



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE  
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2015  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015**



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## CONTENTS

MISSION STATEMENT	03
MESSAGE FROM THE CATHAOIRLEACH	04
MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE INTERIM	05
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS	06
ELECTED MEMBERS BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS	07
GENERAL INFORMATION	12
GOVERNANCE IN GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL	16
CORPORATE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	19
PROGRESS REPORT ON THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2015 – 2019	20
CORPORATE, HOUSING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT	21
ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES	66
PLANNING, COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES UNIT	79
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES UNIT	111
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT	130

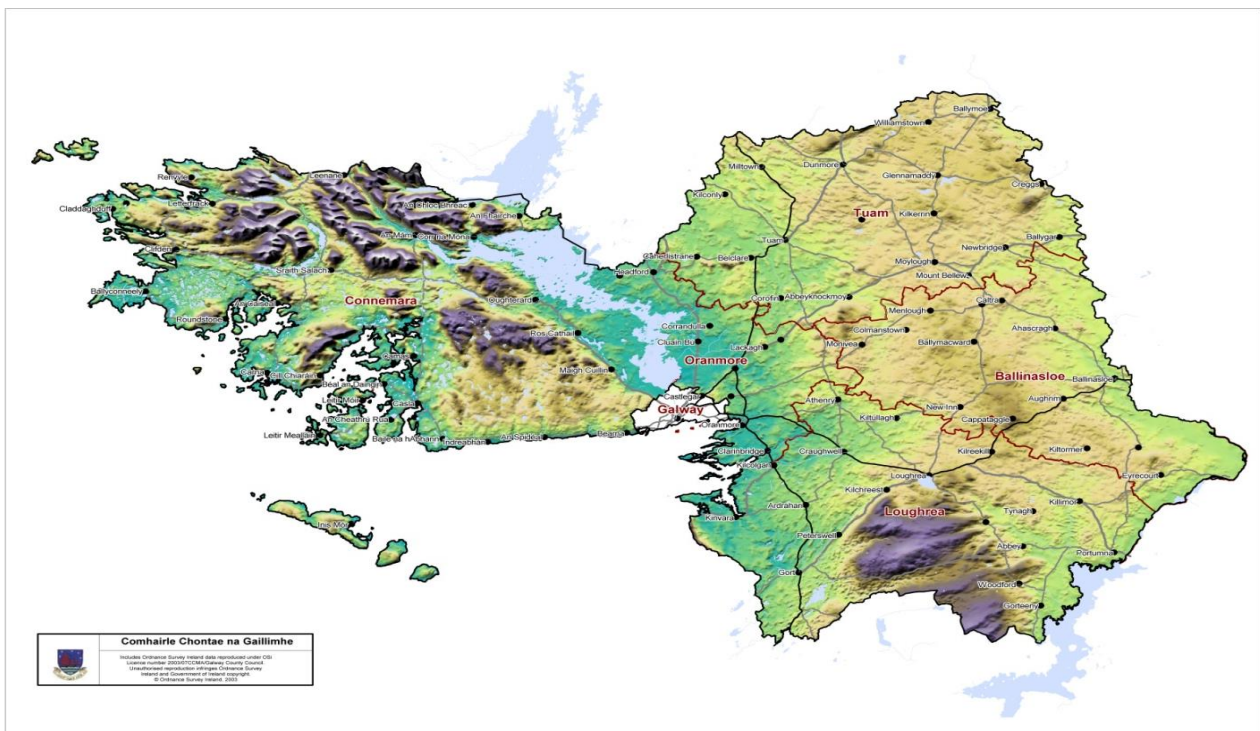
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	132
ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2015	145
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORTS	172
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT REPORTS	179
COUNCIL NOMINEES TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES	184
CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS	188
TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS	191
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES	194
PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL	197
OFFICES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL	200
UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2015	201
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015	202

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

## MISSION STATEMENT



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



### CORE VALUES:-

*Democratic*

*Helpful*

*Progressive*

*Accountable*

*Value for Money*

### Vision for Galway County Council

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY



As Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, it gives me great pleasure to introduce on behalf of Galway County Council, this Annual Report which records the progress of services delivered in 2015.

Galway County Council is among the largest public service providers in the County, and as such we have a responsibility and an obligation to provide a quality service to all our customers.

As a local authority we seek to continually improve the economic, social, cultural and physical infrastructure across the County through the provision of a range of services including housing, roads, water, planning, library, fire, motor tax and veterinary services.

The Annual Cathaoirleach Awards Ceremony in the Claregalway Hotel which I hosted on 26<sup>th</sup> November was attended by over two hundred and fifty people and was a highlight for me. The Awards recognise and celebrate community and voluntary activity throughout County Galway. I wish to sincerely thank all those involved and to acknowledge all local community activists for their dedication to enhancing their local communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief Executive Interim, the Executive Team and staff for the tremendous work they carry out on a daily basis for the development of this County. I would also like to thank former Councillor Mary Hoade who presided as Mayor for the first six months in 2015 and also thank my colleagues on the Council for their support and co-operation during my period as Cathaoirleach.

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

*Cllr. Peter Roche*  
*Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE INTERIM



As Chief Executive Interim I welcome the publication of the Annual Report for 2015 which highlights the ongoing valuable work, and some of the many achievements, of the Council during the year.

Following the severe storms in 2014 the Council continued an extensive programme of repair of coastal infrastructure in the Conamara area while rainfall at the end of 2015 again reminded us of our exposure to severe weather events.

Work continued on the delivery of infrastructure that is vital for the future development of the County such as the Dublin – Galway and Galway – Clifden Greenways and the urgently required ring road around Galway City. Significant progress was made on the completion of the M17 / M18 which is scheduled to open in early 2018.

During 2015 a range of events and initiatives across various units were delivered under the Galway Commemorative Strategy for the Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023 and there was significant engagement and preparatory work for the marking of the centenary of the 1916 rising including the opening event in Rosmuc on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

Given the ongoing difficult financial position of the Council further attention was given to the area of revenue collection with a review of systems and procedures to ensure that the income due to the Council is maximized to the greatest extent possible.

The County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 was adopted and together with the Local Economic Community Plan set a framework for the development of the County over the coming years. There was a strong focus on economic development including the launch of the Galway Economic Baseline Studies, the implementation of the REDZ initiative and the initiation of projects and strategies in areas such as Food and Tourism including the bids for European Region of Gastronomy 2018 and European Capital of Culture 2020.

Galway County Council continued its approach to supporting local communities through a number of initiatives and grants and through its support of the Public Participation Network.

This Annual Report details the many diverse services delivered by the Council in 2015. I would like to thank all staff for their achievements and contributions in this regard particularly having regard to the reduced resources available. The annual report also details the Council's progress on delivering the strategic priorities, objectives and strategies of the Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 complementing the progress report contained in the Council's Budget Report 2016.

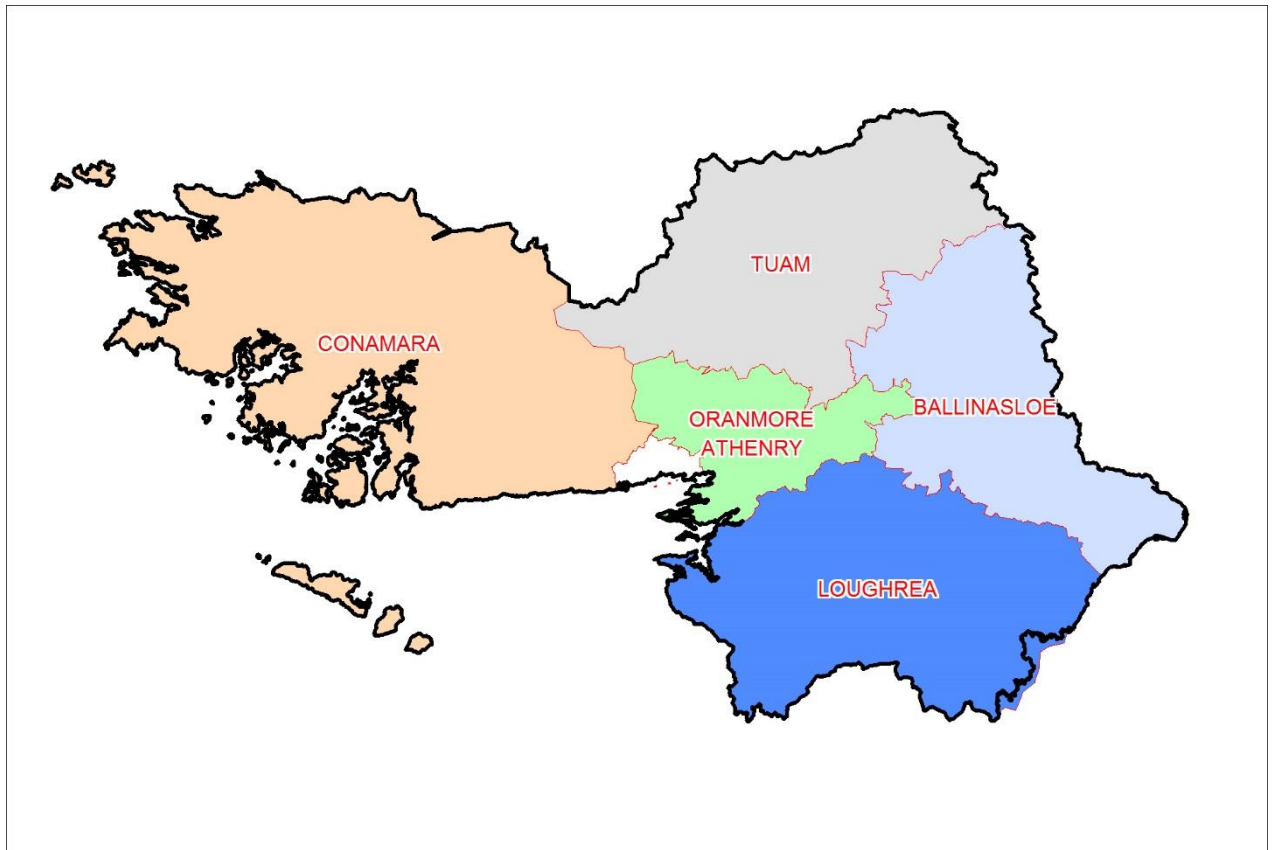
I would like also to acknowledge and sincerely thank the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway Cllr. Peter Roche and former Cathaoirleach Cllr Mary Hoade and all Elected Members for their collective input and support in responding to the challenges in 2015.

*Kevin Kelly*  
*Chief Executive Interim*

## GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTORAL AREAS/MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

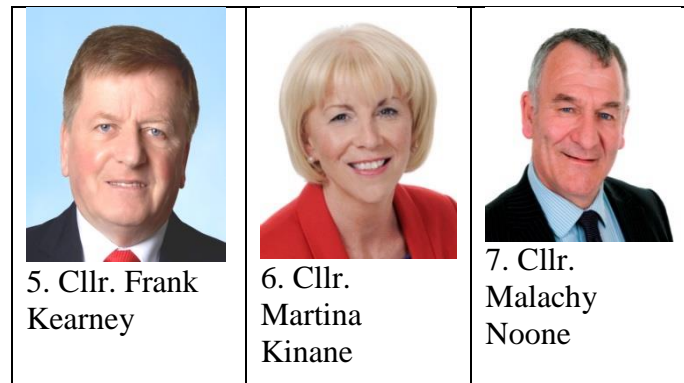
In accordance with Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 50/2014 - *County of Galway Local Electoral Areas and Municipal Districts Order 2014*, “the County of Galway shall have Municipal Districts for the purposes of section 22A (inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (No. 1 of 2014) of the Local Government Act 2001 (No. 37 of 2001)”. The effect of the Order is to amend the division of County Galway into local electoral areas, to fix the number of members of Galway County Council to be elected for each such area and to determine the Municipal Districts for County Galway as follows:

### Electoral Area/Municipal District Map



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

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ATHENRY - ORANMORE**  
**Athenry – Oranmore Electoral Area**

**Councillors**

1.Cllr. James Charity, Tonegurrane, Corrandulla, Co. Galway  
 2.Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly, Cloonkeen, Athenry, Co. Galway  
 3.Cllr. Jim Cuddy, Lydican, Carnmore, Oranmore, Co. Galway  
 4.Cllr. Peter Feeney, Ballydavid, Athenry, Co. Galway  
 5.Cllr. Frank Kearney, Beechmount House, Lackagh, Turloughmore,  
 Co. Galway  
 6.Cllr. Martina Kinane, Stradbally North, Clarenbridge, Co. Galway  
 7.Cllr. Malachy Noone, Crusheen, Claregalway, Co. Galway

**Telephone**

091 798136  
 091 844735  
 091 797167  
 (fax also)  
 091 798297

**Mobile**

087 2191792  
 087 2066810  
 087 6360242  
 087 6812403  
 085 1266133  
 087 2692102  
 087 1333711



**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**  
**Ballinasloe Electoral Area**

**Councillors**

1.Cllr. Tim Broderick, Corraneena, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

2.Cllr. Donal Burke, Church Hill, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

3.Cllr. Dermot Connolly, Glennavaddogue, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

4.Cllr. Michael Connolly, Moyloughmore, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

5.Cllr. Aidan Donohue, Gortfadda, Woodlawn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

6.Cllr. Michael Finnerty, Tobergrellan, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

**Telephone**

090 9686896

090 9642986

090 9679465

090 9675615

090 9643010

**Mobile**

087 2728058

087 2330131

086 0886160


087 6829049

087 2693105

087 6133676

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA**  
**Conamara Electoral Area**

				
1.Cllr. Niamh Byrne	2. Seosamh Ó Cualáin	3. Tomás Ó Curraoin	4.Cllr. Tom Healy	5. Cllr. Eileen Mannion



			
6. Cllr. Noel Thomas	7.Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg	8. Cllr. Séamus Walsh	9. Cllr. Thomas Welby

**Councillors**

	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Mobile</b>
1. Cllr Niamh Byrne, Clare, Oughterard, Co. Galway		087 9250568
2. Cllr. Seosamh Ó Cualáin, Gleann Treasna, Rosmuc, Co. Galway		087 6279220
3. Cllr. Tomás Ó Curraoin, Na Fothraí Maola Thiar, Bearna, Co. Galway		087 2933782
4. Cllr. Tom Healy, Railway View, Clifden, Co. Galway		083 4493319
5. Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Sky Road, Clifden, Co. Galway.		087 9555645
6. Cllr. Noel Thomas, Gortachalla, Moycullen, Co. Galway		087 7372147
7.Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg, Aille Thiar, Indreabhán, Co. Galway	091 593084	086 3864179
8. Cllr. Séamus Walsh, Glann, Oughterard, Co. Galway	091 552726	087 0519884
9. Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cregg, Oughterard, Co. Galway	091 552748	087 2855676

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA****Loughrea Electoral Area**










				
1.Cllr. Joe Byrne	2.Cllr. Shane Donnellan	3.Cllr. Michael Fahy	4. Cllr. Gerry Finnerty	5. Cllr. Pat Hynes

		
6. Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher	7. Cllr. Jimmy Mc Clearn	8. Cllr. Anne Rabbitte

**Councillors****Telephone****Mobile**

1.Cllr. Joe Byrne, Highfield House, Cloonasee, Kinvara, Co. Galway	091-638130	087 2625775
2.Cllr. Shane Donnellan, 32 Ti na Rí, Loughrea, Co. Galway		087 1202404
3.Cllr. Michael Fahy, Caherduff, Ardrahan, Co. Galway	091- 635177	087 2456000
4.Cllr. Gerry Finnerty, Ballymurphy, Gort, Co. Galway	091-632167/ 091-633291	087 2674295
5.Cllr. Pat Hynes, Gort Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway	091-842399	087 2404404
6.Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher, Clostown, Loughrea, Co. Galway	091-842968	086 8109185
7.Cllr. Jimmy Mc Clearn, Tynagh Road, Killimor, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	090-9676235 090-9676963	087 2548723
8.Cllr. Anne Rabbitte, Portumna, Co. Galway		087 2424704

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM**  
**Tuam Electoral Area**

 1.Cllr. Sean Canney	 2.Cllr.Sean Cunniffe	 3.Cllr. Des Joyce	 4. Cllr. Mary Hoade	 5.Cllr.Peter Keaveney
 6. Cllr.Donagh Mark Killilea	 7. Cllr. Karey Mc Hugh	 8. Cllr. Tom Mc Hugh	 9. Cllr. Peter Roche	

**Councillors**

	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Mobile</b>
1.Cllr. Seán Canney, Claretuam, Tuam, Co. Galway	093-55367	086 2513639
2.Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe, Ballygaddy Road, Tuam, Co. Galway		087 8161663
3.Cllr. Des Joyce, Curragh, Williamstown, Co. Galway		087 4186208
4.Cllr. Mary Hoade, Main Street, Headford, Co. Galway	091 789854	087 2255979
5.Cllr. Peter Keaveney, Bushtown, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway	094 9659388	087 2533098
6.Cllr. Donagh Mark Killilea, 19 Clochran, Kilcloghans, Tuam, Co. Galway		086 6079563
7.Cllr. Karey Mc Hugh, Brooklodge Demesne, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway		087 2822225
8.Cllr. Tom Mc Hugh, Kilcloghans, Tuam, Co. Galway	093 28486	086 2574192
9.Cllr. Peter Roche, Moyne, Abbeyknockmoy, Tuam, Co. Galway	093 49187	087 8251470

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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

The **representational role** of Galway County Council is performed directly by the elected members of the Council. In accordance with the Local Government Reform Act 2014, a new system of Municipal Districts came into effect from 1 June 2014, following the local elections on 23rd May 2014 which increased the number of Councillors from thirty to thirty-nine and these were elected for the five local Electoral Areas:-

Electoral Area	Members	Municipal District
Athenry-Oranmore	7 members	The M. D. of Athenry-Oranmore
Ballinasloe	6 members	The M. D. of Ballinasloe
Conamara	9 members	The M. D. of Conamara
Loughrea	8 members	The M. D. of Loughrea
Tuam	9 members	The M. D. of Tuam

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

Such functions include:

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

The Council makes its decisions by resolution at its meetings.

The Chief Executive and staff perform the **operational role** of Galway County Council. They are responsible for the day to day administration of the County Council. The Chief Executive performs, what are called, the "**executive functions**" and the Chief Executive's decisions are made by written "Chief Executive Order".

These functions include:

- the letting of houses

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

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

## **ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF GALWAY LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, and Local Government Reform Act 2014 a primary function of the local authority is to provide a forum for the democratic representation of the local community and provide the community with civic leadership. In addition, the local authority has responsibility for the provision of a range of services, regulatory and enforcement functions and for the development of key areas including economic, business, heritage and cultural affairs.

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

### **The Council**

The thirty-nine elected Councillors from the Municipal Districts collectively lay down the framework for the policy under which an Executive Team operates. A Corporate Policy Group and five Strategic Policy Committees formulate and agree policy. The SPCs comprise of elected councillors and voluntary/sectoral representatives who review and formulate policy across the range of Council functions. The Executive Team headed by Chief Executive operates in an executive capacity.

### **Municipal Districts**

Five Municipal Districts are established in the County of Galway being one in each Electoral Area and are served by the elected representatives from that Area. The Municipal Districts, are designed to enhance democratic governance, subsidiarity and accountability. These arrangements are also intended to improve operational efficiency and value for money, with a single county-wide executive and operational structure. The Municipal Districts are decision-making entities rather than corporate structures. The Town Council system of governance ceased on the introduction of the Municipal Districts in 2014.

### **Corporate Policy Group (CPG)**

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

6 Meetings of the CPG took place in 2015

## Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The SPC structure makes available to elected representatives a framework and opportunity to fulfil their role as overall policy makers and furthermore, enables opportunities for partnerships with local interests and community representatives. SPCs provide a forum for better and enhanced capacity for involvement in policy formulation, review and evaluation, with inbuilt assistance of relevant sectoral interests and supported by a Director of Services. Five SPCs have been established in the Council. In accordance with the terms of the scheme, members of the Strategic Policy Committees will comprise of Councillors and Sectoral Representatives as set out in the following table:

SPC	Councillors	Sectoral Representations	Committee Total	No of Meetings 2015
Housing Corporate & Recreation	7	4	11	4 Meetings
Roads, Transportation & Marine	8	4	12	4 Meetings
Planning & Community	8	4	12	4 Meetings
Environment, Water Services, Fire & Emergency Services	8	4	12	3 Meetings
Economic Development and Enterprise	8	4	12	4 Meetings

Out of a total of 59 Strategic Policy Committee positions, 39 were be filled by County Councillors and 20 by Sectoral Representation. The current position is as follows:

### **Sectoral Representation - 20 positions**

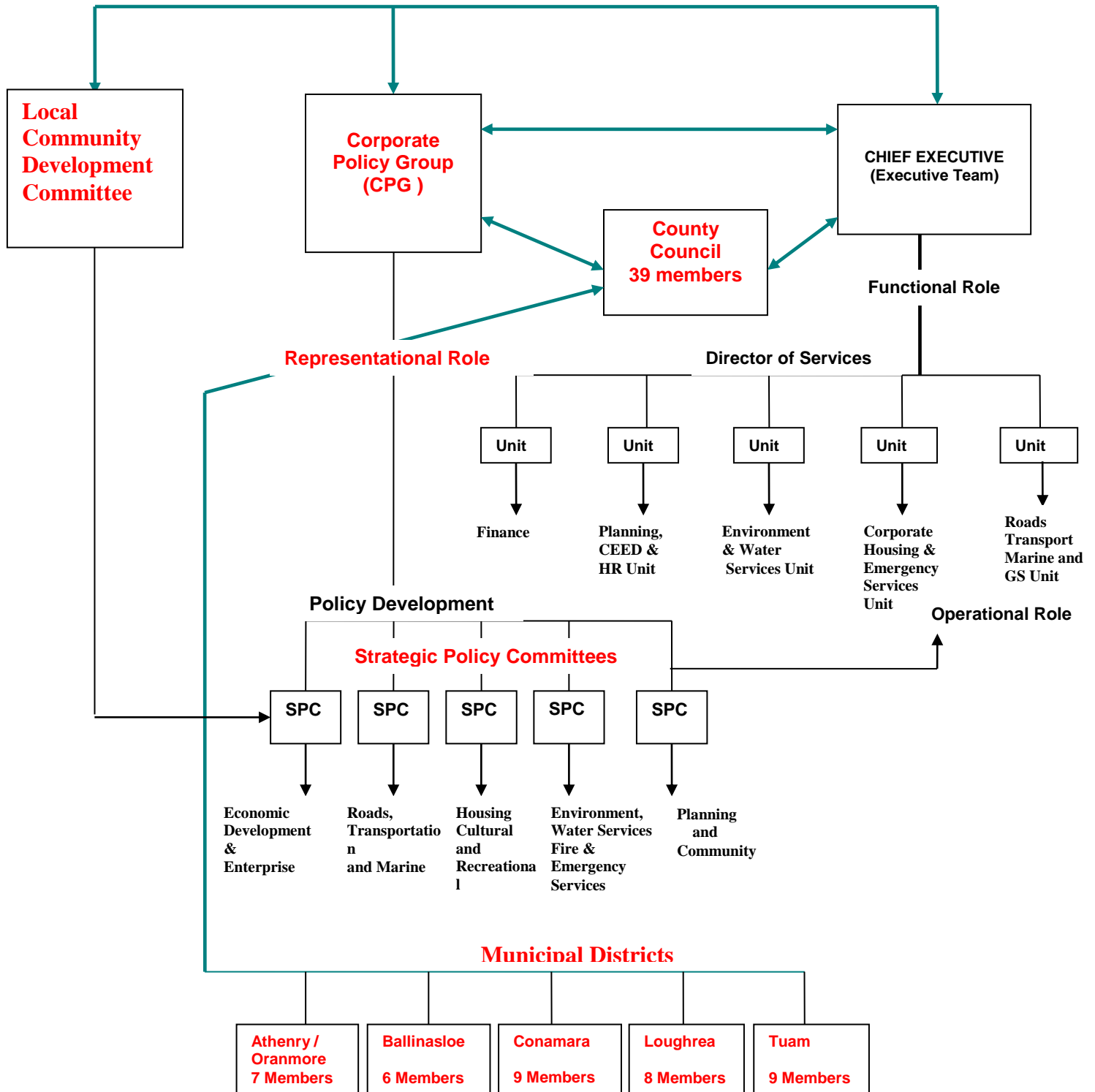
The sectoral representation is divided into 7 sectors:

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

## Executive Team

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

**GALWAY LOCAL AUTHORITIES ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2014**





# Governance in Galway County Council

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

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

## Core Principle 1

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

### Supporting Principles

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

## Core Principle 2

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

### Supporting Principles

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

## Core Principle 3

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

### Supporting Principles

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

## Core Principle 4

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

### Supporting Principles

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

## Core Principle 5

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

### Supporting Principles

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

## Core Principle 6

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

### Supporting Principles

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

## CORPORATE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 serves as the strategic framework for the future actions of the Council during that period. It identifies eight strategic priorities, together with their objectives and supporting strategies to achieve the Council’s Mission Statement and Core Values. These Strategic Priorities as identified in the Plan are presented below.

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

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

## **Progress Report on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019**

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

The progress achieved in the implementation of the Corporate Plan during 2015, is detailed in the form of a summary report by each Unit on the various actions and initiatives taken during the year, to support our strategic priorities.

An assessment of our performance against the targets set in the 2015 Service Delivery Plan is also included on pages 147 to 176, while details of our performance against the national performance indicators is included on pages 134 to 146.

Note: Please refer to Galway County Council's Annual Budget 2016 for additional information on the Annual Progress Report on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019

This Document can be located at:-

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



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**CORPORATE, HOUSING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT**

## Corporate Services

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

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

### Strategic Priority

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

## CORPORATE PLANNING AND SUPPORT

Galway County Council is comprised of thirty-nine Elected Members from the five Municipal Districts. The Municipal Districts were formed in 2014 under the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The Municipal Districts are Conamara, (9 Elected Members), Athenry-Oranmore (7), Loughrea (8), Ballinasloe (6) and Tuam (9).

The Plenary Council of 39 members continued to meet monthly in 2015 to carry out their Reserved functions and consider social, economic and cultural issues critical to the sustained development of the County in line with the Strategic Objectives of the Corporate Plan. As each meeting Members are asked to consider and if deemed appropriate to authorise the attendance of Elected Members at training in accordance with Section 142 (5a) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Plenary Council was held on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 and Cllr. Peter Roche was elected to replace Cllr. Mary Hoade as Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Malachy Noone was nominated to replace Cllr. Niamh Byrne as Leas-Cathaoirleach. The Council held its Annual Statutory Budget Meeting on November 27<sup>th</sup> 2015 to consider and adopted the 2016 Revenue Budget and Three-Year Capital Programme.

2015 also saw the Official Opening and Ecumenical Blessing of the reconfigured Galway County Council Chamber which took place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. The works to the Chamber were undertaken in 2014 and 2015 to allow for the expansion of the membership of the Council from 30 to 39 members as a result of the Local Government Reform Act (2014).



*Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Mary Hoade and Chief Executive, Interim, Mr. Kevin Kelly photographed at the Official Opening and Ecumenical Blessing of the reconfigured Galway County Council Chamber which took place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. Pictured above representatives of various faith communities of Galway who participated in the Ecumenical Blessing.*





*Cllr. Peter Roche elected as Cathaoirleach accepting the Chain of office from outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Mary Hoade, June 15<sup>th</sup> 2015*



*Outgoing Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Niamh Byrne with Cllr. Malachy Noone nominated as Leas-Cathaoirleach 2015-2016.*

## Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

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

Corporate Policy Group	Meetings
Corporate Policy Group	6 meetings
Monthly Meetings of the Council	
Ordinary Monthly Meetings	11
Special Monthly Meetings	2
Annual Meeting	1
Budget Meeting	1

## Galway County Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

In accordance with Section 35(4) and 36(1) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 Galway County Council operates a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in conjunction with local Garda Síochána management and in accordance with Revised JPC Guidelines issued in 2014. The function of a Joint Policing Committee is set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states: *“The joint policing committee’s function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area”.*

The JPC met in April, June, July & September, 2015, and the Public Meeting was held in November, 2015, in the Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore.

### JPC Membership

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

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

### *Strategic Priority*

**To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.**

### Civiv Receptions

A Civic Reception was held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, at Áras an Chontae, to honour the achievements of the following:

- College of Tourism & Arts on their success at CATEX 2015;
- Mr. Derek O'Connor, Gort, who has won 1,000 point-to-point races;
- Seamount College Kinvara Camogie Team, All-Ireland Senior A Schools Camogie Champions 2015;  
Ms. Olivia Lane, Turloughmore, who captured 4 world records at the Powerlifting World Championships in Moldova in 2015;
- Ms. Claire Molloy, who was part of the Irish team who won the Women's RBS 6 Nations Rugby Championship 2015;
- Corofin Senior Football Team, All-Ireland Club Champions 2015;
- Ms. Geraldine Cronnelly, Athenry, All-Ireland Indoor Archery Tournament winner 2015

*In the photograph below, accepting a presentation from the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Mary Hoade, are Mr. Jim Fennell, Interim President of GMIT on behalf of the College of Tourism & Arts; Mr. Derek O'Connor; Ms. Siobhán Connolly, Captain of Seamount College Kinvara Camogie Team; Ms. Olivia Lane; Mr. Evan Molloy representing his daughter Claire; Mr. Michael Ryder, Manager of the Corofin Senior Football Team; Ms. Geraldine Cronnelly and also Mr. Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive, Interim.*



On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2015, the Cathaoirleach,

Cllr. Mary Hoade, hosted a Reception in honour of the Rose of Tralee, Ms. Maria Walsh, at Áras an Chontae. The reception was also attended by the 2015 Galway Rose, Ms. Olga Lee and former Galway Rose, Ms. Ann Higgins.

*The photo below shows the three Roses with the Cathaoirleach and Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive Interim, at the Reception.*



A Civic Reception was held on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, at Áras an Chontae, to honour the achievements of the following:

- Galway Minor Hurling Team, All-Ireland Minor Hurling Champions
- Glenamaddy Community School, All Ireland Senior A Schools Football Champions

- Letterfrack National School, SAP First Lego League Champions 2015
- Ms. Lorraine Hession, Special Olympics World Games 2015
- Ms. Niamh Heffernan, Quadruple Handball Champion
- Ms. Olive Loughnane, World Champion 20 Km Race Walk, 2009 World Championships

Homecoming celebrations were held in Ballinsloe on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 for the Galway Minor Hurling Team, winners of the All-Ireland and the Galway Senior Hurling Team beaten in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship 2015.

*Photograph below shows Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Peter Roche greeting the Captain of the Minor Hurling Team, Sean Loftus; Manager of the Team, Jeffrey Lynskey and members of the Team.*



*Mr. Joe Canning, Galway Senior Hurling Team, signing autographs at the Homecoming.*

## Twinning

The County of Galway is twinned with Washington County, Wisconsin, USA and a delegation from Galway County Council, led by Cllr. Peter Roche, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, visited Washington County in August 2015. During the visit the Cathaoirleach extended an invitation for Washington County to visit the County of Galway during 2016 to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising. The visit further strengthened the ties of friendship first established with Washington County in 2003.

The twinning relationship between Clifden and the Borough of Coyoacan, Mexico City established in 2012, based on the historical ties created by the contribution of a native of Clifden, John Riley and the San Patricio Battalion, in the Mexican-American War of 1846-48, was celebrated at an event in Clifden on the 12th September 2015. The event also celebrated 40 years of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Mexico and the Mexican Ambassador H.E. Carlos Garcia de Alba represented the Borough of Coyoacan, Mexico.

### Galway Associations

The contribution of the Galway Associations in supporting the Galway diaspora was acknowledged with Cllr. Mary Hoade, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway accepting an invitation from both the Galway Association Bedfordshire and the Galway Association Conventry to attend their Annual Dinner Dances.

## REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register of Electors was published on the 1st February, 2015 with a total of 134,169 on the register. In the context of the Same Sex Marriage Referendum held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, the Council facilitated the preparation of a Supplementary Register. The Supplementary Register contained 1706 extra electors, giving a total electorate of 135,875. Arrangements were put in place for the printing of Ballot Papers and the issuing of Special and Postal Votes for the Election.

In advance of the Referendum, Actions were implemented to promote the Register and to add new Voters to the Supplementary Register of Electors for the Same Sex Marriage Referendum.

All Outgoing mail from County Hall carried a promotion message to support the Ensure Your Vote – [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie).

Compilers were employed in August 2015 to assist with registration of voters through house to house calls and leaflet drops. A draft register was prepared in line with statutory deadlines in November 2015.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

A total of 176 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2015 under the Freedom of Information Act. This marks a significant increase on 2014 when 49 requests were received.

Of these, 5 sought access to personal information, 165 sought access to non-personal information and 6 were mixed.

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	81
Requests Part-Granted	43

Requests Refused	39
Requests Withdrawn	12
Requests Transferred	1

## ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

A total of 16 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2015 under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 – 2014, marking an increase on 2014 when 11 requests were received.

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	7
Requests Part-Granted	7
Requests Refused	0
Carried forward to 2016	2

### Strategic Priority

**To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise.**

## OPERATION OF MARKETS, CASUAL TRADING & FILM LICENCES

Casual Trading Licences are issued annually on payment of a fee for a number of towns and villages throughout the County including Athenry (5), Ballinasloe (13), Clifden (9), Dunmore (1), Gort (10), Loughrea (2), Mountbellew (6), Headford (1), Tuam (5) Portumna (2); in line with the Casual Trading Bye-Laws.

- Special Event Licences are issued for various festivals and fairs which take place throughout the year, e.g. Maam Valley Fair (39) and the Clifden Pony Show (23) as well as the Ballygar, Dunmore and Kinvara (Cuckoo and Cruinniu na mBád) Festivals. Litter
- Deposits are sought from providers for the Maam Valley Fair and the Clifden Pony Show.
- Requests from film makers to use the public property for filming were processed.

- Requests from Cinemobile and Funfair Operators to park at various towns and villages are also processed including those formerly dealt with by Ballinasloe Town Council.
- The Unit was also involved with the co-ordination of trading at the Fair Green for the Ballinasloe Horse Fair in October. In addition to trading, the Unit worked with the Municipal District office with regard to parking, security and access to the trading area.
- The Unit also worked with the Community and Enterprise Section and local organisations on the promotion of Ballinasloe and ancillary festival events during the Annual Horse Fair, which is considered one of the oldest Horse Fairs in Europe.

## CASUAL TRADING BAYS

<b><u>Annual Licences</u></b>	
<b>Area</b>	<b>No. of Licences Issued</b>
Athenry	5
Ballinasloe (St. Michael's Square)	12
Clifden	8
Dunmore	1
Gort	9
Headford	1
Loughrea	2
Mountbellew	9
Portumna	2
Tuam	6

<b><u>Special Event Licences</u></b>	
<b>Area</b>	<b>No. of Licences Issued</b>
Ballinasloe Fair	119
Ballinasloe (St. Michael's Sq.)	1
Ballygar Festival	30
Clifden Pony Show	25
Clifden Festivals	5
Dunmore Festival	10

Kinvara – Cuckoo Festival	4
Kinvara – Cruinniu na mBád	10
Maam Valley Fair	33
Tuam	1
Tuam Christmas Market	17

<b>Permits for Ice Cream Vendors at Designated Beaches/Park</b>	
<b>Area</b>	<b>No. of Licences Issued</b>
Traught Beach, Kinvara	1
Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua	1
Céibh Nua, An Spidéil	1
An Trá Mhór, Indreabhán	1
Trá na bhForbacha	1
Rinville Park, Oranmore	1

### **Strategic Priority**

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

## **RECREATION & AMENITY-PARKS & OPEN SPACES**

### **Playgrounds**

Galway County Council continues to invest in play facilities in the County by providing public liability insurance to a number of community managed playgrounds as part of formal maintenance agreements with local groups, as well as the direct maintenance of play grounds in our main towns. In accordance with previous commitments under the Council's PlayPolicy, assistance has been 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 which provides one of the most extensive network of playgrounds in any County available free of charge to residents of all main settlement centres and in key tourist locations. The Smoke Free Playgrounds Policy launched in 2013 was ongoing in 2015. Information on all sites are available to download in the Council's



Guide to Playgrounds – ‘Let’s Play’ available on [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) and an interactive map on the Mapzone section of the web-site. Additional investments were advanced in 2015 for Loughrea and Palace Grounds, Tuam through co-funding from the Department of Youth and Children.

Community Wardens are ROSPA (Royal Society of Prevention of Accidents) trained to undertake Playground Inspections. An on-line inspection ‘app’ was adapted by Information Systems and piloted by Corporate Services in 2015, allowing Community Wardens to undertake inspections using their smartphones. Reports are automatically filed providing a record of weekly inspections required for maintenance and insurance purposes.

**National Recreation Week** was celebrated with a week long programme of activities in Tuam, in partnership with Youthwork Ireland. **National Play Day (July 5<sup>th</sup>)** was held in Rinville Park, attracting over 400 people to Rinville Park. The event was made feasible with voluntary support of young people from Comhairle na nÓg and support of Youthwork Ireland and support from the Department of Youth and Children. An activity packed afternoon of games and art was held free of charge.



*Pictured at Rinville Park, National Recreation Week and PlayDay 2015. Comhairle na nÓg staff and members with Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Malachy Noone.*

*Pictured at National Play Day, Rinville Park, July 5<sup>th</sup> 2015*

## The Water Safety Programme

The Water Safety Programme involved the recruitment of a panel of over 40 trained Lifeguards to provide services at 10 locations in the County [including five Blue Flag Beaches] and at six locations in the City as part of a Shared Service Agreement with Galway City Council. Induction Training and upgrading of some equipment supplies was undertaken. Services were provided from May 30<sup>th</sup> to September 13<sup>th</sup> 2015. The Lifeguard Panel Briefing and Official Launch of the Lifeguard Service was held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 with two lifeguards provided at all Blue Flag Beach locations in compliance with International Lifeguarding Federation of Europe (ILSE).

Regular updates on Lifeguarding Hours and locations were posted to the Amenities Section of [www.galway.ie/www.gaillimh.ie](http://www.galway.ie/www.gaillimh.ie). One new Lifeguard Hut was purchased and one Hut was upgraded. The Council also made a contribution to Irish Water Safety Council of €6,150.

A New Water Safety Development Officer was appointed in 2015 on a part-time basis. The role includes supervision of the Water Safety Lifeguard Programme, development of the service as well as commenting on the water safety aspects of applications to both County and City for events involving use of water e.g. Triathlons.

Risk Assessments in line with the standards set out by the International Life Saving Federation of Europe (ILSE) for designated Bathing Areas were commissioned for 5 locations in 2015.

Support was provided for maintenance of outdoor swimming areas in Loughrea and Portumna.

### **Swimming Pools**

Galway County Council owns Leisure Centres comprising of Pools, Gym and Studio room facilities in Tuam Town Centre, Palace Grounds and in Ballinasloe. New Licence Agreements were tendered and issued for Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centres in 2015, involving an extensive review of operational arrangements, tender phases and company interviews. A new Licence agreement for both sites was awarded to Coral Leisure Ltd.



*Pictured above Tuam Leisure Centre*

### **Rinville Park, Maree, Oranmore**

Rinville Park, is one of the County's largest parks, with a network of walkways, a playground and an outdoor gym. A major project in 2015 was the commencement of the Renville Park Woodlands

Management Plan, which was agreed to reduce health and safety risk in the Park, posed by over-mature trees and to transform all of the 18ha of Woodlands into a native and semi-native broadleaf Woodland.

The Parks' Maintenance Programme continued to be delivered in partnership with Oranmore Development Association Employment Schemes. A seasonal Caretaker was employed by the Council from May to October. Expressions of Interest were invited to cut and retrieve haylage on lands in and adjacent to Rinville Park and an awareness programme on dog fouling was delivered in partnership with the Environment Unit.

A Concession for the provision of refreshments at Rinville Park during April to September was continued.

**Dunlo Athletic Track** was operated in 2015 and Changing Room Facilities were opened for use by local Clubs in line with track booking. The facility is open to the public six days per week and booked by local groups on Sundays. Galway Rural Development Ltd TÚS worker provide day of day operational assistance at the track, opening and closing it for the public, litter clean ups and general monitoring and maintenance.

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

Support was provided for **Palace Grounds Park** area in Tuam and a maintenance programme implemented by the Tuam Municipal District Office.

**Strategic Priority**

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

## The Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023 Commemorative Strategy for the County of Galway & 1916 Centenary Programme for the County of Galway

During 2015, a range of events and initiatives across various Units were delivered under the Galway Commemorative Strategy for the Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023. A particular focus in 2015, was the development of a balanced, inclusive and comprehensive range of events and initiatives to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

- Community Consultation Workshops were held in Tuam, Oughterard, Loughrea and An Cheathrú Rua to facilitate direct input by individuals, communities and stakeholders in the development of the 1916 Centenary Programme.
- The Galway County Council Centenary of the 1916 Rising Community Commemorative Grant Scheme was launched to facilitate communities in their preparations for the Centenary of the 1916 Rising. A total of 28 projects were approved by Council for funding under the scheme in July 2015.
- The 1916 Centenary Programme for the County of Galway was approved by Plenary Council in July 2015. An overview of the Programme was presented to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government in July 2015.
- The national launch of the Programme attended by the Taoiseach, Tánaiste, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government was held in Dublin in October 2015, with the local launch of the Programme held on the 16th November 2015 at Áras an Chonate.
- The significant role of women in the events of the 1916 Easter Rising was acknowledged with the publication, by Galway County Council, of *Cumann na mBan: County Galway Dimensions*, accompanied by a specially commissioned CD featuring *The Soldiers of Cumann na mBan on Thursday, 3rd December 2015*.



*Pictured at the launch of the 1916 Centenary Programme for the County of Galway are:*

*Cllr. Peter Roche, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Mr. Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim) and Members of Galway County Council with the relatives of the Galway men and women of 1916.*



*Cllr. Peter Roche, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Mr. Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim) and Mr. John Concannon, Director Ireland 2016 with members of Cláíomh at the launch of the 1916 Centenary Programme for the County of Galway.*



*Pictured at the launch of 'Cumann na mBan: County Galway Dimensions' at Áras an Chontae are:  
Cllr. Peter Roche, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway with Mary Clancy, Women's Studies, NUIG.  
Mr. Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim), Ms. Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer and Mr. Joe Forde.*

## PROMOTING THE IRISH LANGUAGE

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

- A detailed programme of Irish language events was developed for the 1916 Centenary Programme for the County of Galway which has the largest Irish language strand of any programme in the Country.
- The inaugural Irish Language Pádraig Pearse Summer School was established and hosted by Galway County Council in Ros Muc as the opening event of the 1916 Centenary Programme for the County of Galway in recognition of the strong ties of Pearse with the County of Galway. It also marked 100 years to the date that P.H. Pearse left his summer residence and summer school for students of St. Enda's in Ros Muc to travel to Dublin, to deliver the graveside oration at the funeral of O'Donovan Rossa.
- Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mac Piarais Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe/ Galway County Council Pádraig Pearse Scholarships were launched in collaboration with Summer Colleges in Conamara to provide 15 scholarships to second level students in the County of Galway to attend Gaeltacht Summer Courses.
- *Dara Scéim Teanga Údaráis Áitiúla Chontae na Gaillimhe* – Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe's second language scheme continued to be implemented during 2015 and will remain in place until 2017.
- *Irish Language Service Customer Feedback* - Various issues raised by the public directly or through An Coimisinéir Teangas office were dealt with as they were received and subsequent actions taken with the cooperation of the various units of the Council to enhance service delivery.
- *Staff Awareness* of the obligations under language legislation continued through information briefings that were provided at staff induction sessions of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation.
- *Community Support Grants* – The Irish language was specifically included as a category in the Community Support Scheme in 2015. Grants totalling €6,023 were approved for projects in Schools, Community & Voluntary Organisations for the promotion and increase of the use of Irish.
- *Gradaim an Chathaoirligh* – The Irish language continued to be included in Gradaim an Chathaoirligh in 2015. Three categories of awards were presented :
  - Schools Contribution to Heritage or Irish Language Award : Scoil Náisiúnta Inis Bó Finne
  - Best Contribution to the Irish Language(Gaeltacht) : Cumann Forbartha Chois Fharraige
  - Best Contribution to the Irish Language(non-Gaeltacht): Cumann Óige Átha an Rí
- *Glór na nGael* - Galway County Council continued its support of the Glór na nGael initiative in providing funding for a County Galway award for Communities that promote and enhance the Irish language. The 2015 Award was won by Forbairt Chonamara Láir.
- A simultaneous translation service was provided at all plenary Council meetings.
- A centralised system for the updating and amending of the website to ensure compliance with our An Scéim Teanga continued to be operated during 2015.
- Service delivery standards for Irish Language service delivery were included in Customer Service Resource packs which were developed by Customer Services and are available at all public counters.
- The email address [gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie](mailto:gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie) was promoted to customers as part of enhanced service delivery.
- In March a detailed programme for the launch of **Seachtain na Gaeilge** was implemented including engaging staff and the general public with competitions, events and exhibitions.



*Pictured above Kevin Kelly, Interim Chief Executive, Caithreach Cllr. Peter Roche, Darach Ó Tuairisc from Fíbín and Páid Ó Neachtain at the Launch of Seachtain na Gaeilge.*

## **HISTORIC ASSETS**

The Council also provided funding to Athenry Heritage Centre to support events and maintenance of the Facility. The Council finalised the drawdown of funding from Galway Rural Development Ltd under Conservation Measures for the making safe of the entrance archway at St. Mary's Athenry, to facilitate visitors to the Heritage Centre and the conservation of a large section of the remains of medieval church adjacent to the Centre.

The Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre, providing information on the 1691 Battle is managed and funded by Galway County Council. In 2015 it continued to facilitate additional School and Group Tours and promoted the facility in the region and on social media. The Centre is also promoted in partnership with local hotels and accommodation and on Discover Ireland. The Centre assists local groups by promoting local tourism activities in the region including trails around the Battlefield and linkage to the nearby Hymany Way, long distance cycle and walking route.



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

## **Strategic Priority**

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

### **Office Accommodation**

- Corporate Services continued to provide caretaking and facilities management services for the Council's network of offices, libraries and civic functions.
- The Lease expired in June for Office Accommodation at Woodquay Court, and plans were put in place to relocate the Local Enterprise Office and Staff to County Hall.
- The reconfiguration & refurbishment of the Council Chamber to accommodate 39 Elected Members was completed in 2015.
- Corporate Services supported the Architectural Conservation Officer on the design and redevelopment of Ballinasloe Library at the Convent of Mercy Site.

### **Energy Management & Energy Reduction Initiatives**

- Grant approved from SEAI for energy efficiency works in County Hall through Better Energy Communities Initiative. These works involved the installation of an additional 22Kw of Solar Photovoltaic Panels on the roof of County Hall. These panels along with the existing panels installed in 2013 and 2014 total 30Kw and will reduce the electrical consumption in County Hall by circa 9% on an annual basis.
- Also completed under this scheme was the replacement of CFL fittings to more efficient LED fittings.
- County Hall increased its Building Energy Rating (BER), from D1 to C3 on its Display Energy Certificate for 2015.
- The original boilers at Tuam Leisure Centre were replaced with more energy efficient boilers which will result in energy and cost savings.

### **Health and Safety**

Health & Safety Inspections are carried out on a regular basis in line with implementation of the Council's Health & Safety Management Plan.

### **Internal Audit**

There were 4 Audit Committee meetings held during 2015



The 2015 Internal Audit plan was drawn up in conjunction with the Chief Executive, Audit Committee and the Head of the Internal Audit Team.

The plan contained 11 areas for audit examination with Audit reports on the following areas completed

- Fire Training Arrangements
- Service Indicators
- Social Work Service
- Community & Economic Development Unit
- Revenue Collection
- Corporate risk register – risk of inadequate financial resources
- Local Economic Office
- VFM review – long term hire of plant & machinery
- Compliance with various processes and procedures
- Policy on land acquisition
- Compliance testing on pay and display policy

The 2014 audit report recommendations were reviewed.

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

- Fortnightly reviews of Motor Taxation receipts and lodgements along with cancelled and duplicate tax discs
- Quarterly reviews of Galway County Councils cash office receipts and lodgements along with revenue collectors cancelled receipts.
- Quarterly spot check on the issue of development contribution invoices.

## **Legal Advisory Services**

### **Indicative Activities in 2015:**

- The Office provided legal services for all programme areas, including the purchase and sale of properties, attendance at compulsory purchase oral hearings, conduct of arbitrations relating to land acquisitions, litigation including District Court regulatory/enforcement prosecutions, Circuit Court, High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court Litigation. In particular, High Court and Supreme Court litigation, and Judicial Review were substantial areas of work in 2015.
- The Office provided legal advice to the Chief Executive and Directors of Services on all programme areas and issues as they arose.
- The Case Management System, which facilitates the use of templates to create work flows for the efficient and cost effective delivery of legal services, was upgraded and continues to be applied to further work areas.
- In relation to the Register of Lands – deconstruction of the largest Omnibus Folio GY23906 is very near completion. Major work was carried out on reviewing non-current files and updating the Council's Register of Lands.
- A significant number of old files were reviewed, and archived under the Record Management Policy

## Strategic Priority

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

### DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

#### LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME

Galway Public Libraries continued to provide a valuable service to communities and individuals in 2015. Libraries continue to be relevant to the children, adults and families of Galway City and County. In 2015 despite some staff difficulties all our Branch Libraries continue to provide a reader centred service, looking after the needs of their readers. Galway County Libraries has a network of:

- 29 Branch Libraries,
- Mobile Library Service,
- Schools Service for Primary Schools,
- Audio Service for Visually Impaired
- Local History and Archives
- *36,038\* members (18,042 adults\* and 17,996 children registered in 2015)*
- **545,156 visits to our Libraries and there were 51,527 internet sessions.**
- **691,893 books issued to people in 2015**

**\*Free membership was introduced in November 2015 and this brings Galway Libraries into line with universal and national public library policy.**

#### Developments in 2015

- **The new Ballinasloe Library and Church Gallery opened to the public in November 2015** located in the old Convent of Mercy building and has become the most used facility in that East Galway Region.
- **Oughterard Library** located in the Courthouse reopened after an extensive refurbishment by a local Restoration Group.
- **RFID** – (Radio Frequency Identification) a self service system of issuing and returning books was introduced in Ballinasloe Library and is also operating successfully in Westside Library the busiest library in the service in 2015.

#### LIBRARY SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS

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

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

**Online services** including eBooks, eAudio, EMagazines, eNewspapers, eLanguages and eLearning were available to the public/members from the end of 2015

**Reading Groups are very popular.**

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

### Children's Services

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

- **The Children's Summer Reading Scheme** is a very successful event built up over twenty years with around 4000 children registered for the Challenge in 24 Branch Libraries in 2015. Children registered to take part in the Scheme.
- Hundreds of Children were presented with Reading Certificates and Medals at end of summer parties in their local Branch by the Cathaoirleach of County Galway Cllr. Peter Roche and other councillors. Presentation ceremonies took place in Branch Libraries throughout the County during 2015 including, Ballinasloe, An Cheathrú Rua, Dunmore, Eyrecourt, Gort, Loughrea, Portumna, an Spidéal, Tuam, and Woodford.
- Castleblakney Centre with the help of the **Mobile Library** service ran a successful reading event in 2015.
- **One Book One Town;** Both Tuam and Westside Libraries participated in 2015. Tuam Library in conjunction with The Home/School Liaison Team encouraged everybody in Tuam to read one book. Classes from the local schools attended readings in Tuam and Westside Libraries.
- **Children's Book Festival in October** was celebrated with a storytelling Festival sponsored by The Arts Office, Galway County Council. Branch Libraries were visited by storytellers such as Pat Speight (Cork), Yourman Puppets, Little Gem Puppets, Galway Circus and a number of Irish writers from Futa Fata Publishers in An Spidéal. **Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua** hosted a children's event.
- **Storytime for Young Children** is a very popular weekly event in libraries e.g. Ballybane Galway City, Headford, Leenane, Loughrea, Oranmore, An Spidéal, and Westside.
- Libraries such as **Leenane and Cloch na Rón** had craft sessions for children including making cards and book marks for Easter and Christmas.

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

- **Art Exhibitions** are a regular feature in many Libraries. Local and visiting artists are accommodated.
- **Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua and Leabharlann An Spidéil** have a wonderful space for exhibitions and were in great demand with many exhibitions throughout 2015.
- **The East Galway Art Trail** is in its 9th year. It combines artists and libraries such as Ballinasloe, Portumna, Woodford, Eyrecourt and Killimor branches. An artist is assigned a

library for their exhibition and there is an official opening and promotion of the artist over three weeks. It is a wonderful way of promoting art in a local community.

### Music Recitals

- **Culture Night in September** was celebrated in Athenry, Galway City, An Spidéal and other libraries throughout Co. Galway
- **Ballinasloe, Gort, Loughrea, An Cheathrú Rua and Tuam** libraries have regular music events. In some cases local musicians who get together performed in the Library.
- **Con Tempo** played in Ballinasloe, Galway City, and Oughterard.

### Arts Festivals;

- **Clifden Library is synonymous with the Clifden Arts Festival** since its inception 28 years ago. This year the Library was the venue for a number of poetry readings and talks and an art exhibition.
- **Gort Library supported the Autumn Gathering in September.**
- **Ballybane and Westside** supported the innovative “Kitchen Poetry Readings” as part of the Cuirt Festival in April.
- **Loughrea Library** has an involvement with **The Baffle Arts Festival** for a number of years.
- **Seachtain Na Gaeilge** was celebrated in **An Spidéal, An Cheathrú Rua, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Galway City.**
- **Bealtaine Festival in May** was celebrated in e.g. Ballinasloe, Gort, Oranmore, Galway City, Tuam, Ballybane and Westside in conjunction with Age Action.

### Other Events and Services to the Community

- **Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua** hosted ‘Áirneáil an Lae Inniu’ throughout 2015. This successful series of evenings concentrated on a different aspect of life in the country and Conamara and was attended by large numbers of locals and visitors.
- Gaeltacht libraries held events primarily in the **Irish Language** throughout the year particularly **An Cheathrú Rua, An Spidéal, Inis Meáin, Inis Oirr and Cill Rónan libraries.**
- **The library Mobile Service** provided books to a number of Health Centres and to some rural community centres throughout the year.

To assist us with our staffing requirements in 2015, we had the support of Library Students from Europe including some from Germany, Italy Students French and Spain. They worked in Library Headquarters, Galway City, Westside, Ballybane, Oranmore and Gort. We also had the support of interns in Ballinasloe, An Cheathrú Rua, Westside, Tuam and Loughrea.

**A Galway Library Development Programme 2016-2021** was prepared and it included proposals from **A Strategy for Public Libraries 2013-2017-Opportunities for All: the Public Library as a catalyst for economic, social and cultural development**. The strategy advised that the positioning of the library service for the local authority as a focal point in the community and as a leader in community engagement. Public libraries promote community cohesion and well being, economic growth, stability and cultural identity. They will enhance self worth and confidence. Planning for a **new City and County Community Library** has commenced and investigations on possible sites in Galway City were carried out.

**Galway Public Libraries** will strive to provide an effective, vibrant and relevant service for people and communities in this changed and continuously evolving environment. The new Library Development Programme 2016-2021 will provide the framework to achieve this and to position the public library service to best advantage for the future, for the benefit of the public.

## MANAGEMENT OF RECORDS AND ARCHIVES 2015

The Archivist continues to liaise with Sections to develop and implement file classification and record retention schedules, and provide advice on records management best practice.

The Archives Section works to ensure the care, preservation, management of and access to the Council's archives. Archives are valuable cultural assets which require specific care. With a growing interest in our past, particularly in the period 1913-1923 and mother and child welfare for the period (1900-1970), it is especially important to ensure the appropriate protection and management of these records. The Section also provides policy advice to the Council on the care and management of its records.

- Much of 2015 involved preparatory work on 1916/2016 outreach centenary commemorative projects. Intensive research was carried out, together with the initial curatorial work on exhibitions and other projects for the centenary year.
- Continued to provide access to information on Galway County Council's archival holdings through its descriptive lists and also its on-line catalogue, and through various archival portals.
- Continued processing archive collections, such as Staff Returns (GC/CSO/6) and Loughrea Minutes (LTC/1/26 (2010-2013)).
- Continued the programme of providing security backup and reference surrogates to collections, though the digitisation programme and simultaneously adding some important collections relating to the Decade of Commemoration period to the Digital Archives, such as a Coroners Report into the death of RIC Constable Whelan on 26 April 1916, (GS15/01), Minutes minutes for Tuam Town Commissioners (1969-2013), Ffrench Papers, Rahasane, County Galway (GP4/, 1765 – 1831), and Glenamaddy Poor Law Union were also added to the Digital Archive.
- Provided on-going reader services, such as access to collections for research purposes, assistance with research queries, and provision of research advice and guidance.
- Monitored the environmental conditions of the archives and endeavoured to ensure their continued protection, preservation and management, despite storage facilities not meeting internationally acceptable preservation standards

- Outreach activities included hosting small displays to mark significant anniversaries, such as the sinking of the Lusitania and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of The Cathedral of our Lady Assumed into Heaven and Saint Nicholas.
- Provided advice on records management best practice and assistance to Sections, as required.
- Continued the management of non-current record transfers to storage (approximately 6,150 boxes of managed material currently in commercial) and record retrievals and returns: 1,280 recall requests were processed in 2015. At the end of 2015 there were in the region of 98,000 entries on ArcLink, the records management database.

## COMMUNITY WARDENS SERVICE

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

- Enforcement e.g. statutory traffic offences, litter offences, abandoned vehicles, waste disposal/illegal dumping, dog licences and casual trading;
- Monitoring e.g. housing estates, public amenities such as recycling centres, bring banks, parks, beaches and playgrounds,
- Assistance e.g. to tourists, elderly, schools, neighbourhoods, communities; Gardaí and state agencies,
- Observing and Reporting on all the above.
- Litter Pollution/Derelict Sites Surveys were carried out, whilst regular inspections of Playgrounds, Parks, Local Authority Estates, Halting Sites, Piers, Beaches, Bottle banks etc. continued to be undertaken by the Wardens. Community Wardens arranged and assisted in 100 community clean ups in 2015
- 1263 investigations under Air Pollution, Waste Management and Water Pollution legislation were carried out in 2015, 474 of which were initiated from Community Wardens routine inspections.
- Environmental Enforcement including the issuing of Litter fines and notices under the Waste Management and Water pollution Acts continued to be undertaken by the Warden Service. 355 Litter fines were issued in 2015 as well as 32 warning letters issued for minor littering offences at bring banks.
- 359 surveys were carried out by the Community Wardens Service in relation to litter pollution in accordance with National service indicators
- 236 businesses were inspected by the Community Wardens Service in relation to compliance under the waste management producer responsibility categories, e.g. compliance in relation to plastic bag levy, packaging, waste tyres, WEEE, waste batteries, hazardous waste disposal.
- The Wardens continued to assist with the operation of pay parking and the implementation of traffic management plans in a number of towns across the County. 1672 traffic fines were issued during 2015.
- Community Wardens continued to assist the Housing Section in implementing the Control of Horses Act 1996 among other duties.
- Community Wardens are ROSPA (Royal Society of Prevention of Accidents) trained to undertake Playground Inspections. An on-line inspection ‘app’ was adapted by Information Systems and piloted by Corporate Services in 2015, allowing Community Wardens to undertake inspection using their smartphone and allows the inspections to be filed immediately upon completion on site by an email. Reports are automatically filed providing a record of weekly inspections required for maintenance and insurance purposes.
- Dog Licensing inspection campaigns also continued throughout the year.

- The Wardens continued to implement the provisions of the Roads Act 1993, in relation to abandoned vehicles, with vehicles identified, reported and removed as necessary throughout the year.
- An electronic complaint/inspection management system for the Community Wardens Service was implemented in the Environment Section during 2015 to be applied to the remainder of the service in future years.

## **STUDENT GRANT SERVICES**

- A new single National Awarding Authority (Student Universal Support Ireland) was introduced by Government in 2012 and is operated by County of Dublin VEC. SUSI is responsible for all new applications.
- The Council remains responsible for 55 students and all first term maintenance payments were paid by mid October 2015.

## **CORONERS SERVICE**

The Council continued to provide administrative support for the processing of all payments of fees for the City and County Coroners Service.

### **Strategic Priority**

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

## **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

A Customer Services ‘Staff Resource Pack’ was produced by Customer Services. It comprised of copies of all the documents available in relation to Customer Services Policies and Procedures, including our Complaints and Appeals Procedure and our Scéim Teanga (Irish Language Policy). This information is now readily available at every public counter

In continuance of enhancing our Customer Services, the following are some of the continued services operating by Customer Services in 2015:

- Lunchtime opening of the dedicated Customer Services Desk in Áras an Chontae continues to ensure a professional, welcoming and informative environment is provided for the customer at their first point of contact with Galway County Council in Áras an Chontae.
- Centralised system for placement of Advertising to comply with the National Procurement Framework continued to be operated so that Customers can now find one central advert for Council deadlines in their local media.
- A Centralised System for application forms has been introduced. A uniform template for application forms is now in place. New Application Forms and amendments to existing forms are submitted to Customer Services for re-formatting and compliance with our Scéim Teanga.
- The Council continued to meet a 48 hour response rate to customers in relation to comments received on the Fix Your Street on-line service.
- Our Social Media presence i.e. Facebook, Twitter etc. was further developed and fully

utilized with increased comprehensive coverage of Severe Weather Events and promotion of Events during 2015. Our numbers of followers on Twitter at the end of December 2015 exceeded 7,000 and the number of likes on Facebook over 2,600.

- The Customer Services Team in Corporate Services produce a weekly internal e-newsletter for all staff to ensure they are up to date on key events and deadlines of the Council, increasing the knowledge and awareness of all staff about other Sections of the Council and ensuring we are staying up to date on important dates and events.
- A General and Service Contact Information list for the elected members, detailing staff contacts for all services and programmes is continuing to be published by Customer Services and is updated and circulated to the Elected Members every six months.
- In addition to direct contacts on our web-site and Social Media the public can contact [customerservices@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:customerservices@galwaycoco.ie). This email is monitored and queries directed immediately to the most appropriate service area for reply. Staff also use this email to inform the Customer Services Team of any new services, events or deadlines so that the Customer Services Team are up to date with activities of the Council. The Customer Services Communications Centre provided a full phone service, the base for the operation of the Council's social media platform on twitter and facebook and coordination of emails to [customerservices@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:customerservices@galwaycoco.ie), communications via the customer comment facility on [www.gaillimh.ie](http://www.gaillimh.ie) and [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) and via [fixyourstreet.ie](http://fixyourstreet.ie)



## Housing Services

The Social Housing Strategy, launched in November 2014 by Minister for Environment Alan Kelly and Minister of State at the Department of Environment, Paudie Coffey set out a road map for Local Authorities as well as the Voluntary and Private Sectors regarding Social Housing provision through a number of concrete actions, timelines and importantly, financial resources for the delivery of new social housing units.

There are three pillars, contained in the strategy, details of which are as follows:

Pillar 1 – Provision of new social housing supply- through the acquisition, building or leasing of units.

Pillar 2 – Providing housing supports through the private rented sector, in particular through HAP as well as measures to enhance the private rental sector through focus on quality and rent certainty

Pillar 3 - Reform: creating more flexible and responsive social housing supports in areas such as a new Tenant Purchase Scheme as well as measures for LA's on dealing with anti-social behaviour

In Galway County Council Acquisitions and Construction programmes as well as RAS and leasing through the private and voluntary sectors all played a significant role in provision of Social Housing in 2015.

### Strategic Priority

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

### Housing

The housing unit of Galway County Council strives to provide a service for those individuals and communities that require assistance in the areas such as housing provision, tenancy and estate management, housing adaptation/alteration, assisting homeless, control of horses, etc. The housing unit endeavour's to carry out activities within the governance frameworks of the local authority sector. There are many aspects to our services which will be covered in more detail in the following pages.

### Strategic Priority

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

## **Housing Construction**

In 2015 approval was granted to Galway County Council to construct 59 houses as follows: 10 houses at Garbally, Ballinasloe; 2 houses at Esker Hills, Ballinasloe; 10 houses at Gort Mhaoilir, Athenry; 31 units at Weir Road, Tuam as well as 6 rural houses in various locations throughout the county. Construction is expected to commence in 2016.

## **House Purchases**

Funding made available under the Government's Social Housing Strategy resulted in the acquisition of 11 new units in the calendar year 2015. It is important to note that an additional 25 units were delivered in Q4 2014 while sale agreed (but not closed) was achieved on 65 additional units. These additional units are to be closed in 2016 while identifying more units to acquire. It is proving difficult to close contracts given the extreme shortage of housing stock in the market. We are cognisant that we will not be competing against first time buyers, etc. We will continue to work with NAMA and the other financial institutions regarding sales of multiple units. Additionally we have advertised for developers to approach us with sites that have planning to try and help stimulate the private housing market and Part V acquisitions.

## **Affordable Housing Scheme**

Galway County Council undertook a tender process and engaged an Agent to assist in the sale of unsold affordables at Pairc na hAbhainn, Athenry on the open market. Sales were completed on 22 houses in 2015 with strong interest in the remaining 10 and indications that all remaining units will be sold in 2016.

## **HAP**

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a new social housing support recently introduced in housing authority areas on a statutory phased basis. HAP commenced in Galway County Council on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015. HAP will be available to anyone with a confirmed social housing need. The introduction of HAP means that housing authorities can now provide housing assistance to many more households with a long-term housing need, including many long-term Rent Supplement recipients.

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

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

The housing authority will make a monthly payment toward the rent for the accommodation directly to the landlord on behalf of the household. This monthly payment to the landlord will be within set maximum rent limits and may not always cover the full monthly rent for the property agreed under the terms of the tenancy between the HAP recipient and the landlord. The household will pay a rent

contribution to the housing authority calculated in accordance with the authority's differential rent scheme.

HAP is a recognised social housing support as provided for under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009. However, HAP recipients who wish to do so, will be able to access other social housing supports through a transfer system. They can apply to transfer from HAP to other forms of social housing support, such as local authority housing or housing provided by an Approved Housing Body.

With the introduction of HAP, the provision of all forms of social housing support will be under the administration of the local government sector, providing an integrated and comprehensive suite of social housing solutions to housing authorities, in order to meet the accommodation needs of households that require assistance from the State.

Those households eligible for HAP are:

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

### **Strategic Priority**

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

## **Housing Waiting List**

Galway County Council completed an assessment of housing need in 2013 and will be completing the next assessment of housing need in 2016. The assessment of housing need was completed under the following headings:

Provision of Housing Accommodation in its functional area for persons who require accommodation from Galway County Council and who, in the opinion of the County Council are in need of such accommodation and unable to provide it from their own resources.

Provision of residential caravan parks for members of the Traveller Community in the functional area of the County Council for persons who are likely to require sites from the County Council are in need of such sites and unable to provide them from their own resources.

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

Income  
Residency Status

Availability of accommodation  
Rent Arrears.

The total number of Housing Applicants on the Housing List at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 is 3,500.

## **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)/Leasing**

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

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

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

<b>Number of Applicants in receipt of rent supplement for 18 months plus</b>	<b>Galway County End of Q4 latest figures: 1099</b>
<b>Number of Applicants accommodated in private rented accommodation through contracts agreed with private landlords</b>	293
<b>Number of Applicants accommodated currently through contracts agreed with voluntary organizations</b>	124

## **Private Residential Tenancies Board – Registration of Rented Units**

The Residential Tenancies Act 2004 came into operation on 1st September, 2004. Part 7 of this Act deals with the registration of tenancies with the Private Residential Tenancies Board. The published register is available on the Private Residential Tenancies Board website at [www.prtb.ie](http://www.prtb.ie)

Galway County Council inspected 77 properties up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, to ensure compliance with standards for rented houses. A total of 75 Properties failed to comply with the current standards and 74 Improvement Notices were served on landlords requiring improvements to be carried out.

## Mortgage to Rent Scheme

The Mortgage to Rent Scheme was introduced by the Department of Environment Community and Local Government in 2012. Under this scheme, people who are having trouble paying their mortgages can switch from owning their home to renting their home as social tenants, paying a rent calculated in accordance with their income. If you take up a mortgage-to-rent scheme you will no longer own your home or have any financial interest in it. To qualify for the scheme the property owner must have participated in their lender's Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP), a process which the lender and the owner must take in order to try and resolve their difficulties. The mortgage must be unsustainable and the family must be eligible for social housing in the area where they live. The property must be considered suitable for purchase by a housing association. Approved applicants will voluntarily surrender possession of their home to their mortgage lender who immediately sells it to a housing association who will then rent it back to the family. The proceeds from the sale of property to the housing association will go towards the mortgage debt and the applicant makes an arrangement with their lender for any remaining payments owed if any. There is potential to buy back the home after a period of 5 years if the household's financial situation improves. To date the Council has 1 Local Authority Mortgage to Rent Application under this scheme.

## Voluntary Housing

Given the Government's commitment to homeless persons, older people and people with a disability, its promotion of access to community-based housing in the vicinity of any necessary supports, with particular regard to the specific needs of people with mental health and intellectual or physical/sensory disability, funding was announced under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) to assist Approved Housing Bodies to deliver units under these specific categories.

A number of meetings also took place with voluntary bodies in relation to proposals throughout the county under the newer option of CALF (Capital Advance Leasing Facility). The CALF is a facility available to Approved Housing Bodies to assist them in accessing private or Housing Finance Agency finance for the purchase or construction of units that will be made exclusively available for social housing purposes under leasing for a set period of time, typically 20 years.

Please see table below detailing all projects for which funding was received in 2015

Voluntary Body	Project details	Funding Type	Status
Claregalway Housing Association	12 units – Claregalway	CAS	Due to commence in 2016
Mountbellew Housing Association	5 units - Mountbellew	CAS	Due to commence in 2016
Peter Triest Housing Association	3 units – Gort	CAS	Due to commence in 2016
Respond	4 units – Headford	CAS	Due to commence in 2016
Tearmann Éanna Teo	13 units – Eannach Mheáin, Lettermore	CAS	Due to commence in 2016
Tearmann Éanna Teo	4 units – Lochan Beag, Inverin	CAS	Due to commence in 2016
Cluid Housing Association	14 units- Clifden	CALF	Completed
Cluid Housing Association	10 units- Ballinasloe		

		CALF	Completed
Cluid Housing Association	11 units - Loughrea	CALF	Completed

### **Tenant Purchase**

The 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme came to an end on 30th June, 2014. The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government has advised that a new Tenant Purchase Scheme is to be introduced in 2016.

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

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

- No. of valid applications received during 2015 for Housing Aid for Older People: 187
- No. of valid applications received during 2015 for Mobility Aids Grant Scheme 129
- No. of valid applications received during 2015 for Housing Adaptation Grant 65

### **Housing Adaptation Grants for Local Authority Houses**

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

A limited amount of funding was made available to GCC for such work in 2015 of €208,595. A total of 7 local authority houses had housing adaptation works completed during the year.

### **Energy Efficiency & Retrofit Programme (EERP)**

In 2015 Galway County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

- Continuing the Social Housing retrofit scheme (attic and wall insulation), with 134 upgrades being completed. This equates to an annual saving for the householders of 431,480 kWh domestic energy consumption.
- External doors were upgraded to 14 dwellings which equates to an annual saving for the householders of 6,300 kWh domestic energy consumption.
- External windows and doors were upgraded to 27 dwellings which equates to an annual saving for the householders of 48,600 kWh domestic energy consumption.

## **Homelessness**

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

There was an average of 10 applicants per week presenting as homeless. An increase in families becoming homeless – due to bank repossessions, poor accommodation and notice to quit. Average of 5 families in emergency temporary accommodation in hotels & B&B's. Single people accommodated in homeless or tourist hostels averaged at 12 at any time. Some applicants choose to return to family and friends. Accommodation was refused to a small number of people on grounds of ineligibility. The Social Workers follow up on all Homeless persons with case meetings at hostels with the aim of working towards progression to independent accommodation. Most of the Homeless applicants would be able to sustain a tenancy with supports. Currently Galway County Council has one transition house run by Galway Simon.

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

## **Traveller Accommodation**

In accordance with Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988, as amended, and Section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Galway County Council assessed and identified the current and projected accommodation needs of Traveller families to be met during the period of this Programme, from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018. This programme is currently being reviewed as per regulations.

The Council assesses Traveller families for the Housing Waiting List and allocations are made in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Letting Priorities. The Annual Count of Traveller Families and their Accommodation Position 2015 identified 535 families in the County. Of those families 486 have tenancies; an additional 8 families are sharing accommodation. Thirteen families have Halting Site accommodation, 16 families live in caravans in backyards with access to facilities and an additional 8 families live in various unauthorised locations.

The Council has, through experience and consultation, identified standard housing as the preferred accommodation option for the vast majority of Traveller families. Standard housing, including RAS and Private Rented Accommodation, provides for the inclusion of Travellers in mainstream housing programmes and aids the integration of Travellers into the community. Eleven Traveller families were accommodated in 2015 in standard housing.

## **Disability Strategy**

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

As guided by the Strategy Galway County Council has set up an Interagency Steering Group which will have an operational focus. Included in the role is developing interagency protocols and development of a 5 year strategy to meet the accommodation needs of persons with disabilities.

## **Tenancy and Estate Management**

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

The Anti-Social Behaviour Unit was established in 2013 and is dealing with ASB complaints as per The Anti social behaviour Strategy which was adopted in May of 2016. The Council’s strategy in this area involves active community engagement/participation at local level on an ongoing basis with an emphasis on the early identification of anti-social behaviour and breaches of tenancy agreement. There has been very strong relationships developed with the Gardaí and the unit meets regularly with the senior management in the Gardaí to discuss problem areas and how both organisations can work together to address anti-social behaviour. In this regard, a special sub-committee of the Joint Policing Committee was established to examine the use of CCTV in housing estates and other areas of need.

CCTV is now operational in 7 estates with the intention of progressing plans for CCTV in other estates in the coming years. The CCTV is active in Cullairbaun, Athenry, Gort Bride, Loughrea and Bridgecourt, Ahascragh, Crow street Gort, Gilmartin road Tuam, Tuam halting site, Tirboy estate Tuam & Tuam town is also covered by a new CCTV system. The use of CCTV will assist the Council and the Gardaí in dealing with a number of the issues that cause ongoing concerns for the residents of the estates. The joint co operation between the Council and the Gardai has been invaluable with Gardai prosecuting offenders using CCTV footage as evidence in court.

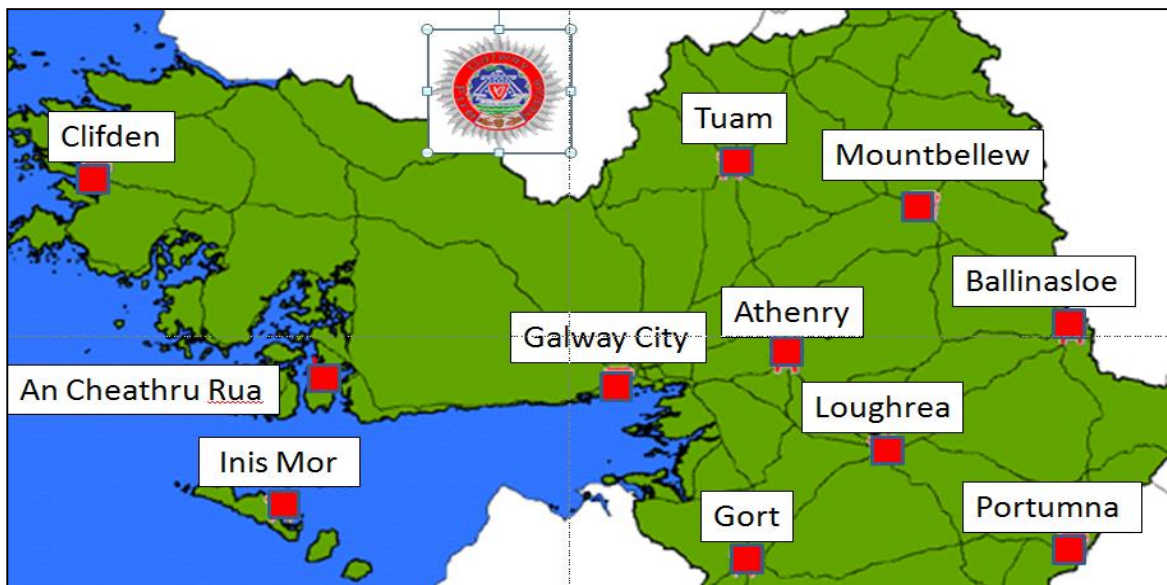


## Emergency Services

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

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

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



**Figure 1 GFRS Fire Station Locations Including An Cheatru Rua**

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

In 2013, a decision in principle was taken to open a new single pump fire station in An Cheathrú Rua to service the South Conamara area and this station is scheduled to be operational in early 2016.

When An Cheathrú Rua fire station is open the Council will employ 167 personnel in Galway Fire and Rescue Service including full time and retained fire-fighters in the City and County, senior fire officers, a brigade mechanic and a Civil Defence Officer. In addition Galway FRS has 4 civilian administrative support staff. Headquarters staff are based in Galway City Fire station.

### **Strategic Priority**

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

#### **Keeping Communities Safe**

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

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

The Fire Service is subject to the same financial constraints and consequent scrutiny of expenditure as are all Local Authority services. Additional investment in Fire Services beyond that already programmed will be challenging, given the impairment of public and local government finances. The challenge – as reflected in the document title – “Keeping Communities Safe” – is to manage the available resources to achieve an optimal outcome for the public in terms of their individual safety, and to minimise loss and disruption to society.

As part of the “Keeping Communities Safe” policy document Galway Fire & Rescue Service undertook a risk categorisation process for its functional area and has prepared a draft report entitled “Station Fire Ground Area Risk Categorisation” detailing its outcomes.

A Service Development Plan/ Action Plan which is reflected in the form of a new Draft Section 26 Plan was prepared by the Fire Service Management in 2015. It is anticipated that the Draft Section 26 Plan will then be presented to a full meeting of the Council in 2016 pending agreement at national level.

## Safety Management

Galway FRS Health and Safety policy is contained in Galway FRS Ancillary Safety Statement. The Fire Service Ancillary Safety Statement addresses the working environments encountered by the Fire Service, where combining need, risk and resources in a wide range of situations has long been a feature of service management. This safety statement is read in conjunction with County Galway Local Authorities Safety Management System Manual/Safety Statement.

The Ancillary Safety Statement sets out the approach which this Fire Authority adopts in relation to managing safety and in particular meeting its statutory obligations under Section 20 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. The detailed arrangements for the implementation of the local authority's safety policy, as it applies to the Fire Service are set out in the Ancillary Safety Statement. The current issue is from 2013 – 2016.

## OHSAS 18001

Galway FRS aims to achieve OSHAS 18001 compliance by the mid to end 2016. OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series) is the internationally recognised standard for safety management systems. Galway FRS has set up an OHSAS Steering Group and has also established OHSAS Operational Groups in 2015, with a view to progressing the application and certification of the safety management system to OHSAS 18001 by the NSAI. The implementation of the system will enhance communication and consultation within the organisation of safety issues and near-miss reporting which facilitates early detection and continual improvement.

## Fire Operations

The total number of emergency incidents attended by Galway Fire and Rescue Service from all 10 fire stations on behalf of Galway County Council and Galway City Council in 2015 was **1550** – (1507 in 2014). This represents a marginal increase of **3%** on 2014 incidents.

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

In 2015 the average time to mobilise the first fire appliance in Galway City full time fire station in respect of fire incidents was **2.67 minutes** – (**2.51 minutes** in 2014). The average time to mobilise the first fire appliance in the other 9 part time stations (Retained Fire Service) in Galway County was **5.07 minutes** (**5.00 minutes** in 2014).

For all other emergency incidents the average turn-out times were **2.58** minutes for Galway City full time fire station and **5.10** minutes for Galway County retained fire stations in 2015. The equivalent numbers for 2014 were 2.59 minutes and 4.87 minutes respectively.

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

- Less than 10 minutes - **40.23 %**;
- Greater than 10 minutes and less than 20 minutes – **30.57%**
- Greater than 20 minutes – **29.2 %** .

The performance indicators for all other incidents excluding fires for the same parameters were **56.69%; 29.43% and 13.88%** respectively.

These measurement criteria reflect both the geographical spread of calls, traffic conditions and ultimately a possible reduction of both life and building risks at these attended incidents.

### **Pre-Incident Planning**

GFRS continued to prepare pre-incident plans for City and County risks, with an Assistant Chief Fire Officer assigned to this task in both City and County. In addition a flood response plan was introduced jointly with Civil Defence and an External Emergency Plan was completed for the Cold Chon Upper Tier SEVESO site. Work has commenced on a Major Incident Plan (technical) for the same site and this is due for completion in early 2015.

### **Major Flooding Galway County December 2015**

In late December Galway County experienced very significant flooding in many areas such as Ballianslae, Portumna, Loughrea, Tuam, Athenry and Gort and South Galway. The Fire Service and Civil Defence mobilised in support of the local community. Senior Fire Officers attended the Local Coordination Group in County Hall, while local Fire Service Station Officers and Civil Defence Officers participated in On-Site Coordination Groups in a number of areas. Fire Service crews and Civil Defence teams mobilised to a large number of incidents throughout the period in terms of rescues, pumping of flooded buildings, and welfare and emergency transport, in support and in tandem with Council engineering personnel and outdoor staff.

### **Strategic Priority**

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

### **Fire safety and Prevention**

Work was ongoing in Fire Prevention & Fire Safety Section in 2015.

The Fire Prevention Section carried out **339** inspections of premises in 2014 as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act 1981, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, and Dangerous Substances Act – ( 285 inspections in 2014)

The Fire Prevention Section received and processed **192** public licence applications in 2015 –(246 licences in 2014)

The Fire Prevention Section dealt with **98** planning applications for Galway City and County in 2015(-126 applications in 2014)

The Fire Prevention Section carried out inspections in 2015 for the issue of Fire Safety Certificates etc under the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2007.

The Fire Prevention Section processed **85** Disability Access Certificate applications for the County in 2014. –(76 DAC applications in 2014).

The Fire Prevention Section dealt with **256** Fire Safety Certificate Applications- all types- under the Building Control Regulations, -**231** in 2014- **151** in the County Council area –(**132** in 2014) and **104** in the City Council area.-(**99** in 2014) The overall number of Fire Safety Certificate applications represent an **increase of 10%** compared with 2014 figures (23)1. These figures reflect a slow recovery in planned construction activity in the Galway area in 2015 but are still low compared to previous years.

### **Community Fire Safety**

Self contained smoke alarms with long life batteries were procured by GFRS for 250 households and were issued to households in Galway City and County for installation by community groups as in previous years. This project was completed with the assistance of the Community and Enterprise Units in both Galway City and Galway County Councils.

GFRS continued in 2015 to deliver community based fire safety talks as requested, provide fire appliance visits to schools and participate in National Fire Safety Week with the opening of fire stations to members of the public and a newspaper advertisement campaign. The Primary Schools Programme to 3<sup>rd</sup> class primary schools began again in 2015.

In 2015 Galway FRS ran a community safety campaign in association with An Garda Síochána to reduce the number of wild land fire incidents (bog, gorse, forest). This included a poster campaign (see Figure 2) and area patrols at high risk times including the use of the Garda helicopter. It is likely that this campaign played some part in the significant reduction in the numbers of this type of incident.

In 2015 Galway FRS also ran a fire safety media campaign with posters, newspaper advertisements and a number of radio interviews. The campaign reflected the National STOP fire campaign.

### **Fatal Fires 2015**

Unfortunately there were 4 fatalities due to accidental building fires, attended by Galway FRS in 2015 all in county area – (8 fatalities due to accidental fires in 2014). All fatalities occurred in domestic dwellings.

### **Major Emergency Management (MEM)**

The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of New National Framework for MEM continued its work and was chaired by Mr. Peter Gavican (Director of Services). Work is continuing by the committee in preparation of the Flood Response Plan.

The 2015-2016 Version 5 edition of Galway County Council Major Emergency Plan was updated and issued 2015.

The MEM Western Regional Working Group involving members of the Principal Emergency Services (PES) in the West Region (Local Authority Fire Services, Local Garda Divisions and HSE West Ambulance Service), continued to operate, under the auspices of MEM West Regional Steering Group. Galway County Council Headquarters continues as the main location of Local Co-Ordination Centre (LCC) for the three Principal Response Agencies (PRA's) – Galway City/County Councils, HSE West and Galway Garda Division - for Major Emergencies in the Galway City and County area.

A new external emergency plan (EEP) for the Cold Chon facility in Oranmore (an Upper Tier Seveso II Site under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances Regulations 2006) was prepared in 2014 by the relevant Primary Response Agencies (PRA) including Galway County Council (including Galway Fire and Rescue Service), Galway Garda Division, HSE West (including the National Ambulance Service) as required under Seveso II regulations. The External plan was formally signed in 2015 following consultation with the HSA

Galway County council also received partial funding for procurement of Multiple fatality unit in 2015 as shown in Fig 8



**Figure 8**      **New Mobile Multiple Fatalities Unit**

### **Civil Defence**

Galway Civil Defence, through their 5 training centres, Galway City, Oranmore, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Clonberne had an intensive year with duty activities and training, locally and centrally, through the Civil Defence College, Roscrea. A programme of training in Cardiac First Response, Occupational first Aid, Emergency First Response was ongoing through 2015.

Ongoing training through the Civil Defence College in Roscrea took place during 2015 in conjunction with the years training programme. Instructor re-certification in various disciplines within the service was also held in the college.

All units responded to their community's requests for assistance at local community events, providing first aid cover, and other assistance that was requested. New members are always welcome from their community and training will be provided for all members to the highest standard by the instructor core. The entry age of new members has increased from 16 yrs to 18 yrs of age from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014.

An Garda Síochána have utilised the services of Civil Defence in various searches around the city and county during the year. While most of the searches were land based, the boat crews were also called into service during the year.

Two Flood Responder courses were held in 2015 with 20 members trained to Flood Water Responder Level. During late 2015 those members along with other members we called to respond to the extreme weather emergency that effected Galway County in December. Members were called in to assist Galway County Council with filling, distribution of sand bags in shoring up areas at risk in particular Claregalway and the South Galway areas. They also assisted in removal of livestock at risk from farmland in the South Galway area.



For 2016, Civil Defence will continue to respond to assist the community when requested.

### **Strategic Priority**

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

### **Galway City and West of Galway Fire and Emergency Cover Review**

Galway County council agreed in late 2014 to procure and provide a New Fire station in An Cheathru Rua and 2015 was spent preparing for and implementing that decision.



**Strategic Priority**

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

**Customer Service**

Galway county Fire services processed and addressed fire prevention complaints as received on a prioritised basis

**Strategic Priority**

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

**Capital**

Galway Fire and Rescue Service received capital funding from the Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government in 2014 for the following;

- Two pre-owned CLASS b Appliances for An Cheathra Rua Fire station
- An allocation towards the cost of building works associated with the new fire station in An Cheathru Rua in a leased building from Udaras na Gaeltachta



### **Building Upgrade Works**

Building Upgrade works were completed at Tuam fire station and continued in Galway City fire station. Upgrade works commenced and completed in Athenry Fire station in 2015. Work also commenced in late 2015 in relation to the leasing and refurbishment of a new fire station in An Cheathru Rua in South Conamara.

### **Training & Recruitment**

GFRS appointed 1 new full-time fire fighter for Galway City from existing retained ranks to replace remaining full time vacancies in early 2014. Full time training was conducted over a 12 week period in conjunction with UK national training centre as part of the GFRS succession policy. GFRS also recruited and trained 9 new retained fire fighters in 2015 for New Fire service in An Cheathra rua and south Conamara area



**Figure 11    Compartment Fire Behaviour Training in Clifden**

Training continued to be delivered locally in all Fire Stations, and centrally, as in previous years as per the annual training programme for 2015. The number of training courses conducted remained comparable to those of previous years. GFRS endeavoured to ensure that all of its senior and junior fire officers and fire fighters are trained in accordance with new guidance issued by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM).

National Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) that underpin generic risk assessments in the Fire Service Ancillary Safety Statement (ASS) will form the backbone for our training plans throughout the City and County for all fire personnel.

The first 30 of the national SOGs were substantially rolled out by the end of 2012. Work began in 2013 in relation to the roll out of remaining SOGs including water safety/rescue and hazardous materials incidents, the latter including new training courses for fire fighter awareness, CPC wearers and officers. This work continued in 2015

Galway FRS also continued to send students on centralised courses conducted by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) and also provided a number of instructors and a course director for some of these courses. Galway FRS also contributed nationally to a number of working groups.

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**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES**

## Environment Services

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

### Strategic Priority

**To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise.**

- The implementation of the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration (LAPD) Programme continued in 2015, with the main focus of the programme to prevent waste and reduce the consumption of water and energy. The implementation of the programme is based on the following initiatives:
- Green Business Initiative
- Public Building Initiative
- Green Community Initiative
- Greening Festivals Initiative
- Stop Food Waste Initiative

### Strategic Priority

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

- There are civic amenity sites in Tuam, Clifden and Ballinasloe, leased for a 3 year period to Barna Waste. Bring Banks are located at 90 centres throughout the County for the collection of glass, beverage cans for recycling and clothing. Timpeallacht na nOilean continues to operate an integrated waste management scheme for the Aran Islands, on a partnership arrangement with the Council.
- Galway County Council were asked by the Department of Environment in 2015 to assist in site management of Kilconnell Landfill (formerly Greenstar) and, working with the EPA

and Department, operate the landfill for the acceptance of waste for a defined period of time in the 2 remaining cells and in parallel, commence the capital works for the permanent capping of the existing cells.

### **Strategic Priority**

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

- 34 inspections were carried out on waste permitted sites. Covert CCTV was installed at two sites and overt CCTV at 4 sites. Fixed penalty notices were issued at bring bank sites and 2 prosecutions were secured . There was a significant improvement noted in amenities at existing bottle banks and reduction in litter/illegal dumping recorded by community wardens at bring bank sites.
- 122 inspections were carried out at discharge licence sites and warning letters and prosecution proceedings were issued as required. There was a significant reduction noted in the risk associated with unauthorised and poorly managed discharge licence sites with approximately 50% of licences fully compliant with their conditions.
- There was a significant increase in awareness among the general public in relation to location and maintenance of their on-site wastewater treatment system and 91 inspections were carried out in accordance with the requirements of the NIP. .
- Contracts were put in place for check & audit monitoring and raw water monitoring. 844 samples were taken of PWS, Public and Private GWS, with PWS 99% compliant with the standards set in the drinking water regulations.
- Investigations were carried out in response to complaints received from the National Illegal Dumping line, general public, Council staff and EPA referral. There was improved management of complaints system and significant reduction in number of open complaints. 1243 complaints were resolved.

### **Strategic Priority**

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

- Blue Flag status was awarded to the following beaches in 2015,  
The Long Point, Loughrea  
Traught, Kinvara  
Tra an Doilin, An Cheathru Rua  
Tra Mor Coill Rua, Indreabhan,  
Tra Cill Mhuirbhigh, Inis Mor
- Green Coast Awards were received for six beaches in 2015  
Tra Poll Na gCaorach, Inis Oirr  
East End Inishboffin  
Dumhach, Inisboffin  
Inis Oirr, Aran Islands  
Aillebrack, Ballyconneely  
Renvyle.
- There are 234 burial grounds situated throughout the County. The Council, with the participation of the many local burial ground committees, carry out works of maintenance and improvements.  
An annual grant of between €600 - €300 was provided to committees who maintain burial grounds in their area and 159 committees were awarded a grant.  
  
Extensions and improvement works were carried out at a number of burial grounds during 2015.
- The Council provides a Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service under the terms of its 5 year service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.  
There are 11 local abattoirs in the county (3 of which are Poultry approved by the Council under Irish and EC legislation. These premises slaughter cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry under Council supervision. The Council also supervises 9 approved meat processing premises in both the city and county. A further two premises are registered.
- Animal welfare cases involving dogs, cattle and sheep were investigated in conjunction with Gardai, Dept of Agriculture and welfare groups. Dog Control continues to be monitored.
- The Council provides a pound facility at Ballinasloe (mainly horses). The Council veterinary service liaised with Housing in the implementation of the Control of Horses Act.

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

### Overview of Energy Usage in 2015

Galway County Council actively pursued our Energy Management Action Programme (Energy MAP) in 2015. In 2015 the main energy consumption across our range of services was on electricity (offices & other buildings, public lighting), transport fuel, and heating provision to our buildings and facilities.

The most recent summary data is as follows:

2015 Electricity - Total Annual kWh	7,757,936
2015 Road Fuels (diesel / petrol / biofuel) - Total Annual kWh	7,040,602
2015 Heating Fuels (Gas/ oil/ biomass etc) - Total Annual kWh	4,998,523
2014 Electricity - Total Annual kWh	7,595,110
2014 Road Fuels (diesel / petrol / biofuel) - Total Annual kWh	6,978,454
2014 Heating Fuels (Gas/ oil/ biomass etc) - Total Annual kWh	5,218,429

### Actions Undertaken in 2015

In 2015 Galway County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

- Continuing the Social Housing retrofit scheme (attic and wall insulation), with 134 upgrades being completed. This equates to an annual saving for the householders of 431,480 kWh domestic energy consumption. In addition external windows and doors were upgraded to 27 dwellings, equating to annual savings for the householders of 48,600 kWh domestic energy consumption.
- Lighting upgrades at Aras an Chontae generating 20,592 kWh electrical energy savings annually.
- Installation of 22kW of solar photo-voltaic units to generate electricity at Aras an Chontae saving 19,910 kWh annually.
- Galway County Council participated in the SEAI Better Energy Community grant scheme (grant totalling €18,209). In addition Galway County Council enabled 6 community energy efficiency projects to avail of 40% grants (total €42,835)

Altogether, these and other energy measures are saving Galway County Council 173 MWh annually, with a potential saving to households of 130 MWh annually. (1 MWh =1000 kWh)

### Actions Planned for 2016

In 2016, Galway County Council intends to further improve our energy performance by undertaking the following initiatives:

- Complete a detailed inventory of public lighting
- Continue implementation of energy efficient public lighting schemes.
- Improve energy performance at Galway Fire Station through upgrades to insulation, lighting installation of solar photovoltaic units.
- Improve energy performance at Oranmore library through upgrades to doors and lighting and installation of solar photovoltaic units
- Continue with social housing energy efficiency retrofit scheme across County Galway.

**Strategic Priority**

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

- The Environment Awareness Officers were involved in promoting environmental awareness through information meetings with community, voluntary groups and tidy towns committees. Environmental Information packs and leaflets, press releases and radio and TV advertising on environmental issues were produced and circulated.
- Information meetings and workshops on waste prevention, home composting, energy conservation and water conservation have been delivered throughout County Galway in conjunction with community groups, voluntary groups, tidy towns committees and the Library Service. The Galway Food Waste Prevention Programme was also delivered to communities, which assists householders reduce food waste quantities.
- The implementation of the Green Schools programme is on-going and has been very successful to date with 190 schools being awarded the Green Flag in the County.
- Anti-Litter Initiatives such as the National Spring Clean, the Adopt A Road Initiative, the Galway Dog Fouling Campaign and the Gum litter Campaign have been implemented throughout the county.

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## Water Services

Galway County Council continued to progress water services projects throughout 2015 on behalf of Irish Water under the Service Level Agreement. In collaboration with Irish Water, major capital projects have been progressed through various phases to provide upgraded, or in some cases, new schemes to towns in the county. In addition, significant work was progressed under the Minor Projects programmes to enhance and optimise existing treatment plants and networks. Continued improvements in infrastructure in 2015 have led to enhanced water and sewerage treatment facilities, which in turn, provide enhanced protection for the environment, improved services for consumers and clean potable drinking water for all users.

### Strategic Priority

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

A contract for the provision of a new Waste Water Treatment Plant for the Clifden Sewerage Scheme was completed and commissioned by the end of 2015. This treatment plant contract followed the provision of a surface water sewer network, which facilitated the separation of surface water from the existing sewers.



*Clifden Waste Water Treatment Plant, Ardbear.*

At Claregalway and Milltown, the construction of new waste water treatment plants also progressed. Construction of collection networks was completed in both towns in the year previous. Commissioning of both plants is on schedule to take place early in 2016.



*Control Building & Inlet Works at Claregalway WWTP*

Construction of a new treatment plant also commenced at Kinvara. The plant is located north of Kinvara town in the townland of Ballybranagan. A contract to upgrade the existing collection network also went to tender towards the end of the year.

### **Strategic Priority**

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

Approval was granted to proceed to tender for a new treatment plant at Oughterard. It is hoped that construction of this plant may commence towards the end of 2016. Planning for other schemes also progressed with the appointment of consultants for Athenry, Mountbellew and Ballygar sewerage schemes. The appointment of consultants was approved for the Tuam RWSS Extensions project which proposes to extend the treated water supply from Luimnagh to serve Loughrea and the catchment of the Dunmore/Glenamaddy water supply schemes in the first phase.

To date the water conservation programme has significantly reduced the unaccounted for water figures in the County. Stage 3 of the programme is continuing with 11.2km of rehabilitation works in Oranmore, Headford, Ballinasloe and Athenry substantially completed by the end of 2015. The

tender process for the next phase of works, 19km of watermains in An Cheathrú Rua, An Spidéal, Loughrea and Inishmore was advanced during 2015 and the successful contractor commenced works in March 2016. The rehabilitation works in conjunction with increased detection and repair rates are resulting in continuing improvements in the unaccounted for water figures in the County.

**Strategic Priority**

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

The Council provides support to the group water scheme sector which allows communities to sustain themselves and manage their own affairs into the future. The Council also provides support to group schemes through subsidy grants which are funded by the Department of the Environment and in 2015 this figure was €2.8 million. The Department also provides grant assistance towards specific source protection works undertaken by Group Water Schemes. The aim of the grant is to assist schemes in the provision of a Source Protection Plan, and the Council processed a number of these grants in 2015.



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**PLANNING, AND COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES UNIT**



## **PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT**

### **PLANNING SERVICES**

In 2015, the Planning & Sustainable Development Unit continued to promote and support development within the county so that our customers can live in vibrant communities, where cultural differences are valued and encouraged, where everyone can be actively involved in economic, social and cultural life, where people have access to an acceptable level of services and infrastructure.

#### **Strategic Priority**

**To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.**

#### **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Planning and Community SPC had 4 meetings in 2015.  
The main policy issues discussed during the year included:-

- Review of the Development Contribution Scheme
- Local Area Plans
- Planning Policy issues
- Tidy town initiatives
- European region of gastronomy
- Social inclusion week

#### **Strategic Priority**

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

**FORWARD PLANNING**

- The Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 and associated Appendices and Environmental/Supporting documents came into effect 23 February 2015.
- The Headford Local Area Plan 2015-2021 came into effect on 26 October 2015.
- The Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015-2021 came into effect on 19 November 2015.
- The Draft Portumna Local Plan 2016-2022 went on display from 31 July 2015 to 11 September 2015 and 22 Submissions were received.
- The Strategic Environmental Report for the Local Economic Community Plan was finalised.

**DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION**

1624 Planning Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2015.

1297 Planning decisions were made in 2015.

€622,278 was received in Planning Fees in 2015.

**ENFORCEMENT MEASURES**

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

No. of complaints received in 2015	299
Warning Letters served	172
Enforcement Notice served	68
No. of new cases referred to Law Agent and external Solicitors for Summary Proceedings	16

**BUILDING CONTROL**

397 Commencement notices were submitted via the online Building Control Management system.

**TAKING IN CHARGE**

The Unit has continued to monitor and process applications for the Taking in Charge of Housing estates under the guidelines for 'Taking in Charge of Developments'.

15 Estates were recommended to Roads section for taking in charge in 2015.

10 New Applications for Taking in Charge were received in 2015.

The Building Control staff continues to work with the Department of the Environment, Health & Safety Authority, developers, Receivers and financial institutions in seeking the completion of unfinished estates.

## Strategic Priority

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

### HERITAGE

During 2015, the Co. Council continued its work to promote awareness, knowledge and appreciation of biodiversity. The Heritage Officer works to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in the heritage of County Galway. The following are some of the projects undertaken in 2015:

- **Lough Derg Heritage Project** – Launch of the ‘Go Wild in Lough Derg’ Natural Heritage trail and associated seminar was held in April in the Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna. During Heritage Week in August, a Bus Tour ‘Go Explore: Lough Derg’ travelled around the lake and returned back to Portumna. Worked commenced on a Cultural Trail booklet for Lough Derg.
- **Ecclesiastical Heritage Trail for Ballinasloe Electoral Area** – An Ecclesiastical Heritage Audit was undertaken for the Ballinasloe Electoral Area documenting and creating a database of the rich artwork that is contained in the churches.



- **Reading the Landscape Course Phase 2:** Worked with several community groups who were involved in Part 1 of the Course in 2014 and also with new groups working

on heritage projects in the county. They learned field skills and used same to upload content onto the new Galway Community Heritage website. The 'Reading the Landscape' book was launched in Menlough in September 2015.

- **Community Archaeologist Project** – The role of the Community Archaeologist is to provide advice and information on archeology in the county. The Community Archaeologist undertook in 2015 community archaeology projects in the Slieve Aughty area of the County, Woodford, Tuam, and Moycullen and a number of very successful seminars were held during the year.
- **Biodiversity Project** – The project operates as a partnership Project between the County Council through the Heritage Office and the Applied Ecology Unit, NUI, Galway in conjunction with Galway Rural Development and Galway County Heritage Forum supported by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council in order to undertake projects such as producing further biodiversity Action Plans for towns and villages in the county, the development of an invasive species strategy, graveyard management conservation for a select number of graveyards and the provision of an education and awareness programme for the communities in the county.
- **Athenry Walled Towns Day** – Athenry Walled Town Day 2015 was held on Sunday 23 August and it was a family focused heritage and educational fun day where all sectors of the community could gain a greater awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the Medieval Town Walls and the town of Athenry. The events were programmed to suit all age groups and had a strong educational and awareness building theme. Circa 5000 people attended the event coming from the local community and visitors from outside of the area and county as well. Support and assistance to hold the fun day was received from local groups including Athenry Tourism Group, Athenry Tidy Towns and Community Council.



- **Athenry Ireland's Town Walls: Past, Present and Future Conference** was held on 18 June 2015 in Athenry Community Centre. Over 80 people attended this event as well as the launch of the booklet entitled *Athenry Town: Past, Present and Future*.



- **Athenry Town Walls Capital Works** – Funding was received from the Heritage Council towards this project. Work for 2015 concentrated on the south tower and adjoining walls and conservation works were undertaken.



- **Athenry Medieval Town & Loughrea Medieval Town 3 D Modelling project:** The Heritage Office worked with Athenry Walled Town Day Committee and Loughrea Medieval Committee on the development of Phase 1 of a 3d model of both towns. This work was undertaken by Realsim.
- **Loughrea Medieval Town Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan -** Work commenced on the development of this Plan in consultation with the Loughrea Medieval Festival Group and the appointed Consultants.

- **Decade of Commemoration programme:** Further development of a memory mapping project and a bi-lingual website for the Decade of Commemoration was undertaken. Other projects included:
  - Commencement of a publication on 1916 for 2016.
  - Cumann na mBan publication produced and launched in December 2015.
  - Worked with Teagasc/Galway Co Co on the Farming & Country Life 1916 event to be held June 2016,
  - Worked with local community groups on the Ballymoe Commemorative Garden and the Athenry 1916 Garden and also with various community groups who were working on different 2016 projects.
  - Provided assistance to RTE re. filming programmes in the County re. 1916.
- **Capital of Culture 2020 Bid** – Worked with the Capital of Culture Committee in relation to the Capital of Culture bid and organised a number of meetings and events with the heritage sector in the county and the Galway 2020 office.
- **Loughrea Medieval Festival** - This 3 day event was run by Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee with the Heritage Office from 28 – 30 August and over 15,000 people attend this 3 day event. Events were held throughout the town and aimed at creating awareness, knowledge and understanding of the rich medieval heritage of Loughrea.





- **Golden Mile Competition** – The Golden Mile Awards night took place in the Claregalway Hotel on 17 December 2015 and the Golden Mile Calendar was launched at the Awards ceremony. In 2015, 9 groups and organisations entered the competition. They came from all parts of the county, ranging from Tuam area, Ballinasloe area, Loughrea area, and Inis Oírr to Conamara. The Golden Mile of Galway calendar was launched on the night.

**Golden Mile 2015: The 2015 Award winners were Lisheennaheilta, Glenmaddy:**



- **Community Events** – Assistance, advice, and support was also given to numerous Town and Community events in 2015 such as:
  - In September, the popular ‘Feile na gCloch’ weekend was held in Inis Oírr with over

- 65 participants from all over the world attending the weekend stone wall workshop.
- Many heritage events were held during Heritage Week in August. Tours were arranged by the Heritage Section for Heritage Week: Discover Conamara, and the Loughrea Medieval Tour.
  - Worked with Milltown Tidy Towns who developed a heritage audit for the area, worked on producing a heritage brochure, app, brochure, mapboard etc. Assisted Tuam Tidy Towns in the development of a town trail.
  - Assisted Killimor Heritage Group on development of a website and Facebook page for heritage and also with content of same.
  - Assisted Ballygar Tidy Towns with various projects including street naming project and gates project.
  - Provided advice and assistance to Oranmore, Cornamona, Maree, Bushypark, Letterfrack, Williamstown, Clontuskert, Inis Oirr, Killererin, Abbey, Ballinasloe World War1 Group, Ada English Group, St. Bridget's Hospital Heritage Group, Moycullen Heritage Group, Old Tuam Society, Glinsk NS, and Clarenbridge Heritage Groups, Gortmore School, Rosmuc, Claregalway Museum and Heritage Group on local heritage projects and research.

In addition, the following Conferences/events were held in 2015:

- **'Galway's Living Landscapes Part 2: Trees and Woodland'** was launched in Coole Park on 19 March 2015.
- **Oughterard Conference: 'Conemara: Famine & The Landscape'** – was held in Oughterard Courthouse 23-25 April. This conference was developed by the Heritage Office in partnership with Oughterard Heritage Group. Over 250 people in total attended the various events which included local artists response to their landscape – they held an exhibition entitled 'M'áit Dhúchais - My Native Place'; a heritage conference and a bus tour with Michael Gibbons uncovering the landscape of Conemara.
- **Galway's Changing Military History Landscape Conference** – was held 17 October 2015. Worked with Loughrea Memorial Group on developing and delivering this project.
- **Next Stop: Stories for Galway's Railways** - This is a series of 4 short 5 minute films that was developed in partnership with Galway Film Centre. The Next Stop shorts were shown at Sky Road Film and TV Festival at 12.00 on Sunday 11 October in the Station House Theatre Clifden.





- ICAN – Community Heritage website** - The Heritage Office worked in partnership with the Museum of County Life Castlebar to develop a County Heritage website called [www.galwaycommunityheritage.org](http://www.galwaycommunityheritage.org). This project was officially launched in May 2015. Ongoing training is provided to the member groups and new members are being added. The website had 22,000 hits in its first 4 week period of existence.



- Tuke Emigration Scheme Project** - Work continued with the Clifden 2012 Group and Oughterard Heritage Group, two emigration projects have been initiated re. Tuke and emigration in Conemara in the 1880s. Worked with Clifden 2012 Group on Conamara Descendants Gathering in September 2015.

- **‘Come Here Til I Tell Ya!’** – This 6 week oral heritage workshop was held in partnership with the Old Tuam Society from April to June 2015.
- **Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County** continued with several graveyards being mapped and memorial inscriptions being recorded and up loaded to [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie).
- The **Beo Schools Project** in consultation with DERI and Galway Education Centre is ongoing.
- **Heritage Grants** - A sum of €17,500 was distributed to forty-four heritage groups in the County to assist in the delivery of their built, natural or cultural heritage projects, under the Galway county Council Heritage Grant Scheme in 2015.

## ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION 2015

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

The Conservation Unit continued in 2015 to promote awareness of historic buildings and places and the traditional skills and materials necessary to secure their survival into the future. Best practice in conservation and traditional skills was promoted through various conservation projects, and in cooperation with national bodies and community groups in securing the conservation of traditional buildings of special interest.

The following are some of the activities in 2015:

- Identified, evaluated and provided advice on structures, groups of structures, areas and other features of architectural heritage significance and provided advice to owners and occupiers of historic structures on good practice and on the availability of assistance, including financial assistance, for such conservation.
- Preplanning consultations and advice given on architectural conservation within the local authority and to the statutory and non-statutory bodies.
- Assessed structures on Record of Protected Structures (RPS) with a view to issuing Declarations as to works that require planning permission and provide pre planning advice to owners /occupiers. Reported and advised on planning applications where architectural heritage issues arise.
- Monitored the state of repair of structures on RPS, and as necessary, made recommendations on the need, if any, for the planning authority to take enforcement action.
- Inspected and assessed structures for inclusion on RPS, including a Section 55 review of proposed additions and deletions.
- Carried out Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) assessments, in particular, of historic demesnes.
- Maintained the Architectural Inventory System (AIS) database of protected structures in liaison with GIS section.

- Liaison with community groups and statutory bodies regarding the conservation of graveyards and condition surveys carried out.
- Liaised with local communities and tourism development bodies regarding Tidy Towns.
- Liaison with Galway 2020 bid, Europa Nostra and ICOMOS.

### **Traditional Skills Training**

As a continuation of the Traditional Skills Pilot Training Scheme which was held in association with Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna and Roscommon /Galway Educational Training Board in 2014, GRETB continued in 2015 with a 25 week stonewall training course with a specified lime training 4 week addition with 14 participants from across the county.



### **Historic Assets Committee**

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

### **Former St. Coleman’s Church, Gort (Gort Library)**

The Historic Assets Committee were successful in achieving funding, from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, under the Structures at Risk Scheme to undertake urgent repair works to the parapets and pinnacles of the spire of the former St Colman’s Church, Gort now housing the public library.



*Repairs to parapets and pinnacles*



*SW pinnacle - stone graft repair almost invisible*

### St. Mary's Athenry

St. Mary's Athenry successfully achieved funding Galway Rural Development LEADER funded conservation measures in 2014, with community support from Athenry Community Trust and these works were completed in 2015.



### Monivea

Urgent stabilisation works were carried out to the bell tower of the former church in Monivea.



Before: works on the Bell Tower in Former Church in Monivea



During: the works on the Bell Tower on the Former Church in Monivea



*Monivea Bell Tower - Stonework stabilised and secured for the future*

### **Ballinasloe Town Library**

Galway County Council's major project of converting the former Convent of Mercy in Ballinasloe town centre to use as a public library was completed in 2015 and opened its doors to the public. The conservation of the attached former chapel and its conversion to a multi-functional space was a welcome reuse of a landmark building.



The former convent chapel with the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century insertions stripped out



During: Scaffolding erected to allow access to facilitate repair of the painted plaster panels of the interior of the roof



After: the completed former chapel interior set up for a conference.





Works ongoing at Ballinasloe Library



Completed works at Ballinasloe Library



In addition, the Historic Assets Committee also supported the interest of local communities in redundant buildings in their area, for example, the former St Andrew's, Kilconly.

Conservation is managing change to allow a building to continue to contribute to the social and economic life of the town, while retaining those elements which give it character and special interest.

**Strategic Priority**

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

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

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

Planning clinics were held weekly at County Hall.

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

## Community Enterprise and Economic Development

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

### Strategic Priority

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

- Facilitated the Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- Facilitated the preparation of the Expression of Interest and Local Development Strategy for the LEADER programme 2014-2020 on behalf of the Galway County LCDC, in partnership with 2 Local Development Companies
- Organised Vision and Goal setting workshop for the Galway County Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016 – 2022 which was attended by over 80 participants from key stakeholder and community organisations. Socio-Economic Statement and 10 High Level Goals were developed and the Public Consultation stage was completed. Presented to the 5 Municipal Districts and developed detailed objectives and measureable actions
- Developed the integrated Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016 – 2022 for County Galway in line with Departmental guidelines
- Established Advisory Steering Group (ASG) which met 4 times during 2015 to assist with the preparation and drafting of the integrated Galway County Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016 – 2022
- 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. New service established under Service Level Agreement with Galway County Council
- Partnered on the UNESCO City of Film 2015 programme
- Supported Galway's application and bid to become European Capital of Culture 2020.

## Strategic Priority

To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.

- Initiated the setup of the Public Participation Network (PPN) which is the successor to the Community and Voluntary Forum. Nomination and election processes were completed for the PPN Secretariat as well as PPN representation to the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) and the Sports Partnership. Furthermore linkage groups aligned to the SPCs and the Sports Partnership were established and a training / capacity building workshop for PPN reps in terms of their respective committee roles as well as their broader functioning responsibilities was held in October 2015. Membership at end of 2015 was 570 groups
- Organised Community Engagement Conference in conjunction with the Public Participation Network (PPN) in County Galway to identify actions that could be undertaken to address key issues faced by communities in County Galway as part of the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016 – 2022



- Economic Development & Enterprise SPC established and 4 meetings held during 2015. Programme of work outlined and agreed for this SPC.

## Strategic Priority

**To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise.**

- Partner for Meet West 2015 which took place in Roscommon in 2015. Over 250 delegates attending over 2 days.
- Further developed the Made in Galway initiative to support local enterprise to access markets. Held 4 Made in Galway EXPO events in Galway in 2015. This initiative was winner of the Public Sector Magazine Award for Services to Enterprise in 2015
- Lead partner in developing and supporting Galway’s collaborative bid to become European Region of Gastronomy 2018. Officially announced as a candidate to become European Region of Gastronomy 2018 at a consultative stakeholder briefing which was held in September 2015 and attended by in excess of 100 participants. Ongoing engagement in relation to the development of the key focus areas for the Bid Book entitled **“From the Ground Up – Feeding Our Future”** and significant engagement and consultation with stakeholders and communities to raise awareness of the project and get buy in. The website for the project [www.galwaygastronomy.ie](http://www.galwaygastronomy.ie) developed and updated in 2015



- Supported community enterprise projects and initiatives that are employment creating. Headford Hot Desks, BACD Enterprise Centre, Clonberne Enterprise Centre.
- Implemented actions assigned to Galway County Council in the Regional Action Plan for Jobs
- Supported business start-ups through the Galway Local Enterprise Office
- Supported events that provide marketplace for Galway companies (Food Fairs/Farmers/Town Markets) i.e. Local Christmas market of Galway Producers, Producers market at Claregalway Garden Show, Galway Food Festival, Claregalway Christmas Market, Kinvara Farmers Market, Bia Bofinne, Bia Lover Festival
- Launched the Economic Baseline reports and accompanying website [www.galwaydashboard.ie](http://www.galwaydashboard.ie) for County Galway & City with Galway City Council. Sectoral reports were prepared by the Whitaker Institute in NUI Galway for 10 sectors in Galway, outlining international, national and regional trends and highlighting potential opportunities for growth in the different sectors in Galway
- Continued to promote Galway as a location for investment and job creation.
- Compiled, published and circulated a brochure of Festivals taking place in the County for Tourism promotion.
- Maintained the on-line Calendar of Events on [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) promoting over 500 events taking place in the County as the point of information for visitors to County Galway.
- Continued to promote Galway through the destination programme of Fáilte Ireland
- Supported the Galway Science and Technology Festival, SCCUL Enterprise Awards, Local Enterprise Office LOCAL Food & Craft Gift Fair and the Foodie Forum
- The Unit co-ordinated the participation of Galway County Council in the ERDF BMW Gateways and Hubs Development Fund
- 6 projects approved for funding under the pilot Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) initiative with a total of €207,500 secured by Galway County Council from the DECLG
- Initiated research for the development of a Tourism Strategy for Galway and conducted consultation with a range of Tourism stakeholders, formulating a long term Tourism strategy approach for Galway
- Secured funding of over €500,000 for Tourism infrastructure projects in Portumna and supported tourism developments in partnership with the Lough Derg Marketing Strategy Group
- Supported a number of overseas Tourism marketing and promotion events e.g. Milwaukee, Laurient
- Prepared and submitted an application to Enterprise Ireland for a Rural and Food Innovation Hub, Athenry in conjunction with Teagasc and SCCUL
- Research on the future potential of the site at Carnmore is undertaken.

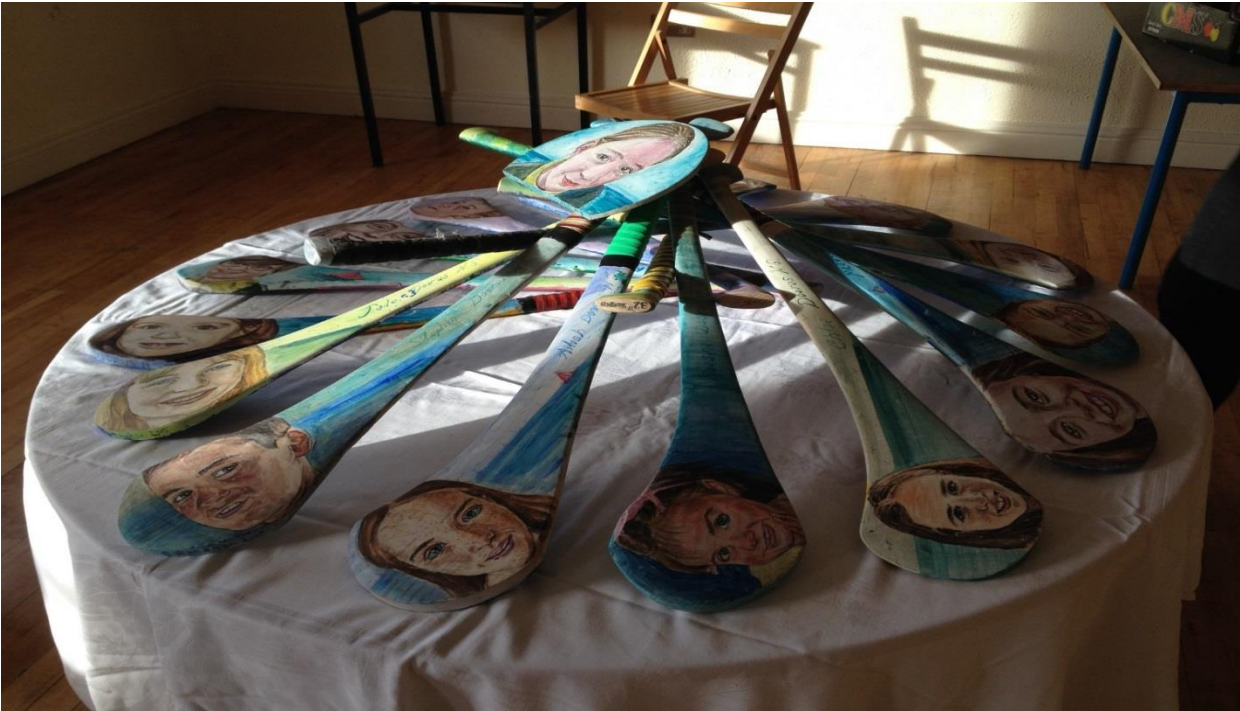
**Strategic Priority**

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

- Invested in communities through the Arts Grants and Awards
- Supported development and promotion of new arts activity by Artists resident in County Galway by investing €16,650 on Individual Artists Bursaries
- Provided an information and advice service to community groups, individual artists
- Supported access and development of projects in Public Health Facilities, Schools, and Communities and with ‘at risk’ youth groups using film, visual arts, theatre in partnership with other public and community groups and Arts Council funding
- Delivered an Arts and Disability programme.



- Delivered the Artist in Schools Scheme to 8 schools in County Galway.



- Completed a full programme of Age Friendly projects for older people which included Bealtaine and Burning Bright projects (77 projects and events)
- Delivered Child Protection training (24 artists attended)
- Delivered an Amateur Drama Training Programme to drama groups in County Galway
- Delivered writing/storytelling/drama workshops to primary schools
- Hosted Culture Night for County Galway with over 90 events taking place in 31 towns and villages throughout the County
- Arts & Libraries Programme
- Delivered Professional Practice Seminars to Artists
- Supported the development of creative economy [www.screenwest.ie](http://www.screenwest.ie)
- Promoted the County as a location for film production
- Finale event of the Galway Music Education Partnership Composer in Residence Project
- Supported Aras Eanna (Arts Centre Inis Oírr)
- Supported Galway's bid to become the European Capital of Culture 2020
- Worked with and supported the Decade of Commemorations Steering group during 2015. The Unit provided support and assistance on the Community Participation strand of the programme, through facilitated community consultation workshops that took place in Tuam, Oughterard and Loughrea. The Unit played a key role in organising these workshops and in activating local community groups and contacts to attend. The Unit was the lead contact on the 'Community Commemorative Grant Scheme', which provided funding to 28 community initiatives to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

- Ongoing support given to groups applying for funding as part of National Year of Design 2015
- Public Art Programme – ‘You are here’ in Tuam launched on Culture Night in September and the ‘Fan Nóimead’ project was completed in January 2015; a collaborative project with Headford Men’s shed resulting in a pavilion structure being built using traditional boat building skills and now placed in Moyne Villa F.C in Headford.
- As part of the Festivals Support Programme 2 training seminars took place in May 2015, with the circulation / promotion of the Galway Events Guide - a printed booklet containing all Galway Festivals and Events for 2015

**Strategic Priority**

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

- In 2015 all the community supports/grants provided by Galway County Council are administrated in a co-ordinated fashion. This involved heritage grants schemes, community grants schemes and arts grants schemes.
- The unit is undergoing a review on allocation of work as it absorbs new programmes and schemes. The Putting People First report contains proposals that will involve a significant role for Local Government in Enterprise and Economic development and in facilitating the development of new Local Community Development Committee in local development and the Unit is reviewing its structure in light of this. The Unit is working with other units of the Council on various programmes as outlined above and will continue to do so.



### Strategic Priority

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

- Four communities (Ballinasloe Active Retirement Association, Ballinderreen, Headford and Inis Mór) entered into the 2015 Pride of Place competition
- Continued to work with Tidy Towns groups to progress them within the National Tidy Towns competition. Commissioned particular expertise to work with Tidy Towns groups by organising half day workshops in each Municipal District to take place in early 2016
- Pilot Cleaner Communities initiative took place in 2015. 65 applications across four categories (Sweep your Street, Best Planted Area, Coast Boast and Burial Grounds). Judging took place over the Summer/Autumn period and an awards ceremony was held in November
- Rolled out the second year of the Community Tourism Diaspora Fund to provide support to local and community event organisers and activities / projects that will harness Diaspora links for the benefit of local and community tourism. 27 projects supported in County Galway in 2015
- Approximately €378,500 was approved for projects across 11 categories under the Community Support Scheme in 2015. The funding approved is across a number of categories which includes Economic Development, Tidy Towns, Social Inclusion, Upgrading of Facilities, Youth, Sport, Arts, Heritage and Promotion of the Irish language
- €15,000 was approved in funding for 28 projects under the Centenary of the 1916 Rising Community Commemorative Grant Scheme
- The Unit facilitated continued to facilitate 29 projects supported under the Ballinasloe Special Capital Grant Scheme with a total funding approved amounting to €1,175,682.
- Following the dissolution of Ballinasloe Town Council the CEED Unit implemented a number of projects approved for funding in the 2015 Ballinasloe Municipal District budget. These included Ballinasloe Tidy Towns, Ballinasloe Town Hall, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Christmas lights, Ballinasloe Town Twinning and the October Fair Dinner and Ballinasloe Town Benchmarking Team.
- Organised the Cathaoirleach's Community Awards 2015.

- Facilitated the County Galway Traveller Interagency Group
- Secured €10,750 from the Department of Justice & Equality to carry out Traveller Projects and re-establish the Traveller Interagency Group
- Supported other committees involved in Social Inclusion activities such as the LGBT Interagency Working Group and Strengthening Families Programme in Conamara.
- Organised the Bealtaine Festival for County Galway
- Co-ordinated Traveller Pride Week on behalf of County Galway Traveller Interagency Group
- Organised Social Inclusion Week 2015
- Organised Culture Night for County Galway
- Worked with the Customer Service Officers Group to ensure Social Inclusion is embedded into Customer Service
- Co-ordinated and facilitated the Galway Age Friendly Programme, supported the Galway Age Friendly Alliance, Implementation Group and the Older Persons Council
- Supported the Galway Age Friendly Older Persons Council in updating and producing the Directory of Services for Older People in Galway City and County, which was launched by the Minister of State Kathleen Lynch T.D. in November 2015
- Organised Age Wise training for Galway County Council staff, including Area Office staff, Library staff and Elected Members
- Continued to support the implementation of actions under the Integration and Diversity Strategy for County Galway 2013-2017
- Participated in the European Integration Fund – supporting the provision of training and capacity building to Third Country Nationals to complete an Essential Skills NQF Level 6 qualification; NQF Level 3 English as a Second Language qualification; supporting the provision of capacity building supports to Ethnic Minority community groups throughout the County
- Initiation of a programme of lunchtime research seminars in conjunction with the Community Knowledge Initiative in NUI Galway, focusing on issues in Interculturalism and Integration (3 seminars held in 2015)
- Support for a day of celebration of achievements in relation to actions implemented under the Integration and Diversity Strategy for County Galway achieved during 2015, as part of Social Inclusion Week
- Continued to provide support to Comhairle na nÓg on a Countywide basis
- Administration of funding and co-ordination of activities under the Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund
- Administration of funding and activities to support the National Comhairle na nÓg campaign of Let's Go Mental

- Supported the holding of four Local Area open events on the theme of promoting “Positive Mental Health in Young People”
- Facilitated hosting of Comhairle na nÓg County Annual General Meeting and Let’s Go Mental event in Claregalway Castle in October 2015 which was attended by over 220 young people between the ages of 12 and 18 years
- Co-ordinated a Comhairle na nÓg Adult Steering Committee which met 3 times to oversee the priorities and actions of the Comhairle na nÓg County wide youth committee of 26 young people
- Organised training sessions in filming with the Galway Film Centre as part of Galway UNESCO City of Film. Worked with Galway Film Centre to provide young filmmakers to record other activities during the year including filming Galway Capital of Culture Speak Out on Food in Claregalway Castle (May 2015); recording of participation and workshops at Galway County Community Engagement Conference (June 2015); recording of youth consultation and participation in National Recreation Week and National Play Day events in Rinville Park (July 2015)
- Facilitated attendance of young people from County Galway to take up opportunities to represent the voice of young people in Galway at various consultations and events including Dáil na nÓg.
- Draft of new Strategic Plan for the Galway Sports Partnership prepared
- Operational Plan 2015 for the Galway Sports Partnership implemented
- Sourced funding from Sport Ireland and local resources to fund the activities of Galway Sports Partnership throughout 2015
- Implemented the core programmes of Sport Ireland – Buntús, Safeguarding 1,2 & 3, Be Active after School Activity Programme, Women in Sport, Meet & Train, Walking Clubs
- Delivered Child Protection training to over 300 people in sports clubs.
- Implemented the School Hall Athletics programme in primary schools in March and April and attended the National School Hall Athletics Finals in Athlone.
- Continued Girls Active programme in 2<sup>nd</sup> level schools which was ongoing throughout the year.
- Provided an information and advice service to sports clubs /organisations
- Continued to implement the Sports Inclusion Disability Programme throughout Galway, including Disability training through the Disability Inclusion Training programme from CARA, Tralee and new ‘Judo Assist’ sport for children with disabilities
- Organised and ran the Annual Galway Sports Partnership 10k
- Assisted with the coordination of Galway Bike Week activities for 2015 and organised activities with local communities, clubs and organisations – assisted and coordinated 28 events in Galway City & County
- Implemented a national pilot ‘Men on the Move’ fitness programme in 3 locations Oughterard, Ballinasloe and Doughiska as part of a HSE funded national pilot programme where 90 men in the three locations took part each week.
- Organised and presented prizes in three categories in the first implementation of the FIT TOWNS initiative in 2015
- Organised and ran Operation Transformation in January 2015
- Completed our club/school/and sporting organisations databases in 2015
- Implemented the Community Walking Programme in Clifden in 2015

- Secured funding from Sport Ireland for a Community Coaching Programme for unemployed people.

**Strategic Priority**

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

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

## HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

### ***HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT***

The key functions of the Human Resources Department is to support Line Managers and Employees in achieving efficient and effective delivery of Galway County Council's corporate and business objectives; promote a positive working environment; manage workforce planning, training and development of staff, staff recruitment, delivery of statutory and non-statutory staff welfare policies and procedures; maintain stable industrial relations and create an equitable, consultative and supportive working environment.

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

### ***Workforce management/ Recruitment***

Staffing levels have been greatly reduced in Galway County Council in recent years due to retirements, voluntary redundancy and the public service recruitment embargo which has been in place since March 2009. The recruitment embargo means there is a continued embargo on the filling of public service posts by recruitment. Exceptions to this will arise in very limited circumstances only.

In this context, workforce management is a critical function carried out by the Human Resources Department as it facilitates the re-allocation of staff throughout the organisation to achieve balance between service areas in accordance with organisational priorities, the council's mobility policy, recent national agreements, including the Haddington Road Agreement 2013-2016. Achieving this balance, while maintaining service delivery and planning for further local government reform, is a significant challenge for the council. Consequent on the changes in the sector i.e. abolition of town councils, establishment of Irish Water, a detailed workforce plan was submitted to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in March 2014. The objective of the Workforce Plan is to provide services effectively and efficiently with the staff level available and within budget.

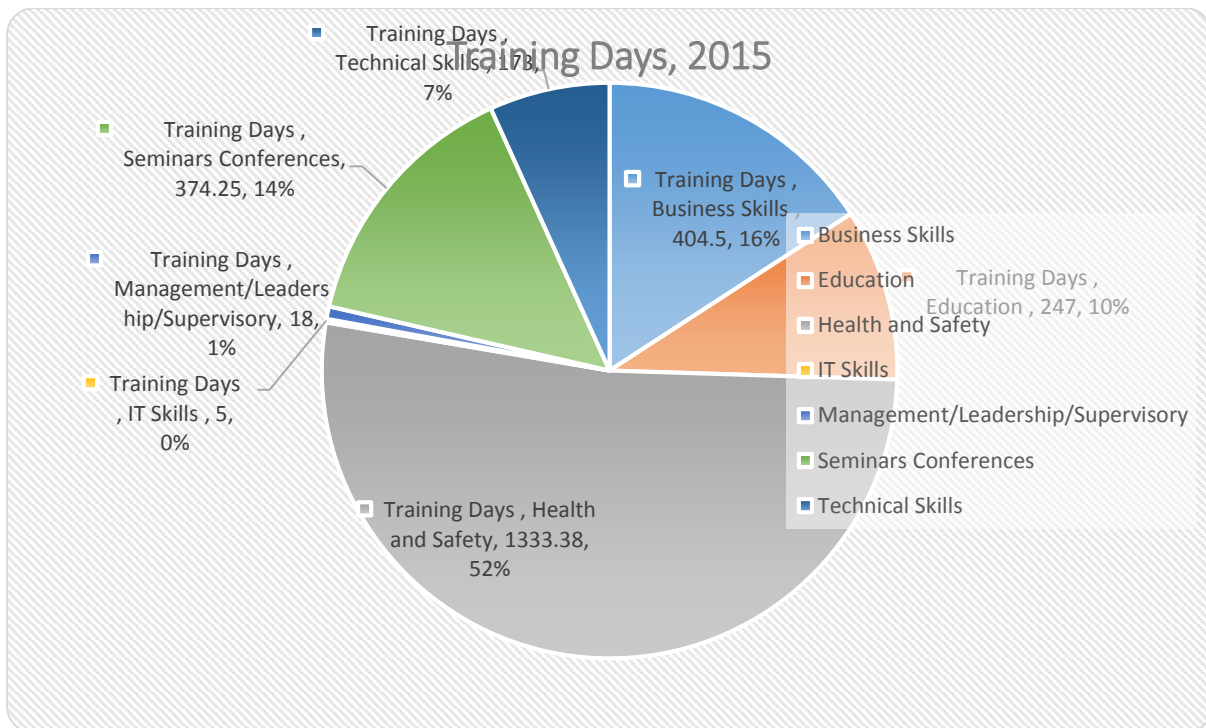
The number of employees in Galway County Council as at the 31st of December 2015 was 786. In addition circa 113 were employed in the Retained Fire Service.

In 2015 Galway County Council continued to actively participate in the Government's Labour Activation Programmes, namely, the Job bridge National Internship Scheme and the Local Authority Gateway Scheme. The objective is to provide valuable work experience for the long term unemployed.

### ***Staff Training and Development***

Comprehensive training for staff was carried out in 2015 with the main focus on Statutory and Health & Safety Training. National Training Grants in the areas of Water Services, Environmental and Non-National Roads supported the Council in the provision of this training. Other essential training was determined in conjunction with the utilisation of the Performance Management Development System. The Council continued to support further education, IPA Local Government Programmes and the attendance of staff at Seminars and Conferences in 2015.

The total number of Training Days in 2015 was 2555.13 as set out hereunder:



### **Staff Welfare**

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

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

Galway County Council has a number of Family Friendly Schemes in place which are communicated to all staff and managed by the Human Resources Department. In 2015 six hundred and eighty nine staff availed of family friendly policies to include Shorter Working Year Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Work Sharing Scheme, Career Breaks, Cycle to work Scheme, Travel Pass Scheme, Force Majeure leave, Compassionate leave, Paternity and Exam leave.

### **Pensions**

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

In 2015 a total of twenty two full-time employees retired from the service of Galway County Council.

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

As part of the HR Payroll Shared Services (HPSS) program, it is intended that elements of the Superannuation service will be moving to a shared services environment. The LGMA are co-ordinating the management of the HPSS program, with MyPay responsible for the Shared Services projects. In preparation for this, provisions have been made for the Superannuation Data Readiness sub-project and the implementation team was appointed in December 2015. The Superannuation Data Readiness (SDR) Project involves capturing and updating of all superannuation data in a consistent manner, in preparation for migrating to a Superannuation Shared Services Environment. The SDR project is due to commence in January 2016.



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES  
UNIT**



## ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION UNIT

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

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

### Strategic Priority

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

A number of significant achievements were recorded by the Roads & Transportation Unit during 2015 including:

- Considerable progress was made on the construction of the M17/M18 Motorway, which will be completed and ready for opening in late 2017.
- Road improvement works on the N84 at Luimnagh were substantially completed.
- Improvement works were done on the N17 at Ballindine and commenced at Carrowunurlaur.
- Cleggan car park was constructed by Council staff, thus providing a safe parking area to those visiting Inisbofin Island.
- Significant number of road repairs and coastal protection works were carried out at various coastal locations, following the devastating winter storms in 2013 and 2014.

### Strategic Priority

**To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.**

- The 2015 Roads Programme was prepared following allocations for National and Non-National road construction, repairs and maintenance totalling €54,272,156 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport:

**National Roads - €34,456,060**

**Non-National Roads - €19,816,096**

The Programme was prepared in consultation with Councillors, discussed and adopted by each Municipal District.

### Strategic Priority

**To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise.**

The grant allocated by the National Roads Authority for the Motorway & National Roads for the year 2015 is €34,456,060 which represents an increase of €11,379,655 or 49% on the 2014 allocation.

The 2015 allocation divides as follows:

<b>Improvement Works</b>	<b>€33,028,742</b>
<b>Maintenance Works</b>	<b>€ 1,427,318</b>

Funding continued to be provided in 2015 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban Routes. The following major/minor projects are managed by the Galway Roads Project Office during 2015 and the costs associated with this programme recouped in full from the National Roads Authority:

M6	Athlone/Ballinasloe	€ 250,000
M6	Galway City Bypass	€ 2,100,000
M6	Galway/Ballinasloe (bypasses Ballinasloe, Loughrea & Oranmore)	€ 600,000
M17	Gort-Tuam	€ 1,500,000
M18	Gort – Crusheen (bypasses Gort & Crusheen)	€ 200,000
<b>Total National Primary Major Scheme</b>		<b>€ 4,650,000</b>

The purchase of lands was progressed to facilitate the following projects:

- CPO -N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara Road Realignment Phase 2
- CPO - Visitor Centre and Car Park at Pearses Cottage, Rosmuc
- CPO - Bridge Replacement Works at Tamhnach Mhor and Caher
- CPO - Bridge Rehabilitation at Gleann Mhic Muirinn and Seanadh Phéistín

- The M18/M17 Gort to North of Tuam PPP Scheme was advanced through the public procurement process as a public private partnership project. Land acquisition is ongoing on this project. The construction works are ongoing. It is planned to have this road open to traffic early 2018.
- The route selection report for the N6 Galway City Transport Project has been published. In the current programme the planning application documents will be ready for publication late 2016.
- Land acquisition is ongoing for the N59 Moycullen ByPass. Construction of the online section is now complete.
- The C.P.O. and E.I.S were confirmed and approved by An Bord Pleanala on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2013 for phase 1 Maam Cross to Oughterard and advance works are planned. Work on the Clifden to Maam Cross is ongoing with the EIS, NIS and CPO published in July 2014, additional information was submitted in summer 2015. The Oral Hearing was held in November 2015.

Other milestones achieved relating to the National Primary & Secondary Road Network during 2014 included:

- The development and delivery of a major programme of overlay and realignment projects on National Primary and National Secondary Route.
- A Part 8 Planning Application is was granted for the N63 Abbeyknockmoy Annaghhill.and an Oral Hearing was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2016
- N84 Luimnagh CPO was confirmed in April 2014 and construction is ongoing.
- Part 8 Planning was granted by both Galway and Mayo County Councils for Carrownurlaur to Ballindine on December 2014 contract documents were signed on December 2015.

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

#### **National Primary Pavement & Minor Improvements:**

N18 Rocklands to Creganna Mor	N18 Ardrahan to Lissatunney	N18 Creganna Mor to Hillpark
N18 Carrowkeel to Rocklands	N17 Loughgeorge Safety Works	Gort to Tuam Residual Network
N18 Ardrahan to Clarinbridge	N17 Milltown Traffic Calming	

#### **National Secondary Pavement & Minor Improvements:**

N59 Letterfrack Pavement Repair & Rehabilitation	N63 Western Approach to Newbridge	N63 Laughill Pavement Strengthening
N59 Lettershea Safety Works	N67 Kinvara Pavement Rehabilitation	N63 Briarfield National School Safety Works
N67 Ballindereen Pavement Overlay	N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara Realignment Scheme Phase 1	N84 Luimnagh -ongoing

N83 Forty Acres -ongoing	N66 Gort to Peterswell Sections 1 & 2	N65 Portumna Safety Works
N59 Carna Safety Works	N63 Turloughmore Safety Works	

**National Roads Maintenance:**

**Funding was allocated to the maintenance of the National Roads Network in 2015 as follows:**

NP Winter Maintenance	253,705
NP Ordinary Maintenance	371,322
NP Route Lighting	99,983
NS Winter Maintenance	168,000
NS Ordinary Maintenance	1,072,846
Safety Barrier Repairs 2015	56,275
NS Route Lighting GC	70,046
HD Pavement Renewals	534,456



**N17 Surface Dressing 2015**



**N67 Kinvara Hedgecutting**

**REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS:**

The grant allocated to Galway County Council for Regional and Local Roads in 2015 is €19,816,096, divided as follows:

<b>Improvement Works</b>	<b>€16,942,736</b>
<b>Maintenance Works</b>	<b>€ 2,823,360</b>

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

<b>Grant Category</b>	<b>2015</b>
Improvement Grant	€10,030,462
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€2,823,360
Discretionary Grant	€4,798,774
Specific Improvement Grants	€0
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€282,500
Strategic Regional & Local Roads (SNNR) Grant	€50,000
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	€405,000
Training	€95,000
Severe Weather Repairs*	€1,331,000
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>€19,816,096</b>

An additional amount of €1,626,550 was allocated by the Department of Transport in July 2015 for further Restoration Improvement Works.



Road resurfacing on the Maree Road, Oranmore



Road re-cycling works at Polldarragh, Tuam

**Specific Improvement & Strategic Regional & Local Roads:**

Funding was allocated of €405,000 towards the **Rehabilitation of 11 Bridges:**

R348 PALMERSTOWN	15,000.00
R363 BALLYFORAN	50,000.00
R359 CLOONAHINCH 2	15,000.00
R336 CRUMLIN	50,000.00
R336 MUNTEROWEN	100,000.00
R352 BALLYSHRULE	80,000.00
R461 INCHABOY SOUTH 3	25,000.00
R350 WHITES	15,000.00
R364 ANNAGHBEG	20,000.00
R347 BALLINDERRY	20,000.00
R333 COHENNAHEENY	15,000.00

The Galway City Western Route R336 was allocated €50,000 funding under the **Strategic Regional & Local Roads Scheme** during 2015.

### **Local Roads Maintenance:**

The sum provided from the Council's resources in 2015 was **€6,466,815**. The Local Roads General Maintenance allocation of **€2,945,615**, including a provision of **€1,051,815** for ongoing operational costs, provided an allocation of **€539** per km of road.

The sum of **€1,893,500** was allocated among the different Electoral Areas as follows:

(1)	Ballinasloe	€ 378,700
(2)	Conamara	€ 378,700
(3)	Loughrea	€ 473,375
(4)	Oranmore/Athenry	€ 170,415
(5)	Tuam	€ 492,310

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



Road Maintenance in the An Cheathrú Rua Area

An allocation of €265,000 was provided for Winter Maintenance in 2015, from the Discretionary Maintenance Grant allocated by the Department of Transport. This allocation funds the gritting of priority routes in the county in accordance with the Winter Service Plan 2015-2016.

### REGIONAL & LOCAL ROAD BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME 2015

Funding of **€395,000** was allocated from the 2015 Discretionary Grant for the repair of the following Regional and Local Roads Bridges

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	BRIDGE	ALLOCATION	TOTAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
<b>Athenry/Órán Mór</b>	Stradbally East	€5,600	<b>€39,200</b>
	Palmerstown	€7,200	
	Stradbally South	€3,200	
	Toberbracken	€3,200	
	Pollnacirca	€4,000	
	Clogh	€3,200	
	Shoodaun	€12,800	
<b>Ballinasloe</b>	Ballinamore	€28,000	<b>€68,000</b>
	Springlawn	€14,000	
	Island, New Inn	€14,000	
	Garbally	€8,000	

	Loughaunaavaag	€4,000	
<b>Conamara</b>	Tawnaghmore	€60,000	<b>€120,000</b>
	Formwheel	€60,000	
<b>Loughrea</b>	Tooloobaunbeg Bridge 1	€14,000	<b>€69,600</b>
	Tooloobaunbeg Bridge 2	€16,000	
	Magheramore/Lissaniska South	€14,600	
	Drumminnamuckla South	€10,000	
	Ballybackagh Bridge, Castleday	€10,000	
	Toor Ballylee	€5,000	
<b>Tuam</b>	Ower, Headford	€3,200	<b>€88,200</b>
	Abbert River	€3,200	
	Lodge Headford	€6,400	
	Ballinderry	€24,000	
	Pollaphuca	€14,300	
	Cloondahamper	€1,600	
	Moneenalley	€28,000	
	Sonnagh	€5,000	
	Flaskagh	€2,500	
	Advance Ecology Study		<b>€10,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>€395,000</b>

Twenty-nine bridges were rehabilitated in 2015, some by contract and some by direct labour using County Council staff, and €10,000 was allocated for the preparation of an ecological survey on the bridges included in the 2015 programme.



### Strategic Priority

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

#### DEVELOPMENT OF PIERS:

Funding was allocated by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, for the following repairs and improvements to 2 piers in County Galway:

Project Location	Works	DAFM Funding	Council Funding	Total
Cé Sruthán Pier, an Cheathrú Rua	Construct a berthing wall adjacent to slipway & improvement works to existing slipway.	€112,500	€37,500	€150,000
Cé Finnis, Finnis Island	Safety Improvement Works	€27,000	€3,000	€30,000

### Strategic Priority

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

#### COUNTY GALWAY SIGNAGE SCHEME:

- The Council allocated €50,000 in 2015 for the improvement of directional signage towards towns and villages at junctions.

#### ROAD SAFETY IN HOUSING AREAS:

- €27,750 was provided by the Department of Transport towards the commencement of a 30km/h speed limit signage programme in housing areas. Galway County Council installed signage in 56 housing estates, in County Galway, which has improved and promoted road safety in these areas.

**STORM DAMAGE:**

Severe storms in late 2013 and early 2014 resulted in extensive damage to roads and coastal infrastructure, particularly on the West coast of the County. A significant amount of repair works were carried out in 2014 and these were ongoing in 2015 with expenditure incurred as follows:

• coastal protection	-	€723,484
• road repairs	-	€1,147,480
• tourism infrastructure	-	€1,042,595
• other facilities	-	€97,885

**Strategic Priority**

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

**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP:**

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

The Council continued to liaise with the Galway Transportation Unit and Galway City Council in advancing the Galway City & Environs Walking & Cycling Strategy.

The Council met and corresponded with Fáilte Ireland to progress the development of 2 Greenways; Clifden to Oughterard and Oughterard to Galway City. 3kms of the Clifden to Oughterard Greenway has been constructed.

The Council has also continued to progress 4 other projects in 2015 with funding and assistance provided by Fáilte Ireland:

• Conamara Infrastructure Project	€120,720
• Discovery Points Remedial Works	€64,511
• Wild Atlantic Way Hardware installation	€67,403
• Signature Discovery Point at Derrigimlagh	€562,613

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

Staff in the National Roads Project Office regularly met with staff of Transport Infrastructure Ireland to assist with the advancement of Major and Minor Road projects in a timely manner.

## ARTERIAL DRAINAGE

The Council discharged its statutory responsibility for the maintenance of certain drainage works in the County through the Roads and Transportation Unit and the Council's Municipal District Offices. The Council allocated €125,000 for these drainage works. The Council has charge of twelve Drainage Districts and there are two Districts in the charge of Joint Drainage Committees with Roscommon and Clare County Councils.

### Drainage Districts:

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

### Joint Drainage Districts:

River Fergus Joint Drainage Committee	River Suck Joint Drainage Committee
---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

## FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS & STUDIES

- The Joint Flood Working Group comprising representatives from Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works met during 2015 to identify and progress works aimed at reducing the risk of future flooding.
- A number of areas were examined with a view to determining whether an economically feasible solution to reduce the potential for future flooding existed.
- Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme: The Planning Application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2014, and further requested information provided in 2015. At the end of 2015, approval for the scheme was awaited from An Bord Pleanála.
- The proposed Clare River (Claregalway) Flood Relief Scheme was submitted to the Dept. of Public Expenditure and Reform for review during 2014. Approval was awaited at the end of 2015 from DPER for funding to commence construction of the scheme.
- The Council carried out works on 21 Minor Works Flood Relief Schemes in 2015 with a total expenditure of approximately €323,219 supported by the OPW. Of these 21 schemes, 16 were new schemes, for which a total allocation of €330,000 was made available by the OPW. Works are ongoing on some of these schemes which will be completed in 2016.
- The Council acknowledges the support of the OPW and will continue to investigate locations where there are reports of flooding and bring forward further Minor Works Flood Relief Schemes in 2016 where there is a feasible and cost beneficial engineering solution.

## MACHINERY YARD:

The supply and maintenance of Plant and Machinery for the Council's use is managed by the Machinery Yard. The Council is committed to the ongoing development of this service in order to provide an efficient and effective resource to facilitate the delivery of the Council's Work Programmes.

### **Strategic Priority**

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

#### **SMARTER TRAVEL & SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY:**

The Council continued its proactive role in promoting sustainable mobility by delivering a programme of events to mark Bike Week 12<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2015. Events included fun family cycles, competitive cycles, bike maintenance workshops and a school cycling tour on the Greenway to encourage people to consider changing travel habits to a more sustainable means of transport.

Under the Smarter Travel initiative, a pedestrian crossing was provided on the Maree Road in Oranmore which provides a safe point of crossing for residents to the schools and shops in the village of Oranmore.

#### **ROAD SAFETY:**

##### **Road Safety Together Committee:**

The Road Safety Together Committee continued its active role in the promotion of road safety and held three meetings in 2015.

Irish Road Safety Week took place between 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, and the Council raised road safety awareness amongst the general public by the distribution of leaflets e.g. speeding; driver tiredness; drink driving; seat belts; mobile phone use; child safety in cars; motorway driving; cycle safety; roundabouts and medicines & driving and the provision of reflective materials free of charge; free 5 Point Car Safety Check and a Road Safety Awareness Poster Competition was also held.

The Council, in conjunction with NUI Galway Students Union and the Road Safety Authority, ran a road safety awareness campaign encouraging pedestrians and cyclists to arrive safely at college – 500 bike lights and 500 high visibility vests were distributed to students attending the college.



**NUIG Students promoting the wearing of high visibility vests and the use of bike lights during Road Safety Week 2015**

Operation 'Slow Down' took place in March and August, 2015, for the Bank Holiday weekends. An Garda Síochána ran the Operation 'Slow Down' which raised awareness amongst drivers of the dangers of inappropriate and excessive speed. The Council provided variable messaging signs at N59, N18, N17, N84, R339 and R336 to highlight the campaign and encourage drivers to slow down.

The Council teamed up with GMIT Students Union and the Road Safety Authority and a road safety awareness campaign took place which ensured pedestrians visibility on our roads whereby 500 high visibility vests were distributed to students.



*Promotion of Road Safety at the launch of the Directory of Services for Older People – Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim), Mary Gavin, Galway Age Friendly Older Members Council and Deirdre Caulfield, Road Safety Officer*

During Seachtain na Gaeilge, a Fun Cycle Day took place in Irish in Gairmscoil na bPiarsach, Rosmuc. During the Bealtaine Festival in May and the Social Inclusion Week held in October, 2015, high visibility materials was distributed, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority.

Specific road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2015 included:

- Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for Post Primary Schools.
- Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme.
- Support for the Cycling Safety Training Programme in national schools.
- Road safety awareness messages appeared in ‘Aon Scéal’, the Council’s staff magazine, in local press and on iRadio in order to continue raising road safety awareness to its staff members and the general public.
- National High Visibility Day took place on 21<sup>st</sup> December, ’15, and hundreds of high visibility vests and armbands were circulated to members of the public.



*Winners of the Junior School Wardens Competition 2015 –  
Presentation Primary School, Tuam, Co Galway*

**Community Employment Schemes:**

The Council, in partnership with the Department of Social Protection and the local community, continued to promote and encourage the development of Community Employment. Accordingly, the Council continued to sponsor 5 schemes with 85 participants in the following locations: Maigh Cuilinn / Oughterard, Laurencetown / Abbey, Gort and Environs, Tuam and Environs and Cloch na Rón / Clifden.



*Maintenance works carried out by Tuam Community Employment Scheme  
in Palace Grounds, Tuam*

### **Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme**

The Council continued to actively promote the Community Involvement in Roadwork's Scheme as a means of harnessing community support for road works on suitable local roads. A sum of **€346,822** was allocated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards **41** approved schemes in 2015. However three schemes did not proceed due to difficulties in complying with the application process. A total of €412,638, which included local contributions, was spent on 38 projects on providing footpaths, road resurfacing and surface drainage.

### **Town & Village Maintenance & Enhancement**

The Council continued to support community effort in maintaining and enhancing the physical environment of town and villages and provided funding of **€900,000** in 2015 towards maintenance and small improvement works. An element of the funding was focused to facilitate the Council in further supporting the input and performance of communities involved in the National Tidy Towns Competition.



## Strategic Priority

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

### CUSTOMER SERVICE:

- The Unit continued to operate an On Line Payment Facility to allow for the payment of Fixed Charge Notices (Parking Fines).
- The Unit continued to avail of [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) throughout 2015 to provide a Traffic Information Service, providing information on traffic disruptions arising as a result of road works, temporary road closures, roadwork's speed limits etc.
- The Unit communicated with the public through the use of various media, such as local radio, website, twitter, local newspapers, e-mails, texts, through the usage of the on-line customer comments system and the national on-line system Fix Your Street.ie. These were shown to be particularly effective during the severe flooding event which occurred in December 2015.
- The Roads and Transportation Unit successfully and efficiently delivered an extensive programme of works, despite ongoing reductions in staff numbers. Staff was redeployed as necessary to facilitate these works. The commitment of staff was particularly demonstrated during the severe weather event when they were called upon to assist urgently with preventative measures which avoided/lessened the flooding of many homes and businesses. Office based staff increased their workloads as necessary to compensate for staff reductions, due to retirements, maternity leaves etc.

### FLOODING DECEMBER 2015:

There was extensive heavy rainfall over a prolonged period in early December 2015. Following this rainfall there was widespread flooding, both East and West of the County, some of which remained on the ground for a considerable period of time. The Council staff carried out substantial clean-up works in December 2015 and into the New Year. The expenditure on this initial clean-up in 2015 amounted to €659,447.



**Raising of the R362 Creggs Road, Glenamaddy – following flooding in Dec 2015**



**Flooding in Claregalway – December 2015**



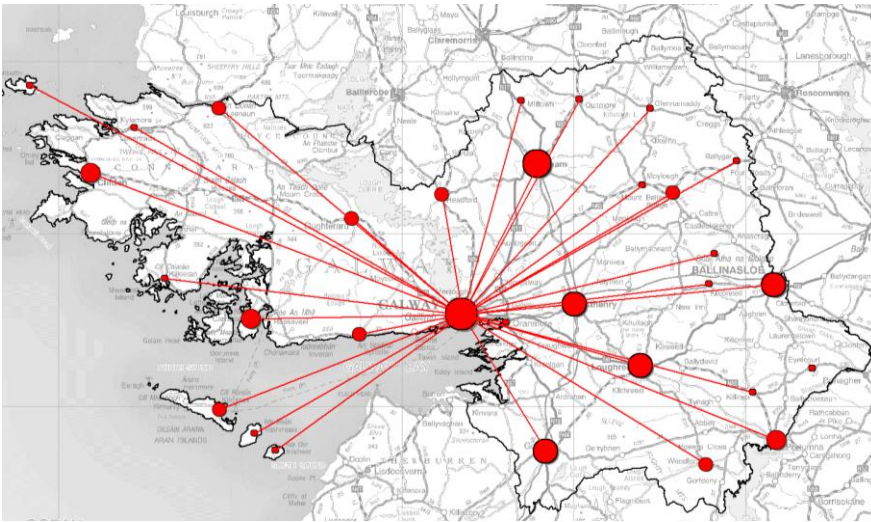
**Flooding on the N67 at Labane**



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

## Information Technology Systems



**GCC's Network**

### Indicative Activities in 2015:

- After the success of the initial Office 365 pilot rollout to the wider organisation has started. By the end of 2015 a number of sections will be migrated including IT, Councillors, LEO, and Housing.
- Work completed on a number of WAN link improvements including Gort, Clifden, An Cheathrú Rua, and Athenry.
- Upgraded a number of existing servers due to the end of life of the Microsoft Windows Server 2003 operating system.
- Hybrid Cloud was introduced. Microsoft Azure is currently being used to host our public facing website and extranet.
- Support was provided by the GIS and Development teams during the introduction of Eircodes.
- Tender for Core Switch upgrade completed and new infrastructure implemented.
- Provided IT support for a number of key projects including the renovation of the Council Chamber and Ballinasloe Library.
- Implementation of a Spatial Reporting System across the planning section for referrals
- Implementation of Galway County Council Open Data site with links to the national open data site
- Redesigned and launched the new Elected Members portal. The new portal allows for the administration and distribution of the supporting documentation required for Council and Municipal District meetings.
- Upgraded the existing intranet. The intranet was redesigned on the ideas/information gathered from interactions with a number of departments across the organisation.
- Developed a Corporate Business Planning/Reporting utility with integrated Risk Register. This system will be used for the 2016 business plan cycle. Assuming successful uptake the system can be further developed to manage PMDS documentation, monitoring and reporting.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

### Performance Indicators

A function of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) is to scrutinise the performance of any local government body against or in comparison with relevant indicators that the Commission considers it appropriate to refer to, and which includes relevant indicators relating to customer service. This role commenced in 2014 and replaced, in respect of performance in 2014 and subsequent years, the service indicators in local authorities that were introduced by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in 2004. Local Authorities are asked to validate and submit information and data on 31 Performance Indicators. This data is collated by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and is made available to the NOAC for further analysis and publication as part of a National report on Local Authority Performance Indicators. In addition to information supplied from the Council, data is provided by external bodies ( Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's (D/TTaS) Vehicle Registration Unit (VRU), the EPA, Road Management Office (RMO) which is based on other national reporting systems to which the Council must submit data. This information is saved and validated by the Council as part of the national returns using an on-line e-returns system.

For 2015, there are 31 local authority performance indicators, as outlined below. Each Indicator is provided with a reference.

- Housing (H1 to H6)
- Roads (R1 to R3)
- Water (W1)
- Waste/Environment (E1 to E3)
- Planning (P1 to P4)
- Fire Service (F1 to F3)
- Library/Recreation (L1 and L2)
- Youth/Community (Y1 and Y2)
- Corporate (C1 to C4)
- Finance (M1 and M2)
- Economic Development (J1)

## Performance Indicators 01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015 (Annual) Galway County Council

### Performance Indicators

01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015 (Annual)

Galway County Council

Status: In Progress

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. Overall total number of dwellings provided by the LA in the period 1/1/2015 to 31/12/2015	23	
	B. Number of dwellings directly provided	11	
	B1. Number of dwellings constructed	0	
	B2. Number of dwellings purchased	11	
	C. Number of units provided under RAS	5	
	D. Number of units provided under the HAP Scheme	2	
	E. Number of units provided under the SHLI	5	
	F. The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at 31/12/2015	2689	
	G. The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA	2394	2014 figure for (H1-G) was reported as 2379. This figure was over reported by 8 units and should have been 2371. The 2014 figure should have included 2 Community Facility houses and should not have included 10 affordable houses.

			Yielding a net over-report of $10 - 2 = 8$ , correct figure is $2379 - 8 = 2371$ . Therefore the increase from 2014 to 2015 is 23 Units giving $2371 + 23 = 2394$ .
	H. Total number of units provided under the RAS	265	
	I. Total number of units provided under the HAP if operated	0	
	J. Total number of units provided under the SHLI	30	
	A. Percentage of the number of dwellings at H1G that were vacant on 31/12/2015	<b>5.56 %</b>	
	The number of dwelling units within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2015	133	
	A. Expenditure in 2015 on repair & maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA divided by H1G	<b>€528.94</b>	
	Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous based during 2015	€1266272.63	
<b>Housing: H3 &amp; H5 Approved</b>	A. Average time taken from date of vacation of dwelling to date when a new tenancy had commenced	<b>48.34 wk</b>	
	B. Average cost expended on getting the units re-tenanted ready for re-letting	<b>€11549.66</b>	
	No of units that were re-tenanted on any date in 2015 (excl. those vacant for estate refurbishment)	50	
	No. of weeks from when previous tenant vacated dwelling up to date new tenant's first rent debit	2417 wk	
	Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of	€577483	

	the units included above		
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area	<b>6091</b>	
	B. Number of inspections carried out	83	
<b>Housing: H6 Approved</b>	A. No. of adults in emergency accom. long-term as a % of the total number of homeless adults	<b>33.33 %</b>	
	No. of adults classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on night of the 31/12/2015	36	
	No. of adults on that date who had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously	12	
<b>Roads: R1 &amp; R2 Approved</b>	% Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating	<b>19.00 %</b>	
	% Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	<b>95.00 %</b>	
	% Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	<b>94.00 %</b>	
	% Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating	<b>83.00 %</b>	
	% Regional roads that received a PSCI rating during 2015	<b>13.00 %</b>	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	<b>1.00 %</b>	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	<b>3.00 %</b>	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	<b>6.00 %</b>	
	% Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	<b>9.00 %</b>	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	<b>6.00 %</b>	
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	<b>27.00 %</b>	
	% Total Primary road kilometres	<b>46.00 %</b>	



	with a PSCI rating of 7-8		
	% Total Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	<b>16.00 %</b>	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	<b>13.00 %</b>	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	<b>35.00 %</b>	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	<b>41.00 %</b>	
	% Total Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	<b>5.00 %</b>	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	<b>26.00 %</b>	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	<b>30.00 %</b>	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	<b>24.00 %</b>	
	% Total Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	<b>3.00 %</b>	
	A1. Kilometres of regional roads strengthened using Road Improvement grants	<b>29.5 km</b>	
	A2. Regional road Improvement Grant amount	<b>€11628122.00</b>	
	B1. Number of kilometres of regional roads resealed using Road Maintenance grants	<b>18.6 km</b>	
	B2. Regional road Maintenance Grant amount	<b>€2823360.00</b>	
<b>Motor Tax: R3 Approved</b>	% of motor tax transactions online	<b>58.24 %</b>	
<b>Water: W1 Approved</b>	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance	<b>98.80 %</b>	
<b>Waste: E1 Approved</b>	No. households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2015	<b>6475</b>	
	% households within the LA that the number A represents	<b>10.68 %</b>	

<b>Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved</b>	Number of pollution cases in respect of complaint during 2015	<b>1428</b>	
	Number of pollution cases closed during 2015	<b>1243</b>	
	Total number of cases at hand at 31/12/2015	<b>369</b>	
	Total number of pollution complaint cases	1428	
	Number of pollution cases not investigated or finalised	1243	
	Number of pollution cases not finalised	369	
<b>Litter Pollution: E3 Approved</b>	Percentage of area unpolluted by litter	<b>14 %</b>	
	Percentage of area slightly polluted by litter	<b>53 %</b>	
	Percentage of area moderately polluted by litter	<b>25 %</b>	
	Percentage of area significantly polluted by litter	<b>6 %</b>	
	Percentage of area grossly polluted by litter	<b>2 %</b>	
<b>Planning: P1 Approved</b>	Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	<b>26.96 %</b>	
	Total no. of new buildings notified to the local authority	408	
	No. of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2015 subject of at least one inspection	110	
<b>Planning: P2 &amp; P3 Approved</b>	A. Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanála determined by board in 2015	35	
	B. % of the determinations which confirmed (with or without variations) the decision made by the LA	<b>71.43 %</b>	2015 figures entered

	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation	25	
	A. Number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the LA during 2015 that were investigated	236	
	B. Number of cases that were closed during 2015	95	
	C. % cases at B dismissed re Section 15(2) or closed because statute barred or exempted development	<b>14.74 %</b>	2015 figures entered
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's sanctification through negotiations	<b>0 %</b>	2015 figures entered
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	<b>85.26 %</b>	2015 figures entered
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2015	1481	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	14	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	0	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	81	
<b>Planning: P4 Approved</b>	AFS Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area	<b>€20.62</b>	
	AFS Programme D consisting of D01, D02, D03 (inclusive of the central management charge)	€3610600	
<b>Fire Service: F1 Approved</b>	AFS Programme E expenditure divided by the census 2011 population served by the Fire Service	<b>€47.99</b>	as per email to CFO 13th June 2016 from finance section

	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service & E12 Fire Prevention	€11509473	
<b>Fire Service: F2 &amp; F3</b> Approved	A. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of Fire	2.67 min	
	B. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of Fire	5.05 min	
	C. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of other accidents	2.58 min	
	D. Average time (mins) to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations in respect of other accidents	5.12 min	
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	<b>40.23 %</b>	TABLE 1.6 SACFO PI REPORT 2015
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	<b>30.57 %</b>	TABLE 1.6 SACFO PI REPORT 2015
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	<b>29.20 %</b>	TABLE 1.6 SACFO PI REPORT 2015
	D. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is within 10 mins	<b>56.69 %</b>	TABLE 1.8 SACFO PI REPORT 2015
	E. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	<b>29.43 %</b>	TABLE 1.8 SACFO PI REPORT 2015
	F. % of non-fire cases in which first attendance at scene is after 20 mins	<b>13.88 %</b>	TABLE 1.8 SACFO PI REPORT 2015
	Total no. of call-outs in respect of fires from 01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015	952	
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	383	

	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	291	
	No. of fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins	278	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents from 01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015	598	
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 mins	339	
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 mins & within 20 mins	176	
	No. of non-fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 mins	83	
<b>Library Service: L1 Approved</b>	A. Number of library visits per head of population	<b>2.62</b>	
	B. Number of items issued to borrowers during the year	<b>691893</b>	
	Number of library visits during the year	656350	Statistic is for City and County. The population is 250,653.
	Number of items borrowed during the year	691893	Statistic is for City and County. The population is 250,653.
<b>Library Service: L2 Approved</b>	The Annual Financial Statement Programme F data / by the population of the LA area 2011 per census	<b>€18.38</b>	
	AFS Programme F02 Cost of Library Service	€4607902.44	Statistic is for City and County. The population is 250,653.

<b>Youth and Community: Y1 &amp; Y2</b> Approved	Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council//Comhairle na nÓg scheme	<b>71.43 %</b>	
	Total number of secondary schools in the LA area at 31/12/2015	35	
	No. second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the Comhairle na -Óg AGM	25	
	No. organisations in the County Register and proportion who opted in to the Social Inclusion College	<b>11.79</b>	
	No. organisations in the County Register for the local authority area	543	
	Total number of registered organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College	64	
<b>Corporate: C1 &amp; C2 &amp; C4</b> Approved	Wholetime equivalent staffing number as year end	<b>740.22</b>	In the Public Service Sick Leave statistics and trends 2013-2015 to be published shortly an averaged FTE for the year is used. This will lead to different figures in E returns by using the FTE at 31st Dec 2015 only.
	Percentage of working days lost due to sickness absence through medically certified leave	<b>4.02 %</b>	
	Percentage of working days lost due to sickness absence through self- certified leave	<b>0.31 %</b>	
	Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	6762 day	

	Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	528.5 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	235.5 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	7.5 day	
	All ICT Expenditure in the period 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015 divided by the WTE no.	<b>€2246.64</b>	
	Total revenue expenditure on Account Elements	€1663005	
<b>Corporate: C3 Approved</b>	Total page views of the LA website in 2015	<b>1103312</b>	
	Total number of social media users at 31/12/2015 following the LA on social media sites	<b>9778</b>	
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the LA during 2015	1103312	
	Total no. of social media users who, at 31/12/2015, were following the LA on any social media sites	9778	
<b>Finance: M1 &amp; M2 Approved</b>	Cumulative balance at 31/12/2011 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	<b>€-1390913</b>	
	Cumulative balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	<b>€-1884518</b>	
	Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	<b>€-1898994</b>	
	Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	<b>€-1891838</b>	

Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-1886029	€1,886,029 deficit balance at 31-12-2015
Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2015 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement	<b>-1.70 %</b>	
The 2015 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€110855483	
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011	<b>72.0 %</b>	
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011	<b>91.0 %</b>	
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011	<b>83.0 %</b>	
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	<b>69.0 %</b>	
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	<b>90.0 %</b>	
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2012	<b>78.0 %</b>	
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	<b>65.0 %</b>	
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	<b>88.0 %</b>	
Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2011	<b>76.0 %</b>	
Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	<b>67.0 %</b>	
Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	<b>88.0 %</b>	



	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	<b>75.0 %</b>	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	81 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	90 %	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	76 %	
<b>Economic Development: J1 Approved</b>	Number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the year	<b>67.50</b>	

## GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2015 UPDATE

<b>CORPORATE SERVICES</b>			
<b>Service area</b>	To provide efficient, professional and competent support to the Elected Members and Executive Team for the provision of public services through effective Civic Leadership and Democratic Representation		
<b>Objective 1</b>	Support effective, open and transparent democratic representation and decision-making;		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Register of Electors	To Publish Register of Electors 2015/2016.	By the 1st February, 2015.	Deadline Met
Freedom of Information Requests	Percentage of FOI requests for Corporate Services Unit processed in accordance with statutory requirements.	100%	100%
Access to Information on the Environment	Percentage of AIE requests for Corporate Services Unit processed in accordance with statutory requirements.	100%	100%
Annual Report 2014	Adoption of Annual Report 2014	By May 2015	Approved May 2015
Democratic Representation	Progressive implementation of extranet facility to manage documentation and reduce the volume of paper associated with meetings of Plenary Council.	70% by December 2015	All council meetings on extranet, 100% at Dec. 2015
Joint Policing Committee	Number of meetings of the Joint Policing Committee held during 2015	4 Meetings	4+1 Public Meetings
Galway Commemorative Strategy for the Decade of	Number of Actions delivered during 2015 Development of Programme to commemorate 2016	3 October 2015	3 October 2015

Commemorations 2013-2023			
<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Provide and support accessible amenities to promote recreation, leisure and play.</b>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Playgrounds	Numbers provided by the LA per 1,000 population Playgrounds facilitated by LA per 1,000 pop	0.05 0.20	-0.05 -0.20
Ballinasloe & Tuam Leisure Centres	Number of visitors to Leisure Centres per 1,000 population.	920	920
Tuam All Weather Pitches	Number of free Community hours available per week.	40 hours	40
Battle of Aghrim Visitor's Centre	Number of visitors to Battle of Aghrim Visitor's Centre.	2,400	>1,000
<b>Objective 3</b>	<b>Foster a culture of excellence in delivering customer services.</b>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Customer Services	Acknowledge all correspondence (letter, fax, e-mail)	Within 5 working days	100%
	Endeavour to reply to all correspondence (letter, fax, e-mail)	Within 15 working days or less	100%
	Number of complaints upheld by the Office of the Ombudsman	Less than 5	4
	Number of followers on twitter @GalwayCoCo	5,600	7,094 as of Dec.15
	Number of Likes on facebook (Galway County)	1,100	2,684 as of Dec.15
2,648	Number of swimming areas provided with a lifeguard service during summer months.	10	10
Casual Trading Licences	Percentage of Casual Trading Licences applications and Filming Licences for processing within 15 working days.	100%	100%
<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>Promote and support the use of the Irish language and recognise its unique contribution to the cultural diversity of our County.</b>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>

Promotion of Irish Language & Culture.	Number of complaints upheld by An Coimisinéir Teanga	Less than 3	3
<b>Objective 5.</b>	<b>Promote and improve universal access to public spaces and amenities and to foster equal access to information and services</b>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Accessibility	Number of complaints upheld under the Disability Act 2005	0	0

<b>LIBRARY SERVICES</b>			
<b>Service area</b>	<b>To ensure the delivery of an effective public library service in County Galway and to strengthen and expand the library in the local community</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Libraries to be accessible, welcoming and have warmth</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Library Awareness	Ensure that all local communities are aware of their local library service and what each library has to offer.	6 public events in each library	Library events were held in every library.  545,516 Library Visits 2015
Library Conditions	Maintain each library in a manner which promotes a good public image and ensure the environment is a safe place for the community to visits	“0” health and safety non-compliances/ lost time incidents  Replace mobile library Van	No lost time over H&S
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Libraries to offer books which inspire and inform</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Libraries and services to the community	Provide up to date stock and information	Perform quarterly review on stock condition , age and relevance	Library Stock was updated as resources became available 691,893 Books and items

			issued in 2015
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Libraries to offer creative activities and collaborate with others in the community</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Libraries and Children	Encourage library usage by children.	To promote at least one public event per quarter per library focused on youth	Every Library participated in the Summer reading Scheme and other childrens activities throughout the year. 411,970 Childrens books and items issued 2015
Libraries and Senior Citizens	Encourage library usage by maturing members of our community.	To execute one event per library with Age Action/Age Friendly Ireland	Library events incl. exhibitions and book clubs took place in most of our libraries
Schools and libraries	Continue to develop the role of a small school library in education and its potential in (1) Teaching and learning and in (2) the development of a positive attitude towards reading. Liaise with and encourage teachers and other groups e.g. play groups, to use libraries e.g. with class visits to branch libraries	One class visit per quarter per library	The Schools Library Service visited every primary school in the County of Galway in 2015
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Libraries to support the local community</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>

Libraries and IT	Provide communities with internet access via public access computers and or/ Wi-Fi	Roll out the availability of secure WIFI in all our libraries (pending broadband availability)	Larger Libraries have WiFi and every Branch has a public access computer 51,527 Internet sessions in Libraries 2015
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Libraries to plan and implement proposals in each Municipal District in the National Public Libraries Strategy 2013-2017: Opportunities For All</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Library Development Plan and the Municipal Districts	Utilisation of existing resources to achieve optimum opening time in the library service in each Municipal District.	Complete review of Library opening times throughout all MD. Q2	Library opening hours were reviewed and a new Library Development Plan 2016-2021 was prepared in 2015.

<b>HOUSING</b>			
<b>Service area</b>	<b>To create balanced and mixed communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic background and socio-economic status and to endeavour to facilitate the provision of well managed and well maintained social housing within an environment that is attractive, safe and secure in a community which people will want to live.</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Effective maintenance/repairs and vacancy/void management</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome 1/7/2016</b>
Preventative Maintenance Programme for Housing Stock	Develop Preventative Maintenance Process & Systems	PMP system operational by end 2015.	Significant work completed on ihouse to accommodate new system. The system is now live.
Housing Repairs	Number of repairs completed as a % of valid repair requests received (KPI H3)	98%	Compliant
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provision of Social Housing Supports</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Provision of Homeless Accommodation	To provide 2 units of transitional accommodation for the homeless subject to Regional Homeless Management Group and Departmental approval.	2 units in place by year-end	1 unit in place
Traveller Accommodation	Implementation of Traveller Accommodation Programme.	Total no. of traveller families accommodated as a % of overall targets set in the Programme. (KPI : H4 )	10%
Housing Rents	Undertake Housing Rent Assessment  Implement the new National Differential Rent Scheme.(assuming full rollout)	Assessment Complete and new Scheme in place Q3 2015	Loughrea area complete and Ballinasloe in progress.  Awaiting



			National Scheme from the department
Tenant Purchase	Implementation of new TP scheme in accordance with Departmental Guidelines.	Scheme implemented & tenants notified in Q3 2015.	Scheme in place and applications are being processed.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Increase Supply of Social Housing</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	Implementation of new HAP scheme, subject to clarification from the Department as regards rollout schedule and timeframes.	Implementation progressed in line with Project Schedule by end of Q4 2015.	172 HAP tenancies complete.
Effective Management of Housing Vacancies	<p>Reduce level and duration of vacancies in Housing Stock:</p> <p>No. Of housing vacancies (KPI H1)</p> <p>Average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling. (KPI H2)</p> <p>Average time taken (in weeks) from the works being completed to the date of the first rent debit (KPI H2)</p>	<p>9 weeks</p> <p>6 weeks</p>	<p>60 (Voids)</p> <p>20 weeks</p> <p>8 weeks</p>
Stock Acquisition	Progress Property Acquisition Programme to increase social housing stock in line with the Social Housing Strategy 2020 (includes purchases, voluntary sector, Part V, unfinished developments, vacants, land bank) subject to sufficient funding & resources being made available.	30 Additional units delivered by end 2015.	36 (including residual 2014 contract signings)
Enforcement of Standards in the Private Rented Sector	Number of dwellings inspected as a % of registered tenancies (KPI H5)	20%	2%
Housing Adaptation Grants	Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspections, from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application.	<p>9 Weeks</p> <p>12 Weeks</p>	<p>3 weeks</p> <p>4 weeks</p>

	(KPI H6) Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspections, from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application. (KPI H6)		
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Effective Tenancy &amp; Estate Management</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To prepare and implement the Estate Management Action Plans for priority estates using an inter-departmental/inter-agency approach.	<p>Completed Estate Management Plans in place.</p> <p>Implement Estate Management initiatives/projects in conjunction with Community &amp; Enterprise and other GCC departments.</p>	<p>EMP's in place for 4 estates &amp; 2 traveller specific sites</p> <p>5 no. initiatives implemented</p>	<p>Plans are in place for 4 estates and 2 traveller specific sites</p> <p>CCTV in place, clean ups done, meeting held with local gardai, summer camps being organised in conjunction with C &amp; E. Meetings held with Environment and co-ordinated approach taken to waste problems.</p>
Pre-Tenancy Courses	Percentage of new Local Authority tenants who have been offered tenancy pre-familiarisation courses (KPI H7)	100%	100%

<b>GALWAY FIRE BRIGADE</b>			
<b>Mission</b>	<b>To protect the lives and property of communities and visitors to Galway County and City from fire and other emergencies</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fire &amp; Emergency response: providing and delivering Galway Fire And Rescue Service GFRS</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure/Indicator</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Fire& Emergency Response	No of fire & emergency incidents attended in city and county annually	1314	1400
Mobilisation Time Fires Only	Retained Average time in minutes to mobilise Fire Brigades ( 1st appliance only)	2.6	2.67
	Full time Average time in minutes to mobilise Fire Brigades ( 1st appliance only)	4.8	5.07
Attendance Time to Scene	<u>Percentage attendance at scene (Fires only, 1<sup>st</sup> Appliance)</u>	43%	40%
	First attendance at scene within 10 minutes	33%	31%
	First attendance at scene after 10 but within 20 minutes	24%	29%
	First attendance at scene after 20 minutes		
	<u>F2(b) Percentage attendance at scene (other incidents-excluding False Alarm calls )--( 1st appliance only)</u>	51%	57%
		33%	31%
	First attendance at scene within 10 minutes	16%	29%
	First attendance at scene after 10 but within 20 minutes		
	First attendance at scene after 20 minutes		
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fire protection: by delivering and Engineering Technical fire safety in buildings.</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure/Indicator</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Fire Certificate Applications	Time taken to process valid fire safety certificate applications	4 weeks	N/A
Disability Access Certificates	Time taken to process valid disability access certificate applications	4 weeks	N/A
Liquor and Dance Licences	Time taken to process valid Liquor and Dance Licences	4 weeks	N/A
Dangerous Substances Licences	Time taken to process valid Dangerous Substances Licences	4 weeks	N/A

<b>ENVIRONMENT SERVICES</b>			
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Protect and Enhance the Environment of County Galway in the interests of the quality of life of its citizens, economic development and to achieve water regulatory compliance.</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Protection and Improvement of Water Quality and Catchment Management.</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Protect Water Quality	Completion of septic tank inspection requirements in accordance with National Inspection Plan. No. of inspections	100% 88	100% 91
Protect Bathing Water Quality	No. of beaches achieving either Blue Flag or Green Coast status	9	11
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Provide an effective system of Environmental Protection and Enforcement</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Process Discharge Licence Applications	% processed within statutory time frame No of licence inspections completed	100% 150	100% 172
Environmental Inspections and Enforcement	Respond to all complaints received	100%	100%
	No of waste permitted sites inspected	80	34
	No. of producer responsibility inspections completed	875	685
Provide Recycling Facilities	No. of facilities available for recycling	90	90
Derelict Sites	Investigate and report on all complaints received and if appropriate enter on Derelict Sites Register	100%	100%
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Increased community involvement in Environmental Enhancement and Awareness.</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Promote Environmental Awareness and Community	% of primary Schools participating in Environmental campaigns  No. of Schools participating	90%  190	94%  200

Involvement			
	% of secondary schools participating in Environmental campaigns No. of Schools participating No of other educational establishments participating	90% 30 15	89% 32 15
	No. of "Adopt a Road" Schemes in operation No. of participants/groups in campaign's / events	17 165	17 174
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Provision of Burial Grounds in association with the community</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Burial Grounds	No. of sites where extensions facilitated	3	2
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Control of Dogs in accordance with legislative requirements</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Control of Animals	No. of Dog licences issued	8,350	8<526
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Promotion of a responsible approach to energy usage</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Energy	Promotion of sustainable energy initiatives with business and the community	55 events	50

<b>WATER SERVICES</b>			
<b>Service Area</b>	To provide, operate and maintain water services infrastructure to the optimum level in the interests of, Public Health, Environmental Protection and Economic Development.		
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operate and manage water services in accordance with Service Level Agreement with Irish Water</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Drinking Water Quality	Water quality measured as a % of tests undertaken which comply with statutory requirements	99%	100%
Leakage Management	No. of leaks detected	1,000	717
	No. Of leaks repaired	1,000	464
	Mains rehabilitation and replacement at (Ballinasloe, Athenry, Oranmore, Headford) (An Cheathrú Rua, Inishmore, Loughrea, An Spideal) (Subject to Irish water Approvals)	29Km	9.2km
	Improvement in Unaccounted for water over 2014	2%	1.2%
Capital Investment Plan	Commence construction of wastewater treatment plants at		
	Clifden (Subject to Irish water Approvals)	2015	2015
	Milltown (Subject to Irish water Approvals)	2015	2015
	Claregalway (Subject to Irish water Approvals)	2015	2015
	Kinvara (Subject to Irish water Approvals)	2015	2015
	Oughterard (Subject to Irish water Approvals)	2015	2016
Support to Group Water Supply Schemes Sector	No. Of Schemes taken in charge (Subject to Irish water Approvals)	15	0
	No receiving operational subsidy	115	116

<b>ROADS, TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES</b>			
<b>Service area</b>	<b>To provide a safe and efficient road network for the movement of persons and goods and to support balanced economic development and the development of sustainable communities.</b>		
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To advance major road schemes.</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
GCOB	Progress to emerging preferred route and submit scheme to An Bord Pleanala	Year End	Ongoing. Submission to An Bord Pleanala in Qtr I -2017.
Gort to Tuam motorway	Meet 5 times with steering group in 2015 to minimise impact of construction works	5	Meetings held monthly in 2015.
Clifden to Oughterard	Sign contract for Bunnakill to Claremount section.	September 2015	Delayed. Discussions ongoing with NPWS
N59 realignment	Prepare for oral hearing for Maam Cross to Clifden section.	June 2015	Oral hearing complete. CPO refused by An Bord Pleanala following oral hearing.
Moyullen Bypass	Prepare contract documents.	Year End	Preparation of contract docs ongoing. To be completed by end of 2016.
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To advance strategic minor works schemes</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
N17 Carrownurlar to Ballindine	Commence construction works in 2015	Sept 2015	Construction underway. To be completed by end of 2016.

Claregalway Traffic Calming	Complete planning and design	Dec 2015	Consultations and design ongoing. To be completed by end of 2016.
Clarinbridge Traffic Calming	Complete design and planning	Dec 2015	Consultations and design ongoing. To be completed by end of 2016
N83 Forty Acres	Commence construction	Aug 2015	Construction 80% complete in Dec 15
N84 Luimnagh	Sign contracts and commence works	Sept 2015	Construction 20% complete in Dec 15
N59 Moycullen On-Line	Complete construction	Nov 2015	Construction 85% complete in Dec 15
N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh Hill	Complete planning and finalise contract documents	Dec 2015	Planning completed and CPO prepared.
N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara	Finalise design and Compulsory Purchase Order	Nov 2015	Design finalised and CPO submitted to An Bord Pleanala.
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and improve the road network of 6,400 kms throughout the County</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Improvement of Road Network	Number of Local Tertiary Roads repaired	30	59
	Number of kilometres of Regional Road improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	20km	20.4km
	Number of kilometres of Local Roads improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	150km	94km
	Number of bridges improved	10	40
	Number of kilometres of Regional Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant	20km	16km
		120km	126km



	Number of kilometres of Local Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant		
	Pothole Repairs – response time – no of working days, dependent on resources available:		
	National Roads	2	2
	Regional Roads	5	5
	Local Primary and Secondary Roads	10	10
	Local Tertiary Roads	20	20
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the programme of Piers and Harbours improvements.</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Improvement of Pier Network	Number of piers upgraded/improved, as co-funded by Department of Food, Agriculture and Marine and Galway County Council.	2	2
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the OPW in relation to flood risk management</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Drainage Improvement	Number of proposed drainage improvement projects, subject to funding from Office of Public Works	20	15
Drainage Maintenance	Number of kilometres of drainage maintenance completed by year end	3	2
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advance Traffic Management Plans</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Traffic Management	Traffic Management Plan in place in Cleggan	Year end	Prepared and approved.
	Number of parking permits issued annually	190	234
	Number of parking tickets issued annually	1500	1672
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to develop safety initiatives through the Road Safety Committee</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Road Safety	No of schools for which support will be provided for Cycling Training Programme	20	29
	No of schools for which support will be provided for Drive for Life Programme	6	7
	Produce 4 year Road Safety Plan – 2015-2019	Dec	Ongoing – to be completed by end of 2016
Safety Improvement of Road Network	Number of Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes in place by year end. -R336 At Tully Church,	11	11

	-LP2108/LP2121 Cahermorris/Bunatober, Headford -R446 Cappataggle -LP2115 & LP2128 Currans Cross -R357/LP2125 Doonbeg, Ballynastuckaun -L4501 at L8580 & L8593 Dunkellin Junctions -R344 Inagh Valley -L31142 & L7182 & L3114 Junction of LS7182 & LT31142 with LP3114 Carrowbaun to Kiltullagh Road -L8568 & L4502 & R347 Junction of LS8568 & LP4502 with R347 Craughwell to Ardahan Road -R358 & LP3406 Kilglass: T Junction -R336 Tully National School.		
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate and support community involvement and participation</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Enhancement of Physical Environment	Sponsorship of 5 Community Employment Schemes	80 employees	85 employees
Providing Employment in Local Area	Implementation and continued promotion of Gateway scheme.	50 employees by year end	68 employees
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of Pearses Cottage</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Economic & Social Development	Land surrounding Pearses Cottage acquired to facilitate construction of interpretative centre by Roinn na Gaeltachta.	Acquired by year end	CPO completed. Land acq. Ongoing.
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver quality services in accordance with our Customer Services Action Plan.</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Responding to customer complaints	Responding to Fix Your Street Complaints	2 days	<b>2 to 5 days</b>
Economic Development	Number of responses issued annually to Roads and Services queries	50	342
	Number of responses issued to Roads and Services queries within 15 days	50	330
	Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued annually	110	152
	Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued within 5 days	110	150

	Number of Road Opening Licences issued annually	140	92
	Number of Road Opening Licences issued within 10 days	140	75
	Number of Scaffolding Licences issued annually	40	23
	Number of Scaffolding Licences issued within 5 days	40	23
	Number of Wayleave Agreements processed annually	95	77
	Number of Wayleave Agreements processed within 8 weeks	95	68
Emergency Response	Provide necessary response to serious flooding incidents	As required	Responded appropriately.

<b>PLANNING</b>			
<b>Service Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To secure the sustainable balanced development of the county in an impartial and uniform manner through the discharge of our core statutory responsibilities and in initiatives taken to make provision for the long term future development of the county.</li> </ul>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prudent, impartial and responsive Planning Service for the Development Sector and the general public.</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Development Management within the statutory and regulatory frameworks and in a fair and impartial manner.	Number of Applications dealt with in 8 weeks	60%	59.51%
	Number of Appeals to An Bord Pleanala.	Less than 10% of all decisions.	3%
		50% or more of GCC decisions upheld.	71.43%
	% of Appeals upheld / overturned	5 or less	3
	Number of Complaints to the Ombudsman.	4 weeks for initial response	77% of queries deal within 4 weeks.
	Average time to process Section 5 Applications	A response to issue within 2 weeks of receipt of correspondence	A response to issue within 2 weeks of receipt of correspondence
Pre-Planning meetings facilitated	Number of Self Service Planning Queries generated	15% above 2014 rate (706 in 2014)	1521 ↑ of 115.5%
	Number of scheduled Pre-Planning Meetings facilitated.	20 per fortnight	18 per fortnight
County Development Plan Objectives	Commence the implementation of 3 specific objectives of the County Development Plan	3 specific objectives under active consideration.	1 specific objective complete (2 LAPs complete CS6) and 2 under active consideration (Renewable energy ER4b, Co Econ Dev

			<i>Strategy EDT2).</i> In addition, advice given based on all the housing objectives <i>RH01-RH13</i> and flooding objectives <i>FL1-FL6</i> at preplanning meetings and as requested.
Develop a new Development Contributions Scheme)	Scheme presented to the SPCs and adopted by full Council	Scheme operational by Q2	Scheme operational by Q4
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Protection of Standards and Effective Enforcement</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Enforcement	All complaints acknowledged within 1 week and investigated within the statutory period.	90% target achieved	90% target achieved
Building Control Inspections	To meet the minimum target for inspections – within statutory timeframes	15% inspection rate.	27%
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clear and relevant Development Plans and Local Area Plans</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Local Area Plans	2 Local Area Plans to be prepared and brought to Elected members.	2 adopted by 2015	2 adopted in 2015
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enhanced places to live, work and enjoy.</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Unfinished estates	Number of Sites brought to acceptable standards with Developers  Number of Bonds drawn down and works executed	8  8	15 estates recd for TIC  3
Taking in Charge	Number of Estates recommended for Taking in Charge by Galway CoCo.	10 estates sent for formal TIC by end 2015	15 Estates were recommended to Roads section for taking in charge in 2015.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To create awareness, knowledge, pride and to protect the built, natural and</b></li> </ul>		

cultural heritage			
Actions	Performance Measure		
Built Heritage (Architectural Conservation)	Number of Statutory notices issued under the Planning & Development Act (Architectural Conservation)		Over 1000 Section 12 Notices were issued in 2015 as part of the Co Dev Plan review process which resulted in 676 structures being added to the Record of Protected Structures in February 2015. In addition, 14 Section 55 Notices issued following statutory process. 7 Section 57 Declarations were issued.
	Department Grants/funding opportunities availed of	All funding opportunities availed of.	All funding opportunities availed of. €15k was received under the Structures at Risk Fund for works to Gort Library.
	Number of recorded advisory sessions with individuals	100% of all requests facilitated.	100% of all requests facilitated.
Built, Natural & Cultural Heritage	Department Grants/funding opportunities availed of	All funding opportunities availed of.	All funding opportunities availed of. <u>Heritage</u> <i>Approx €110k received from Heritage Council.</i> In addition, the

	<p>Number of recorded advisory sessions with individuals</p> <p>12 Specific Actions under the Heritage Plan executed</p>	<p>100% of all requests facilitated.</p> <p>12 named projects completed by year end.</p>	<p>Heritage Section provided €15k in funding and supported 44 no. heritage projects undertaken by heritage/comm groups in 2015.</p> <p>100% of all requests facilitated.</p> <p>12 named projects approved for Heritage Council funding completed by year end (Project listing and funding received attached). In addition, approx. 30 more heritage events were organised by the Heritage Section and /or in conjunction with the Heritage Dept. (Listing of projects attached).</p>
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<b>COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>			
<b>Service Area</b>	<p><b>To assist communities to develop in a sustainable, healthy and inclusive manner.</b></p> <p><b>To facilitate, promote and participate in the integrated development of the local economy and to position the local authority as a driver of economic and social development in the County.</b></p>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To bring a strategic focus to our activities in relation to the promotion and support of economic development in the county.</b></li> </ul>		
Support of Economic Initiatives in Co Galway	No. of economic initiatives supported through the Community Support Scheme	50	60
	No. of economic initiatives supported (other than CSS)	10	10
Further develop the <i>Made in Galway</i> initiative to support the Food and Craft Sectors	Increase traffic to Made in Galway website and Facebook site	+ 10% Website Traffic	10%
	Participation at Expo events	+10% Facebook likes 4 Expo Events 50 Businesses supported to attend events	+15% 4 Expo Events Target met
Development of online promotional videos of Tourism attractions in Galway	Increased no. of online videos developed through VisitorFlix Initiative	15 additional videos produced	-
			Consultation, research and drafting of the Tourism Strategy for Galway completed during 2015
Development of Tourist Facilities at Portumna/Lough Derg	Delivery of improved Marina facilities at Castle Marina, Portumna	By Q4	Project progressed and funding secured. Work ongoing
	Delivery of cycle track from Marina to bathing area	By Q4	Project in development
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Establish the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) as a strong, well-functioning committee.</b></li> </ul>		



<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Local Community Development Committee	No. of meetings facilitated SICAP tender process completed Oversight of SICAP	6 meetings Q1 No. of payments approved	6 meetings Not completed as subject to Judicial Review 0
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To develop and adopt the Local Economic and Community Plan as a cornerstone of Galway County Council's enhanced role as a driver of economic development.</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Local Economic and Community Plan	Advisory Steering Group established to assist in preparation and drafting of the LECP Community elements of LECP developed and adopted by LCDC Economic elements of LECP developed and adopted by Economic Development & Enterprise SPC 6 year plan adopted by Council in accordance with regulations and guidelines	Q1 Q4 Q4 Q4	Established April 2015 Completed by Q4 Completed by Q4 Adopted by Council in February 2016
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To develop a culture that is supportive of economic development across all areas of business and services of the local authority.</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Support the Strategic Economic Development Role of Galway County Council	No. of meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC Feasibility study to maximise the economic return for Galway Airport Site completed Economic Strategy for County Galway adopted	4 Meetings April Q4	4 meetings Completed Economic Baseline Summary completed Q2
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fully integrate the Local Enterprise Officer (LEO) into the Economic Development activities of the local authority to position Galway County Council as a major driver and supporter of economic development in the county.</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Integration of Local Enterprise Officer	No. of joint initiatives with LEO	5	Target met

(LEO) into the economic and enterprise development activities			
<b>Objective</b>	• <b>Community Support to support communities in their activities.</b>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Provision of funding support through the <i>Community Support Scheme</i>	Communities invited to apply for funding Workshops/information evenings facilitated at Municipal District level Applications assessed and recommendation to Council Issue notification letters and conditions No. of grants approved	January February March Co. Meeting April 300	January/February February March Co. Meeting April 422 applications received. 353 approved for some level of funding
Tidy Towns	No. of communities supported for Tidy Towns initiatives under the CSS	30	51
Pride of Place/LivCom	No. of Communities nominated for Pride of Place competition Site visits by national judges facilitated Attendance at National Awards Ceremony No. of communities nominated by Cooperation Ireland for LivCom	4 June/July/Aug November 1	4 July November LivCom was cancelled by the event organisers in 2015
Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative	No. of Communities supported under Community Diaspora Initiative	10	27
The provision of Arts and Cultural Services/Supports in the County	Arts Policy developed and adopted No. of arts grants approved  No. of Arts Programmes supported ➤ Arts & Disability Programme ➤ Arts & Education Programme ➤ Arts & Health Programme ➤ Arts & Libraries Programme ➤ Artists Support Programme ➤ Galway Music Education Programme (MEP)  No. of artists supported under the Artist Bursaries No. of artists supported under Tyrone Guthrie scheme No. of schools/artists supported under Artists in School Programme	Q2 65  6     12 2 5	74 plus 8 reallocations (4 not drawn down)  6     14 3 8

The facilitation of the Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) and delivery of sports support	No. of meetings of GSP GSP Strategic Plan adopted No. of training courses/events delivered No. of communities participating in the Fit Towns initiative No. of sports participation programmes (e.g. Men on the Move, Bike Week, Galway Walking Week, Park Run, Girls Active Programme, Couch to 5 k etc.) delivered	4 Q2 29 10 30	6 Q3 2016 33 10 32
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To facilitate the transition from Community &amp; Voluntary Forum to the new Public Participation Network (PPN) structures and support their activities and input into local government</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Support the development of the <i>Public Participation Network</i> and community engagement	No. of organisations registered with PPN Linkage groups established and supported to contribute to effective policy and services development Facilitation of community and voluntary representation on Council Committees  No. of meeting of County PPN Plenary No. of meeting of County PPN Secretariat No. of meetings of MDs Plenary Seminar on Community Engagement organised and delivered in association with PPN	430 8 linkage groups established Q1/Q2 SPCs/JPC – Q1 LCDC/GSP – Q1/Q2 24 no. PPN appointees on Co. Committees 2 4 1 Q2	543 7 SPCs/JPC/LCDC/GSP 27 1 5 1 June 2015
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Imbed Social Inclusion across the organisation in ethos and implementation.</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Social Inclusion Awareness/Development	No. of training events delivered for staff and Elected Members	4	3 Sessions Age Wise training delivered to Library Staff- Area Office Staff – Elected members community Wardens Total 60 participants

<i>Bealtaine – Celebrating Creativity As We Age</i>	<i>Bealtaine</i> organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	May 35	May 80
<i>Traveller Pride Week</i>	<i>Traveller Pride Week</i> organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	June 10	June 7
<i>Culture Night</i>	<i>Culture Night</i> organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	September 75	September 90
<i>Social Inclusion Week</i>	Social Inclusion Week organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	October 35	October 50
<i>Cathaoirleach Community Awards</i>	<i>Cathaoirleach Community Awards</i> hosted	November	November 100 nominations
Age Friendly Programme	No. of meetings of Age Friendly Alliance No. of meetings of Age Friendly County Implementation Group No. of meetings of Older People’s Council	4 4 12	4 4 12
Youth & Children – Facilitation of <i>Comhairle na nÓg</i>	No. of youth and children participating in <i>Comhairle na nÓg</i> Percentage of schools and youth groups participating (KPI)	350 65%	364 71%
Integration and Diversity & Implementation of European Integration Fund (EIF) programme	No. of education and training courses supported No. of workshops/seminars supported No. of ethnic minority community groups supported	3 5 7	3 5 7
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To support and drive the European Capital of Culture Bid to ensure maximum returns at community and economic levels to the County.</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Target 2015</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Support and drive the European Capital of Culture Bid and maximise UNESCO Creative City designation/network	Development and submission of Bid for ECOC in conjunction with City Council with significant county focus and geographical spread UNESCO Creative City of Film office established in cooperation with partners	October  Q1/Q2	October  Q1

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES REPORTS

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2015

#### Membership

Name	Chair	Economic Development & Enterprise
Cllr. Peter Feeney		1
Cllr. Michael Finnerty		1
Cllr. Tom Healy		1
Cllr. Sean Ó Tuairisg		1
Cllr. Shane Donnellan		1
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	1	1
Cllr. Mary Hoade		1
Cllr. Karey McHugh		1
<b>Community/Voluntary</b>		
Mr. Dan Dowling (Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd)		1
<b>Trade Union</b>		
Mr. Paul Quinn		1
<b>Development and Construction Sector</b>		
Mr. Paul Mannion (RIAI), Scott, Tallon, Walker Architects, 22 Eyre Square, Galway		1
<b>Business/Commercial Sector</b>		
Ms. Michelle Murphy (Galway Chamber), Collins McNicholas, Unit 27, Briarhill Business Park, Galway		1

4 Meetings of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC took place in 2015

Significant work was undertaken by the Committee which contributed to the development and launch of the Economic Baseline Studies for Galway which were produced in association with the Whittaker Institute, NUI Galway. The economic baseline studies informed the work of the

committee by assisting to identify priority areas where there were opportunities for the committee to contribute to the economic and enterprise development of County Galway.

In 2015 the SPC were very active in the development of the Local Economic & Community Plan in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. Cllr Peter Feeney, Cllr Shane Donnellan and Mr Dan Dowling were appointed to the Advisory Steering Group for the LECP and they worked with staff, nominated members from the Local Community Development Committee and a number of external experts to oversee and coordinate the development of the LECP in accordance with the legislation and guidelines. The SPC received presentations and updates on the development of the LECP at each of the meetings of the Committee.

In addition to the work on the Economic Baseline Studies and the Local Economic and Community Plan the SPC undertook significant work on a number of other areas. These included the following:

- The Feasibility Study for the Future Economic Uses of Galway Airport site
- The Development of a Tourism Strategy for Galway
- The European Capital of Culture 2020 Bid
- The Action Plan for Jobs
- The Implementation of the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) Report
- The Rollout of the Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) Programme
- The Development of a Food Innovation Hub & Incubation Units
- The European Region of Gastronomy 2018 Bid
- The Business Incentive Scheme

Much of the work undertaken in 2015 will contribute to the ongoing economic and enterprise development of Galway and will continue to be priority actions over the coming years.

## HOUSING, CULTURE & RECREATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2015

### Membership

Name	Chair	Housing Culture & Recreation
Cllr. Malachy Noone		1
Cllr. Donal Burke		1
Cllr. Eileen Mannion		1
Cllr. Michael Fahy		1
Cllr. Pat Hynes		1
Cllr. Donagh Killilea		1
Cllr. Tom McHugh	1	1
<b>Community/Voluntary Sector</b>		
Mr. Declan McKeon		1
<b>Development and Construction Sector</b>		
Ms. Helena McElmeel (RIAI)		1
<b>Social Inclusion Sector</b>		
Mr. Padraic Maher (Irish Wheelchair Association, Tuam)		1
<b>Agriculture/Farming Sector</b>		
Ms. Mona O'Donoghue, Concannon		1

4 Meetings of the Housing, Culture & Recreation SPC took place in 2015

The following are the main matters and policy issues discussed and considered by the Housing, Culture and Recreation SPC in 2015:

1. Social Housing Strategy Delivery
2. Capital Funding Programme
3. Current Expenditure
4. Voids Management Policy
5. Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
6. Homeless Action Plan
7. 1916/2016 Centenary Programme for the County of Galway.

## ROADS, TRANSPORTATION AND MARINE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2015

### Membership

Name	Chair	Roads, Transportation & Marine
<b>Cllr. James Charity</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Martina Kinane</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Michael Connolly</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Seosamh Ó Cualain</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Joe Byrne</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Michael Maher</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Des Joyce</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Peter Roche</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Community/Voluntary</b>		
<b>Mr. Tom Madden (Ballinalsoe Training for Employment Ltd)</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Development and Construction Sector</b>		
<b>Mr. Mark Coffey (CIF), Coffey Construction, Castlewood, Moanbaun, Athenry, Co. Galway</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Business/Commercial Sector</b>		
<b>Mr. Bryan Egan (GABC), Bryan Egan &amp; Associates, Consulting Engineers, 12 St. Francis Street</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Agriculture/Farming</b>		
<b>Mr. Michael Healy</b>		<b>1</b>

4 Meetings of the Roads SPC took place in 2015.

The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

1. Pay Parking On-Street Bye-Laws
2. Skip Bye-Laws
3. Horse Drawn Hackney Carriages Bye-Laws – Cill Rónán
4. Method of apportionment of Roads Funding
5. Special Speed Limits Bye-Laws – Housing Estates
6. Funding for Public Lighting



All of these topics were considered relevant by the members of the SPC, and it was considered more important to make the correct decisions regarding policy, rather than to make quick decisions. Further reports and information were requested on the costs associated with pay parking and the reduction in income for proposed changes to the regulation of pay parking, before making a final policy decision. Additional reports have also been sought on the proposal to alter the method of apportionment of roads funding from the traditional allocation per km in each Municipal District. These reports have been prepared and revisited and revised at a few SPC meetings and continue to be a matter of discussion.

It was agreed to proceed to public consultation with the horse drawn hackney carriage bye-laws as presented and discussed at an SPC meeting. It was decided to deal with the matter of skip bye-laws at a later date, as other matters were deemed to take precedent.

An extensive report was presented on the matter of funding for public lighting and the need to provide additional funding for our current stock. The lack of resources available to provide for additions to the lighting stock was also highlighted in the report.

## PLANNING AND COMMUNITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2015

### Membership

Name	Chair	Planning & Community
<b>Cllr. Jim Cuddy</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Frank Kearney</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Dermot Connolly</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Aidan Donohue</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Séamus Walsh</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Thomas Welby</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Seán Canney</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Community/Voluntary</b>		
<b>Ms. Patricia Tierney (Ballinalsoe Training for Employment Ltd)</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Mr. Gus McCarthy (CIF), McCarthy, Keville, O'Sullivan, Environmental Consultants, Block 1 GVSC, Moneenageisha Road</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Social Inclusion</b>		
<b>Ms. Frances O'Reilly (Galway Age Friendly Older Persons Council)</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Environment/Conservation</b>		
<b>Ms. Marian Brady (An Taisce)</b>		<b>1</b>

4 Meetings of the Planning and Community SPC took place in 2015.

The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

- Development Contribution Scheme
- Local Area Plans
- Tidy towns Initiatives
- Update on LECP and Citizen Engagement Conference
- Update on Social Inclusion Week
- Update on European Region of Gastronomy Bid

All of these topics were considered relevant by the members of the SPC, and were discussed and progressed during 2015. It was agreed to proceed to put the Draft Development Contribution scheme on public display as required by regulation and the scheme was subsequently adopted at the full Council Meeting in February 2016. Local Area Plans for Headford, Ballinasloe and Portumna were discussed and agreed for presentation to the full Council. These plans have been adopted by the Council.

**ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STRATEGIC POLICY  
COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2015**

Membership

Name	Chair	Environment, Water Services, Fire & Emergency Services
<b>Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Tim Broderick</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Niamh Byrne</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Tomás Ó Curraoin</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Noel Thomas</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Gerry Finnerty</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Anne Rabbitte</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cllr. Peter Keaveney</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Community/Voluntary</b>		
<b>Mr. John Mannion (St Enda/Liam Mellows Residence, Tuam)</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Business/Commercial Sector</b>		
<b>Mr. David Courtney (GABC), David Courtney &amp; Associates, Planning and Building Consultants, Cathertymore, Athenry, Co. Galway</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Environment/Conservation</b>		
<b>Mr. Mark Green (Galway Environmental Network)</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Agriculture/Farming</b>		
<b>Mr. Bertie Roche, Kylemore Abbey, Loughrea, Co Galway,</b>		<b>1</b>

Environmental, Water, Fire and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

4 Meetings of the Environmental, Water and Emergency Services SPC took place in 2015

The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

- Waste Management Plan,
- Burial Grounds,
- Litter Management Plan,
- Water Framework Directive – governance arrangements,
- Significant Water Management issues in Ireland – public consultation,
- National Inspection Plan – septic tanks.

## **MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS REPORTS**

### **REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2015** **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE - 2015**

The members of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe met monthly with the exception of August in 2015. The Annual General Meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 where Cllr. Michael Finnerty was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Donal Burke was elected Leas Cathaoirleach for 2015/2016.

At their meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 the members approved the Municipal District Schedule of Works 2015 and the 3 Year Multi Annual Roads Programme for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

The members previewed the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015-2021 at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2015. The members discussed submissions received on the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015–2021 at their meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 and submissions received on the proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015-2021 at their meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

The members received an update from Ms. Catherina Blewitt, West Regional Business Relationship Manager, IDA at their meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 at the Draft Budgetary Plan 2016 Meeting, the members approved the draft General Municipal Allocation of €4,737,186 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

The Municipal District of Ballinasloe declared roads at two locations to be public roads and they approved the abandonment of one public road in 2015 in accordance with the Roads Act 1993. They also considered proposals in regard to speed limit bye-laws for housing estates in 2015.

The members received Deputations in 2015 from:

- a) The IFA with regard to National Cycle Route – Dublin to Galway
- b) Derrymullen Flood Study Group with regard to flooding issues in the Ballinasloe area
- c) Representatives from the Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd. with regard to digging up of Ballinasloe Town streets and its possible disruption on local businesses and
- d) Representatives from Clontuskert Heritage Committee with regard to the conversion of the Old School into a Community Centre at Clontuskert.

The members agreed to accept an invitation for the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe and an official to attend the 56th Fete des Vins d'Anjou by Stella DUPONT, Conseiller Général de Maine et Loire, Maire de CHALONNES SUR LOIRE on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. The Cathaoirleach and Mr. Alan Farrell, Senior Executive Officer attended.

## **REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2015** **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM - 2015**

The members of the Municipal District of Tuam held eight meetings during 2015, including a budget meeting and the Annual General Meeting, at the Municipal District of Tuam offices in Tuam, Co Galway to discuss the provision of services for the district, community issues and concerns and matters appertaining to their representational role.

They approved a Schedule of Works for the Municipal District on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015 which amounted to €537,268 in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). They also considered and approved the Annual Roadworks Programme for the Municipal District of Tuam for 2015, consisting of a specific allocation for non-national roads in the Municipal District of Tuam totalling €3,314,250.

They received four deputations in 2015 from:

- Dunmore Development Committee – to discuss the need for a Traffic Management Plan for the town of Dunmore.
- Community of Ballyglunin and Ballyglunin Community Development Company - regarding the proposed demolition of the historic Demesne wall at Ballyglunin.
- Tuam Community Council – to discuss the advancement and progression of Tuam town
- Tuam Taxi Drivers – to discuss the provision of taxi spaces in the town of Tuam

At the Annual General meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Cllr Mark Killilea was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr Tom McHugh was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Tuam for a period of 12 months.

The members requested and received attendance at a meeting of representatives of the IDA, who presented their proposals for the economic development of Tuam and its environs.

The proposed Headford Local Area Plan was presented to the members and discussed in detail, with their comments considered in completing its final draft for presentation to the plenary Council.

A number of roads in the Municipal District were declared to be public roads, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993. Consideration was given to the Galway County Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 -2021.

A list of housing estates, in the MD of Tuam, which are in the charge of the Council, and where it was proposed to put special speed limits in place, was agreed by the members.

The members approved the draft General Municipal Allocation of €5,419,508 on the 02<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 in advance of the 2016 Annual Budget meeting in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

## **REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2015** **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA - 2015**

The Municipal District of Loughrea includes the towns of Loughrea, Portumna, Gort and environs. The Municipal District held 11 monthly meetings, 1 Annual Meeting and 1 Budget Meeting during 2015.

The Members considered a wide range of topics which included

- Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach
- The adoption of the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District
- Schedule of Works for 2015,
- Roads Programme 2015
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- Meeting with Fáilte Ireland to promote economic development in its district
- Draft Portumna Area Plan 2015-2021
- The Local Economic and Community Plan- Socio Economic Statement for the County
- Dublin to Galway Greenway

Members also met a number of deputations during 2015 to hear and take actions on their concerns.

Cllr. Anne Rabbitte was elected Cathaoirleach at the Annual Meeting held in June 2015 , while Cllr. Joe Byrne was elected Leas Cathaoirleach .

## **REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2015** **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA-2015**

The members of the Municipal District of Conamara held regular meetings during 2015 mainly at its headquarters located in the restored Old Courthouse at Oughterard and at the County Buildings in Galway to discuss the provision of services for the district, community issues and concerns and matters appertaining to their representational role. They approved a Schedule of Works for the Municipal District on the 20-2-2015 which amounted to €633,767 in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). They also considered and approved the Municipal District aspect of the Annual Roads Program for 2015. They received deputations from various community and local development committees from places such as Oughterard, Clonbur and Leenane to discuss local community concerns such as road maintenance issues and held a meeting with representatives of the farming community on the 10-4-2014 to discuss the consent of landowners to permissive access in regard to the proposed Conamara Greenway Project. The members also received a delegation from Rosmuc National School comprising teachers and pupils in recognition of their achievement in the Junior Entrepreneur Program.

The members reiterated their support for the proposed R-336 and N-59 road developments in Conamara and discussed the very restrictive impact SAC designations have on proposed infrastructural developments. They considered a progress report on the upgrade of the N59 NS Route and emphasised the vital importance of its construction for Conamara. They also considered progress reports on storm damage/coastal protection. They declared a number of roads to be public roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 and considered proposals in regard to speed limit bye-laws for housing estates and the deadline for submissions in regard to speed limits for roads in Conamara. A Traffic Management Plan and Car Park Bye-Laws were agreed to be implemented for Cleggan. The members discussed the need for solutions to safety issues appertaining to Bearná, Moycullen and Roscahill National Schools, the construction of a pedestrian bridge at Oughterard, the roads at Tigh Tommy and Puiríní, Inverin and the delivery of petrol to Inishmore on the Aran Islands. They discussed the €8 million allocation for the development of the harbour at Inish Oirr and welcomed the progress on the development of a Visitor's Center at Teach an Phiarsaigh, Rosmuc in light of the 2016 Centenary Commemoration.

A meeting was held on the 14-7-2015 with officials of the Community and Enterprise Department to discuss the Socio-Economic Statement for County Galway which will form part of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 and this Statement was subsequently approved by the Municipal District. This included a proposal to develop a Geological Park in North Conamara and the members welcomed that fact that funding has been secured to employ a geologist in regard to this. The Annual Meeting was held on the 12-6-2015 and Cllr. Seamus Walsh was replaced by Cllr. Eileen Mannion as Cathaoirleach. The members approved the draft General Municipal Allocation of €5,419,508 on the 6-11-2015 in advance of the Annual Budget for 2016 meeting in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

## **REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2015** **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ATHENRY/ORANMORE-2015**

The Seven Members of the Athenry-Oranmore District met on seven occasions in 2015, including an AGM on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2015 and a Budget Meeting in October 2015. The District extends from the Galway City Boundary on the North, East and South and includes the main towns and villages of Athenry, Oranmore, Claregalway, Clarinbridge and Corundulla as well as dispersed rural areas that have experienced consistent population growth. Meetings convene in Áras on Chontae. In advance of the MD meetings, Members received delegations from a number of communities including Sycamore Cove, Maree, Oranhill and Casey Cross about specific local amenity and road safety matters.

In February 2015, a Schedule of Works (Repairs and Maintenance for the District) in respect of Bring Banks, Burial Grounds, Housing & Estate Maintenance and Parks & Open Spaces was approved. In April, Members considered the Roads Programme 2015 and funding was approved in June for 5 projects under the Community Roads Works Involvement Scheme. In the approval of Roads Funding, a key discussion by Members was the desire to advance a policy whereby, any additional resources would be distributed not just based on per km of classification of road but, by the level of usage (traffic volumes). All agreed the District experiences high levels of traffic volume

due to access to the City, Motorways and Population base and that the matter be raised at the Roads Strategic Policy Committee.

During 2015, Members approved the *Taking in Charge* of a number of Estates and in line with Section 11 of Roads Act 1993, the District Members approved a number of roads to be declared a Public Road. Queries were consistently raised throughout the year about progress on pavement and roads works to address safety and improvement issues raised by communities. In April, Members approved a Material Contravention of the Athenry Local Area Plan (2012-2016) to facilitate permission to be sought by a large retail business near the town centre. Members welcomed the initiative of Planning to attract growth in Athenry Town Centre, within a planned and balanced approach. Members approved a statement for inclusion in the Socio Economic Statement for the County Galway Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

In September, Members undertook a site visit to Rinville Park and approved a Woodlands Management Plan for the long-term sustainable development of the Park. In November, Members considered a presentation from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) on the Proposed Motorway Service Station on the M6.

The Annual Meeting was held June 9<sup>th</sup> 2015 and Cllr. Peter Feeney was replaced by Cllr. Martina Kinane as Cathaoirleach.



## **COUNCILLORS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES & OTHER BODIES**

### **Association of Irish Local Government**

Cllr. Peter Feeney  
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty  
Cllr. Donagh Killilea  
Cllr. Thomas Welby

3 Members nominated to the Standing Policy Council of the Association are as follows:

Cllr. Gerry Finnerty  
Cllr. Peter Feeney  
Cllr. Thomas Welby

### **Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees**

Cllr. Seamus Walsh  
Cllr. Niamh Byrne

### **Northern & Western Regional Assembly**

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn  
Cllr. Martina Kinnane  
Comh Tomás Ó Curraoin

### **Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly  
Cllr. Karey McHugh  
Cllr. Donagh Killilea  
Cllr. Shane Donnellan  
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty  
Cllr. Peter Feeney  
Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher  
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin

### **Galway Rural Development Company**

Cllr. Michael Finnerty  
Cllr. Tim Broderick  
Cllr. Pat Hynes

**Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd.**

Cllr. Peter Feeney  
Cllr. Anne Rabbitte

**Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.**

Cllr. Donagh Killilea

**County (Local) Rural Water Monitoring Committee**

Cllr. Peter Roche  
Cllr. Noel Thomas  
Cllr. Michael Fitzmaurice  
Cllr. Joe Byrne nominated to Committee on 15.12.14 following election of Cllr. Fitzmaurice to Dáil Eireann.

**Loughrea Heritage Committee**

Cllr. Shane Donnellan  
Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher

**LAMA**

Cllr. Tom McHugh

**Western Inter-County Rail Committee**

Comh. Seosamh Ó Cualáin  
Cllr. Michael Connolly  
Cllr. Seán Canney  
Cllr. Peter Roche  
Cllr. Martina Kinane  
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty nominated to Committee on 28.9.15 following resignation of Cllr. Kinane

**Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board (Formerly VEC)**

Cllr. Tom Healy  
Cllr. Karey McHugh  
Cllr. Donal Burke  
Cllr. Anne Rabbitte  
Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher  
Cllr. Eileen Mannion

**Regional Health Forum Representation, West**

Cllr. Donagh Killilea  
Cllr. Mary Hoade  
Cllr. Tim Broderick  
Cllr. Michael Finnerty  
Cllr. Aidan Donohue

**Forum Conamara Ltd.**

Cllr. Niamh Byrne  
Cllr. Eileen Mannion  
Cllr. Seamus Walsh  
Cllr. Thomas Welby

**Comhar na nOileán Teoranta**

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

**County Galway Local Sports Partnership**

Cllr. Donagh Killilea

**Joint Policing Committee**

Comh. Seosamh Ó Cualáin  
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe  
Cllr. James Charity  
Cllr. Tom Healy  
Cllr. Noel Thoma  
Cllr. Donagh Mark Killilea  
Cllr. Martina Kinane  
Cllr. Malachy Noone  
Cllr. Mary Hoade  
Cllr. Michael Connolly  
Cllr. Joe Byrne  
Cllr. Aidan Donohue  
Cllr. Eileen Mannion  
Cllr. Anne Rabbitte  
Cllr. Peter Roche  
Cllr. Frank Kearney nominated to Committee on 20.7.15 following resignation of Cllr. Killilea

**Audit Committee**

Cllr. Mary Hoade

**Governing Authority of N.U.I.G.**

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

**Local Community Development Committee**

Cllr. Dermot Connolly

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Cllr. Noel Thomas

**Road Safety Together Committee**

Cllr. Malachy Noone

## CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

	<b>Conference</b>	<b>Organised By</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
<b>1</b>	Govt.'s Construction 2020 Strategy – Local Govt. Housing Supply	Irish Private & Public Bodies (Consulting) Ltd.	Whites Hotel, Wexford 6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> February	1 Member
<b>2</b>	EU Support Programmes for Irish Regions	Ace Management & Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 27 <sup>th</sup> February – 1 <sup>st</sup> March	3 Members
<b>3</b>	Domestic Water Charges – Preparation & Practicalities	Ace Management & Training	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	3 Members
<b>4</b>	Oughterard Courthouse – A Flagship Leader Project – How it was done	Oughterard Courthouse Conservation & Heritage Co. Ltd.	Oughterard Courthouse, Oughterard, Co. Galway 29 <sup>th</sup> May	26 Members
<b>5</b>	EU Support Programmes for Irish Regions	Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> June	1 Member
<b>6</b>	Local Government & Economic Development	Superior Training	Park House Hotel, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford 12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> June	1 Member

7	Generation Rent – The Future of the Private Rented Sector in Ireland	Threshold	Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson St., Dublin 2 16 <sup>th</sup> June	1 Member
8	Economic Equality – Societal Risk	TASC	Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin 19 <sup>th</sup> June	1 Member
9	Local Economic & Community Plans	Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> July	1 Member
10	MacGill Summer School 2015	Patrick MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Co. Donegal 19 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> July	2 Members
11	Planning & Building Regulations	Esperanza Enterprises	Connacht Hotel, Galway 28 <sup>th</sup> July	1 Member
12	Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh 2015 – An Piarsach i Ros Muc	Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe	Scoil Bhriocáin, An Gort Mór, Ros Muc, Co. na Gaillimhe 31 <sup>st</sup> Iúil	1 Member
13	Regulation of the Lobbying Act 2015	Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> August	1 Member
14	The Housing Debate: What role for Local Govt. in Rebuilding our Communities	Co-operation Ireland	NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare 10 <sup>th</sup> September	1 Member
15	Conamara Descendants Gathering 2015	Clifden 2012 Committee	Clifden, Co. Galway 11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> September	9 Members

<b>16</b>	New Regions, New Roles, New Responsibilities	Association of Irish Regions	Meadow Court Hotel, Loughrea, Co. Galway 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2015	1 Member
<b>17</b>	Sustainable Communities	ECOPRO Seminar 2015	Dublin City University 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2015	1 Member
<b>18</b>	Twinning Visit to Washington County/ Trip to Milwaukee Irish Festival & Chicago		Washington County/ Milwaukee/Chicago 9 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2015	4 Members

### TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

	<b>Training Event</b>	<b>Organised By</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
<b>1</b>	Roles & Responsibilities of SPC's	I.P.A.	I.T. Training Room, Galway Co. Council, County Hall, Galway 12 <sup>th</sup> February	5 Members
<b>2</b>	Roles & Responsibilities of SPC's	I.P.A.	I.T. Training Room, Galway Co. Council, County Hall, Galway 13 <sup>th</sup> February	4 Members
<b>3</b>	Governance (Part 1) of Local Authorities	AILG	Welcome Inn Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo 26 <sup>th</sup> February	9 Members
<b>4</b>	AILG Second Annual Conference	AILG	Nuremore Hotel, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan 12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> March	13 Members
<b>5</b>	LAMA Spring Training Seminar	LAMA	Ard Rí House Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway 10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> April	8 Members
<b>6</b>	Local Economic Development & The Role of the Local Authority	AILG	Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick 18 <sup>th</sup> April	5 Members
<b>7</b>	Local Economic Development & The Role of the Local Authority	AILG	Clayton Hotel, Galway City 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	4 Members
<b>8</b>	Local Community Development & LCDC's	AILG	Springhill Court Hotel, Kilkenny 7 <sup>th</sup> May	3 Members



9	Local Community Development & LCDC's	AILG	Radisson Hotel, Sligo 16 <sup>th</sup> May	8 Members
10	Local Community Development & LCDC's	AILG	Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise 21 <sup>st</sup> May	2 Members
11	Local Authority Finance & Housing	AILG	Longford Arms Hotel, Longford 13 <sup>th</sup> June	1 Member
12	Local Authority Finance & Housing	AILG	Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Roscommon 25 <sup>th</sup> June	11 Members
13	Development, Analysis & Review of Council Policy	Galway Co. Council	Galway Co. Council, Prospect Hill, Galway 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	9 Members
14	Chairing & Participation in meetings of the Council	Galway Co. Council	Galway Co. Council, Prospect Hill, Galway 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	7 Members
15	Autumn Seminar 2015	AILG	Inchydoney Island Hotel, Inchydoney, Co. Cork 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	16 Members
16	Age-Wise Training	Galway County Council	Galway Co. Council, Prospect Hill, Galway 5 <sup>th</sup> October	2 Members
17	I.T. Training for Council Members	Galway County Council	Galway Co. Council, Prospect Hill, Galway 5 <sup>th</sup> October	5 Members
18	Autumn Training Seminar 2015	LAMA	Hotel Kilkenny, Kilkenny 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> October	12 Members
19	Roads, Transportation & Safety	AILG	Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon 27 <sup>th</sup> October	15 Members

20	Septic Tanks, Ground Water & Water Pollution	AILG	Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway 5 <sup>th</sup> November	5 Members
21	Septic Tanks, Ground Water & Water Pollution	AILG	Red Cow Hotel, Dublin 14 <sup>th</sup> November	2 Members
22	An Introduction to Office 365	Galway County Council	Galway Co. Council, Prospect Hill, Galway 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	5 Members

### ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES

Name of Councillor	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoir - leach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Expense re Meetings of External Bodies	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Foreign Travel	Mobile Phone Allowance	TOTAL
Broderick Tim	7,710.44	16,507.92				488.42		895.09	112.44		187.87	25,902.18
Burke Donal	4,757.16	16,507.92										21,265.08
Byrne Niamh	6,203.64	16,507.92		3,318.72		434.76		664.80	511.09			27,640.93
Byrne Joe	6,337.56	16,507.92						278.45	136.19			23,260.12
Canney Sean	6,203.64	16,507.92										22,711.56
Cronnelly Gabriel	6,404.52	16,507.92							68.68	2,889		25,870.12
Cuddy Jim	4,911.12	16,507.92			6,307.34							27,726.38
Connolly Dermot	8,788.68	16,507.92							128.27			25,424.87
Connolly Michael	7,710.44	16,507.92					3,000.01	1,066.18	532.00			28,816.55
Charity James	5,333.16	16,507.92										21,841.08
Cualáin Seosamh Ó	7,743.96	16,507.92						1,264.44	185.01			25,701.33
Curraoin Tomás Ó	5,018.40	16,507.92				523.67		1,720.62	443.83			24,214.44
Cunniffe Shaun	6,739.32	16,507.92						2,170.00	550.00		151.20	26,118.44
Donnellan Shane	7,007.04	16,507.92						643.98	101.48			24,260.42
Donohue Aidan	7,275.12	16,507.92				767.86		1,112.57	277.20			25,940.67

Name of Councillor	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Expense s re Meetings of External Bodies	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Foreign Travel	Mobile Phone Allowance	TOTAL
Fahy Michael	6,203.62	16,507.92						2,120.00	750.00			25,581.54
Feeney Peter	5,848.68	16,507.92				3,638.59	3000.01	905.24				29,900.44
Finnerty Gerry	6,390.62	16,507.92			6,307.34			71.84	97.83			29,375.55
Finnerty Michael	8,895.72	16,507.92					3000.01					28,403.65
Healy Tom	10,154.76	16,507.92							94.17			26,756.85
Hoade Mary	6,417.84	16,507.92	12,637.32			971.80		1,655.33	480.00	1,411.04	240.75	40,322.00
Hynes Pat	6,739.32	16,507.92						2,120.00	550.00			25,917.24
Joyce Des	9,718.84 (incl arrears of 889.65 from 2014)	17,687.06 (incl arrears of €1,179.14)										27,405.90
Kearney Frank	5,333.16	16,507.92						1,834.28	183.06			23,858.42
Keaveney Peter	8,681.40	16,507.92										25,189.32
Kinane Martina	5,592.96	16,507.92				807.52	3000.01	579.39	600.00			27,087.80
Killilea Donagh Mark	6,605.52	16,507.92				100.40	3,000.01	55.41				26,269.24
Mannion Eileen	9,545.28	16,507.92				2,530.17	3,000.01	879.75	82.00		161.90	32,707.03
Maher "Moegie"	6,377.78	16,507.92			6,307.34	699.46	3,000.01	1,983.61	250.00	2,889		38,015.12

Name of Councillor	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Other Bodies	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses re attendance at training	Expenses re attendance at Conferences	Foreign Travel	Mobile Phone Allowance	TOTAL
McHugh Karey	6,069.72	16,507.92										22,577.64
McHugh Tom	6,739.59	16,507.92			6,307.34			1,399.15	408.52			31,416.52
McClearn Jimmy	8,031.84	16,507.92			6,307.34	3056.76		1,578.68	530.00			36,012.54
Noone Malachy	5,232.60	16,507.92		3,000.01								24,740.53
Rabbitte Anne	8,547.48	16,507.92					3,000.01	123.40	136.79			28,315.60
Roche Peter	6,846.48	16,507.92	12,500.02				3,000.01	1,437.09	518.73	3320.93		44,131.18
Thomas Noel	5,400.00	16,507.92							513.05			22,420.97
Tuairisg Seán Ó	6,096.48	16,507.92						2,152.16	615.00			25,371.56
Walsh Séamus	6,525.12	16,507.92					3000.01	820.64	400.00	2,889		30,142.69

## PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL 2015

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE (INTERIM)

Mr. Kevin Kelly

### HOUSING, CORPORATE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

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

### WATER SERVICES & ENVIRONMENT

Director of Services:	Mr. Jim Cullen
Administrative Officer, Water Services:	Mr. Enda Moloney
Administrative Officer, Environment:	Mr. Páraic Carroll
Senior Engineers, Water Services:	Mr. Martin Lavelle
	Mr. Michael Dolly
	Ms. Máire Ni Chionna
Senior Executive Engineers, Water Services:	Ms. Martina Connaughton
	Ms. Fiona Holland
	Mr. Diarmuid Croghan
	Mr. Anthony Kelly
	Mr. Mike Melody (Acting)
	Mr. Enda Gallagher (Acting)
	Mr. John McMyler (Acting)
Senior Executive Engineer, Environment:	Mr. Tony McInerney

Safety Advisor/Health & Safety Officer:	Ms. Julianne Gavin
County Veterinary Inspector:	Ms. Rita Gately
Veterinary Inspector:	Mr. James Casey

## **PLANNING & COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Director of Services:	Ms. Catherine McConnell (Acting)
Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Bríd Dooley
Senior Executive Officer, Comm, Ent. & Ec. Dev:	Mr. Alan Farrell
Administrative Officer, Planning:	Ms. Eileen Keaveney
Administrative Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Anne Gardiner
Administrative Officer, Community & Enterprise:	Mr. Brian Barrett
Senior Executive Planners:	Ms. Saoirse Kennedy
	Ms. Valerie Loughnane Moran
Heritage Officer:	Ms. Marie Mannion
Conservation Officer:	Ms. Máirín Doddy
Chief Technician:	Mr. Enda Thompson
Rapid Co-ordinators:	Ms. Ann Mallaghan
	Mr. Kieran Coyne
Arts Officer:	Ms. Marilyn Gaughan Redden
Sports Co-ordinator	Mr. Michael Curley

## **ROADS, TRANSPORTATION, MARINE & GENERAL SERVICES**

Director of Services:	Mr. Liam Gavin
Administrative Officer:	Ms. Nuala Heffernan
Senior Engineers:	Mr. Evan Molloy
	Mr. Michael Timmins
Senior Executive Engineers:	Mr. John Leahy
	Mr. Uinsinn Finn
	Mr. Aengus Breathnach
	Mr. Sean Breathnach
	Mr. Fintan O'Meara
	Mr. Anthony Collins
	Mr. Alan Raleigh
	Mr. Paraic Breathnach
	Mr. Enda Mulryan (Acting)
	Mr. Ciaran Wynne (Acting)
	Mr. Adrian Headd (Acting)
Chief Technician:	Mr. John Maloney

## **AREA ENGINEERS**

Municipal District Ballinasloe (North):	Mr. Philip McLynn (Acting)
Municipal District Ballinasloe (South):	Mr. Fran McEvoy (Acting)
Municipal District Loughrea/Portumna:	Mr. Cyril Mitchell
Municipal District Loughrea (Gort):	Mr. Fergal Fahy

Municipal District Athenry/Oranmore:	Ms. Rachel Lowe (Acting)
Municipal District Tuam (West):	Mr. Sean Langan (Acting)
Municipal District Tuam (East):	Mr. John Flesk
Municipal District Conamara (South):	Mr. Kevin Finn
Municipal District Conamara (North):	Mr. T.J. Redmond

#### **FINANCE UNIT**

Head of Finance:	Mr. Gerard Mullarkey
Financial Accountant:	Ms. Áine Fenton
Management Accountant:	Mr. Michael McGovern
Administrative Officer:	Mr. Sean Groarke
Administrative Officer, Motor Tax:	Ms. Mary McGann
Head of Information Systems:	Mr. Mark Dunne

<b>PARTNERSHIP FACILITATOR:</b>	Mr. M. J. Walsh
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## OFFICES OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# Comhairle Chontae Na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

www.galway.ie/www.gaillimh.ie • www.twitter.com/galwaycoco • www.facebook.com/galwaycounty  
email: customerservices@galwaycoco.ie SMS (087) 77 99 888

### OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

### OFFICE LOCATION

**Headquarters** ..... (091) 509000

**Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway**

*The following offices are located in Áras An Chontae*

Housing Applications ..... (091) 509300

Housing Loans & Grants ..... (091) 509301

Human Resources ..... (091) 509303

Motor Taxation ..... (091) 509099

Planning ..... (091) 509308

Roads, Transportation &

Marine ..... (091) 509309

Rates ..... (091) 509171

Register of Electors ..... (091) 509310

Freedom of Information &

Access to Information on

the Environment ..... (091) 509319

Casual Trading ..... (091) 509327

Local Enterprise Office ..... (091) 509090

*The following offices are located at*

*Centrepoint, Lioshaun, Tuam Road,*

*Galway*

Environment ..... (091) 509510

Water Services ..... (091) 509505

Community & Enterprise ..... (091) 509521

Business Response Unit ..... (091) 509521

Arts Office ..... (091) 509521

Social Inclusion ..... (091) 509521

Sports Partnership ..... (091) 509521

*The following office is located at*

*Corporate House, Ballybrit, Galway*

National Roads Project

Office ..... (091) 735052

### AREA OFFICES

Athenry / Oranmore . . . (091) 844042 / 509088

Ballinasloe . . . . . (090) 9642274

Conamara South . . . . . (091) 509060

Conamara North . . . . . (095) 21186

Tuam . . . . . (093) 24123

Gort . . . . . (091) 631040 Eyrecourt . . . . . (090) 9675056

Portumna . . . . . (090) 9741019 Glenamaddy . . . . . (094) 9659734

Loughrea . . . . . (091) 841536 Gort . . . . . (091) 631224

**FIRE BRIGADES**

Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Headford . . . . . (093) 36406

Galway City, Gort, Inis Mor, Inis Meain . . . . . (099) 73126

Loughrea, Mountbellew, Inis Oirr . . . . . (099) 75154

Portumna and Tuam . . . . . 999 or 112 Killimor . . . . . (090) 9676062

Civil Defence Officer . . . . . (091) 570900 Kilonan . . . . . (099) 20937

### LIBRARIES

Headquarters, Galway . . . . . (091) 562471

Galway City Branch . . . . . (091) 561666

Ballybane . . . . . (091) 380590

Westside . . . . . (091) 520616

An Cheathrú Rua . . . . . (091) 595733

Athenry . . . . . (091) 845592

Ballinasloe . . . . . (090) 9643464

Ballygar . . . . . (090) 6624919

Clifden . . . . . (095) 21092

Dunmore . . . . . (093) 38923

Eyrecourt . . . . . (090) 9675056

Glenamaddy . . . . . (094) 9659734

Gort . . . . . (091) 631224

Headford . . . . . (093) 36406

Inis Meain . . . . . (099) 73126

Inis Oirr . . . . . (099) 75154

Inishbofin . . . . . (095) 45891

Killimor . . . . . (090) 9676062

Kilonan . . . . . (099) 20937

Leenane . . . . . (095) 42920

Letterfrack . . . . . (091) 742666

Loughrea . . . . . (091) 847220

Moylough . . . . . (090) 9679072

Oranmore . . . . . (091) 792117

Oughterard . . . . . (091) 557002

Portumna . . . . . (090) 9741261

Roundstone . . . . . (095) 35518

Spiddal . . . . . (091) 504028

Tuam . . . . . (093) 24287

Woodford . . . . . (090) 9749887

**Tá míle fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras agus gnó trí Ghaeilge  
gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie**

## **UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2015**

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

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

During 2015 the collection of Development Contributions remained a priority for the Council. The monies collected will be used to assist in the provision of necessary public infrastructure and community facilities for the County. A sum of €2.4 Million was collected under the Council's Section 48 Development Contribution scheme in 2015, which was an increase on the €1.8 Million collected in 2014.

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2014 €M</b>
Housing	10.446
Roads	36.343
Sanitary Services	15.054
Planning & Development	8.052
Environmental Protection	16.213
Recreation & Amenity	8.124
Agriculture & Education	7.658
Miscellaneous Services	13.943
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>115.833</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
State Grants	53.415
Other Sources	63.816
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>117.231</b>
Surplus / (Deficit) for year before transfers	1.398
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	(1.390)
<b>Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for year</b>	<b>0.007</b>
General Revenue Reserve at 1st January	(1.898)
General Revenue Reserve at 31st December	(1.891)

<b>BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2014</b>		
Net Assets	<b>2014 €M</b>	<b>2014 €M</b>
Fixed Assets		3,588,966
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses		197,499
Long Term Debtors		59,486
Current Assets	115,401	
Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)	(97,144)	
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		18,256
Creditors (Amounts falling due after one year)		(70,425)
Total		3,793,783
Represented By		
Capitalisation Account		3,588,966
Receipts - Work in Progress		195,214
Other Reserves		11,494
General Revenue Reserve		(1,891)
Total		3,793,783

Further details of the AFS are available on request:

**PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT 1997**

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

