



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

CUNTAS BUISÉADACHTA 2019

DRAFT BUDGET 2019

CONTENTS	PAGE
Chief Executive Report	1
Divisional Reports including Annual Progress Report on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2015 - 2019	12
Housing Services Unit	13
Infrastructure and Operations Unit	28
Finance and ICT Unit	52
Economic, Rural and Community Development and Corporate Services Unit	58
Planning, Environment and Emergency Services Unit	109
3 Year Capital Programme 2019 – 2021	146
Statutory Tables (A to F)	158 (Pages 1 - 35)
Appendix 1 - Summary of Central Management Charge	34
Appendix 2 - Summary of Local Property Tax Allocation	35
Certificate of Adoption	36

**CHUIG GACH BALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE
DRAFT BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2019**

To: The Cathaoirleach and each Member of Galway County Council
Re: Draft Budget for financial year ending 31st December 2019

Submitted in accordance with Section 103, Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)

Dear Member,

I enclose, for your consideration, the Draft Budget for 2019, together with a report detailing the main provisions outlined therein and a summary report from the Directors of Service in respect of activities in their respective functional areas which is submitted as an annual progress report in respect of the Corporate Plan.

In accordance with the statutory requirement issues relating to the preparation of the Draft Budget were considered at meetings of the Corporate Policy Group held on 18th September 2018 and 9th November 2018.

The financial and budgetary position of the Council was considered by the Finance Committee at meetings held on 21st May 2018, 2nd July 2018, 3rd September 2018, 17th September 2018 and 13th November 2018.

The Council considered and made its determination on the Local Property Tax adjustment at its meeting held on 24th September 2018 and each of the Municipal Districts considered the Budgetary Plan for each Municipal District at a series of meetings held between the 22nd October 2018 and the 26th October 2018.

The Council may by resolution amend the Draft Budget but shall adopt the Draft Budget, with or without amendment, and determine, in accordance with the Budget so adopted, the annual rate on valuation to be levied and where appropriate have regard to the base year adjustment – determined in accordance with Section 29 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The Council is required to complete the statutory process within a period of 14 days. This allows, for the adjournment, if necessary of the statutory meeting which is scheduled for 30th November 2018, provided the process is completed by 14th December 2018.

General

The Members will be aware that much of the budget in any year is comprised of non-discretionary costs such as loan charges, payroll, statutory demands, insurances, pensions etc. or is comprised of expenditure that is assigned to the delivery of particular services. Given the funding available and the number of demands it is recognised that additional funding could be utilised effectively under almost every budget heading but the allocation of further resources has not been possible in most areas.

There are a number of aspects of budget 2019 which are similar to those raised in respect of 2018

- Additional costs arising from the National Pay Agreements (€338,000)
- Increased costs in respect of housing services including homeless services and housing maintenance (€450,000)
- Increased rateable valuations (€700,000)
- Increased provision for gratuities/pensions (€400,000)
- Continued partial offset of insurance costs from IPB retained funds distribution (€600,000)
- Increased Government Grants for Roads (€4,070,000)

Overall while the total gross expenditure budget shows an increase of €9m the net increase over the estimated outturn for 2018 as outlined in Table A is €2.1M (page 1 of the Statutory Tables). Additional expenditure in respect of roads recorded in the 2019 budget is largely a contra item arising from increased grants.

Keeping within budget in 2019 will require continued careful monitoring by all units throughout the year and no contingencies have been provided for in the budget for 2019.

Local Property Tax

The funding previously derived from the Local Government Fund has been replaced by the proceeds from the Local Property Tax / Pension Related Deductions. The base funding from this source in 2019 is estimated to be largely the same as the amount received each year since 2014.

The funding from the Local Property Tax/Pension Related Deduction has been estimated to produce income of €14.5m in 2019.

	2015	2019
LPT Raised in County Galway	14,967,018	14,640,846
20% to Equalisation Fund	2,993,404	2,928,169
80% Retained	11,973,614	11,712,677

Received from Equalisation Fund	532,767	2,805,214
Total LPT received	12,506,381	14,517,890
PRD as per AFS	1,985,695	
Total LPT plus PRD	14,492,076	14,517,890

(PRD included as part of LPT 2018 based on Actual PRD received in 2014).

Financial position

The current financial position of the Council has been discussed in detail by the Finance Committee by the Corporate Policy Group and by the full Council and the revenue funding available to Galway County Council remains a critical issue. There is a requirement for additional funding in almost every area of Council activity including housing, property maintenance, road maintenance, fleet replacement, street cleaning, verge trimming, public lighting, economic and tourism development, ICT Development as well as the requirement for additional staffing in key areas and for new programmes.

Commercial Rates

As outlined previously the commercial rate for the County of Galway can only be increased once the rate for the former Ballinasloe Town Council area has achieved parity. The County rate currently stands at €66.59 which is unchanged since 2009 and the Ballinasloe rate is €61.00 which is being merged since 2016 but prior to that had been unchanged since 2008. The following table shows a comparison of the rate on valuation with the other Local Authorities in the region in 2018 which is reflected in lower income from commercial rates in County Galway.

Ballinasloe	€61
Galway County	€66.59
Roscommon	€71.44
Mayo	€73.92
Clare	72.99

I have drafted the budget on the basis of a 6% rates adjustment but have also introduced a complementary Rates Payment Incentive Scheme as an assistance to smaller businesses. The issue of refunding 100% of commercial rates on vacant properties has been discussed as being a disincentive to the economic use of such properties. Section 31 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides that a local authority may determine the proportion of a refund of commercial rates on vacant properties that would apply to each electoral area. No provision for income from this change has been made in respect of the draft budget for 2019 pending further consideration by the Members.

Rates Payment Incentive Scheme

As referenced above it is proposed to introduce a Rates Payment Incentive Scheme targeted at small businesses (other than vacant properties) whose current rate demand is no greater than €10,000. The scheme would apply a financial support to occupiers of commercial properties in Galway at a level of 6% of their 2019 rate demand. Among the terms of the scheme would be the following

- The commercial rate demand for 2018 must amount to a maximum of €10,000
- The scheme applies to the rated occupier
- The commercial rates for 2019 and all arrears of commercial rates must be paid in full by 31st July 2019 except
- If payment is by direct debit, there must be arrangements in place to discharge the commercial rate account (including arrears) in full by 31st December 2019
- The fully completed application form must be submitted no later than 31st July 2019

Therefore if a business has a rate demand of €5,000 in 2018 the demand would increase to €5,300 following the application of the proposed 6% Rate increase. However on payment of the full rates in accordance with the scheme the occupier would qualify for a discount of 6% of €5,300 totalling €318.00. The ratepayer would therefore pay €18.00 less in 2019 than they did in 2018 reflecting an overall reduction in their rate demand. It is intended that the rate of support would be adjusted downwards in future draft budget proposals.

Ballinasloe Rate

In addition, it is recognised that aligning the Ballinasloe rate and the County Rate requires a large adjustment and therefore in 2019 there will be a financial support applied to rate paying businesses in the former Ballinasloe Town Council area. Therefore a 4.0% discount of the 2018 rate will be available for all commercial rate accounts in the former Ballinasloe Town Council area where the rates are discharged in accordance with the requirements set out above. This provision would only apply in 2019 and would be eliminated in 2020 Budget Adjustments.

Budget Adjustments

The following are a list of some of the main changes and specific provisions in the draft budget for 2019

Increase in Insurance Costs	€30,000
Increase in Rates Valuation	€700,000
National Pay Agreement/Payroll Cost	€838,000
Additional Homeless Cost	€50,000
Rates Increase (Nett)	€1,000,000

Public Lighting	€30,000
Pensions and Gratuities	€400,000
NWRA	€27,000
Data Protection	€30,000
Corporate Services Health & Safety	€75,000
Corporate Services Maintenance	€25,000
Traffic Management Plans	€40,000
Climate Change Strategy	€60,000
Tourism Officer and Initiatives	€100,000
Training	€20,000
Speed Limit Review	€100,000
Libraries	€85,000
BCMS	€50,000
Milwaukee Event 2019	€20,000
Music Generation	€50,000
Roads Budget Restoration	€360,000
Road Maintenance	€300,000
e-Planning	€25,000
Fleet Management	€100,000
Housing Maintenance	€400,000
Additional Staffing*	€150,000

Municipal District Pilot Funding

The case for additional funding for Galway County Council continued to be pressed during 2018 and in recent months discussion with the Department centred on the importance of having in place a strong municipal district structure should the proposed amalgamation of Galway City and County Council's progress. A case was submitted to the Department seeking funding to start a process of addressing a number of issues pertaining to municipal districts including staff resources, delegation of functions and discretionary spending and prioritisation. The case made is being considered favourably by the Department and an allocation of €500,000 is under discussion with an understanding that this allocation will be repeated over the next few years. While welcome it is important that this limited funding is applied strategically to make a positive impact on each municipal district and I therefore have not distributed this funding across services, but have included it in the budget as a contra item and propose that there will be consideration by the Corporate Policy Group (which is representative of all Municipal Districts) in the first instance on the approach to be taken which will meet the objectives of the allocation and commence a process to strengthen Municipal Districts. It is recognised that there will be varying views and competing demands but it is essential that rather than being simply project led this funding is used to ensure the functioning of municipal districts and the delivery of services into the future including ensuring that we have capacity to compete for and deliver under various national funding initiatives. Other actions such as the carrying out of more

functions at Municipal District level and local decision making on issues such as community grants will support this process.

Work Programme

In addition to routine service delivery there are many projects that Galway County Council is currently leading will lead or is otherwise engaged in. These include the resolution of flooding problems in South Galway, Ballinasloe and elsewhere, the development of the harbour at Inis Oirr and similar projects, collaboration on the rollout of Broadband, implementing Government Policy and initiatives in respect of Housing delivery and maintenance, the delivery of the Galway City Ring Road, the construction of the Ballinasloe Town Enhancement Scheme, the operation and remediation of the East Galway Landfill, the progression of the Bia Innovator Food Hub in Athenry, the improvement of the N59, the advancement of Greenway proposals, the advancement of Masterplans for the former Galway Airport Site and the lands adjacent to the railway station at Garraun, the development of a Climate Change Strategy, the advancement of initiatives in respect of Tourism, the development of a Digital Strategy, and many other initiatives across the organisation.

The members will be aware that there are a number of areas where progress in recent years has been inhibited due to resource constraints. One of the key areas for the further economic development of the County is Tourism and in this regard, I have made provision for the employment of a Tourism Officer. It is intended that this person will assist in developing applications for tourism funding as well as developing local initiatives to support tourism in Galway and gives a very clear signal of our support for the tourism industry.

I have previously raised the ageing vehicle fleet and the need for a sufficiently co-ordinated approach to matters such as hire, leasing, purchase, vehicle maintenance, branding and other related issues and I have made provision to undertake a review of our fleet with a view to developing a strategy for the operation management of same into the future.

It has proved possible to provide small increases in a number of areas including housing maintenance, building maintenance, public lighting, as well as making provision for the development of a Climate Change Strategy and to meet our requirements under Data Protection.

Funding under National Grant Schemes

Galway County Council has continued to avail of opportunities to compete for national funding streams. In a joint funding proposal with regional partners tourism product funding of €400,000 was secured through REDZ for a flagship project to improve the visitor experience on arrival to Knock Airport and to promote the region. Funding of €200,000 was secured from Failte Ireland to promote the Blueway Project which was launched in March 2018. Funding of €25,000 was recently received from the Department of Agriculture for the development of Agri-Food Tourism initiatives in County Galway. The

Members will be aware that €2.4m was secured from Enterprise Ireland under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund for the development of the Food and Rural Innovation Hub at the Teagasc campus in Athenry.

Over €900,000 was secured for 8 projects under the 2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme which is so valuable to our towns and villages. Seven substantial projects were developed and submitted under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund and the outcome is awaited. An amount of €17,812 was secured under measure 1 of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme while larger allocations are anticipated under measures 2 and 3 due to be announced by year end. Separately €242,500 was secured under measure 2 of the CLÁR programme for the development of play areas. A further €360,665 was secured under measure 1 of the CLÁR for schools and community safety measures while €9,223 was secured from measure 3 to support the work of the Galway Mountain Rescue Team.

An amount of €378,936 was secured under the Community Enhancement Scheme in 2018 of which €18,800 was for Men's Sheds initiatives. €252,500 was approved for community projects across 10 categories under the Community Support Scheme in 2018 with 266 grants awarded under this scheme while €5,500 was invested in small community style interventions in the RAPID designated towns of Ballinasloe & Tuam.

An allocation of €942,000 was received by Galway County Council from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Local Improvement Scheme in February 2018 which enabled the Council to proceed with works on 30 schemes. In November 2018 notification was received that a further allocation of €1,000,000 was being made to Galway County Council to progress a further 36 schemes in 2018.

The Council also received an allocation of €631,000 under the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme, from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in June 2018 which would facilitate works at 41 locations during 2018 and 2019.

While all of these grants and initiatives are very welcome they bring with them expectations and requirements which are difficult to meet with current resources and the involvement of Galway County Council on all projects is not possible.

Town Centre Initiatives

I have outlined above the funding received under a number of headings which together with the €2.5m invested by Galway County Council during the life of this Council under its Town and Village Renewal Programme has enabled significant improvements in many of our towns and villages as well as the development of further proposals. We have also introduced a number of other initiatives to support town centres and it is intended to review these in 2019 and to consider what changes should be made and if any further initiatives should be undertaken.

Staffing

The members will be aware that our staffing level is one of the lowest per head of population which impacts on our capacity to deliver services. The Council's staffing headcount increased by 23 to 800 in 2018 arising from the filling of some vacancies coupled with additional targeted recruitment in some priority areas including Housing and the National Roads Project Office. Many of these additional posts are either fully or part funded from external sources. The appointment of 1 further Senior Engineer, 2 Senior Executive Engineers, 1 Senior Executive Planner, and an Atlantic Economic Corridor Officer are expected to be finalised in the coming weeks.

Greater opportunities and staff movement across the sector, combined with 30 retirements in 2018 and an estimated further 28 retirements expected in 2019 resulted in increased recruitment activity throughout 2018. A total of 45 recruitment competitions have taken place to date resulting in 132 new appointments and 80 internal promotional appointments.

Housing

Galway County Council has responded to the priority of housing delivery and is implementing the various initiatives of Government introduced to address this issue. In addition to delivering new housing units there are other initiatives and responsibilities including the introduction of minimum standards, electrical testing and planned maintenance programmes as well as earlier turnover of vacant units. The costs of delivering on these requirements are far beyond the financial capacity of our revenue budget and therefore the approach is to make increased provision in our revenue budget in so far as we can afford and to consider the use of Internal Capital Receipts (ICR's) as a source of funding. However, it is important to recognise that the level of ICR's is limited and there are a number of demands on same as a funding/co-funding mechanism with the approval of the Department also required. While additional staffing has been applied to the area of housing there are further requirements beyond our current financial capacity and a case has been made to the Department in this regard.

Economic and Community Development

Notwithstanding the limited resources available in recent times the Council has continued to support communities and advance the economic development of the County. The financial support element of some of these projects is more significant than others but it is essential that we are able to play the role envisaged for us in both economic and community development under the Local Government Reforms of 2014.

Galway County Council will continue to provide funding to various groups and bodies. This includes funding under the headings of Festivals, Economic Development, Community Facilities, Tidy Towns, Social Inclusion, Youth, Sport, Arts, Heritage and the Irish Language. This support by Galway County Council makes a significant contribution to the efforts of many communities and organisations to deliver initiatives and improvement in their areas.

While it has been the practice to continually review this spend there will be further careful consideration of how to target the funding available to achieve the best outcomes overall and to make any appropriate adjustments that may be identified. The Community & Enterprise Unit will continue to ensure optimum alignment with Galway County Councils objectives and complementarity to programmes such as ECOC and EROG while also taking account of recent national funding programmes which were not previously available.

Roads funding

The level of resources available for road maintenance and improvement has increased in recent years from €28.6M in 2015 to €30.6M in 2018. Unfortunately, it was necessary to reduce our own contribution to roads in 2018 but additional income in 2018 allowed us to reinstate part of that Roads Funding in the amount of €360,000. The Roads Grant funding in 2019 is expected to be €4.1M greater than that budgeted for in 2018. In addition to the increased grant funding, I have made increased provision in the sum of €660,000 for Roads Maintenance which will help to offset changes in grant recoupments and I have also made provision in the sum of €100,000 in respect of the costs of implementing the outcome of the Speed Limit review. If the changes imposed on the second round of LIS funding in 2018 is repeated in the 2019 scheme it will impact on our ability to derive maximum benefit. The change saw the overhead previously used to offset our payroll and other costs removed from the scheme.

Public Lighting.

The Members will be aware from previous discussion that the costs of public lighting are continuing to increase. Unfortunately, I have only been able to make a small increase in respect of increased costs for public lighting in 2019. There are a number of issues in respect of public lighting that pertain to all Local Authorities relating to age and type of lighting, maintenance and energy efficiency and it is an area that will require significant investment. As part of a national initiative it is likely that in the forthcoming period we will replace all public lighting with LED lights to be funded through a loan which will be paid for at least in part by our revenue budget provision.

The following table shows the budgetary trend for Galway County Council in recent years.

Budgetary Trend

2008 - Adopted Budget	€160 M
2014 - Adopted Budget	€122 M
2015 – Adopted Budget	€105.2 M
2016 – Adopted Budget	€104.3 M
2017 – Adopted Budget	€105.3 M

2018 – Adopted Budget	€112 M
2019 – Draft Budget	€121.2 M

Expenditure proposals

The following tables set out the expenditure and income breakdown proposed for 2019:

Expenditure by Programme Group	2018 Budget	2018 Est. Outturns	2019 Draft Estimated Budget
	€	€	€
Housing and Building	13,541,145	13,612,694	15,480,893
Road Transportation & Safety	35,087,990	42,733,605	39,491,467
Water Services	12,847,920	12,843,534	12,958,471
Development Management	8,577,247	8,103,629	9,140,417
Environmental Services	17,677,719	17,707,237	18,098,033
Recreation & Amenity	8,565,054	8,543,179	8,833,238
Agriculture, Education Health & Welfare	2,826,756	2,561,590	2,726,649
Miscellaneous Services	13,143,199	13,076,662	14,521,287
Total	112,267,030	119,182,130	121,250,455

In the Draft Budget, the estimated Revenue Income anticipated is as follows: -

Estimated Revenue Income	2018		2019	
	€	%	€	%
Local Property Tax / Pension Related Ded	14,517,890	13	14,517,890	12
NPPR	450,000	0	450,000	0
State Grants & Subsidies	36,240,279	32	41,684,152	34
Irish Water Income	8,705,854	8	9,046,000	7
Local Determined Income	36,499,727	33	39,100,270	32

Other Income	15,853,280	14	16,452,143	14
	112,267,030	100	121,250,455	100

Conclusion

The preparation of the Draft Annual Budget for each year of the term of this Council has been extremely challenging. The proposed expenditure of €121.2 M together with the capital programme spend estimated at €70m represents a very considerable investment of monies in the development of the County and the delivery of services throughout the County.

I wish to thank the elected members for their co-operation and support during 2018. I wish to record my appreciation to the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg, and the former Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eileen Mannion for their commitment to the special responsibilities of their office and their courtesy and co-operation in doing the business of the Council. I wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Finance Committee and the Corporate Policy Group in the discussion on the draft budget and the overall finances of Galway County Council.

I also want to thank the staff of the Council for their dedication and flexibility during 2018 and in recent years and their support has ensured the continued delivery of services in difficult circumstances.

I wish to thank the Council's Directors of Service and their staff for their rigorous examination of budget items for 2019. In particular, I want to acknowledge the work of Mr. Ger Mullarkey, Mr. Michael McGovern, Mr. John Moore, Ms. Sara McDermott and the staff in the Finance Unit and to thank all involved in delivering the draft budget.

The year 2019 will undoubtedly bring further challenges and change for Galway County Council, but I am confident that with the support of the Members, Management team, and colleagues we will provide valuable services in 2019 to meet the critical needs of the people of Galway.

I recommend the Draft Budget to you for adoption.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Kelly,
Chief Executive (Interim)

**Divisional Reports including Annual Progress Report
on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2015
- 2019**

HOUSING SERVICES UNIT

Housing Construction

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Under Rebuilding Ireland Galway County Council has, to date, received approval for funding in the order of €45.5m to progress the design, planning, tendering and construction of 236 units.
- In addition, to date in 2018, project proposals for a further 52 units at an estimated cost of €11.2 million have been submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government for approval.
- The Council has completed the purchase of 10 units thus far in 2018, with proposals to finalise the purchase of a further 21 units by the year end.
- Expressions of Interest were invited for the provision of turnkey developments. A total of 4 submissions have been received and are currently being assessed.
- Ongoing projects were progressed through various stages and statutory approvals to date as follows:

Location	# Units	DHPLG Stage
Garbally Drive & Esker Fields, Ballinasloe	12	Stage 4 – Construction
Single Rural Dwellings	5	Stage 4 – Construction / Handover
Gilmartin Rd., Tuam	61	Stage 4 - Construction
An Cheathrú Rua	4	Stage 2 - Planning
Fairgreen, Roundstone	14	Stage 2 - Planning
Cartron, Kinvara	6	Stage 1 – Design
Caislean Raithlín, Ardahan	12	Stage 1 – Design
Barrack St., Loughrea	6	Stage 1 – Design
Claremount, Oughterard	13	Stage 1 – Design
Gort Ui Lochlainn, Moycullen	30	Stage 1 – Design
St. Josephs, Clifden	24	Stage 1 – Design

Bridge Court, Ahascragh	18		Stage 1 – Design
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- Most significantly following Stage 4 approval from DHPLG, Contracts were awarded for Construction of:
 - 40 units at Gilmartin Rd. (plus the refurbishment of 21 units);
 - 10 units at Garbally Drive, Ballinasloe;
 - 2 units at Esker Fields, Ballinasloe;
 - 1 Single Rural Dwelling at Waterdale, Claregalway;
 - 1 Single Rural Dwelling at Tumnahulla, Corrandulla.
- 3no. Single Rural Dwellings were completed during 2018 at Callowfinish, Cill Chiaráin and Kinvara.

Proposals for 2019:

- The construction programme will remain a key priority in 2019 with a clear focus on progressing all capital projects through design, planning, tendering & construction stages as quickly as possible.

Location		2019 Activity
Garbally Drive & Esker Fields, Ballinasloe	12	Completion, Handover
Gilmartin Rd., Tuam	61	Completion, Handover
An Cheathrú Rua	4	Tender, Construction
Fairgreen, Roundstone	14	Planning, Tender, Construction
Cartron, Kinvara	6	Planning, Tender, Construction
Caislean Raithlín, Ardrahan	12	Planning, Tender, Construction
Barrack St., Loughrea	6	Planning, Tender, Construction
Claremount, Oughterard	13	Planning, Tender, Construction
Gort Ui Lochlainn, Moycullen	30	Planning, Tender, Construction
St. Josephs, Clifden	24	Planning, Tender, Construction
Bridge Court, Ahascragh	18	Planning, Tender, Construction

- Identifying further potential sites for development in line with the housing needs for various areas; including turnkey developments, will also remain a key priority in order to enhance and maintain the delivery stream.

Strategic Development and Management Plan for Housing Lands

The active management of the housing land bank is part of a range of actions being taken under Rebuilding Ireland designed to accelerate and increase housing output.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Strategic Development and Management Plans have been developed for lands in the Council's ownership, prioritising those sites that have the most potential to deliver housing in the short to medium term.
- A number of strategic sites have been identified for the development of master plans that will support the development of these sites to meet a range of housing needs on a phased basis, building high quality homes and sustainable communities.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Housing Unit will continue to review and update the Rebuilding Ireland Land Map on a quarterly basis.
- Continue to drive the implementation of the Strategic Development and Management Plans in order to advance sites to development stage at the earliest date possible
- The Council will invite Expressions of Interest from Approved Housing Bodies and Builders to build on selected sites within the land bank to maximize the delivery of units in the short-medium term, delivering sustainable communities.
- The Council is committed to maximizing the potential of the land bank to support housing need, including affordable housing and rental options, subject to the introduction of appropriate schemes and funding streams by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

Social Housing Need

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- A Housing Needs Assessment was completed in 2018 and there are currently approximately 3,600 applicants on the record of qualified households.
- During the period January – November 2018, a total of 165 offers were made to applicants on the record of qualified households for social housing. 41 nominations were made for voluntary housing provided by Approved Housing Bodies with the support of the Council.
- During 2018 the Housing Unit also advertised 40 houses on the Choice Based Letting system

Proposals for 2019:

- The Council will continue its' progress in the provision of social housing supports for persons on the record of qualified households.
- The Council will seek to increase the supply of housing units through all available channels. In particular the focus will shift towards delivery through construction including turnkey units in the coming year in accordance with national policy.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) & Leasing
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Indicative Activities in 2018:

- 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. 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 needs met.
- There are 238 households accommodated currently through the RAS Scheme and Short-term Leasing Scheme.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Council will continue to administer the RAS Scheme as well as working to progress supply options under the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP has been in operation in Galway County Council for three years and there have been almost 1,100 tenancies created to date. HAP allows recipients to take up full-time employment and still retain their housing support.

Under HAP, local authorities will make the full rent payment on behalf of the HAP recipient directly to the landlord. The HAP recipient will then pay a rent contribution to the local authority.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- 1,100 applicants transferred to the HAP scheme by the end of October 2018.
- Lack of supply of available properties remains a significant issue for HAP applicants.
- Information sessions were held with Cope, Citizen's Information Centres, Mental Health and Family Support units working in the community, to increase awareness of HAP.

Proposals for 2019:

- To continue transferring long term rent supplement recipients from the Department of Social Protection over to the HAP scheme, within the limits of available resources. Approximately 700 people are in receipt of long term rent supplement payments.
- Process all new housing applications for the HAP scheme.
- Continuation of inspection process for all properties under the HAP Scheme.

Homeless HAP Place Finder Service

The Homeless HAP Place Finder Service has recently been introduced in Galway County Council in November 2018. The Service has been rolled out to Local Authorities to assist homeless households find accommodation where the high demand and low levels of supply make the rental market very challenging. Sanction was received from the Department for the recruitment of a dedicated Place Finder staff member who has recently been appointed.

Proposals for 2019:

- Roll-out of the HAP Place Finder Service in Galway County Council
- Review of the priority homeless cases and the properties available to rent in County Galway.

Repair and Leasing Scheme

Indicative Activities in 2018:

A key component of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness is a new scheme, the Vacant Housing Repair and Leasing Scheme, which targets the delivery of social housing and also ensures that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible.

The basis of the scheme is that repair and improvement works to suitable vacant properties are funded to bring them up to the standard for rented accommodation and the cost of the works is then deducted from lease payments over an agreed lease term.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Continued engagement with property owners, estate agents and solicitors in an effort to attract expressions of interest to the scheme.

- To date, 75 expressions of interest have been received from property owners with some files currently being progressed.

Proposals for 2019:

- Galway County Council will assist property owners to develop the scope of works and also aid the property owner in the completion of the repair works. Property inspections are carried out by Galway County Council staff that will identify the works required to bring the dwelling to the required standard.
- The Council will proactively engage with owners of suitable vacant properties in need of repair, with the aim of making the property available under the Repair & Leasing Scheme to meeting housing need.

Buy & Renew Scheme

Under the Rebuilding Ireland Action plan a scheme called the Buy and Renew Scheme was launched in July 2017. This initiative provides funding to buy and renew vacant properties to meet housing needs while also addressing dereliction in towns and villages.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Council has delivered 4 Units under the Buy and Renew Scheme which was introduced in 2017.
- Sanction was received for the appointment of a Vacant Homes Officer and a member of staff has been recently appointed to this position.

Proposals for 2019:

- Galway County Council will continue to endeavour to acquire and renew Housing Units in need of remediation and make them available for social housing use in the areas of high demand.
- The Council will develop a Vacant Homes Strategy and Action Plan for Galway County thereby maximising existing housing stock by returning suitable vacant properties to meet housing need.

Residential Tenancies Board - Registration of Rented Units

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Residential Tenancies Act 2004 came into operation on 1st September 2004. Part 7 of this Act deals with the registration of tenancies with the Residential Tenancies Board. The published register is available on the Residential Tenancies Board website at www.rtb.ie
- A significant emphasis was placed on maintaining the number of inspections of private rented houses in 2018 versus 2017, resulting in a total of 607 properties being inspected up to the 24th of October 2018. Notwithstanding staff turnover in this area, the 2018 target has been achieved.

Proposals for 2019:

- On-going inspection of Private Rented Properties to confirm compliance with current Standards for Private Rented Properties. It is intended that a further emphasis will be placed on increasing the number of inspections undertaken.

Voluntary Housing

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Council is continuing to engage with the Voluntary sector so as to maximise the number of units being made available through the funding schemes CAS (Capital Assistance Scheme) and CALF (Capital Advance & Leasing Facility).

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

The Capital Assistance Scheme funding is provided by the Department through the Local Authority for the provision of housing.

- 2 Projects with CAS funding was completed in 2018: Acquisition of 1 Unit in Aggard, Craughwell by Peter Triest Housing Association and 1 Unit in Eden Park, Loughrea by (Tuath Housing Association).

Other CAS Projects progressing:

- Tearmann Eanna Teo, Eannach Mhein – 13 units (Acquisition)
- Tearmann Eanna Teo, Old Post Office, Inverin – 4 units (Acquisition)
- Clargalway & District Day Care Centre, Cregboy – 14 units (Construction)
- Mountbellew Housing Association, Mountbellew – 5 units (Construction)
- Cluid Housing Association, Dunlo Hill, Ballinasloe – 17 units (Construction)
- Respond Housing Association, 119 Lissadyra, Tuam 1 unit

- Respond Housing Association, Fairgreen Heights, Tuam – 1 unit (Acquisition)
- Respond Housing Association, Woodfield, Tuam – 1 unit (Acquisition)
- Respond Housing Association, Cois Na habhainn – 1 unit
- Tearmann Eanna Teo, Rossaveal Cottages – 8 units (Acquisition)
- Peter Treist Housing Association, Caheroyan – 1 unit (Acquisition & Construction)
- Peter Treist Housing Association, Springfield, Ballinasloe – 1 unit (Construction)
- Cluid Housing Association, Letterfrack (Phase 2) – 11 units (Construction)
- The 2018 CAS Call remains open and the Council welcomes all applications from Approved Housing Bodies.

Capital Advance and Leasing Facility (CALF) & Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

The Capital Advance and Leasing Facility and Mortgage to Rent Scheme provide social housing through off-balance sheet current expenditure.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- To date 122 units have been delivered at various locations around the County including Athenry, Tuam, Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Mountbellew, Clifden and Portumna. Galway County Council has 100% nomination rights on all units.
- Proposals for a further 106 units across the County are currently being progressed.

Proposals for 2019:

- It is proposed that the Council will continue to engage pro-actively with the Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) in order to facilitate the sourcing of further units for the provision of social housing under this funding model.
- The Housing Unit will examine the potential for AHBs to deliver additional housing units on Council held lands.

<h3>Traveller Accommodation Programme</h3>

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Council commenced the process of drafting the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.
- To date in 2018 the housing needs of 46 Traveller applicants have been met through the provision of standard housing and voluntary housing.
- Significant refurbishment and remedial works of traveller specific accommodation in Capira, and Tuam Halting sites.

- Fire Safety and awareness continue as key priorities in 2018, with fire safety improvement works undertaken and awareness training delivered in Creggane, Tuam, Craughwell and Capira.
- The Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on 3 occasions to date in 2018 with a 4th meeting scheduled before year end.

Proposals for 2019:

- The construction of 6 houses and 2 bays at Dunkellin Park Halting site, Craughwell will proceed to construction in 2019 subject to final stage approval from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.
- The Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee will continue to play a lead role in overseeing the drafting and subsequent implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024.
- A further programme of fire safety awareness training will be delivered.

Homelessness

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- A further increase in the demand for homeless services was noted in 2018 including the number of families presenting together with a more recent notable increase in the number of single people presenting as homeless during 2018.
- The Homeless Framework Action Plan adopted by Council during 2017 serves to guide the actions of the Council in responding to the many challenges of homelessness.
- The limited availability of private emergency accommodation presented many challenges in responding to homelessness and placed significant demands on the limited resources of the Housing Unit.
- Larger families in particular have great difficulty in sourcing homes in the private sector. Council Housing stock has a limited amount of 4/5 bedroom houses.
- A Homeless HAP (Housing Assistance Payments) finder was recruited in November 2018 and the role include a facility to pay a deposit and rent upfront to landlords making it easier for people who are Homeless to access HAP accommodation and exit emergency accommodation.

Proposals for 2019:

- It is anticipated that the increased demand for homeless services experienced in the past 3 years will continue in 2019 due to the limited supply of housing and in particular the limited availability of housing in the private rented sector.
- It is expected that the new HAP Finder and Vacant Homes officer posts will positively impact firstly on the length of time people spend in Homeless services

once established will assist in preventing people becoming homeless by early intervention.

- Galway County Council will continue to progress cooperation with City Council with all Homeless services and the Homeless Action Team for a coordinated inter-agency approach to homelessness.
- Galway County Council will continue to work in cooperation and partnership with the Voluntary sector and in particular COPE, Galway Simon and Threshold with a shared goal of providing emergency accommodation for those who need it and supporting them to move on as appropriate for each individual.
- Progress a Housing led approach with all forms of social housing including transition accommodation for families in cooperation with Approved Housing Bodies and with supports tailored to needs.
- Progress step down/ transition accommodation for single people needing some supports in cooperation with Approved Housing Bodies and with supports tailored to needs.
- Work with Voluntary & Statutory bodies to prevent Homelessness (e.g. Threshold, Tusla etc.) with a focus on tenancy protection and sustainment.
- Continue with case management with an emphasis on move on to appropriate accommodation.
- To continue to provide long term accommodation with all the necessary supports for both families and single homeless applicants.
- Where appropriate Galway County Council will continue its consideration of purchasing properties for use as “Family Hubs “.

Housing Strategy for People with a Disability

The main aim of this Strategy is to promote and mainstream equality of access for people with a disability to the full range of housing options available, suited to individual and households need.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- A review of the record of qualified households for applicants with disabilities was undertaken in association with 2018 Summary of Social Housing Assessments. Housing applications database indicates that there are 505 people with disabilities on the Housing list - with 235 of these having a Mental Health condition, 209 having a Physical Disability, 62 having an Intellectual Disability and 9 having Sensory Disabilities. People with severe and enduring mental health conditions have a very clear requirement for security of tenure and easy access to services.
- Set up a protocol for nominations to Approved Housing Bodies for applicants who need care packages and involving relevant service providers. Many of these are in shared house arrangements.

- Four meetings of Disability Strategy Steering Committee will be held in 2018 in compliance with National Strategy for Housing People with Disabilities 2017- 2020.

Proposals for 2019:

- Continue to work with Approved Housing Bodies and disability service providers to provide suitable accommodation in individual tenancies or in shared accommodation.
- The 2017 CAS Call remains open and the Council welcomes all applications from Approved Housing Bodies.
- Investigate “Lifetime Adaptable Housing” and consider that a % of all new Council housing to be designed to be wheelchair accessible, and linked with the existing Housing Need of people with mobility impairment while also allowing for emerging need.

Housing Grants

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- To date the number of applications for Housing Aid for Older People paid in 2018 is 174 with the number of Mobility Aids Grants & Housing Aid Grants totalling 140.
- Department funding was made available in the sum of €2,358,810, for 2018. Galway County Council must provide co-funding of 20%, €471,762 was sanctioned from the Council’s own resources.

Proposals for 2019:

The Council will continue to administer the Housing Aid for Older People, Mobility Aids Grants and Housing Aid Grants availing of grant funding from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government to the extent that that co-funding provided by the Council allows.

Local Authority Housing Stock Management

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- A submission for the funding of 41 voids was requested from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government in 2018. Approval was received for 17 units and the Housing Unit are actively engaging with the Dept. in an effort to obtain funding sanction for the remaining units.

- Approval was received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for capped funding towards the cost of returning 4 derelict houses back to productive use.
- The response maintenance programme was delivered on a priority basis with the necessity to focus on essential maintenance, including plumbing and electrical, in order to operate within the constraints of available funding.
- The need for a stock inventory to identify and quantify the work required to comply with statutory requirements, including minimum standards, and to support the introduction of a preventative maintenance programme was identified as a priority action, with additional staff resources assigned to this area.
- Council sanction for a €10 million loan facility allowed a stock survey to be advanced to inform the development and implementation of a multi-annual Planned Preventative Maintenance Programme.
- The contract for the award of the first of five lots for the stock survey will be awarded in 2018.
- A tender process for priority electrical works was advanced during 2018 to allow for a timely response to findings of the stock survey.

Proposals for 2019:

- The ability of the housing unit to continue to return void housing units to occupation will be dependent on continuation of funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Voids Programme. In the absence of the continuation of the Voids Programme, it will not be possible, within the resources of the Council, to continue to return void properties to occupation.
- Progress the derelict projects approved by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government subject to funding being adequate to complete the works
- Progress with Phase 2 of the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme, where funding becomes available
- Deliver a response maintenance programme on a priority basis within the constraints of available funding.
- Progress the Preventative Maintenance Programme with a focus on the completion of the stock survey.
- Progress the Electrical/Fire Safety contract to implement emergency measures under the following headings: installation of fire detection systems/smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, fire blankets, Electrical Certification and visual survey of boiler systems

Tenancy and Estate Management

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Housing Unit continued to work with vulnerable families in assisting them in sustaining their tenancies in accordance with the Tenancy Sustainment Strategy which was adopted by Council in March 2017.
- The Tenancy Enforcement Officer continued to work intensively in a number of areas across the County, this is done in conjunction with the Gardai and relevant State stakeholders and other Council Departments.
- The Council's Tenancy and Estate Management Strategy involves active community engagement/participation at local level on an ongoing basis with an emphasis on the early identification of anti-social behaviour and breaches of tenancy agreement. The Council continued to engage with the Gardai and the unit meets regularly to discuss problem areas and how both organizations can work together to address anti-social behaviour.
- CCTV is in operation in seven sites at various locations across the County.
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2018-2020 was advanced in consultation with the SPC and relevant stakeholders to allow for consideration and adoption by Council.

Proposals for 2019:

- As part of the interdepartmental and inter-agency strategic approach, the Housing Unit will identified target housing estates which will be the focus of extensive estate management activity over 2019.
- Estate management staff will continue to assist tenants with the sustainment of their tenancies as per the Tenancy Sustainment Strategy.
- Planned upgrades to existing CCTV locations is planned for 2019 to better enhance the cameras ability to capture night time incidents subject to the availability of funding.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

The introduction of the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2016 afforded eligible Local Authority Tenants the opportunity to purchase their Local Authority homes. This scheme has generated considerable interest throughout the county however a number of the conditions associated with the current scheme is limiting the number of eligible applicants.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- To date in 2018 the Housing Unit have received 27 completed applications, 14 properties have been approved for purchase and sales for 7 properties have been completed, total proceeds from sales amount to €400,140.

Proposals for 2019:

- Galway County Council will continue to process all tenant purchase applications in a timely manner as they are received.

House Purchase Loans (Private & Tenant Purchase Loans)

Galway County Council provide financial assistance to enable first time buyers to purchase a home either through the tenant purchase scheme or on the private market.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- To date in 2018 the Housing Unit have approved 42 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans to the value of €6.8m. Four tenant purchase home loans and four private home loans to the value of €732,490 have been paid out. Two further tenant purchase loan applications have been approved by the credit committee but have not yet been drawn down by the applicants, these amount to €105,105.

Proposals for 2019:

- Galway County Council will continue to assess and process all housing loan applications in a timely manner as they are received.

Housing Rents

Whilst the collection of rents rests with the Finance unit, the assessment of rents and the setting of the Differential Rent Scheme is a function of the Housing Unit.

Indicative activities in 2018:

- The Rent review was completed in the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District.
- The rent review was commenced in the Connemara Municipal District.

Proposals for 2019:

- The rent review will be finalized in the Connemara Municipal District in 2019.

Control of Horses

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Council continued to implement its protocol in conjunction with the Gardaí on the Control of Horses during 2018.
- The Council has undertaken a number of exercises to raise awareness and reduce the instances of keeping of animals on estates. Such exercises include public notices, letters to residents as well as Community Warden Inspections.
- Funding is provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine at the rate of €375 per horse seized and euthanized or €200 (max) where a horse is seized and rehomed. Whilst the Council makes every effort to operate within the fee limits set exceptional situations may arise resulting in greater costs.

Proposals for 2019:

- Galway County Council will continue to work with the Gardaí in tackling the issue of stray and abandoned horses on public roads.

Housing, Cultural & Recreation SPC

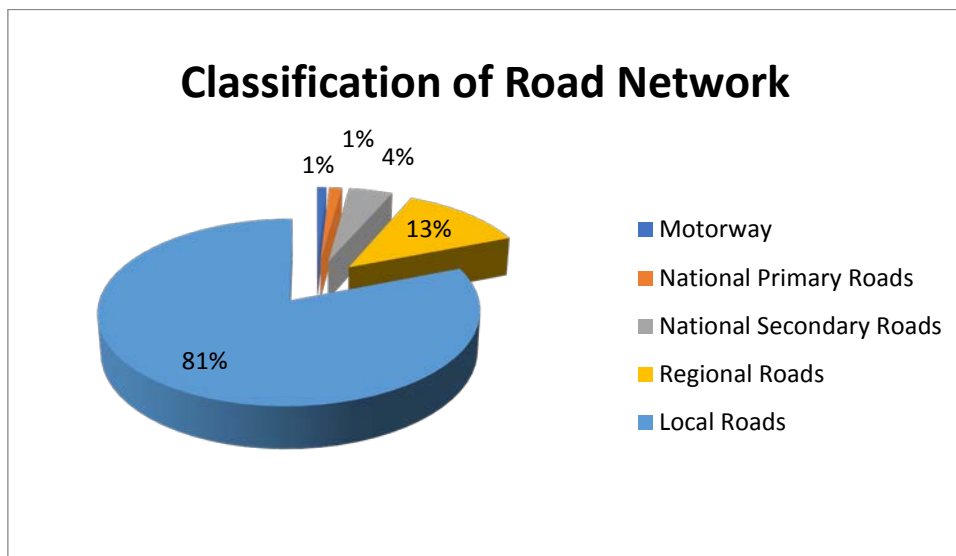
Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Housing, Culture and Recreation SPC has met on 3 occasions to date in 2018. Areas covered included Housing Capital Programme, Rebuilding Ireland, Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability, Homelessness Strategic Plan, Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, Preventative Maintenance and Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2018.

Proposals for 2019:

- In 2019, it is anticipated that the committee will examine, a range of additional policy areas relating to Housing, Culture and Recreation.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS UNIT



The road grants for 2019 will be announced in February 2019. Notification has been received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport that funding for 2019 will broadly be in line with that provided in 2018.

All Non-National roads were surveyed in 2017 by Galway County Council, a grading applied to them and they were mapped on the Pavement Management System, which assists with the monitoring and management of the road network. This was the first comprehensive survey carried out since the initial surveying and grading in 2012. The road condition is graded from 1 to 10 with 10 being the best condition. It is now a requirement to comprehensively survey roads in the County on a scheduled basis.

The results of the survey carried out in County Galway are used as a tool to assist in setting out priorities for the Road Reconstruction/Improvement Programme. All roads, on which improvement and/or surfacing works are carried out, are resurveyed, regraded and mapped on the PMS accordingly. The 3 year Restoration Improvement Programme 2019 - 2021 was developed and submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, in 2018, in consultation with elected members, the general public and in accordance with survey results.

National Roads

Indicative activities in 2018

- Funding was provided in 2018 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban Network. The following major projects are managed by the National Roads Project Office and the costs associated with this programme are recouped in full from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

National Road No.	Route Section
M6	Galway City Ring Road
N59	Clifden to Oughterard
N59	Moycullen Bypass
N67	Ballinderreen to Kinvara
M17/M18	Gort to Tuam
N59	Maam Cross/ Oughterard
N84	Luimnagh
N17	Carrownurlaur/ Ballindine
N63	Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh
N63	Liss to Abbey

- On 25th October 2018, the Compulsory Purchase Orders for the N6 Galway City Ring Road were published and a planning application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála for approval of the project, the final date for submissions to An Bord Pleanála is 21st December 2018.
- Maam Cross to Oughterard has been granted planning permission and is being advanced in two phases. Phase 1 is from Maam Cross o Bunnakill. It is intended to go to tender on this 5km section in Q1 2019. Phase 2, Bunnakill to Claremount is the subject of ongoing discussions and communications with NPWS.
- The M6 Galway/Ballinasloe and M18 Gort Crusheen Schemes have some minor landowner issues outstanding.
- The M17/M18 opened to traffic, ahead of schedule, at the end of September 2017, there are some minor land owner issues outstanding.

- Contract Documents are being prepared by consultants for the N59 Moycullen ByPass. Land acquisition is ongoing. It is intended to go to tender at the end of Q1 or start of Q2 2019.
- N63 Annagh Hill to Abbeyknockmoy -construction works are ongoing with an expected completion date of the fourth quarter of 2018.
- The annual resurfacing and maintenance programme for National routes was undertaken in accordance with the budget for maintenance works notified by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
- A full programme of Pavement Overlay works was undertaken on the National Primary and National Secondary Road Network in the context of the 2018 grant allocations from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Proposals for 2019:

- N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara Realignment – permission was granted for this scheme in 2016. Construction is programmed to commence in 2019.
- N63 Liss to Abbeyknockmoy - consultants to be procured for the planning and design of this scheme in 2019.
- The M17/M18 opened to traffic in September 2017, there are some minor land owner issues and some minor residual works outstanding to be finalised.
- Maam Cross to Bunakil to go to construction in Q2 2019.
- The annual resurfacing and maintenance programme incorporating ordinary maintenance, annual resurfacing, winter maintenance, bridge maintenance and traffic route lighting maintenance will be undertaken within the limits of available funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
- In addition, the programme of Pavement Overlay works will continue on the National Primary and National Secondary Road Network in the context of the 2019 grant allocations from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Regional & Local Roads

Indicative Activities in 2018:

The total grant allocation of **€23,264,250** for Regional & Local Roads divides as follows:

Improvement Works	€19,958,250
Maintenance Works	€ 3,306,000

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

Grant Category	2018 Allocation
Improvement Grant 2018	€13,216,000
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€2,273,000
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€1,033,000
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€4,797,000
Specific Improvement Grants – Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	€415,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€250,000
Specific Improvement Grants	€415,000
Strategic Regional and Local Roads	€690,000
Training	€95,000
Road Safety in Housing Areas	€30,250
OVERALL TOTAL	€23,264,250

Restoration Improvement (Road Reconstruction) -

Indicative Activities in 2018:

Funding of €13,216,000 was allocated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for road reconstruction works on Non-National roads in 2018. The Council decided to transfer €1,216,000 of this funding to the Discretionary Grant, in accordance with the flexibility authorized by DTTAS to do so, due to the reduction in the Council's own Local road maintenance allocation. DTTAS has advised that this flexibility will no longer apply from 2019. The balance of €12,000,00 was allocated as follows and facilitated improvement works at 65 locations throughout the County:

(1)	Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District	€1,083,928
(2)	Ballinasloe Municipal District	€2,323,961

(3)	Conamara Municipal District Surface Dressing	€2,514,735
(4)	Loughrea Municipal District Surface Dressing	€3,061,232
(5)	Tuam Municipal District Surface Dressing	€3,016,144

Proposals for 2019:

A programme of restoration improvement works will be compiled when notification of the 2019 funding is received.

Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) -

Indicative Activities in 2018:

Funding of €3,306,000 was allocated for Surface Dressing by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, including an amount of €1,033,000 from central Government capital funding. It was allocated as follows and facilitated surface dressing works at 118 locations around the County:

(1)	Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District	€ 298,622
(2)	Ballinasloe Municipal District	€ 640,251
(3)	Conamara Municipal District Surface Dressing	€ 692,810
(4)	Loughrea Municipal District Surface Dressing	€ 843,369
(5)	Tuam Municipal District Surface Dressing	€ 830,948

Proposals for 2019:

A programme of restoration maintenance works will be compiled when notification of the 2019 funding is received.

Tertiary Road Repairs –

Indicative Activities in 2018:

The initial surveying of all roads in the County in 2012, clearly identified that Local Tertiary roads, 30% of all Local roads in the County are in a poor condition and are in need of significant dedicated investment. It was decided in 2014 to begin to make a specific allocation from the Discretionary Grant for such roads and in 2018 an allocation of €900,000 was set aside which enabled restoration improvement works on 47 tertiary roads in County Galway.

Proposals for 2019:

It is intended to continue allocating a specific portion of the Discretionary Grant towards improvement works on tertiary roads. A programme of restoration maintenance works will be compiled when notification of the 2019 funding is received.

Bridges –

The following 8 bridges were allocated funding, totalling €415,000, under the Specific Improvement Grant –

ROAD NUMBER	BRIDGE
R345	Philbins, Cornamona
R353	Coheenahenney, Headford
L4514	Lurga, Gort
L74462	Beefield, New Inn
R347	Ballinderry
R347	Ballyglooneen Bridge no. 1
LP1321	An Chorbhuaile, Bearna
LT12056	Ooid, Recess

Works were completed on the following 10 bridges, which were allocated funding of €360,500 from the Discretionary Maintenance allocation:

ROAD NUMBER	BRIDGE
M6AR	Coololla, Aughrim
L-1322	Derrycrith, Barna
L-5102	Cloonagh, Lettergesh
L-5343	Drimneen, Oughterard
R340	Idir Dhá Loch i gCarna
L-8527	Ballylee, Gort
L-7203	Cloonkeen 3, Abbeyknockmoy
R334	Moyne, Headford
L-6501	Laughil, Clonbern
L-2226	Cloondahamper

Proposals for 2019:

Repair works will be carried out on the following 9 bridges, dependent on a specific bridge funding of €415,000.

ROAD NUMBER	BRIDGE
L-4512	Ballybackagh Bridge, Castledaly
L-7173	Gortmore Bridge, New Inn
L-1301	Knocknafaughy Bridge, Maum
L-4203	Bolagh Bridge, Woodford
L-53286	Tullaghboy, Maam Cross
L-53772	Pollnaclogha Bridge, Moycullen
L-71522	Ballyboggan Bridge, Athenry
R336	Aughawollia Bridge, Maam Cross
R336	Derrough North, Maam Cross

The following programme of bridge repair and maintenance work, on 12 bridges, are planned, based on a funding allocation from the Discretionary Grant of €360,500.

ROAD NUMBER	BRIDGE
L-74462	Gortlemon Bridge, Woodlawn
L-7173	Gortmore 2
L-12016	Doiriu Bridge, Rossaveel
L-51364	Tawnamore Bridge, Recess
L-12053	Derryadda East, recess
R343	Crusheen Bridge, Cashla
R461	Inchaboy bridge, Gort
L-42177	Sonnagh Bridge, Kilchreest
L-85114	Derreen Foot Bridge, Kilbeacanty
R328	Castlefarm Bridge, Dunmore
L-2128	Abbey Bridge, Abbeyknockmoy
L-31171	Derroogh Bridge, Monivea

Specific Improvement Grants –

Indicative Activities in 2018:

A specific improvement grant allocation, totalling €415,000, was received for the first time since 2015, for 2 realignment schemes – L2219 at Bawnmore and L3412 at R348 Junction (Nutfield Cross).

Proposals for 2019:

Submissions have been made by Galway County Council to the Department for funding for suitable schemes, to encourage and support balanced and economic development. Notification will be received from DTTAS, in February 2019, of the schemes which are to proceed, with the relevant funding also being advised.

Strategic Regional and Local Road Grants –

Indicative Activities in 2018:

A specific allocation for the development of routes identified as contributing to economic development in County Galway, totalling €50,000, was received for the first time since 2013.

The two projects to which this funding was assigned by DTTAS are the R336, Conamara Access Road and the Athenry Relief Road.

Proposals for 2019:

Submissions have been made by Galway County Council to the Department for funding for suitable schemes. Notification will be received from DTTAS, in February 2019, of the schemes which are to proceed, with the relevant funding also being advised.

Council Funding –

Indicative Activities in 2018:

The sum provided from the Council's own resources in 2018 is **€5,668,836**, to include provision of €1,170,000 for public lighting.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Unit will prepare the 2019 Roads Programme in the context of available funding from the Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Department of Transport and the Council's own resources. The Programme will be presented to the Council for their approval in February 2019.
- The distribution of the Local Roads Budget 2019 will be presented to Council for approval in the context of the 2019 Roads Programme. The level of discretion that will be available to the Council in the allocation of funding in 2019 for Regional and Local Roads will be restricted by the requirements of the Memorandum on Grants for Regional & Local Roads as issued by the Department of Transport. There will also be no flexibility to reallocate a portion of the Restoration Improvement funding to the discretionary grant.

Marine Works

Indicative Activities in 2018:

Fishery Harbours and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme -

An allocation of €150,000 was made for the provision of a slipway and improvement works to the pier infrastructure at Crumpán Pier, Muighinis, Carna. Lands at this location are in the ownership of NUIG and discussions are ongoing regarding permission for the works.

Proposals for 2019:

It is proposed, subject to funding being made available, to carry out a topographical survey at Crumpán Pier in Spring 2019. This should enable significant improvements to be carried out in Summer 2019, subject to agreement from NUIG and funding being made available for the proposed works.

It is also proposed, subject to funding being made available, to carry out works on the pier at Droim, Leitir Mór, the specific works are to be discussed and agreed with local fishermen.

Marine Maintenance -

Indicative Activities in 2018:

An allocation of €150,000 was provided from the Council's own resources in 2018 for the ongoing marine maintenance programme in relation to the 62 landing places in County Galway which have been identified as in the charge of Galway County Council. This involves varied works including the updating of access steps and rails and repairs to slipways, including the removal of algae growth on piers in County Galway.

Improvements have been completed at Ard Mhór and Bealacarra Pier in 2018, including the provision of new access ladders and tie rings.

Navigation lights at Inishbofin Island have been upgraded at a cost of €7,200 to ensure safe passage for all vessels. Navigation lights at Killeany Harbour, Inis Mór are also to be replaced in November 2018, at a cost of €5,600.

Proposals for 2019:

A programme of ongoing maintenance and improvement works on the 62 landing places under the remit of Galway County Council will be devised and implemented, subject to the funding being made available.

Strategic Piers and Harbours -

Inis Oírr Harbour

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Funding of €8million for the pier development on Inis Oírr was specified in the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Programme 2016 -2021. A consultant has been appointed to progress the scheme and various required surveys have been completed, including bathymetric and topographical surveys. Work also commenced on compiling the required information for the Compulsory Purchase Order process to proceed.

Proposals for 2019:

- Contract documents will be prepared in 2019, with the intention to tender the works, dependent on the funding being made available. It is intended to appoint a contractor in Q3 2019.
- Land acquisition for the scheme will be progressed in line with programming.

Caladh Mór Pier, Inis Meáin

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Phase III Caladh Mór, Inis Meáin options have been evaluated.

Proposals for 2019:

- The feasibility report prepared and issued in 2009 will be revisited.

Coastal Protection

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Consultants were appointed to assess coastal protection works required at Leenane.
- Works commenced on progressing a coastal protection scheme at Oranmore.

Proposals for 2019:

- The consultant's report, with recommendations on required works at Leenane, will be finalised in 2019. It is intended to commence the recommended works, provided funding is made available.
- The Council will apply for funding to the OPW for a coastal protection scheme at Oranmore
- The Council will continue to consider options for coastal protection works at specific locations in the County and to submit proposals to the Office of Public Works for funding to facilitate the works.

Arterial Drainage

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Council discharged its statutory responsibility for the maintenance of certain drainage works in the County through the Roads and Transportation Unit and the Council's Municipal District Offices. The Council has charge of twelve Drainage Districts and there are two Drainage Districts in County Galway which extend into Roscommon and Clare County Councils. An allocation of €175,000 was provided from the Council's own funding in 2018 to carry out these maintenance works.

Drainage Districts:

Ahascragh	Annagh	Boley
Dunkellin (Gort)	Dunkellin (Athenry)	Dunkellin (Loughrea)
Kellysgrove	Kilchreest	Lavally
Meelick Pollshask	Mountbellew	Oranhill

Joint Drainage Districts:

River Fergus Joint Drainage Committee
River Suck Joint Drainage Committee

Proposals for 2019:

- The Unit will undertake a programme of maintenance on the drainage works under the remit of the Council during 2019, the works carried out will be dependent on the funding available.
- All available sources of revenue will be utilised to undertake remedial and improvement works on the drainage districts under the remit of the Council.

Flood Mitigation Works & Studies

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Galway County Council continued working in partnership with the OPW during 2018 to identify and progress works aimed at reducing the risk of future flooding.
- In 2018 21 Minor Works Flood Alleviation Schemes were completed, at a cost of €650,000, with a further 10 ongoing, to be completed in 2019.
- A Joint Steering Group comprised of representatives of Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works continued to meet during 2017 to monitor construction progress on the Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme.

- Work commenced on the Kiltiernan to Ballinderreen Flood Relief Scheme, with the works at the Ballinderreen end to be completed by December 2018.
- An engineering consultant and an environmentalist were appointed in 2018 on the South Galway/Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme and an environment assessment was completed. Route selection and constraints are being advanced.
- The Western and Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management process was completed in 2018 and finalised flood risk management plans were published.
- The final CFRAMS report identified the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme as a priority project. It is being progressed by the OPW in partnership with Galway County Council.
- The Clifden Flood Relief Scheme was identified, in the CFRAMS report, as a project which should be progressed through a Minor Flood Relief Scheme. The Council is progressing an application for funding under this scheme.

Proposals for 2019:

- Outstanding works on all existing minor flood mitigation projects will be completed during 2019 and Galway County Council will liaise with the OPW about minor works schemes that are under consideration with the aim of securing funding for these schemes.
- The Feasibility Report for the South Galway/Gort Lowlands scheme will be produced in the first half of 2019, with the intention of going to Public Exhibition thereafter.
- The Ballinderreen to Kiltiernan Flood Relief Scheme will be substantially completed in 2019, including the provision of accommodation works for local landowners.
- Works on Dunkellin Bridge and Craughwell Pedestrian Bridge will be undertaken in 2019. Channel works on Aggard Stream are scheduled for Q2 2019.
- Applications for funding for any further schemes identified as offering appropriate potential to reduce the risk of future flooding will be advanced for submission to the OPW.
- Galway County Council will continue working in partnership with the OPW with regular coordination meetings to be held to progress the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme.
- A minor flood relief scheme will proceed at Clifden, provided funding is made available in 2019.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road Safety
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Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Road Safety Together Committee held meetings and continued its active role in the promotion of road safety.
- Road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2018 included:
 - Support for the Cycling Safety Training Programme in national schools
 - Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for secondary schools.
 - In February and July 2018, the RSA 'Check it Fits' event took place took place, at various Galway locations, which ensures they are safely and securely fitted.
 - Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme and competition held with 4 schools on 9th May 2018, in Ballygar.
 - During the Bealtaine Festival in May 2018, a High Visibility Vests Campaign took place and vests were distributed, free of charge.
 - Various campaigns aimed at fans attending All Ireland Galway football and hurling matches.
 - During 'European Mobility Week' from 16th to 22nd September 2018 and Social Inclusion Week from 15th to 21st October 2018, high visibility material and leaflets was distributed.
 - The 'European Day Without a Road Death' took place on 19th September 2018, and the Council promoted the 'Are You Daylighted' Campaign which encourages all road users to use their dipped headlights during daylight hours.
 - For National Road Safety Week from 1st to 7th October 2018, joint initiatives took place with NUIG and GMIT where high visibility vests; rucksack covers and bike lights were distributed to students; Advance Pitstop offered a free 5 Point Vehicle 'Health Check' to members of the public to ensure vehicles are in proper working order for the winter and Specsavers offered eye tests at reduced price to ensure the correct vision for driving.
 - 'Be Bright' Campaign took place with St. Feichin's National School, Abbey, on 3rd October 2018, whereby high visibility vests were distributed to the children with an educational walk took place around the village.
 - During 2018, road safety awareness messages appeared on the Council's social media to continually raise road safety awareness amongst the public and high visibility vests, armbands and road safety awareness leaflets were distributed also, free of charge, to schools, community groups and the public.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Road Safety Together Committee is to meet regularly and continue its active role in the promotion of road safety.
- Road safety initiatives proposed by the Council during 2018 include:
 - Road Safety Awareness Campaign aimed at Pedestrians and Motorcyclists.
 - Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for secondary schools.
 - Support for the Cycling Safety Training Programme in national schools
 - Continue to raise awareness of road safety to the public by regular social media and radio messages
 - Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme in 4 schools
 - Continue the distribution of high visibility vests, armbands and road safety awareness leaflets, free of charge, to schools, community groups and the public.

Safety Improvement Works and Measures:

- An allocation of €250,000 was provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to enable low cost safety improvement works to be carried out on the following Regional and Local roads:

ROAD NUMBER	DETAILS
L7125	Ballydavid, Athenry
R347	Laragh Hill
R356	Esker, Banagher: Severe level drop to field adjacent to narrow road side verge
R374	1km west of Tiernee Church
R336	Barna
R351 & L8224	Cross Roads junction at the L8224 with the R351 at Aille/Grallagh
R460	Church Street, Gort
R333	Crossursa junction on R333 (main Tuam to Headford road) with the L6134
R327/R360	Pollremon
R923	Proposed Digital Speed Limit Feedback Sign

Community Employment Scheme

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- During 2018, 5 Community Employment Schemes continued to operate. Villages and towns benefitted from such works as village maintenance; landscaping; grass cutting and stone wall building. The CE Schemes are as follows: Clifden/ Roundstone; Moycullen/ Oughterard; Gort & Environs; Laurencetown/ Abbey and Tuam & Environs.

Proposals for 2019:

The 5 Community Employment Schemes will continue to operate and provide such works as village maintenance; landscaping; grass cutting and stone wall building.

Speed Limits

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The County-wide speed limit review was completed and Draft Road Traffic Special Speed Limits County Galway Bye-Laws 2018 compiled, in accordance with the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland, 2015. These draft bye-laws are to be discussed and, if deemed appropriate, adopted at plenary Council meeting in November 2018.
- A four year programme of the installation of SLOW ZONE speed limit signage in housing estates continued in 2018. Funding provided in 2018 for this programme of works was €30,250.
- The Unit continued to implement Road Works Speed Limits; in consultation with the Gardaí and Transport Infrastructure Ireland, as deemed necessary to facilitate the delivery of the Council's various work programmes.

Proposals for 2019:

- Following on from the anticipated adoption of the Road Traffic Special Speed Limits County Galway Bye-Laws 2018, a programme of works installing and updating signage, as per the bye-laws, will take place.
- The programme of the installation of SLOW ZONE speed limit signage in housing estates is expected to continue in 2019, depending on funding being made available by the Department of Transport.
- The Unit will continue to implement Road Works Speed Limits; in consultation with the Gardaí and Transport Infrastructure Ireland, as deemed necessary to facilitate the delivery of the Council's various work programmes.

Public Lighting

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- A sum of €1,170,000 was provided, from Council's own funds, in the 2018 budget to fund the cost of the public lighting programme in County Galway, including the maintenance, energy and upgrade costs. A contribution towards the cost of public lighting on National Primary and Secondary routes of €119,000 was provided by TII. Galway County Council is responsible for approximately 12,000 public lights. The Council, with co-funding provided by SEAI and TII, retro fitted 504 inefficient public lights with energy efficient LED units in 2018.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Council will continue to maintain and upgrade the public lighting in County Galway. It will collaborate with SEAI and TII to source additional funding for the replacement of inefficient public lighting with energy efficient LED units. The budget provided covers the maintenance and energy costs associated with the existing public lighting network.

Community Involvement Schemes

Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- 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. There was a change in the implementation of the scheme, as advised by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, in that it became a two year programme – 2018/2019, with a specific allocation for the two-year scheme of €631,000. This allocation provides for 41 schemes to be completed by November 2019.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Council will complete the implementation of the two year programme of works by November 2019 and will endeavour to source additional funding from the Department for additional schemes.

Local Improvement Schemes

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Notification of an allocation of €942,000 was received by Galway County Council from the Department of Rural and Community Development and this has enabled the Council to proceed with works on 30 schemes. There was a public announcement in October 2018 that a further allocation of €1,000,000 was being made to Galway County Council to progress further schemes in 2018. No formal notification has been received in relation to this by the Council but it is anticipated that this additional funding will be spent in 2019 on delivering a further number of schemes.

Proposals for 2019:

- It is intended to complete work on a number of schemes, with the additional allocation provided in late 2018.
- An allocation, like that received, initially, in 2018, is also anticipated for 2019. It is intended to re-advertise the scheme, seeking submissions, in early 2019, with a view to carrying out works at further locations.

Greenways

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Galway County Council continued to progress the proposed walking and cycling Greenway from Galway to Oughterard with support from the Department of Transport.
- Galway County Council continued to progress the development of the walking and cycling Greenway from Clifden to Oughterard, with support from Fáilte Ireland.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Council will continue to progress Greenway projects in the County, offering increased sustainable transport options to both residents and tourists.

Customer Service

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Unit is making increased use of Twitter and Facebook as the appropriate instant social media to advise the public of temporary roadworks, including ongoing updates on timeframes for the works. These methods of communication were also used during various severe weather events such as Storm Eleanor, during which there was a red weather alert.
- The Unit made an e-mail facility available to the public following on from the immediate effects of Storm Eleanor to report requests for urgent road clearances. These e-mails were monitored, responded to and the information referred to the

appropriate crew promptly for actioning. This system proved effective and brought about a cohesive approach to an emergency response using valuable information provided by the public.

- The Unit continues to publish public notices on www.galway.ie regarding planned, longer-term roadworks.
- The Unit continues to operate an On-Line Payment Facility to allow for the payment of Fixed Charge Notices (Parking Fines).
- The Unit operates the national on-line system for applying for a road opening licence and made this option available to major contractors and other organisations such as Bord Gais and Eircom.
- Notices advising the public on issues relating to the Roads Act, which affect them, such as hedge cutting, unauthorised advertising were made available on www.galway.ie and have been advertised in local newspapers.
- A nominated person within the Unit deals with all Customer Service queries from whichever source they are received, such as Fix Your Street, Customer Comments system, e-mail, Twitter etc. to ensure response are issued in a timely manner.
- The Unit made information available to the public, in 2018, on our Winter Service Plan for 2018/2019 at www.galway.ie. The information sets out how the Winter Service for ice and snow conditions will be provided for in County Galway.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Unit shall continue to make use of www.galway.ie and other social media to advise and inform the public of Roads issues which affect them.
- The Unit will continue to train frontline staff on-the-job. This will ensure sufficient knowledge within the Unit, to enable it to continue to operate efficiently and effectively despite the reduction in staffing numbers.
- The on-line system for applying for road opening licences is to be extended to all those applying for such licences.
- The option of extending the on-line payments facility for other services will be considered.

Corporate Support

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Unit continued to be responsible for the efficient operation and administration associated with the Municipal District of Tuam.
- The Unit continues to provide support for the Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee with policy formation.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Unit will continue to actively support the role of the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee in policy formation, with a view to furthering policies on advertising on public roads and traffic calming in built up areas.
- The Unit will continue to work with the Members to ensure that the Municipal District system is an efficient and effective model for addressing operational issues, particularly considering the changes in Electoral Areas which will be implemented in June 2019.

Taking in Charge

Indicative Activities in 2018:

The works undertaken by the Taking in Charge section included: -

- Work on the completion of Estates funded by Bonds
- Liaising with Developers for the completion of estates to TIC standard and/or Bond release
- Finalising works on Estates in receipt of funding under the NTICI initiative
- Completing Works on Historical Estates funded by Council Budget allocation
- Review of Developments/Estates to confirm compliance with Planning Permission, and where non-compliance issues are identified, forwarding file(s) to Enforcement to initiate appropriate proceedings.

To date this year, 10 estates have been taken in charge.

The Taking in Charge section actively engages with Bond Holders for the release of monies to complete works on estates and with Developers and/or other interested parties to ensure estates are completed to the required standard for the benefit of all, especially the residents. The progress of works on estates is governed by funding available, the complexity of the work involved, wayleaves and engagement with third parties.

The Council currently has 34 developments in the process of being brought to Taking in Charge standard with the works funded by Bond monies.

The financial resources available to the Taking in Charge section is by way of Bonds specifically assigned to developments and/or funding received through Site Resolution with Irish Water. The Council budget allocation of €100K is an invaluable source of income for historical estates. These are estates where there is little or no Bond monies available to bring estates to Taking in Charge standard. To date over 35 estates have received some level of funding from this allocation.

Proposals for 2019:

The Taking in Charge section will continue to assess and process taking in charge applications.

Having regard to the resources available, every effort will be made to ensure developments are completed in compliance with grant of planning and to required taking in charge standard.

Where non-compliance issues are identified, the relevant Departments will be notified to initiate appropriate proceedings.

Water Services

Capital Investment Programme

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Since 1st January 2014 the Council continues to implement the Capital programme as an agent of Irish Water. The investment decisions and timing of investment are decided by Irish Water based on business case and need the approval of the Commission for Energy Regulation. The Water Services Investment Programme as we knew it has been replaced by Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme. In 2018, under the Infrastructure Programme, Oughterard WWTP Upgrade was completed, extensions to Kinvara Sewerage Scheme network were completed to facilitate decommissioning of five onsite treatment plants, Lough Mask RWSS extension to Williamstown was completed and Ballinasloe Contract 2 commenced, which will include upgrade of water mains and waste water collection pipes within Ballinasloe prior to street enhancement works. Upgrades to Ballinasloe and Gort WWTPs and Ballinasloe and Mid-Galway WTPs were completed under the Capital Works Programme. Upgrade works at Gort and Spiddal WTPs commenced and will continue into 2019.

Proposals for 2019:

- In 2019, under the Infrastructure Programme, the upgrade works currently underway at Athenry WWTP are expected to be completed in April and it is envisaged that new WWTPs will commence construction at Glenamaddy, Ballygar and Moutbellew. The extension of Tuam RWSS to Loughrea will commence construction early in 2019. Planning for new WWTPs at Roundstone, Carraroe, Spiddal and Ahascragh will progress, with a view to commencing construction before year end. New reservoirs are planned for the Letterfrack WSS, Gort WSS and Kilkerrin/Moylough RWSS under the Capital Works Programme.

Management and maintenance of Water and Wastewater Schemes

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Council continues to operate the water and wastewater schemes as agent of Irish Water under the terms set out in the Service Level Agreement and the annual service plan. The Council as agent of Irish Water is now operating within a regulated environment and the practical effect of this has been a much greater emphasis on reporting of activities and measurement of performance. This has resulted in the adoption of new practices and new technology while at the same time having to absorb reductions in staff numbers driven by the Commission for Energy Regulation. Emphasis continues to be placed on Health and Safety and quality compliance.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Council will continue to operate the Service Level Agreement and perform within the parameters set out in the Annual Service Plan. It is expected that further transformation initiatives will be rolled out as well as progress in relation to the Water Industry Operating Framework (WIOF) which should clarify the road ahead for the industry as a whole.

Water Conservation

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Active leak detection and repair works have continued throughout 2018 with additional resources made available to target leakage reduction in designated areas under the Capital Find and Fix program. Extensive upgrade and maintenance works have been carried out to pressure reducing valves and meters associated with District Metering Areas (DMAs), allowing for complete and accurate data to be gathered on the network. Mains rehabilitation works under the Water Network Program have been completed in areas including at Inverin Teach Mór, Inishmore, Roundstone, Clonbur, Carraroe and Glenamaddy. Customer side leakage has also been targeted under the First Fix program throughout the County.

Proposals for 2019:

- To further reduce the Unaccounted for Water in the county during 2019, resources will continue to be provided to target all public and private side leakage in the network under the leakage reduction program. Further areas are to be prioritised for mains rehabilitation works, metering and pressure reduction throughout the County engaging the services of both our direct crews and Contractors.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

The Council continued its activities in the implementation of the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2016-2018 (MARWP) in accordance with the policy direction of the Department with the usual emphasis on the identification and implementation of the most economically feasible and sustainable options to ensure compliant drinking water. In 2018 the Department published for the first time a group schemes Remedial Action List (RAL) similar to the public schemes and priority is to be given to those schemes to address any water quality issues. The Council continued to assist schemes in their day to day operations by implementing the approved Subsidy scheme and substantial funds were paid out.

Proposals for 2019:

The Council will work with the Department to maximise funding available for schemes in County Galway under the new MARWP which will begin in 2019. The Council will also work with schemes in the implementation of the new subsidy scheme which has been introduced whereby group water schemes cannot charge their domestic members and this is a very significant change. The provision of well grants for houses in areas not served by piped supply will continue as per the normal terms and conditions.

FINANCE AND ICT UNIT

Finance

Value for Money, Shared Services and Public Procurement:

Indicative Activities in 2018:

During 2018 Galway County Council engaged with the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) on the following Frameworks/DPS:

Plant Hire Services, Road Making Materials – Supply Only, Road Making Materials – Supply & Placement, Ready-Mix & Concrete Additives (Supply only) and Bitumen Emulsion Supplies and Services

-131 Requests for Tender (RFT) and 68 Requests for Quotation (RFQ) were raised on SupplyGov (LA Quotes) during 2018 Year to Date (YTD).

- Galway County Council is engaged with the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) on the following National Contracts and Frameworks: Cash in Transit, Bulk Fuel, Electricity, Natural Gas, Fuel Cards, Envelopes, Copying Paper, Manage Print Services, Print Panel, Stationery, Personal Protective Equipment, and Janitorial supplies.
 - 31 Tenders were processed through eTenders YTD.
- Purchase Cards: During 2018 we continued to use the Lighthouse BCS Portal to process transactions to Agresso. We currently have 189 active cards with spend of €900,000 and have processed 6968 transactions YTD.
- Fuel Debit Cards: We currently have 248 active fuel cards with an YTD spend of €648,000 made up of 9004 transactions across 66 Filling Stations.
- The Procurement Checker was switched on in MS4 (Agresso) in February 2018. The Procurement officer will continue their role of monitoring requisitions compliance through switching on product codes for procurement approval after they are raised. The number of product codes switched on for checking will continue to increase as the role of compliance increases.
- Public Spending Code: The public Spending code was issued to NOAC at the end of May 2018.
- High level training was rolled out for engineers and administration staff on eTenders in September 2018.
- Data Returns: All data returns required by the LGER and the OGP were completed and returned on time.
- Circular Fin 07/2012: Under the Public Service Reform Plan – GCC have published a quarterly listing of Purchase Orders greater than €20k.
- Procurement information is published on Galway County Councils website.

Proposals for 2019:

- Training
 - SupplyGov training for buyers and administration staff for the new framework for Minor Building Works.
 - Contract Management Training in conjunction with Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG).
 - Carry out further staff training in relation to general procurement.
- To update the Corporate Procurement Plan (2019-2021) and the Corporate Procurement Policy (2019-2022).
- Promote the use of electronic quotations through eTenders and Supplygov.
- Update and increase the profile of procurement through the council's website.
- Utilise frameworks established by LGOPC and the OGP across the organisation.
- Monitor eTenders and SupplyGov to ensure competition processes are completed in line with EU Directives and guidelines.
- Monitor, control and reduce non-compliance of National Contracts both OGP and LGOPC lead, particularly in relation to Circular 16/13.
- Engage with all stakeholders to ensure that all aspects of the Public Spending Code are carried out.
- Encourage greater access to Small Medium Enterprise (SME) participation in procurement in relation to Circular 10/14.
- Publish details of all new national frameworks and contracts on the council intranet.
- To introduce a simplified Contract Logging/Monitoring system.
- To implement a Spend Data Analysis System and expand the Procurement function through Agresso MS4.
- Maximise the use of Fuel Cards where possible.
- Publish results of competitions run on SupplyGov RFT's on the Intranet for wider use by staff.
- Continue to monitor and review the Purchase Card system.
- Implement Green Procurement as criteria in tender documentation where possible.
- To continue to strive to reduce the overall number of requisitions generated by increased use of monthly invoicing, purchase card & fuel card payments.
- Analyse the 2018 spend profile with a view to identifying possible cost saving initiatives in line with OGP and SupplyGov frameworks and contracts.
- Engage with the LGOPC and the OGP and ensure that all relevant Circulars, Guides and instructions are circulated and implemented.

Discharge of Payments

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Continued implementation of electronic payment methods/upgrades to ensure compliance with ePayments
- Review and continue application of best practice within both the Accounts Payable & Payroll functions
- Continued implementation of Directives issued by the Revenue Commissioners
- Ensure Accounts function meets BPI requirements.

Proposals for 2019:

- Co-operation with the implementation of Milestone 4 project
- Continued implementation of electronic initiatives such as eTAX Clearance
- Implementation of “Real-time” payroll; ePSWT when rolled out

Financial Management Systems

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Additional efficiencies achieved re: Budget drafting system (Budgeting / Forecasting by Account Element, additional controls) & full engagement with a software provider.
- Additional efficiencies achieved re: claims system for travel & subsistence/utility accounts.
- Policy notes developed for Accounts Payable including supplier statements /fraud prevention.

Proposals for 2019:

- Continued review of procedure/best practice of Agresso upgrade Milestone 4.
- Investigation of alternative automated methods to achieve BUDGET cycle (use of Prevero). Enhancement review of CCAS Budgetary Modules & full implementation of functionality.
- Review Taxation expertise within Finance unit & skill-up for identified knowledge and expertise gaps.

Revenue Collection

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Continued review of the Revenue collection function – to ensure best practice is achieved and any new income stream is incorporated efficiently.
- Continued utilisation of the ASCENDAS system in regard to the management of income streams such as rates, rents & development levies.
- Continued utilisation of the MARPS process in regard to housing loans.
- Liaison with the Law Agent in regard to the administration of the Tenancy Warning system in regard to rent arrears and Section 12 Applications for Possession under the terms of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014.
- Continued implementation of electronic payment methods e.g. Billpay, Household Budget, EFT, online payment facility etc to facilitate customers.

Proposals for 2019:

- Monitor and update the Revenue collection function as regards best practice
- Continue to review debt collection procedures including legal enforcement measures with the Law Agent.
- The unit will continue to offer the Bill Pay option to Rents, Loans, RAS and Rates customers.
- Provide appropriate training to staff on debt collection procedures.

Motor Tax and Driver Licensing Systems

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- 78,522 transactions were processed by Galway Motor Tax Offices up to mid-October 2018 at a value of €13m.
- 70% of total motor tax activity for the Galway area was carried out online in the year to date – an increase from 68% on 2017.
- 3,191 declarations of non-use for vehicles were recorded at the Galway Motor Tax Offices up to mid October 2018.

Proposals for 2019:

- Work will continue on retrieving and digitizing motor tax records in long-term storage with a view to creating an accessible index of all vintage vehicle registration records.
- The Motor Tax Offices in An Cheathru Rua, Ballinasloe, and Galway, will continue to implement all motor tax policies and procedures, and provide support and advice to members of the public, including customers of the motor tax online service.

Information Technology Systems

Indicative Activities for 2018:

- Completed connection four Island facilities comprising of Fire station, Harbour Master, Water Treatment and Library. Planned implementation for four more.
- Replaced Network access equipment with Cloud Managed at 8 locations to enhance services and for audit compliance. 6 more sites scheduled for end of year completion
- Storage Area Network tender in workflow with Office of Government Procurement with end of year implementation target.
- Upgrade to Regional Offices Tuam, Loughrea and Ballinasloe completed to Government Cloud Network (GCN) and awaiting Office of Government Chief Information Office (OGCIO) commissioning.

- Increased Network security monitoring credential sign on and network surveillance and data collection.
- Completed full prototype and on time deadline launch of website for N6 Galway City Ring Road with Cloud capacity uplift for initial traffic loads.
- Automation workflow processing enhancement for increased and more reliable service offerings for Planning Mapping and notifications for both staff and public.
- Support for Housing Choice Based Letting (CBL) Internet application via internal developed application.
- Support to Library service for specification and procurement for public accessible IT equipment and services under Capital Grant Scheme.
- Completed national framework Fixed Telephony Line procurement with completion of service costs reduction by lower cost and rationalisation of non- use services.

Proposals 2019

- Support E-Plan Implementation
- Business Case Development for Customer Service Management
- Adaption and Implementation of Information Systems Security and Usage polices from National Sectoral agreed ones.
- Enhance Disaster Recovery capability to facilitate online fully live facility to support services in the event of service or facility availability.
- Replacement of legacy virtual software and computer resources with Cloud services Integration features for backup and recovery.
- Implement new Data centre grade backup and recovery software and hardware platform with subscription tier and volume services.
- Provide Cloud Learning Management System to facilitate Information Systems and data management training.
- GIS Desktop software consolidation to a single online platform.

ECONOMIC, RURAL and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT

Economic Rural and Community Development Unit

Promoting Co-ordination of Agencies

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Facilitated 6 meetings of the Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and a number of sub-committees
- Facilitated 4 meetings the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.
- Worked with the HSE to facilitate the Health & Wellbeing Group to act as a sub group of the LCDC and prepared a submission to Healthy Ireland.
- Facilitated 9 meetings of the Executive Group of the Galway, West of Ireland European Region of Gastronomy comprising Galway County Council, Galway City Council, GMIT and Teagasc and over 200 meetings with Local, Regional and National Stakeholders contributing to the key focus areas of the programme: - Supporting SMEs & Innovation, Health & Education, Cultural Diversity, Linking Urban/Rural and Sustainability.
- Established and facilitated the initiation of the 'Galway Food Charter' which has grown to 191 members and involves many agencies.
- Continued to support the integration of Rural Transport provision into a County wide service as Bealach na Gaillimhe, Transport Co-ordinating Unit (TCU) for County Galway. Submissions prepared and submitted for new routes and services in County Galway.
- Participated at meetings and held position of Vice Chair of the Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) and provision of direct support to the development of the Children & Young Persons Services Plan.
- Facilitated the Galway Resettlement Interagency Group (GRIG) on behalf of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme.
- Participated on the evaluation committees of the LEADER Programme delivered by Galway Rural Development (GRD) and also on the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) West
- Developed a number of funding applications with a range of Local, Regional and National partners under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund, Towns & Villages Scheme and the Rural Regeneration Development Fund
- Worked with key development agencies including Enterprise Ireland, IDA and Údarás na Gaeltachta to assist the economic development of the County and to deliver jobs for the region

- Worked in partnership with Galway Film Centre on a number of initiatives including the UNESCO City of Film and the Western Region Audiovisual Producers (WRAP) Fund.
- Partnered with Údarás na Gaeltachta for the development of the Tourism sector in the Gaeltacht and Connemara Region.

Proposals for 2019:

- Facilitate the Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the coordination of the sub-committees.
- Facilitate the European Region of Gastronomy (ERG) Executive Committee, Stakeholder Groups and partner meetings as lead partner with Galway City Council, Teagasc & GMIT in order to transition from year of designation to continued development of key focus areas. Hold legacy engagement sessions following year of activity & projects to set out future Food Strategy for Galway; Grow and develop the legacy of the ‘Galway Food Charter’; Support community groups in the development of their Food Tourism offer; Support festivals and events in sustainability & long term growth.
- Promotion of the Transport Co-ordinating Unit (TCU) service and brand name of Bealach na Gaillimhe.
- Partner with Galway Film Centre and other relevant partners on the UNESCO City of Film 2019 programme and the rollout of the WRAP Fund.
- Partner and support Galway’s programme as European Capital of Culture 2020.
- Facilitate the County Galway LCDC in the implementation of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in County Galway and support the delivery and review of the programme in line with the funding agreement.
- Co-ordinate and facilitate the Galway Resettlement Interagency Group (GRIG), on behalf of Office for Promotion of Migrant Integration, Department of Justice and Equality.
- Continue to develop and foster strong partnerships with LEO and Galway City Council in the areas of Economic Development.
- Implement the Healthy Ireland Fund in 2019.
- Continue to work with all relevant partners to assist economic, social and community development in County Galway through a coordinated approach and development of projects delivered through shared resources and securing funding from competitive bids
- Participate and continue to act as Vice Chair of the CYPSC and facilitate a coordinated approach with the LCDC.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Lead partner and project driver for the BIA Innovator Campus, Ireland West Food Innovation & Incubation Campus in Athenry in collaboration with Teagasc, GRETB, SCCUL Enterprises and Athenry Community Council. This step-change project will transform the development of the food sector and provide a focal point for rural development and job creation in the West of Ireland. €2.466m was secured from Enterprise Ireland under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) for the development of the Food and Rural Innovation Hub at the Teagasc campus in Athenry in March 2018 with an additional €200,000 secured under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. A further submission under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) was made by Galway County Council to secure additional funding required for the delivery of the project. Part VIII planning permission was granted for the development in June 2018. Procurement for Technical Consultancy Services for the development was published in early September 2018 with the appointment of consultants imminent.
- Supported community enterprise projects and initiatives that are employment creating e.g. BACD Enterprise Centre, Kinvara Enterprise Centre, Action Tuam, Burren Lowlands.
- *Made in Galway* worked with agency and industry partners to further develop the initiative to highlight the Food and Craft sectors in County Galway.
- Implemented actions assigned to the Unit and coordinated reporting for which Galway County Council are responsible for in the Regional Action Plan for Jobs.
- Represented Galway County Council on the Northern Broadband Action Group.
- Working on the IWAK North West Local Authorities Group to promote the region as a tourism destination, funding of €400,000 secured through REDZ for a flagship project to improve the visitor experience on arrival to Knock Airport. Visitor Discovery Centre officially opened November, 2018.
- Participated in the REDZ Flagship project for Lough Derg Blueway with Clare and Tipperary County Councils. Funding of €200,000 secured to promote the Blueway Project which was launched in March, 2018 and Blueway Open Day held in Portumna. Developed promotional material, video content and website

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Partnered with National Heritage Council on the Beara Breifne Way Flagship project.
- Supported events that provide a route to market and marketplace for Galway companies (Food Fairs/Farmers/Town Markets) i.e. Local Christmas market of Galway Producers, Sheep 2018 Artisan Market, Galway Food Festival Producers Market, Producers Market at Claregalway Garden Show, Bia Lover Festival, Kylemore Abbey Producers Market, Seafest Producers Market, Galway Races Showcase, Food on the Edge.
- Secured €25,000 funding from the Department of Agriculture for the development of Agri-Food Tourism initiatives in County Galway.
- Organisation of an Artisan producers market at Teagasc Athenry – Sheep 2018 Farm to Fork, a large event in the county for 2018 and a flagship event of the European Region of Gastronomy.
- Promoted Galway as a tourism destination at the Holiday World Shows in Dublin, Belfast & Limerick.
- Supported and facilitated sub-groups under hospitality and supporting SME's element of ERG to develop appropriate activities for 2018 including specific actions regarding the procurement and promotion of local produce by the service sector, a combined showcase of culinary dishes from hotel chefs from across the county using local producers from all parts Galway in partnership with the Irish Hotels Federation as part of their Gala Ball, developed the *Galway Gastronomy on Tour Van* for promotion & support and the development of networking & business opportunities for producers, retail and service sectors
- Liaised with Bord Bia, BIM and Fáilte Ireland to maximise opportunities for businesses in Galway.
- Held a joint National Agri-Tourism conference with Teagasc in Ballinasloe.
- Participated and presented at a number of conferences both in Ireland and Europe showcasing Galway's work as part of its designation as European Region of Gastronomy. TouRRoir Global Tourism, Food & Culture Conference in Galway, BIT Travel Exhibition in Milan, Noord Brabant IGCAT platform meeting in Noord Brabant, Netherlands, IGCAT Annual Experts Meeting in Minho.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Developed European Region of Gastronomy (ERG) 2018 programme providing an enhanced base for activity going forward and which can underpin county preparation for events during Galway 2020.
- Continued to promote Galway as a location for investment and job creation through activities such as facilitating key business engagements/meetings, development of PR material, working with key development agencies and online/print marketing of Galway as a location for investment
- Compiled, published and circulated a brochure of Festivals taking place in the County for Tourism promotion.
- Worked with Fáilte Ireland in relation to the Connemara Visitor Experience Development, the development of visitor experience and the promotion of Galway as a tourism destination.
- Supported the Galway Science and Technology Festival, and Local Enterprise Office Local Food & Craft Gift Fair.
- Supported the implementation of Tourism infrastructure projects in Portumna and Tourism developments marketing in partnership with the Lough Derg Marketing Strategy Group.
- Supported overseas Tourism marketing and promotion events e.g. Milwaukee Irish Festival and worked with Tourism Ireland to promote Galway as a destination.
- Supported the key events with potential to grow domestic and international tourism in County Galway. Examples include Galway Garden Festival, Loughrea Medieval Festival, Claregalway Medieval Combat Tournament and Clifden Arts Festival.
- Continued to support the development of local festivals to become destination festivals that attract visitors and bed-nights from outside the County.
- Continued to work with GMIT in relation to a range of economic development areas including the food, tourism and creative sectors.
- Developed and published a map of Tourism attractions in County Galway for Visitors to the region.
- Facilitated the BOI Enterprising Towns Awards competition in County Galway.

Proposals for 2019:

- Progress the development of the BIA Innovator Campus, Ireland West Food and Rural Development Innovation Hub in association with all relevant partners with a view to construction commencing in 2019 and delivery in 2020.
- Support community enterprise projects and initiatives that are creating and supporting employment.
- Implement actions assigned to Galway County Council in the Regional Action Plan for Jobs.
- Publish and implement the Tourism Strategy for Galway
- Develop opportunities for the Agri-Tourism Sector, building on the funding secured through the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine
- Commence initial scoping work on a Galway Food Strategy.
- Review the range of producer supports and any producer liaison work/preparation that needs to be completed in advance of the BIA Innovator Campus build.
- Continue to work with GRD on monies and supports available through the three-year Artisan Fund.
- Development of ERG legacy projects to be continued beyond 2018.
- Support for Development of Food Festivals in Galway assisting existing festivals to grow and assisting new festivals, events and experiences to develop.
- Facilitate the development and growth of local markets throughout the County
- Continue to work with Teagasc in relation to supporting and developing key strategic projects in relation to the agriculture and food sectors to assist to increasing the value added to primary production in County Galway and following on from the 2018 National Agri-Tourism Conference held in Ballinasloe.
- Assist and implement projects under the Strategic Tourism and Amenity Infrastructure Investment Scheme.
- Support/attract Flagship tourism events to be held in County Galway.
- Support the development of proposals by communities for applications for funding under the Towns & Villages Renewal Scheme and provide a clear framework for the development of town and villages in the County.
- Continue to support the development of festivals to become destination festivals that attract visitors and bed nights from outside the County.
- Prepare a Digital Strategy for County Galway and participate in the preparation for the National Rural Broadband Project.
- Ongoing role in the long-term development options for the Former Galway Airport Site at Carnmore to secure optimum long term economic benefit for the Galway region.
- Facilitate the BOI Enterprising Towns Awards competition in County Galway.

Supporting Sustainable Communities

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Supported the development of proposals by communities for applications for funding under the Towns & Villages renewal scheme and completed implementation of a capacity building programme in 5 REDZ Zones.
- Continued to support 12 projects under the approved 2017 Town & Village Renewal scheme and secured over €900,000 for 8 projects under the 2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme.
- Submitted 6 proposals of significant scale under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) initiative. The proposals submitted were for Tuam themed on connectivity, Ballinasloe themed on health and wellness, Clifden themed on tourism, Athenry themes on food and heritage, the Kinvara Boardwalk and a proposal focused on some important Council assets to reimagine them as places of assembly.
- Two communities/projects (Inis Meain and Ballinasloe Fit towns) entered into the 2018 Pride of Place competition with the support of the Unit.
- Continued to work with Tidy Towns groups to progress them within the National Tidy Towns competition. Commissioned expertise to work with particular Tidy Towns groups.
- Continued to support the Public Participation Network (PPN), working with the Secretariat to further develop a work plan and to deliver to two County Plenaries and community information evenings.
- €252,500 was approved for community projects across 10 categories under the Community Support Scheme in 2018. 266 grants were awarded under this scheme.
- The Community Enhancement Programme was launched in May 2018. It replaced the Community Facilities Scheme and the recast RAPID programme that launched in 2017. The CEP was 100% funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development, with Galway County LCDC administering the allocation of €378,936. The programme provided funding across the County to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas and disadvantage as identified in Galway County LECP. The funding was aimed at small to medium scale capital projects. There was huge demand for the scheme and a total of 78 community groups across the County received grant aid under the programme.
- The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) - Men's Shed Funds was a ring-fenced fund, under the Community Enhancement Programme, specifically for Men's Shed that were affiliated with Irish Men's Sheds Association. A total allocation of €18,841 was allocated to Galway County, which supported 14 Men's Sheds in 2018.

- Supported the development of community based initiatives to support the local economy including 3 pilot projects related to ERG to support local businesses. Initial work completed with:
 - Flight of the Dishes Food Series in Gort & South Galway.
 - A Taste of Oranmore & Clarinbridge
 - East Galway Food & Heritage trail.

Proposals for 2019:

- Complete the 2017 and 2018 Town & Village Renewal Schemes and implement the Town & Villages Renewal Scheme in 2019.
- Roll out funding approvals under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).
- Support Tidy Towns groups in the County to participate in the Tidy Towns National Competition in 2019.
- Continue to support and develop the Public Participation Network (PPN) including rolling out County and Municipal District plenaries and providing assistance to the voluntary Secretariat of the network.
- Support communities in the County to participate in the Pride of Place competition in 2019.
- Deliver the Community Support Scheme in 2019.
- Support communities to secure funding under the Outdoor Recreational Fund in 2019.
- Continue to deliver the Community Support Scheme in 2019
- Galway County LCDC to implement the Community Enhancement Programme in 2019 on announcement from the Department of Rural & Community Development.
- Build on initial work completed with various areas throughout the county:
 - Flight of the Dishes Food Series in Gort & South Galway.
 - A Taste of Oranmore & Clarinbridge
 - East Galway Food & Heritage trail.
 - NEW - Oughterard/A taste of Lough Corrib
 - NEW - Tuam Food initiative

Indicative activities for 2018:

- Managed pilot programme for Healthy Ireland on behalf of the LCDC to March 2018 encompassing 11 projects with lead partners to meet Health and Wellbeing goals under the County Galway LECP.
- Co-ordinated an application process for a new Healthy Ireland programme for 2018-2019 on behalf of the LCDC and put an implementation group in place to oversee the programme on behalf of the partners.
- Completed the programme for support of the Resettlement and Integration of Syrian Refugees into County Galway as part of a national programme for Refugee Resettlement. Twenty-three families of 99 persons in total have been resettled in County Galway by 2018.
- Identification of ongoing needs of refugees and other migrants in County Galway and commencement of work to develop a new Migrant Integration Strategy for Galway County during 2018
- Supported other committees involved in Social Inclusion activities such as the LGBT Interagency Working Group, Bealach na Gaillimhe the Galway County Rural Transport Co-ordinating Unit, Galway Childcare Committee, Tuam School Completion Programme, Clár Críochnú Scoile i gConamara.
- Review of Integration and Diversity Strategy for County Galway 2013-2017.
- Continued to expand delivery of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme targeting vulnerable people with no alarm or an alarm that has nearly reached its 10 year life span.
- Organised events for Bealtaine Festival for County Galway in May, 2018 which incorporated over 84 events in County Galway during the month.
- Reviewed the operation of the Traveller Interagency Group for Galway County and updated membership.
- Organised Social Inclusion Week 2018 incorporating 35 events throughout the County 16th – 22nd October, 2018.
- Co-ordinated and facilitated the Galway Age Friendly Programme, under the auspices of a new framework for Age Friendly Counties supported by a dedicated National Age Friendly unit in Meath County Council.
- Supported the amalgamation of the Galway Age Friendly Alliance and Implementation Groups and a review of priority actions leading to a streamlined strategy going forward under the auspices of the Local Economic & Community Plans for County and City. Continued support of the Older Persons Council.

- Continued to provide support to Comhairle na nÓg.
- Ensured that Comhairle na nÓg is a key vehicle for consultation by existing and newly establishing bodies and committees in County Galway.
- Continued to administer and deliver the Comhairle na nÓg development fund from the DCYA for purposes of supporting Comhairle in County Galway.
- 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.

Proposals for 2019:

- Continue to expand delivery of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme targeting vulnerable people with no alarm or an alarm that has nearly reached its 10 year life span.
- Support other committees involved in Social Inclusion activities such as the LGBT Interagency Working Group and those prioritising other target groups not already catered for at an interagency level.
- Facilitate the Bealtaine Festival for County Galway, May 2018.
- Further develop a programme of activity to be overseen by the Traveller Interagency Group in association with Housing Unit.
- Organise Social Inclusion Week 2019.
- Support Culture Night 2019 for County Galway in conjunction with the Arts Office.
- Continue to support Galway Age Friendly City and County Programme and develop key actions for Galway County Council.
- Ensure that Comhairle na nÓg is a key vehicle for consultation by existing and newly establishing bodies and committees in County Galway.
- Continue to administer and deliver the Comhairle na nÓg development fund from the DCYA for purposes of supporting Comhairle in County Galway.
- Identify ways to increase opportunities for integration of migrants, refugees and those leaving direct provision with their host communities, harnessing links with existing community groups registered with the Public Participation Network.
- Continue to support the Resettlement and Integration of Syrian Refugees to County Galway.
- Complete a Migrant Integration Strategy for Galway County.

Supporting RAPID areas - Tuam & Ballinasloe

Indicative Activities in 2018

- The RAPID Co-ordinators continued to provide ongoing advisory project management services to agencies and communities to progress Strategic Plans in Community Safety & Anti-Social Behaviour, Education, Employment & Training and the Physical Environment and assisted in securing funding to deliver.
- 3 projects were supported in Ballinasloe for community and voluntary initiatives.

Proposals for 2019:

- Support Tuam through Food Industry Assets such as restaurants, new market and surrounding producers to create a unique selling point and economic development.
- Continue to support small scale targeted projects in the two designated RAPID towns during 2019

Promoting and Developing Arts Activity

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Continued the engagement of a Temporary Arts Officer as replacement for Arts Officer on secondment to Galway 2020.
- Administered Arts Grants through the CSS Scheme, Individual Artists Bursaries and Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursaries.
- Successfully awarded Arts Council Invitation to Collaboration Award to develop large scale regional project in 2019.
- Provided an information and advice service to community groups, individual artists, festivals in the county.
- Delivered the Arts and Education Programme: 10 schools funded under this programme in 2018.
- Supported a larger programme for Children's Book Festival 2018 delivered by the Galway Library Service.
- Supported Arts and Health/Arts and Disability Programme (Burning Bright, Hospitals Art Programme, Arts Ability Abú).
- Supported local Arts Festivals with social media, PR and producer supports.
- Delivered Child Protection Awareness Training for artists.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Managed, curated and delivered a countywide programme of events for Culture Night, collaborating with venues, community groups and artists across the county.
- Supported Screen Commission West, UNESCO City of Film and Wrap Fund.
- Supported Aras Éanna (Arts Centre on Inis Oírr).
- Supported and delivered Professional development/seminars and one to one professional mentoring for artists.
- Established and managed a strong arts partnership programme within the county to include: Dig Where you Stand (Galway Film Centre), Music Writer Mentor Programme (Journal of Music), Circo Gort (Galway Community Circus), Wholly's Quest Theatre Tour for Children (Branar Theatre) and Creative Proposal Clinic's (TULCA).
- Developed a Creative Ireland Culture and Strategy 2018 – 2022 for Galway County in consultation with Public and internal Culture Team which was adopted by Council.
- Led Galway County Council's Creative Ireland Programme, a five-year initiative from 2017 -2022, with direct emphasis on delivering Pillar 2 of the national programme – Enabling Creativity in Every Community.
- Delivered 23 events across the county for Cruinniú na nÓg.
- Drafted a Public Art Policy to support delivery of Public Arts Commissions.
- Worked collaboratively with Galway 2020 to support delivery of programmes within the county.
- Supported Music Generation Programme 2018-2021 in Galway County.

Proposals for 2019:

- Design and administer Arts Grants, Individual Artists Bursaries and Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursaries.
- Deliver 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.
- Provide a professional arts information and advice service to community groups, individual artists, festivals in the county.
- Deliver an Arts Plan 2019 – 2023 for adoption by Galway County Council in consultation with artists, communities and professional arts organisations.
- Deliver a specific Arts and Education Programme.

Proposals for 2019:

- Support Children's Book Festival 2019 delivered by the Galway Library Service.
- Develop Youth Arts Initiatives to include Circus/Street Arts and Music across a number of locations in collaboration with professional practitioners and youthwork agencies.
- Develop a Creative Communities Programme: 1) Offer communities funding and support to develop a cultural project in their community. 2) Create project commissions in partnership with other stakeholders, proactively targeting harder to reach communities.
- Support an Arts and Health Artist Residency in a care setting.
- Support an Arts and Disability Programme in collaboration with Brothers of Charity and Ability West.
- Initiate a new work commission for Galway County Arts Festivals in 2019. Offer social media, PR and producer supports to festivals.
- Deliver Child Protection Awareness Training for artists.
- Curate and produce high quality countywide programme of events for Culture Night, collaborating with venues, community groups and artists across the county.
- Support Screen Commission West, UNESCO City of Film and Wrap Fund.
- Support Aras Éanna (Arts Centre on Inis Oírr).
- Support and deliver Professional development/seminars and one to one professional mentoring for artists.
- Develop an Age Friendly arts programme.
- Lead Galway County Council's Creative Ireland Programme 2019 and produce Cruinniú na nÓg (national creative day for children) 2019.
- Develop a Public Art Policy and working group to support delivery of new Public Arts Commissions.
- Work collaboratively with Galway 2020 to support delivery of programmes within the county.
- Support Music Generation Programme 2018-2021 in Galway County.

Local Sports Partnership

Indicative Activities 2018:

- Secured sufficient funding to fund the operations of Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) throughout 2018 – sources include Sport Ireland, Local Authorities, and other bodies. – Funding sourced through budget applications to Sport Ireland, HSE, Local Authorities and Dormant Accounts. In 2018, funding was sourced from Dormant Accounts for the position of a Sports Hub Coordinator for the Doughiska/Ballybane area and secured capital funding from the same source for the installation of a cricket crease at the location.
- Implemented Sport Ireland programmes and locally required programmes throughout 2018 with particular emphases on three main areas of *Sport Ireland programmes, Women in Sport and Sports Inclusion Disability programme, Community Coaching and Development Officer programme*. Completed these programmes for all target groups including women and girls, Older Adults, persons with Disabilities, Persons who are Unemployed and those from Disadvantaged backgrounds. Two Community Coaching courses sanctioned by Sport Ireland and delivered in Galway City & Tuam with recruitment through local Welfare office and course run in association with GRETB.
- Organised and ran training courses for pre-schools and primary schools -, *Buntús Start, Be Active After Schools Activities, Sportshall Athletics, Mile Walk*. – In 2018 GSP delivered 1 Buntús Start programme delivered, 3 Be Active After Schools programmes delivered, 6 schools completed the Sportshall Athletics programme and 1 school represented Galway at All Ireland finals in Athlone. The Mile Walk has been delivered in 3 schools and is ongoing.
- The *Girls Active programme* was organised and delivered in second level schools with 8 second level schools in County Galway completing the programme.
- Funding was provided for the *Beginner to Row Programme* for TY students and by working with Rowing Ireland we are in the process of delivering this programme through the purchase of three indoor rowing machines.
- For Adults organize and run training courses such as *Safeguarding 1,2 and 3, SAQ, First Aid, Cycling Training, Walking leader Training, Activity Leader Training*. – In 2018 GSP delivered - 30 Safeguarding 1 courses, 6 Safeguarding 2 courses, 3 Safeguarding 3 courses, 1 Activity Leader course, 4 First Aid courses, 1 SAQ course, 2 Cycle Training courses, 2 Disability Inclusion Training courses, and 4 disability Awareness training courses.
- Implemented and organised activity programmes such as *Men on the Move, Couch to 5K, establishment of walking and cycling clubs*. – In 2018 GSP delivered 3 Men on the Move programmes, 3 Couch to 5K and two walking clubs in 2018.

Indicative Activities 2018:

- Secured €8,000 funding from *Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport* for *Bike Week 2018* in Galway County in association with Galway Co. Co. The funding enabled 16 events, including Family Fun cycles, Schools Cycling workshops, trips to Greenways in Mayo, Mountain Bike Spins and the purchase of specially designed Bike Week gym sacs as promotional material for the initiatives.
- Provided information to clubs, groups and organisations in Galway on various sources of funding e.g. *Sports Capital Funding, Dormant Accounts, GSP Funding, Galway County Council Community Support Scheme and Galway City Council club grant*. Advised and assisted clubs and groups with various applications including Sports Capital applications. With the DTT&S we organized one information workshop for applicant groups and the Sports Partnership oversaw the distribution of Galway City Council Sports Grants for 2018.
- Carried out review of *FIT TOWNS initiative* in 2018, with a view to improving its uptake and delivery. Review has been carried out, this initiative is to be re-branded and re-launched in 2019.
- Organised 7 walks across City & County, with a total of 2200 people taking part this year on Operation Transformation Walks day.
- Delivered the *Level 1 Sports Leadership Award* in association with Sport Ireland and implemented the programme for young people in Galway.
- Arranged and facilitated meetings of GSP Steering group and relevant workgroups throughout 2018. To date five Steering Group Meetings and four working-group meetings were held on programme funding and Fit Towns review.
- In association with the FAI, implemented the joint initiative between *Galway County Council and the Football Association of Ireland*. 2018 was the final year of this three year initiative.
- Funded 19 groups/clubs and organisations, 3 Club Development applications and 9 programmes for People with Disabilities under the GSP Programme Funding Scheme 2018.
- Promoted the work of GSP through a targeted promotions strategy and new website established as well as continuous promotion of Activities of GSP through all social media outlets, local media and by way of email.
- Participated in a new Community Physical Activity research programme with a number of other Sports Partnership and Waterford Institute of Technology.

- **Proposals for 2019:**
- Source and secure 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.
- If funding secured for Sports Hub Coordinator, service will extend to Ballinasloe and Ballybane/Doughiska.
- Secure funding for and oversee the implementation of Sport Ireland Programmes and other programmes in our five-year Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020, with particular emphasis on the GSP main target groups. Programmes will include Outdoor Adventure, Women on the Water, Youth at Risk Programme, Walking Football for Older Adults, Senior Circuits, Buggy Buddies, Midnight Soccer, Meet & Train.
- The review of the Fit Towns initiatives and findings of the final report of the Review Sub-group to be implemented with the initiative to be re-branded and re-launched in 2019.
- Establish Sports Linkage Groups through the County PPN.
- Organise community walks as part of Operation Transformation in association with local communities across Galway.
- Increase participation in sport and physical activities, through GSP Programme Funding.
- Deliver 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.
- Deliver Community Coaching programmes in Galway City and Tuam.
- Deliver Disability specific programmes – boccia, walking football, learn 2 cycle, ID tennis and Vi tennis.
- Deliver walking programmes, swimming programmes, Men on the Move programmes and Couch 2 5K programmes across Galway
- Deliver the Sportshall Athletics, Be Active After Schools and Mile Walk programme to primary schools across Galway.
- Arrange and facilitate meetings of GSP Steering group and relevant workgroups throughout 2019.
- Apply to and secure funding from the DTT&S towards the delivery of events and programmes for Bike Week 2019.
- Organise and deliver physical activity programmes for older adults as part of the Bealtaine festival 2019.

Customer Service

Indicative Activities in Unit in 2018:

- Updated Economic, Rural & Community Development section of Council website www.galway.ie to provide up to date useful information for communities, businesses and citizens.
- Held community consultation and engagement events in regard to funding schemes and programmes.
- Participated in Customer Service initiatives within Galway County Council.
- Extended PPN database to include additional groups and continued to provide relevant information including issuing Galway County Council public notices (new initiative).
- Provided considerable services through flexible working arrangement at evenings and weekends to meet customer needs and to ensure the delivery of corporate objectives.
- Significantly upgraded and maintained www.galwaygastronomy.ie as part of the European Region of Gastronomy designation.
- Communicated the activities of the European Region of Gastronomy designation across all themes on digital platforms and PR services with immediate response times.
- Developed Dine in Galway Concept, Branding & Social Media as part of the European Region of Gastronomy programme and worked in conjunction with the Hospitality Industry.

Proposals for 2019:

- Continue to review Unit's section on website to provide up to date useful information for communities, businesses and citizens as well as support the Made in Galway and Galway Gastronomy websites.
- Implement agreed actions in Customer Service Action Plan and Irish Language Guidelines.
- Increased engagement with the community and business sector across Social Media platforms.
- Hold community consultation and engagement events in conjunction with the Public Participation Network in regard to funding schemes and programmes operated by the unit.
- Continue to maintain www.galwaygastronomy.ie following on from the European Region of Gastronomy designation until a longer-term is developed.
- Continue to highlight and promote the activities of 'Galway Gastronomy' (the partners, stakeholders, members of the Galway Food Charter etc) across all themes on Email/Facebook/Instagram/Twitter and PR services.

Library Development Programme

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Library usage continued to increase in 2018. 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 583,000 visits in 2018.
- New library strategy launched – *Our Public Libraries 2022*
- The National Distribution system has grown in popularity in 2018. To date 45,000 requests have been processed by library staff in Galway. 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 to more isolated areas of the county and being able to order books online and collect them has increased the relevance of the library.
- 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. Customer training was also delivered on the range of online resources now available. This was done in branch and also on visits out to community groups.
- 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. In 2018 Surfbox was extended to Clifden and Oranmore. It is now available in Galway City, Ballybane, Oranmore, Ballinasloe, Westside, Tuam and Clifden.
- Self-service technology was introduced to several branch libraries in 2018 including Tuam, Galway City, Ballybane, Loughrea, Clifden, Portumna, Athenry and An Cheathrú Rua;
- ICT funding has been accessed in 2018 to provide for the up-grade of ICT in branch libraries, including public access PC's, digital learning, digital signage and collaborative STEAM learning.
- ISO45001 accreditation was achieved for the Library Service as part of overall accreditation process.

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 & 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, these are ongoing.
- To date 83 events have taken place in Galway Libraries with 940* attending so far. Topics covered have been Heart Health, Dementia Awareness, Healthy Ageing, Fitness for life, Growing fruit and vegetables. Information sessions have also taken place on Cancer Care and Prevention and the National Screening Service. Before year end there are a number of Parenting Information sessions to take place as well as Diabetes Ireland Information Sessions. (*Not all attendance figures are fully counted)
- Where suitable collaboration with Healthy Galway has taken place in maximizing publicity and event up-take.

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* areas have been developed in Clifden, Portumna, Oranmore, Loughrea, Tuam, Ballinasloe and Galway City.
- *Right to Read*
 - **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 2018 in conjunction with Arts Office. The month was launched in Athenry library and over 500 children enjoyed 40 events.

- The **Summer Reading Challenge** took place throughout the county with 4,600 children registering for the challenge and 3,000 completing. The National launch of Summer Stars took place in Oranmore library in July, launched by Minister Sean Kyne.
- Award ceremonies took place in branches in September and October.
- **Silent Book** collections were purchased for a number of libraries and training provided on their use with new communities.
- Creative Ireland projects in 2018 have included:
 - Déan é, Galway's Great Read, Strings festival, *Look beyond our world* and *Stuffed* teen graphic novel project in Tuam
 - Cruinniu na nÓg was celebrated on June 23rd, facilitated by Creative Ireland in several library branches throughout the municipal districts.
 - Déan é was delivered in library branches in November as part of libraries commitment to STEAM. Lego clubs were established in Tuam, Portumna, Ballinasloe and Westside.
 - Active participation in Galway City and Galway County Council's Creative Ireland Programmes, a five-year initiative from 2017 -2022, with direct emphasis on delivering Pillar 2 of the national programme – Enabling Creativity in Every Community.
 - Worked collaboratively with Galway 2020 to support delivery of programmes.

Adult events –

- Collaborative project between library book clubs and Galway Music Residency encouraging literature and music.
- Continued expansion of Galway's Great Read programme, funded by Creative Ireland. 2018 featured *Women of the West: Art, Citizenship and Literature*; the event schedule commenced with a recreation of the visit of Christabel Pankhurst to Galway in 1911, where she spoke at the Town Hall. Events were delivered throughout the county and concluded with a gala evening in Ballinasloe.
- Westside Public Library in conjunction with community partners delivered the Westside Arts festival, Oranmore participated in the local arts festival.
- Event programme on the mobile library service at Lawrencetown and Central Park Nursing Home, Clonberne.
- Participation with Winterage festival in Gort library
- Outreach events were facilitated at Glenamaddy, Furbo, Headford and as part of the Loving Galway festival.
- Support Culture Night 2018 for County Galway in conjunction with the Arts Office.
- Continue to support Galway Age Friendly City and County Programme.

- Regular events include:
 - Art exhibitions, book clubs, book launches, participation with Cúirt, Babaro, music performances, support for the various Arts Festivals throughout the county and city;
 - Europe Direct centres in Galway 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.
 - Bhliain Na Gaeilge was celebrated in An Spidéal, An Cheathrú Rua, Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Galway City and through the Schools Library service.
 - Bealtaine Festival in May was celebrated in a number of libraries.
- Building improvement works were carried out in several Branch Libraries including Clifden, Ballygar, Galway City, Westside, Oranmore, Tuam and Portumna.
- Book drops were provided for An Spidéal, Oranmore, Athenry and Oughterard.
- Work progressed on the MOL project.
- Ballygar and Woodford Library went online and are now part of the national library management system.
- Developed French book collections in Clifden and Oranmore.
- Supported Social Inclusion week in branch libraries and Galway Pride week.

Proposals for 2019:

- 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 on 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.
- ICT up-grades will be delivered in branch libraries across the City and County.
- The computerization of branch libraries in the Galway service will continue, subject to staffing levels and financial resources.
- 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.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Department provided legal services for all programme areas, including the purchase and sale of properties, conduct of litigation including District Court 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) Judicial Review and the completion of land acquisitions and CPOs on inter-urban routes and acquisition of residential units, were substantial areas of work.
- The Case Management System, which facilitates the use of templates to create work flows for the efficient and cost-effective delivery of legal services, continues to be updated and applied to existing and new work areas.
- Work has continued to update our Register of Lands in co-operation with our partners in other units such as IT, Finance and Housing.

Proposals for 2019:

- Concentrate on and continue in our efforts to provide efficient legal advisory services for all programme areas throughout the organisation.
- The continued completion of any residual work arising from Compulsory Acquisition on older inter-urban routes.
- Implementation of measures to meet our requirements in terms of the new Data Protection Regulations to include Data Mapping and Risk Control and liaise with the council Data Protection Officer in this regard.
- Workflows for the Case Management System will continue to be created, enhancing work delivery and capacity.
- Continues efforts to work with our partners to complete the council Register of Lands.
- Ensure that staff attend CPD and training courses and modules where appropriate to keep up to date with continuing developments in Local Government Law.

Water Safety Programme - Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Water Safety Programme involved the recruitment of a panel of 42 trained Lifeguards to provide services at 10 locations in the County [including six Blue Flag Beaches] and at six locations in the City as part of a Shared Service Agreement with Galway City Council.
- Induction Training was held on 25th May and 29th June 2018.
- The Service commenced on the 2nd June and continued until the 9th September 2018.
- Due to the spell of hot weather in late June, in the interest of Health & Safety, the service went full-time a week earlier than usual and lifeguard hours on several beaches were also extended as a result.
- Upgrading of some equipment supplies was undertaken as well as a hut preparation and repairs-maintenance schedule, which was agreed and delivered. A new hut was installed at Trá an Dóilín, Carraroe, for the 2018 season.
- Risk Assessments were carried out by Irish Water Safety at the 10 County Locations
- Following approval by Council, funding of €6,150 was advanced to the Irish Water Safety Council.

Indicative Proposals for 2019:

- Implement Lifeguard Programme, subject to funding being available, on a seasonal basis including induction training.
- Promotion of the Lifeguard Programme using web-sites, social and local media.
- Continue, subject to funding and the approval of Council, provision of a financial contribution to Irish Water Safety.
- Roll-out next phase of the Ringbuoy Renewal Programme, subject to funding, – including consideration of an inspection ‘app’ to build a record of sites within Council responsibility.

Parks, Pitches, Open Spaces and Playgrounds:

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Rinville Park, Maree, Oranmore, 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.
- The Parks' Maintenance Programme continued to be delivered in partnership with local groups. The maintenance programme is co-funded by Galway City Council.
- A Concession for the provision of refreshments at Rinville Park during April to September was continued.
- Circa 20 acres of haylage was cut for winter fodder by a local farmer/contractor, from lands in and adjacent to Rinville Park
- Palace Grounds, Tuam - Maintenance Programme for Palace Grounds Park, Tuam was implemented in association with a Council sponsored CE Scheme. Preliminary Research of Tuam Palace Grounds Park to include its history and its landscape elements commenced in October 2018 with a public consultation event to take place in November 2018 to feed into a Strategic Landscape Management Plan for Tuam Palace Grounds Park. This Framework will establish a strong basis for the implementation of future projects and provide a steer to the maintenance team currently working on the park to ensure that the park's welcome, orientation, identity and interpretation is effective in the long term. It will also underpin and populate any new graphic mapping and signage.
- Ballinasloe – Maintenance Programme was continued in Ballinasloe town for parks and open spaces in 2018.
- The 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 2018. Funding was awarded to several groups under these schemes with works required to be completed by early December.
- A formal launch took place of the accessibility enhancements including wheelchair swings which were installed at playgrounds in the Palace Grounds, Tuam and Sarsfields Rd., Ballinasloe which were Co-funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation 2017.

Leisure Centres – Tuam and Ballinasloe

- A four-year management, operating and maintenance licence continues to be delivered by Coral Leisure Ltd for Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centres. A Joint Liaison Committee continues to be chaired by Corporate Services with Coral Leisure to review the ongoing implementation of the Licence Agreement.
- Corporate Services continue to have oversight of essential maintenance and health and safety related improvement works at both centres. Improvement works included re-tiling, upgrading of the Sauna Room, public lift improvements, boiler repairs, and installation of fire exit doors.

Pitches / Running Track / Leisure Centres and Swimming Areas

- A Licence Agreement is in place with Tuam Celtic Football Club, to operate Galway County Council's All-Weather Pitches in Tuam. A Liaison Committee is established to review operation of the facility.
- Dunlo Recreational Park, Ballinasloe Running Track was fully operational for the year. A Schedule is made available on www.galway.ie indicating public times and bookings by local clubs. It is proposed to install outdoor gym and fitness equipment in Dunlo Recreational Park, as part of the Council's Recreation & Amenity Programme, in December 2018. This project will be co-funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sports – Local Authority Sports Capital Programme.
- Concessions were continued in 2018 to permit applicants to sell ice creams and soft drinks at beach locations in the County for the summer season. One applicant was issued with a licence to operate at four beaches.
- In accordance with commitments previously given under the Play Policy, assistance was provided to playgrounds through direct funding and provision of insurance. To-date, a total of 65 playgrounds have been developed in the County, under this policy. The Smoke Free Playgrounds Policy launched in 2013 was ongoing in 2018. Information on all sites are available to download in the Council's Guide to Playgrounds – 'Lets Play' available on www.galway.ie and an interactive map on the Mapzone section of the web-site.
- ROSPA Inspections of the 15 Council Owned playgrounds also took place in November.

Proposals for 2019:

- Parks maintenance programmes, including grass cutting, will be developed and implemented in line with available resources for Rinville Park, Oranmore, the Palace Grounds, Tuam, Dunlo Park, Ballinasloe and other amenity and open spaces, with priority afforded, within available resources, to public parks and amenity areas.
- Proceed with the development of a Strategic Landscape Management Plan for Tuam Palace Grounds Park to include mapping of key attributes of the Park to include historic elements, grassland, woodland etc., with a woodland and grassland management plan and consideration of the biodiversity within the Park and how same could be preserved and enhanced, together with ideas for future development/promotion of the Park and the provision of a design guide for features such as access, paths, park furniture. This Plan and the research undertaken will also feed into the design of a unique identity/brand/logo for the Park to include interpretative signage content and mapping so new map-boards can be installed.
- Continue maintenance required in Rinville Park under the Woodlands Plan to ensure newly planted Trees thrive.
- The maintenance of Council owned and operated Playgrounds, including the repair and/or replacement of play equipment, will be undertaken in line with resources. Annual ROSPA Inspections, required as a condition of insurance cover, will also be arranged for the 15 Council owned playgrounds.
Endeavour to continue to provide administrative and advisory support to community groups wishing to advance proposals for recreation and to access available funding insofar as staff resources allow.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Funding was provided for the operation of 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 attracts over 3,000 visitors.
- The Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre is owned and operated by Galway County Council. The Centre opened for the season from 30th May to 8st September, 2018.
- The 1691 Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre hosted a series of lectures on 'Galway's Hidden Heritage' during July - September on selected Fridays from 2pm -3pm. The lectures highlighted aspects of the history of 17th century life in East Galway, discovered Loughrea's Heritage Trail Walk and other interesting sights and explored the rich Biodiversity of the County. To celebrate Galway's designation as Galway, West of Ireland European Region of Gastronomy 2018, the following talks were held in the Centre: Foods & Herbs of 1691 by Margaret Hickey – Author of 'Ireland's Green Larder and a Food Demo & Cooking Methods event took place. The Aughrim Remembered event took place on 21st July.
- To mark Heritage Week, two events were organised in the Centre and were free to members of the public. A "Talk About & Walk About Tour" on the Battle of Aughrim was held with various speakers and guides taking part. This was an excellent opportunity to gain a full understanding of the Battle of Aughrim and its wider significance regarding Irish and European history. A talk on "Old Farming Ways" was held, which explored farming methods and how they have changed through the years.
- A public consultation event is to take place in November 2018 to seek the views, opinions and feedback of the local community/area of Aughrim on how best to maximise the historical, tourism and community potential of the 1691 Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre for the benefit of visitors, the local community and all stakeholders.

Proposals for 2019:

- Subject to funding financial support will continue to be provided to support the operation of the Athenry Heritage Centre and Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre to build their number of visitors and promote these areas as part of overall Council investments in tourism and support of the local economy.
- Remedial and Safety Works will need to be commenced with the boundary wall around the burial ground at St Mary's Church, Athenry through some form of pinning to stabilize a retaining wall which requires attention. A number of mature trees will also need to have their crowns reduced around the perimeter of the burial ground.

Community Warden Service

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Corporate Services supports the co-ordination of the Warden Service which delivers a range of services on behalf of the Council. Monthly workplans are compiled based on service needs.
- Litter Pollution/Derelict Sites Surveys were carried out, whilst regular inspections of Playgrounds, Parks, Local Authority Estates, Halting Sites, Piers, Lifebuoys, Beaches, Bottle banks etc. continued to be undertaken by the Wardens.
- The Wardens continued to assist with the operation of pay parking and the implementation of traffic management plans in a number of towns across the County.
- Environmental Enforcement including the issuing of Litter fines and notices under the Waste Management and Water Pollution Acts continued to be undertaken by the Warden Service.
- Dog Licensing inspection campaigns 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.

Proposals for 2019:

- This Unit will continue to co-ordinate the allocation of functions to the Community Warden Service and review the impact of functions based on agreed service indicators.
- Work will continue on assessing how the Service can best assist in meeting the objectives and business priorities of the organisation.
- Phased replacement of the Community Wardens vans will be implemented insofar as resources and may allow.

Disability Action

Indicative Activities 2018:

- Continued delivery of the Disability Action Plan.
- Supported the Accessible Ballinasloe initiative to develop Ballinasloe as an accessible, inclusive environment.
- Formal launch held in March of the two independent Track Systems installed in Ballinasloe Leisure Centre, to allow transfers, in the assisted changing room, from the wheelchair to the changing bed and, in the assisted wc/shower room, to allow transfers from the wheelchair to the wc/shower.
- Formal launch held in March of the Wheelchair Accessible Swings installed in Ballinasloe Playground (Double Wheelchair Swing) and in the Palace Grounds, Tuam (Single Wheelchair Swing) together with the accessible picnic table sets installed in both the Ballinasloe Park, adjacent to the Ballinasloe Playground, Sarsfield Road, and the Palace Grounds, Tuam and a number of additional accessible picnic tables have also been installed in Rinville Park, Oranmore.

Proposals for 2019:

- Support implementation of the Customer Service Action Plan to continually improve access to services for persons with a disability.
- Support improved Access for Persons with a Disability to Recreation and Amenity Facilities, subject to finance being available.
- The Council is advancing plans for the provision of 2 no. Beach Wheelchairs on a pilot basis in two beaches commencing with An Trá Mór, Indreabhán beach and Trácht beach, Kinvara. The project is being led by the Corporate Section, working in consultation with the Water Safety Officer and the Galway Speeders Sports Group. Accessibly Works to be undertaken in

Promoting the Irish Language

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- In March, a special event, ‘Lá na Gaeilge’, was organised during Seachtain na Gaeilge (1-17 March 2018), 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.
- Irish language classes (beginner and intermediate levels) were organised for staff of the local authority and classes were also available for Councillors.
- Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiaraís 2018 / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships 2018 were provided again this year by Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in collaboration with Summer Colleges in Conamara. 10 scholarships in total were provided to second level students in the County of Galway to attend Gaeltacht Summer Courses.
- The fourth annual Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh / Pádraig Pearse Summer School was held in Conamara (Ros Muc and Indreabhán) over the course of two days, on the 26/27 July 2018.
- Community Support Grants – The Irish language was specifically included as a category in the Community Support Scheme in 2018. Small scale grants totaling €5,000.00 were approved for projects in Schools, Community & Voluntary Organisations to support the promotion and increased use of the Irish language.
- 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.
- 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 Comharchumann Mhic Dara, An Cheathrú Rua, in March 2018, and also by helping to promote events as Gaeilge e.g National Heritage Week, Europe Direct Dialogue, etc through the Irish Language media.
- 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 was provided, along with proofing services.
- Information and consultation continues to be provided to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation.
- Website content approval procedure continues to be implemented in association with Customer Services and IS, to ensure bilingualism on www.galway.ie/ / www.gaillimh.ie, in line with our language scheme and legislation.
- Mobile Simultaneous translation equipment continued to be used at Council meetings or other meetings at which translation may have been required.

- Drafting of the Third Language Scheme for Galway County Council is underway and an internal review of the Second Language Scheme is also in the final stages.
- The Council continued to co-operate with An Coimisinéir Teanga, in dealing with issues raised by members of the public, regarding Irish language services and legislation.

Proposals for 2019:

- Aim to finalise the Third Language Scheme for Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe with An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
- Continue to provide information to all staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation.
- Continue to provide appropriate language awareness and language support material to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, to enhance the provision of services through Irish.
- Continue to provide and build on the amount of Irish classes/courses provided throughout the year for staff and Members of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, focusing in particular on conversational Irish, based on available funding.
- Aim to continue Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships in partnership with Irish Colleges in the county.
- Continue to promote the Irish language category for Gradaim an Chathaoirligh and community support grants, on a priority basis.
- Continue to operate the website approval process in partnership with Customer Services and Information Systems.
- Lead participation of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in activities and events for Seachtain na Gaeilge and where possible, expand on these events for March 2019.
- Continue to organise and host the annual Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh event (or equivalent event) within the Gaeltacht Community as resources allow.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- 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 continues 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.
- Refurbishment works were completed on the first floor to facilitate the provision of additional office and meeting room accommodation to allow for additional office space for the Housing Unit.
- Works were undertaken at Westside Library during the year to remove an oil tank and cage to the rear of the building in the interest of health and safety.
- The Unit continues to undertake procurement processes for a range of facilities management related contracts to ensure value for money and quality of service are maintained.
- A CCTV register was established to comply with the requirements of GDPR.

Proposals for 2019:

- Maintenance contracts will continue to be the subject of ongoing review with the aim of maintaining costs reductions achieved in recent years and if feasible in limited areas achieve further cost reductions.
- In order to operate within available budgets, it may be necessary to limit the maintenance of office and library facilities to focus on priority health and safety requirements and critical operating systems. In relation to County Hall, a significant number of management and maintenance systems are at or near end of life with an increased potential for systems failure and related response maintenance costs.
- The provision of adequate accommodation here at County Hall is proving to be an ever-increasing challenge. Occupancy levels in a number of areas here in HQ are exceeding the available capacity giving rise to areas such as lab space, meeting rooms, training rooms, etc being converted into office accommodation for staff. A review of the organisation's business & customer requirements for the medium to long term needs to be undertaken to allow for adequate office space capacity to be available to deliver these services.
- The Unit will aim to further reducing energy consumption across its offices and libraries. Display Energy Certs will continue to be displayed to the public in all our offices and libraries.
- A Legionella Monitoring and reporting programme is developed for office and library accommodation.

Management of Records & Archives

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

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Continued to provide access to information on Galway County Council's archival holdings through its descriptive lists and its on-line catalogue, and through various archival portals.
- Continued the programme of providing security backup and reference surrogates to collections¹ and of processing several small archive collections².
- Provided on-going reader services, such as access to collections for research purposes, assistance with research queries, and the 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.
- Conservation of several volumes from the Mountbellew Poor Law Union collection.
- Instigated and completed the innovative *Sowing a Seed: Archives to Art* collaborative project between the Archives and local artists, including the production of a catalogue and video documentation. The project was funded under the Creative Ireland /Galway County Council Cultural and Creativity Strategy, 2018-2022;
- Outreach activities included promotion of the Archives in media, such as appearance on the RTE *Nationwide* programme (May and August 2018), Galway Bay FM general radio interview and ongoing social media messages, in particular, items associated with the Decade of Centenaries.
- Provided advice on records management best practice and assistance to Sections within Galway County Council as required.
- Continued the management of non-current record transfers to storage and record retrievals and returns: 945 recall requests were processed from January to-date (26/10/2018). There are now 116,855 entries on the ArcLink records management database.

¹ Such as volumes from Mountbellew PLU (GPL4).

²Such as County Surveyor files GC/CS/015, GC/CS/015-016 and County Secretary files GC/CC13/3/0003-010, &0014, and BTC/2/1.

Proposals for 2019:

- Concentrate on processing archive collections, whilst continuing to provide access and advice to researchers.
- Continue the programme of providing security backup and reference surrogates to collections. Galway County Council will continue to avail of commercial storage for its non-current records, and manage the retrieval and return of records held in off-site storage.
- Continue to liaise with Sections to develop and implement file classification & record retention schedules, and provide advice on records management best practice.

Register of Electors

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Register of Electors for 2018/2019 was published on the 1st February 2018 and came into force on 15th February 2018.
 - A Supplementary Register of Electors was completed within statutory timelines in advance of the Referendum held on 25th May 2018 to Repeal the 8th Amendment to the Irish Constitution in relation to abortion.
 - A Supplementary Register of Electors was completed within statutory timelines in advance of the Presidential Election and the Referendum on the issue of Blasphemy held on 26th October 2018.
 - The Draft Register of Electors for 2019/2020 was published on 1st November 2018 and was made available for inspection by the public at Post Offices, Garda Stations, Public Libraries and the offices of Galway County Council and online at www.galway.ie enabling any person whose name was not on the Draft Register to submit a claim on Form RFA1, to Galway County Council not later than 25th November 2018. Claims are considered by the County Registrar at Revision Courts held in December each year.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Council will publish the Register of Electors for 2019/2020 by 1st February 2019.
- A Supplementary Register of Electors will be completed within statutory timelines in advance of the Local Elections to be held on 24th May 2019. The Supplementary Register will be prepared in accordance with the Boundary Commission changes in respect of Municipal Districts.
- The Council will organise the Local Elections to be held on 24th May 2019.
- The Draft Register of Electors for 2020/2021 will be published on 1st November 2019, and will be made available for public inspection, with Revision Courts to follow.
- Supplementary Registers of Electors will be compiled and published within the relevant timeframes in the event of any further Referendum or Election.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Administrative services are provided for the Chief Executive, Cathaoirleach of the Council, Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group and Council Meetings.

Service Delivered for Plenary Council Meetings and Members

- Preparation of Agendas for Ordinary, Special, Annual and Budget Meetings of the Plenary Council, co-ordination of Agenda Items with all Sections, facilitating the Meetings and recording the Minutes.
- Publication of the Agendas, Minutes and Agenda documentation to the Extranet.
- Facilitating Meetings of the Corporate Policy Group.
- Facilitation of Expressions of Interest for attendance at Training Events and Conferences.
- Compilation of Reports to Council in accordance with the Local Government Act for Authorisation of Attendance by Members at Training Events & Conferences.
- Arranging in-house Training in line with the agreed Galway Co. Council Training & Development Plan for the Members.
- Processing Members Travel & Subsistence Claims for attendance at Training & Conferences.
- Facilitate the submission of Summaries of Conferences attended by the Members, preparation of Report for Agenda and publishing Summaries on the Website.
- Maintaining Database of Attendances of the Members at all Meetings of the Council, including Plenary, SPC, Municipal District, JPC, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Local Community Development Committee, Road Safety Together Committee.
- Facilitate the compilation of the Public Register of all Attendances and Payments of the Councillors.
- Maintenance of Ethics Register for Councillors.
- Facilitating the Members in the return of Donations Declarations
- Facilitation of Civic Receptions is supported by the Corporate Team in response to proposals of the Plenary Council –
A Civic Reception was held in Áras an Chontae on 26th March 2018 to honour the following:
 - Ms. Sinead Keon, medal winner at the World Dwarf Games, Canada August 2017
 - Kiltormer & Eyrecourt Karate Club, medal winners at the Karate Tournament 2017 in China.
 - Galway U 14 Juvenile Ladies Gaelic Football winners of All Ireland Gaelic Football Championship at U14.

- Galway U16 (a) All Ireland Camogie Winners 2017, winning three in a row 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- Galway Minor Camogie Team – All Ireland Winners 2017
- The Freedom of the County of Galway was conferred on Mr. Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of the City of Boston, on 14th May 2018, at a Ceremony held in the Council Chamber. Mr. Walsh was the first individual to be granted this award
- A Civic Welcome to honour the Galway Minor Hurling Team on winning the All-Ireland Minor Title 2018 and also the Galway Senior Hurling Team who brought pride and honour to their County throughout 2018, was held in the Fair Green, Ballinasloe on 20th August, 2018.

Facilitating the Joint Policing Committee and Meetings Administration Athenry-Oranmore MD

- Galway County Council operates a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in conjunction with local Garda Síochána management and operation of this Committee is an assigned statutory function, in accordance with Section 35(4) and 36(1) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 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 JPC held its Public Meeting on 5th November 2018. Ordinary Meetings of the JPC were held on 5th February, 30th April, 9th July and 8th October.
- Meeting Administration is provided by Corporate Services for the Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District. The AOMD has met monthly, held its AGM on 25th June, 2018 and held its Budget Meeting on 23rd October, 2018.

Services provided by Corporate Services for the Organisation

- Maintenance of Ethics Register for Relevant Staff.
- Support provided by Corporate Services for Receiving, Registering and Opening of Tenders for the organization.
- Register of Chief Executive’s Orders maintained, Orders Numbered by Corporate Services for each Section.
- Corporate Services continued to serve as liaison for the Office of the Ombudsman in relation to queries raised by the Office in relation to service delivery by Galway County Council. All correspondence is co-ordinated via Corporate Services, with a tracking system in place

Proposals for 2019:

- Corporate Services will continue to support the Cathaoirleach, elected members and the organisation of Plenary Council Meetings.
- The Council will maintain Staff & Members Ethics Register and facilitate the Members in the return of Donations Statements.
- The Unit will publish details of all Payments to Elected Members, including in respect of Outside Bodies to which the Members are nominated
- The Unit will actively support the role of the Corporate Policy Group.
- Continue to facilitate the Joint Policing Committee.
- The Council will continue to comply with our statutory requirements regarding Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment legislation and will continue to facilitate the organisation in relation to Ombudsman queries.

Galway Commemorative Strategy for the Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023

A range of events and initiatives continued, across various Units, under the Galway Commemorative Strategy for the Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023.

- Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail (bi-lingual) Signage Project: To enhance one's journey on the 1916 Rising Heritage Trail, an interpretative signage project has commenced which will see signage being put in place for 12 no. selected sites of Galway County Council's 1916 Heritage Trail – Go Explore the Historic Sites and Monuments.
- A Conference entitled “‘Women – Their contribution to Irish History & Society’ was held in Moylough on 21st October 2018. The Conference included the following talks: “Women of the Atlantic – Connemara to Portland Maine 1880s to 1960s” by Eileen Davis (Carna Emigrants Centre), “Dudley Nurses” by Joyce Elena Ní Ghiobúin (MPhil TCD Belfast); “Ada English” by Pat Johnson (St. Brigid’s Hospital Heritage Group); “Palestine Brides” by Paula Kennedy and Kathleen Connolly (Researchers of the Mountbellew Workhouse Orphan Girls); “More than half the sky..” by Mary Ryan; “Our Irish Women Project’ by Lorna Elms (National Museum of Ireland). It concluded with a concert of music, song and dance celebrating women’s contribution to Irish Society. An Art Exhibition by local female artists in the community and a display of commonly used artefacts and utensils that were used in women’s work in the home and community were displayed. This Conference was held in partnership with the Moylough Heritage Group.
- “Pioneering Women in Irish History” Conference was held in Tuam on 3rd November 2018. The Conference included the following talks: “Local Politics and Women’s Suffrage: Women in Rural Galway” by Mary Clancy NUI Galway; “Dealers, dressmakers and secret agents: Women prisoners in Galway 1917-1921” by Geraldine Curtin NUIG Library; “I am a Galway Woman - Maureen (née McHugh) O’Carroll TD” by Mary J Murphy, Tuam; “Hanna Sheehy Skeffington” by Dr Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington;

“Irish Women Artists in Tuam” by Alison Titley, Kent, England and “Don’t iron while the strike is hot” by Dr John Cunningham. The Conference also included a display by the Irish Workhouse Centre on the lives of women of the workhouse. This Conference was developed by the Old Tuam Society in partnership with the Heritage Office of Galway County Council.

- Galway County Council Heritage Office and Galway County Library is working in partnership with Loughrea Memorial Group on a conference entitled “Galway 1918: Social Conditions and Political Change” to be held in Loughrea on 15th November 2018. The conference will deal with the following topics: Emigration and Diaspora by Dr Gerard Moran, “ Life in the Trenches (Food, Drink, Music, Letter writing)” by Brendan Smith, INSIGHT, NUIG; The Connacht Rangers by Joe Loughnane, What it said in the papers 1918 by Steve Dolan, Irish Workhouse Centre; "Shoneens, Strawmen and Suckling Pigs": The 1918 General Election Campaign in Galway by Dr Conor Mc Namara, Women and the Vote by Dr Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington and Seumas O’Kelly: A Gentle Revolutionary by Aisling Mitchell.
- Further development and updating of the bi-lingual website ‘Galway: Decade of Commemoration’ <http://www.galwaydecadeofcommemoration.org/> continued in 2018.
- Galway's Great Read is a series of talks, performances, exhibitions and readings taking place throughout November across all the libraries in the county on the theme of 'Women of the West'.

<p style="text-align: center;">Freedom of Information, Access to Information on the Environment, Ombudsman Queries</p>

Freedom of Information Officer/Access to Information on the Environment Officer is assigned to Corporate Services and is the contact point for FOI and AIE Decision Makers & Appeals Officer in the organization and also the Local Government Management Agency and the Office of the Information Commissioner/Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information. All FOI & AIE Requests received are processed and tracked through Corporate Services and a Disclosure Log of FOI requests maintained.

Freedom of Information Indicative Activities in 2018:

115 requests received up to end October, 2018. Decisions were issued as follows:

- 38 granted, 20 part granted, 25 refused, 3 transferred/withdrawn, 2 remain to be decided.

Access to Information on the Environment Activities in 2018:

8 requests were received to end October 2018 Decisions were issued as follows

- 6 part granted, 2 pending decision

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- 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 2018. 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 2018 to enhance our Corporate Image in the Print Media, to generate savings through shared advertising space and also 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 231 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 newly 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 over 8,652 likes on Facebook and 12,300 followers on Twitter to date and this is continuing to grow on a daily basis.
- 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 'Our Council Day' twitter campaign nationally as coordinated by the LGMA.

Proposals for 2019:

- Continue to co-ordinate implementation of the Customer Service Action Plan in line with agreed targets and goals in the Quality Customer Services Strategy.
- Continue to facilitate the Customer Services Officers Group meetings, information sharing and joint actions across all sections.
- Research Customer Service Models to apply to local needs and implement benchmarking process to further develop our standards as resources allow.
- Continue to implement 'Fix Your Street' to meet agreed targets.
- Continue to maintain a central deposit and coding system for all County Council Application Forms available via the website.
- Continue to focus on the development of the County Council's use of Social Media as a source of information and an efficient communication channel for our customers.

Operation of Markets & Casual Trading and Requests for Filming in County

Indicative Activities 2018:

- Casual Trading Licenses were issued for a fee for a number of towns and villages throughout the County including Athenry (4), Ballinasloe (11), Clifden (6), Gort (7), Loughrea (2), Mountbellew (5), Dunmore (2), Headford (1), Tuam (9); in line with Casual Trading Bye-Laws.
- Continue to promote trading where bays are vacant by contacting those on the waiting lists and continued to monitor data on Casual Trading through Community Wardens Work Plans returns.
- In addition, special events licences were processed for the Ballygar Carnival, Clifden Pony Show, Maam Valley Fair, Dunmore & Loughrea Festivals and the Ballinasloe Horse Fair.
- 22 Requests from film makers etc. to use public property for filming were also processed.

Proposals for 2019:

- Continue to issue Casual Trading Licenses and consider reviewing existing Bye-Laws as staff resources allow.
- Progress on-line payment facilities for Licenses.
- Continue to facilitate queries and issue permissions as required to Media and Production Companies wishing to film in the County in support of the Film Galway Partnership.
- Co-ordination and operation of trading at the Ballinasloe Horse Fair in October in partnership with the Ballinasloe Municipal District Office.
- Review the funding model for the Ballinasloe Horse Fair with a view to maximizing available income in the context of the requirement for additional event management measures.

Internal Audit Activity

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve the organisations operations. It helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance process.

The Internal Audit Unit is responsible for providing assurance to the Chief Executive of the Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control and risk management systems.

The Internal Audit work programme is driven by the annual Internal Audit plan which is drawn up in conjunction with the Executive Team and the Audit Committee and included 10 areas for audit during 2018.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The following 5 audits were completed during 2018 and presented to the Audit Committee
 - Review of the effectiveness of the Council's Risk Management Framework
 - Review of the license agreement in place for the operation of the Council's leisure centres
 - Accounts Payable's role in the purchase to pay cycle
 - 2017 Regional & Local Road Grants – expenditure & drawdown
 - Compliance testing on internal policies with regard to the use of low value purchase cards, fuel cards and the issue of fire service charges bills.

- Work is ongoing on the following 3 audits.
 - 2017 Commercial Rates write-offs
 - Corporate Governance issues - FOI requests, Ethics- members and staff declarations of interest forms, Customer complaints procedure, removals and additions from the Register of Electors.
 - Expenditure and recoupment on a sample of housing capital projects
 - Review of the Council's Payroll & HR procedures under the Shared Service Level Agreement with MyPay.

- As part of the quality assurance requirement of the Public Spending Code in depth review of capital expenditure the appraisal & planning stages of the N59 Bunnakill to Claremont roads capital project was examined.
As part of the quality assurance requirement of the Public Spending Code in relation to revenue expenditure two roads jobs under the category of regional roads maintenance and improvements were examined -structural overlay of the

Knockatogher regional road and reconstruction of 100 meters of the Pollacorrage /Kilbannon road.

- The 2017 Audit Report recommendations were reviewed and necessary follow up measures were taken.
- Quarterly checking of the cash office, quarterly checking of revenue collector's receipts and lodgements, together with periodic checking in the motor tax headquarters office in County Hall.
- Follow up on progress with implementation of the recommendations made in the Local Government Auditors 2017 Letter to Management.

Proposals for 2019:

- Drafting of the 2019 Internal Audit plan for approval
- Reviews of recommendations made in the 2018 audit reports
- Facilitate the work of the Audit Committee /administration of meetings
- Completion of audits as per the 2019 Audit Plan.
- Compliance with the Quality Assurance requirements of the Public Spending Code
- Continued work on policy compliance and value for money testing.
- Quarterly and periodic checks on the various income collection streams.
- Periodic checking in the motor tax sub offices in Ballinasloe and An Cheathrú Rua.

Data Protection – General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into effect on 25th May, 2018 with the purpose of maintaining a uniform approach to Data Protection across all EU member states. The GDPR aims to encourage the use of new privacy principles within all aspects of business operations such as Privacy by Default, Privacy by Design, Accountability and Transparency. All Data Subject Access requests received are logged by the Data Protection Officer. All staff have been afforded the opportunity to attend training sessions and briefings on the changes that the new legislation brings to Galway County Council. Our main priority for 2019 is to continue to train staff and create a more secure, trusted environment for all personal data in our control.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- 14 GDPR and Data Processing Inventory Workshops / training took place over 7 days between September to November 2018. A total of 386 staff attended the various workshops.
- A Data Protection Policy, Privacy Statement, Subject Access Request Policy and CCTV Policy were all created and uploaded on our website.
- We are engaged in an CCTV Audit with the Data Protection Commissioners Phase I was completed in July 2018 and Phase II is commencing end of November 2018.
- Work has continued to create a Data Breach Management Policy.

Proposals for 2019:

- Further training on GDPR, including Data Breach and Subject Access Request training will be provided to staff in 2019, this will include e-learning training.
- Finalisation of the CCTV Audit by the Data Protection Commissioners.
- Work will continue to develop Data Mapping inventory in each department.

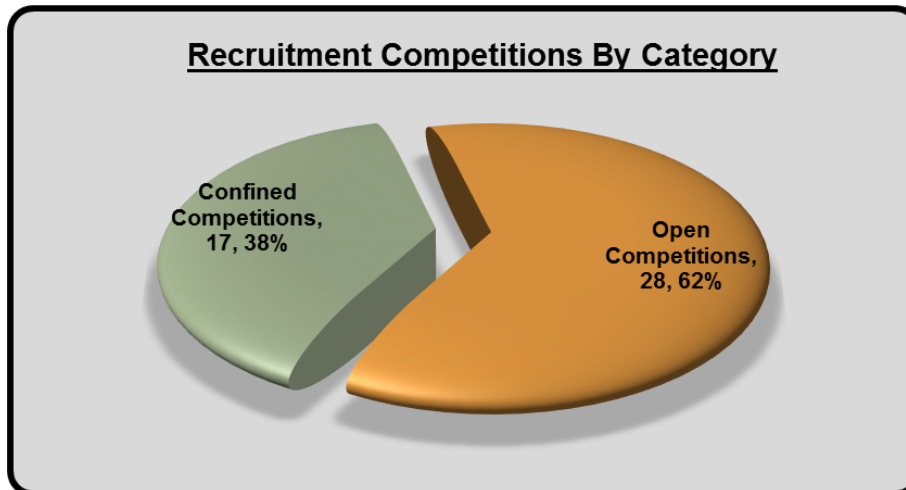
Human Resources

Indicative Activities in 2018:

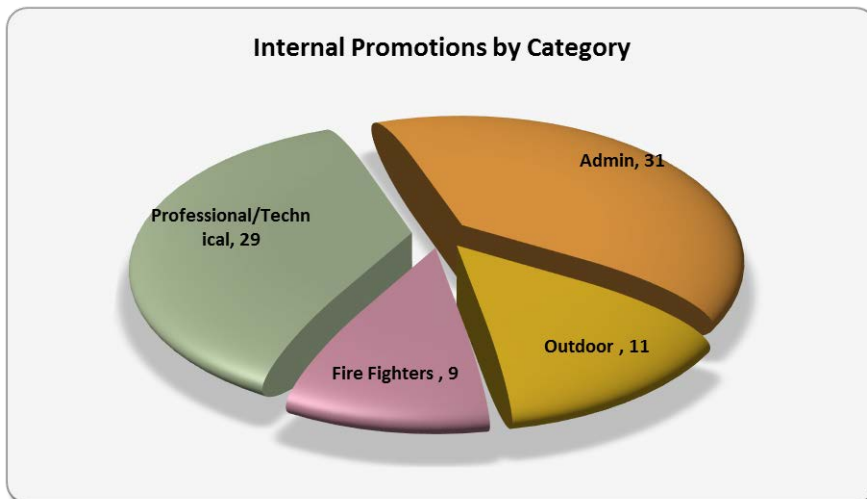
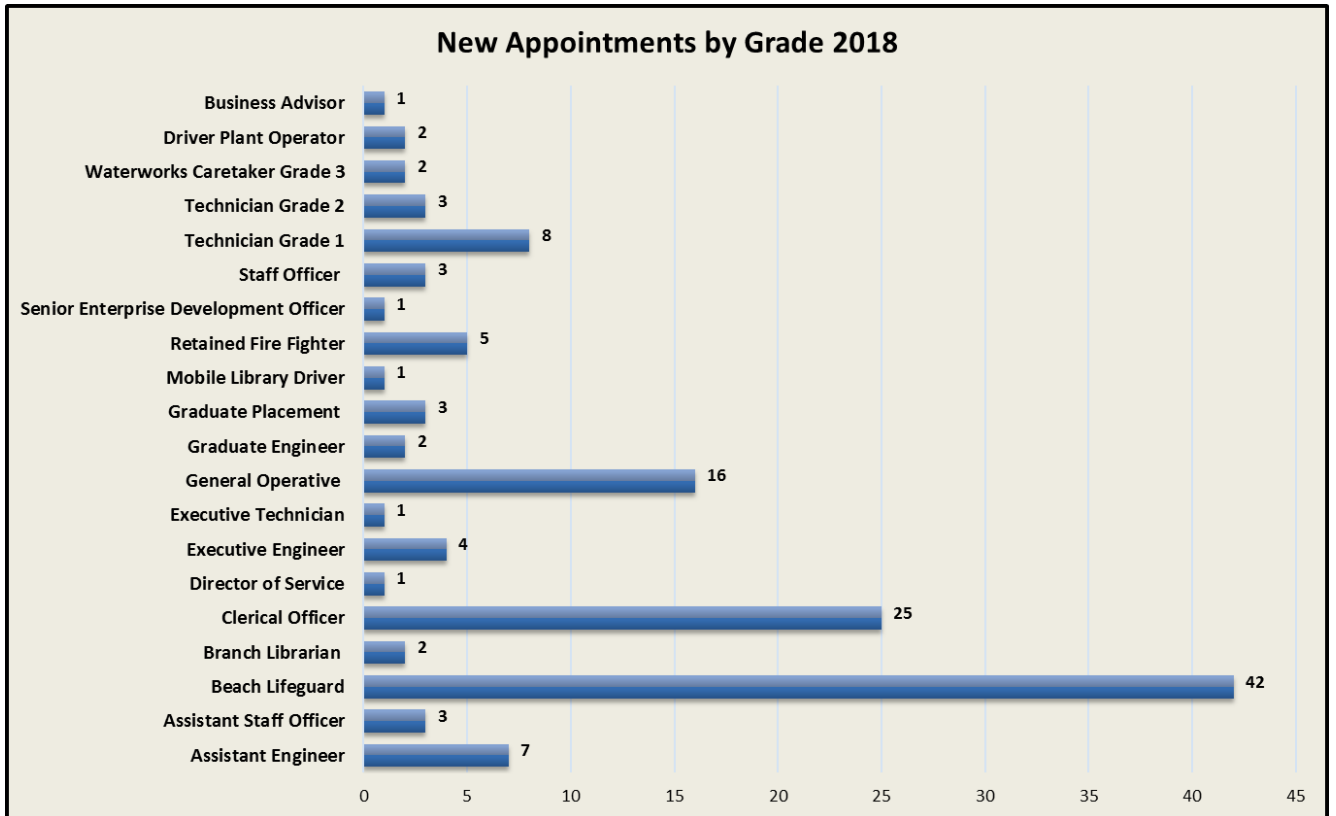
Recruitment and Workforce Planning

Galway County Council's Staff Headcount at the end of Quarter 3, 2018 is as follows:

Category	Headcount
Core Staff	800
Retained Fire Fighters	113
Non-Department of Housing, Planning & LG	81

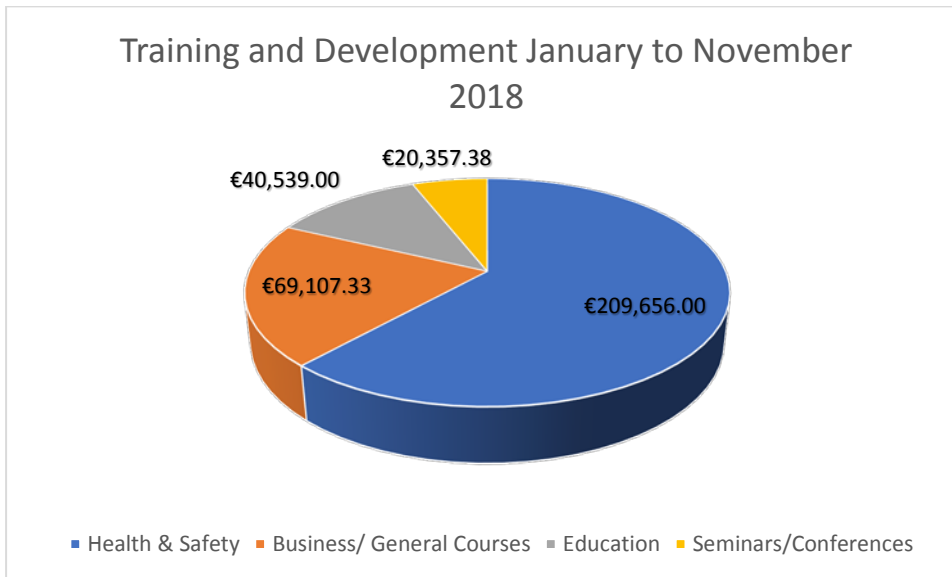


The Human Resources Department ran 45 recruitment competitions up to the end of Quarter 3, 2018 which resulted in 132 new appointments and 80 promotional appointments. Staff recruitment and re-deployment has been targeted at the priority areas of Housing, Economic, Rural & Community Development and the National Roads Project Office.



Galway County Council has facilitated 11 work experience placements to date in 2018.

Staff Training and Development:

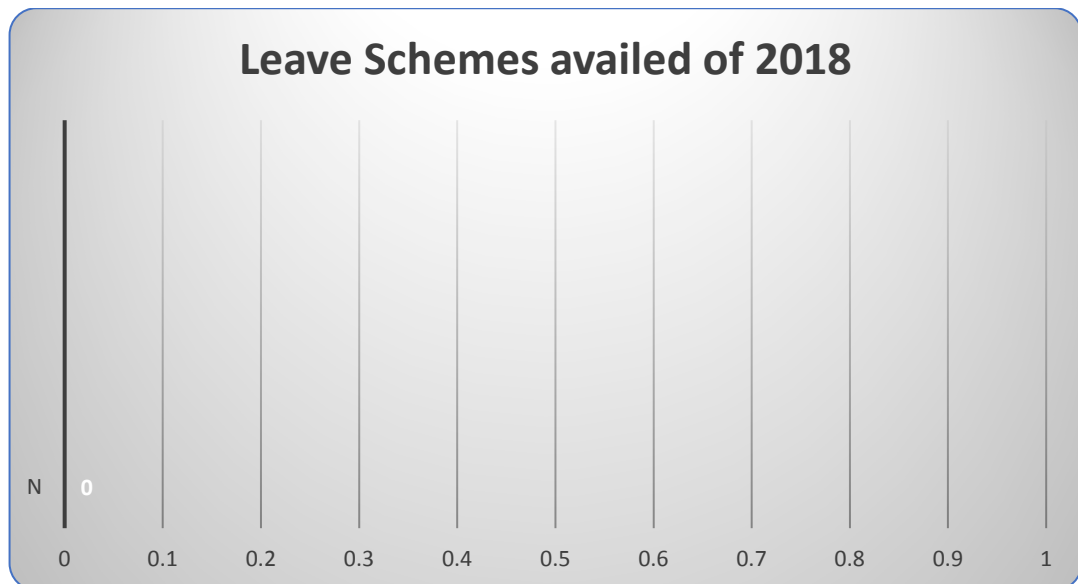


- The Training and Development Section provides a wide range of training programmes to enable staff and management carry out their duties in a confident and competent manner and in a safe working environment. Staff investment in training benefits the organization through the up-skilling of employees and it also facilitates continuous personal development. There have been approximately 2424 training days provided from January to November 2018.
- Health & Safety training formed a considerable part of 2018 Training Plan which included the following courses: Safe Pass, Manual Handling, Occupational First Aid, Re-certification of Occupational First Aid, Signing, Lighting and Guarding Training, Chainsaw Training, Confined Spaces Training CSCS Health & Safety at Roadworks Training, Abrasive Wheels and VDU Assessors Training.

Staff Welfare:

Galway County Council has a number of Family Friendly Schemes in place and these have been availed of by staff as follows up to the end of Quarter 3, 2018;

- Parent Leave Scheme: 17 staff members availed of the new parent leave scheme in 2018
- Career Break: 10 staff members availed of career breaks in 2018
- Work Sharing Scheme: 63 staff members availed of work sharing arrangements in 2018
- Parental Leave Scheme: 54 staff members availed of parental leave in 2018
- Shorter Working Year Scheme: 30 staff members availed of unpaid leave under the Shorter Working Year Scheme in 2018



Other services available for staff:

- Employee Assistance Programme: A confidential counselling service, the “Employee Assistance Programme” or “EAP” is available to all Galway County Council employees. Health Assured Ltd provide this service on behalf of Galway County Council.
- **Cycle to Work Scheme:** Under this scheme an employer may provide an employee with a bicycle and/or associated safety equipment up to a maximum value of €1000 without the employee being liable for benefit –in-kind taxation. 16 applications for participation in the Cycle to Work Scheme have been processed to date in 2018 for Council employees.
- **Travel Pass Scheme:** There are currently 19 staff members availing of the Tax Saver Travel Pass Scheme.
- **VDU Assessments:** 60 VDU tests have been carried out as at the end of Quarter 3 of 2018, with a further 49 assessments pending.

Planned retirements in 2019

- According to service records, 26 full-time staff members and 1 part-time staff member are due to retire in 2019.

Proposals for 2019:

- Recruit and deploy staff in an efficient and professional manner, and in accordance with Government policy and service priorities.
- Continue within the available resources to deliver training and development programmes. The 2019 Training Plan will focus on the delivery of mandatory health & safety training and certification requirements taking into account individual and organisational requirements.
- Develop, implement and communicate appropriate human resource policies in line with existing and new legislation, and in keeping with best practice.
- Support and advise Line Managers on the implementation of workplace policies.
- Promote dignity at work, diversity and equality for all employees of the Council.
- Continue to promote a climate of good industrial relations and strengthen the partnership approach to joint problem-solving in the interest of employee and customer relations.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

The County Enterprise Boards Dissolution Bill 2013 was enacted and the CEB's were dissolved on 14th April 2014. On the 15th of April 2014, the LEO Galway commenced operations within the Galway County Local Authority (as lead Authority for Galway County & City) structure under a Service Level Agreement (see summary Appendix A) between the Local Authority and Enterprise Ireland.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Provide an excellent and effective First Stop Shop for businesses in Galway County & City
- Increase awareness of the services available to businesses locally and nationally and help develop relationships between businesses and these service providers.
- Generate awareness of the LEO brand and services.
- Provide a suite of capability building supports and services that add value and bring benefits to business.
- Support employment creation in the county through investment in eligible businesses
- Support economic development aimed at job creation in the county and region.
- Engage with partners at local and national level to design and deliver enterprise creation and support initiatives.

Proposals for 2019:

- Information provision – First Stop Shop and outreach events (4)
- Support for Brexit impacts for clients (training, mentoring cost reduction, new market development etc.)
- Business Advice, Mentoring & Networking
- Management development, Sectoral development programmes
- Training, workshops
- Funding (direct – limited eligibility, indirect – via Microfinance Ireland)
- Research and Development funding delivery to high potential sectors
- Client participation in National events (IBYE, Student Enterprise programme, National Enterprise Awards and National Showcase and Ploughing)
- Delivery of Bia Innovator Food hub

Summary Targets 2019:

Item	2018 Targets
Value of Grants Approved	€550,000
Feasibility	4
Priming	12
Business Development / Expansion	13
Value of Grants Paid	€510,000
Feasibility	€60,000
Priming	€250,000
Business Expansion	€200,000
Jobs Associated with Funding – WTE¹	115
Total Employment in LEO Clients (Year start) – FT / OT / WTE	
Gross Jobs Created / Lost	190/100
Full Time Created / Lost	120/75
Other Time Created / Lost	70/30
Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Created / Lost	+70
Total Employment (Year End) – FT / OT / WTE	970
Training	
Total No. of Courses Run	50
Total No. of Participants	600
Mentoring	
Total Number of Mentoring Assignments	220
Total Number of Mentoring Clinics	65

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT and EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT

Planning for Sustainable Development

Indicative Activities in 2018

- 1547 Planning Applications have been received to date (31st October 2018).
- 2 Pre-application consultations have been attended with An Bord Pleanála under the new regulations for housing developments over 100 units, Troiscaigh Thoir, Bearna and Oran Hill Oranmore.
- Completion/Adoption of Variation No. 2(a) and 2(b) to the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 to incorporate the Bearna Plan and Gaeltacht Plan.
- Prepared submission on Pre- Draft Regional Social Economic Strategy and Metropolitan Area Strategy Plan.
- Prepared submission on the Marine Spatial Plan December 2018.
- Prepared completed and adopted Tuam Local Area Plan 2018-2024.
- Finalised/adopted Clifden Local Area Plan 2018-2024.
- Assisted in the operation of the Development Management Section at various times throughout the year.
- Completed the statutory process in relation to Deferral of notice of the Gort and Moycullen Local Area Plans.
- Attended and advised at Steering Group meetings for the Galway City Ring Road.
- Prepared and submitted a bid under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund.
- Prepared tenders and published a review of the Landscape Character Assessment in preparation for the County Development plan 2021-2027.
- Arrange and manage the translation of all new policy (variations to the CDP, relevant Local Area Plans) in accordance with the Scéim Teanga.
- Participate in the National e-Planning Initiative.

- Consultations on and issued 2 Outdoor Events licenses.

Proposals for 2019:

- To consider, subject to resources and staffing, the preparation of a number of non-statutory Local Area Plans/Masterplans.
- To commence the Retail Strategy in consultation with Galway City Council.
- To institute 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.
- Prepare as part of the Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027, a Renewable Energy Strategy.
- To undertake a review of the GTPS in preparation of the Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027.
- Arrange and manage the translation of all new policy (variations to the CDP, relevant Local Area Plans) in accordance with the Scéim Teanga.
- Participate in the National e-Planning initiative.
- To commence and prepare a Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027.
- Participate in the Town Team Initiative for a number of local areas in conjunction with Community and Enterprise.
- Preparation of Public Realm strategies for identified Local Area Plan towns, where resources allow.

Building Control

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- 565 commencement notices have been received to 31st October 2018, which represents a 2.8% increase on this time last year.
- 63 completion certificates have been submitted and validated to 31st October 2018.
- 149 inspections have been carried out by the Building Control Officer to ensure compliance with the Building Regulations to 31st October 2018.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Building Control Officer will continue to implement the statutory building regulations and to carry out at least the minimum level of inspections of new developments required.

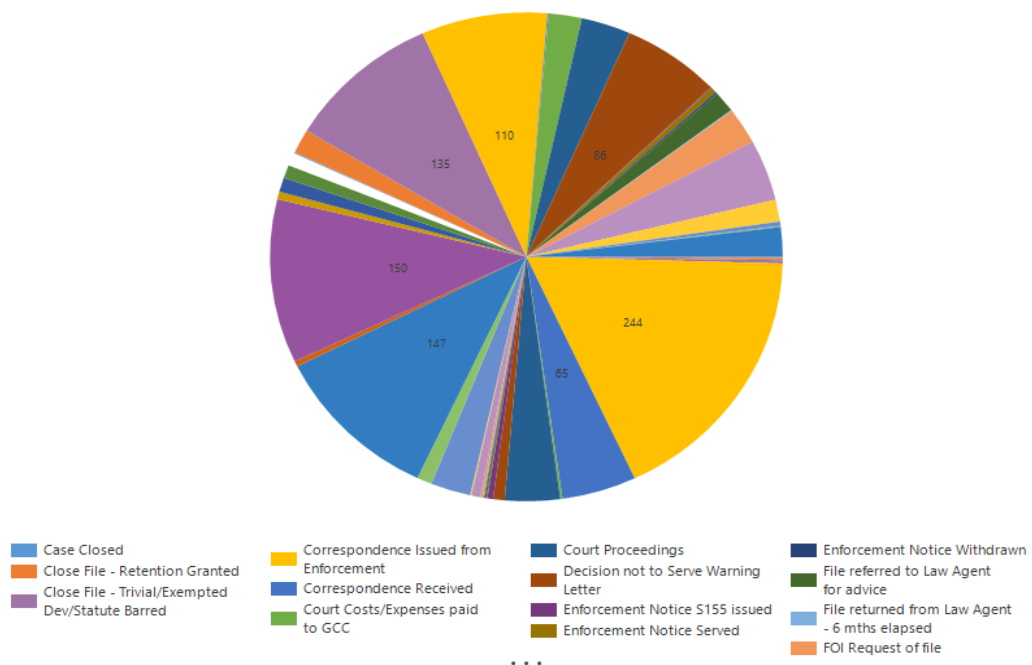
Enforcement Measures

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- 179 Warning Notices/Letters served to 31st October 2018.
- 69 Enforcement Notices served to 31st October 2018.
- 32 Files have been referred for legal action to 31st October 2018.
- 267 New Files opened to 31st October 2018.
- 194 approx. Enforcement Files have been resolved/closed at 31st October 2018

Proposals for 2019:

- It is proposed to continue to provide resources to the Enforcement Team to ensure the implementation of the Planning Regulations in 2019.
- To prioritise unfinished housing estates for enforcement action as necessary.
- It is proposed to continue to examine old enforcement files with a view to closing same, where appropriate.



Indicative Activities in 2018:

- **Geological Heritage Audit Phase 2:** There are currently an estimated 135 County Geological Sites (CGS) in County Galway that have been provisionally listed by the Geological Survey of Ireland. Co Galway is being audited in a phased approach, the priority for 2018 is to cover around 60 CGS sites in the western part of County Galway (Phase 1- 2017 covered CGS sites in the North West of the County) and any additional site/s of significance (following approval by the relevant Expert Panel).

These sites, which have been listed in GSI's Indicative Site List, will be identified as County Geological Sites (CGS) and, along with objectives for their protection, will subsequently inform the relevant County Development Plan and Planning GIS systems. Final report due 7 November 2018.

- **Galway West of Ireland Region of Gastronomy Heritage Projects 2018** – This project builds on the work started in 2017 and in 2018 it continues to work with local communities and organisations, gathering information relating to the gastronomic heritage of the county and produce written, audio and video outputs for the website. Community Event to be held in Claregalway in December 2018.
- **Ecclesiastical Heritage Publication.** The text is currently being written on a bi-lingual publication that will highlight the rich Ecclesiastical Heritage resources of the county. This will draw on information gleaned over the past 6 years on the Ecclesiastical Heritage Audit of county Galway. It is hoped to complete and print the publication in 2019.
- The **community archaeologist** is working with various groups, schools and individuals in the county to increase awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the archaeological heritage of the county. He will also provide guidance and assistance on undertaking archaeological heritage based projects to best heritage practice. A final report will be produced by 16 November 2018.
- **Athenry Town Walls – North Gate – Capital Works 2018**
The tenth phase of works to the town walls, commenced on site in early August 2018, with a 6-week programme, including three weeks of a road closure to allow access to the arch and vaulted room. We prioritised the works in the following order: health and safety, integrity of the monument, protection. This translated in the works programme to- treatment and removal of vegetation and embedded roots; consolidation and repointing the west and south facades which had not been rebuilt in the 1970s.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- **Athenry Heritage Trail** – Z-card brochure and online trail

This brochure and online trail of the historical sites of Athenry was developed by Galway County Council, Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre, Athenry Walled Town Day Committee and the Irish Walled Town Network (IWTN). It was launched on Sunday 19th August and was distributed around the town of Athenry. The online trail is available on heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org

- **Loughrea Heritage Trail** – Z-card brochure and online trail

Loughrea online Heritage trail and brochure was launched in Loughrea Library by Cllr Eileen Mannion, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Martina Moloney, Chairperson, Irish Walled Town Network and Michael Starrett, CEO, The Heritage Council. This new heritage resource for the medieval town of Loughrea features 21 sites or as they are known in the digital world, points of interest. The aim of the brochure and the online heritage trail is to make information with regards to the rich heritage of Loughrea available in an easily accessible format and to increase the awareness, knowledge and understanding of this rich heritage resources for the local person and the visitor to Loughrea. It is also hoped that this trail will lead to further research and projects being undertaken on the heritage of Loughrea in the future.

- **Loughrea Medieval Festival 24th – 26th August 2018**

Loughrea Medieval Festival was a 3-day festival that attracted an audience of c15,000 people. It took place from 24th to 26th August 2018. This year's festival was held during National Heritage Week and the theme was A Taste of the Past. It was a jam-packed weekend with fun and educational events and performances.

All events were free of charge. Events ranged from engaging talks, puppet shows, medieval combat, archery, medieval food demonstrations, music, song and dance, stilt walkers, Loughrea Zibaldone project, Talking Food- Local Food and Local People, Crafts, games and photography and a medieval mass in the Carmelite abbey. Funding was provided by the Heritage Council, Irish Walled Towns Network, Galway 2020 and Galway County Council.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- **Stories from the Landscape** is a series of short films which deals with various aspects of our cultural, natural and built heritage. The series began in 2017 with 9 short films in Galway, Clare and Tipperary. For the European year of Cultural Heritage 2018 we have produced 2 short films, both filmed in Ireland and in Austria. The film supported by Galway County Council features a group of 'Dry stone wallers' from Ireland, Austria and Germany as they work together to build a dry stone hut in Langenlois, Austria. The film was made with support from the Heritage Council and produced by Galway Film. The film highlights the benefits of European co-operation between craftspeople. The film will further cement an already fantastic working relationship between Irish and Austria craftspeople.
- **'Go Wild' Summer Camps:** Developed two children's biodiversity 2 day summer camps with BirdWatch Ireland, Moycullen Heritage Group and Woodlawn Heritage Group. These successful courses were delivered in Maigh Cuillin and Woodlawn in August 2018.
- **Turas Ruaidhrí:** Food and Heritage Bus Tour (Free Tour Celebrating Heritage Week)
52 People came on this bus tour on Wednesday 22nd August 2018. Michael Gibbons, renowned archaeologist and Pádraic O' Raighne, Connemara Pub Tours led the tour which commenced and finished in Maigh Cuillin.
- **Teagasc Sheep and Food 2018**
Worked in partnership with numerous community heritage groups in the county to create a heritage village as part of this event. A replica shop and kitchen were developed. There were food and craft demonstrations, music, song and dance and vintage farm machinery on show as part of the heritage village.
- **Oral Heritage Recording Workshops**
A Six week course on Oral Heritage Recording is taking place in An Seomra Glas at Áras Uilinn, Moycullen Co Galway. The course is being delivered by Garry Kelly, GK Media and funded by Creative Ireland.
- **Introduction to Filmmaking Course**
This course is funded by Creative Ireland and is being delivered by Merchant Gate Films. This course which commenced on 18th September 2018 is designed for local heritage groups in County Galway who would like to use video to tell heritage stories. Each group representative has the opportunity to learn about all the steps in filmmaking. This is a practical course and each group will make a 2-minute film as

part of the course. The first meeting will be classroom based - All others then are in the field. All training and films will be done using smart phones and tablets. Groups should after completion of the course be able, in future, to make their own films without help. This project is due to finish on 23rd November 2018.

- **Biodiversity Project.**

Providing advice and guidance on various aspects of biodiversity including tree planting, dealing with invasive species and pollinator plans to Tidy Towns, Community and Schools Groups throughout the county. Set up a 'Boxes for Bees' School Project and a number of schools received a school visit and a box and seeds for planting. Applied for funding from NPSW re. the production of Biodiversity Action Plans, currently working on plans for Athenry, Kilkerrin and Ballymoe.

- **Invasive Species Working Group.**

Working on an invasive species strategy with other sections of the Council in particular with the Roads Section, Community Wardens and IT.

- **Decade of Commemoration**

Further development and updating of the bi-lingual website for the Decade of Commemoration with additional information and podcasts. The Loughrea Remember Conference entitled 1918 Ireland: Political and Social Change will be held on 15 November 2018.

- **The Pioneering Women in Irish History Conference**

This conference that was held in the Corralea Court Hotel in Tuam on Saturday 3rd November was a great success and showcased a lot of new research and knowledge in relation to the contribution made by women to our society, economy and political life down through the ages.

- **Cathaoirleach Awards**

These Awards include an Award for the best heritage project and the best heritage publication. The Awards night took place on Thursday 31 May in Clifden. Moycullen Heritage Group won the best contribution to heritage award and Paddy Beatty won the best heritage publication award.

- **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 has been provided to the groups throughout the year. ICAN members have also embarked on the development of an exhibition entitled Our Irish Women that will be officially launched on Friday 9th November at the Museum of Country Life Castlebar.

- **Féile na gCloch**
Over 100 people attended Féile na gCloch on Inis Oírr which took place from Thursday 13 to Sunday 15 September. 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.
- **Community Events, Conferences and Workshops**
Assistance, advice, and support was also given to numerous Tidy Town, Community Heritage and schools groups in 2018 and 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.
- **Emigration and Diaspora Projects**
Tuke Emigration Scheme Project – continued to work with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group on this project. Developed and produced online information relating to emigration and diaspora.
- **Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County** – Continued to work with Galway Rural Development on mapped and memorial inscriptions will be recorded and up loaded to www.galway.ie
- The *Beo Schools Project* with INSIGHT, NUIG and Galway Education Centre ongoing.
- Participation on Committees/teams such as the *Placenames Committee, Loughrea Heritage and Development Company, Creative Ireland and the Aran Life Project*.
- Rolled out of the Heritage Grant Scheme as part of Community Grants.
- **Townland Research**
Working with GRD, Forum Connemara, Carna Emigration Centre and Cornamona on recording and documenting townland historical research.
- The *Golden Mile Calendar* will be produced in December 2018.
- Have held meetings and progress heritage initiatives with Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Forum.

Heritage

Proposals for 2019:

- Undertake Phase 3 of a Geological Heritage Audit of County Galway in partnership with the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Heritage Council.
- Galway West of Ireland Region of Gastronomy Heritage Projects 2018 – continue to work 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.
- Produce a publication and exhibition on highlights of the rich Ecclesiastical Heritage resources of the county.
- Continue to work on the Invasive Species Strategy.
- Continue with the Stories from the landscape initiative.
- The community archaeologist will work with various groups, schools and individuals in the county to increase awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the archaeological heritage of the county. He will also provide guidance and assistance on undertaking archaeological heritage based projects to best heritage practice.
- Village/town Project to be developed in partnership with the Heritage Council.
- Consideration to be given to hold a 6-week course that will be of benefit to those who are undertaking oral heritage projects under an Audio Recording and Interviewing Techniques Programme.
- Reading the Landscape Course Phase 2 - To continue to work with community groups to learn field skills and use same to upload content onto the new community heritage website.
- Continue with the Biodiversity Project and continue to work in partnership with community groups, Tidy Towns Groups, Schools, NUIG, GRD etc.

- Athenry Walled Towns Day – Funding will be sought from the Walled Towns Funds of the Heritage Council and if successful a walled town Day will be held in August 2019.
- Athenry & Loughrea Walled Towns Educational Project – Funding to be sought to continue this worthwhile project.
- Athenry Town Walls Capital Works – Funding will be sought to undertake another programme of works for the Walls and an ensuing body of work will also take place if successful.
- Loughrea Medieval Festival - To hold a 3-day event in Loughrea in August 2019 in partnership with Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee.
- Decade of Commemoration - Further development and updating of the bi-lingual website for the Decade of Commemoration with additional information and podcasts. The Loughrea Remember Conference to be held in November 2019.
- Cathaoirleach Awards - These Awards include an Award for the best heritage project, best heritage publication and best Irish/heritage schools project.
- ICAN – Community Heritage website. The Heritage Office will continue to work in partnership with the Museum of County Life Castlebar and various communities throughout the county to further develop this website.
- Community Events, Conferences and Workshops – Assistance, advice, and support will also be given to numerous Town and Community events in 2019 including Féile na gCloch, Heritage Week Events, heritage training and relevant local heritage conferences and seminars etc.
- Emigration and Diaspora Projects: Tuke Emigration Scheme Project – To continue to work with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group on this project. Further develop online information relating to emigration and diaspora. Hold a conference relating to diaspora and emigration.
- Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County – To be continued with several graveyards to be mapped and memorial inscriptions will be recorded and up loaded to www.galway.ie

- The Beo Schools Project with INSIGHT, NUIG and Galway Education Centre will be ongoing.
- Alcock and Brown 100 – Working with Clifden Chamber of Commerce and newly established group. Work on aviation conference, school's education pack, heritage week event etc.
- Galway 450, work on the Galway 450 initiative with various heritage groups in the county.
- Participation on Committees/teams such as the Placenames Committee, Loughrea Heritage and Development Company, Creative Ireland and the Aran Life Project.
- Roll out of the Heritage Grant Scheme as part of Community Grants.
- The Golden Mile Competition and Calendar and awards ceremony will also take place during the year.
- Hold meetings and progress heritage initiatives with Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Forum.
- Develop and deliver heritage summer camps for children in selected parts of the county in partnership with Bird Watch Ireland and other partners.

Conservation

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Consulted with the relevant department, state agencies, voluntary and international organisations on matters of architectural conservation including AACO, ICOMOS, Irish Georgian Society, and Construction Industry Federation.
- Investigated European funding measures; Galway 2020, Europa Nostra.
- Liaised with local communities regarding Tidy Towns and community initiatives
- Identified, evaluated and provided advice on structures, groups of structures areas and other features of architectural heritage significance. Provided advice to owners and occupiers of historic structures on good practice and on the availability of assistance, including financial assistance, for such conservation.
- Assessed structures on Record of Protected Structures (RPS) with a view to issuing Declarations as to works that require planning permission and provide pre-planning advice.
- Offered advice to owners /occupiers of traditionally built structures.
- Reported and advised on planning applications where architectural heritage issues arise both in Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and with Protected Structures (individual buildings or groups of buildings) where development was proposed.
- Monitored the state of repair of structures on the Record of Protected Structures, and as necessary, made recommendations on the need, if any, for the planning authority to take enforcement action.
- Historic Assets group – the internal inter disciplinary- inter departmental working group continued its work to maintain Protected Structures in the care of the local authority. The Conservation office funded professional services for conservation works to be carried out to Cloon Weir, Gort.
- Participation in Architecture at the Edge through Creative Ireland Programme.
- Traditional Hot Lime training session in Mountbellew in association with the Building Limes Forum Ireland.

- Administered the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Structures at Risk Fund.
- Input into Local Area Plans, as required.
- Processed proposals for inclusion and deletion on the Record of Protected Structures as part of regular review of the Record of Protected Structures.

Proposals for 2019:

- Continue to carry out the duties of Architectural Conservation Officer as set out in Circular 5/99 or as amended.
- Propose additions and deletions to the RPS and research and propose ACAs. Liaise with owners and occupiers.
- Promote opportunities to raise awareness of the architectural heritage and its appropriate conservation and reuse.
- Promote the initiatives and funding made available by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- Continue to promote traditional skills use and training initiatives.
- Continue to contribute to the Historic Assets working group and work with local communities to incorporate the historic built environment into the community life of towns and villages.
- Prepare costed project outlines and plans in order to be in a position to avail of capital funding as it becomes available.
- Avail of and promote any funding initiatives available, including Built Heritage Investment Scheme Fund, Structures at Risk Scheme, Rural Towns and Village funding, Historic Towns Initiative & Creative Ireland.
- Provide advice to the local authority on architectural conservation matters; Liaise with roads re conservation of masonry stone arch bridges; Liaise with corporate services re historic assets in LA ownership; Liaise with Environment re graveyards; Liaise with local area engineers re public realm and issues arising.

Waste Management Infrastructure

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Galway County Council continued to operate the landfill at Kilconnell for the acceptance of waste in 2018.
- Civic Amenity Sites continue to operate under contract at Ballinasloe, Clifden and Tuam.
- Tier 2 Site Investigations and Tier 3 risk assessments were carried out at historic landfill sites at Glenamaddy and Ballygar, funded directly by Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA).
- Rehab Glasco continue to provide a collection service for glass and beverage cans at the County's 92 bring bank centres, while the Council has a partnership arrangement with Athchursáil Arainn Cuideachta Gníomhaíochta Ainmnithe to operate an integrated waste management scheme for the Aran Islands. On Inishboffin a landfill and recycling service is provided for, fully funded by Galway County Council.
- The Local Authority Prevention Network is ongoing. The Network is involved in identifying actions for prevention and capacity building within community, business and public sectors in relation to resource use efficiencies and areas covered include waste prevention, energy conservation, water conservation and capacity building, training and awareness.

Proposals for 2019:

- It is planned that works relating to the site resolution plan at Kilconnell will resume in 2019.
- Monitor the operation of leased recycling facilities countywide.
- Provide mobile hazardous waste & WEEE collections at targeted locations.
- Draft waste presentation by laws template prepared by the Regional Waste planning office will go through public consultation process before bringing them to the plenary Council for approval.
- Education awareness to continue in area of waste prevention and good environmental practices.

Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Measures

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Details of enforcement notices, warning letters issued and initiated prosecutions under Environmental legislation in 2018 will be set out in the 2018 RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) returns which are due for issue by the 16th of February 2019.
- The 2018 RMCEI returns detail planned pro-active inspections carried out on regulated facilities and unplanned reactive inspections in relation to complaints received and incidents of environmental pollution. Inspections are carried out in relation to complaints, permitted waste facilities, permitted collectors, quarries, garages, various waste producer categories, discharge licences, sewage sludge facilities, farms, private wastewater treatment systems, air pollution licences, deco paints facilities and solvent registered sites.
- Joint Producer Responsibility Inspections were carried out by wardens and enforcement officers, focusing on food waste disposal and commercial brown bins in agglomerations of >500.
- Joint inspections were carried out with REPAK on non-compliant businesses, under the CUWERLA pilot packaging programme.
- 7 litter 'black spots' were cleaned up, barriers and signage erected and CCTV installed with funding provided by DCCAE under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2018. A substantial amount of waste was removed during the Initiative which was publicised locally on Council's social media and in local newspapers.
- Environment Enforcement launched its own Awareness campaign in the local media advising the public that if they illegally dump waste they will be prosecuted.
- Warning letters were issued to all businesses who had not registered with REPAK ELT under amended Waste Tyres Regulations.
- Multiagency inspections were carried out on the access roads to two EPA licenced facilities and follow up enforcement is on-going.
- Monitoring was carried out in relation to drinking water, bathing water, rivers, lakes and landfills in accordance with legislative requirements both directly and via contracts with external laboratories. Follow-up actions were taken in response to non-compliances.
- Enforcement actions included the enforcement of 126 discharge licenses for large scale private wastewater treatment systems and the inspection of 38 farms and 101 domesticwastewater treatment systems.

Environmental Monitoring And Enforcement Measures

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Public notices were issued and investigative monitoring was carried out as required in response to drinking water and bathing water non-compliances. Six Blue Flags and Six Green Coast plaques were awarded to bathing areas in County Galway.
- Activities which have the potential to cause air pollution such as dry cleaning and vehicle refinishing were regulated.

Proposals for 2019

- The Council will set out all planned pro-active inspections of authorised facilities under various Environmental Legislation in the 2019 RMCEI Plan which is due for issue by February 16th, 2019. The scale of enforcement activity in 2019 will reflect the resources available for inspections and will be on a prioritised basis taking consideration of Departmental, EPA and WERLA guidance.
- The Council will continue to carry out investigations and monitoring under environmental legislation, in accordance with government policy and EPA directions, and take enforcement measures as required for non-compliance with environmental legislation.
- Continued review of the best ways to deal with illegal dumping will be undertaken. Introduction of fixed penalty notices under Producer Responsibility Initiatives, for example, failure to register with relevant compliance scheme, failure to display appropriate signage and/or certification of registration.
- Introduction of fixed penalty notices under the Air Pollution Act 1987 in relation to vehicle refinishing and organic solvents.
- The Council will work with the public and other agencies, including the WFD Office, on the improvement of water quality in identified priority catchments, through public awareness and through a concentrated programme of inspections of potentially polluting sources including large scale private wastewater treatment systems, farms and domestic wastewater treatment systems.

Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Council continued to exercise its powers under the Derelict Sites Act 1990, in an effort to work with the owners of neglected, ruinous and unsightly buildings and land to take remedial action. While there are currently no sites on the Derelict Sites Register, enforcement action continued to take place where required.

Proposals for 2019:

- Sites in the county will continue to be reviewed in accordance with the Derelict Sites policy and the Dangerous Structures policy.

Burial Grounds

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- There are currently 233 burial grounds listed on The Council's burial ground register. The Council, with the participation of the many local burial ground committees, carries out works of maintenance and improvements as resources permit.
- A burial ground extension programme continued throughout 2018 with priority given to extensions at Annaghdown, Quansboro, Claregalway, Leenane etc.
- Extensions were completed at Bealadangan, while Part 8 approval was received in respect of extensions at Abbey, Brooklodge.
- Improvement works were supported at a number of burial grounds resulting in increased plots becoming available.
- An annual grant is provided to committees who maintain the burial grounds in their area. A 3-tier grant was awarded to Committees in 2018 - €600, €450 or €300 with grants made to over 160 committees in 2018.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Council will continue to progress extensions in conjunction with the local communities. Works will commence or continue to extensions at Abbey, Brooklodge, Leenane, Clarinbridge, Creagh and Killimordaly in partnership with local communities and as resources permit while efforts will continue to advance extensions at Claregalway, Kilkieran, Kilmeen, Knock, Quansboro again as resources permit.

Environmental Awareness and Education

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Assistant Awareness officer is involved in promoting environmental awareness through ongoing engagement with the domestic and commercial sectors.
- Community awareness events have taken place focusing on waste management, waste prevention, food waste, home composting, household hazardous waste, energy conservation and water conservation.
- Ongoing development and dissemination of information through local media, social media, libraries, schools, voluntary groups etc.
- Ongoing involvement with Tidy Towns groups.
- Ongoing involvement in the Green Schools programme with over 90% of county schools involved.
- Participating with and funding community based Anti-Litter initiatives.
- Delivery of WEEE and National Spring Clean initiatives.
- Anti-Litter campaign through communities, schools etc.
- Links with Regional Officer.
- Liaising with Community and Enterprise Unit, Heritage Officer, Biodiversity Officer on various environmental projects.
- Ongoing implementation of the LAPN / Waste Prevention Programme.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Awareness campaign will continue with particular emphasis on further enhancing partnerships with community and voluntary groups and the continued dissemination of information to all sectors using all suitable methods.
- Ongoing implementation of the Waste Prevention Programme.
- Anti-Litter campaign through communities, schools etc Liaising with European Region of Gastronomy campaign.
- Promoting the use of reusable mugs in the coffee shops in Loughrea Town and if this is successful it is hoped to extend to the rest of the County.

Energy Efficiency

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Support Scheme for community organisations signed up to SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities.

Proposals for 2019:

- Community Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme (*support scheme to help community/not for profit organisations to carry out energy efficiency upgrades to their respective facilities*).
- Community Capacity Building Grant Scheme for SEC's. (*support scheme for groups who are signed up to SEAI's flagship community programme to develop knowledge / future projects and competence in applying for grants*).
- Workshop for Elected Members on grants available from SEAI (domestic / business / community / Electric Vehicles) and qualification criteria.
- SEAI presentation to Elected Members on Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) and supports available.
- Roll out of Home Energy Saving Kits in the library service.
(<http://www.codema.ie/think-energy-home-hub/what-is-the-home-energy-saving-kit/>).
- Carry out a number Building Energy Audits in order to provide projects and specifications for future grant applications.
- Deliver statutory requirements in respect of Display Energy Certificates for publicly accessible buildings.
- Climate Action Plan Development.
- Climate Action Fund (Project scoping and specification for future applications).
- Build links with the Third Level Sector through the joint sponsorship with Galway City Council of a Student Award in Climate Change / Energy Systems Engineering.
- Support NUIG and Galway City Council in the development of a Horizon 2020 application. (EU Research and Innovation Programme).
- Development of a SEAI Deep Retrofit Application consisting of a minimum of five homes in the County.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Under the Control of Dogs Act, 2 fulltime dog wardens provide a dog control service in the county utilising 2 leased dog pound facilities (one in the west of the county and one in the east of the county). These are under veterinary supervision and operate as laid out in the councils Dog Control Policy.
- Increased compliance with dog licensing was achieved by targeting resources and with the assistance of the community warden service.
- 38 enforcement actions have been brought under the Control of Dogs Act (as of 31.10.18).
- A new online National Dog Licensing Database was rolled out by An Post with the national assistance of the local authority veterinary, administrative and dog warden services and went live in July 2018. It is envisaged that this initiative will improve customer service and increase compliance as well as assisting enforcement.
- A Dog Fouling Campaign was run in Loughrea in conjunction with Loughrea Chamber of Commerce and Local Primary Schools in May. Dog Waste Bag dispenser units have been rolled out at our parks and beaches to specifically target dog fouling in these areas of the county.
- Specific onsite training was given to dog wardens and community wardens on dealing with aggression in dogs.
- The Council continued to implement the Dog Breeding Establishment Act 2010 which requires the registration, and compliance with standards, of all premises coming under the definition of a 'dog breeding establishment'. Currently there are 8 registered breeders in County Galway.
- The council promoted responsible dog ownership through social media platforms, at the Athenry Sheep to Fork Festival in July and through a Microchipping and Scanning Checking Event that ran over 3 days at the Ballinasloe Horse Festival. Responsible Dog Ownership workshops were also conducted by Dogs Trust in Libraries and at primary schools countywide.
- In July, 16 puppies were rescued from an abandoned Horse Box Trailer in Athenry in July. Significant exposure nationwide through social media and news outlets to their plight highlighted dog welfare and control issues managed by the Councils Dog Warden and Veterinary services in the County.
- The Council continued to be active in providing pound facilities for impounding of horses, sheep, cattle and goats. Structural improvements were made to Ballinasloe Pound.

- Animal welfare cases involving dogs, cattle, sheep and horses were reviewed and referred where appropriate to the relevant Gardaí, Dept. of Agriculture and welfare groups.
- The Council veterinary service liaises with Housing in the implementation of the Control of Horses Act.

Proposals for 2019:

- Ongoing improvements to the efficiency of the Dog Control service will be implemented during the year with a view to increased compliance with dog licensing as dictated by resources available. Targeted licence checks will be carried out across the county in conjunction with the community warden service.
- In conjunction with Dogs Trust Ireland, Responsible Dog Ownership workshops will continue to be promoted in County Libraries and Primary Schools throughout the county.
- The Council will continue to support anti Dog Fouling Campaigns. Dog Waste Bag Dispenser Units to be rolled out to towns and villages throughout the county.
- The Council will continue to review reported cases of animal welfare breaches, and refer to Dept. of Agriculture, Gardaí and welfare groups as required, within the capabilities of the allocated resources.
- Dog Breeding Establishments on the register will be inspected and all reports of unregistered breeding establishments will be followed up. It is a legal requirement that all establishments apply for registration. New guidelines were issued by the Department of Rural and Community Development, after public consultation and will come into effect in January 2019.
- The Council will continue to provide pound services and are carrying out further improvement works to Ballinasloe Pound.

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The council has a service contract with the FSAI under which it regulates EC approved abattoirs and meat processing plants located in the county and city of Galway, through the veterinary service.
- This service contract requires that all animals are inspected before and after slaughter, animal residue sampling and welfare checks are carried out, with detailed audits performed, thus ensuring the integrity and traceability of the farm to fork food chain in the eleven local EC approved abattoirs in the county. These premises slaughter cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry and process wild game.
- The service contract also requires the supervision and regulation of fourteen EC approved meat processing plants in the city and county. This involves sampling of meat products for microbiological contamination, food additives, allergens, residues, disease surveillance, labelling compliance, traceability and food fraud. There is also a regular schedule of unannounced inspections and pre-planned audits in the premises, which themselves provide employment to more than 130 employees.
- Three new meat processing premises attained the required EC standard for approval in 2018.
- The council provided ongoing training and an advisory service to existing Food Business Operators in the implementation of constantly changing EC food legislation as well as meeting, carrying out site visits and advising start-up food businesses across the city and county.
- The veterinary service was part of the steering group which was instrumental in the successful granting of planning to the multicentric Teagasc / GCC Food Innovation and Incubation centre proposed for Athenry.

Proposals for 2019:

- The Council will continue to fulfil the existing Service Contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland within allocated resources, carrying out activities as outlined for 2018, with the addition of any new premises requiring approval. The present contract commenced on the 1st January 2017 and has been extended to 31st December 2019 to align with new EC legislation.
- Resources for this service have been included in the budget for 2019.

- Regular Training for Food Business Operators and veterinary inspectors will continue during 2019, targeting new EC regulations and an incoming standardised HACCP Guidance note from the FSAI on Safe Food Production in Abattoirs.
- Continued sampling programs as in 2018 directed by both the Department of Agriculture and the Marine and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.
- Continued sampling programs as in 2018 directed by both the Department of Agriculture and the Marine and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.
- Continued involvement and liaising with the statutory agencies DAFM, Teagasc, SFPA and HSE in the ongoing development of the multicentre Teagasc / GCC Food Innovation and Incubation centre proposed for Athenry, with a view to opening in late 2019. The FoodHub will comprise of 3 blocks, consisting of a learning centre and timeshare kitchen production unit, a block of 8 starter units and a block of 3 larger growth units.

Major Emergency Management (MEM)

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of the New National Framework for MEM is ongoing and is now chaired by Ms Eileen Ruane (Director of Services). Work is continuing by the committee in preparation of the Severe Weather & Flood Response Operational Plan.
- The MEM West Regional Steering Group (RSG) under chair of an Garda Siochana continues to meet in its role of co-ordinating Major Emergency Management between the eight Principal Response agencies (PRA's) -i.e. 3 Local Garda divisions, 4 Local Authorities and HSE West - in the Galway, Mayo and Roscommon areas.
- The MEM West Regional Working Group (RWG) involving members of the Principal Emergency Services (PES's) in the West Region, i.e. Local Authority Fire Services, Local Garda Divisions and HSE West Ambulance Service, continues to operate, under the auspices of MEM West Regional Steering Group.
- Galway Co. Co. Headquarters continues as the 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 County area. The information management (IM) facilities at LCC in County hall have been upgraded in late 2017 early 2018.
- It should be noted that the City Council LCC is located at City Hall and was used during Flood Ophelia in 2017.
- The County/City MEM integration group, was established between the PRA's in Galway City and County under the chair of a Director of Services from Galway City Council to deal with issues in the City/County area and in particular large crowd events, and continues to operate.
- Regional training is ongoing for relevant personnel in the eight PRA'S in the west region.
- Galway County council finalised the procurement two temporary mobile body storage units for the 7 Local Authorities in the West & North-West MEM regions to increase capacity in these regions respectively.
- The upgraded temporary body holding unit was deployed as part of planned MEM Exercises in 2018 in the west region.

- A Major Emergency exercise involving the 3 Local Competent Authorities (LCA's,) - i.e. Galway County Council –including GFRS as PES to the City Council-, Galway Garda Division, HSE West, and the Site operator Chemoran involving an simulated incident at the Top Tier Seveso III site in the Oranmore Industrial Estate, was held in 2018, as part of the testing and validation of the statutory External Emergency Plan as revised by the 3 LCA'S as required under SEVESO III regulations.
- A Major emergency exercise was held in Inverin Airport Connemara including testing of offshore island's response plan involving 3 local Principal Response Agencies and Aer Aran in 2018

Proposals for 2019:

- Both local and regional personnel will receive further training and testing in their various new roles as allocated in their PRA Major Emergency Plans.
- The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of the New National Framework for MEM is ongoing is being chaired by Ms Eileen Ruane (Director of Services) from 2018 onwards as GFRS is now part of Council's Planning, Environment & emergency services Directorate.
- Validation and updating of the existing County Council Major Emergency plan is envisaged to continue in 2019.
- Work on the Major Emergency Regional co-ordination plan is ongoing.
- Council personnel and Galway fire service personnel will continue to support Regional Steering Group and Regional Working Groups and local MEDC and the Galway County/City integration group.
- A Major Emergency exercise involving the 3 Local Competent Authorities (LCA's,) - i.e. Galway City Council –including GFRS as PES to County Council-, Galway Garda Division, HSE West, Galway Harbour Authority and the Site operator Circle K (formerly Topaz) involving an simulated incident at the Top Tier Seveso III site in Galway docks , will be held in 2019, as part of the testing and validation of the statutory External Emergency -as revised- by the 4 LCA'S as required under SEVESO III regulations

Fire Prevention and Education Programs

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Schools Fire Safety Program was rolled out again in primary schools in County Station Areas.
- Self-contained smoke alarms with long life batteries are being procured by GFRS for 250 households and continue to be 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 as part of the ongoing National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) Program.
- A program was run locally as part of National Fire safety week as in previous years including opening all Fire stations to the public during fire safety week for lectures and demonstrations.

Proposals for 2019:

- It is hoped to have the Schools Fire Safety Programme restarted in 2019 involving local fire officers visiting 4th class in a number of national schools in Galway City Brigade Area. This program delivers a national fire safety message but is subject to the availability of financial resources.
- Self-contained smoke alarms will be issued in 2019 in both city and county from allocations received in 2018.
- A program will be run locally as part of National Fire safety week as in previous years including opening all Fire stations to the public during fire safety week for lectures and demonstrations.

A FRAMEWORK FOR FIRE SAFETY IN IRELAND

The Fire Service is subject to the same financial constraints and consequent scrutiny of expenditure as are all Local Authority services. Additional investment in Fire Services beyond that already programmed will be challenging, given the impairment of public and local government finances.

The challenge – as reflected in the document title – “Keeping Communities Safe” – is to manage the available resources to achieve an optimal outcome for the public in terms of their individual safety, and to minimize loss and disruption to society.

Achieving the successful implementation of the main provisions in KCS by the end of 2018 will require ongoing commitment from the Fire Service, the City and County Management Teams along with the City and County Elected Representatives. It will be necessary to prepare a Service Development Plan/ Action Plan which will be reflected in the form of a new Draft Section 26 Plan prepared by the Fire Service Management. The Draft Section 26 Plan had been presented for consideration to the County Council housing & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee in May 2014 outlining the background and content of the document and the associated proposed changes in the Fire Authority Policy as a consequence.

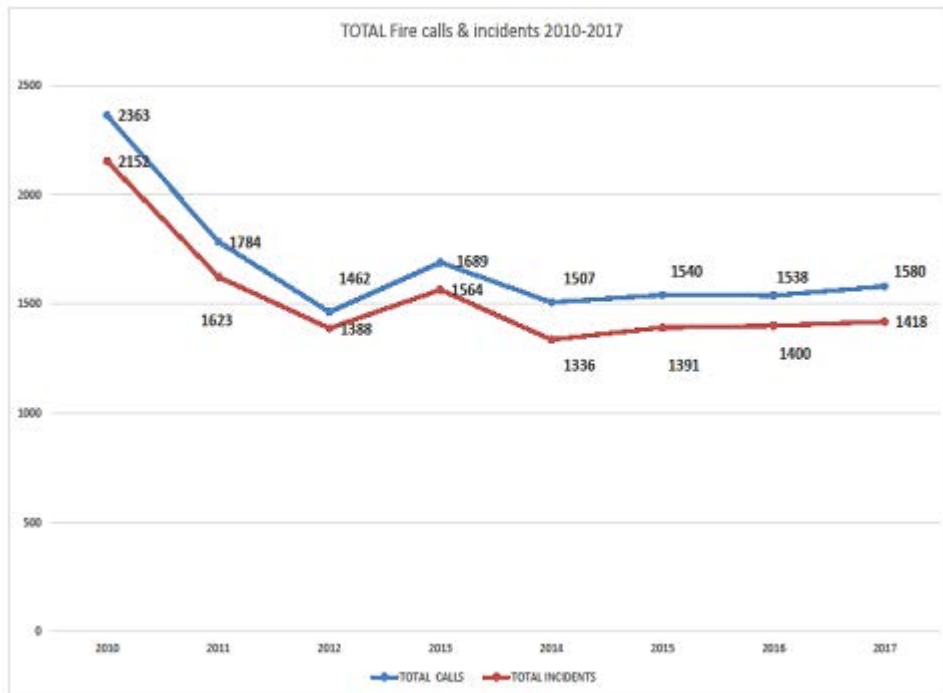
All the work on KCS had been put on hold subsequently, until discussions between NDFEM and unions at national level are concluded, which is ongoing with the establishment of FSNOIG nationally. SIPTU withdrew its objection to the approval of Section 26 plan by Local Councils in April 2016 as it is a statutory duty of local authorities.

The updated Draft Section 26 Plan will be presented to a full meeting of the Council in late 2018 or early 2019 for approval after it has been presented at Water, Environmental & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee.

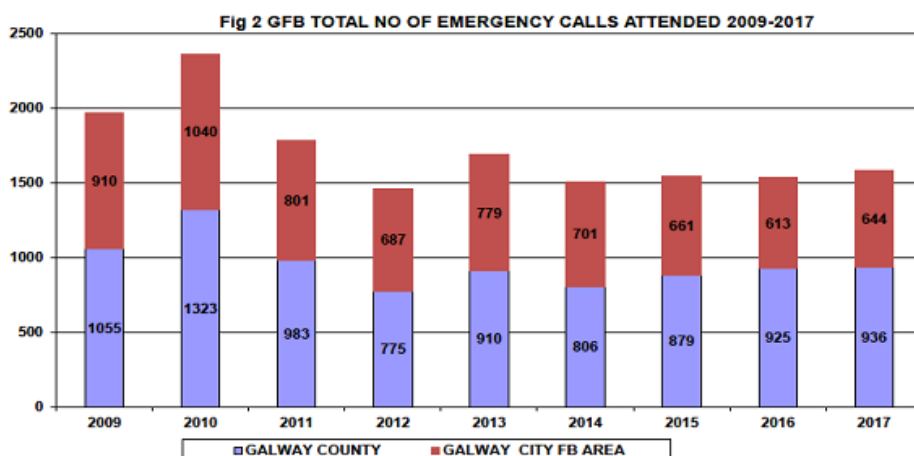
Fire Operations – Keeping Communities Safe (KCS)

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- There are 11 Fire Stations in the City and County located at Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Galway City, Gort, Loughrea, Mountbellew, Portumna, Tuam, Inis Mór and Cheathru Rua. All stations are resourced with retained personnel except Galway City, which is a mix of full-time personnel on shift and retained personnel.



Note: indicative trend of reduction in emergency calls attended from peak in 2010 with flatlining in last three years.



Indicative Activities in 2018:

- The Council employs approximately 154 fire-fighting personnel at full complement directly in the Galway Fire Service including full time and retained fire-fighters in the City and County. There are also 11 supervisory and fire prevention senior fire officers, including Chief Fire Officer (CFO), 4 civilian support personnel, a Brigade Mechanic and Civil Defence Officer (CDO) working in the Galway City Fire station.
- During 2017, the fire service responded to a total of 1,580 emergency incidents, 936 by the County Brigades and 644 by the Galway City Brigade in its City and County fire ground. This represented a marginal increase 2.7% in overall number of emergency calls when compared to 2017-see FIG 1a for Emergency calls attended by GFRS 2009-2017. It should also be noted that there was an increase of 5% in number of calls attended in city brigade area and a marginal increase of 1.2% in calls attended in county brigade areas from 2016-2017.
- The Fire Brigade continue to attend at emergency incidents in the City and County, as in previous years. The total number of emergency calls attended, approximately, in Galway City and County attended by all 11 brigades to 1st September 2018 was 1195 - 953 in same period in 2017 – this represents an increase of 25.4% in number of emergency calls attended in first 8 months of 2018 compared to same period last year.
- This percentage increase in fire and emergency calls attended for first 3 quarters this year 2018 is unprecedented in recent years and was driven primarily by an 85% increase in number of wild fires – bog, gorse grass, forest fires etc. – attended by all Fire Brigades in city and County in first 8 months of the 2018 when compared to same period last year, driven by peak in warm weather from late June to mid-August 2018.
- The Council endeavoured to ensure that all of its Fire and Emergency Services personnel received training as in previous years at local level. Senior and Junior Fire officer training with the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM) also progressed. Training was carried out as per annual training program for 2018 as per previous years.
- The Council intend to continue to prepare pre-fire plans for City and County risks, which is a statutory duty under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003.
- The Fire Service’s Health & Safety Steering Group continued to meet in 2018 with monthly meetings to manage and drive the Health & Safety Management Plan throughout the fire services and obtained OSHAS 18001 Accreditation in December 2017.

Fire Operations – Keeping Communities Safe (KCS)

Indicative Activities in 2018:

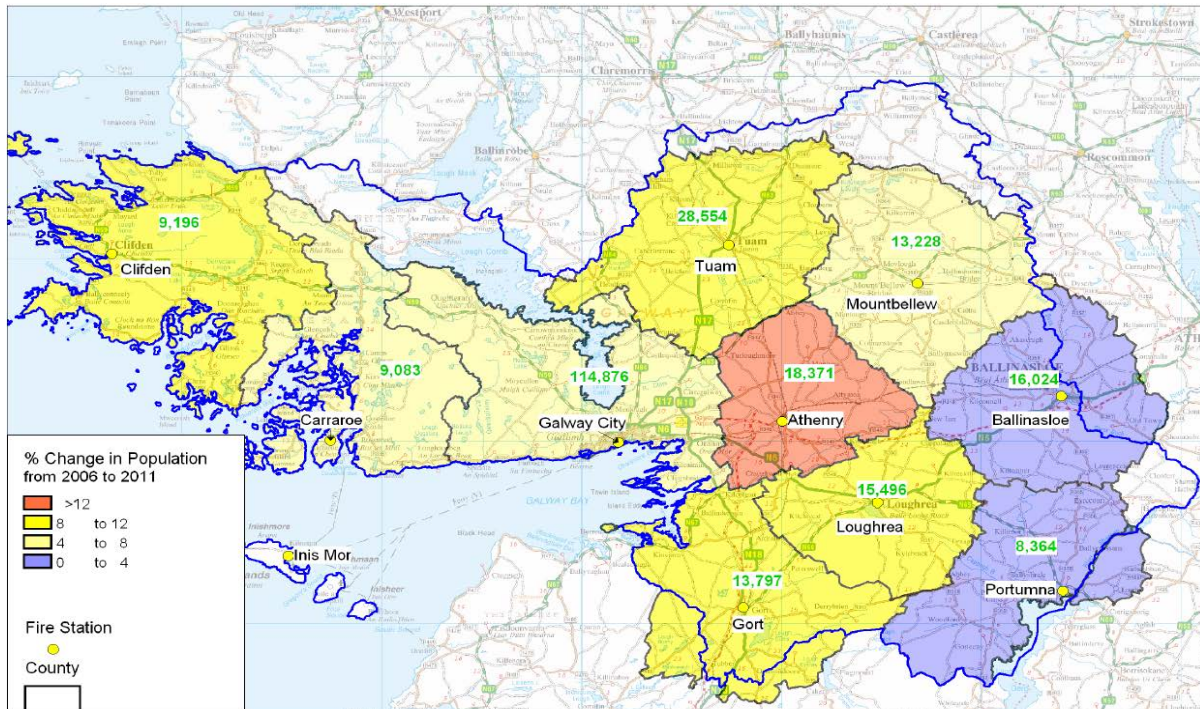
- National Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) that underpin generic risk assessments in the fire service Ancillary Safety Statement (ASS) will form the backbone for our training plans throughout the City and County for all fire personnel to the end of 2018.
- The preliminary initial risk categorization of all 10 Galway Fire station grounds was prepared for initial consideration by management team as per KCS procedure. The output of the preliminary Risk categorization has been presented to both housing & Emergency Services SPC and Connemara area committee in 2014 with one of the key outputs being the need for a new retained Fire station in An Cheathru Rua.
- Fortunately, there has been no death due to accidental fire in Galway City and county in 2018 to date. There was one accidental fire death in 2017.

Proposals for 2019:

Operational

- The revised Draft Fire and Operations Plan, which was approved by the Housing & Emergency Services SPC in 2014 will be revised in light of KCS. The new draft will be put before Council -both SPC & full council -for formal approval in late 2018 or early 2019, and will take cognizance of the outcome of the city and west review and risk categorization process.
- The Council will endeavour to ensure that all of its Fire and Emergency Services personnel continue to receive training as in previous years, at local level. Fire Officer training with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Planning Training will be carried out with as per annual training program for 2019 subject to budgetary provisions.
- National SOGs will continue to form the backbone of our training plans throughout the City and County for all fire personnel in 2019. The next set of SOGs will be rolled out in 2019 and Galway Fire Brigade continues to role-out with the national program as SoG's are issued
- The National Framework 2010-2015 and Keeping Communities Safe", by National Directorate will inform the service of other work to be carried by Galway Fire Brigade in 2018.

- There has been a huge increase in retirements/resignations from retained fire service in Galway in 2018 and it is proposed to run a 3 week recruits course to new QQI standard in January 2019 due to successful recruitment in 2018.
- The new retained Fire Service in An Cheathru Rua will continue to be imbedded into our operational response.



Carraroe Station Ground and Populations from Census 2011

See Figs attached showing 11 new Fire Station grounds in Galway City and County post 2016

CAMP WEST

The Fire Authorities of Connacht and Donegal and the HSE West are involved with this Central call-out and communications project, which is run by Mayo County Council as Contracting Authority from the Western Regional Communications Centre (WRCC) in Castlebar. HSE West Ambulance Service have withdrawn from the WRCC by end of December 2014. All Local Authority partners' contributions will increase accordingly in 2017-2018 to make up for the HSE contribution shortfall. All three regional Camp Projects are currently being reviewed by NDFEM as a part of a new CTRI project. GFRS - along with all other LA Fire Services is migrating to a new national digital Private Mobile Radio (PMR) and mobilizing platform known as TETRA, similar to partner PES's e.g. Gardai and National Ambulance Service (NAS), who have changed already. Out station communications equipment have been changed over in Galway Fire stations in 2016 and 2017, as part of the CTRI Project.

The change over to the Tetra digital radio system will be completed in late 2019 in Galway and will have financial implications for all Local Authority Fire services in the future as there will be an annual fee for each Tetra device in use, to be paid to Tetra Ireland, who have won the national digital communications project for all Emergency services in Ireland. The revenue cost of for first year of tetra devices is been capitalized in 2019 by NDFEM, hence major increases will come into effect in 2020 revenue budget.

It is understood that as Camp migrates from a regional to a national model a new national funding model will be established. This might have benign implications for Council budgets from 2020 onwards.

Regional Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Project

Galway County Council is the Contracting Authority to roll out the CISM system to the 6 No. Fire Authorities of Connacht and Donegal. Provision is being made in 2019 budgets to continue this project, with Galway County Council acting as the contracting authority. A contract for 2013-2016 was issued by Galway County Council as contracting authority for the West to VHI as CISM service provider to Fire authorities in the WEST and Donegal after a tender competition in e-tenders in 2012-2013.

A new tender was issued in 2017 for provision of CISM Services for period 2017-2020 in West region and a new contractor Inspire workplaces from Northern Ireland won the tender for next 3 years from 1st October 2017.

Proposals for 2019:

- Continue to Embed new service provider in provision of CISM Services for 2019

Fire Safety Certificates and FSA 1981 - Inspections

Indicative Activities in 2018 (based on 2017 data):

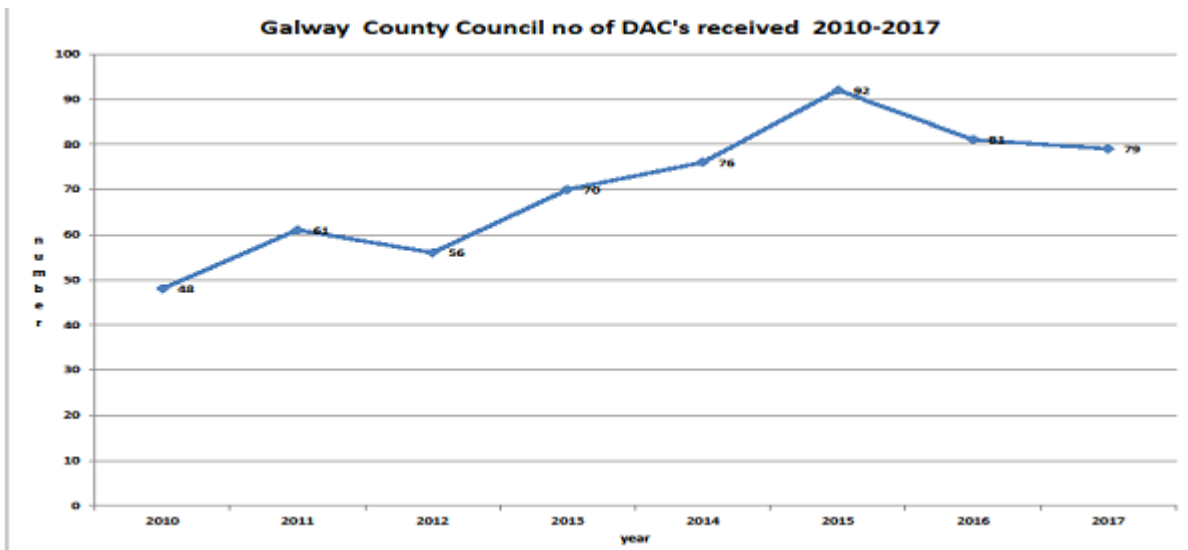
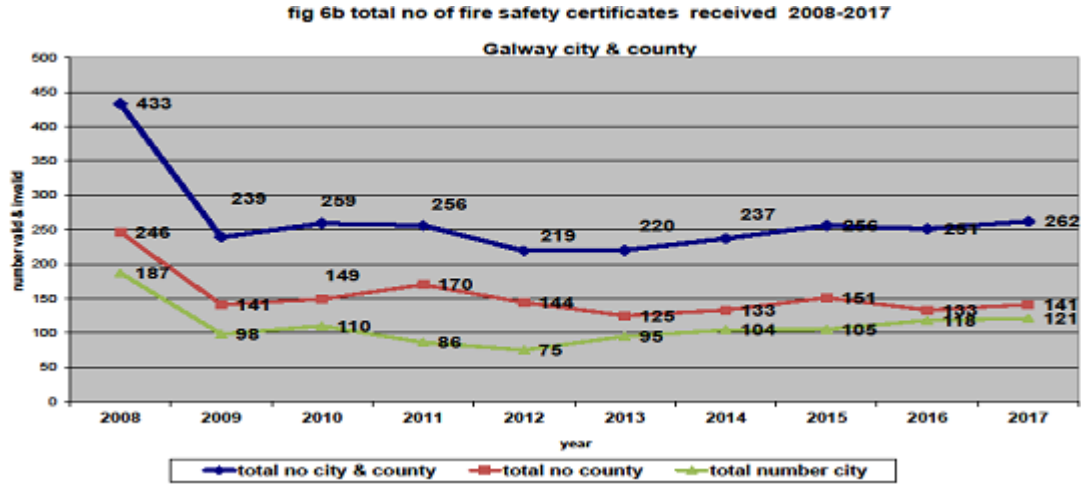
- In 2017, the Fire Service fire prevention staff carried out 268 inspections of premises as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act (FSA) 1981 & 2003, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, Dangerous Substances Act and also carried out inspections for the issue of Fire Safety Certificates (FSC's) under Building Control Act 1990 (as amended) respectively. The Fire Prevention Department received 294 public licence applications in 2016 and issued 190 public licence applications to the courts in 2017.
- The Fire service have received 280 licence applications all types to date in 2018 The Fire Prevention Department dealt with 106 planning applications in 2017 and have dealt with 112 planning applications to date in 2017 -all from Galway City Council.
- The Fire Prevention Department dealt with 262 Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Applications –all types- in 2017 under Building Control Regulations, 141 in the County area and 121 in the City.
- The Fire Prevention Department have received the following number of FSC Applications all types to date 2018; 76 for the City and 127 in the County from January to October 2018.
- Fire officers processed 79 Disability Access Certificate Applications (DAC's) on behalf of the County in 2017 with 85 applications received to date in 2018.

Proposals for 2019:

- Fire prevention staff will continue to process all FSC type applications on behalf of County and City and DAC certificates on behalf of County.
- Process licence applications and planning applications as received in 2019.
- Continue the program of inspection of retail petroleum stores in the city and county.
- Continue to process DSA licences of retail petroleum stores in the City and County as received.
- Continue to inspect nursing homes in the City and County.
- Commence an inspection program of hostels and hotels in the City and County.
- Carry out inspections in city and county on foot of complaints on a prioritized basis.

Fire Safety Certificates and FSA 1981 - Inspections

The following diagrams show Fire Safety Certificate activity from 2008-2017 for city and county & Disability Access Certificate activity 2009-2017 for County



Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Galway Civil Defence, through their 5 training centres, Galway City, Oranmore, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Clonberne have 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, Emergency First Response is currently ongoing through 2018.
- All Cardiac First Responder and First Aid Responder Instructors will recertify in 2018. This will bring a more streamline approach going forward as all will recertify at the same time each second year.
- Map Reading training was rolled by instructors to units in 2018 to enhance Search Management capabilities
- 6 MEM Information Manager were trained in 2018. This course was hosted by Galway Fire and Rescue Service for Fire personnel and Civil Defence personnel.
- 1 additional SUA Pilot has been certified with the 2 original pilots recertified by the IAA in 2018. 1 pilot gaining instructor qualification.
- All units will again be responding to their community's requests for assistance at local community events, providing first aid cover and other assistance that may be requested.

Proposals for 2019:

- Focus on training for 2019 will centre in developing the Search Management capability and Swift Water Rescue training with members partaking in recertification training and initial training in early 2019 under the Rescue 3 programme.
- Work in the West of the County in Clifden in 2019 to expand the scope of operations and to provide a Civil Defence presence to the Connemara area.
- To partake in Re-certification training in line with the Civil Defence College programme for 2019.
- All clinical levels of responders will continue to develop their skills throughout the training year.

- 4x4 off road training will be hosted by Terrafirma to senior drivers to prepare for severe weather response.
- Terrafirma were nominated by the Civil Defence Branch to provide training in off-road 4x4 driving to Civil Defence nationally.
- Continuous liaison with the PRA's to develop and promote Civil Defence as a support organisation.
- New members are always welcome from their community and training will be provided to all members of the highest standard by our instructor core.

3 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019 – 2021

Galway Fire & Rescue Service

- G.F.R.S is the Principal emergency service (P.E.S.) for Galway City And County Councils respectively The followings sets out the indicative Capital programme for G.F.R.S. for 2019-2021.
- Please note all projects are subject to Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government Funding and specific approval by project.

Fire Appliances

- There is a very limited national capital budget for FS appliances/equipment.
Galway County Council have submitted request to Department of Housing Planning & Local Government (DHPLG) for capital funding/support for the following items in 2018 and have received approval for same and same part recoupment to date based on expenditure to date:
 - Two Pre-Owned Class b appliances
 - 4by4 vehicle
 - Rsfv vehicle
 - 3 trailer water bowsers & pump
- The DHPCLG allocated a new class B Appliance to Galway County Council as part of a national Procurement plan from 2018 -2020. This class B appliance will be procured centrally as part of a national procurement process by OGP. Specific approval was received in early august 2018 and contracts have been exchanged with one of the selected suppliers Sidheain Teo in An Spideal County Galway
the expected delivery date is midsummer 2019

Fire Stations

I refer to DECLG capital announcement 2016-2020 for new Fire station projects in early 2016

Tuam Fire station

- Carey construction as appointed building contractor to Galway county council for this project, have completed the construction of new 4 bay retained Fire station in Tuam, Co. Galway:

Galway County Council had received approval from Department of Housing Planning, And Local Government to proceed to construction stage, before end of November 2017. It was a 9-12-month contract, construction was completed in early sept 2018 and formal opening of new Fire station in Tuam is expected in autumn 2018
The new Fire station in Tuam went operational from late September 2018
The final account for Tuam project should be completed and recouped from DHPLG before end of 2018

Subject to Department of Housing Planning and Local Government, approval & funding as outlined above, Galway County Council intend to:

- Identify and procure a new Site for a new fire station in **Athenry** as approval in principle was given by the Declg in 2008. A site has been identified in Athenry Town area and a case is again been submitted to DHPLG to add this station to national capital programme 2016-2020. A case will also be made to Department of Housing Planning And Local Government to procure & appoint Design consultants for a new fire station in Athenry.
- Make a case to Department of Housing Planning and Local Government for approval for a site for a new Fire station in Loughrea. A possible potential site in Council ownership has been identified in the area
- Ballinasloe Fire Station Extension Project –application lodged with DECLG in 2008. Approval was given by Department of Housing Planning and Local Government for an interim project for Ballinasloe Fire Station, in existing location.
- It is intended to procure design team for this project all other Fire station projects subject to approval of DHPLG and bring to planning stage and submit cost plan to DHPCLG in 2019 for approval
- Progress Galway City Project - new HQ station i.e. site selection and progress planning - following outcome of the review of the Fire Services and external consultant’s report.
- Mountbellew Fire Station Project – continue to make case to the Department to advance the project. An application for approval in principle was lodged with DECLG in 2009.
- A case will be made to DHPLG for an upgrade to Fire station in Inis Mor in 2019

Galway Fire and rescue service as part of Galway County Council attained ISO 45001 health & safety accreditation in October 2018.

Other- Small Projects Capital

- Procure smoke alarms for 2019, as part of National Community Smoke Alarm Scheme as per previous years. A submission has been made to DECLG to procure about 600 smoke alarms in 2017 and continue distribution via Galway County and City Community Smoke Alarms' Schemes in 2018/2019 to vulnerable households.

Galway County Council procured two refrigerated body holding systems for west and north-west MEM Regions to be partly funded by DHPCLG on behalf of local authorities in west and North-west region IN 2017 This will bring number of units in west and north west to about 45 -50.

A vat recoupment for about 50% of amount paid in 2017 will be received by the Council in 2018

The local authorities in west and North-west region will make up remainder of funding

CORPORATE SERVICES

Progress on all projects is subject to continued availability of internal and external funding together with necessary statutory and legislative approval as appropriate on a project by project basis.

Libraries Development

The following projects are proposed for capital investment to ensure the sustainability and growth of Library Services. Galway County Council manages the Library Service for both the City and County Local Authorities.

- A flagship capital project is to advance the development of a new Galway Community Library, to include modern educational, cultural, event and archive facilities.
- Continued investment to enhance the use of technology, including RFID and Open Libraries, providing the match funding necessary to avail of national funding streams.
- A programme of minor improvements to address health and safety and access issues across the branch network, in line with conservation best practice and associated regulations, where applicable.

Recreation and Amenity Development

Capital investments over the next three years will focus on completion of projects which have been given previous commitments under the Recreation and Amenity Framework and Playground Policy.

Implementation of the Strategy relies on external sources of co-funding and working with community groups to lead on re-generation of buildings and Historic Assets in Corporate ownership.

Proposed Project	Budget	Sources of Funding
Playground Projects (Limited to existing commitments)	€40,000	Development Contribution Scheme, limited to existing commitments under the Playground Policy.

Walking Routes and Passive Recreation	€37,000	Limited to meeting existing commitment under the Recreation and Amenity Framework including works on the creation of Passive Recreation Areas Project in Sliabh Aughty, on shore of Lough Derg in partnership with ESB and Waterways Ireland.
Clarinbridge Cowpark Amenity Development	€95,000	Development Contribution Scheme - Recreation and Amenity. Subject to resources, it is proposed to develop lands for passive Walking and Cycling with appropriate carpark and access routes.
Recreation & Amenity	€200,000	Match funding to avail of national funding streams relating to recreation and amenity including Sports Capital, CLAR and Town & Village Renewal.
Historic Assets and Re-generation of Structures for Community Benefit as part of continued rollout of Historic Assets Strategy	€130,000	Subject to additional External Grant Aid to address Structures at Risk and those with potential for re-use for Community and Economic Benefit, with priority afforded to necessary works to Tuam Town Hall and St Mary's Athenry.
Tourism and Amenity Projects	€1.5 million	Development Contribution Scheme – A competitive expression of interest scheme was launched in 2017 seeking to invest in progressing Tourism and Amenity Projects throughout the County. These will be prioritised based on tourism potential and feasibility and roll-out by community, business and Council over the period.
BIA Innovator Campus	€3.5 million	Development of the BIA Innovator Campus in association with key partners, in line with funding programmes (i.e. REDF, T&V & RRDF) and development plan. The Campus will be the key food Innovation and Incubation Hub for the West of Ireland and will provide in excess of 27,000 square foot of space dedicated to; product development including specialist shared kitchen/ product development labs and food grade incubation units; business support from all key partners including LEO; education and training in association with GRETB and a range of relevant partners; delivery of rural development programmes and supports with specific emphasis on agriculture, marine and tourism sectors; and the creation of hundreds of jobs for the County.

Service Centres Development - Customer Access and Energy Efficiency Investments

In addition to Revenue Maintenance and Health and Safety Programme, the management of the Regional network and headquarters requires capital investment to sustain these assets and ensure conversation to more Energy Efficiency property portfolio over time.

Tuam Regional Office	€25,000	Boiler Conversion and Ancillary Works to avail of Natural Gas Investment.
Loughrea Regional Office	€20,000	Safety Investments.
Clifden Area Office	€40,000	Fire Safety Works to provide for 1 hr fire rated stairwell, corridor, installation of 1 hr fire doors.
Áras an Chontae	€500,000	<p>Three year programme relating to building management systems and controls including heating, access and customer services.</p> <p>The Building occupies over 5500sq m and is 20 years old requiring necessary investment and upgrade as a flagship asset and HQ for the Local Authority.</p> <p>Redesign of the front entrance canopy to allow for a design solution which manages the issue around air draughts through the atrium and incorporates accessibility for all.</p> <p>Provision of additional office accommodation space, customized client meeting rooms and secure filing space.</p>

Housing

The delivery of housing under Rebuilding Ireland 2016 – 2021 will remain a key priority for the Council with a focus on providing high quality homes and building sustainable communities. The Council remains committed to utilising all available capital funding streams to maximise the delivery of housing including construction, acquisitions, turnkey developments, Part V and Buy & Renew. The Council will also actively support Approved Housing Bodies in availing of the Capital Assistance Scheme to deliver housing. A number of capital projects will also be delivered under the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Description	2019	2020	2021
Main Construction (including Traveller Accommodation Programme)	€12,610,333	€22,631,937	€12,287,437
Acquisition Programme (including Part V's)	€5,200,000	€5,200,000	€5,200,000
Capital Assistance Scheme	€ 9,061,860	€2,478,610	€1,500,000

The Council will continue to actively engage with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to additional proposals for construction projects to be delivered under Rebuilding Ireland. The Council will continue to pursue the appropriate acquisition of properties on the open market to meet our housing requirements in accordance with national policy. Funding for acquisitions (including Part V's where previous agreements existed) has been made available under the Government's Social Housing Strategy and the completion of the purchase of 20 units is expected in 2019. The ability of the construction programme, including turnkeys, to delivery units will influence the funding available and the extent of the acquisitions programme in future years. As the focus of funding in the future shifts from acquisitions to construction, greater focus in terms of acquisitions will be on delivery through Part V as well as the Buy and Renew Scheme to meet demand as determined by the record of qualified households.

As a result of increased activity in the construction sector the Housing Unit's engagement with developers in relation to Part V has increased. Current indications, subject to planning being granted, are for 20 Part V units to be delivered over 2019/20, with costs to be determined. Delivery of units under the Buy and Renew scheme is subject to the identification of suitable units which meet the eligibility criteria.

The Council has a number of applications under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) which funds delivery of social housing by Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs). In total 102 units are

currently being progressed at a cost of €11,540,470m, 12 of which are acquisitions and 90 units are to be constructed. The 2017 call for proposals under the Capital Assistance Scheme remains open and the Council continues to actively engage with Approved Housing Bodies.

House Purchase Loans:

Loans up to the approved limit of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government will be issued to eligible purchasers under the various loan schemes operated by the Council. Funding is sourced by way of borrowing, the debt servicing of which is met by repayments from loanees.

Capital Investment in Local Authority Housing Stock

Energy Efficiency, Voids Retrofitting & Preventative Maintenance Programme	€1,300,000	€1,000,000	€1,000,000
Derelict House Programme –	€1,500,000	€1,500,000	€1,500,000

A significant capital investment programme is required for existing local authority housing stock to achieve compliance with minimum standards, co-fund energy efficiency works and the return of voids housing units, to undertake a stock inventory and to deliver a preventative maintenance programme.

Provision has been made for works under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) to be carried out on our occupied stock. The Council is working towards the completion of Phase I, cavity wall and attic insulation upgrade of its entire occupied stock. To date approximately 95% of our stock has been upgraded. We will seek to expand the programme to achieve deeper retrofitting of our stock in the future, subject to the availability of co-funding.

It is intended to avail of the HFA borrowings, to fund an improvement programme in existing stock to achieve compliance with statutory requirements, including minimum standards, and to commence a preventative maintenance programme. These programmes will be afforded priority in the allocation of available capital funding during the period 2019 – 2020.

In addition, project proposals for the rebuilding/refurbishment of derelict housing stock will be advanced subject to approval and funding from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

Please note all project proposals are subject to Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government funding and specific stage and statutory approvals by project and are dependent on the availability of co-funding where required.

Infrastructure and Transportation

Capital projects relating, to Roads, Piers and Harbours, Flood Mitigation schemes, Plant Acquisition and Smarter Travel (Greenway) are detailed below.

The completion of the following projects is subject to the appropriate departmental sanctions, the availability of the necessary funding and compliance with all appropriate legislative and regulatory provisions.

NATIONAL ROADS (including Major Inter Urbans):

In addition to works on Major Inter Urban routes, a full programme of Pavement and Minor Improvements Works, Safety Measures and Bridge Improvement Works shall continue to be undertaken on the National Primary & National Secondary Road Network. This Programme is dependent on annual allocations from Transport Infrastructure Ireland and as such the programme of works shall be presented to the Council on an annual basis in the context of the Annual Roads Programme.

NATIONAL ROADS (including Major Inter Urbans):

Project:	Status:
N6 Galway City Ring Road	On 25 th October 2018, the Compulsory Purchase Orders for the N6 Galway City Ring Road were published and a planning application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála for approval of the project, the final date for submissions to An Bord Pleanála is 21 st December 2018.
N18/ N17 Gort to North of Tuam	The M17/M18 opened to traffic, ahead of schedule, at the end of September 2017, there are some minor land owner issues outstanding.
N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard	Maam Cross to Oughterard has been granted planning permission and is being advanced in two phases. Phase 1 is from Maam Cross to Bunnakill. It is intended to go to tender on this 5km section in Q1 2019. Phase 2, Bunnakill to Claremount is the subject of ongoing discussions and communications with NPWS.
N59 Moycullen Bypass	Contract Documents are being prepared by consultants for the N59 Moycullen ByPass. Land acquisition is ongoing. It is intended to go to tender at the end of Q1 or start of Q2 2019.

N63 Annagh Hill to Abbeyknockmoy	N63 Annagh Hill to Abbeyknockmoy -construction works are ongoing with an expected completion date of the fourth quarter of 2018.
N67 Kinvara to Ballinderreen	N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara Realignment – permission was granted for this scheme in 2016. Construction is programmed to commence in 2019.
N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Liss	N63 Liss to Abbeyknockmoy - consultants to be procured for the planning and design of this scheme in 2019.
N84 Shrule to Headford	Design of project to be completed in 2018/2019.
Athenry Ring Road	Funding being sought to recommence construction works.
Ballinasloe Inner Relief Road	Continuation of the project, completion of design and planning application are subject to funding being made available.

The advancement of the above projects is dependent on the availability of funding and where required the availability of the necessary internal resources to advance the projects.

PLANT ACQUISITION / RENEWAL & WINTER MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES:

Project:	Status:
Purchase of replacement items of plant to facilitate the continued operation of the Machinery Yard and to meet essential operational requirements. There is a requirement to address the aging fleet of the Council.	Two new trucks were purchased in 2017. There are no immediate purchases contemplated under funding is made available.

FLOOD RELIEF/MITIGATION SCHEMES:

To directly advance and assist in the advancement, as appropriate, of Flood Relief/Mitigation Schemes including the Dunkellin and Aggard FRS, and South Galway (Gort Lowlands) FRS.

The Council will continue to work with the Office of Public Works through the Joint Working Group and Steering Group and other stakeholders to advance appropriate flood relief/mitigation schemes in compliance with all appropriate legislative and regulatory provisions and within the limits of available resources.

Project:	Status:
Dunkellin/Aggard Flood Relief Scheme	Works on Dunkellin Bridge and Craughwell Pedestrian Bridge will be undertaken in 2019. Channel works on Aggard Stream are scheduled for Q2 2019.
Ballinderreen/Kiltiernan Flood Relief Scheme – Maintenance and rehabilitation	Work commenced on the Kiltiernan to Ballinderreen Flood Relief Scheme in 2018, with the works at the Ballinderreen end to be completed by December 2018. The works on the scheme will be substantially completed in 2019, including the provision of accommodation works for local landowners.
South Galway (Gort Lowlands) Flood Relief Scheme	An engineering consultant and an environmentalist were appointed in 2018 on the South Galway/Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme and an environment assessment was completed. The Feasibility Report for the South Galway/Gort Lowlands scheme will be produced in the first half of 2019, with the intention of going to Public Exhibition thereafter.

STRATEGIC PIERS & HARBOURS PROGRAMME:

Funding for works on strategic piers on the islands is being provided through An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta.

Project:	Status:
Inis Oírr Pier Improvements – construct breakwater and pier extension, carry out dredging and provide additional berthage	<p>A consultant has been appointed to progress the scheme and various required surveys have been completed, including bathymetric and topographical surveys. Work also commenced on compiling the required information for the Contract documents will be prepared in 2019, with the intention to tender the works, dependent on the funding being made available. It is intended to appoint a contractor in Q3 2019.</p> <p>Land acquisition for the scheme will be progressed in line with programming.</p> <p>Compulsory Purchase Order process to proceed.</p>

<p>Caladh Mór Pier, Inis Meáin Improvements</p>	<p>The feasibility report prepared and issued in 2009 will be revisited.</p> <p>The extent of the scheme is to be agreed with An Roinn, Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta.</p>
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SMARTER TRAVEL:

Project:	Status:
<p>Conamara Greenway</p>	<p>An application for further funding for the provision of an extension to the current Greenway facility is to be submitted by end of November 2018.</p>

STATUTORY TABLES (A to F)

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I hereby certify that at the Budget meeting of Galway County Council held this 30th day of November 2018, the Council by Resolution adopted for the financial year ending on the 31st day of December 2019 the Budget set out in Tables A to F and by Resolution determined in accordance with the said Budget the Rate set out in Table A to be the Annual Rate on Valuation to be levied for that year for the purposes set.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned: _____

Chief Executive

Dated this 30th day of November 2018