on 20th August	1
2	Good Governance of Community, Voluntary & Charitable Organisations in Ireland	Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 22nd to 24th February	2
3	The Finance Act 2018	Celtic Conferences	Carlingford, Co. Louth on 11th to 13th January	2
4	Cross Border Tourism Conference 2019 'Learn from the Best'	Dundalk Chamber of Commerce	Carlingford, Co. Louth on 10th April	1
5	Ireland and Plastic Waste	Celtic Conferences	Carlingford, Co. Louth on 12th to 14th April	1

TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

	Training Event	Organised By	Venue & Date	Attendees
1	Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies - A briefing for Elected Members	AILG	Athlone, Co. Roscommon on 17th January Mullingar, Co. Westmeath on 19th January	4 4
2	Annual Training Conference 2019	AILG	Longford, Co. Longford on 21st & 22nd February	9
3	Spring Training Seminar 2019	LAMA	Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on 7th & 8th March	7
4	Elected Members Module 2 Training March 2019 - 'The Marine Spatial Planning Strategy & Met Eireann, Forecasting Services and Local Authorities - A briefing for Elected Members	AILG	Arklow, Co. Wicklow on 23rd March Sligo, Co. Sligo on 28th March	2 5
5	Elected Member Training Programme - Module 3	AILG	Mullingar, Co. Westmeath on 11th July Thurles, Co. Tipperary on 13th July	12 1

6	Autumn Training Seminar 2019	AILG	Monaghan, Co. Monaghan on 11th & 12th September	12
7	Module 4 The Office of the Planning Regulator and the Elected Member	AILG	Dundalk, Co. Louth on 12th October	5
8	Autumn Training Seminar 2019	LAMA	Ennistymon, Co. Clare on 17th-19th October	10
9	Module 5 Climate Change and The Regional Climate Change Offices	AILG	Athlone, Co. Roscommon on 21st November Little Island, Co, Cork on 23rd November	5 3

* Elected Member Pre-Local Elections 2019

ELECTED MEMBERS' EXPENSES 2019													
Name of Elected Member	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Gratuity Payment	Mobile Phone Allowance	Municipal District Members Allowance	Attending Meetings of External Bodies - Expenses	Total
Broderick Tim	8419.71	17098.55				3461.55					996.58	719.17	30695.56
Burke Donal *	3890.37	7192.79				2538.47			17143.94		421.63		31187.20
Byrne Joe	6621.29	17098.55			3461.55	2769.24				270.76	996.58		31217.97
Byrne Niamh *	2222.17	7192.79					705.26				421.63		10541.85
Canning Ivan	9075.17	17098.55									996.58		27170.30
Carroll Liam	2957.88	9971.15									578.78		13507.81
Charity James	5416.97	17098.55			2538.47					92.15	996.58		26142.72
Collins David	3328.98	9971.15									578.78	290.92	14169.83
Connelly Billy *	2878.81	7192.79							10588.91		421.63		21082.14
Connolly Dermot	8990.15	17098.55									996.58	688.51	27773.79
Connolly Michael	8419.71	17098.55					484.45	108.63		263.51	996.58	665.56	28036.99

Cronnelly Gabriel	6713.07	17098.55		3230.92							996.58		28039.12
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* Elected Member Pre-Local Elections 2019

ELECTED MEMBERS' EXPENSES 2019													
Name of Elected Member	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Gratuity Payment	Mobile Phone Allowance	Municipal District Members Allowance	Attending Meetings of External Bodies - Expenses	Total
Cualáin Dáithi Ó	3699.95	9971.15					154.08				578.78	446.82	14850.78
Cualáin Seosamh Ó *	3530.56	7192.79						600.00	17143.93		421.63		28888.91
Cuddy Jim	4831.84	17098.55				3461.55	82.41				996.58		26470.93
Cunniffe Shaun *	2995.41	7192.79							27996.82		421.63		38606.65
Curley Shane	4336.08	9971.15					302.59				578.78	376.01	15564.61
Curraoin Tomás Ó	4910.75	17098.55				3461.55	1057.74	541.24			996.58		28066.41
Diviney Declan *	618.93	1634.73									95.83		2349.49
Dolan Aisling	5070.59	9971.15					80.62				578.78		15701.14
Dolan Albert	3540.95	9971.15			3461.55						578.78		17552.43
Donnellan Shane *	3150.95	7192.79			2538.47			600.00			421.63		13903.84
Donohue Aidan *	3306.38	7192.79					265.25		17143.94	186.07	421.63		28516.06
Donohue Geraldine	5029.40	9971.15					234.70				578.78		15814.03

Fahy Michael RIP *	1635.07	4577.23					276.89	530.49	79254.69	197.56	268.31		86740.24
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* Elected Member Pre-Local Elections 2019

ELECTED MEMBER'S EXPENSES 2019													
Name of Elected Member	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Gratuity Payment	Mobile Phone Allowance	Municipal District Members Allowance	Attending Meetings of External Bodies - Expenses	Total
Feeney Peter *	1497.36	7192.79			2538.47				52946.73		421.63		64596.98
Finnerty Gerry	4663.98	17098.55									996.58		22759.11
Finnerty Michael *	3788.40	7192.79			2538.47				27183.74		421.63		41125.03
Geraghty Declan	5213.43	9971.15					91.37				578.78		15854.73
Healy Tom *	4070.22	7192.79									421.63		11684.64
Herterich Quinn Shelly	3487.98	9971.15					816.25				578.78		14854.16
Hoade Mary	6731.53	17098.55				3461.55	3115.75				996.58	3299.79	34703.75
Hynes Pat	7172.49	17098.55				3461.55	2010.57	507.20			996.58		31246.94
Joyce Des *	3770.36	7192.79									421.63		11384.78
Kearney Frank *	2179.10	7192.79				2538.47	749.15	948.56	17143.93		421.63		31173.63
Keaveney Colm	4336.08	9971.15					397.91				578.78	251.71	15535.63
Keaveney Peter	8933.47	17098.55		3000.01		2769.24					996.58		32797.85

Killilea Donagh Mark	6458.19	17098.55									996.58		24553.32
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* Elected Member Pre-Local Elections 2019

ELECTED MEMBERS' EXPENSES 2019													
Name of Elected Member	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Gratuity Payment	Mobile Phone Allowance	Municipal District Members Allowance	Attending Meetings of External Bodies - Expenses	Total
Kinane Martina	5610.54	17098.55			3461.55		1174.28				996.58		28341.50
King Gerry	5749.53	9971.15					655.90				578.78		16955.36
Mac An Iomaire Padraig	4261.85	9971.15					158.55				578.78		14970.33
Maher "Moegie" Michael	7025.59	17098.55					2042.49	492.87			996.58	598.66	28254.74
Mannion Eileen	9390.42	17098.55									996.58		27485.55
McClearn Jimmy	8589.75	17098.55	12384.68				1895.10				996.58	2415.84	43380.50
McHugh Farag Karey	5779.71	17098.55			3461.55						996.58		27336.39
McHugh Tom *	3119.82	7192.79					218.59		65731.51		421.63		76684.34
McKinstry Alastair	3010.85	9971.15			3461.55		201.56				578.78		17223.89
Murphy PJ	4389.18	9971.15					827.00				578.78		15766.11
Noone Malachy *	2122.31	7192.79							34082.47		421.63		43819.20

Reddington Andrew	4420.98	9971.15									578.78		14970.91
Roche Peter	7319.52	17098.55			1615.39		1272.76				996.58	190.83	28493.63

* Elected Member Pre-Local Elections 2019

ELECTED MEMBERS' EXPENSES 2019													
Name of Elected Member	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Gratuity Payment	Mobile Phone Allowance	Municipal District Members Allowance	Attending Meetings of External Bodies - Expenses	Total
Sheridan Joseph	4865.88	9971.15					248.14				578.78	1250.84	16914.79
Thomas Noel	5334.81	17098.55				2769.24					996.58		26199.18
Tuairisg Seán Ó *	2622.29	7192.79	9730.82				1549.62		51086.51	53.37	421.63		72657.03
Walsh Séamus	8346.00	17098.55			2538.47						996.58		28979.60
Welby, Thomas	6290.44	17098.55					2290.04				996.58	2930.50	29606.11
	276,143.20	666,908.86	22,115.50	6,230.93	31,615.49	30,692.41	23,359.02	4,328.99	417,447.12	1,063.42	38,870.41	14,125.16	1532900.51



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

OFFICES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

Mr. Kevin Kelly (Interim)

HOUSING

Director of Services:

Mr. Michael Owens (Acting)

Senior Executive Officers:

Ms. Jean Brann

Mr. Gerard Scully

Administrative Officer:

Ms. Nuala Heffernan

Senior Social Worker:

Vacant

Senior Engineer:

Ms. Rachel Lowe (Acting)

Senior Executive Engineers:

Mr. Kevin Murphy

Mr. Daithi Flood (Acting)

ECONOMIC, RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Director of Services:

Mr. Alan Farrell (Acting)

Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services:

Ms. Celine Delaney (Acting)

Senior Executive Officer, Community & Enterprise:

Mr. Kieran Coyne (Acting)

Administrative Officers, Community & Enterprise:

Ms. Mary McGann

Ms. Eimear Dolan

Administrative Officer, Corporate Services:

Ms. Geraldine Healy (Acting)

County Librarian:

Ms. Bernie Kelly (Acting)

Senior Executive Librarians:

Ms. Emer Donoghue

Ms. Siobhan Arkins (Acting)

Senior Executive Engineer, Community & Enterprise:

Mr. Ciaran Wynne

Buildings & Facilities Manager:

Mr. Kevin Finn

Rapid Co-ordinator:

Vacant

Arts Officer:

Ms. Sharon O'Grady

Sports Co-ordinator

Vacant

Law Agent:

Mr. Robert Fergus Meehan

Senior Executive Solicitors:

Ms. Angela Casey

Ms. Anne McCormack

Executive Solicitor:

Mr. Michael O'Doherty

Ms. Leona McMahon

Internal Auditor:

Ms. Bernie Welby

INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

Director of Services:

Mr. Jim Cullen

Administrative Officers:

Ms. Eibhlin Curran

Ms. Edel Hourigan (Acting)

Senior Engineers:	Mr. Damien Mitchell Mr. Derek Pender Ms. Fiona Holland (Acting)
Senior Executive Engineers:	Mr. Aengus Breathnach Mr. Sean Breathnach Mr. Fintan O'Meara Mr. Anthony Collins Mr. Alan Raleigh Mr. Paraic Breathnach Ms. Paula Higgins Mr. Gerard Haugh Mr. Sean Devaney Mr. Enda Mulryan (Acting) Mr. Enda Gallagher (Acting) Mr. Steven Lally (Acting) Mr. John Coyle (Acting) Mr. John Maloney
Chief Technician:	
Administrative Officer, Water Services:	Mr. Enda Moloney
Administrative Officer, Environment:	Ms. Angela Quinn (Acting)
Senior Engineer, Water Services:	Mr. Michael Timmins
Senior Executive Engineers, Water Services:	Ms. Martina Connaughton Mr. Diarmuid Croghan Mr. Anthony Kelly Mr. Michael Shiel Mr. Fergal O'Sullivan (Acting) Mr. Mike Melody (Acting)
Safety Advisor/Health & Safety Officer:	Ms. Julianne Gavin

AREA ENGINEERS

Municipal District Ballinasloe:	Mr. Eamonn Lydon (Acting)
Municipal District Loughrea/Portumna:	Mr. Brendan Sheehy
Municipal District Loughrea (Gort):	Mr. Feidhlim McGillicuddy
Municipal District Athenry/Oranmore:	Ms. Peter Gavin (Acting)
Municipal District Tuam	Mr. Tom Regan Mr. Paul Connolly (Acting)
Municipal District Conamara (South):	Mr. Naoise O Conaola
Municipal District Conamara (North):	Mr. T.J. Redmond

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director of Services:	Ms. Eileen Ruane
Senior Planner:	Ms. Valerie Loughnane Moran
Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Bríd Dooley
Administrative Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Anne Gardiner
Administrative Officer, Planning:	Ms. Eileen Keaveney
Senior Executive Planners:	Ms. Saoirse Kennedy

Heritage Officer: Mr. Alan O'Connell
Conservation Officer: Ms. Marie Mannion
Chief Technician: Ms. Máirín Doddy
Mr. Enda Thompson

County Veterinary Inspector: Ms. Rita Gately
Chief Fire Officer: Mr. Gerry O'Malley
Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officers: Mr. Joseph Kelly
Mr. Michael Clifford
Mr. Paul G. Duffy
Mr. Anthony Travers
Civil Defence Officer: Mr. Brendan Qualter

FINANCE UNIT

Head of Finance: Mr. Gerard Mullarkey
Financial Accountant: Ms. Áine Fenton
Management Accountant: Mr. Michael McGovern
Administrative Officers: Mr. Sean Groarke
Ms. Margaret Jordan
Head of Information Systems: Mr. Michael Martyn

OFFICES OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Comhairle Chontae Na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

www.galway.ie/www.gaillimh.ie • www.twitter.com/galwaycoco • www.facebook.com/galwaycounty
email: customerservices@galwaycoco.ie SMS (087) 77 99 888

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

OFFICE LOCATION

Headquarters (091) 509000

Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway

The following offices are located
in Áras An Chontae

Housing Applications (091) 509300

Housing Loans & Grants (091) 509301

Human Resources (091) 509303

Motor Taxation (091) 509099

Planning (091) 509308

Roads, Transportation &
Marine (091) 509309

Rates (091) 509171

Register of Electors (091) 509310

Freedom of Information &
Access to Information on
the Environment (091) 509319

Casual Trading (091) 509327

Local Enterprise Office (091) 509090

The following offices are located at

Centrepoint, Liosbaun, Tuam Road,

Galway

Environment (091) 509510

Water Services (091) 509505

Community & Enterprise (091) 509521

Business Response Unit (091) 509521

Arts Office (091) 509521

Social Inclusion (091) 509521

Sports Partnership (091) 509521

The following office is located at

Corporate House, Ballybrit, Galway

National Roads Project

Office (091) 735052

AREA OFFICES

Athenry/ Oranmore ... (091) 844042 / 509088

Ballinasloe (090) 9642274

Conamara South (091) 509060

Conamara North (095) 21186

Tuam (093) 24123

Gort (091) 631040 Eyrecourt (090) 9675056

Portumna (090) 9741019 Glenamaddy (094) 9659734

Loughrea (091) 841536 Gort (091) 631224

FIRE BRIGADES

Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden,

Galway City, Gort, Inis Mor,

Loughrea, Mountbellew,

Portumna and Tuam 999 or 112 Killimor (090) 9676062

Civil Defence Officer (091) 570900 Kilonan (099) 20937

LIBRARIES

Headquarters, Galway (091) 562471

Galway City Branch (091) 561666

Ballybane (091) 380590

Westside (091) 520616

An Cheathrú Rua (091) 595733

Athenry (091) 845592

Ballinasloe (090) 9643464

Ballygar (090) 6624919

Clifden (095) 21092

Dunmore (093) 38923

Headford (093) 36406

Inis Meain (099) 73126

Inis Dorr (099) 75154

Inishbofin (095) 45891

Killimor (090) 9676062

Kilonan (099) 20937

Leenane (095) 42920

Letterfrack (091) 742666

Loughrea (091) 847220

Moylough (090) 9679072

Oranmore (091) 792117

Oughterard (091) 557002

Portumna (090) 9741261

Roundstone (095) 35518

Spiddal (091) 504028

Tuam (093) 24287

Woodford (090) 9749887

Tá míle fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras agus gnó trí Ghaeilge
gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

**UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT
CONTRIBUTION SCHEME**

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2019

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Galway County Council adopted a Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in March 2016.

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.

During 2019, the collection of Development Contributions remained a priority for the Council. The monies collected will be used to assist in the provision of necessary public infrastructure and community facilities for the County. A sum of €3.32 Million was collected under the Council's Section 48 Development Contribution scheme in 2019.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2019

NB: Please be advised that the Finance Department have until the 30th June 2019 to complete the AFS, due to Covid 19. However, these figures should not change much between now and end June 2019.

EXPENDITURE	2019 €M
Housing	14.742
	46.546
Roads	
Sanitary Services	13.975
Planning & Development	11.246
Environmental Protection	17.857
Recreation & Amenity	8.501
Agriculture & Education	2.743
Miscellaneous Services	12.930
Total Expenditure	128.544
INCOME	
State Grants	87.960
Other Sources	42.749
Total Income	130.709
Surplus / (Deficit) for year before transfers	2.165
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	(2.089)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for year	.076
General Revenue Reserve at 1st January	(0.012)
General Revenue Reserve at 31st December	.064

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2019		
Net Assets	2019 €M	2019 €M
Fixed Assets		3,639,536
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses		169,871
Long Term Debtors		39,540
Current Assets	70,085	
Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)	(45,753)	
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		24,332
Creditors (Amounts falling due after one year)		(47,375)
Total		3,825,904
Represented By		
Capitalisation Account		3,639,536
Receipts - Work in Progress		169,359
Other Reserves		211
General Revenue Reserve		64
Other Balances		16,733
Total		3,825,904

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.



Image from Galway 2020 Programme launch event 18 Sept 2019