

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL
Friday 20th June 2025 at 2:30 pm

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr Martina Kinane

Cllr David Collins

Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Comh. /Cllr. S. Broderick, I. Canning, J. Charity, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, S. Cunniffe, T. Ó Curraoin, G. Donohue, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, T. Grealish, A. Harney, L. Harney, M. Hoade, C. Keane, D. Kelly, D. Killilea, P. Killilea, G. King, M. Leainde, M. Lee, P. Mac An Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, S. McHugh Ryan, M. McNamara, E. F. Parsons, M. Regan, O. Turner, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Oifigh:

Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Services, Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services, Ms. K. O'Connor, Head of Finance, Mr. D. Mitchell, Director of Services, Ms. J. Brann Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Keady, A/Senior Executive Officer, Ms. S. Lawless, Administrative Officer, Mr. M. O Donnchadha, Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge, Ms. H. Riordan, Staff Officer, Ms. L. O'Donnell, Assistant Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

Cathaoirleach Kinane looked back on her time as Cathaoirleach as a truly memorable experience. Her highlights were joining the NY Galway Association in the St. Patrick's Day parade in New York, her Cathaoirleach Awards and meeting with schools and community groups across the County. She was delighted to announce that her recent Cathaoirleach's Ball raised €19,755. This amount will be shared between two incredible charities. She sincerely thanked the outgoing Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Ollie Turner for his help and work during the year, especially at both the Cathaoirleach Awards and Cathaoirleach Ball. She thanked the Elected Members for the courtesy and co-operation shown to her during her term. She expressed gratitude to the Chief Executive and staff that assisted her during her term, for their help and guidance. She made a special mention to her husband PJ, family and friends.

Party Leaders and Members paid individual tributes to the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr Kinane. She was complimented as being very fair, transparent, hardworking, diligent and an active Cathaoirleach. The Chamber were proud of the manner in which she represented County Galway at a national and international level. She proved to be a great Ambassador for the Council and was a strong female representative, which will hopefully inspire other women to enter politics. She is one of four female Cathaoirligh for County Galway, three of whom were in the Chamber today.

Cllr. Turner was also congratulated on his year as Leas Cathaoirleach. Particular mention was made to his chairmanship of meetings, notably the budget meeting in the absence of a Cathaoirleach.

The Chief Executive on behalf of himself and the staff of Galway County Council congratulated Cllr. Kinane on the wonderful work she carried out during her time as Cathaoirleach. She was fair to both the Elected Members and staff. He also acknowledged the work of Cllr. Turner during his term.

Cllr. Turner reflected on his year as Leas Cathaoirleach, the numerous events that he attended in all areas of the County. He was happy and proud to help the Cathaoirleach and enjoyed the functions that they attended together. He added that the money raised

at the Cathaoirleach Ball was a meaningful amount that will make a huge difference to the two charities.

**ITEM NO.1 ELECTION OF THE CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY
FOR YEAR 2025/2026.** **4582**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Feeney **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion, the Members **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Collins Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway for year 2025/2026.

Cllr. Collins was invested with the Chain of Office and assumed the chair.

Cathaoirleach Collins addressed the Chamber. He thanked the Members for putting their trust in him and for their support. He passed his sympathies to Peter Roche TD and his family on the recent passing of his daughter-in-law Helen. He thanked Cllrs. Feeney and Mannion for nominating him for position of Cathaoirleach. He acknowledged the work of outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kinane and hope to emulate the work that she carried out during her term. He thanked the Members for bestowing the responsibility and their trust in him, and to his wife and family for their support. He undertook to serve the people of Galway with compassion, enthusiasm, fairness and transparency. To afford adequate time to the Members in the Chamber, to achieve general consensus quickly and efficiently. He confirmed his respect for the mandate from the constituents and will work to achieve the Council's goals. He paid tribute to the work of the Chief Executive, Directors and Staff of Galway County Council, emphasising the need to let the public hear the good stories of the Council's work.

Priority areas for him in the coming year will be:

- to progress regeneration projects
- to engage with national representatives for more resources and staff for the Council.
- for the Council to acquire more land for affordable housing, especially beyond the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan area
- to lobby the department to address the affordable housing scheme criteria

- the progression of the development of the previous airport site at Carnmore
- Safe Routes to School projects, age friendly strategies and sports strategies increased.

Party Leaders and Members offered their individual congratulations to the newly elected Cathaoirleach, acknowledging it was a very special day for him and his family and extended their best wishes to him for the year ahead.

ITEM NO.2 ELECTION OF THE LEAS-CHATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY FOR YEAR 2025/2026. **4583**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. D. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly, the Members **AGREED** to elect Cllr. Hoade as Leas-Chathaoirleach of the County of Galway for 2025-2026.

Cllr. Hoade was invested with the Leas Cathaoirleach Chain of Office.

The Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive and Members congratulated Cllr. Hoade on her appointment as Leas-Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Hoade was praised as being well respected, approachable, confident, competent, diligent, experienced, innovative and having 26 years' service as an Elected Member.

Cllr. Hoade thanked her colleagues for the nomination as Leas Cathaoirleach. She committed to working closely and in partnership with the Members.

ITEM NO.3 FIXING A SCHEDULE OF DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS. **4584**

The Schedule of Dates for Council Meetings as circulated prior to the meeting was noted as follows:

- 23rd June 2025
- 28th July 2025
- August 2025 – (no meeting as per standing orders)
- 22nd September 2025

- 20th October 2025- (to be confirmed)
- 24th November 2025
- 15th December 2025 – (to be confirmed)
- 26th January 2026
- 23rd February 2026
- 23rd March 2026
- 27th April 2026
- 25th May 2026

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to change the proposed date of the July 2025 plenary meeting from the 28th July to the 21st July.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach:



Date:

24/7/2025
