

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2017 ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

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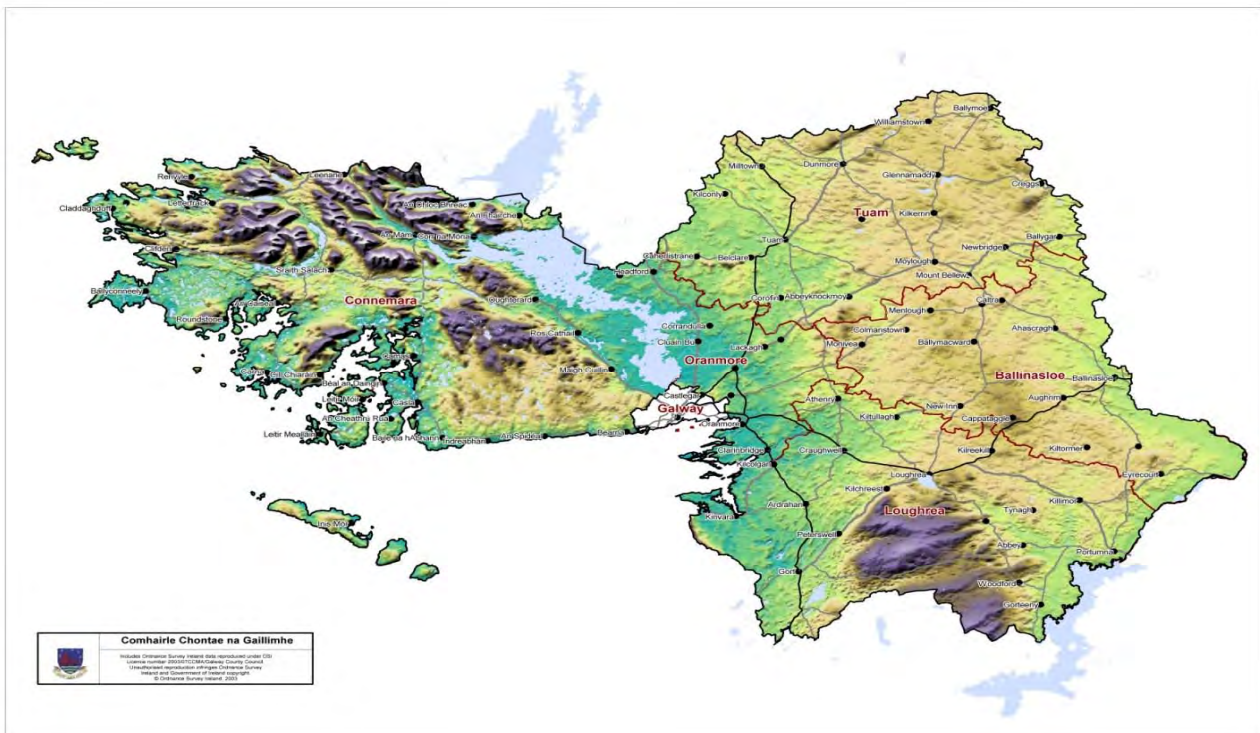
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Important Note: Copies of the Annual Report are available on request in alternate formats
contact : Corporate Services Section Áras an Chontae Prospect Hill Galway
Tel: 091- 509000 or email general@galwaycoco.ie

MISSION STATEMENT



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



CORE VALUES:-

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

Vision for Galway County Council

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY

As Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, it is a great honour and pleasure to introduce on behalf of Galway County Council, this Annual Report which records the progress of services delivered and achieved across the county in 2017 with expenditure of over €105m.

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. Management and elected members worked diligently during the year to ensure that financial support for various services and projects in the county was maintained and increased in many cases.

While it is an exciting time to be Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway there are many challenges for smaller towns, rural areas and for people in our communities, they face not just social and economic challenges but health challenges where ‘care’ is needed and care services are vital. My Mayoral Ball, held on Friday 1st December in Clifden, was a highlight for me as it afforded us the opportunity to recognise and contribute financially to the work of organisations and people who dedicate their time and energy to ‘caring’. Proceeds from this event benefited three worthy charities: Cystic Fibrosis Galway to help support their county wide campaign and fundraising efforts to improve facilities for children and adults with Cystic Fibrosis; Connemara Therapeutic Riding which provides equine assisted activity for people of all ages with a range of conditions including Cerebral Palsy, MS, Autism, Down’s Syndrome and mental health challenges and the Elm Tree Centre, Clifden and its Day Centre providing valuable mental health care services not just in Clifden but the broader Connemara area.

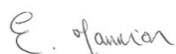
The double All-Ireland success by the Galway Minor and Senior Hurling teams was an outstanding achievement and a source of pride and happiness for the people of Galway in 2017. I was extremely honoured to be involved in the hosting of the Civic Welcome and Homecoming event for these exceptional sports stars in Ballinasloe and it was a heartwarming to see the huge turnout of people who came to share in the celebrations. Comhghairdeas leis an dá fhoireann maidir lena n-éachtaí iontacha.

In 2018, Galway will become a European Region of Gastronomy and be the first region in Ireland to be awarded the honour of this designation. In this regard, I was delighted to launch a website charting Galway’s gastronomic heritage during 2017. Galway’s Gastronomic History Project which is managed by the Heritage Section, the Social Inclusion Unit and Archivist of Galway County Council in partnership with local heritage groups, schools, individuals and the National Museum of Ireland Country Life embarked on documenting Galway’s rich gastronomic heritage on a website that showcases a wide range of information on the gastronomic history of the region. Over 800 items have already been posted to the site in 2017, ranging from the different utensils used for cooking down through the years, to the traditional dishes of individual townlands. I am also delighted to say that the Community Enterprise & Economic Development Unit were the initiators and developers of the proposal for a food innovation and incubation hub to assist the growth of the economy in the west region which will be one of the legacy projects from the European Region of Gastronomy designation.

The European Capital of Culture Galway 2020 designation is a hugely prestigious designation for Galway and it was good to learn from Hannah Kiely, Galway 2020 Chief Executive, at a presentation to the Elected Members that more than 60 per cent of the communities that had engaged with the programme's "Small Towns, Big Ideas" initiatives were based outside Galway city.

As Cathaoirleach of the Council, I wish to sincerely thank the staff of the organisation for the tremendous work they carry out on a daily basis for the development of this County; their dedication and professionalism are hallmarks of the council as a whole. I wish to thank our Chief Executive (Interim), Kevin Kelly and his Executive team for supporting me and my fellow councillors in our work with a united aim of improving the quality of life for all of the people of Galway. I would also like to thank former Councillor Michael Connolly who presided as Cathaoirleach for the first six months in 2017 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. Eileen Mannion,
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 2017 which details the Council's progress on delivering the strategic priorities, objectives and strategies of the Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 and highlights the ongoing valuable work, and some of the many achievements, of the Council during the year. Much of what we do can only be achieved by working in partnership with our various stakeholders and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their on-going support and cooperation.

During 2017, work continued on the delivery of infrastructure that is vital for the future development of the County. A significant achievement was the opening of the M17 M18 Gort to Tuam motorway on 27th September 2017, two months ahead of schedule. Minister for Transport, Shane Ross, T.D., officially opened this motorway scheme which extends the M18 from Gort northwards 57 kilometers to Tuam.

Galway County Council, working under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water, continued to progress water services projects throughout 2017. A new 1,300 population equivalent, (P.E.), Waste Water Treatment Plant at Kinvara was officially opened by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Simon Coveney, T.D. on 12th May, 2017. This plant has enabled the discontinuation of discharging untreated waste water to the bay at Kinvara.

Galway County Council strives to provide a service for those individuals that require assistance in the areas such as social housing provision and in December 2017, a contract for a major redevelopment of Gilmartin Road in Tuam was signed. The project will involve the construction of 40 new units and refurbishment of 21 units as part of the Gilmartin Road Rejuvenation Project. Also, the Planning Section facilitated An Bord Pleanála in the consideration of Strategic Housing Development Planning applications (new initiative for development in excess of 100 houses) of which two were received for Tuam (124 units) and Bearna (113 units).

Recreational infrastructure, which promotes tourism, outdoor activity and recreation within the County, was developed. The Council in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport continued to advance the development of two Greenways; Clifden to Oughterard and Oughterard to Galway City, with 6km from Clifden to Oughterard, at Ballinahinch, substantially constructed in 2017 with planned opening to the public in 2018. The Council also continued to progress the Conamara Interpretation and Infrastructure project - '*Conamara – Fiáin go smior / Wild at Heart*', in 2017 with the development of three driving routes through Conamara punctuated by 26 discovery points, with funding and assistance provided by Fáilte Ireland.

Galway County Council's Economic and Community Development Unit has enabled the Council to drive and support a number of key projects during the year. This has facilitated the roll-out of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and Rural Economic Development Zone funding, which has been focused primarily on enterprise growth in Galway. The local authority has been integrating successfully the work of the Local Enterprise Office within the broader economic and community functions. 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.

The Creative Ireland Programme was a welcome initiative in 2017 to enhance the arts, heritage and cultural programmes already in place in Galway County and it will support the Council's Cultural Strategy into the future. The 2017 Cultural and Creativity Plan developed by the Council's Culture Team with assistance of local people and organisations is reflective of the future hopes of our creative and cultural groups. Also, Galway has been awarded the European Region of Gastronomy for 2018 and European Capital of Culture for 2020. Galway County Council through our staff and our members will work very closely with our communities and Galway 2020 to ensure a strong and vibrant programme under both designations across all areas of the county.

Nonetheless, it has been a challenging year from both a financial and human resources perspective in order to maintain services at their current level, with ongoing review of systems and procedures to ensure that the income due to the Council is maximised to the greatest extent possible. Balancing the local authority budget to ensure that the many services and facilities provided by Galway County Council were maintained and enhanced in 2017 was a challenge. The funding priorities set out in the budget for the year illustrated the high level of expenditure and activity which Galway County Council has undertaken across the county. The support of the elected council in maintaining and sustaining the local funding base is acknowledged.

Following the Red Status Weather Warning - Ex Hurricane Ophelia in October, Galway County Council had a first response duty in relation to the provision of emergency services, and I wish to acknowledge the efforts of so many staff who responded by providing assistance during this emergency response period.

A highlight in September 2017 was the All-Ireland hurling success by the Galway Minor and Senior Teams. This was a fantastic achievement for the teams and a Civic Welcome and Homecoming event was held in Ballinasloe on the Monday evening for the victorious teams. Thousands gathered in Ballinasloe to greet their heroes and the atmosphere was one of excitement and delight and it was a memorable evening for all.

This Annual Report details the many diverse services delivered by the Council in 2017 and I would like to thank all staff for their hard work, commitment, and achievements throughout the year particularly due to the reduced resources available.

I would like also to acknowledge and sincerely thank the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion and former Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael Connolly and all Elected Members for their collective input and support in responding to the challenges in 2017. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Executive Team and to acknowledge the professionalism of their staff for their support, valuable contribution, effort and commitment across the local authority in Galway in 2017. It is their dedication, their commitment and their hard work that makes the Council such a vibrant and progressive organisation. I look forward to continuing to work together to serve our communities, support our businesses and welcome our visitors in 2018.



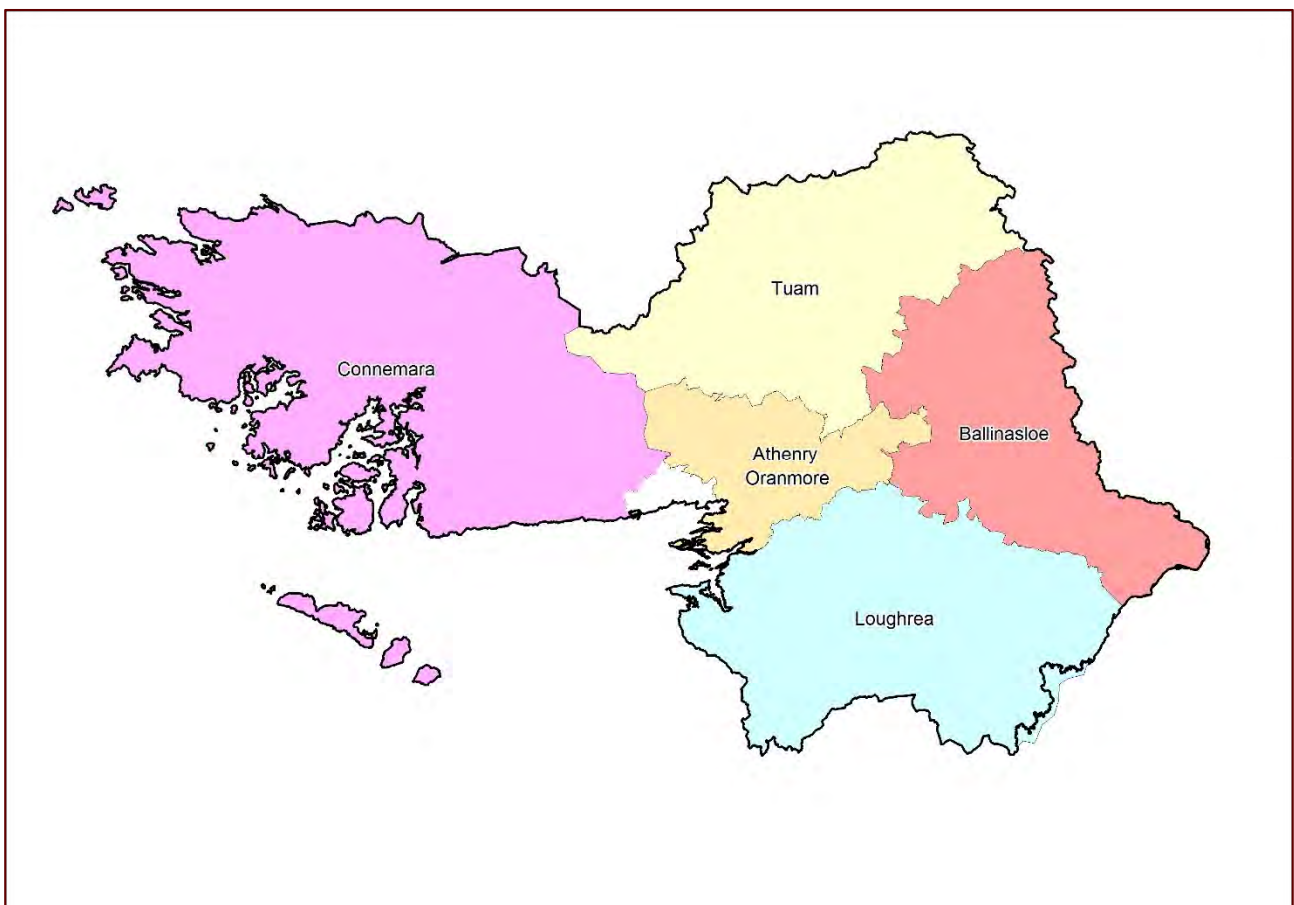
Mr. Kevin Kelly,

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

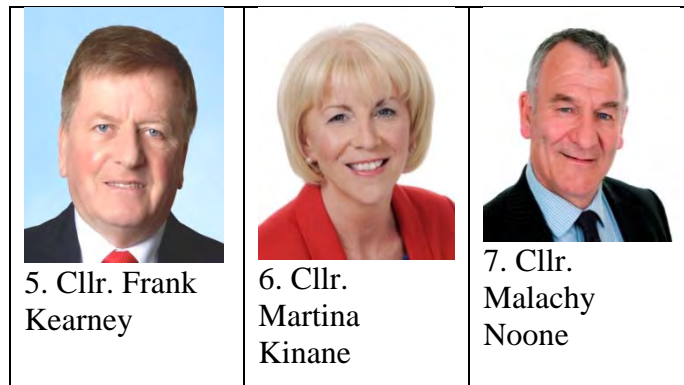


Elected Members

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 (7 Members)



Councillors

	Telephone	Mobile
1.Cllr. James Charity, Tonegurrane, Corrandulla, Co. Galway		087 2191792
2.Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly, Cloonkeen, Athenry, Co. Galway		087 2066810
3.Cllr. Jim Cuddy, Lydican, Carnmore, Oranmore, Co. Galway	091 798136	087 6360242
4.Cllr. Peter Feeney, Ballydavid, Athenry, Co. Galway	091 844735	087 6812403
5.Cllr. Frank Kearney, Beechmount House, Lackagh, Turloughmore, Co. Galway	091 797167 (fax also)	085 1266133
6.Cllr. Martina Kinane, Stradbally North, Clarenbridge, Co. Galway		087 2692102
7.Cllr. Malachy Noone, Crusheen, Baile Chláir, Co. Galway	091 798297	087 1333711

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE
Ballinasloe Electoral Area (6 Members)

**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 (9 Members)

				
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

1. Cllr Niamh Byrne, Clare, Oughterard, Co. Galway
2. Cllr. Seosamh Ó Cualáin, Gleann Treasna, Rosmuc, Co. Galway
3. Cllr. Tomás Ó Curraoin, Na Fothraí Maola Thiar, Bearna, Co. Galway
4. Cllr. Tom Healy, Railway View, Clifden, Co. Galway
5. Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Sky Road, Clifden, Co. Galway.
6. Cllr. Noel Thomas, Gortachalla, Maigh Cuilinn, Co. Galway
7. Cllr. Seán Ó Tuairisg, Aille Thiar, Indreabhán, Co. Galway
8. Cllr. Séamus Walsh, Glann, Oughterard, Co. Galway
9. Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cregg, Oughterard, Co. Galway

Telephone


- 091 593084
091 552726
091 552748

Mobile

- 087 9250568
087 6279220
087 2933782
083 4493319
087 9555645
087 7372147
086 3864179
087 0519884
087 2855676

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA
Loughrea Electoral Area (8 Members)










				
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. Ivan Canning*

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. Ivan Canning, Lecarrow Gortanumera, Portumna, Co. Galway		087 1376666

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM
Tuam Electoral Area (9 Members)

 1. Cllr. Peter Roche	 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. Billy Connelly	

Councillors	Telephone	Mobile
1. Cllr. Peter Roche, Moyne, Abbeyknockmoy, Tuam, Co. Galway	093 49187	087 8251470
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. Billy Connelly, Beaghmore Caherlistrane, Co. Galway		087 9075856

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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

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

Such functions include:

- adoption of annual Budget;
- making or varying the County Development Plan;
- adoption of the Allocation Scheme for social housing;
- making, amending and revoking bye-laws;
- approval for borrowing money;
- declaration of roads to be public roads.

The Council makes its decisions by resolution at its meetings.

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

These functions include:

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

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

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF GALWAY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, and Local Government Reform Act 2014 a primary function of the local authority is to provide a forum for the democratic representation of the local community and provide the community with civic leadership. In addition, the local authority

has responsibility for the provision of a range of services, regulatory and enforcement functions and for the development of key areas including economic, business, heritage and cultural affairs.

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

The Council

The thirty-nine elected Councillors from the Municipal Districts collectively lay down the framework for the policy under which an Executive Team operates. A Corporate Policy Group and 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.

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.

4 Meetings of the CPG took place in 2017.

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 2017
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	4 Meetings
Economic Development and Enterprise	8	4	12	4 Meetings

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

Sectoral Representation - 20 positions

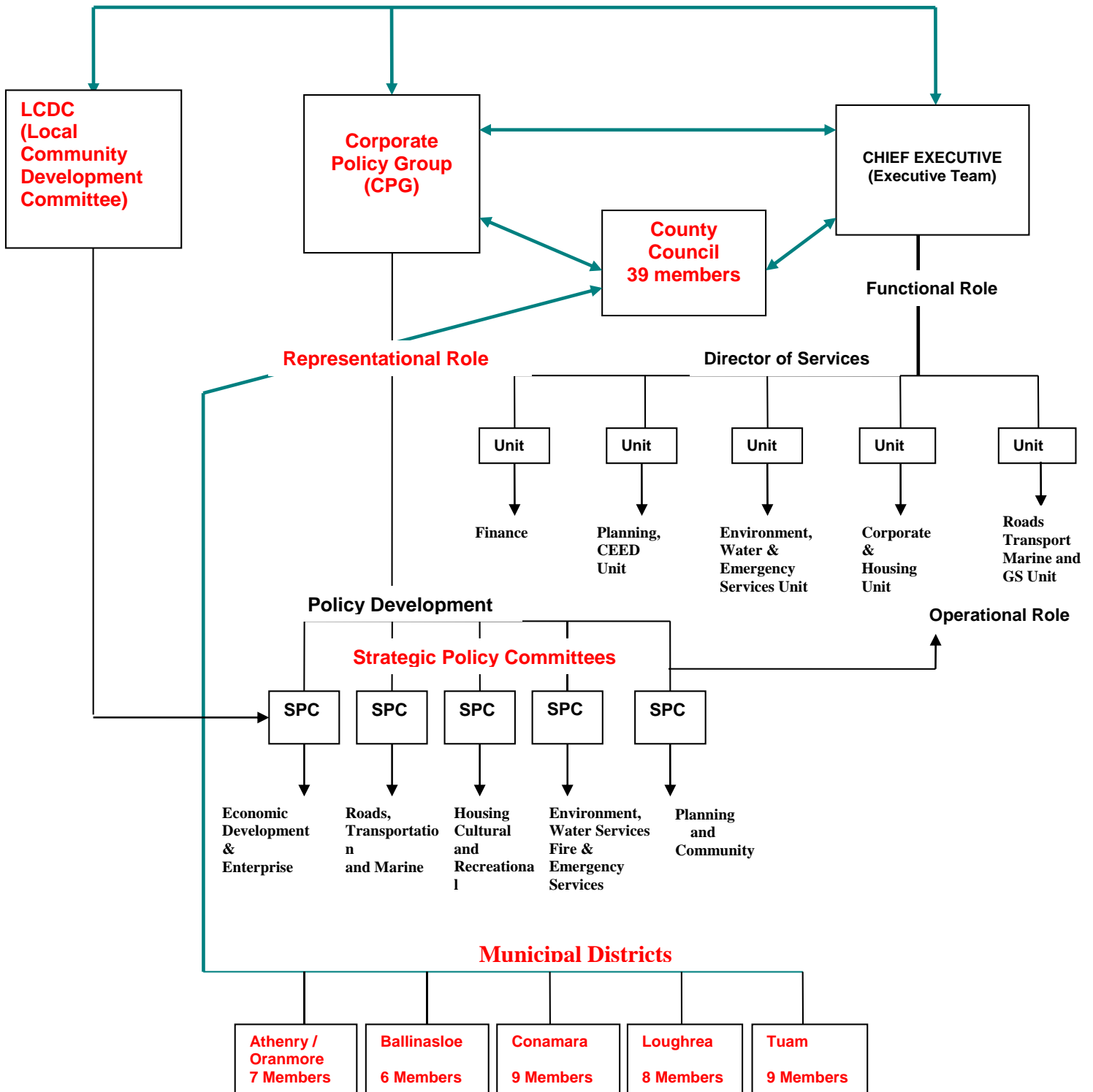
The sectoral representation is divided into 7 sectors:

- 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 2017



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

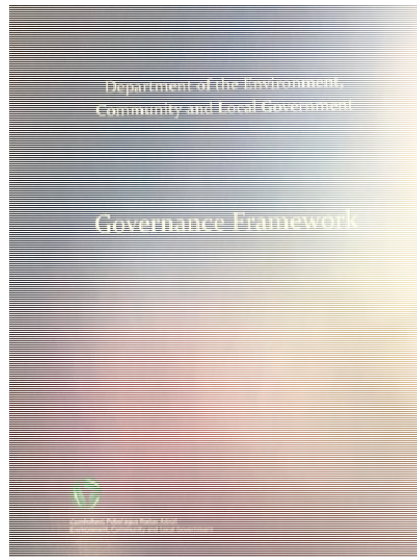
1. Ensuring that members and officials have the supports and appropriate structures they need to perform effectively in their roles.
2. Developing the capability of those with governance and leadership responsibilities to ensure outcomes achieved are consistent with good governance obligations.

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.



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

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

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

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

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

The Corporate Policy Group agreed and noted, on 7th November 2017, the Progress Report on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019. The Progress Report referenced the central role of the Corporate Policy Group in relation to the assessment and review of the implementation of the Corporate Plan and the requirement to measure the performance of the local authority against the objectives set in the Corporate Plan on a frequent and structured basis, which includes performance indicators and the outcomes achieved against the Service Delivery Plan.

The progress achieved in the implementation of the Corporate Plan during 2017, 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 2017 Service Delivery Plan is also included on pages 228 to 261, while details of our performance against the national performance indicators is included on pages 215 to 227.

Note: Please refer to Galway County Council's Annual Budget 2018 for additional information on the Annual Progress Report on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019.

This Document can be located at:-

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



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

CORPORATE SERVICES AND HOUSING

Corporate Services

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

Progress and achievements of the Unit for 2017 are presented below appropriate to the relevant strategic priorities contained in the Corporate Plan 2015-2019.

Strategic Priority

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

CORPORATE PLANNING AND SUPPORT

Galway County Council's Plenary Council of 39 members continued to meet monthly in 2017 to carry out their Reserved functions and consider social, economic and cultural issues critical to the sustained development of the County in line with the Strategic Priorities and Objectives of the Corporate Plan.

The Annual Meeting of the Plenary Council was held on June 23rd 2017 and Cllr. Eileen Mannion was elected to replace Cllr. Michael Connolly as Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Seamus Walsh was nominated to replace Cllr. Joe Byrne as Leas-Chathaoirleach. The Council held its Annual Statutory Budget Meeting on November 27th, 2017 to consider and adopted the 2018 Revenue Budget and Three-Year Capital Programme.



Cllr. Eileen Mannion elected as Cathaoirleach accepting the Chain of office from outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael Connolly on, June 23rd 2017



Cllr. Seamus Walsh elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach accepting the Chain of office from outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Joe Byrne on, June 23rd 2017



MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Monthly Meetings of the Council	Meetings
Ordinary Monthly Meetings	11
Special Monthly Meetings	2
Annual Meeting	1
Budget Meeting	1

Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

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

Corporate Policy Group	Meetings
Corporate Policy Group	4 meetings

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

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

The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, the Local Authority, Community Representatives and the Elected Local Representatives. During 2017, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work, in addressing local issues collectively and strategically.

The JPC held its Annual Meeting on 12th September 2017, two regular JPC Meetings were held on 6th February and 5th May 2017 and its Annual Public Meeting of the JPC was held on 5th November 2017 in the Municipal District of Conamara. Public meetings offer an excellent opportunity for local communities to participate and engage in relation to general policing matters affecting the policing of the County of Galway and in particular policing matters affecting their areas.

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

Membership of the JPC

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

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

Strategic Priority

To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.

Civic Receptions

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

Galway County Council hosted the visit of Mr. Kevin O'Malley, US ambassador to Ireland, on 13th January 2017.



Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway in January 2017, Cllr. Michael Connolly, with (L-R) Mr. Jim Cullen, Director of Service, Galway County Council and US ambassador to Ireland, Mr. Kevin O'Malley on his visit to Galway County Council on 13th January 2017



L-R: Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway in January 2017, Cllr. Michael Connolly, US ambassador to Ireland, Mr. Kevin O'Malley, and Director of Service, Mr. Jim Cullen, Galway County Council

Galway County Council hosted the visit of M Ambassador Yue Xiaoyong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Ireland, on 27th June 2017.



Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion and Ambassador Yue Xiaoyong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Ireland, on his visit on 27th June 2017

A Civic Reception was held on 24th April 2017, at Áras an Chontae, to honour the achievements of the following:

- **Galway County Under 16 Camoige Team, Winners of the All Ireland Under 16A Championship in 2016** beating Kilkenny (Galway U16 also won Championship in 2015).
- **Eanach Dún / Annaghdown Ladies Football Team, Winners of All Ireland Intermediate Club Championship 2016** (beating Shane O’Neills, Armagh).



Galway County Under-16 Camoige Team together with (back row left) Tony O’Donovan Team Manager, and (back row third from right) Ms. Mary Helebert Team Administrator, Mr. Eamon Kelly Team Selector, Ms. Helena Huban Team Selector



Eanach Dún / Annaghdown Ladies Senior B Football Team with their Team Manager Tom Murphy

Galway All-Ireland Senior and Minor Hurling Champions 2017

A Civic Welcome and Homecoming, hosted by the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion and Galway County Council, took place in Ballinasloe on Monday September 4th, 2017 to honour the All-Ireland Hurling success of both the Galway Senior & Minor Hurling Teams on the 3rd September 2017 in Croke Park.

The Galway Minor team overcame a strong Cork team and the Galway Senior hurling team ended 29 years of disappointment by defeating Waterford at Croke Park.



L-R: Cllr. Aidan Donohue, Chair of Ballinasloe Municipal District, Darren Morrissey, Captain Galway Minor Hurling Team, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, David Burke, Captain Galway Senior Hurling Team, Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim), with the Liam McCarthy & Irish Press Cups

The ‘West’s Awake’ song rang out as the triumphant Galway hurlers, Minor and Senior teams, received a heroes welcome in Ballinasloe, their first stop after crossing the Shannon, with the Liam McCarthy and Irish Press Cups.

More than 15,000 people gathered in the Fairgreen in Ballinasloe town for the homecoming celebrations to catch their first glimpse of Galway’s All-Ireland winning teams.

The excitement started to build from when the people started to arrive from about 1.30pm, ahead of the scheduled arrival at 3pm, with the crowd enjoying the atmosphere and live music from Sean Slattery & the Connections.



Crowds gathered in excitement in the Fairgreen, Ballinasloe in anticipation of meeting their All-Ireland hurling heroes



Sean Slattery and the Connections band entertained the crowd before the teams arrived



The Galway All-Hurling Minor Hurling Team Bus arrival into Ballinasloe



Darren Morrissey, Galway Minor Hurling Captain with the Irish Press Cup, with Mr. Jeffrey Lynskey Team Manager, behind him on their arrival to Ballinasloe for the Civic Homecoming



Jubiliant supporters greet Darren Morrissey on the All-Ireland Galway Minor Hurling Teams arrival in Ballinasloe for the Civic Homecoming



Minor All-Ireland Hurling Team on stage in Ballinasloe

The Minor All-Ireland winning team were introduced individually to the huge crowd to a rapturous welcome from the crowd.



L-R: Darren Morrissey, Captain Minor Hurling Team, Cllr. Aidan Donohue, Chair of Ballinasloe Municipal District, David Burke, Captain Senior Hurling Team with the Irish Press and the Liam McCarthy Cups at the Civic Welcome and Homecoming in Ballinasloe



Galway All-Hurling Senior Hurling Team Bus arrival into Ballinasloe



The Galway All-Hurling Senior Team Captain, David Burke, and his team mates, with Adrian Headd, Area Engineer, Galway County Council, on the teams entrance into the Fairgreen, Ballinasloe

The victorious senior team signed hurleys, and posed for pictures with the Liam MacCarthy cup while the minor winning team was being honoured and speeches held.



Joe Canning signing jerseys and autographs for young supporters at the Civic Homecoming in Ballinasloe



Cathal Mannion, Senior team player signing Jersey of a young hurling enthusiast



Selfie Station - David Burke with Ann Dolan, Kiltormer.

The senior winning team took to the stage in the Ballinasloe Fairgreen shortly after 4.30pm.



Senior team members being introduced to the crowd by Darren Kelly, Galway Bay FM

The senior team members were introduced individually, with a particularly massive roar for Portumna man, Joe Canning, who scored nine points in the Final and also for Captain, David Burke.



David Burke and Joe Canning raise the Liam McCarthy cup to the appreciative roars of the crowd



David Burke, Captain, Galway All-Ireland Senior Hurling Team with the Liam McCarthy Cup



Matt Donoghue introducing 'Liam' to the crowd



L-R: Johnny Glynn passing the Liam McCarthy Cup to safe hands to the Captain David Burke, with Shane Maloney in the background



David Burke, Captain, Galway All-Ireland Senior Hurling Team addressing the crowd



Galway Senior Team panel applaud as Johnny Coen is being introduced to the crowd



Paul Flaherty, senior All-Ireland winning team member singing 'The West's Awake'

Paul Flaherty, senior panel member, sang 'The West's Awake' to the delighted crowd, replicating the iconic moment when Joe McDonagh (now RIP) sang it after Galway won the All-Ireland Hurling Final in 1980.



Image of the crowd that attended the Civic Homecoming in Ballinasloe



Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, raises the Liam McCarthy Cup to the jubilant crowd

Galway Senior Hurling Manager, Micheál Donoghue, who was overcome with emotion, asked the crowd to continue to focus on the development of hurling in clubs throughout the county saying that "we can't wait another 29 years and hopefully we will have the Liam MacCarthy back here again soon."



Elected members show their appreciation as the senior Team Manager, Micheál Donoghue, raises the Liam McCarthy Cup to the excited crowd



Mr. Miko Donoghue welcomes the Liam McCarthy to Ballinasloe from Captain, David Burke, with his son looking proudly on.

It was Miko's buses that carried Galway's great teams in the 1980's home across the Shannon.



Jonathan Glynn, John McGann (Hurling Board), David Burke, Cllr. Michael Fahy, Cllr. Pat Hynes, Aidan Harte with 'Liam' at the Civic Homecoming



Cllr. Moegie Maher congratulating David Burke, Captain, on the team's success



Jubilant faces: Cllr. Joe Byrne and Cllr. Michael Connolly raise 'Liam' at the Civic Homecoming



A delighted Cllr. Michael Finnerty congratulates the Senior team on their arrival to Ballinasloe



Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, addresses the team and crowd



L-R: Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, raises the Liam McCarthy Cup with Cllr. Aidan Donohue, Chair of Ballinasloe Municipal District at the Civic Welcome and Homecoming in Ballinasloe



L-R: Darren Morrissey, Captain Minor Hurling Team, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, David Burke, Captain Senior Hurling Team with the Irish Press and the Liam McCarthy Cup at the Civic Welcome and Homecoming in Ballinasloe



L-R: Darren Morrissey, Captain Minor Hurling Team, Cllr. Aidan Donohue, Chair of Ballinasloe Municipal District David Burke, Captain Senior Hurling Team with the Irish Press and the Liam McCarthy Cups



Members of the All-Ireland winning Galway Senior Hurling panel with the Liam McCarthy Cup at the Civic Welcome and Homecoming in Ballinasloe



It was truly a memorial evening for all and one that will not be forgotten for a long time. Well done and congratulations to the All-Ireland winning Minor and Senior Hurling teams.

(Images: Galway County Council/Photographer Gerry Stronge, Ballinasloe)

Twinning

Tuam has a long-standing town twinning relationship with the Bavarian town of Straubing. In October 2017, 34 school students from Straubing stayed with host families in Tuam and surrounding areas for a week. The students attended school in the town to allow the students experience another country/town, different culture and to practice other languages.

To honour over 25 years of twinning, an official naming ceremony of Straubing Street was held in Tuam town. Two members of Straubing City Council, Herr Martin Wackerbauer and Herr Werner Schäfer, attended the naming ceremony along with members of the Tuam Municipal District.



Members of the Straubing City Council delegation with the Tuam Municipal District Councillors and members of the Tuam Twinning Committee.

In May 2017, the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Michael Connolly, and Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim), attended the Galway Sister Cities in Boston, St. Louis and San Francisco. The purpose of this visit was to reinvigorate the sister cities relationships of Cambridge Massachusetts and St. Louis Missouri and the expansion of the existing arrangement with Menlo Park California.

In August 2017, a delegation from Galway County Council, led by the leas-Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Seamus Walsh, attended the Milwaukee Irish Fest. The delegation also visited Washington County as the County of Galway is twinned with Washington County, Wisconsin, USA, since 2003.

In 2017, a wide range of books reflecting Galway County history, together with Galway County Council's bi-lingual publication for 1916 – 'Centenary Reflections on the 1916 Rising – Galway County perspectives' was forwarded to Washington County's Executive Committee so that the Executive and citizens could obtain in insight into the life and history of Galway, Ireland.

Clifden is also twinned since 2012 with the Borough of Coyoacan, Mexico City, based on the historical ties created by the contribution of a native of Clifden, John Riley and the San Patricio Battalion, in the Mexican-American War of 1846-48. A delegation from San Patricio Mexico visited Clifden in 2017 where the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, met with them.



L-R: A delegation from San Patricio Mexico with Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, at the annual event.



L-R: Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion with Mr. Miguel Malfavon, Mexican Ambassador to Ireland, Embassy of Mexico.

Galway Associations

The contribution of the Galway Associations in supporting the Galway Diaspora was acknowledged with Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway accepting an invitation from the Galway Association Bedfordshire to attend their Annual Dinner Dance in February 2017.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

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

The Register of Electors for 2017/2018 was published on the 1st February, 2017.

The Draft Register of Electors was prepared in line with statutory deadlines in November 2017 and Revision Claim Courts were facilitated during December throughout the County to adjudicate on claims/submissions received and were presided over by the County Registrar, who ruled on the submissions made to Galway County Council.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

A total of 147 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2017 under the Freedom of Information Act.

Of these, 19 no. sought access to personal information, 124 no. sought access to non-personal information and 4 no. were mixed.

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	63
Requests Part-Granted	48
Requests Refused	34
Requests Withdrawn	1
Requests Transferred	1

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	8
Requests Part-Granted	2
Requests Refused	4
Requests Withdrawn/Transferred	4

Strategic Priority

To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise.

OPERATION OF MARKETS, CASUAL TRADING & FILM LICENCES

Casual Trading Licences are issued annually on payment of a fee for a number of towns and villages throughout the County including Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Dunmore, Gort, Loughrea, Mountbellew and Tuam 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. Ballygar, Dunmore & Loughrea Festivals, the Maam Valley Fair, the Clifden Pony Show as well as the Kinvara (Cuckoo and Cruinniu na mBád) Festivals and Christmas markets in Ballinasloe and Tuam.

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

CASUAL TRADING BAYS

Annual Licences	
Area	No. of Licences Issued
Athenry	4
Ballinasloe (St. Michael's Square)	15
Clifden	7
Dunmore	1
Gort	11
Headford	1
Loughrea	2
Mountbellew	4
Tuam	8

Special Event Licences	
Area	No. of Licences Issued
Ballinasloe Fair	112
Ballinasloe (St. Michael's Sq.)	84
Ballinasloe Christmas Market	1
Ballygar Festival	24
Clifden Pony Show	23
Clifden Festivals	3
Dunmore Festival	30
Kinvara – Cruinniu na mBád	12
Loughrea Medieval Festival	24
Maam Valley Fair	27
Tuam Christmas Market	2

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

FILM LICENCES

Requests (5 no.) from film makers to use the public property for filming were received.

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 64 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 was ongoing in 2017. Information on all sites are available to download in the Council's Guide to Playgrounds – 'Let's Play' available on www.galway.ie and an interactive map on the Mapzone section of the web-site.

Community Wardens are ROSPA (Royal Society of Prevention of Accidents) trained to undertake Playground Inspections.

The on-line inspection 'app' continued to work well in 2017 as it assists Community Wardens carry out inspections using their smartphones and submit reports automatically. Reports are automatically filed providing a record of weekly inspections required for maintenance and insurance purposes.

To celebrate **National Recreation Week and National Play Day** (July 9th), Galway County Council and Galway Sports Partnership hosted an event to explore Renville Park Woodlands, a coastal Woodland amenity on Galway Bay, and invited people to partake in creative and fun games for children and teens.



Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, with staff of Galway County Council at the National Play Day in Renville Park, Oranmore. Back row: Ann Mallaghan, Rose O'Boyle, Denise Feeney; Front Row: Carol Walsh and Eimear Dolan.

The event attracted over 400 people to Renville Park. The event was made feasible with the voluntary support of young people from Comhairle Na nÓg (Contae na Gaillimhe), the support of Youthwork Ireland, the Department of Youth and Children and Oranmore Tidy Towns. An activity packed afternoon of games and art was held free of charge.



Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, with Ann Mallaghan, Galway County Council and members of Comhairle Na Nóg (Contae na Gaillimhe) at the National Play Day in Renville Park, Oranmore.

Inclusive Play

Accessibility enhancements including the installation of wheelchair swings, accessible picnic table sets and dedicated disabled parking bays were installed at the playground to the rear of the *Coral Leisure Centre* at Sarsfields Rd., Ballinasloe and in the playground at the Palace Grounds, Tuam. This project was co-funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation 2017.



Accessible picnic set in Palace Grounds Wheelchair Swing in Tuam Playground Dedicated disabled parking bay



Accessible picnic table set and dedicated disabled parking bay and double wheelchair Swing in Ballinasloe.

The Water Safety Programme

The Water Safety Programme involved the recruitment of a panel of 50 trained Lifeguards to provide services at ten 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, with two lifeguards provided at all beaches in compliance with International Lifeguarding Federation of Europe (ILSE).

The Services commenced on the 3rd June and continued until the 10th September, 2017. Lifeguard Induction training was held on 25th May 2017 and 29th June 2017.

Upgrading of some equipment supplies and a significant review of procedures was undertaken as well as a Hut Preparation and Repairs-Maintenance Schedule agreed and delivered with a new hut provided in Cill Mhuirbhigh Beach, Inis Mór in July.

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

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

Concessions were continued in 2017 to permit applicants to sell ice creams and soft drinks at Traught Beach, Kinvara, Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua, Beach at An Spidéal New Pier, Na Forbacha Beach and An Trá Mhór Inverin, for the summer season.

Swimming Pools / Leisure Centres (Tuam and Ballinasloe)

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

Essential improvement and health & safety works have been overseen for both Leisure Centres receiving a significant investment in the infrastructure of the building and its equipment. These improvement works included an upgrade to the Fire Alarm System, Re-Tiling, an Upgrade to the Building Management System in Tuam and the Replacement of Pool Pumps, Steam Room Seating and Steam Room Equipment.



Tuam Leisure Centre

Two independent Track Systems were installed in November in the Ballinasloe Leisure Centre, to allow transfers, in the assisted changing room, from the wheelchair to the changing bed and, in the assisted wc/shower room, to allow transfers from the wheelchair to the wc/shower.



Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centres were successful in attracting significant funding in excess of €200,000 for energy efficiency improvement works in a joint project between ESB, SEAI and Coral Leisure. These works involved the installation of new LED energy efficient lighting, VSD controllers, new pool covers, new sand media filter and metering of utilities linked to the BMS. The works which were completed in October should lead to significant reductions in energy consumptions at both Leisure Centres.

Renville Park, Maree, Oranmore

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

A community replanting day took place in the Park on 24th June where volunteers planted some native woodland plants and shrubs in the Westwood along with wildflower planting in the Meadow. This day was supported by the Conservation Volunteers Galway and the Biodiversity Officer, Ms. Elaine O'Riordain. Maintenance of these new trees will be ongoing for a period. This planting day will assist with and promote the biodiversity interests of Rinvilee Park.

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 Renville Park.

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

The Parks' Maintenance Programme continued to be delivered in partnership with local groups. In 2017, the Council commenced a programme of replacing and installing new concrete bases and

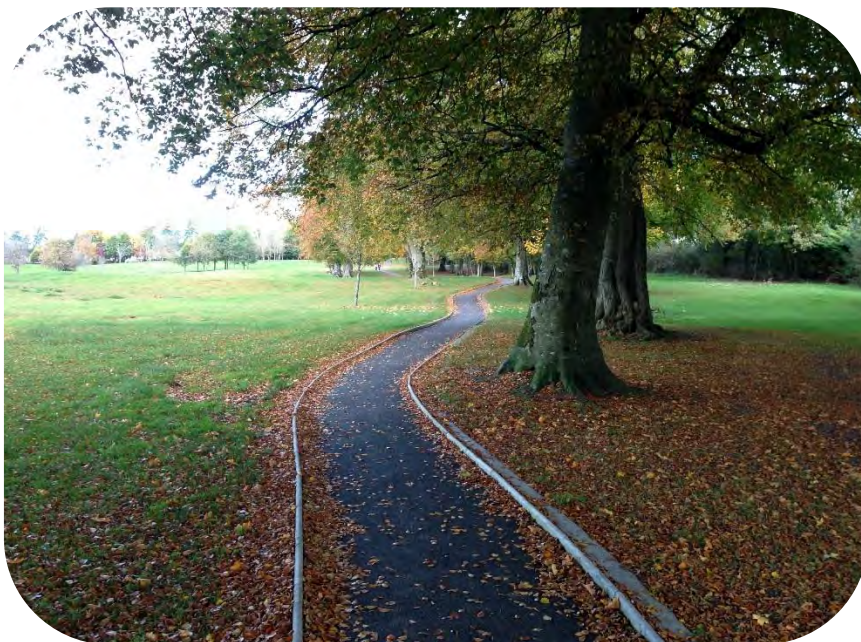
marine grade stainless steel picnic benches in a number of areas across the park, with an emphasis on increasing accessibility to all users of this recreational amenity. The maintenance programme is co-funded by Galway City Council.



Palace Grounds, Tuam

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

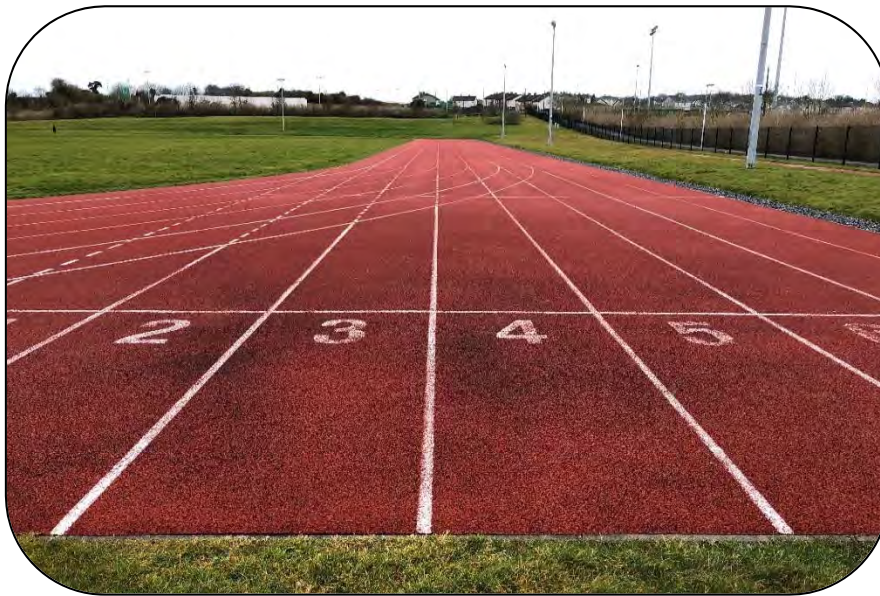
Further upgrading of paths was undertaken as part of a three year path upgrade programme.



Dunlo Athletic Track Ballinasloe

Dunlo Recreational Park is a valuable amenity for the community of Ballinasloe and East Galway region in the ownership of Galway County Council. The Dunlo Athletic Track re-opened in February 2017, following essential maintenance being undertaken in 2017. However, it reclosed on 28th August, 2017 until 9th October, 2017 in order that further remedial works could be carried out on the running track.

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



Tuam All Weather Pitches

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

Tennis Courts

Refurbishment works were completed to the tennis courts in the Palace Grounds, Tuam and Portumna Playground.



Walkway to Tuam Tennis Court from Palace Grounds Park



Tuam Tennis court

Clár Funding for Recreational Projects

The Corporate Services Unit provided administrative and advisory support to community groups to advance proposals for recreational facilities in their respective areas and to access available funding under several programmes such as CLÁR and the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme 2017.

Funding was awarded to several groups under these schemes with works required to be completed by the end of November.

Galway County Council was awarded CLÁR funding of €24,000 for improvement works / repairs to be undertaken on the Playground in Portumna in late 2016 and these works were undertaken in 2017.



Some images from Portumna Playground with equipment provided using Clár funding

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

During 2017, a range of events and initiatives across various Units were delivered under the Galway Commemorative Strategy for the Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023.

The Corporate Services Unit facilitated and supported the delivery of a range of commemorative events during the 2017, while also providing support for commemorative events led by other Units as part of the programme.

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

- Decade of Commemoration Easter Monday event (part of the *Cruinniú na Cásca* events) held in Athenry – A special ceremony, including flag raising with the Defence Forces, was held at the Athenry 1916 Commemorative Garden on Easter Monday. The Garden, which was developed and is a labour of love by the Athenry Tidy Towns Committee, is the exact site where Liam Mellows marshalled the Volunteers and organised them in the lead up to the 1916 Rising. A screening of the ten documentaries which Galway County Council, in conjunction with the Galway Film Centre and the Heritage Council, produced to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising was hosted in the Athenry Community Hall.
- Galway County Council unveiled three memorials in the county, in the presence of Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, on 31st May 2017:
 - Unveiling of the 'Gaillimh 2016 - Remembering' Memorial for the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District in Clarinbridge (Ballinamana Road across from Goats Lane Café, Clarinbridge);
 - Unveiling of 'Guth an Eirí Amach: The Voice of the Rising'- the County of Galway 1916 Memorial in Renville Park, Oranmore; and
 - Unveiling of the 'Gaillimh 2016 - Remembering' Memorial for the Municipal District of Tuam in the Éamonn Ceannt Commemorative Garden, Ballymoe.
- The Galway County Council Archives exhibition '*From Colonial State to Free State, what they said...*', was hosted by the Portumna Workhouse Centre in April, and by Ballybane Library in June 2017.
- In co-operation with NUIG, GMIT, the Marine Institute and local communities, Galway County Council organised a series of history talks, '*Galway Centenary Conversations – War & Revolution Roadshow*' held in various venues throughout County Galway in June and July.

- A Conference entitled “*The Fenians, Colonel Kelly & The Manchester Martyrs*” was held in the Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew on 11th November 2017.
- A Conference entitled “Galway 1917: Social Conditions and Political Change” was held in Loughrea on 16th November 2017.
- A bilingual guide book, the ‘*Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail: Go Explore the Historic Sites & Memorials*’, was launched in Gort on 14 December 2017. Written and edited by the Galway County Heritage Officer, Ms. Marie Mannion, and GMT researchers Dr Mark McCarthy and Dr Shirley Wrynn, the book illustrates how memory of 1916 persists to this day in a county-wide heritagescape of historic sites and memorials.
- Galway County Council Archives digitised several small collections relating to the revolutionary period. These included three small files relating to the Munitions factory (GC/CSO/3/2,3 & 6) in the city, dating from 1916 to 1918, and also from the County Secretary’s office it digitised a Dáil Éireann file, dating from 1919-1921 (GC/CSO/3/1). The material will be made available on the Archives’ Digital Archive at www.galway.ie/galwayarchives.
- Work commenced on the ‘*Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail (bi-lingual) Signage Project*’ in 2017. It is planned that this interpretative signage will be put in place at 12 no. selected sites of Galway County Council’s 1916 Heritage Trail – Go Explore the Historic Sites and Monuments in 2018.

Decade of Commemoration Easter Monday event:



Lt. Padraic Ryan and Sgt Martin Whyte Galway Defence Forces, raising the Irish tricolour at the Easter Monday Decade of Commemoration event



Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Michael Connolly, placing a wreath at the Ó Maolíosa monument in the Athenry Commemorative Garden during the Decade of Commemoration event on Easter Monday



Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Michael Connolly, unveiling the 1916 Gáirdín Cómortha interpretative signage in the Athenry Commemorative Garden during the Decade of Commemoration event on Easter Monday



Lt. Padraic Ryan, Galway Defence Forces, reciting the Irish Proclamation at the Decade of Commemoration event on Easter Monday



Attendees at the Decade of Commemoration event on Easter Monday in the Athenry 1916 Commemorative Garden



Mr. Gerry Broderick Loughrea Pipe Band



Padraic Connaughton & Madeline Fleming



L-R: Deputy A. Rabbitte, Cllr. G. Cronnelly, Cllr. P. Feeney, Cathaoirleach of the County, Cllr. M. Connolly, Cllr. M. Kinane, Cllr. F. Kearney at the Decade of Commemoration event in the Athenry 1916 Commemorative Garden on Easter Monday

Unveiling of 1916 Memorials:

'Gaillimh 2016 -Remembering' Memorial - Clarinbridge (Ballinamana Road):



Unveiling of the 'Gaillimh 2016-Remembering' Memorial for the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District in Clarinbridge (Ballinamana Road across from Goats Lane Café, Clarinbridge) by Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway on 31st May

County of Galway 1916 Memorial - Renville Park, Oranmore:



Unveiling by Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cathaoirleach, of the County of Galway of 'Guth an Eirí Amach: The Voice of the Rising'- the County of Galway 1916 Memorial in Renville Park, Oranmore, on 31st May

'Gaillimh 2016 -Remembering' Memorial - Éamonn Ceannt Commemorative Garden, Ballymoe:



Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway unveiling the 'Gaillimh 2016 -Remembering' Memorial for the Municipal District of Tuam in the Éamonn Ceannt Commemorative Garden, Ballymoe, County Galway, on 31st May with L-R: Shelia Shaughnessy Ballymoe Community Development Group, Michael Owens, A/Director of Service, John Griffin and Robert Fuller Ballymoe Community Development Group (BCDG).



Members of the Ballymoe Community Development Group at the unveiling of the 'Gaillimh 2016 -Remembering' Memorial L-R: Kevin Duffy, Martín McHugh, Jackie Connaughton, Shelia Shaughnessy, Róisín O'Reilly, Michael Ward, Robert Fuller, John Griffin with Cormac O'Reilly Sculptor.

(Images: Galway County Council / Photographer: Hany Marzouk)

From ‘Colonial State to Free State, what they said...’ - Galway County Council Archives exhibition:



‘From Colonial State to Free State, what they said...’, hosted by Ballybane Library, June 2017



Galway County Council Archives exhibition ‘From Colonial State to Free State, what they said...’ hosted by the Portunna Workhouse Centre, April 2017

‘Galway Centenary Conversations – War & Revolution Roadshow’



‘Galway Centenary Conversations – War & Revolution Roadshow’ history talks held throughout Co. Galway in June and July

‘The Fenians, Colonel Kelly & the Manchester Martyrs’ Conference:



Dr Conor McNamara speaking at the ‘Fenians, Col. Kelly and the Manchester Martyrs’ conference at Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew in November 2017

‘Social Conditions and Political Change’ Conference:

Attending the Social Conditions and Political Change Conference in Loughrea was the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion. Also in attendance L-R: Steve Dolan Portumna Workhouse, Grainne Smyth GCC, Joe Loughnane and Colman Shaughnessy Loughrea Historical Society, Marie Mannion Heritage Officer GCC and Cllr. Michael (Moegie) Maher.

‘Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail: Go Explore the Historic Sites & Memorials’ Book Launch:

Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, launched the bilingual guide book ‘Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail: Go Explore the Historic Sites & Memorials’ in Gort on 14 December 2017. L-R: Dr. Shirley Wrynn and Dr. Mark McCarthy, GMIT researchers, Galway County Heritage Officer Marie Mannion, and Michael Owens, A/Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing, Galway County Council.

CLÁR ÉIRE ILDÁNACH / CREATIVE IRELAND PROGRAMME

‘Clár Éire Ildánach / Creative Ireland’ is an all-of-government initiative five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. It was launched by then Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD in late 2016. Creative Ireland is a culture-based programme designed to promote individual, community and national wellbeing. It is built around five pillars:

- Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child;
- Enabling Creativity in Every Community;
- Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure;
- Ireland as a Centre of Excellence in Media Production; and
- Unifying our Global Reputation.

Local authorities, including Galway County Council had a crucial role in the overall local delivery of the entire Creative Ireland programme in 2017 and were exclusively mandated, through their culture teams, to deliver Pillar 2 of the programme – *Enabling Creativity in Every Community*.

Cruinniú na Cásca

In March 2017, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Minister for Arts Heather Humphreys and RTÉ Director General Dee Forbes announced ‘*Cruinniú na Cásca*’, a new national day of culture and creativity, to take place on Easter Monday in every county nationwide, as part of the Creative Ireland programme. Each local authority were tasked with the organisation of a variety of free, family-friendly events for the first ever Easter Monday Cruinniú na Cásca celebration.

Draíocht - Experience the Magic of Creativity was the theme for Galway County Council’s inaugural Cruinniú na Cásca event held in Athenry on Easter Monday 17th April 2017.

The Easter Monday **Cruinniú na Cásca** event was held in Medieval Athenry. The event aimed to embrace each of the Creative Ireland Pillars:

- by hosting a creativity day for children (Pillar 1);
- working in collaboration with the local community, local artists and craftspersons to host this cultural event (Pillar 2);
- within our community, cultural and civic spaces (Pillar 3);
- screening locally produced media and podcasts, and providing music, song and dance (Pillar 4);
- all of these ultimately showcasing the County’s rich variety of arts and culture (Pillar 5).



The Cruinniú na Cásca event was held at six locations throughout the medieval town of Athenry.

To commence the day, a special ceremony, including flag raising with the Defence Forces, was held at the **Athenry 1916 Commemorative Garden**.

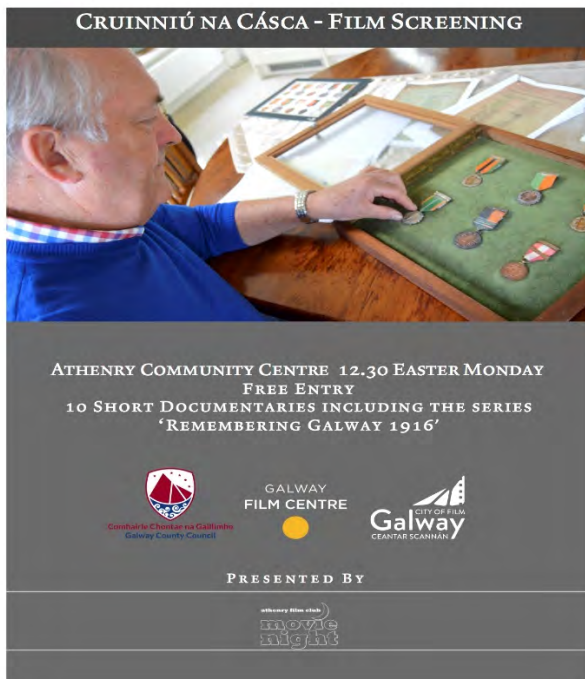


Lt. Padraic Ryan, Galway Defence Forces, reciting the Irish Proclamation



L-R: Cllr. G. Cronnelly, Cllr. P. Feeney, Dep. A. Rabbitte, Cllr. M. Kinane, Cathaoirleach Cllr. M. Connolly, Cllr. F. Kearney.

The **Athenry Community Hall** hosted the screening of the ten documentaries which Galway County Council, in conjunction with the Galway Film Centre and the Heritage Council, produced to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising.



Screening of Documentaries poster



Michael Owens, A/Director of Service introducing the film documentaries.

Athenry Community Park was the venue for the creative, fun and learning day which was officially opened by the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Michael Connolly.



Marian Donohue, Creative Ireland Co-Ordinator with the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Michael Connolly at the official opening of Galway County Council's Cruinniú na Cásca.

Families gathered and participated in creative fun: by having a go at tag-archery, juggling, beating a drum, got involved in arts and crafts activities and workshops, and watched traditional crafts people at work.



Tag Archery



Juggling by Galway Community Circus



Sam Beardon Woodcarving



Craft and Woodturning by Mairtín Davy

There was lots to see and do which included a treasure hunt, balloon modelling, facepainting, Irish Cómhra, with an animal display and a look into the wonderful world of beekeeping.



'The Wheel Barrow & the Accordion' – entertainment in action

Entertainment and dance was provided by 'The Wheel Barrow & the Accordion'.

A giant pop-up audio visual sculpture The Gramophone also provided 1920's – 1940's music with dancing with Kidisco.



1920s Gramophone provided by Donnacha Cahill



Gliondar Stilt Walkers

At **Athenry library**, children gathered to hear wonderful stories from Pat Speight who is one of Ireland's best known storytellers, carrying on the timeless art and oral tradition of storytelling for young and old.



Pat Speight storyteller



Róisín Mannion, *Spraoi*

Fun filled craft events were provided by **Athenry Heritage Centre** keeping children busy making easter crafts throughout the day. **Athenry Castle** provided guided tours to allow people explore the castle experience. Frans Photobooth provided a memento photograph for families to take home.



The Cruinniú na Cásca event drew to a close with a spectacular concert in the Community Hall. Spraoi, co-ordinated by Jo Vahey (Galway Library service), which showcased world class performances of song, music and dance and provided a perfect finale for this cultural event for all ages.



Spraoi musicians, singers and dancers at the Cruinniú na Cásca concert: L-R: Jo Vahey, Padraic Mannion (Dancers) Colin Matthews, Aoife Shiels, Lynne McNally, with Carmel Dempsey, Frankie Counihan, Brenda Curtin Diviney, Roisin Mannion.



Roisín Mannion, Emmet Greaney, Colm Mannion, Tomas Mannion (musicians) with Aoife Shiels dancing



Frankie Counihan with Roisín, Emmet, Colm & Tomas



Padraic Mannion playing the Bodhran



Jo Vahey, Galway library service and Spraoi coordinator



Anna Shiels, Lynne McNally and Roisin Mannion



Emily Greaney, Spraioi



Carmel Dempsey, Spraioi



Anna Shiels, Lynne McNally, Aoife Shiels



Crowd enjoying the Spraioi concert



View of the community park

(Images: Galway County Council/ Photographer Hany Marzouk)

Cruinniú na Cásca proved to be an outstanding success with up to 7,000 persons attending the event which was organised by Galway County Council in co-operation with Athenry Community Council, Athenry Tidy Towns, Athenry Library, Athenry Heritage Centre, Athenry Castle/OPW, Athenry Historical Network, Galway & Athenry Film Clubs, funded by Creative Ireland and working in collaboration with the local artists, craft persons and entertainers.

Galway County 2017 Culture and Creativity Plan

Galway County Council's Cultural Team facilitated a public consultation evening on 25th April 2017 in Cloonacauneen Castle to explain the Creative Ireland Programme to the public and obtain ideas on how they felt County Galway could make a distinctive contribution to the Creative Ireland programme. The feedback received was considered along with input from the Cultural team to draft Galway County Council's 2017 Culture and Creativity Plan.



Creative Ireland public consultation event in Cloonacauneen Castle Galway County 2017 Culture & Creativity Plan

All the local authorities Culture and Creativity Plans were launched by then Taoiseach, Enda Kenny on 25th May with Galway County Council's 2017 Culture and Creativity Plan launched by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Connolly, in Rinville Park on Tuesday 30th May.



Cultural team with the Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Cllr. Michael Connolly, at the launch of Galway County Council's 2017 Culture and Creativity Plan (Creative Ireland)

The 2017 Culture and Creativity Plan sets out the beginning of Galway County Council's part in this five-year journey, a truly important national policy initiative centred on culture and wellbeing.

Some initiatives included in the 2017 Galway County Culture and Creativity Plan:

Galway's Gastronomical Heritage

Intergenerational learning was a suggestion received at the Creative Ireland public workshop. In response, the Heritage Section, the Social Inclusion Unit and Archivist of Galway County Council in partnership with local heritage groups, networks, schools, individuals and the National Museum of Ireland Country Life embarked on documenting Galway's rich gastronomic heritage on its website <http://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/galways-gastronomic-heritage>. The project was well underway at the end of 2017 with over 800 pieces of info/stories/recipes uploaded on the website by local community groups etc.

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council GALWAY, WEST OF IRELAND 2018 EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY

GALWAY'S GASTRONOMIC HERITAGE : **OIDHREACHT GHASTRANAMAÍOCHTA NA GAILLIMHE**

Try, Taste & Tell
Triail, Blais, Inis

Lunchtime break from working the land - Moycullen 1938. Tea and freshly dug potatoes cooked on the campfire. (Courtesy Moycullen Heritage)

Planting spuds 1960s (Courtesy Clare Doyle)

Potting Still (Courtesy Moycullen Heritage)

Selection of churns (Courtesy Miltown Heritage)

Fish weirs at Meelick (Courtesy Christy Curran)

Plucking the goose 1960s (Courtesy Christy Curran)

A Dresser full of Delph (Courtesy Miltown Heritage)

Fish weirs at Meelick (Courtesy Christy Curran)

Plucking the goose 1960s (Courtesy Christy Curran)

Luncheon Menu 1966 (Courtesy Clare Doyle)

BEET MOLASSES (Courtesy Clare Doyle)

Milk churns at Moycullen (Courtesy Moycullen Heritage)

Jim Lowry (Courtesy Clare Doyle)

Lazy beds (Courtesy Christy Curran)

heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/galways-gastronomic-heritage

Galway County Council working in partnership with the Heritage Community of County Galway
Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ag obair i gcomhar le Pobal Oidhreachta Chontae na Gaillimhe

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council GALWAY, WEST OF IRELAND 2018 EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY

Clár Éire Idirnáisiúil Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2021

AN tArdán OIBREACHTAÍ OIGRÍOIRÍ

An Oidhreachtaí Dáilmeanna The Heritage Council

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council GALWAY, WEST OF IRELAND 2018 EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY

GALWAY'S GASTRONOMIC HERITAGE : **OIDHREACHT GHASTRANAMAÍOCHTA NA GAILLIMHE**

Food & Inclusion: A Perfect Fusion
Bia agus Comhlúadar: Meascán Maith

Home-grown cabbages (Courtesy Clare Doyle)

Bronze spear-head found in Moyarwood Bog 1946. Dates to later part of Early Bronze Age. (Photo by Bernadette Dolan with permission of Archaeology Department, NUI, Galway)

Ration book belonging to Eileen Cunnane, Inanemore, Barnaderg. (Courtesy of her son John)

Ice House, Woodlawn Heritage Group. (Photo by Frank Nevin)

Kean's page from shop ledger (Courtesy of Bernard Kealey, Knock, Barnaderg)

Ollie, Dermot & Kate in garden 1990 (Courtesy Miltown Heritage)

Mansion House Relief Fund - May 1980 (Courtesy Miltown Heritage)

Down Memory Lane (Courtesy Miltown Heritage)

heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/galways-gastronomic-heritage

Galway County Council working in partnership with the Heritage Community of County Galway
Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ag obair i gcomhar le Pobal Oidhreachta Chontae na Gaillimhe

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council GALWAY, WEST OF IRELAND 2018 EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY

Clár Éire Idirnáisiúil Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2021

AN tArdán OIBREACHTAÍ OIGRÍOIRÍ

An Oidhreachtaí Dáilmeanna The Heritage Council

(Banner Design: Damien Goodfellow)

This project is very apt as Galway has been awarded the Region of Gastronomy in 2018 and this provided the opportunity to include our older population, children and new communities in the common experience of our food cultures, our food traditions where heritage is a key element of this project and the wider objectives of the European Region of Gastronomy designation.



Launch of 'Galway's Gastronomic Heritage Project' at Claregalway Castle on 6th September 2017



(Image courtesy of Killereen Heritage Group – Galway Community Heritage website)

Architecture on the Edge

The utilisation of public spaces for creativity was another comment received at the Creative Ireland public workshop and whilst funding is not available under the Creative Ireland programme to undertake capital works, the ‘Architecture is ... On the Edge (Æ) festival is a project held in collaboration with the Council’s Architectural Conservation Section, which invited all citizens to explore their city and county. It works through a simple but powerful idea: showcasing outstanding architecture for everyone to experience, free of charge. Architecture is ... On the Edge 2017 (Æ) focused on the theme of housing, titled ‘Architecture is ... Home’ and was held over the weekend of 29th September – 1st October 2017.

The festival saw over 25 public and private buildings open to the public with many tours of the properties led by the architects who designed the buildings. Highlights include St Clerans, Craughwell, Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh, Rosmuc and contemporary private houses such as Killeeneran House, Kilcolgan, which was designed by the award-winning architect Richard Murphy OBE.



Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh An Gort Mór



Killeeneran House, Kilcolgan

(Image taken from: <https://www.architectureattheedge.com/>)

Literature on the Move – Galway’s Great Read

Feedback from the Creative Ireland public workshop included supporting the work of creative persons, use of our public creative spaces and more focus more on Ireland’s culture and language. The library section undertook the project *Literature on the Move – Galway’s Great Read* which aimed to encourage people to get back to reading for pleasure while inviting them to get involved and visit their local library and attend events.



The project concentrated on the life and works of Pádraic Ó Conaire. Free events were hosted by branch libraries throughout the city and county with the introduction of a visual arts strand and a primary and secondary school element into the programme.

Songs for Our Children - A song research, composition and performance project

With support from Galway County Council's Creative Ireland Programme 2017 – 2018, Connamara traditional singer Ceara Conway engaged with the 'Songs for Our Children' coordinators and ten other participants to compose new songs in the traditional style suitable for children. Ceara Conway is to partake in a premiere concert in the National Library of Ireland and deliver a workshop/presentation in County Galway to an audience/at a venue tbc in 2018.

'Songs for our Children' is a national project devised and coordinated by Aileen Lambert and Michael Fortune with the support of the Arts Council and Local Authorities in Limerick, Tipperary, Clare, Wexford, Kildare, Meath, Louth, Waterford and also Galway County Council.

Ballinasloe Strings Festival

A two day celebration of music with a common thread - Strings! showcasing top class cross-disciplinary talent was held on 14th & 15th July 2017. 2017 was the inaugural year of the Ballinasloe Strings Festival, using funding from the Creative Ireland Programme. Over the course of two days, the Church Gallery in Ballinasloe Library played host to a variety of vocal and instrumental talent, both local and international.

The festival brought a blend of world renowned artists and highly talented up-and-coming artists together in this celebration. The vision of the festival was to make high end art, in the form of multi-disciplinary music and opera, open and accessible to all. <https://stringsfestival.ie/>



Ballinasloe Town Band performing at the Strings Festival

Cruinniú na Cásca

Draíocht - Experience the Magic of Creativity was the theme for Galway County Council's inaugural Cruinniú na Cásca event held in Athenry on Easter Monday 17th April 2017.

The Cruinniú na Cásca event proved to be an outstanding success with up to 7,000 persons attending the event which was held at six locations throughout the medieval town of Athenry.



Culture and Education Portal

Feedback received at the Workshop included the development of a portal where all events happening in Galway could be accessed. Galway County Council offers a wide range of innovative services to schools (Green Flag, Junior Warden, Heritage in Schools, Sports programmes, Arts programmes) and consideration to be given by the Arts and Community & Enterprise office to map all of this work in one location to provide easy access for teachers, parents and students to access the many wonderful opportunities provided by Galway County Council.

PROMOTING THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Galway County Council is committed to improving services through Irish and to continue to meet the relevant obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003 together with the implementation of an Scéim Teanga. The Council also looks to support and promote the Irish language throughout the County. Some of the activities undertaken in 2017 were:

Seachtain na Gaeilge

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.



Ceolchoirm Am Lóin (Lunchtime Recital) Dé Luain 13 Márta, 2017 Atrium, Áras an Chontae, Cnoc na Radharc Gaillimh

Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh / Pádraig Pearse Summer School

The third annual Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh / Pádraig Pearse Summer School was held in Ros Muc over the course of three days, 27th, 28th and 29th July 2017. Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh 2017 celebrated the life of Padraig Pearse, his vision and issues that he was very passionate about: Irish language, education, literature and lots more.

The sports broadcasting legend, Míchéal Ó Muircheartaigh, launched the Scoil Samhraidh on Thursday, which was followed by plenty of entertainment, with local sean-nós dancer, Róisín Ní Mhainín, sean-nós singer Caitlín Ní Chualáin, and musicians, Neansaí Ní Choistealbha and Colm Gannon. On Friday, one of the main themes of the summer school was ‘*Will the Irish Language survive as a vernacular language in the Gaeltacht?*’ A panel discussion was held with a number of panellists. In the afternoon a presentation was given on the newly opened Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh followed by a panel led discussion on Caitlín Maude. The Summer School concluded on Saturday morning, with a heritage walk with local expert guide, Seosamh Ó Cuaig.



A promotional video of the Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh event was also recorded and produced.



Míchéal Ó Muircheartaigh launching Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh in Ros Muc



Neansaí Ní Choistealbha and Colm Gannon with local sean-nós dancer, Róisín Ní Mhainín



Fibín in action



Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Eileen Mannion



*Deirdre Caulfied GCC, Cllr. Seán Ó'Tuairisg, Eimear Dolan
County Secretary GCC, Úna Ní Eidhin Irish Development
Officer, Oifigeach Gaeilge*



Panel discussion being held



Panel discussion on the famous Irish poet, Caitlín Maude

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais 2017 / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships 2017

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais 2017 / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships 2017 were provided again this year by Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in collaboration with Summer Colleges in Conamara.

Ten scholarships in total were provided to second level students in the County of Galway to attend Gaeltacht Summer Courses of which six of these were full scholarships funded by Galway County Council with the remaining four being part-funded in conjunction with the Colleges.

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

Drafting of the third Language Scheme for Galway County Council commenced in 2017 and an internal review of the Second Language Scheme was undertaken.

A centralised system for the updating and amending of the website to ensure compliance with our An Scéim Teanga continued to be operated during 2017.

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe continued to work in partnership with other organisations, to inform them of our Scéim Teanga /Language Scheme and ensure that the measures of the Scheme were implemented where such was within the Council's control e.g. Fáilte Ireland in their development of a series of interpretive panels for Conamara "*Conamara – Fiáin go smior / Wild at Heart*" - support and advice was provided, along with proofing services.

Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga

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

Community Support

The Irish language was specifically included as a category in the Community Support Scheme in 2017. Grants totalling €4,525.00 were approved for projects in Schools, Community & Voluntary Organisations to support the promotion and increased use of the Irish language.

Promotion of Gaeilge

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe also continued its support of the promotion of Irish in communities throughout the County, by helping to promote events e.g Irish Hot Air Balloon Championships, National Heritage Week, etc through the Irish Language Media – Radio and TV. Interviews were provided as Gaeilge on site.

The email address gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie was promoted to customers as part of enhanced 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.

Irish language classes (beginner and intermediate levels) were organised for staff and Elected Members of the council.

HISTORIC ASSETS

Athenry Heritage Centre

The Council provided funding to Athenry Heritage Centre located in St. Mary's Church in Athenry Town Centre which is the in ownership of Galway County Council and subleased to the Development Association who oversee the management of the Centre. The Centre employs a Centre Manager and staff through various schemes. The funding contributed to promotion, events and basic upkeep of this historic asset, which attracted over 4,000 visitors in 2017.



Athenry Heritage Centre

Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre

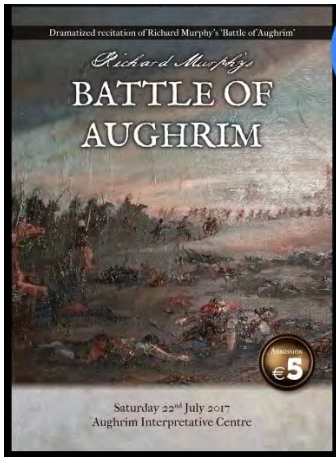
The Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre, providing information on the 1691 Battle is managed and funded by Galway County Council. Travel back in time at the award winning Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre and Battlefield Trail and re-live one of Europe's most historic battles that changed the course of Irish history. The Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre opened for the season from 29th May to 1st September, 2017.



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

In 2017, the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre continued to facilitate additional School and Group Tours and promoted the facility in the region and on social media.

A dramatised recitation of Richard Murphy's Battle of Aughrim, told by Anthony Daly, was held in the Aughrim Interpretative Centre on July 22nd.



The Centre held a series of workshops and events in 2017 including for a 'Talk about & Walk about Tour' by George Geraghty & James Treacy on the Battle of Aughrim and Siege of Athlone 1690 for Heritage Week.



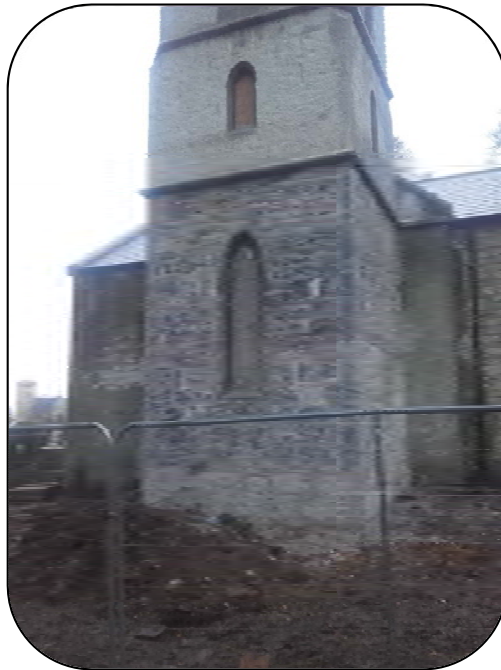
'Talk about & Walk about Tour' by George Geraghty & James Treacy

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 routes.

St Andrew's Church, Kilconly Tuam

The second phase of the proposed Consolidation, Stabilization and Safety Remedial Works to St Andrew's Church at Kilconly, Tuam was completed this year which was again part funded through a grant under the "Structures at Risk Fund". The second phase of the project involved the consolidation and stabilisation of all the high level bell tower stonework with the upper levels of stonework from the first string course also receiving a lime render harl coat. New rain water guttering and soak-pits have also been installed.

The building is now weathertight and all safety risks have been removed.



Strategic Priority

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

Office Accomodation

- Corporate Services continued to provide caretaking and facilities management services for the Council's network of offices, libraries and civic functions.
- Corporate Services re-tendered the Maintenance Contracts on Fire Alarms, Emergency Lighting, Intruder Alarm, CCTV & Access Control Systems for all Offices, Libraries and Ancillary Accommodation for further periods of up to 4 years.
- Infrastructural improvements were carried out on a number of Branch Libraries including Oranmore and Gort.

Energy Management & Energy Reduction Initiatives

- Following on from energy reduction initiatives in 2015 and 2016, County Hall continued to maintain its C1 operational Building Energy Rating (BER), on its Display Energy Certificate for 2017.
- 18 of the Council's public buildings now have Display Energy Certificates completed and on display. These are coordinated with Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency.

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.

Further safety works were completed at Gort Library with the installation of specialised safety access ladders to the Bell Tower, fire detection & alarm systems, accessible ramp and access door to the rear of the library.

Internal Audit

The 2017 Internal Audit plan which forms the annual programme of work was drawn up in conjunction with the Chief Executive, Audit Committee and the Head of the Internal Audit Team. The plan contained 10 areas for audit examination with audit reports on the following areas completed and presented to the Audit Committee at various meetings held during 2017,

- The status on progress with the implementation of audit recommendations contained in 2016 audit reports were reviewed.
- Local Enterprise Office /grant approval/payment processes and controls.
- Ongoing review and update of issues raised in the Local Government Auditors report on the 2015 Annual Financial Statement.
- In depth checks on capital and revenue expenditure as part of the Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report to the National Audit Oversight Commission.
- Compliance Testing of the terms and conditions of use of Low Value Purchase Cards and Fuel Cards.
- Motor Tax Refunds – procedures and controls.
- Review of the terms of the licence agreement in place with Coral Leisure Ltd for the operation of the Ballinasloe and Tuam leisure centers.

The remaining audits from the 2017 work plan were commenced during 2017 but not completed until January 2018 and will be presented to the Audit Committee during 2018.

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

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

Legal Advisory Services

- The Office provided legal advice directly to the Chief Executive and Directors on the Management Team on all programme areas and issues as they arose.
- The Department provided legal services for all programme areas, including the purchase and sale of properties, conduct of litigation including District Court Prosecutions, Circuit, High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court Litigation, including Judicial Review.
- In particular, District Court Litigation (Rates, Planning Enforcement & Environmental prosecutions, Judicial Review and the completion of land acquisitions on inter-urban routes and acquisition of residential units, were substantial areas of work in 2017.
- The Case Management System, which facilitates the use of templates to create work flows for the efficient and cost effective delivery of legal services, is constantly being updated and applied to further work areas.
- Work has continued to update and complete our Register of Lands.

Strategic Priority

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

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME

Galway Public Library continued to provide a valuable service to communities and individuals in 2017. Libraries continue to be relevant to the children, adults and families of Galway City and County.

Galway Public Library has a network of:

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

The active library membership of Galway Libraries for 2017 is 29,034.

583,520 visits to our Libraries and there were **52,271 internet sessions** and **62118 wi-fi sessions**. **814,631** items were issued/renewed in 2017. Excluding renewals but including usage of certain online resources (Proquest, RB Digital, Mango Languages) gives figure of **571675**. (NOAC indicator)

9767 e-books and 7486 e-audio books were downloaded by Galway members.

Developments in 2017

- Renovation and accessibility works were completed in Gort library.
- Oranmore library also received up-grade works.
- The National Distribution system has opened up the collections of all public libraries to the communities of rural Galway. Galway libraries fulfilled 33,602 holds in 2017. This is where a library member has requested an item not available in their local branch. Public reaction has been hugely positive to this service. The patrons are amazed at the accessibility of out of print titles, availability of course books and access to new titles. The community library has now become an important educational aid to more isolated areas of the county and being able to order books online and collect them has increased the relevance of the library for all people of the area.
- Digital Literacy programs continued including the continuance of IT classes in bigger branch libraries, facilitated by Age Action, Vodafone, and Rural Alliance. Initiatives included the extension of *Digitise the Nation* classes to An Cheathrú Rua, Dunmore, Loughrea, Portumna & Eyrecourt libraries.
- Customer and staff training was also delivered on the range of online resources now available. Galway members have downloaded 9,767 e-books and 7,486 e-audio books in 2017. This represents 13% of the digital downloads nationally.

- Usage of online resources continues to grow and to be promoted. E-magazines, availability of e-learning online courses
- Customer led IT solutions included installing SurfBox in a number of libraries. SurfBox allows members of the public to send a print job to a printer in their local library. The print job can be sent from home, and it is released and collected at the library. Surfbox has been installed in Ballybane, Galway City, Westside, Tuam and Loughrea. Princh, which offers the same service, has been installed in the following three libraries. – Clifden, Dunmore and Moylough.



Completed works at Oranmore library



Gort Library interior



Accessibility works at Gort Library

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. A wide and diverse selection of books and other items for adults and children in all areas of literature and knowledge is provided. The Library service take every opportunity to promote books and reading.

Libraries are vibrant creative hubs:

Regular events include:

- Art exhibitions, book clubs, music performances, Culture Night, support for the various Arts Festivals throughout the county and city;
- Europe Direct centres in Galway continue to facilitate a number of annual events, both in branch and outreach.
- Seachtain Na Gaeilge is celebrated in An Spidéal, An Cheathrú Rua, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Galway City.
- Bealtaine Festival in May is celebrated in e.g. Ballinasloe, Gort, Oranmore, Galway City, Tuam, Ballybane and Westside in conjunction with Age Action.

Reading Groups are very popular

- Reading Groups meet in many of our Branch Libraries on a regular basis.
- Libraries also support private reading groups, supplying them with books and premises.
- Club Leabhar Ghaeilge was held in Leabharlann na Ceahtrún Rua during the year.
- Children's Reading Groups meet in e.g. in Ballybane, Westside, Headford and Tuam.

Children's Services

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

- The *Summer Reading Challenge* took place throughout the county with 4500 children registering for the challenge and 3150 completing the challenge. 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. Eileen Mannion and other councillors. Presentation ceremonies took place in Branch Libraries throughout the County during 2017 including, Athenry, Ballinasloe, An Cheathrú Rua, Dunmore, Eyrecourt, Gort, Headford, Loughrea, Moylough, Oughterard, Portumna, An Spidéal, Tuam, and Woodford.



*Summer Star Presentation Event at Dunmore Library
- Linda, Laura, Abbie and Patrick Long from Lisheen, Glenamaddy*



- Branch libraries also participated in *Spring into Storytime*, a new storytime initiative run in April as part of the Right to Read roll-out.



- One Book One Town; Both Tuam and Westside Libraries participated in 2017. This initiative in conjunction with the Home/School Liaison team encourage everyone to read the same book. Classes from the local schools attended readings in Tuam and Westside Libraries.
- One Book, One Island – Inishboffin - where the community all read *Wonder*.



Inishboffin – Launch of Wonder


- Children’s Book Festival in October was celebrated with author visits and storytelling events sponsored by The Arts Office, Galway County Council. The festival was launched in Clifden library. Branch Libraries were visited by authors such as Nicola Pierce, Debbie Thomas, Ger Siggins and Alan Nolan. Branches also had visits from Little Gem Puppets, Your Man’s Puppets and the Imagination Playground in association with Babaró.
- 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.

Galway County Libraries have joined forces with Galway Science and Technology Festival in a

STEM Creative Writing Competition

Simply write a science based story using one of the story starters...

All children of primary school age can enter. Closing date Friday 15th December.



Galway Science & Technology Festival | Comhairle Chéimre na Golliníre Galway County Council

- Galway Libraries participated this year in the Galway Science Festival. All events were very well attended and enjoyed – Tuam lego club, STEAM storytime Westside and Galway City, and a STEM story writing competition which attracted entries from across the county.



Aidan Courtney at Leabharlann na Ceathrun Rua during Children's Book Month



Launch of Children's Book Month at Clifden Library with the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion

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.
- Ballinasloe, Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua and Leabharlann An Spidéal have a wonderful space for exhibitions and were in great demand with many exhibitions throughout 2017.
- The East Galway Art Trail is in its 11th 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 Cheathrún Rua and Tuam libraries have regular music events. In some cases local musicians who get together performed in the Library.
- The springtime concerts in Ballinasloe were part of the Con Tempo Countrywide series and in 2017 featured the works of Hayden.

Arts Festival

- Clifden Library is synonymous with the Clifden Arts Festival since its inception 30 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 and also facilitated the Guaire creative writing series of events for children.
- Tuam, Ballinasloe, Ballybane and Westside supported the Cúirt 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



School's Out – Visitor to the Schools library van in Leenane on the day of Summer hols last year!

Decade of Commemorations and Creative Ireland Initiatives

Galway's Great Read 2017 focussed on the work of Padraic O'Conaire. This programme was funded by Creative Ireland.

The event programme focussed on O'Conaire's life, his works and his legacy. A new initiative of the 2017 Great Read was the introduction of a visual arts strand and a primary and secondary school element into the programme. To work with teachers and students in various schools throughout the County to bring the life of O'Conaire and his writings, both in the Irish language and in translation, to a younger audience. A school in each Municipal District was selected.



Launch event for Galway's Great Read



Galway's Great Read Gala Evening – L-R: Sharon O'Grady Arts Officer and Creative Ireland Co-ordinator, Catherine Gallagher County Librarian, Diarmuid de Faoite Actor, Sharleen McAndrew and Jo Vahey Galway Library Service.

Library Books and Items on 1916 (Leabharlann na Gailimhe/Galway Public Library)

On 23 March, then Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Cllr Michael Connolly, launched a Collection of Books and Items at Galway Library HQ.



L-R: Peter Rabbitt County Librarian, Jo Vahey Galway Library Service, Michael Owens A/Director of Service, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Cllr Michael Connolly, Bernie Donnellan Social Inclusion Officer, Sharleen McAndrew Galway Library Service, Marie Mannion Heritage Officer.

As a legacy of 1916 and following the Commemorations in 2016 this series of Books, CDs etc. as Gaeilge and in English will be available in Galway Public Libraries throughout the City and County.

Strings Festival - Ballinasloe Library and Church Gallery

1350 people attended the Strings Festival over the two days, 14th and 15th July, enjoying 13 performances featuring Strings as the common theme. The festival was funded by Europe Direct and the Creative Ireland program. Following from its success, planning is underway for the Strings Festival 2018.





L-R: Peter Rabbitte, then County Librarian, Geraldine Healy, Corporate Services, Leas-Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Seamus Walsh, Kieran Shaughnessy Festival Co-Ordinator Ballinasloe Library, Cllr. Michael Finnerty, Ballinasloe Municipal District at the launch of the Strings Festival Ballinasloe Library.



ConTempo Quartet entertaining the crowd at the Strings Festival 2017



Athlone A Cappella performing at the Strings Festival 2017

(Images: Galway County Council/ Photographer Evelyn Donellan)

Other Creative Ireland initiatives included a **Mindful Lego project in Loughrea** and also a teen graphic novel project in Tuam Library.



Mindful Lego – Building Architecture in Loughrea

Libraries Ireland Development Funding

In December 2017, Libraries Ireland Development Funding through the Department of Rural and Community Development's funding programme was announced.

This funding programme provided by the Department allowed for 75% grant-funded assistance to enable public libraries to invest in self-service machines, equipment for assisting public in hot-desking and 'Right to Read' (supporting literacy in the local authority) literacy campaign material.

With this funding and the support of Galway County Council, Galway Libraries are going to install self-service machines in: Tuam, Portumna, Clifden, Loughrea, Ballybane, Galway City, An Cheathru Rua and Athenry. This will enable the public to borrow and return their own items, check their accounts and be updated about library events. All library stock will be tagged with RFID technology and so stock will be more mobile across the country, further improving the National Delivery Service.

The Hot Desk facility will comprise a dedicated and branded space together with work station and laptop. It will complement existing resources, including book stock relevant to business people and jobseekers, online resources and ICT facilities (e.g. PCs, printers and photocopiers, and high-quality broadband and Wi-Fi). The facility will provide a space for people to seek information, work, meet and collaborate.

The library service will be installing work matter areas in Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Clifden, Galway City, Portumna, Tuam and Oranmore. This will consist of a dedicated study space, suitable for both individual and group work, a study chair and access to business/job seeking book stock. The business related online resource collection will also be promoted. The branch network will also have access to two projectors and a two mobile screens for delivering on the work matters programme and also to be of assistance in rolling out Healthy Ireland and other library events.

Right to Read

The *Right to Read* Programme was launched nationally in 2017. The programme delivers a uniform collection of services and resources for literacy support and development through all local authorities. It supports literacy development for individuals, families and children through the provision of a core set of services and resources and through specific initiatives to target different user groups as identified annually.



The Right to Read funding has been used to supplement the library collection of children's literacy support material for use in both school and home, purchase young adult and adult literacy material. A portion was also used to develop a collection linked with the Aistear pre-school curriculum. This collection, will be rolled out to pre-schools, naionra and crèches in the county and city, through the mobile service. Staff will produce a guide for parents and pre-school teachers as to how to maximise use of the material. Six complete sets have been purchased and a set as Gaeilge. The library service has also purchased additional children's material as Gaeilge to supplement branch collections.

Public Library Strategy

A new public library strategy will be launched in 2018. The new Strategy is being developed by the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Local Government Management Agency and Local Authorities.

The new Strategy will underpin the continued development of the public library system over the next five years and position the public library at the centre of the community, meeting the information, learning and cultural needs of individuals and communities.

Library students

The support of Library Students from Germany, Italy and Japan greatly assisted the libraries staff in 2017. They worked in Westside, Ballybane, Oranmore library and Galway City Library.

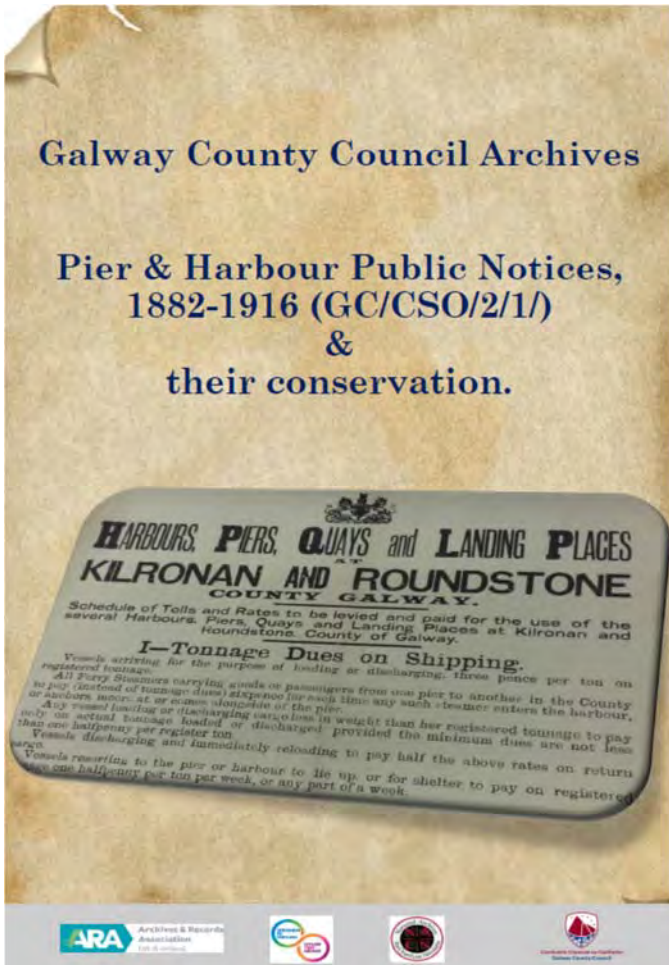
Planning for a new City and County Community Library continued throughout 2017 and investigations on possible sites in Galway City were carried out.

ARCHIVES AND MANAGEMENT OF RECORDS

The collective memory of the people of Galway is of vital importance in preserving cultural identifies, in bridging the past and the present and in shaping the future. The documentary heritage residing in Galway County Council Archives constitutes a major part of that memory and reflects the diversity of the people, history and culture of the county. The Archives strives on a continual basis to preserve, manage and make accessible that memory. It undertakes to provide bona fide users access to the archives consistent with preservation requirements and within the limitations of available resources. The Section also provides policy advice to the Council on the care and management of its records. During 2017, the Archives Section:

- Continued to provide access to information on Galway County Council’s archival holdings through its descriptive lists and also its fully searchable on-line catalogue, and through various archival portals and social media posts. Also continued to provide free online access to many collections on the Digital Archive.
- Continued processing archive collections, such as Whelan, letters of condolence, GS16/01, Drainage District maps (GC/CSO3/) and several small collections / items.
- Continued the programme of providing security backup and reference surrogates to collections, through the digitisation programme. Some of the items included in the 2017 programme include Finance Committee Minutes (GC/3/), Galway County Council National Monuments Advisory Committee Minutes (GC5/), volumes from the Mountbellew Poor Law Union (GPL4/) and additional minutes for the Galway County Council and Loughrea and Tuam Town Councils collections.
- Facilitated the conservation of early 20th century Pier & Harbour public notices (GC/CSO3/).
- 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 display of the bi-lingual travelling exhibition From Colonial State to Free State, what they Said.... at The Workhouse Centre, Portumna and in Ballybane Branch Library; hosting small displays at Áras an Chontae and social media posts, some of which coincided with significant Decade of Commemoration dates or events, e.g. the opening of Shell Factory, February 1917 (GC/CSO3/06); and launch of an online exhibition on the Pier & Harbour Public Notices, as part of the 2017 Explore your Archive campaign.
- Provided advice on records management best practice and assistance to Sections, as required.

- Continued the management of non-current record transfers to storage and record retrievals and returns: 510 recall requests were processed in 2017. At the end of 2017 there were in the region of 111,154 entries on ArcLink, the records management database.



Pier & Harbour Public Notices, online exhibition

Galway County Council's Pier & Harbour Public Notice collection is a small part of a larger series, with files held on Piers & Harbours.

The files (GC/CSO/2), dating from 1899-1995, relate to the maintenance and repair of the marine works in County Galway. In particular they contain correspondence between the County Secretary and County Engineer, and the Office of Public Works relating to the repair, maintenance and lighting of the structures.

Full details of the collection are available on <http://gccapps.galwaycoco.ie/archives/ais5/>

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 carried out up to 800 clean ups in 2017.
- Over 1200 investigations under Air Pollution, Waste Management and Water Pollution legislation were carried out in 2017.
- 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.
- Over 100 surveys were carried out by the Community Wardens Service in relation to litter pollution in accordance with National Service indicators.
- 43 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. Up to 1800 traffic fines were issued during 2017.
- Community Wardens continued to assist the Housing Section in implementing the Control of Horses Act 1996 among other duties.
- Dog Licensing inspection campaigns also continued throughout the year.
- The Wardens continued to implement the provisions of the Roads Act 1993, in relation to abandoned vehicles, with vehicles identified, reported and removed as necessary throughout the year.



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

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 5 students and all first term 2017-2018 maintenance payments were paid by December 2017.

CORONERS SERVICE

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

A review of the Fee Structure of the current Funeral Directors Scheme was undertaken in 2017 with a revised Funeral Directors Scheme (for Funeral Directors who signed agreement to this Scheme) to come into effect on 1st January 2018.

Strategic Priority

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

CUSTOMER SERVICES

In continuance of enhancing our Customer Services, the following are some of the continued services operated by Customer Services in 2017:

- The Customer Services Officers Group (CSOG) continued to meet over 2017. The CSOG is comprised of staff representatives from all the main service areas.
- Customer Services continued to moderate and process Fix Your Street cases and follow up on outstanding cases with relevant sections. Fix Your Street is a national programme and is an on-line public forum where issues can be submitted by location to the relevant local authority.
- The centralised system for Public Notices continued in 2017 to enhance our Corporate Image in the Print Media, to generate savings through shared advertising space and also meet our requirements under National Procurement Framework. Advance copies of public notices prior to notices appearing in the various newspapers appear on Social Media and are sent to Elected Members with relevant contact details included.
- Corporate Services staff based in Customer Services are assigned to support the Mobile Phone Policy of the organisation and day to day administration of the account.

Customer Services Desk and Communications Centre

- The Customer Services Desk continues to be operated to provide efficient referral/query handling for customers as they enter Áras an Chontae. The phone service continues to be operated from the Customer Services Communications Centre on the first floor of Áras an Chontae.
- Lunchtime opening of the dedicated Customer Services Desk in Áras an Chontae continued 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.



Customer Reception desk Áras an Chontae

- A newly formatted poster version of the Customer Charter, Code of Conduct and Services through Irish was created and made available at all Council public counters and on our website.

CAIRT & CÓD IOMPAIR DO CHUSTAIMÉIRÍ - CUSTOMER CHARTER & CODE OF CONDUCT

An méid is féidir leat a bheith ag súil leis uainn - What you can expect from us

CAIRDEÁN CHALLOICHT SEIBHEIC:
Fáilannáil ábalta na leaglaí seibheic a chaitheamh ar fáil leat a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn.

COMHIONANNAS AGUS EASSLACHT:
Caitheamh ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn.

FOCNAIR PRINCIPIL:
Caitheamh ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn.

EOLAIS:
Caitheamh ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn.

COMHFRÉAGARAS:
Caitheamh ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn.

ANILITE AGUS CÚRTEIS:
Caitheamh ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn.

DEARÁN:
Caitheamh ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn.

COMHAIRLEACÁN AGUS HEASDÚ:
Caitheamh ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn.

RISÁIL:
Caitheamh ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn.

COMHIONANNAS MAÍOR LEIS NA TEANGAÍ AGUS OIBREÁIL:
Caitheamh ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn.

AD OIBREÁIL DREAMAÍNA EILE - COMHAIRLEACÁN:
Caitheamh ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn.

CUSTAIMÉIRÍ IMHEANANNA:
Caitheamh ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn. Níl aon seibheic ábalta a bheith ag súil leis uainn.

QUALITY SERVICE STANDARDS:
We will provide a standard that reflects the quality of service you can expect from us. We can't meet our quality service standards, we'll tell you and explain the reasons.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY:
We will treat all our customers equally and with dignity. We will make every service accessible to everyone.

PHYSICAL ACCESS:
We will provide those accessibility services that meet all health and safety standards. This includes making sure that our offices are accessible for people with disabilities and others with special needs.

INFORMATION:
We will provide clear, accurate and up-to-date information about our services and our office facilities and our website. Also, we will actively work to make our services accessible to everyone.

CORRESPONDENCE:
If we need to write you, we will make sure to give you a contact name in all correspondence.

TIMELINESS AND COURTESY:
We will deliver our services with courtesy, timeliness and of a standard without delay. If there is a delay, we will let you know as soon as possible.

COMPLAINTS:
We accept there could be times when a customer might not be satisfied with our service. If that is the case, we will listen to your concerns and we will provide a prompt and fair response to your complaint. We will also accept your feedback and we will use it to improve our services.

CONSULTATION AND EVALUATION:
We will provide an opportunity for you to give us your views on our services. We will use your feedback to improve our services and we will let you know as soon as possible.

CHOICE:
If possible, we'll give you a choice of how you can access a service. We will give you information on the different ways to access our services. Also, if it's possible, we will offer you a choice of when you can access a service.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES EQUALITY:
Official languages are Irish and English. We will provide services in both languages.

WORKING WITH OTHER PARTNERSHIPS:
We will work closely with other public service organisations to make sure you get the best possible service.

INTERNAL CUSTOMERS:
We recognise our staff as internal customers and we will treat them as such. We will use our Customer Services Office Staff to help our external customers. We will also use our staff to help our internal customers.

CÓD IOMPAIR DO CHUSTAIMÉIRÍ

AN MÉID A BHEITH AG SÚIL LEIS UAINN

AN MÉID NA CHALLOICHT SEIBHEIC

COMHIONANNAS AGUS EASSLACHT

FOCNAIR PRINCIPIL

EOLAIS

COMHFRÉAGARAS

ANILITE AGUS CÚRTEIS

DEARÁN

COMHAIRLEACÁN AGUS HEASDÚ

RISÁIL

COMHIONANNAS MAÍOR LEIS NA TEANGAÍ AGUS OIBREÁIL

AD OIBREÁIL DREAMAÍNA EILE - COMHAIRLEACÁN

CUSTAIMÉIRÍ IMHEANANNA

TEAGMHÁIL / CONTACT:
(091) 509 000
gaelige@cogallim.ie / customerservices@galwaycoco.ie
@GalwayCoCo
/GalwayCounty

Tá míle fáilte roimí chomhfhreagras agus ghnó nGaeilge.
gaelige@cogallim.ie www.gallim.ie

We welcome correspondence and conduct of business through Irish.
www.gallim.ie www.galway.ie

- 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 2017. Increased use of Social Media (Twitter, FB) with over 5,600 likes on Facebook and over 11,000 followers on Twitter to date and this is continuing to grow on a daily basis.
- In addition to direct contacts on our web-site and Social Media the public can contact 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, communications via the customer comment facility on www.gaillimh.ie and www.galway.ie and via fixyourstreet.ie.
- Social Media has been integrated with advertising and other promotional campaigns of the Council and specific attention given to the use of Social Media during severe weather events. There has been an increase in the posting of events on behalf of staff with a focus on road works, water disruptions and any other day to day events happening throughout the County. This was particularly clear during 'Storm Ophelia' when it was a vital communication tool.
- Customer Services continued to maintain the system of re-formatting new application forms and updating existing forms when requested. It has 215 forms and memorandums in total on the register/coding system, available via Galway County Council's website.
- The Customer Services team participated in the 'Our Council Day' twitter campaign nationally as coordinated by the LGMA. 'Our Council Day' took place on 7th March 2017.



Storytime at Ballybane Library – 'Our Council Day'



Verge cutting in progress – 'Our Council Day'



Martin Mannion, Community Warden, checking the Bottle Banks at An Cheathrú Rua – ‘Our Council Day’



Fire Fighters training at An Cheathrú Rua Fire Station – ‘Our Council Day’



Road works in Kilconnell – ‘Our Council Day’



European Region of Gastronomy Steering Group Meeting in Council HQ – ‘Our Council Day’

HOUSING UNIT

Rebuilding Ireland - The Action Plan on Housing and Homelessness launched in July, 2016 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.

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

Pillar 1: Address Homelessness

Provide early solutions to address the unacceptable level of families in emergency accommodation; deliver inter-agency supports for people who are currently homeless, with a particular emphasis on minimising the incidence of rough sleeping; and enhance State supports to keep people in their own homes.

Pillar 2: Accelerate Social Housing

Increase the level and speed of delivery of social housing and other State-supported housing.

Pillar 3: Build More Homes

Increase the output of private housing to meet demand at affordable prices.

Pillar 4: Improve the Rental Sector

Address the obstacles to greater private rented sector delivery, to improve the supply of units at affordable rents.

Pillar 5: Utilise Existing Housing

Ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible - focusing on measures to use vacant stock to renew urban and rural areas.

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 2017.



Strategic Priority

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

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

Strategic Priority

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

Housing Construction

A Contract was signed in December 2017 for the construction of 40 No. units and Refurbishment of 21 No. Units as part of the Gilmartin Road Rejuvenation Project. This project is ongoing and it is hoped to be completed by 2019.



Gilmartin Road Rejuvenation Project contract signing 18th December 2017

Other Projects being progressed through the various stages in 2017 were 23 units Clifden, 10 units Garbally, Ballinasloe, 6 units An Cheathrú Rua, 10 units Oughterard, 10 units Kinvara, 10 units Ardrahan , 2 units Esker Fields Ballinasloe, 30 units Weir Road, Tuam and 5 rural houses.

House Purchases

Under the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan 49 units were purchased in 2017 and a further 22 units were at Sale Agreed.

HAP

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

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

However, unlike Rent Supplement recipients, HAP recipients 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.

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.

A total of 395 recipients signed up to the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme during 2017, with over 800 recipients having signed up to the scheme to date .

Strategic Priority

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

Housing Waiting List

Galway County Council completed an assessment of housing need in 2017. The assessment of housing need was completed under the following headings:

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

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

- Income;
- Residency Status;
- Availability of accommodation;
- Rent Arrears.

The total number of Housing Applicants on the Housing List at 31st December, 2017 was 3,041.

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.

Description	Galway County End of Q4 2017:
Number of Applicants accommodated in private rented accommodation through contracts agreed with private landlords	346
Number of Applicants accommodated currently through contracts agreed with voluntary organizations	123

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

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 Residential Tenancies Board. The published register is available on the Residential Tenancies Board website at www.rtb.ie

Galway County Council inspected 676 properties up to 31st December 2017, to ensure compliance with standards for rented houses. A total of 444 Re-inspections were carried out. 136 were compliant following on from re-inspections. A total of 676 Properties failed to comply with the current standards on first inspection and 7 Improvement Notices were served on landlords requiring improvements to be carried out.

Repair and Leasing Scheme

Under the Vacant Housing Repair and Leasing Scheme, repair and improvement works to suitable vacant properties may be funded by way of an interest free loan to bring properties up to the standard for rented accommodation and the cost of the work is then deducted from lease payments over an agreed lease term.

There are a number of requirements in relation to the Initiative:

The property must be vacant for at least 12 months.

- There must be a social housing demand for the property.
- The property must be assessed as being viable to provide accommodation.
- The minimum lease term is dependent on the cost of repairs with a minimum lease period of 10 years and a maximum period of 20 years.
- The lease payments will be based on the general terms of social leasing which is set at 80% (85% for apartments) of the current market rental rates in the property location. A further adjustment to the lease payment shall be made to off-set the cost of the repair/upgrade work until the cost of the work has been repaid.
- The scope and cost of the works, and the recoupment of the cost of the works through the lease payments, are agreed between the property owner and Galway County Council.
- The initiative is not available for private renting.

Advantages for a vacant property owner include:

- Upgrading of a property by way of an interest free loan
- Guaranteed rent
- No loss of rent during vacant periods
- No collection of rent or finding a new tenant

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 difficulty paying their mortgage can switch from owning their home, provided they have met the eligibility criteria, to renting their home as social tenants, paying a rent calculated in accordance with their income. If you take up the 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 financial 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 5 applicants have qualified and are participating in the scheme and a further 19 applicants are under consideration for inclusion.

Voluntary Housing

The (Capital Advance Leasing Facility) CALF is a facility available to Approved Housing Bodies to assist them in accessing Private or Housing Finance Agency finance for the purchase or construction of units. The units are made available exclusively for social housing purposes under a leasing agreement for a set period of time, typically 20 years. There are 97 units funded under the CALF programme to-date and a further 61 units have been approved for funding in 2018. Delivery is expected by 2018.

Following a number of meetings with Voluntary Bodies during the year, several potential units have been identified and agreements are under active consideration for inclusion under the scheme.

Tenant Purchase

During 2016 the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 came into effect and replaced the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme which came to an end on 30th June 2014. Under this scheme, eligible local authority tenants can apply to buy their local authority home. If approved, the purchaser must continue to live in the house for as long as they own it. A discount is applied on the purchase price of the house based on applicant's income. An incremental purchase charge is placed on the house which will be equal to the discount applied on the purchase price of the house. The charge will remain in place for 20, 25 or 30 years (depending on the discount given). Each year, the charge will reduce by 2%. At the end of the 20, 25 or 30 years, the charge will be zero as long as the purchaser complies with the terms and conditions of the scheme. The purchaser will be able to resell their home at any time if the

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

Throughout 2017 Galway County Council received 43 applications from local authority tenants to purchase their house and issued 26 house purchase offers and 11 have been completed.

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

Housing Aid for Older People grant continues to provide funding to persons aged 66 and upwards 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.

- 264 valid applications received during 2017 for Housing Aid for Older People:
- 277 valid applications received during 2017 for Mobility Aid and Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a disability Scheme

Housing Adaptation Grants for Local Authority Houses

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

Funding of €199,090 was made available Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, to cover 90% of the cost of the works. A total of 44 Local authority homes had housing adaptation works completed during 2017.

Energy Efficiency & Retrofit Programme (EERP)

In 2017, Galway County Council continued implementation of the Social Housing Retrofit programme. Under the Energy Efficiency Phase 1 programme €74,437 was made from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to provide attic and wall insulation to 462 local authority homes. In 2017, Galway County Council expended €405,249.94 covering 334 houses under its Energy Efficiency & Retrofit Programme (EERP).

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 15 applicants per week presenting as homeless in 2017 - 10 families and 5 individuals per week. An Average of 10 families per week were accommodated by Galway County Council in Emergency Temporary Accommodation for 2017. Single people accommodated in homeless or tourist hostels averaged at 5 at any time.

A Homelessness Framework Action Plan for County Galway was adopted by the Members in June. The Action Plan guides the actions of Galway County Council in playing a lead and pivotal role in ensuring a multi-agency and collaborative approach in the development and implementation of actions that are designed to prevent homelessness in the County and to ensure that when homelessness is presented to the Council that there is an adequate response available, in conjunction with the partner agencies. The Framework outlines a range of supports, services and education provisions to prevent homelessness, to support independent living and end the reliance upon temporary accommodation to eliminate the need to sleep rough and provide long term solutions to homelessness.

Currently Galway County Council has two transition houses in the County, located in Ballinasloe & Tuam. A total of 35 applicants deemed homeless were nominated for a permanent tenancy by Galway County Council during 2017.

Traveller Accommodation Programme

In accordance with Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988, as amended, and Section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Galway County Council assessed and identified the current and projected accommodation needs of Traveller families to be met during the period of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018.

Galway County Council has a strong track record in meeting the accommodation needs of Traveller families. The Council has exceeded the targets set in the Traveller Accommodation Programme and this trend continued during 2017, with the accommodation needs of 79 families being met.

Accommodation Type	Original 2017 Target	Revised 2017 Target	Delivery
Group Housing Scheme - Existing	1	3	1
Permanent Halting Site Service Block - Existing	1	5	3
Local Authority Standard Housing	5	8	22
Rental Accommodation Scheme / Long Term Leasing	7	1	0
Purchase by Galway County Council	1	1	2
Voluntary Housing	5	1	7
Purchase by Travellers	1	1	0
Housing Assistance Payment/ Private Rented Accommodation with/out Rent Supplement	14	46	44
Totals	35	66	79 (120%)

Table 2: Targets & Delivery 2015-2017

The Amended Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018 was adopted by the Council in July 2017. The Council’s Traveller Accommodation Programme is designed to meet the needs of Travellers by means of standard housing or culturally appropriate accommodation with the majority of housing needs to be met by standard housing and the low level of demand for accommodation in halting sites can be met from existing halting sites.

Disability Strategy

A Disability Steering Group was established in 2017 and a Housing Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2017 – 2020 was adopted by the Council in June 2017. Galway County Council is committed to putting people with disabilities at the centre of housing policy and that the Plan was developed by the following partners:

- The Council’s Allocations, Capital and Assessments Departments
- The Health Service Executive (HSE), mental health, physical and intellectual disability services
- Disability-specific and general housing associations, and
- Disability service providers.

The Strategy identified the routes to suitable homes for people with disabilities, including:

1. Social Housing tenancy
2. Securing suitable rental housing in the private sector, and
3. Adapting the owner's home to meet their needs.

The Housing Disability Steering Group meet quarterly to review progress on the Action Plan.

Tenancy and Estate Management

The Estate Management Strategy (EMS) 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 Health Service Executive, Galway and Roscommon Educational and Training Board and Gardaí throughout the year and succeeded in working together in a number of areas with tenants requiring support.

The Tenancy & Estate Management Unit was established in 2013 and processes Anti-Social Behaviour complaints & Breaches of the Tenancy agreement in line with The Anti-social Behaviour & the Tenancy Sustainment Strategy. The main aim of the Tenancy Sustainment Strategy is to minimise tenancy breakdown and promote stable and sustainable communities. This Strategy was adopted in March of 2017. The Council's approach 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 the 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 in Athenry, Loughrea, Ahascragh, Gort, Gilmartin Road Tuam, Tuam Halting Site and Tirboy, Tuam.



Housing Maintenance project at Weir Rd, The Pottery, Tuam.



Housing Maintenance project at 64 Shannon Park Portumna



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Environment Services

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

Strategic Priority

To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise.

- The awareness team continued to engage with the domestic and commercial sectors in promoting environmental awareness;
- Community awareness events have taken place focusing on waste management, waste prevention, food waste, home composting, household hazardous waste, energy conservation and water conservation;
- Information was provided on awareness and environmental activities through local media, social media, libraries, schools, voluntary groups etc.;
- There was ongoing involvement with Tidy Towns groups;
- The Green Schools programme continues with over 90% of county schools involved;
- A number of Anti-Litter initiatives were funded;
- Promotion of a Cleaner Greener Galway with Gardaí Síochána;
- Delivery of WEEE, Mobile Hazardous Waste Collections, National Spring Clean initiatives.
- The Local Authority Prevention Network continues its work to identify actions within community, business and public sectors in areas such as waste prevention, energy conservation, water conservation, training and awareness.

Strategic Priority

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

- The contract for the operation of Civic Amenity Sites at Clifden, Tuam and Ballinasloe was renewed after procurement to 30th Sept 2019. Barna Waste will continue to operate the site. The contract for the waste services on Inishboffin was renewed to 31st March 2019. The waste services on the other 3 islands continues to be managed, on a partnership arrangement with the Council, by Athchursail Teo.

Bring Banks are located at 93 centres throughout the County for the collection of glass, beverage cans for recycling and clothing.



Bring Banks at Creggs

- In conjunction with the EPA and the Department, Galway County Council continue to assist in site management of Kilconnell Landfill and to operate the landfill for the acceptance of waste for a defined period of time in the 2 remaining cells. A construction contract was signed in July and capital works commenced in August for the permanent capping of the existing cells.

Strategic Priority

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

- 23 inspections were carried out on waste permitted sites. Covert CCTV was installed at 2 sites. Fixed penalty notices were issued at bring bank sites. 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.
- 123 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 52% 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. 126 inspections were carried out in accordance with the requirements of the NIP including verification inspections
- Contracts were put in place for check & audit monitoring and raw water monitoring. 1593 samples were taken of PWS, Public and Private GWS, with PWS 98% 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. 1575 complaints were resolved.
- Joint Producer Responsibility inspections were carried out by wardens and enforcement officers with a focus on food waste disposal and commercial brown bins.
- Joint inspections were carried out with REPAK on non-compliant businesses, under the CU WERLA pilot packaging programme.
- 8 litter “black spots” were cleaned up, barriers and signage erected and CCTV installed with funding provided by DCCAIE under the Anti- Dumping Initiative 2017. Over 100 tonnes of waste was removed as part of this Initiative.
- Approximately 70,000 waste tyres were removed from illegal dump sites with funding provided by DCCAIE.



Clean Up at Thoor Ballylee Gort in August 2017

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 2017:
 - The Long Point, Loughrea
 - Traught, Kinvara
 - Trá an Doilín, An Cheathrú Rua
 - Trá Mhór Coill Rua, Indreabhan
 - Trá Cill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór
 - Portumna Bathing Area (New Entrant)



Trá Mhór Coill Rua, Indreabhan

- Green Coast Awards were received for six beaches in 2017:
 - Trá Poll Na gCaorach, Inis Oírr
 - East End, Inishboffin
 - Dumhach, Inishboffin
 - An Trá, Inis Oírr, Aran Islands
 - Aillebrack, Ballyconneely
 - Renvyle.



- There are 233 burial grounds listed on the Council's burial ground register. A number of extensions were completed or advanced during the year while with the participation of the many local burial ground committees improvement and maintenance works were carried out throughout

the county. An annual grant of between €300 - €600 was provided to committees who maintain burial grounds in their area and 159 committees were awarded a grant.

- 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 Gardaí, 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.
- Galway County Council achieved certification to the international standard ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems in 2017.

Strategic Priority

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

The Cleaner Greener Galway initiative, launched by Minister Denis Naughten in 2017, is a collaborative approach to anti-litter and illegal dumping by the Council and the Illegal Dumping and Litter Awareness Sub Committee of the County Joint Policing Committee working with sporting, voluntary, business organisations and an Garda Síochána.



L-R: Kevin Kelly Chief Executive, Deputy Hildagarde Naughton, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Michael Connolly, Minister Denis Naughten, Cllr. Moegie Maher.

Representatives of over 100 of Galway's top athletes and high profile sporting faces from across Galway GAA, Connacht Rugby and Galway United joined Minister Naughten, and the Cathaoirleach of the County, Cllr. Michael Connolly, and members of Galway County Council to show their support for "A Cleaner, Greener Galway".

The message from the sporting community to the people of Galway is "don't drop the ball on litter" as Galway County Council embarked on a highly proactive and all-inclusive anti-litter and illegal dumping awareness campaign throughout the county.



Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cathaoirleach of County Galway with Galway GAA stars Heather Cooney, Áine McDonagh, Maria Cooney, Olivia Divilly, Ailsh O'Reilly (hidden) Rebecca Henley with Councillors Michael (Moegie) Maher and Cllr. Peter Roche - Promoting Galway County Council's 'Cleaner, Greener, Galway!' Anti-litter and illegal dumping awareness initiative.



Members of the Connacht Rugby team showing their support for 'Cleaner Greener Galway'

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.

Strategic Priority

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

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

Water Services

Galway County Council, working under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water, continued to progress water services projects throughout 2017. Major capital projects continue to progress through various phases, under the Infrastructure Programme, to provide upgraded facilities in the county and ensure regulatory compliance. In addition, significant work was progressed under the Capital Projects programmes to enhance and optimise existing treatment plants and networks. Continued improvements in infrastructure in 2017 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.

Significant progress has been made in the county during the year under Irish Water's Infrastructure Programme. A new 1,300 population equivalent, (P.E.), waste water treatment plant at Kinvara was officially opened by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Simon Coveney on 12th May, 2017.

This plant enables the discontinuation of discharging untreated waste water to the bay at Kinvara. A proposed project to follow will extend the existing sewer network to a number of peripheral housing developments in the town which will facilitate their connection to the public sewer and decommissioning of existing on-site treatment systems.



Minister Coveney at the official opening of Kinvara waste water treatment plant

The sod-turning ceremony for the Athenry waste water treatment plant took place on 17th November, with the construction of the upgraded plant commenced by Ward & Burke Construction soon after. The plant will provide much needed additional treatment capacity in Athenry, where development has been curtailed in recent years due to insufficient capacity



Sod-turning ceremony at Athenry waste water treatment plant, 17th November, 2017

Strategic Priority

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

A significant upgrade of the waste water treatment plant at Oughterard was substantially completed by Glan Agua Ltd., with flows transferred to the upgraded plant in October, 2017. The old 500 P.E. plant has been replaced by a state of the art treatment facility with a capacity of 2,400 P.E. Effluent quality to date has been shown to be exceeding the required limits, which, in turn will improve water quality in the receiving water, the Owenriff River.

Design and planning of proposed projects for a number of other schemes has also progressed during the year. Planning permission has been granted for proposed waste water treatment plants at Ballygar and Glenamaddy.

Planning was also granted for three of the four pumping stations required for the Tuam RWSS Extensions project. Works also progressed on the provision of additional water storage on Inis Oírr and Inis Meain. The necessary investigative surveys and detailed design are being progressed on all of the foregoing.

Construction of the extension of the trunk water main from Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, to Garranlahan, Co. Roscommon and ultimately to Williamstown, also progressed. There are approximately 6km of water main to be constructed from the county boundary with Roscommon to Williamstown.

Work has also progressed on a number of schemes under Capital Programmes. Process optimisation works were completed at Portumna water treatment plant, and planning and design for similar works were progressed for Ballinasloe, Gort, An Spidéal and Mid-Galway water treatment plants.

The Reservoir Cleaning and Minor Repairs programme is ongoing.

Upgrade works proposed for Tuam, Ballinasloe and Gort waste water treatment plants went to tender and will commence construction in early 2018.

Strategic Priority

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

Leakage reduction measures to ensure that a secure water supply is available is been delivered under the Water Network Program WNP which has a longterm objective to reduce both public and customer side leakage to a sustainable economic levels and lead to improved water network performance and reliability.

This program consists of network rehabilitation including the replacement of section of water mains prone to bursts together with other leakage reduction initiatives including find and fix and pressure management activities within selected Water Supply Zones throughout the County at Tuam, Galway City West, Ballinasloe, Loughrea and An Cheathrú Rua.

Schemes identified for mains rehabilitation to date include Inishmore, Roundstone, An Spidéal, An Cheathrú Rua and Glenamaddy and the design elements for these schemes are advancing.

Construction works have commenced at Inverin Teach Mor with works on the other schemes to progress throughout 2018. These rehabilitation works in conjunction with the other capital works has resulted in increased detection and repair rates with 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 by administering the Rural Water Programme on behalf of the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government.

The Group Water Schemes themselves provide policy oversight to the Programme by representation on the Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee which meets up to 4 times each year. The Programme provides support to group schemes through capital improvement grants for scheme improvements and subsidy grants towards the ongoing operation and maintenance.

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

In 2017, Capital Grants in the region of €0.7m were paid out and Subsidies of in the region of €2.8m were also paid out.

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

Emergency Services

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

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

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



Figure 1: GFRS Fire Station Locations

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

An Cheathrú Rua Fire station went operational from 22nd February 2016 as the 11th Fire station in the county. The Council now employ 167 fire-fighting personnel in Galway Fire and Rescue Service including full time and retained fire-fighters in the City and County, senior fire officers, a brigade mechanic and a Civil Defence Officer. In addition, Galway FRS has 4 civilian administrative support staff as Headquarters staff who are based in Galway City Fire station.



New Fire Station An Cheathrú Rua



New Fire Appliances at New Fire Station in An Cheathrú Rua

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 (KCS) - A Framework for Fire Safety in Ireland

“Keeping Communities Safe”, which is the outcome of a review of Fire Services and Fire Safety in Ireland was published in February 2013 by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency

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

The draft area risk categorisation (ARC) for all Fire station grounds in Galway had been completed and was submitted to NDFEM in summer of 2015 to form part of 1st National External validation group (EVG) report , as requested by NDEM Circular 05/2015. A national draft EVG 1 Report was issued by NDFEM in 2016 for discussion, but issuing of the final EVG1 report has been delayed. We are currently updating Galway County Council (GCC) Section 26 operational plan and hope to bring it to the SPC and Council for adoption in 2018.

Camp West

GFRS continued to run and pilot the CAMP Next Generation mobilisation trial at Galway City fire station as part of roll-out of new outstation equipment in Fire stations in west region as part of Camp CtRI project. Technical preparatory work has been carried out in 2017 in all Fire stations to enable the transfer over to digital devices (Tetra) in all vehicles and HQ Fire Station in 2018.

Health and Safety Management

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

OHSAS 18001: Occupational Health & Safety Management System

The retention of accreditation to the OHSAS 18001 safety management system and the H&S management programme have been major drivers of much of the fire service’s H&S related activities in 2017 and are briefly summarised as follows:-

- **OHSAS 18001:** Following the Stage 1 and Stage 2 audits in October and November 2016 respectfully the National Standards Authority of Ireland have accredited the fire service to the OHSAS 18001 standard. A presentation of the certification took place in May 2017 during an event which was attended by representatives of the National Safety Authority of Ireland, Galway County Council and Galway Fire & Rescue Service. Surveillance audits conducted by the accreditation body (NSAI in this case) play a key role of the OHSAS 18001 system to ensure that safety management systems are constantly maintained and consistently improved as per the requirements of the code of practice. In this regard Galway Fire & Rescue Service successfully passed the surveillance audit that that was conducted in 2017.



Presentation of the OHSAS 18001 Certificate to Kevin Kelly, CE, Galway County Council

- **Fire Station Safety Checks:** a new initiative of carrying out regular safety checks in fire stations was commenced in 2017. The purpose of these checks, which are conducted on a six monthly basis for county retained fire stations and on a biannual basis for Galway City fire station, is to augment the existing suite of static risk assessments of our fire stations (which are reviewed on a three yearly basis). They also allow for the early identification of potential hazards in the fire stations thus expediting the implementation of appropriate control measures and corrective actions.

- **Meetings / Consultations:** 9 no. H&S Steering Group meetings, 6 no. H&S Operational Group City & City Retained, 8 no. H&S Operational Group County Retained meetings were held in 2017.
- **Audits:** as mentioned above the first post OHSAS 18001 accreditation surveillance audit was conducted in June 2017 by the NSAI. The fire stations of Ballinasloe and Loughrea were selected as the locations of the audits. Fire service personnel at both locations made significant efforts to ensure that their fire stations were presented in as best a manner as possible. The NSAI found that there was no area of concern to warrant the withdrawal of the OHSAS 18001 certification and certification was successfully maintained.
- **Legionella Control:** Following the legionella risk assessments of the fire stations that took place in 2016 a Legionella Control programme was developed and instigated in 2017. The programme involves the monthly monitoring of water services infrastructure in all fire stations by a specialist contractor. In parallel to this particular programme a separate programme of carrying remedial works to water services infrastructure in all fire stations was initiated to address with issues identified in the legionella risk assessments. These works, which were predominantly concluded in December 2017, have allowed, in conjunction with the monthly monitoring, for the lowering of the legionella risk rating in the fire stations.
- **H&S Documentation:** a number of documentation relating to the safety management system were reviewed & updated and copies of same issued to fire stations. We have continued to upload documentation relating to the safety management system onto the Library function of the Incident Control Room software. It is planned to keep all such H&S documentation in this manner thus ensuring that the most up to date documentation will be available to all fire crews at all times.
- **Accident Reporting:** Further training took place for fire service personnel regarding the procedures for the reporting of accidents and dangerous occurrences. 13 no. accident and 8 no. incidents were reported in this period. Ongoing building maintenance to fire stations continued during 2017 including the implantation of the legionella control programme & remedial works and the installation of fire detection and alarm systems in Ballinasloe and Mountbellew Fire station.



Fire Operations (Response)

The total number of emergency responses by Galway Fire Rescue Service (GFRS) in Galway City and County respectively, in 2017 was 1580 (1418 incidents) with 644 in Galway City Fire Ground and 936 emergency responses in remainder of Galway County.

Fig 1 shows the trend of incidents /responses from 2010 – 2017 for all Galway City and County:

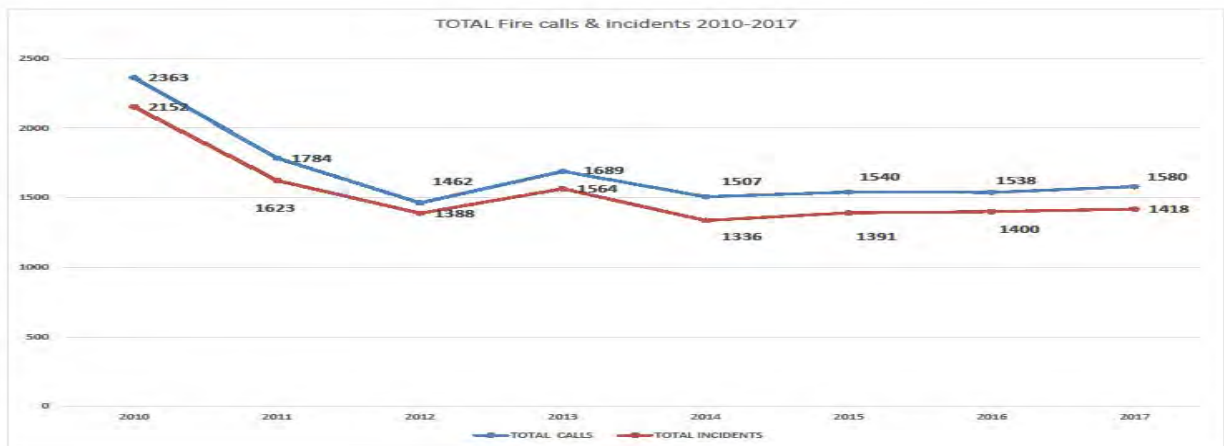


Figure 1: Trend of incidents /responses from 2010 – 2017 for all Galway City and County

The number of incidents/responses attended have more or less flat-lined since 2015.

Fig 2 shows trends of incidents/responses in the city and county Fire ground areas respectively from 2009 -2017:

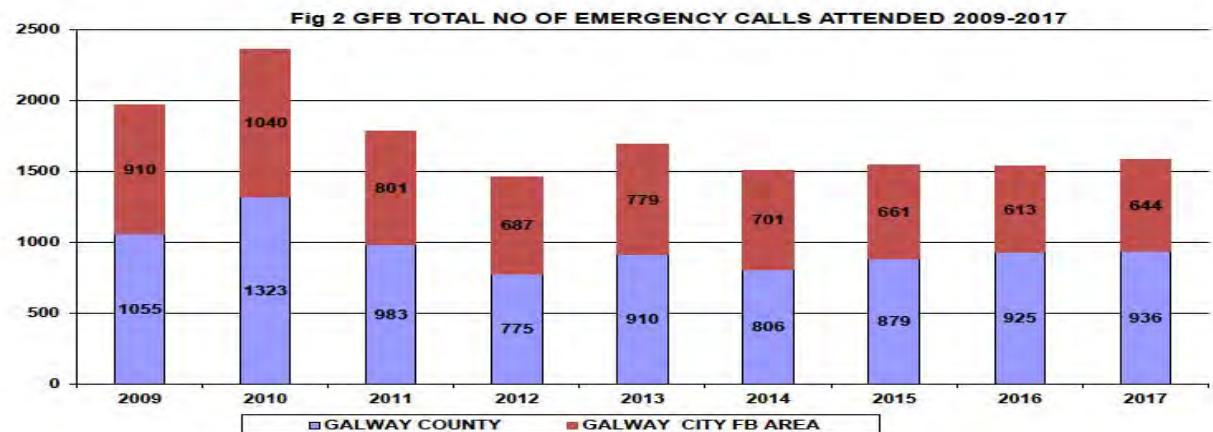


Figure 2: Trends of incidents/responses in the city and county fire ground areas respectively from 2010-2017

Overall Activity levels are increased slightly in 2017 from 2016. There has been a reduction in activity in Galway City's and Clifden's Fire ground respectively, due to An Cheathra Rua's new retained Fire station commencing operations in February 2016.

Figures 3a & 3b respectively give a breakdown of emergency responses and incidents by Fire station for 2017.

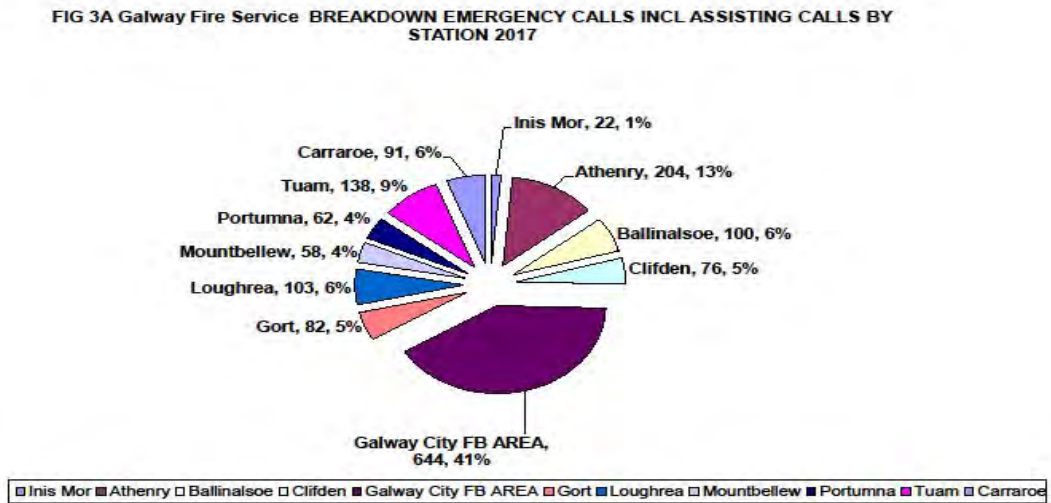


Figure 3 a: Breakdown of Emergency Calls including assisting calls by Galway Fire Service 2017

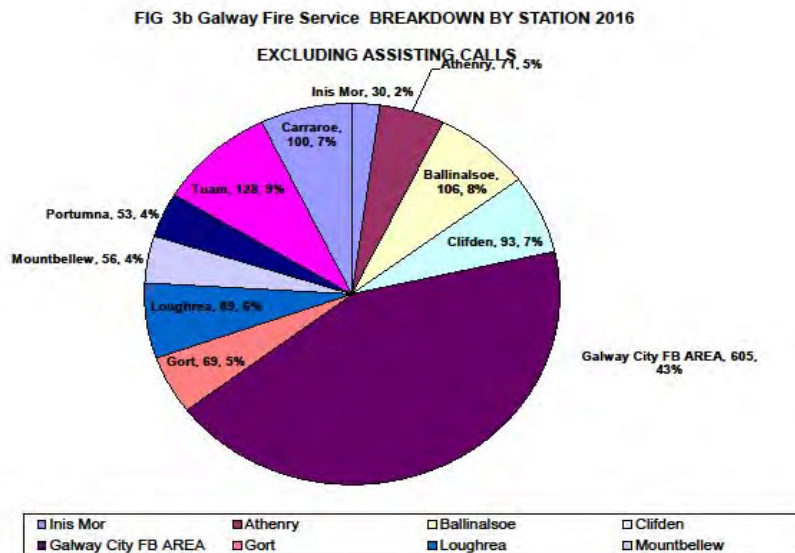


Figure 3 b: Breakdown by Station excluding assisting calls by Galway Fire Service 2017

Performance indicators 2017

The average cost per head of population for providing the Fire Service in Galway City and county was €45.65 in 2017.

Performance indicators have been set nationally for local authority Fire Services:

Average response times for all incidents for first attendance vehicles in the City full-time and County retained were 2.55 mins and 5.07 mins respectively.

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

- Less than 10 minutes - 41.9%;
- Greater than 10 minutes and less than 20 minutes – 31%
- Greater than 20 minutes – 27.1 %.

The performance indicators for all other incidents excluding fires for the same parameters were 58.9%; 28.8 and 12.3 respectively.

There were one fatality due to accidental fires in 2017 in Galway city and county.

Strategic Priority

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

Fire safety and Prevention

Work was ongoing in Fire Prevention & Fire Safety Section in 2017.

The Fire Prevention Section carried out 268 inspections of premises in 2016 as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act 1981, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, and Dangerous Substances Act. The Fire Prevention Section received 294 applications and processed 190 public licence applications in 2017. We dealt with 106 planning applications for Galway City council in 2017 and carried out inspections in 2017 for the issue of Fire Safety Certificates etc. under the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2007. We processed 79 Disability Access Certificate applications for the County in 2016.

The Fire Prevention Section dealt with 262 Fire Safety Certificate Applications- all types- under the Building Control Regulations, 141 in the County Council area and 121 in the City Council area. The overall number of Fire Safety Certificate applications represent an increase in activity in 2017 compared with 2016 figures -251 in 2016-.

The number of Fire Safety Certificates (FSC) from 2008 to 2016 and Disability Access Certificates (DAC) from 2010 to 2016 received by GFRS for City and County are shown in Figs 4 and 6 below respectively.

The FSC fees –all types- received for city and county councils respectively from 2008-2017 are shown in Fig 5.

FIG 4 Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) ACTIVITY 2008-2017



Figure 4: Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Activity 2008- 2017

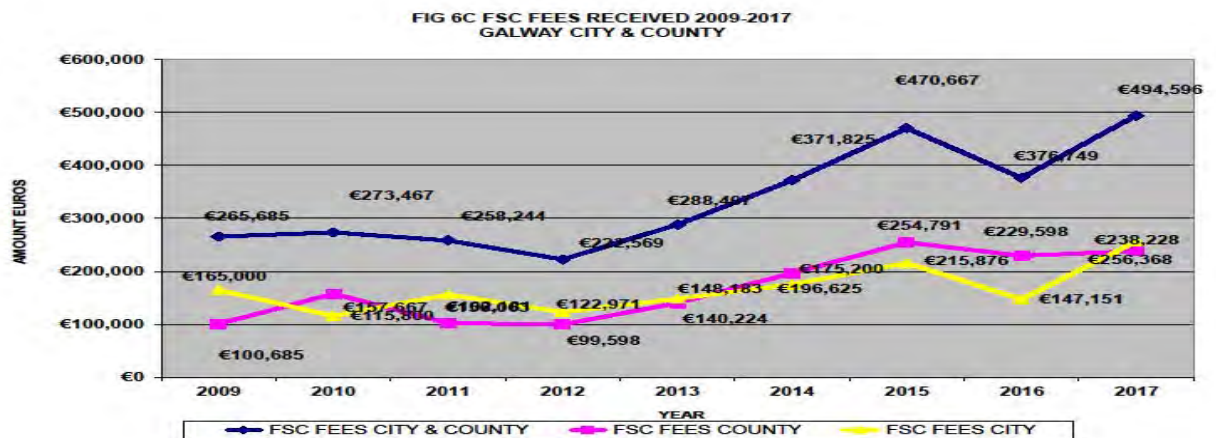


Figure 5: Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Fees City and County 2008- 2017

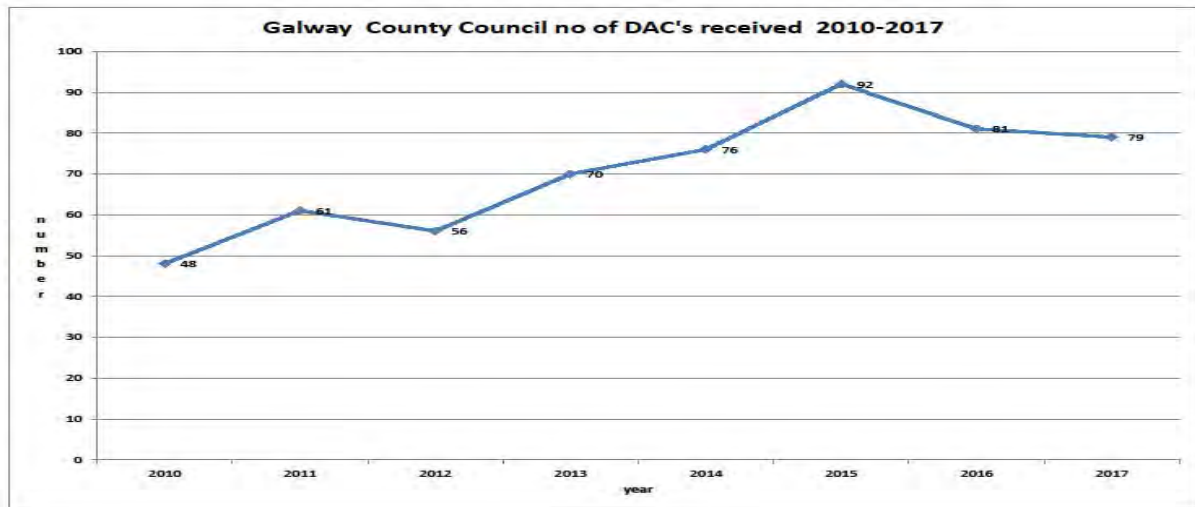


Figure 6: Disability Access Certificate activity 2010-2017

These figures reflect a flat recovery in planned commercial construction activity in the Galway area in 2017 but are still low compared to boom years.

However the increasing amount of FSC fees received in 2017 shows that they are returning to boom year levels, which reflects the increasing size and complexity of commercial construction been proposed for development.

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 2017 to deliver community based fire safety talks as requested, provide fire appliance visits to schools and participate in National Fire Safety Week with the opening of fire stations to members of the public and a newspaper advertisement campaign. The Primary Schools Programme to 3rd class primary schools continued in 2017 in the county.

Major Emergency Management (MEM)

The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of New National Framework for MEM is continuing its work.

Work is continuing by the committee in preparation of the Flood Response Plan, and a revision /update of the Council's Major Emergency Plan which is due in 2018.

Galway County Council personnel also continued their participation in both the MEM West Regional Steering and the MEM West 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).

Galway County Council Headquarters continues as the main location of Local Co-Ordination Centre (LCC) for the three Principal Response Agencies (PRA's) – Galway County Council, HSE West and Galway Garda Division - for Major Emergencies in the Galway City and County area.

Galway County Council managed the annual regional claim on behalf of 8 PRA's in west region in 2017 as in previous years.

Locally, the MEM committee commenced work on the revision of the External Emergency Plan (EEP) for the Cold Chon facility in Oranmore (an Upper Tier Seveso Site under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances Regulations 2015). The revised plan is due for publication in 2018 and planning for a significant exercise to test the plan is also underway, to be undertaken by the relevant Principal Response Agencies (PRA's) -termed Local Competent Authorities (LCA's) under Seveso III regulations- The agencies (LCA's) involved include Galway County Council (including Galway Fire and Rescue Service as it's PES respectively), Galway Garda Division, HSE West (including the National Ambulance Service (NAS)) and Chemoran the site operator as required under Seveso III regulations.

Work has also commenced on an External Emergency Plan for Tynagh Power Station (a lower tier site)

The revision of the Inter-Agency Island Response Plan. A number of island exercises were carried out during the year in conjunction with the IRCG, including an interagency exercise at Inverin airport. In October, an Inter-Agency Water Rescue Protocol was developed with the other PES for Galway City culminating in a joint exercise on the 16 October 2017.

The Mobile On-Site Coordination procured by GFRS in late 2015, became fully operational during 2017 and is based in Gort Fire Station. The unit includes an electronic information management system. The unit can be used as part of a modular command set up as shown below.

Galway County Council on behalf of the 4 PRA'S in Galway area, also received further capital funding for the upgrading Local Co-Ordination Centre (LCC) in County Buildings to replicate electronic IM system On Site Regional Co-Ordinating Centre (OSCC) vehicle procured in 2015/2016 as shown in Fig 7.



Figure 7: Galway Regional MEM On site co-ordination centre (OSCC) vehicle

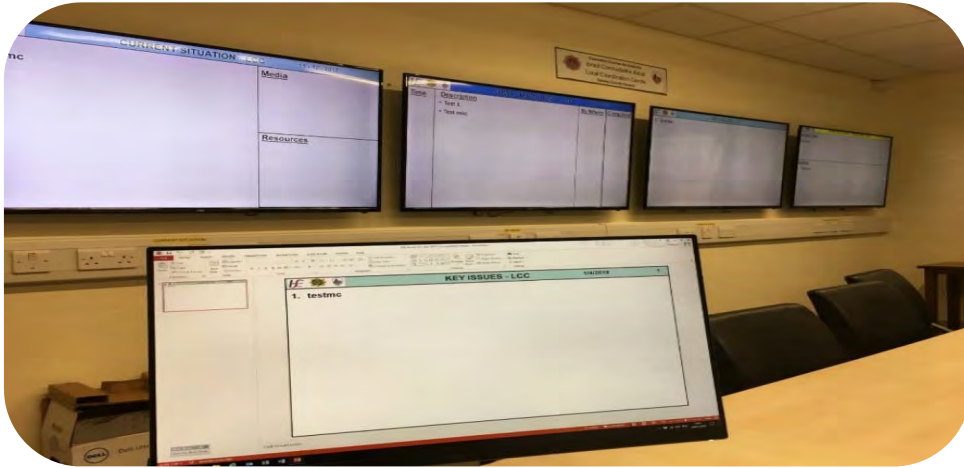


Electronic Information Management System on the Mobile OSCU



Modular Command Set-Up Including the Mobile OSCU

In 2017, the Local Coordination Centre at Room GO1 at County Hall (the designated LCC for for Galway County Council) was upgraded with a similar electroinc Information Management (I.M.)system as installed on the Mobile OSCU. This system facilitates the real time remote sharing of the IMS screens with key appointment holders. Teleconferencing facilities and improved access to web-based information sources were also provided.



LCC Electronic Information Management System



Improved Access to Web-Based Information Sources at the LCC

Galway County Council procured two refrigerated multiple fatality storages units -one for MEM West and one for MEM North West region respectively. The west unit is shown below. Personnel from GFRS and Civil Defence received training in its operations and deployment.



Fleximort Refrigerated Multiple Fatalities Storage Unit

During 2017 both GFRS and Civil Defence introduced drone technology which will facilitate better coordination of major incidents including response to SEVESO sites and search and rescue

Critical Incident Stress Management

Galway county council as contracting authority for the local authority Fire Services In Camp west region after a tender competition issued a contract to Inspire LTD for the provision of CISM services to Fire Services in west region from October 2017 to September 2020

Strategic Priority

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

Capital

Galway Fire and Rescue Service received **€280,045** in capital funding from the Department of Housing, Planning, and Community & Local Government in 2017 for the following;

- Procurement of three pre-owned Class B Fire Appliances
- Smoke alarms procurement
- 4WD for county- new
- Brigade mechanic's van –pre-owned -
- Procurement Of Incident Support (IS) Unit Pre Owned for Galway County
- Financial support towards Upgrade of MEM LCC in County hall
- New Tuam Fire Station professional fees
- Annual Regional MEM claim

- Two temporary body storage units – partially funded-

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

Training

Training continued to be delivered locally in all Fire Stations, and centrally, as in previous years as per the annual training programme for 2017.

A number of specialised training courses were carried across the year with firefighters from stations across the county attending. Emergency Traffic Management Training, to cater for incidents occurring on the expanding Motorway network in the county, took place and Fire Authorities from Tipperary, Clare, Limerick and Waterford along with our colleagues from the Gardai and National Ambulance Service attending.

A 3 week long Initial Recruits Course to the NDFEM curriculum, which provides the foundation level training for our retained firefighters was held in Clifden Fire Station.

Subsequently these firefighters progressed with their training, when they attended an intensive two week Breathing Apparatus Wearers course in Bray Fire Station Co. Wicklow.

Two f-t recruit fire fighters for Galway city successfully completed a 10 -12 week recruits course in UK and went operational in 2017.

A full time fire fighter from Waterford -ex Galway city retained – was also recruited in 2017 for Galway City Brigade.

Firefighters across the county attended both initial and refresher training in Emergency First Responder training to support their life support skills at incidents.



Compartment Fire Behaviour Training in Clifden

Crews from a number of stations both full time and retained attended training at Shannon Airport Fire Training Centre in Aircraft Firefighting and Rescue techniques to enhance our capability to respond to potential fixed wing and helicopter incidents.



Aircraft Firefighting Training

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

Tuam Fire Station – new

Following a tender competition, a construction contract was signed on 17/12/2017 by the Council with Carey Construction Ltd to construct a new 4 bay retained Fire station in Tuam.

The contract is for 9 months duration with construction starting in Dec 2017.



Tuam Fire Station new site December 2017

New class B Fire appliance

The delivery of the New class B Fire Appliance -approved in 2014 -was delivered in December 2017 and went operational in December 2017 in Galway City.



Class B Appliance 2017

Galway County Council also have received approval for a New Class B Appliance in 2017 to be procured as part of National Procurement Process from 2018-2020

Personnel

I acknowledge the retirement of Full-Time Station Officer, Dermot Dolan, on age grounds in October 2017, after 31 years' service in Galway City brigade.

I also acknowledge the retirements respectively in county retained service; of Retained Station Officer, Ronnie Curley, Portumna with over 40 years' service and Driver/Mechanic, John Heffernan, in Clifden with 23 years' service both on age grounds.

The unfortunate untimely death occurred in service of Retained Station Officer, Neil McGee RIP, of Loughrea Fire Brigade in November 2017. May he Rest in Peace.

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, First Aid Responder and Emergency First Response was ongoing through 2017.

Ongoing training through the Civil Defence College in Roscrea took place during 2017 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.

Civil Defence went live with e-vetting of new and current members in 2017. This has proven to be more efficient and vetting status returned in a much shorter timeframe.

In 2017, 32 new members registered to Galway Civil Defence throughout the county, bringing the total number to 305 members on the register!

Galway City unit assisted by county units covered the Sea Fest in Galway Harbour in early July. Ambulance/Medical cover and water safety crews attended over the 3 days with large crowds attending on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the event.

A 4x4 crew cab vehicle was procured in 2017, with funding from a Dept. of Defence grant allocation to Galway Co. Council. This asset increased the capability of Civil Defence units to assist the PRA's where requested.

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

A new thermal imaging camera was allocated to our SUA assets in November 2017. This increases the capability of crews in search for missing persons or where requested by various agencies.

Our SUA team were extensively involved in the search for the missing crew of Irish Coastguard Helicopter Rescue 116 in March 2017.

4 units from Galway Civil Defence assisted with ground and shoreline searches in the Blacksod area at the request from Mayo Civil Defence.

Assistance of our SUA team was requested by other counties during the year to assist in missing person searches and was deployed in Galway City in November and December of 2017 to assist our boat crews search on the River Corrib and Galway Bay areas for a missing person.

All Galway Civil Defence were put on stand-by to assist the PRA's for Storm Ophelia on the 16th October 2017.

While no interventions were received crews remained at readiness throughout the event.

Ballinasloe Civil Defence received a boost in late 2017 with receiving access to part of the old library in Ballinasloe. This room which is jointly shared with Ballinasloe Fire Service offers more space for training to the unit which was greatly needed. We wish to thank Galway County Council for facilitating us with the premises.

Civil Defence members continue to assist and build on their relationship and profile within their communities with their presence at duty/events, with 270 events were attended throughout the city and county in 2017.

Civil Defence intend to remain in readiness to assist again in 2018.



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.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

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

PLANNING UNIT

In 2017, the Planning Unit continued to promote and support development within the county so that our customers can live in vibrant communities, where cultural differences are valued and encouraged, where everyone can be actively involved in economic, social and cultural life, where people have access to an acceptable level of services and infrastructure.

Strategic Priority

To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Planning and Community SPC had 4 meetings in 2017.

The main policy issues discussed during the year included:-

- Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ)
- Town and Village Renewal Scheme
- Pride of Place
- Rural Housing Guidelines
- Policy on Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Draft Bearnna and Gaeltacht Plans
- Draft Heritage Plan 2017-2022
- Draft Tuam Local Area Plan

Strategic Priority

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

FORWARD PLANNING

- Completion/Adoption of Variation No. 1 to the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 to recognise the Galway Transport Plan and the Galway City Ring Road– to be commenced along with City Council in early 2017.
- Produced Draft Variation No. 2(a) and 2(b) to incorporate the Bearnna Plan and Gaeltacht Plan in County Development Plan 2015-2021.

- Prepared submission on Pre- Draft and Draft National Planning Framework – Our Plan 2040
- Prepared submission on the Mid- term Review of the Capital Investment Plan 2016-2021.
- Preparation work on Tuam Local Area Plan.
- Preparation work on Clifden Local Area Plan
- Assisted in the operation of the Development Management Section at various time throughout the year.
- Attended pre plan Strategic Housing Development meeting with An Bord Pleanala
- Completed the statutory process in relation to Deferral of notice of the Athenry, Loughrea and Oranmore Local Area Plans.
- Prepared a submission to Galway City Council on the Draft Ardaun Plan.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

- 1,893 Planning Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2017.
- 1,514 Planning decisions were made in 2017.
- €700,124 was received in Planning Fees in 2017.

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 2017	236
Warning Letters served	177
Enforcement Notice served	52
No. of new cases referred to Law Agent and external Solicitors for Summary Proceedings	15

BUILDING CONTROL

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

- Validating and registering Commencement Notices/7 Day Notices through the Building Control Management System,
- Processing applications for Fire Safety Certificates and Disability Access Certificates through the Fire Service,
- Advising Designers/Assigned Certifiers in relation to issues of compliance with the Building Regulations 1997,
- Validating and registering the Certificate of Compliance on Completion,
- Maintaining the Statutory Register,
- Inspecting construction works in progress in relation to compliance with the Building Regulations 1997 and carrying out enforcement as necessary.

Commencement Notices 2017

<u>Number</u>	<u>Status on BCMS</u>
14 no.	Incomplete
1 no.	Submitted
592 no.	Complete
3 no.	Revised Information

Strategic Priority

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

HERITAGE

During 2017, 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 2017:

- **Audit of the Ecclesiastical Heritage of the Oranmore-Athenry Municipal Area:**
This audit was undertaken as an action of the Galway County Heritage Plan 2010-2016, with the objective of auditing, recording and documenting the high quality artwork and stain glass in the modern churches in the Oranmore-Athenry Municipal Area and the artists who produced them.
- **Geological Heritage Audit Phase 1:** There are currently an estimated 135 County Geological Sites (CGS) in County Galway that have been provisionally listed by the Geological Survey of Ireland. Co Galway will be audited in a phased approach, the priority for 2017 was to cover around 40 CGS sites in the north-western part of County Galway, including the 25 sites within the Joyce Country Aspiring Geopark area and any additional site/s of significance (following approval by the relevant Expert Panel).



Children attending a 'Go Wild' summer camp

- **‘Go Wild’ Summer Camps:** Developed two childrens biodiversity 2 day summer camps with BirdWatch Ireland, Oughterard Heritage, Irish Workhouse centre, Portumna and the Heritage Council. These successful courses were delivered in Portumna and Oughterard.



Children attending the ‘Go Wild’ summer camp

- A six week course took place in Tuam Library in May and June 2017 entitled ‘An Introduction to Publishing and Archival Best Practices’. The course was delivered by various lecturers and was developed in partnership with the Old Tuam Society and Tuam Library. 25 people attended this course.
- **Stories from the landscape:** Galway County Council, Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council worked with Galway Film Centre and each county produced 3 high quality films on various aspects of heritage including the Tuke Emigration Scheme, Booleying in the Slieve Aughty’s and Frank Glynn & John Holohan, Changes in the life of a shopkeeper. This initiative received funding from the Heritage Council.



Frank Glynn, Milltown in the film ‘Changes in the life of a shopkeeper’

- **Community Archaeologist Project** –The role of the Community Archaeologist is quite broad as it involves providing support and advice to individuals and groups. It also involves undertaking various projects and events to promote greater archaeological awareness and appreciation.

In 2017, the Community Archaeologist contributed to a number of conferences, seminars and local society lectures. He organised fieldtrips to local areas of interest. He also organised a series of conferences seminars that promoted archaeology at local level.

The Community Archaeologist's role also involves giving radio and television interviews. The most recent interview was with TG4 on the newly discovered archaeology of the Ultach (Ulster) migrants in the Sliabh Aughty uplands of East Galway.

Nearly every day, the Community Archaeologist receives emails or phone calls (*often several queries during the course of the day*) from individuals and group representatives seeking advice or help in relation to archaeology or archaeological related matters and topics.

The Community Archaeologist has worked with schools, community groups, societies, farmers and other individuals on an ongoing basis. He has engaged with third level Archaeology and Heritage Studies students as a means of encouraging them to undertake research on aspects of Galway's archaeology.

A large amount of the Community Archaeologist's work was undertaken in the landscape with local farmers and communities engaging with aspects of archaeology - either noting new material or visiting and discussing recorded monuments. He organised archaeology exhibitions and talks. He contributed papers to books and various journals on aspects of archaeology.



Dr. Christy Cunniffe, Community Archaeologist, giving a presentation to a community group

- **Biodiversity / People and Nature Project** – The People and Nature project operated as a partnership Project between the County Council through the Heritage Office and the Applied Ecology Unit, NUI, Galway in conjunction with the Galway County Heritage forum and part funded by the Heritage Council.

Elaine O’Riordan - Biodiversity Project Manager is based in the Applied Ecology Unit, NUI Galway under the supervision of Dr Mike Gormally and Ms Marie Mannion. The biodiversity steering group consisting of representative interests from the Heritage Forum advised and supported the project as before.

The People and Nature project has benefitted greatly from collaborating with other organisations and agencies again this year especially the Heritage Council, Galway Rural Development, Conservation Volunteers Galway, the Galway Bat Group and several individuals and community groups from all around the County.

In particular, the last couple of years have seen increased levels of co-operation across different sections within Galway County Council on a wide variety of projects with community, environmental and heritage aspects. The biodiversity project has played a part in many projects with input from staff in Heritage, Planning, Housing, Community and Enterprise, Environment and Corporate services.

The work plan for 2017 has been strongly influenced by the actions and priorities of the ‘Biodiversity Action Plan’ (BAP) for Galway County 2008-2013.



Members of the Woodlawn Heritage Group at the official launch of the Nature Trail at Woodlawn Woods on 7 March 2017

- **Athenry Walled Towns Day:** Funding was received from the Walled Towns Funds of the Heritage Council and Athenry Walled Town Day took place in Sunday 20th August 2017. An estimated 3000 people attended this family fun day



Tag Archery in action



'Combat in action' Display at Athenry Town Wall Day

- **Loughrea Medieval Festival** - This 3 day event was run by Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee with the Heritage Office from 25-27 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.



Loughrea Medieval Festival in The Green, Loughrea.

- **Athenry & Loughrea Walled Towns Educational Project:** Heritage Trails were developed and advancement made in the production z-cards for the two towns.

- **The County of Galway Decade of Commemoration Programme 2013-2023:**

As part of the County of Galway Decade of Commemoration Programme 2013-2023, the following memorials were officially unveiled by then Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Michael Connolly, on 30th May 2017:

- **‘Gaillimh 2016 –Remembering’ Memorial** for the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal Area in Clarinbridge (*Ballinamana Road across from Goats Lane Café, Clarinbridge*);
- **‘Guth an Eirí Amach: The Voice of the Rising’**- the County of Galway 1916 Memorial at Renville Park, Oranmore;
- **‘Gaillimh 2016 –Remembering’ Memorial** for the Municipal District of Tuam in the Éamonn Ceannt Commemorative Garden, Ballymoe.



‘Gaillimh 2016 –Remembering’ Memorial for the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal Area in Clarinbridge



Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, officially unveiling ‘Guth an Eirí Amach: The Voice of the Rising’- the County of Galway 1916 Memorial at Renville Park, Oranmore.



Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway unveiling the 'Gaillimh 2016 -Remembering' Memorial for the Municipal District of Tuam in the Éamonn Ceannt Commemorative Garden, Ballymoe, County Galway, on 31st May with L-R: Cllr Nigel Dinneen, Cath. Michael Connolly, Michael Owens, A/Director of Service, Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Cllr. Frank Kearney, Martín McHugh, John Griffin Michael Ward and Kevin Duffy D.S.P.

A bi-lingual heritage guidebook 'Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail: Go Explore the Historic Sites & Memorials' was developed in partnership with GMIT and was launched in Gort on 14 December 2017.



L-R: Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Gerry Glynn, KPW Printing (Ballinasloe), Cathaoirleach of County of Galway Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Dr. Mark McCarthy and Dr. Shirley Wynn, GMIT.

'The Fenians, Colonel Kelly and the Manchester Martyrs' Conference was held in Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew on 11th November 2017 with over 140 people attending this event.

The Loughrea Memorial Group in partnership with Galway County Council held a conference entitled 'Galway 1917: Social Conditions and Political Change' on 16th November 2017 in Loughrea. Over 53 people attended this event which explored the social life and condition in Co. Galway in 1917, in the aftermath of the Easter Rising and against the backdrop of the First World War. Speakers included John Cunningham (NUIG), Jim Herlihy (Garda Historical Society), Joe Loughnane (Loughrea Memorial Group), Patria McWalter (Galway County Council) and Conor McNamara (NUIG). There was also an exhibition on display relating to the Connaught Rangers who were killed in 1917 in France and Flanders.



The Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion attending the Conference - 'Galway 1917: Social Conditions and Political Change' with L-R: Mr. Steve Dolan, Portumna Workhouse, Ms. Grainne Smyth, GCC, Mr. Joe Loughnane & Mr. Coleman Shaughnessy Loughrea Memorial Group, Ms. Marie Mannion Heritage Officer and Cllr. Michael Maher.

Further development and updating of the bi-lingual website 'Galway: Decade of Commemoration' <http://www.galwaydecadeofcommemoration.org/> continued in 2017.

- **ICAN: Community Heritage website.** The Heritage Office continued to work in partnership with the Museum of County Life Castlebar and community groups around the county to further develop this website. See www.galwaycommunityheritage.org

- **Féile na gClogh, Inis Oírr** took place from 14th – 17th September 2017. In the region of 100 people attended the stonewall workshop, lettering and carving workshops and the sketch outs around the island. In addition to this, a large number of other people stayed on the island who were connected to the workshop participants.



Stone wall building



Carving in stone

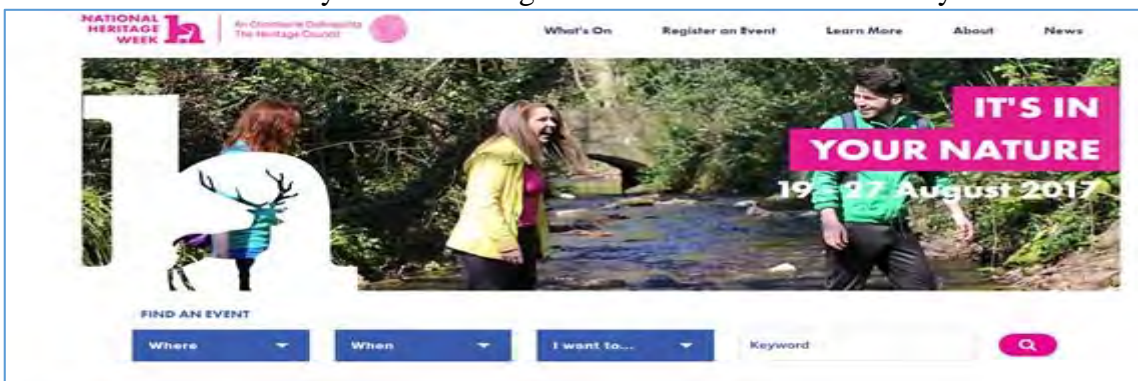


Sketching out in Inis Oírr



Lettering in stone

- **Heritage Week Events August 2017:** A very successful bus tour relating to the food and heritage of south Connemara took place during heritage week. This linked in with Galway West of Ireland Region of Gastronomy initiatives. The Heritage Office promoted and assisted local communities in the delivery of their heritage week events around the county.



- **Community Events, Conferences and Workshops:** Assistance, advice, and support was also be given, by the Heritage Office, to numerous Town and Community events in 2017 including heritage training and relevant local heritage conferences and seminars.
- **Diaspora and Emigration:** Tuke Emigration Scheme Project – Work continued with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group on this project. This project and other emigration and diaspora projects were launched in Cloonacauneen Castle on 6 November 2017.



Ms. Anne Tierney, President of the Old Tuam Society, Ms. Bernie Doherty Woodlawn Heritage Group, Minister of State Ciaran Cannon, TD, Mr. Tony Murphy, Milltown Heritage, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Ms. Frances Murphy and Ms. Pauline Connolly, Milltown Heritage attending the launch of the Galway Tribal Diaspora Project, in Cloonacauneen Castle.

- **Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County:** Work continued with several graveyards being mapped and memorial inscriptions being recorded and up loaded to www.galway.ie
- **The Beo Schools Project** continued in 2017 working in collaboration with Insight, NUIG and the Galway Education Centre.
- **Participation on Committees:** The Heritage Officer participated on Committees such as the Placenames Committee, Loughrea Heritage and Development Company and the Aran Life Project.
- **Roll out of the Heritage Grant Scheme** continued in 2017 as part of Community Grant Scheme.
- **The Golden Mile Calendar** was produced and launched in December 2017.

- **Galway Gastronomy Heritage Project:** Galway is one of the first regions in the country to be designated as a Gastronomic Heritage region.

The Heritage Office engaged with several groups through the county and they are collecting and showcasing their work on www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org and are carrying out research in their own localities, compiling an archive of photos, looking for recipes as well as being involved in a myriad of other activities relating to food heritage which are as broad and exciting as the imagination will allow.

By the end of 2017, over 800 individual items were digitised and made available on the website. The project was officially launched in Claregalway Castle on 6 September 2017.

The project is being delivered in partnership with the Social Inclusion Unit and Creative Ireland.



Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway with Ms. Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer with staff and friends at the Galway's Gastronomy Project launch in Claregalway Castle, organised by Galway County Council Heritage Office.

- **Seafest:** The Heritage Office devised and delivered a programme of events relating to the sea and out boating heritage tradition.



Taoiseach Leo Varadkar greeting staff at the Heritage & Údarás na Gaeltachta stand at Sea Fest 2017



Selection of publications on display at the Heritage & Údarás na Gaeltachta stand at Sea Fest 2017

- **Assisted communities:** The Heritage Office assisted community groups in Creggs, Monivea, Moylough, Tuam, Killimor, Cornamona, Oranmore and Gort to develop heritage trails (both digital and paper based).
- **Development of a new Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022:** The Heritage Section commenced the review of the Heritage and Biodiversity Plan during 2017. This included public consultation sessions, review of submissions to the new Plan, meetings with Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum and presentation to the Housing, Culture and Recreation Strategic Policy Committee.

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION

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

The Conservation Unit continued in 2017 to promote awareness of historic buildings and places and the traditional skills and materials necessary to secure their survival into the future. Best practice in conservation and traditional skills was promoted through various conservation projects, and in cooperation with national bodies and community groups in securing the conservation of traditional buildings of special interest.

The following are the core activities undertaken in 2017:

- 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. The Elected Members considered and decided on these proposals at the April 2017 County Council Meeting.
- Carried out Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) assessments, in particular, of historic demesnes.
- Carried out major update of the Architectural Inventory System (AIS) database of protected structures in liaison with GIS section.
- Liaison with community groups and statutory bodies regarding the conservation of graveyards.
- Liaised with local communities and tourism development bodies regarding Tidy Towns.
- Liaison with Galway 2020 , Europa Nostra, ICOMOS Ireland

Structures at Risk Fund (SRF)

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

The SRF is intended to assist with works to safeguard structures into the future that are protected structures under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) where, in the opinion of the DCHG, an urgent need for works to such structures has arisen and has been demonstrated.

Only structures or parts of structures in immediate danger of significant deterioration will qualify for consideration for funding by DCHG.

The SRF is not intended to assist in the carrying out of routine maintenance, alterations or improvements. All works carried out under the SRF must be capital works. In respect of the apportioned amount for Irish Historic Houses in private ownership, funding will be provided on the basis of strategic and urgent conservation works.

Structures at Risk Fund 2017

The Structures at Risk Scheme was advertised and recommendations made from applications received. Funding of €65,000 was successfully received for three projects from the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht - St. Andrews Church Kilconly, Ballynagar House Abbey (under the Historic Houses initiative) and the former Gasworks Ballinasloe.



Roof repairs were carried out to Ballynagar House under the Historic Houses initiative of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



Former Gasworks, Ballinasloe.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme

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

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017

€154,453.30 was received under this Scheme for 15 projects.

Works completed leveraged €189,574.00 spending on the conservation of the historic fabric.



St Mary's Clock Tower, Ballinasloe.



Thatch repair to house at Tynagh



Kelly Memorial, Ballygar



Mountbellew Walled Garden entrance



Building at Main Street, Woodford.

Table of Grants under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017:

Ref. Number	Structure	Grant Paid
BHIS 17/ 1	Thatch Cottage, Sea Road, Clarinbridge	€2,500
BHIS 17 2	Ballydoogan House	€7,500
BHIS 17 /3	Moyard Church, (St. Thomas)	€7,530
BHIS 17 /4	Christ Church, Clifden	€9,999
BHIS 17/ 5	Castle Ellen House, Athenry	€3,750
BHIS 17/ 6	Annaghdown House	€8,618
BHIS 17/ 8	Kelly's Monument, Killeroran	€2,837
BHIS 17/ 9	House, Main St, Woodford	€5,430
BHIS 17/ 10	6-8 The Coastguard Station, Cleggan	€9,999
BHIS 17/ 11	Ellis Workshops, Letterfrack	€7,749
BHIS 17/ 12	Church of Ireland, Eyrecourt	€5,600
BHIS 17/ 13	Thatch Cottage, Tynagh	€9,500
BHIS 17/ 14	Oranmore Castle	€4,000
BHIS 17/ 16	Milverton House, Ahascragh	€5,000
BHIS 17/ 17	Palmerstown House	€3,680
BHIS 17/ 20	The Rectory/ Glebe House, Caherkelly, Ardrahan	€2,500
BHIS 17/ 21	Ballymore Park, Craughwell	€7,600
BHIS 17/ 24	Church of the Immaculate Conception, Oughterard	€4,847
BHIS 17/ 25	Ballymore Castle, Laurencetown	€2,675
BHIS 17/ 26	Salruck Church, Renvyle	€1,000
BHIS 17/ 27	Mountbellew Demesne	€8,778
BHIS 17/ 28	Ardrahan Church	€6,575
BHIS 17/ 29	Ballinasloe Town Clock, St. John's Church	€10,000
BHIS 17/ 30	Community Centre, Clonfert Ave, Portumna	€6,787.30
BHIS 17/ 31	Presbyterian Church, Ballinasloe	€9,999
	Total	€154,453.30

Traditional Skills Training

A one day workshop in the use of hot lime traditional skills was held in Cleggan Coastguard Station in association with the Building Limes Forum Ireland as part of the traditional skills training element of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme operated by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.



Traditional Lime Workshop, Cleggan.

Historic Assets

The Historic Assets group works in a cross departmental manner within Galway County Council to manage strategically buildings in the ownership of the local authority which are on the Record of Protected Structures or landmark buildings in an Architectural Conservation Area. In 2017, works were completed to make weather proof St Andrew's former Church of Ireland in Kilconly, Tuam.

The Historic Assets Committee also supported the interest of local communities in redundant buildings in their area. 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.



Members of Kiconly Conservation and Development Group inspecting the finished works to the tower of the Former St Andrew's Church with the conservation team

The Walks, Loughrea

A Conservation Action Plan was commissioned from a multi-disciplinary team to provide a detailed survey of the 18th century boundary walls to the rear of Main Street **Loughrea**, beside the 18th century promenade and along the line of the demolished medieval town defences.



Images from The Walks, Loughrea.

Raising Conservation Awareness

Galway County Council's Architectural Conservation Unit, with funding achieved through the Creative Ireland Initiative, supported **Architecture is ... On the Edge (Æ)** in October 2017.

Architecture is ... On the Edge (Æ) is a weekend celebration of architecture in the West of Ireland which features a series of talks, tours, workshops and exhibitions. The festival invited people of all ages to explore the built environment of their city and county. Showcasing some of the West of Ireland's most outstanding architectural features, this weekend-long festival offered an opportunity to explore some of the hidden architectural gems of Galway. Expert guides offered tours of homes, buildings and spaces that are typically off limits. Architecture at the Edge encourages a lively debate on standards of urban design, planning and sustainability through public engagement in a variety of events.



Leagaun House, Maigh Cuilinn, Galway (Image taken from: <https://www.architectureattheedge.com/>)

Gort town hosted a project, which was also supported by the Creative Ireland initiative, to explore the special qualities of the town following the matrix of Entopia, a Europe wide initiative of Europa Nostra.

Sustainability

Galway County Council hosted the University of Pennsylvania's 'Master of Science in Historic Preservation', directed By Professor Donovan Rypkema.

A two week examination with modules on (1) Culture and Heritage, exploring the Gaillimh 2020 Galway Cultural Capital, (2) International Frameworks, integrating the New Urban Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals and the Historic Urban Landscape, and finally (3) Sustainable Development through exploration and revitalisation with the town of Gort as a laboratory.



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 Unit

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 across 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 in a sustainable manner.

Strategic Priority

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

The Unit provides administrative support to the Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), which was established in 2014 for the purposes of “developing, co-ordinating and implementing an integrated approach to local and community development”. The Committee, which is made up of public and private socio-economic partners, held 6 meetings during the year, and items which arose for discussion were as follows:

- Agreement of assessment criteria and approval of applications for publicly funded community development schemes, i.e. Clár, RAPID, Community Facilities Scheme, Healthy Ireland.
- Monitoring the implementation of local development programmes, i.e. SICAP Programme 2015 – 2017 and LEADER Programme 2014 – 2020.
- Establishment of Sub-Committees to implement various actions under the LECP (Local Economic & Community Plan, i.e. Education & Training Sub-Committee, SICAP Monitoring & Evaluation Sub-Committee. The Unit worked also with the HSE to facilitate the Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee of the LCDC and prepared a submission to Healthy Ireland.
- Procurement of SICAP Programme for 2018 – 2022 and establishment of Expert Evaluation Team for Tender evaluation and recommendations to SICAP Sub-Committee.
- Updates on local and national initiatives such as the National Broadband Programme, European Region of Gastronomy Designation for 2018, National Policy for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015-2019.

Membership of the committee remained unchanged during the year, however, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn resigned as Chairperson and Tom Turley, IFA, was elected Chairperson at the Galway County LCDC

meeting held on the 4th October 2017. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson, Dan Dowling, was re-elected for a second term.

Following the resignation of Ms. Catherine McConnell from Galway County Council, Alan Farrell was appointed as Chief Officer for the Galway County LCDC with effect from 16th October 2017.

Strategic Priority

To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.

Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN) continued to be the main link through which community & voluntary, environment and social inclusion organisations interacted with public bodies and participated in policy-making structures and committees of Galway County Council. Galway County PPN was established in 2015 and the aim of its structures and processes is to facilitate and enable the public and the organisations to articulate a diverse range of views and interests within the local government system development. In December 2017, Ms. Denise Feeney was appointed as the PPN Resource Officer. The key responsibilities of this role are to work with the PPN Secretariat to promote citizen engagement and to strengthen the linkages between communities, Galway County Council, and other public service providers.



Key activities in 2017 included:

- 700 groups / organisations were registered as members of the Galway County PPN at the end of 2017.
- Two plenary meetings of members were held during the year.
- The PPN Steering Committee met every 3 months to plan and organise the 2017 programme of work.
- 25 nominees represented the PPN on the Strategic Policy Committees, Local Community Development Committee, Galway Rural Development, Joint Policing Committee, Galway Sports Partnership, Health & Wellbeing Sub Committee, Galway County & City Childcare Committee and the Fisheries Local Action Group.
- The PPN continued to expand delivery of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme targeting vulnerable people with no alarm or an alarm that has reached its 10-year life span.
- The PPN Resource Worker participated in 2 PPN Regional Meetings and 2 PPN Workers Network meetings.

Strategic Priority

To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise.

The Community, Enterprise and Economic Development Unit represented Galway County Council on various bodies such as the National Broadband Action Group and the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG), and continued to work in partnership with other agencies on a range of economic development initiatives in the food, tourism and creative sectors.

- **Investment and Job Creation Initiatives:**

- Supported the Galway Science and Technology Festival, and Local Enterprise Office Local Food & Craft Gift Fair.
- Supported events that provide a marketplace for Galway companies, i.e. Local Christmas Market of Galway Producers, Producers Market at Claregalway Garden Show, Galway Food Festival, Kinvara Farmers Market, Bia Bofinne, Bia Lover Festival, Connemara Mussel Festival, Clarinbridge Oyster Festival, and Food on the Edge.
- The Unit supported community enterprise projects and initiatives that are employment creating, e.g. BACD Enterprise Centre, Kinvara Enterprise Centre, Beechtree Business Park Tuam.
- Further developed the 'Made in Galway' initiative to support local enterprise to access markets and held 6 'Made in Galway' EXPO events in Galway in 2017.
- Implemented actions assigned to this Unit and co-ordinated reporting for the Council on areas of responsibility in the Regional Action Plan for Jobs.
- The Unit was instrumental in supporting Galway Film Centre to establish the West Regional Audio-visual Fund which was launched in October 2017. This fund was launched based on a commitment of €2 million to the fund by the Western Development Commission, supported by a 3-year commitment of €20,000 per annum from each of the Local Authority partners in Galway (City and County), Mayo, Roscommon, Clare, Donegal and Sligo.
- The Unit were the initiators and developers of the proposal for a food innovation and incubation hub to assist the growth of the economy in the west region. Funding of €2.5m was secured through Enterprise Ireland Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) to develop the BIA Innovator Campus. The development of this proposal has involved wide engagement and a collaborative inter-agency approach. The Bia Innovator Campus is a step change project that will transform the food entrepreneurship landscape in the West of Ireland by aiming to provide a dynamic food and drink innovation and incubation large scale centre - 2301 square metres (23,767 sq. ft.). The Campus when finalised will provide essential training and development space to meet the demands of the food sector in the widest sense (e.g. entrepreneurs, chefs, food scientists) with all the key agencies delivering

their services, making it a true one stop shop and centre of excellence. It will be one of the legacy projects from the European Region of Gastronomy designation.

- **Tourism Promotion Initiatives:**

- The Recreational Vehicle Park in Portumna which was launched in April 2017 was shortlisted for an Excellence in Local Government Award in 2017. This project involved Galway County Council, Waterways Ireland, the OPW, Failte Ireland and the Lough Derg Strategic Marketing Group. It offers 18 fully serviced parking bays for recreational vehicles at a very popular scenic location beside Portumna Castle, Lough Derg and Portumna Forest Park. The investment in this facility is one of the projects being implemented under the overall plan for the Lough Derg area which aims to further develop the lake as a tourism destination through a partnership of Failte Ireland and the County Councils of Galway, Clare and Tipperary, and the tourism trade. These include improved road signage, development of a Blueway, development of engagement and access points to the lake, and implementation of a national marketing campaigns.



Portumna Marina and Camper Van Recreational Park at Castle Marina in Portumna

The Community, Enterprise and Economic Development Unit also carried out other initiatives to promote and support tourism in the county and region:

- Worked on the IWAK North West Local Authorities Group to promote the region as a tourism destination - funding of €400,000 secured through REDZ for a flagship project to improve the visitor experience on arrival to Knock Airport.
- Worked in partnership with the National Heritage Council on the Beara Breifne Wag Flagship project - funding of approximately €1m secured for works on the Greenway from Cork to Leitrim.

- Supported overseas Tourism marketing and promotion events, e.g. Milwaukee Irish Festival.
- Supported the following Flagship Tourism Events – National Hot Air Balloon Festival Loughrea, Claregalway Garden Festival, Loughrea Medieval Festival, Claregalway Medieval Combat Tournament and Clifden Arts Festival.
- Continued to support the development of local festivals to become destination festivals that attract visitors and bed-nights from outside the county.
- Compiled, published, and circulated a brochure of Festivals taking place in the county for tourism promotion, and developed and published a map of tourism attractions in County Galway for visitors to the region.
- Established and rolled out the Strategic Tourism and Amenity Infrastructure Investment Scheme.

- **European Region of Gastronomy (ERG) Designation:**

The lead partners in this initiative are Galway City and County Councils, G.M.I.T. and Teagasc.

The ERG is based on a collaborative model involving public private partnership in the educational and community sectors.

A significant number of projects as set out in the bid book along with a range of new projects commenced in 2017, e.g. Gastronomy Heritage Project, Food Culture and Celebrating our Cultural Diversity, Room to Grow, Galway Marketplace, etc.

During 2017, JP Mc Mahon was appointed as ambassador for Galway’s 2018 designation as European Region of Gastronomy. Ms. Elaine Donohue was appointed as the coordinator of the European Region of Gastronomy in September 2017 and marketing support/assistance was appointed in October of 2017.



Aisling Rock – a 21-year-old from Tierneevin, Gort and a GMIT culinary arts student represented the European Region of Gastronomy in November 2017 at St. Pol de Mar Barcelona at the European Young Chef of the Year Awards. Aisling was awarded the prestigious title of Young Chef of the Year.

Strategic Priority

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

- **Town & Village Renewal Scheme**

The central aim of this scheme is to support the revitalisation of towns and villages to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future.

Works on the 2016 programme continued into 2017, and during the year, a further 13 projects were submitted ensuring that over €1m in funding was secured from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

A procurement workshop was held on November 30th, 2017 to assist groups/communities who were managing these projects.

The projects which are being progressed under the scheme are as follows:

Town or Village	Description of Project	Amount
Ballinasloe	Reconstruction of footpaths for disability access, provision of disabled parking and line marking	€100,000.00
Ballygar	Provision of Bus Shelter, Band Stand, looped walk, street signage and re-instatement of paved areas	€77,880.00
Ballyglunin	Streetscaping and restoration of Iconic Structures – development of Cultural Strategy for village	€80,000.00
Caherlistrane Belclare	Extension of Walking Trail, enhancement of car parking facilities, provision of seating/picnic area	€80,000.00
Inis Mor Arainn Cill Ronain	Development of natural park area	€56,000.00
Clifden	Development of Harbour Amenity Park	€80,000.00
Clonbur	Upgrading and promotion of existing woodland Walking Trail	€38,400.00
Corrandulla	Community Playground, Pedestrian Crossing, resurfacing works around community centre	€98,351.00
Headford	Pedestrian Crossing, Bus Shelter, extension of footpaths, landscaping enhancement works, development of existing walking trail	€80,000.00
Loughrea	Development of Loughrea Lake amenity area	€100,000.00
An Spideál	Upgrading and extension of footpaths, enhancement of leisure facilities at beach, enhancement of streetscape and village environs	€64,000.00
Tully TullyCross	Construction of Footpaths	€72,000.00
Woodford	Refurbishment of Footpaths	€77,600.00
	TOTAL	€1,004,231.00

- **Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ)**

REDZ is a pilot scheme designed to foster rural economic development and there are 10 designated REDZ zones identified in County Galway. In 2017, Galway County Council supported the development of proposals by communities for assistance under the scheme within 5 REDZ zones – Glenamaddy, An Cheathrú Rua, Galway Rural, Oranmore, and Gort.

- **CLÁR**

The CLÁR programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme which provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered the greatest levels of population decline. The aim of CLÁR is to support the sustainable development of identified CLÁR areas by attracting people to live and work there. In 2017, 13 applications were approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development to a total value of €19,792, which included a range of road safety measures at or adjacent to schools, refurbishment of a playground at Ballygar and provision of new playgrounds at Killimor, Clonbur, Laurencetown and Abbeyknockmoy.

- **Outdoor Recreation Funding**

The Outdoor Recreation Scheme is part of the Government’s Action Plan for Rural Development and provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing facilities. In 2017, funding was secured under 3 measures varying in scale, with a total value to County Galway of €196,650.

Strategic Priority

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

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

The Arts Office leads on arts policy, strategic planning and development of the arts in the County, in addition to programming a wide range of activities across many artforms ensuring programmes which are artistically ambitious and inclusive.

Ms. Sharon O’Grady was appointed to the post of Arts Officer in 2017, and the areas of key focus during the year included:

- **Artists Supports:**

The work of artists is central to the cultural landscape; their expression enhances our communities and fosters creativity and increases opportunities for participation in the arts.

In 2017, we supported 20 Artists directly through Individual Artist Bursaries, Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursaries, and provided training and networking opportunities.

- **Community, Voluntary and Professional Arts Groups:**

The Arts Office provides information and advice to voluntary arts groups, community and professional organisations engaged in the practice or promotion of the arts throughout the county.

Galway County Council financially supported 74 groups through the Community Supports Scheme 2017 enabling them to deliver events, festivals and workshops across the county.

- **Music Education Partnership (MEP):**

In September 2017, Music Generation announced that County Galway would receive €600,000 in philanthropic funding from U2 and The Ireland Funds to create increased access to high-quality, subsidised vocal and instrumental tuition for children and young people.

Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB) is the lead partner, working closely in partnership with Galway County Council and many local partners in the Music Education Partnership (MEP) to develop plans for these music education services in the area.

- **Children and Young People:**

The Arts Office programme for young people spanned across the county and included 8 Artists in Schools Programmes, Writers in Schools Schemes in conjunction with Poetry Ireland, Children's Theatre Tour with Branar, Children's Book Festival throughout the libraries and we worked with Galway Youth Theatre developing performance skills for young performers.



BRANAR presenting Na Síoga agus an Gréasaí (The Elves and the Shoemaker) during the Children's Theatre Tour.

- **Arts in Healthcare, Arts and Disability and Older Years Programmes:**

In delivering these extensive programmes, the Arts Office worked collaboratively with our creative partners - Galway Arts Centre (Burning Bright, older years project), Bealtaine, Hospital Arts Trust and Arts Ability Abú in partnership with the Brothers of Charity.

- **Artform Development:**

The Arts Office supported a wide range of artforms, venues (Aras Eanna) and designations (UNESCO City of Film & Galway 2020, Music Generation) and work with national and local professional cultural organisations to support artform development and innovation.

Strategic Priority

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

All community supports/grants provided by Galway County Council were administrated in a co-ordinated fashion by the Community Enterprise and Economic Development Unit for various areas of the Council, which results in a more streamlined and cohesive approach and a common contact point for all applicants.

The Community Enterprise and Economic Development Unit also worked extensively with other agencies as outlined elsewhere and will continue to do so to deliver effective work programmes for our citizens, and believes this collaborative approach on an inter-organisational and inter-agency basis achieves value for money and the best outcome for stakeholders and citizens, as witnessed in the following partnership projects; Music Education Programme, Healthy Ireland, Bia Innovator Campus.

Strategic Priority

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

Community Development

- **Community Supports Scheme 2017**

The purpose of the Council's Community Supports Scheme is to encourage and promote community and voluntary groups to take an active part in the development of their communities and to improve the economic, social, heritage, cultural and Irish language aspects of their surrounding areas. A list of projects recommended for approval went before the elected members

at the Council meeting on 27th March 2017 at a total value of €388,525. All the projects implemented were led by community organisations in the County and the grant aid from Galway County Council was match funded by these community groups, which resulted in an overall expenditure of over €600,000.

- **Community Facilities Scheme 2017**

The Community Facilities Scheme provides funding for small-scale capital projects by community and voluntary groups up to a maximum of €1,000 per project, and was rolled out under the auspices of the Galway County LCDC. An allocation of €64,500 was provided for County Galway in 2017 was €61,293, and 80 community groups completed projects under the scheme. This funding supported communities to undertake works such as walkway upgrades, signage, disability access, games/basic sport equipment, improved lighting to community facilities etc.

- **Galway County Diaspora Strategy.**

Galway County Council developed a Diaspora Strategy for County Galway. With the wealth of local diaspora engagement initiatives already underway throughout the County from the Gathering initiative in 2013 to the 3-year cycle (2014 to 2016) of the Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative where 85 different events were supported, the strategy sought to further enhance these projects and work to connect the County with our Diaspora, no matter where they are living.

It is envisaged that the Strategy will be of benefit to local authorities and anyone at County and community level who wishes to develop links with their local diaspora. The Strategy was launched in 2017 by Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development Ciaran Cannon TD.



Launch of "The Galway Tribal Diaspora Project" by Galway East TD and Minister of State Ciaran Cannon at Cloonacauneen Castle, Tuam Road, Galway.

This Community Enterprise and Development Unit continued to work with local communities to develop their capacity and to ensure the long-term sustainability of community-led local development.

Three communities / projects (Burren Lowlands, Oughterard and Comhairle nÓg) entered into the 2017 Pride of Place competition with the support of the Unit and Comhairle na nÓg won a Gold Award at national level in the Community & Youth Initiative Category for its work with refugees at the Awards Ceremony held in Letterkenny in December 2017.

Staff within the Unit continued to work with Tidy Towns groups to progress them within the National Tidy Towns competition.

Social Inclusion

The Social Inclusion Section carries out a number of ongoing programme activities and services to help disadvantaged or excluded groups, and support other committees involved in this work.

Social Inclusion Week was held from 16th to 22nd October 2017 and incorporated 30 events throughout the county, and Traveller Pride Week was also organised on behalf of the County Galway Traveller Interagency Group in association with the Housing Unit. Some of the activities during the year were as follows:

- **Refugee Resettlement Programme**

Galway County Council commenced management of a Syrian Resettlement Refugee Programme in late 2016 which continued throughout 2017. A total of 21 families have been resettled in County Galway, with housing being provided by Galway County Council, and support being provided by a team of 3 dedicated staff (2 Resettlement Support Workers and 1 Intercultural Support Worker) located within the Social Inclusion Unit of Galway County Council.

Funding of approximately €275,000 was secured by Galway County Council from the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund to support this Resettlement Programme and to pilot activities to move the families through a short-term programme of settling into their housing and communities and to begin the longer-term process of integration into the wider community. This programme is overseen by a Resettlement Interagency Committee which draws on many of the partners involved in Galway County LCDC, Youth organisations and Family Resource Centres as well as community representatives from the Intercultural Forum. The team has provided a wide range of intensive supports for the refugee families located in various towns around the County, while the HSE has been particularly active in meeting the high level of health needs of the families and the Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board has put on English classes in six centres around the County providing up to 20 hours of English as a second language tuition for all the adults at locations suitable for them to attend daily.

Supports have also been put in place for children who are attending local schools but need extra language support and use of the specially designed Childcare Support Scheme for Resettlement has also now been extended to cover pre-school children of families who have come to Ireland through the Relocation programme, mainly from Greece.

The Refugee Resettlement Programme run by Galway County Council has been put forward as a model of good practice, and as an example of effective collaboration between agencies, community representatives, and other fora.

- **Comhairle na nÓg**

Comhairle na nÓg is the Youth Council for County Galway and is organised initially through local area events (local AGMs) held in each of the Municipal Districts of the County, with a countywide committee being elected from the local committees who come forward from these events.

The adult Steering Committee for Comhairle na nÓg met 4 times during the year, while the Countywide Committee met 10 times.

During 2017, the members of Comhairle na nÓg selected one key issue on which to focus during the year, based on options proposed at the 2016 County Annual General Meeting.

The issue selected during 2017 was “Young people working with Refugees” and groups drawn from the local area committees did training as volunteers and helped provide activities for some of the young Syrian children and teenagers in their areas, as well as assisting with intercultural events, such as the Bia Lover “Community Picnic” in Athenry, a gathering for Syrian families in Ballinasloe, and an Intercultural Food & Music event held in Tuam.

- **RAPID**

An allocation of €64,500 was provided for County Galway under the RAPID Programme 2017 which was administered through the LCDC. The programme involved investment of capital funding for disadvantaged urban areas, and focused on projects which would provide tangible supports and improve the quality of life for residents in disadvantaged urban areas.

A total of 7 applications received funding in the towns of Ballinasloe, Loughrea, and Tuam.

- **Healthy Ireland Initiative**

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

This initiative is being run through the Galway County LCDC under the auspices of the Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee which represents a range of relevant agencies and interests.



The Sub-Committee submitted a range of proposals to Healthy Ireland in 2017, and received funding of €100,000 which was then allocated across 11 projects including funding for workshops, sexual health education programmes, physical health & exercise programmes, Traveller Community health programmes, etc.

Galway Sports Partnership (GSP)

Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) plays a lead role in the co-ordination, development and delivery of sport and physical activity opportunities for the communities of Galway, and key activities throughout 2017 included:



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

- Funding was secured for the following:
 - €225,960 to fund the operations of Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) from Sport Ireland.
 - €35,000 for the position of a temporary Sports Development Officer on a 12-month contract from Sport Ireland.
 - €70,333 for a Sports Hub in Doughiska from Dormant Accounts Grant Scheme.
 - €8,000 toward Bike week/family fun cycles from the Dept. of Tourism, Transport and Sport.
 - Other funding was sourced from the HSE and Galway County Council Community Support Scheme-sports section.

- Implemented Sport Ireland programmes and local programmes throughout 2017 with emphasis on 3 main areas; Sport Ireland programmes, Women in Sport, and Sports Inclusion Disability Programme. Details on some of these schemes include:
 - Training courses for pre-schools and primary schools: Buntús Start, Be Active After schools (6 schools), Sports Hall Athletics (6 schools), 5 Girls Active programmes for second level schools which were funded by the HSE.
 - Adult training courses - a total of 26 Safeguarding courses, 3 SAQ courses, 2 First Aid courses, 1 Activity leader course were held in 2017 with over 500 adults participating.
 - Implementation and organisation of activity programmes such as Couch to 5K, Men on the Move Programmes in 2017 with over 400 people taking part in these programmes.
 - Ran 'Fit Towns' between 13th February and 27th March 2017 - 5 communities participated with over 300 people taking part and presentation of the awards was held on the 2nd November 2017.
 - Ran 3 Disability Swimming Programmes, an Ability Sports Day and Physical Activity Programme for persons with disabilities.
 - Three tutors trained to run the Level 1 Sports Leadership Award in association with Sport Ireland.



Participants at Ability Sports Day on Sunday, 24th September 2017, in the Kingfisher Hall NUI Galway, where there was a range of sports available to try out on the day suitable for adults and children with a physical, sensory or intellectual disability. Representatives of local sports clubs and groups were in attendance to meet the participants and discuss suitable membership options with them.

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. In addition, most meetings /events/ workshops were held at night and at weekends to suit the needs of communities and citizens, i.e. PPN Meetings, workshops on Community Supports Scheme, meetings with community groups.

The Unit continues to implement a plain English campaign across the organisation to ensure that documentation produced by the unit is in a language and format that is accessible to all.

The Unit communicates with the public through various media such as newspaper press releases, advertisements and news articles relating to strategic projects and launches. In addition, a wide variety of information on funding schemes and training workshops is disseminated through the PPN.

Information on all of the schemes and initiatives run by the Unit is available on www.galway.ie and in addition, the Galway Sports Partnership launched their new website in 2017 - www.galwayactive.ie -which contains information on all their programmes and events.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES UNIT

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

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

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 2017 including:

- The M17 M18 from Gort to Tuam was formally opened to traffic by Minister for Transport Shane Ross on 27th September 2017, two months ahead of schedule. Minister Michael Ring, representing the Taoiseach, also attended together with Deputies Ciaran Cannon, Sean Canney, Noel Grealish, Hildagarde Naughton and Elected Members from Galway County Council. The motorway scheme extends the M18 from its terminal at Gort for a distance of 57 kilometre northwards providing safe efficient driving conditions between Gort and Tuam.



M17/M18 Rathmorrissey Junction



Official Opening of the M17 M18 Gort to Tuam by Minister for Transport Shane Ross TD on 27th September 2017 with L-R: Dep. Hildagarde Naughton, Dep. Ciaran Cannon, Kevin Kelly CE Galway County Council, Dep. Noel Grealish, Dep. Sean Canney, Minister for Rural & Community Development Michael Ring TD, Cathaoirleach of the County Galway Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Michael Nolan, CEO of Transport infrastructure Ireland (TII) & Minister Shane Ross TD



Cutting the tape by Minister Shane Ross TD with the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eileen Mannion and L-R: Cllr. Peter Keaveney, Cllr. Karey McHugh, Cllr. Michael Connolly, Dep. Hildagarde Naughton, Cllr. Noel Thomas, Cllr. Martina Kinane, Minister Michael Ring, Cllr. Tom Healy, Dep. Noel Grealish, Cllr. Pat Hynes (background) and Kevin Kelly, CE Galway County Council.



Unveiling of the monument on the M17 M18 with Minister for Transport Shane Ross TD and Minister for Rural & Community Development Michael Ring TD with the Cathaoirleach of the County Galway Cllr. Eileen Mannion and others.



Minister Ross taking a spin in style, with Dep. Noel Grealish, on the new M17 M18 motorway in a 1959 Rover 100.



Charity walk on the new Tuam Bypass prior to opening which raised €10,000 for Tuam Cancer Care

Significant 2017 achievements continued:

- The CPO for N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara realignment was confirmed in March 2016. Land acquisition continued in 2017.
- Improvements works commenced on the N63 Abbeyknockmot to Annagh Hill.

Strategic Priority

To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.

The 2017 Roads Programme was prepared following allocations for National and Non-National road construction, repairs and maintenance totalling **€11,477,646** from Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and an allocation from Galway County Council:

National Roads -	€1,601,195
Non-National Roads -	€19,576,451

The Roads Programme was prepared in consultation with the elected members, 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 2017 was €21,601,195.

The 2017 allocation divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€20,395,647
Maintenance Works	€ 1,205,548

Funding continued to be provided in 2017 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban Routes. The following major/minor projects were managed by the Galway Roads Project Office and the costs associated with this programme recouped in full from the National Roads Authority:

M6	Athlone/Ballinasloe	€ 16,280
M6	Galway City Bypass	€2,910,973
M6	Galway/Ballinasloe (bypasses Ballinasloe, Loughrea & Oranmore)	€ 100,232
M17	Gort-Tuam	€ 656,636
M18	Gort – Crusheen (bypasses Gort & Crusheen)	€ <u>51,979</u>
Total National Primary Major Scheme		€3,736,099

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

- 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 substantially complete on this project. The Road opened to traffic in September 2017,
- The route selection report for the N6 Galway City Transport Project has been published. Works continued on the development of the EIS, NIS, business case and other statutory documents in 2017, with a view to formal publication in Q1 2018.
- Purchase of land continues to facilitate the N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh Hill road project.
- Land acquisition was ongoing for the N59 Maigh Cuilinn ByPass.
- The N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard scheme between Maam Cross and Bunakill commenced with Ground Investigation works, completed in December 2017

Other milestones achieved relating to the National Primary & Secondary Road Network during 2017 included:

- The development and delivery of a major programme of overlay and realignment projects on National Primary and National Secondary Route.

- Works commenced in 2017 on the reconstruction of the N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annaghhill scheme, and are ongoing.

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

National Primary Pavement & Minor Improvements:

N17 Baile Chláir Traffic Calming	N17 Milltown to Gortagunad	N17 Loughgeorge
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National Secondary Pavement & Minor Improvements:

N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara realignment Scheme Phase 2	N84 Luimnagh	N63 Moylough – HD pavement overlay
N59 Maigh Cuilinn reinstatement	N63 Liss to Abbey realignment	N59 West of Letterfrack widening

National Roads Maintenance:

Funding was allocated to the maintenance of the National Roads Network in 2017 as follows:

NP Winter Maintenance	120,000
NP Ordinary Maintenance	226,947
NP Route Lighting	72,753
NS Winter Maintenance	250,000
NS Ordinary Maintenance	517,601
NS Route Lighting	94,178
Local Authority Support (Improvement)	216,266
Local Authority Support (Maintenance)	81,000
Local Authority Support (Winter Maintenance)	10,000

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS:

The expenditure incurred by Galway County Council for Regional and Local Roads, as funded by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, in 2017 was €19,576,451, divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€16,753,091
Maintenance Works	€ 2,823,360

The expenditure can be classified under the following broad headings:

Grant Category	2017
Improvement Grant	€1,182,610
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€ 2,823,360
Discretionary Grant	€ 4,816,031
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€ 210,000
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	€ 415,000
Speed Limits in Housing Estates	€ 34,450
Overall Total	€19,576,451

Bridge Rehabilitation:

Funding of €415,000 was allocated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards the rehabilitation of 7 specific bridges in County Galway, which was expended as follows:

Bridge	2017 Expenditure
BR R336 Munterowen (Clifden)	79,877
BR R356 Ballynakill	64,911
BR R347 Balinderry	32,545
BR L-31071 Graigabbey 2	52,106
BR R347 Ballyglooneen	20,000
BR L7257 Cloonabricka	74,930
BR L11051 Loughafadda	89,885
Total Bridge Rehabilitation	414,254

Local Roads Maintenance:

The sum provided from the Council's own resources in 2017 was **€6,340,350**. The Local Roads General Maintenance allocation of **€2,747,800**, including a provision of **€1,040,800** for ongoing operational costs.

Athenry/Oranmore	Local Roads Maintenance	€161,538
Ballinasloe	Local Roads Maintenance	€317,255
Conamara	Local Roads Maintenance	€342,784
Loughrea	Local Roads Maintenance	€435,048
Tuam	Local Roads Maintenance	€450,375
	TOTAL	€1,707,000

The sum of **€1,707,000** was allocated among the different Municipal Districts as follows:

(1)	Athenry/Oranmore	€ 161,538
(2)	Ballinasloe	€ 317,255
(3)	Conamara	€ 342,784
(4)	Loughrea	€ 435,048
(5)	Tuam	€ 450,375

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

An allocation of **€265,000** was provided for Winter Maintenance in 2017, 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 2017-2018.

REGIONAL & LOCAL ROAD BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME 2017

Funding of **€350,883** was allocated from the Discretionary grant for the repair of Regional and Local Roads Bridges:

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	BRIDGE	ALLOCATION	TOTAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
Athenry/Oranmore	Barrack Street	€43,999	€43,999
Ballinasloe	Eskerroe	€22,700	€22,700
Conamara	Curraghduff East	€68,391	€225,059
	Shanaveag	€156,668	
Loughrea	Crewaun Phase 1	€12,564	€25,049
	Fairfield Portumna Phase 1	€12,485	
Tuam	Ballabbert	€14,755	€14,755
	Bridge – Ground Investigations 2017	€19,321	€19,321
TOTAL			€350,883

The rehabilitation of fourteen bridges was progressed in 2017.

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:

Improvement works costing €128,190 were carried out in Bealacarra Pier, in the Municipal District of Conamara. €85,875 was contributed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine towards these works with the balance of €42,315 provided by Galway County Council.

Marine Maintenance

A marine maintenance programme is ongoing in relation to the 62 landing places in County Galway which have been identified as in the charge of Galway County Council. This involves varied works including the updating of access steps and rails and repairs to slipways, including the removal of algae growth on piers in County Galway. Maintenance works at a cost of €141,037 were carried out in 2017, on several landing places.

Strategic Priority

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

COUNTY GALWAY SIGNAGE SCHEME:

- The Council allocated €30,000 in 2017 for the improvement of directional signage towards towns and villages at junctions.

ROAD SAFETY IN HOUSING AREAS:

- €34,450 was provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards the installation of a 30km/h speed limit signage programme in housing areas. Galway County Council installed signage in 61 housing areas in 2017, which has improved and promoted road safety in these areas.

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 and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to progress the development of 2 Greenways; Clifden to Oughterard and Oughterard to Galway City. 6km of the Greenway from Clifden to Oughterard, at Ballinahinch, was substantially constructed in 2017, and will be completed and open to the public in early 2018. Works were also completed on the following two projects in 2017:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Discovery Points Remedial Works | €5,967 |
| • Wild Atlantic Way Hardware installation | €30,733 |

The Council has also continued to progress the Conamara Interpretation and Infrastructure project, which will be known as ‘*Conamara – Fiáin go smior / Wild at Heart*’, in 2017 with funding and assistance provided by Fáilte Ireland. A total of €644,920 was expended on the development of three driving routes through Conamara punctuated by 26 discovery points.



Ongoing development of the Conamara Greenway at Ballinahinch

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 €175,000 for these drainage works. The Council has charge of twelve Drainage Districts and there are two Districts in the charge of Joint Drainage Committees with Roscommon and Clare County Councils.

Drainage Districts:

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

Joint Drainage Districts:

River Fergus Joint Drainage Committee	River Suck Joint Drainage Committee
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FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS

The Joint Flood Working Group comprising representatives from Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works met during 2017 to identify and progress works aimed at reducing the risk of future flooding.

Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme:

Vegetation clearance and the construction of a Craughwell bypass channel was completed in 2017 on the Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream. Works on the channel and bridges downstream of Craughwell will be completed in 2018.

Clare River (Baile Chláir/Claregalway) Flood Relief Scheme:

Works, as per the 3 year schedule continued in 2017:

- ⇒ selected channel and drainage works;
- ⇒ river channel upstream of, and under the Báile Chláir bridge regraded;
- ⇒ road raising was commenced at Montiagh;
- ⇒ local embankment at Nine Arches and old Clare River channel infilled.

South Galway, Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme:

- An engineering consultant and an environmentalist were appointed by the end of 2017 to progress the South Galway/Gort Lowlands flood relief scheme, with a scheme of works to be developed in 2018.



Gort Flood Relief Scheme - Appointment of Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers as Engineering Consultants on 13th December.

Front L-R: Cllr. Michael Maher, Cathaoirleach Cllr Eileen Mannion, Cllr. Joe Byrne, Anne Rabbitt TD and Cllr. Michael Fahy. Back Row: L-R: Enda Gallagher GCC, Maire Ni Chionna GCC, Richard Dooley OPW, Michael Joyce Ryan Hanley, Damian Hanley Ryan Hanley, Conor Warner Ryan Hanley, Jonathan Reid Ryan Hanley.

South Galway, Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme continued:

- The Council carried out works on 24 Minor Works Flood Relief Schemes in 2017 with a total expenditure of €439,955, of which 90% was funded by the OPW and 10% funded by the Council.
- Additional funding of €498,812 was approved for further flood relief works by the OPW, and works will be completed in 2017.
- A further 40 reported flooding locations were initially assessed by Galway County Council and submitted to the OPW. 27 schemes were approved for funding by the OPW, with 17 being progressed in 2017.

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.

GAELTACHT ISLANDS:

The Council carried out improvement works on roads on the Gaeltacht islands, in consultation with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. €547,730 was spent on the repair and upgrade of 2 sections of road on Inis Mór and 16 sections of road on Inisbofin.

CLÁR:

County Galway received an allocation of €17,792 for support for schools and community safety measures in rural areas which suffered the greatest levels of population decline. Galway County Council was directly awarded €131,000 and provided safety facilities for schools and communities at Kilconly, Graigabbey and Gurteen. The facilities provided/upgraded, by the Council, included footpaths, public lighting, line marking and parking facilities in designated CLÁR areas.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME:

With financial support from the Department of Rural and Community Development Galway County Council continued to support the revitalisation of towns and villages to increase their potential for their communities, both their living environment and improved economic development. In 2017 Galway County Council has graded the streetscape and provided or improved footpaths in the following towns to improve connectivity and enhance the built environment for the residents and visitors to the villages –

- Headford €7,916
- An Spidéal €80,000
- Tully Cross €20,000
- Woodford €6,963

The Council has further supported communities in directly accessing funding under this scheme by providing advice and assistance in developing suitable schemes for various locations.

SMARTER TRAVEL & SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY:

The Council continued its proactive role in promoting sustainable mobility by delivering a programme of events to mark Bike Week 10th to the 189st June 2017. Events included fun family cycles and bike repair workshops. A school cycling tour on the Greenway was arranged for 100 school going children and was a particularly successful, unique event. All events during Bike Week are held to encourage people to consider changing travel habits to a more sustainable means of transport.

Under the Smarter Travel initiative, a pedestrian crossing was installed at Cemetery Cross, Athenry to provide a safer point of crossing for pedestrians, in conjunction with the improvement of sight lines at the junction.

Road Safety Together Committee

The Road Safety Together Committee met on three occasions in 2017 – continuing its active role in the promotion of road safety in Co. Galway.

Specific road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2017 included:

- Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for Post Primary Schools
- Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme
- In October, 2017, Galway Co. Council, in conjunction with Galway Fire & Rescue Service, Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána, teamed up for a worthy Road Safety Awareness Event at Coláiste Cholmcille, Indreabhán, on 3rd October. Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, also attended. The secondary school students who are about to become young drivers had an opportunity to experience what happens at the scene of a road traffic collision – a car dismantling demonstration took place and the emergency services present advised the students on the day.



Car Dismantling Demonstration with An Cheathrú Rua Fire Service

- Galway County Council teamed up with GMT's and NUIG's Students Union and a road safety awareness campaign took place to ensure pedestrians and cyclists visibility on our roads whereby hundreds of high visibility vests, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority, were distributed to students attending the colleges.
- Irish Road Safety Week took place in October 2017 and the Council raised road safety awareness amongst the general public by the distribution of leaflets such as speeding, drink driving etc., free reflective materials were provided and a Road Safety Awareness Poster Competition was held.

- Road safety awareness messages on Councils website, local press and radio in order to continue raising road safety awareness to its staff members and the general public, one press release coincided with the Galway – Mayo football match.
- In September, 2017, Galway Co. Council, in conjunction with Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, held a road safety awareness day and high visibility vests were circulated to the pupils present.



High Visibility Vests Initiative – Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal pupils and Deirdre Caulfield, Road Safety Officer

Community Employment Schemes

The Council, in partnership with the Department of Social Protection and the local community, continue to promote and encourage the development of Community Employment,

The Council continue to sponsor five schemes with 85 participants in the following locations: Maigh Cuilinn/Oughterard, Laurencetown/Abbey, Gort & Environs, Tuam & Environs and Cloch na Ron/Clifden.



Anti-Litter signage in Palace Grounds, Tuam, erected by Tuam & Environs Community Employment Scheme



Flower bed in Tuam installed by Tuam & Environs Community Employment Scheme

Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme

The Council continued to actively promote the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme as a means of harnessing community support for road works on suitable local roads. A sum of **€346,822** was allocated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards **26** approved schemes in 2017, from a total of 56 applications received. A total of **€362,679**, which included local contributions, was spent on 26 projects on providing footpaths, improving sight distance 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 **€30,000** in 2017 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. Further funding of **€500,000** was set aside to upgrade and enhance roads and footpaths in the villages of Dunmore and Headford. This work was co-funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and Galway County Council.

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 throughout 2017 to provide a Traffic Information Service, providing information on traffic disruptions arising as a result of road works, temporary road closures, roadworks speed limits etc.
- The Unit communicated with the public through the use of various media, such as local radio, website, twitter, local newspapers, e-mails, texts, through the usage of the on-line customer comments system and the national on-line system Fix Your Street.ie. The interactive GIS mapping system which was developed in December 2015 was used to document road closures following flooding in late 2017.
- The Roads and Transportation Unit successfully and efficiently delivered an extensive programme of works in 2017, which included works in addition to those included in the Roads Programmes, funded by other Government Departments such as Department of Rural and Community Development, An Roinn Cultúir, Oidreachta agus Gaeltachta.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Human Resources Department provide a wide range of support services to the staff and management of Galway County Council.

In 2017, the Human Resources Department engaged proactively with staff and line managers 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. In the course of the year the Human Resources Department continued to ensure that policies remain relevant and accessible to all staff, promote a positive working environment for staff; undertake ongoing workforce management and recruitment to ensure that suitably skilled and qualified staff are best placed to deliver the strategic and operational objectives of the Council, provide training and development for staff and maintain stable industrial relations.

Workforce Management/Recruitment

Workforce management is a critical function carried out by the Human Resources Department as it facilitates the assignment of staff throughout the organisation to achieve balance between service areas in accordance with organisational priorities, 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. A detailed workforce plan was submitted to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in March 2014. The objective of the Workforce Plan is to enable effective and efficient service delivery with the staff level available within financial resources.

The number of people employed by Galway County Council as at the 31st of December 2017 was 777. In addition, circa 114 were employed in the Retained Fire Service.

A total of 58 recruitment competitions were undertaken by the Human Resources Department in 2017. Arising from these recruitment competitions 549 candidates were placed on panels and 109 appointments were made.

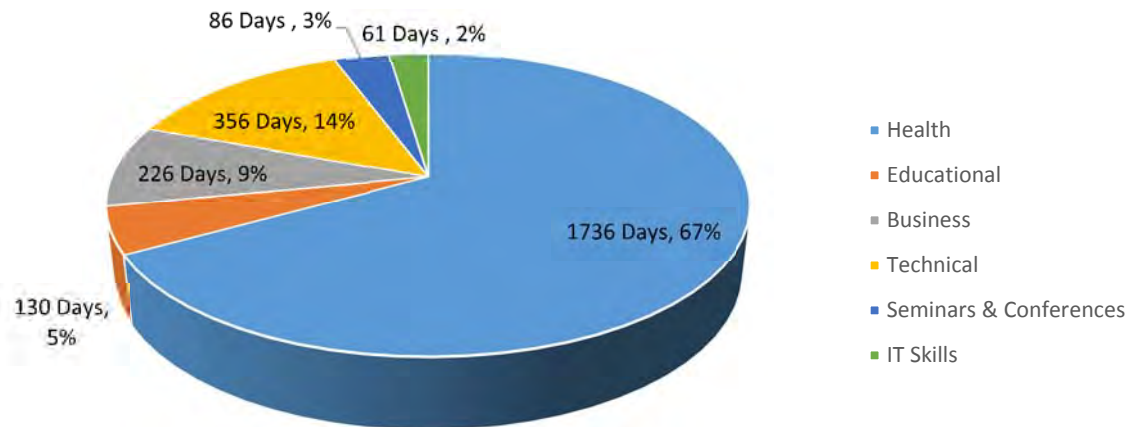
Galway County Council continues to facilitate community employment scheme placements and work experience placements from third level institutions.

Staff Training and Development

Comprehensive training for staff was carried out in 2017 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 2017.

The total number of Training Days in 2017 was 2595 as set out hereunder:

Training 2017



Staff Welfare

Galway County Council in recognising that work is just one part of employees' lives, the Human Resources Department make available a range of work/life balance schemes to assist staff in achieving a work-life balance. In 2017, 730 staff availed of family friendly schemes, which were managed by the Human Resources Department, and include Shorter Working Year Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Work Sharing, Career Breaks, Cycle to work and Travel Pass Schemes, together with Force Majeure leave, Bereavement leave, Parent and Exam leave.

The Human Resources Department continues to implement the standardised provisions of the Public Service Management (Sick Leave) Regulations 2014 and facilitates the provision of an independent Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). This EAP Programme is a free, confidential and independent counselling service and provides support in relation to, e.g. family issues, work issues, addiction, bereavement and financial matters.

Pensions

The Superannuation Data Readiness (SDR) Project has been completed and since August 2017, MyPay Shared Services Centre based in Portlaoise undertake pension administration functions in accordance with the terms of a Service Level Agreement on behalf of Galway County Council. MyPay now deal with the calculation of superannuation entitlements at retirement, provide staff with estimates of entitlements, verify previous service and transfer of same between public bodies, determine professional and ill-health added year's entitlements and assess applications for the purchase of notional service and transfer values.

In 2017, twenty one fulltime employees retired from the service of Galway County Council and five retained fire service personnel also retired from their posts with Galway County Council.

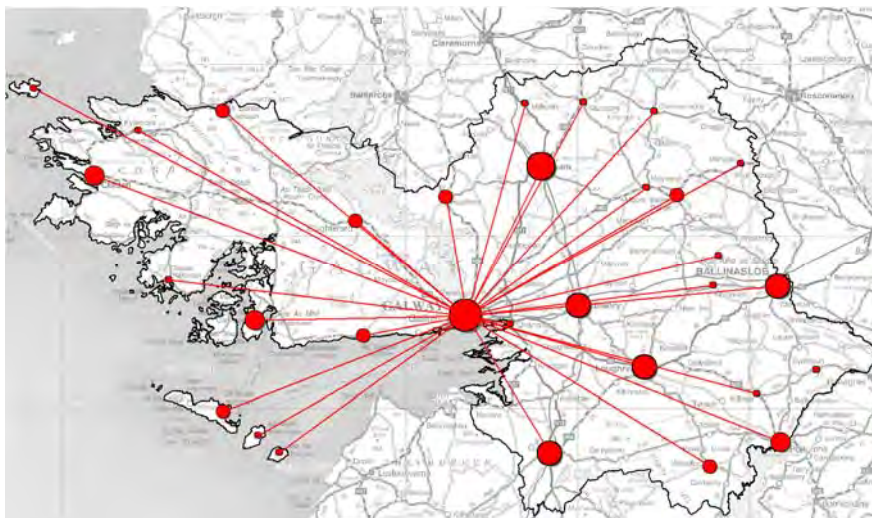
The Management and staff of the Council would like to take this opportunity to record its thanks to all of the retirees for their years of dedicated service and commitment to Galway County Council.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS:



Galway County Council's IT network

With the limited budget, Galway County Council's IT Unit undertook many Infrastructure upgrades and supported a number of key projects in 2017 including:

- ⇒ Government Cloud Network (GCN) connection was commissioned to Centrepont Offices, Galway City Firestation HQ and National Roads Procurement Office (NRPO) Ballybrit.
- ⇒ A full implementation of full Cloud based Next Generation Anti-Virus, Malware and Ransomware software to all Council Staff PCs and Server Systems was completed.
- ⇒ A new connection was commissioned for Council Phone Systems using SIP technology which will facilitate larger call traffic and better fault tolerance.
- ⇒ Office 365 Meeting Room and Equipment booking online calendars, staff and members have full online view for ease of booking and managing resources.
- ⇒ Microsoft Dynamics 365 Cloud Mobile Applications Implemented and Developed for:
 - Residential Tenancy Standards for public and private housing stock.
 - Planning Enforcement system
 - Records of Protected Structures/Architectural Inventory System
 - Management and Compliance for Residential Tenancy Standards Inspection System.
- ⇒ Extensive support and development of Mobile technology enabled data capture Housing/Environment Staff and Community Wardens.
- ⇒ Autoaddress Software implemented for Eircode data entry and collection.

- ⇒ Support for Accounting Systems Agresso MS4 and Web Systems Payment upgrades.
- ⇒ Provison of support for Housing Applications Section and undertook the completion of reduction of Areas of Choice from 63 to 15.
- ⇒ PC and Laptops replacement of 100 units which was 15% of installed base.
- ⇒ Printing and Photocopy Procurement completed with 60 machines deployed or replaced as part of contract. Contract charge is flat per page with Machines and Consumables supplied by Vendor.
- ⇒ Full financial charging by staff member and cost centre control for all printing services systems implemented.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Section 126(c) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided for the establishment of a National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC). A function of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) is to scrutinise the performance of any local government body against or in comparison with relevant indicators that the Commission considers it appropriate to refer to, and which includes relevant indicators relating to customer service.

Local Authorities are asked to validate and submit information and data on 34 Performance Indicators. This data is collated by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and is made available to the NOAC for further analysis and publication as part of a National report on Local Authority Performance Indicators. In addition to information supplied from the Council, data is provided by external bodies (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's (D/TTaS) Vehicle Registration Unit (VRU), the EPA, Road Management Office (RMO) which is based on other national reporting systems to which the Council must submit data. This information is saved and validated by the Council as part of the national returns using an on-line e-returns system.

The indicators attempt to deliver a common approach to measurement and benchmarking and the availability of the information is intended to support all local authorities to improve the services they provide to local communities. NOAC believes that, by learning from one another, there is scope to develop and enhance best practice in the performance by local government bodies of their functions. Work on refining the indicators is an on-going process and NOAC recognises that a number of the indicators require modification or replacement with a more relevant data set.

For 2017, there are 35 local authority performance indicators, as outlined below.

Each Indicator is provided with a reference as follows:

- Housing (H1 to H6)
- Roads (R1 to R3)
- Water (W1)
- Waste/Environment (E1 to E3)
- Planning (P1 to P5)
- 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-J4)

Performance Indicators 01/01/2017 - 31/12/2017 (Annual) Galway County Council

Performance Indicators

01/01/2017 - 31/12/2017 (Annual)

Galway County Council

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/2017	2392	
	B. No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2017 (whether constructed or acquired)	24	
	C. No. of LA owned dwellings sold in 2017	11	
	D. No. of LA owned dwellings demolished in 2017	0	
	E. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2017	2405	
	F. No. of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	30	
	A. The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2017	2.78 %	
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2017	66	
	A. Expenditure during 2017 on the repair and maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA compiled on a continuous basis from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, divided by the no. of directly provided dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2017	€1129.34	
	Expenditure on repair and maintenance of LA stock compiled on a continuous basis from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, including planned maintenance expenditure but excluding expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes	€2682178.8	
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. The Time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2017 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2017	39.91 wk	
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2017 ready for re-	€13983.83	

	letting, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2017		
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2017 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	43	
	The number of weeks from when the previous tenant vacated the dwelling up to the date of the new tenant's first rent debit totalled for all dwellings re-tenanted in 2017	1716 wk	
	Total expenditure on repairs necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€601304.77	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2017	6573	
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2017	676	
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2017 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	100 %	
	D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2017	136	
	The number of dwellings inspected in 2017 that were found not to be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations	676	
Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2017	51.56 %	
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2017 as recorded on the PASS system	64	
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2017, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	33	

Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2017	56 %
	The % of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2017	93 %
	The % of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2017	95 %
	The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2017	80 %
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2017	7 %
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2017	18 %
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2017	48 %
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2017	25 %
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2017	11 %
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2017	33 %
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2017	45 %
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2017	11 %
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2017	21 %
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2017	32 %
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2017	40 %
The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2017	5 %	

	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2017	31 %	
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2017	25 %	
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2017	27 %	
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2017	5 %	
	A1. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2017	32.5 km	
	A2. The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2017	€4316442.00	
	B1. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2017	26.1 km	
	B2. The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2017	€752600.00	
	C1. Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2017	91.4 km	
	C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2017	€6585558.00	
	D1. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2017	91.9 km	
	D2. The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2017	€1955767.00	
Motor Tax: R3 Approved	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2017	69.05 %	
Water: W1 Approved	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2017	1.00 %	
Waste: E1 Approved	A. The number of households, based on the 2016 Census, who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2017	10688	

	B. The % of households within the local authority (also as per the 2016 Census) that the number at A represents	17.04 %	
Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved	A1. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2017	1419	
	A2. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017	1280	
	A3. Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2017	535	
Litter Pollution: E3 Approved	A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was unpolluted or litter free	1 %	
	A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was slightly polluted	1 %	
	A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was moderately polluted	1 %	
	A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was significantly polluted	1 %	
	A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2017 was grossly polluted	1 %	
Planning: P1 Approved	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	15.07 %	
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017 by a builder or developer on the local authority	670	
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2017 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2017 undertaken by the local authority	101	
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2017	39	
	B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA	82.05 %	

	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision (either with or without variation)	32	
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017 that were investigated	235	
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2017	535	
	C. % of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	98.13 %	
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	0.37 %	
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	1.50 %	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2017	1416	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	525	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	2	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	8	
Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	A. The 2017 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€19.04	
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2017	€3416215	
	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	71.83 %	
	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	28.17 %	
	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	142	

	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	102	
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2017 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	40	
Fire Service: F1 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2017 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€45.65	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2017	€11825412	
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	2.38 min	
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.01 min	
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	2.26 min	
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	4.74 min	
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	41.88 %	
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	30.95 %	
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	27.17 %	
	D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	58.90 %	
	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	28.79 %	

	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	12.31 %	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017	979	
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	410	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	303	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	266	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017	601	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	354	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	173	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	74	
Library Service: L1 Approved	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census	2.26	
	B. Number of items issued to borrowers in the year	571675	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017	583520	
Library Service: L2 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2017 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€19.06	
	AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2017	€4918941	
	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	77.14 %	

Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	Total number of second level schools in the LA area at 31/12/2017	35	
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2017	27	
	A. Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	15.07	
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register for the local authority area as at 31/12/2017	710	
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2017	98	
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	107	
	Corporate: C1 & C2 & C4 Approved		
A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2017	732.68		
A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2017	4.71 %		
B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2017	0.29 %		
Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2017	7884 day		
Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2017	485 day		
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2017	4 day		
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2017	53 day		
If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	58 people on continuous periods of sick leave in excess of 20 days (4 weeks)		
A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017, divided by the WTE no.	€2782.21		
Total revenue expenditure on Account Elements	€2038472		

Corporate: C3 Approved	A. Total page views of the local authority's websites in 2017	999518	
	B. Total number of followers at end 2017 of the LA's social media accounts	42420	
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	23	
Finance: M1 & M2 Approved	A. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-1898994	
	B. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-1891838	
	C. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-1886030	
	D. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-1959192	
	E. Cumulative balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure of the AFS	€-582156	Unaudited AFS 2017
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2017 as a percentage of Total Income from the AFS statement	-0.50 %	
	G. Revenue Expenditure per capita in 2017	€627.16	
	The 2017 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€116261341	Unaudited AFS 2017
	The 2017 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€112506250	Unaudited AFS 2017
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	65.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	67.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	81.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	84.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	84 %	Unaudited AFS 2017
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	88.0 %	

	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	88.0 %		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	90.0 %		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	91.0 %		
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	90 %	Unaudited AFS 2017	
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2013	76.0 %		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2014	75.0 %		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2015	76.0 %		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2016	76.0 %		
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2017	76 %	Unaudited AFS 2017	
Economic Development: J1 to J4 Approved	A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017	98.0		
	A. The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2017	44		
	B. The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2017	25		
	A. The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017	82		
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	No	But it is currently being prepared.	
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	No		



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE

**GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN
2017 UPDATE**

CORPORATE SERVICES

Service area	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		
Objective 1	Support effective, open and transparent democratic representation and decision-making;		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Maintain and publish the Electoral Register (2017/2018)	To publish and make available to the public the Register of Electors (RoE) 2017/2018 within Statutory Deadlines.	By the 15th February, 2017 Draft by November 1st 2017.	Deadline met Deadline met
Co-ordinate public right of access to Council Records.	Percentage of FOI and AIE requests for Corporate Services Unit processed in accordance with statutory requirements. Publish FOI Publication Scheme for Corporate Services	100% Compliance with Statutory deadlines Published 2017	100% 60%
Support Democratic Representation	Management of Council meetings - Sustain monthly publication of Council Correspondence and Meeting Information to Extranet Monthly publication of Council Minutes to Council Web-site	Sustain usage of Extranet by 90% of Members during 2017 100% compliance	Target met Target met
Co-ordinate County Joint Policing Committee	Number of actions delivered annually as set out in the JPC Strategic Plan	3 Strategic Actions Agreed and Delivered in 2017.	Met target – actions delivered outlined in JPC 2017 Annual Report

Implement Members Training Plan	Compliance with Training & Conference Approval Regulations	100%	Target met.
Administer Local Government Ethical Frameworks Standards.	Publication of Public Registers and Staff Registers (Ethics/Donations) by Statutory Deadlines. Implementation of Lobbying Act and Protected Disclosures.	Statutory Deadlines met.	Target met
Objective 2	Provide and support accessible amenities to promote recreation, leisure and play.		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Manage Ballinasloe & Tuam Leisure Centres (Swimming Pools & Gyms).	Total Number of Visits per Leisure Centres per annum	Ballinasloe 100,500 Tuam 210,500	Ballinasloe: 97,822 Tuam: 158,747
Provide Lifeguard Services in City and County (Shared Service)	Number of Swimming Areas provided with Beach Lifeguard Service in City and County Number of Lifeguarded Hours provided in 10 County Locations for 2017 Season	16 (10 in the County) 5,500 hours in County	Target met 6,788 hours
Access to Playgrounds	Number provided directly by the Local Authority per 1,000 population Number of Playgrounds facilitated per 1,000 population (<i>facilitated refers to community managed facilities insured by the Local Authority</i>)	0.05 0.20	0.06 0.24
Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces (Tuam All-Weather Pitch, Dunlo Recreational Park)	Number of free Community hours available per week at Tuam All-Weather Pitch Number of Public Hours per Week at Dunlo Recreational Park	40 hours 35 hours	40 hours 42 hours
Visitor/Cultural Centres	Number of Seasonal Visitors (Irish and International) Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre, (Centre directly managed by Corporate Services) Number of Annual Visitors (Irish and International) to Athenry Heritage Centre	1,500 (with breakdown by Irish and International in 2017) 3,200 (with breakdown by Irish &	<1,000 4068

	(Centre in receipt of financial support from Local Authority);	International in 2017)	(2546 Irish & 1522 International)
Playgrounds	Number provided directly by the Local Authority per 1,000 population	0.05	0.05
	Number of Playgrounds facilitated per 1,000 population (<i>facilitated refers to community managed facilities insured by the Local Authority</i>)	0.20	0.20
Objective 3	Foster a culture of excellence in delivering customer services.		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Customer Services	Acknowledge all correspondence (letter, fax, e-mail)	Within 5 working days	+ 95%
	Endeavour to reply to all correspondence (letter, fax, e-mail)	Within 15 working days or less	NB. Emails are sent by Customer Service to Individual sections for their attention and direct reply.
	Number of complaints upheld by the Office of the Ombudsman	Less than 5	3
	Number of followers on Twitter @GalwayCoCo	8000	11,098 approx.
	Number of Likes on Facebook (Galway County)	3500	5,600
	Sustain a consistent incoming call answer rate on 091-509000 (main switch) throughout the working day.	Sustain a minimum 90% call answer of less than 25 seconds	Of >24,000 calls received, over 90% of calls were answered in under 30 seconds
Casual Trading Licences	Percentage of Casual Trading Licences applications and Filming Licences for processing within 15 working days.	100%	100%
Objective 4	Promote and support the use of the Irish language and recognise its unique contribution to the cultural diversity of our County.		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Promotion of Irish Language & Culture.	Number of complaints upheld by An Coimisinéir Teanga	3	> 3
			10

	Number of Gaeltacht Summer Colleges Scholarships Awarded	15	
Objective 5.	Promote and improve universal access to public spaces and amenities and to foster equal access to information and services		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Accessibility	Number of complaints upheld under the Disability Act 2005	0	0

LIBRARY SERVICES			
Service area	To ensure the delivery of an effective public library service in County Galway and to strengthen and expand the library in the local community		
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries to be accessible, welcoming and have warmth 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Library Awareness	Ensure that all local communities are aware of their local library service and what each library has to offer.	To organise public events in each library & deliver an awareness and promotion campaign for the Library Service	<p>Varied event programme delivered in local library branches tailored at needs of local community.</p> <p>County wide programming included Summer Reading Challenge 3150 children completed the challenge. Galway's Great Read 264 adults attended events 250 children participated.</p> <p>Spring into Storytime – storytime sessions hosted in libraries</p> <p>Promote customer engagement across various social media channels.</p>
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 visit	“0” health and safety non-compliances/lost time incidents	<p>Increased reporting of incidents/accidents and near misses</p> <p>Inspection reports completed all libraries</p> <p>Upgrade H&S works carried out to Gort library and Refurbishment of Oranmore library undertaken.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries to offer books which inspire and inform 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Libraries and services to the community	Provide up to date stock and information	Perform quarterly review on stock condition, age and relevance	<p>Stock management policy now in place.</p> <p>New book ordering system implemented</p>
Libraries and services to the community	Provide book/items utilising the national	Support And cooperate with the inter	National Distribution System in place for all automated branch libraries. 33,602 holds fulfilled in 2017.

	library transport service	library lending system (pilot)	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries to offer creative activities and collaborate with others in the community 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Libraries and Children	Encourage library usage by children.	To promote at least one public event per quarter per library focused on youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Book Festival celebrated in all branch libraries in October • Summer Reading challenge with 4500 children registering and reading 45,000 books. • Storytime regularly held in branch libraries • Participated in Galway Science Festival in 2017 • Westside Family Fun Day July 2017.
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	<p>Libraries worked with the following groups to support older people with continued learning particularly in the digital sphere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Action • Vodafone Ireland • Irish Internet Association • Rural Alliance • Digitise the Nation • Bealtaine Festival <p>Creative Ireland funded Mindful Lego project in Loughrea library.</p>
Schools' Library Service	Continue to develop the role of the Schools' Library Service in education, by: (a) collaborating with the teaching profession to instil a love and appreciation of reading in pupils, and (b) assisting teachers in their book choices with regard to literacy and numeracy.	Two visits per year, and develop literacy projects with schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School visits took place as per schedule. • Evaluation of service begun to provide a current status report and to shape the service going forward. • Classroom novel scheme heavily used. • Schools' Library Service facilitated events on the library van and in schools.

Objectives	• Libraries to support the local community		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
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)	Libraries public Access Computers were availed of 47,503 times IT services to public were improved and Wi-Fi provided were possible.
Objectives	• Libraries to plan and implement proposals in each Municipal District in the National Public Libraries Strategy 2013-2017: Opportunities For All		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
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)	62118 wifi sessions 52,271 Internet sessions Surfbox rolled out to 4 more libraries which allows for the general public to manage their printing requirements more efficiently. Preparatory works commenced for the roll-out of RFID (self-service) to six more libraries.
Libraries and IT	Update Online services	Continue to Monitor the provision of online services	User education to staff and public on online resources. 9767 e-books and 7486 e-audio books downloaded in first full year of FREE digital books. Usage of online resource suite including magazines, language learning continues to grow.
Libraries and IT	Services to Visually impaired	Maintain and improve library Services to the Visually impaired	Service continues. Re-evaluation of service begun to more effectively provide a service with more emphasis on e-resources.
Libraries and IT	Facilitate self-service option via RFID	Implement RFID in Oranmore Library in Q2 2017	RFID roll-out in Oranmore continues

HOUSING			
Service area	To create balanced and mixed communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic background and socio-economic status and to endeavour to facilitate the provision of well managed and well maintained social housing within an environment that is attractive, safe and secure in a community which people will want to live.		
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of Social Housing Supports 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome 2017
Delivery and management of homeless services in accordance with the Regional Action Plan.	To ensure that priority is afforded in the operation of the Housing Allocation Scheme to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support.	Number of allocations to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support in 2017.	35 allocations
Establish Homeless Action Team (HAT) and develop Action Plan for County Galway.	Homeless Action Team (HAT) established and Action Plan for County Galway adopted.	Q3 2017	Homeless Action Team established in 2017
	No. of Adults in Emergency Accommodation that are Long-Term Homeless as % of the Total	To achieve a reduction in the level of long term homelessness.	51.56 %
	No. of Homeless Adults in Emergency Accommodation at the End of 2017 (KPI H6A)		64
Amend the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018	Amended Plan adopted and 2017 actions implemented	Total No. of Traveller families accommodated as a % of overall targets set in the Programme.	79 families i.e. 120% of target
Establish Disability Steering Group and develop a Housing Strategy for People with a Disability for County Galway	Disability Steering Group established and Housing Strategy for People with a Disability adopted.	Q3 2017	Disability Steering Group established

Objectives	• Provision of Social Housing Supports (continued)		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome 2017
Amend Housing Allocation Scheme to include Choice Based Letting (CBL)	Housing Allocation Scheme amended with Choice Based Letting (CBL) available on a pilot basis.	Q2 2017	CBL introduced in Q4 2017
Review procedures for processing housing applications and engaging with housing applicants.	Process valid applications for social housing and engage with applicants in a timely manner, maximising the information available to applicants on their housing options.	Process valid applications for Social Housing and engage with applicants within 12 weeks of receipt of application.	Applications processed within 12 weeks. Introduced new applicant meetings May 2017. Received 531 new applications in 2017 met with 132 applicants in 2017
Objectives	• Increase Supply of Social Housing		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome 2017
Housing Supply	Progress the Housing Capital Programme in accordance with the targets and funding as per the Social Housing Strategy 2015 – 2017 (144 Units & €26.6 million).	Increase the No. of Acquisitions completed by the 31.12.2017 v 2016. Progress capital construction projects including 30 Units at Weir Road, 40 Unit at Gilmartin Road, 2 Units at Esker Fields & 10 Units Garbally Drive & Rurals.	49 Acquisitions completed 2017 vs 19 Acquisitions 2016 Work in progress construction of : 40 no of units and refurbishment of 21 no of units at Gilmartin Road, Tuam. 1 rural completed and 3 under construction in 2017.

Objectives	• Increase Supply of Social Housing (continued)		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome 2017
	<p>Progress the Housing Capital Programme in accordance with the targets and funding as per the Social Housing Strategy 2015 – 2017 (144 Units & €26.6 million). / continued</p> <p>Work in close partnership with Approved Housing bodies (AHBs) to assist in progressing their Capital & SHCEP projects.</p>	<p>Progress capital construction projects /continued</p> <p>Increase in the No. of Schemes supported by GCC by the 31.12.2017</p>	<p>Other Projects currently being progressed through the various stages are: 23 Units Clifden, 6 Units An Cheathrú Rua, 10 units Oughterard, 10 Units Kinvara, 10 units Ardrahan, 5 units at Loughrea, 16 units at Ahascragh and 12 units at Garbally Driver/Esker Fields Ballinasloe.</p> <p>SHCEP 75 Units 2017 (45 Units 2016) CALF 40 Units 2017 (21 Units 2016) CAS 97 Units 2017 (58 Units 2016)</p>
<p>Delivery of Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) & Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)</p>	<p>No. of Units Provided Under the RAS in 2017 (KPI 1C).</p> <p>No. of Units Provided Under HAP in 2017 (KPI 1D).</p>	<p>Targets as determined by Dept. of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government.</p> <p>Target of 10 per week = 520 units</p> <p>Target of 20 = GCC 10 + Vol Bodies 10</p>	<p>12 new units (combination of new and transfers to new properties)</p> <p>377 tenancies created – please note while created, some may be closed at year end for various reasons.</p> <p>72% achieved</p>
<p>Delivery of new Repair & Lease and/or Buy & Renew Schemes.</p>	<p>No. of Units Provided Under Repair & Lease in 2017 (if operational). 0</p> <p>No. of Units Provided Under Buy & Renew in 2017 (if operational).</p>	<p>Target for repair and leasing</p> <p>New scheme</p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p>

Objectives	Effective maintenance/repairs and vacancy/void management		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome 2017
Preventative Maintenance Programme for Housing Stock	Implement Preventative Maintenance Process & Works Programme.	Q2 2017	Preventative maintenance plan approved. Tender documents for housing stock survey completed
Housing Repairs	Number of repairs completed as a % of valid repair requests received by 31.12.2017.	95%	Out of 1106 requests, 838 repairs were completed which represents 76%. The number of dwellings increased from 2016-2017.
Effective Management of Housing Vacancies	Reduce level and duration of vacancies in Housing Stock: % of housing vacancies @ 31.12.2017 (KPI H2A) Average Time Taken from Date of Vacation of Dwelling to the Date in 2017 When a New Tenancy had Commenced (Weeks) (KPI H3A)	To achieve a reduction in the % of housing vacancies @ 31.12.2017 v 2016. To achieve a reduction in the average re-let period in 2017 v 2016.	% of vacancies has gone up from 14%-15%. The majority of these are refurbishment being carried out by the capital team on a long term refurbishment basis. E.g. Gilmartin Road. Relet period as per I house: a) From vacancy occurring to repairs complete – up 8% b) From vacancy to first direct debit – up 23%.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Tenancy & Estate Management to support sustainable communities 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome 2017
Refocus available resources to prioritise Tenancy Sustainment & Estate Management.	Implementation of the Tenancy & Estate Management Strategy and 2017 Action Plan.	No. of Inspections carried out by the 31.12.2017.	492

Objectives	• Support the effective regulation of the Private Rented Sector		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome 2017
Property Inspections (RTB, HAP & RAS)	No. of Inspections Carried Out (KPI H5B)	350 inspections of private rented dwellings to be carried out in 2017.	<p>In 2017: 676 Houses were inspected, 444 Re-inspections were carried out, 136 were compliant following on from re-inspections.</p> <p>676 Notice of works were issued</p> <p>7 Improvement notices were issued</p>

GALWAY FIRE BRIGADE

Mission	To protect the lives and property of communities and visitors to Galway County and City from fire and other emergencies		
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire prevention: by Education and Community Fire safety initiatives • Fire protection: by delivering and Engineering Technical fire safety in new and existing buildings. • Fire & Emergency response: providing and delivering to the county and the city via Galway Fire And Rescue Service (GFRS) • Resilient Communities: providing and leading Major Emergency Management (MEM) to Galway City and County Councils and their communities in conjunction with local partner Principal Emergency Services -Gardaí & National Ambulance Service 		
Legislative Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003 and associated regulations • Building Control Act 1990 & 2007 and associated regulations • Dangerous Substances Act 1972 and associated regulations • Seveso II (Major Accident Hazards) Regulations 2015 		
National Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping Communities Safe A Framework For Fire Safety in Ireland 2013 • A Framework for Major Emergency Management 2006 		
Actions	Performance Measure/Indicator	Target 2017	Outcome
Fire & Emergency Response	No of fire & emergency incidents attended in city and county annually	1350	1418
Cost per head of population	F1 – National PI Cost per head of population	-	€45.65
Mobilisation Time Fires Only	<u>Retained</u> Average time in minutes to mobilise Fire Brigades (1st appliance only)	5.67	5.01
	<u>Full time</u> Average time in minutes to mobilise Fire Brigades (1st appliance only)	2.6	2.38
Mobilisation Time Other non-fire emergencies including False Alarm alarms	<u>Retained</u> Average time in minutes to mobilise Fire Brigades (1st appliance only)	5.61	4.74
	<u>Full time</u> Average time in minutes to mobilise Fire Brigades (1st appliance only)	2.53	2.26

Attendance Time to Scene	Percentage attendance at scene (Fires only, 1 st Appliance) First attendance at scene within 10 minutes First attendance at scene after 10 but within 20 minutes First attendance at scene after 20 minutes F2(b) Percentage attendance at scene (other incidents-excluding False Alarm calls)--(1st appliance only) First attendance at scene within 10 minutes First attendance at scene after 10 but within 20 minutes First attendance at scene after 20 minutes	39% 39% 22% 44% 39% 17%	42% 31% 27% 59% 29% 12%
Fire prevention	No of accidental fire fatalities per annum	7	1
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire protection: by delivering and Engineering Technical fire safety in buildings. 		
Actions	Performance Measure/Indicator	Target 2017	Outcome
Fire Certificate Applications – Galway County Council & Galway City Council	F5 – National PI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total no of fire safety certificate processed Total no of fire safety certificate processed within 2 months Total no of fire safety certificate processed over 2 months 	- - -	142 102 40
Fire Certificate Applications – Galway City Council	F5 – National PI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total no of fire safety certificate processed Total no of fire safety certificate processed within 2 months Total no of fire safety certificate processed over 2 months 	- - -	41 19 22
Fire Certificate Applications – Galway County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total no of fire safety certificate applications -all types -received Total no of fire safety certificate applications -all types -processed Total no of fire safety certificate applications -all types -deemed invalid 	133 104 17	141 122 19

Disability Access Certificates – Galway County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total no of disability access certificate applications -received • Total no of disability access certificate applications -processed Total no of disability access certificate applications -deemed invalid 	81 60 14	79 72 7
Fire Certificate Applications – Galway City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total no of fire safety certificate applications -all types -received • Total no of fire safety certificate applications -all types -processed • Total no of fire safety certificate applications -all types -deemed invalid 	118 75 17	121 108 13
Liquor and Dance Licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of licence applications received • Number of licence applications inspected 	250 203	294 170
Dangerous Substances Act DSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of licence applications received • Number of licence applications inspected 	8 35	5 3
Planning Galway City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning applications received 	-	106

ENVIRONMENT SERVICES			
Service Area	Protect and Enhance the Environment of County Galway in the interests of the quality of life of its citizens, economic development and to achieve water regulatory compliance.		
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection and Improvement of Water Quality and Catchment Management. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Protect Water Quality	Identify causes of poor water quality in high priority catchments, such as drinking water sources and bathing waters	100%	100%
	No. of septic tank inspections proposed	91	126
	No. of farm inspections proposed	45	45
Protect Bathing Water Quality	No. of beaches achieving either Blue Flag or Green Coast status	12	12
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an effective system of Environmental Protection and Enforcement 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Process Discharge Licence Applications	% processed within statutory time frame	100%	100%
	No of licence inspections completed	126	123
Environmental Inspections and Enforcement WERLA regional anti litter initiative	Respond to all complaints received	100%	100%
	Submit proposal for financial support illegal dumping initiatives	3	8
	No of waste permitted sites inspected	36	23
	No. of producer responsibility inspections completed	230	117
Provide Recycling Facilities	No. of facilities available for recycling	90	93
Derelict Sites	Investigate and report on all complaints received and if appropriate enter on Derelict Sites Register	100%	100%

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased community involvement in Environmental Enhancement and Awareness. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Promote Environmental Awareness and Community Involvement	% of primary Schools participating in Environmental campaigns	93%	93%
	No. of Schools participating	196	190
	% of secondary schools participating in Environmental campaigns	94%	94%
	No. of Schools participating	34	36
	No of other educational establishments participating	17	15
	No. of groups in campaign's / events	210	210
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Burial Grounds in association with the community 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Burial Grounds	No. of sites where extensions facilitated	7	3
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of Dogs in accordance with legislative requirements 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Control of Animals	No. of Dog licences issued	8,500	8,122
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of a responsible approach to energy usage 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Energy	Promotion of sustainable energy initiatives with business and the community	70	75

ROADS, TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES

Service area	To provide a safe and efficient road network for the movement of persons and goods and to support balanced economic development and the development of sustainable communities.		
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advance major road schemes 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
N6 Galway City Ring Road	Submit scheme to An Bord Pleanála	Q2 2017	Preferred route not submitted to An Bord Pleanála. Awaiting Departmental approval and detailed documentation. Progressed the EIAR, NIS, and statutory documents with a view to formal publication in Q1 2018.
M17/M18 Gort to Tuam Motorway	Meet 12 times with steering group in 2017 to minimise impact of construction works. Progress construction of Motorway	12 meetings by December 2017 Road opening November 2017	Monthly steering group meetings held – very low level of complaints due to implementation of performance measures. The M17 M18 from Gort to Tuam was formally opened to traffic by Minister for Transport Shane Ross on 27 th September 2017, two months ahead of schedule.
N59 Clifden to Oughterard	Ongoing land acquisition at Maam Cross to Oughterard	December 2017	Did not proceed due to environmental constraints – overlay contract in

			place in lieu of realignment - signed advance contract for the Bunnakill to Claremont section - ground investigations works completed.
N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass	Complete contract documents. Land Acquisition	Qtr 1 2017 Ongoing	Did not proceed to contract as no funding allocated. Land acquisition continued.
N6 Galway to East Ballinasloe	Land disposal	Ongoing	Land disposal continued.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To advance strategic minor works schemes 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
N17 Milltown to Gortagunnett	Prepare planning documents	Q4 2017	Continuation with the preparation of planning documents.
Baile Chláir Traffic Calming	Complete planning and design	Q3 2017	Proceeding to Part 8 planning permission
Clarinbridge Traffic Calming	Complete design and planning	Q2 2017	Planning delayed due to local concerns – to proceed to Part 8 in 2018.
N59 Maigh Cuilinn On-Line	Complete construction	Q2 2017	Construction works completed
N59 Maam Cross to Bunakill	Progress to issuing contract documents	Q4 2017	Negotiating fee agreement with consultant engineers.
N59 Bunakill to Claremont	Overlay works	Q3 2017	Works completed in December 2017 for both Phase 1 and 2.
N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh Hill	Progress construction to near completion in 2017	Q4 2017	Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed. Works

			commenced on this scheme.
N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara	Progress land acquisition	Q4 2017	Permission to proceed granted by An Bord Pleanála
N83 Forty Acres Realignment	Complete construction	Q1 2017	Construction works substantially complete, some minor accommodation works outstanding.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve the road network of 6,400 kms throughout the County 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Improvement of Road Network	Number of Local Tertiary Roads repaired	45	48 tertiary roads repaired
Improvement of Road Network	Number of kilometres of Regional Road improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	25km	27km
	Number of kilometres of Local Roads improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	80km	95km
Improvement of Road Network	Number of bridges improved	25	14
Improvement of Road Network	Number of kilometres of Regional Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant	26km	52km
	Number of kilometres of Local Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant	95km	332km
Maintenance of Road Network	Pothole Repairs – response time – number of working days, dependent on resources available:		
	National Roads	2	2
	Regional Roads	5	5
	Local Primary and Secondary Roads	10	10
	Local Tertiary Roads	20	20
Improvement of Road Network	Completion of coastal storm damage repair programme, subsequent to 2014 coastal storm.	Programme of works completed by December 2017	Works ongoing
Maintenance of Road Network	Continue programme of upgrading of Council fleet	Completion of upgrading of	No fleet upgrades in 2017

		fleet by December 2017	
Maintenance of Road Network	Winter Service Programme – monitor weather conditions, and implement gritting programme on identified priority routes as required	Ongoing Winter Service	Winter Service programme delivered successfully.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the programme of Piers and Harbours improvements. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Improvement of Pier Network	<p>Number of piers upgraded/improved, as co-funded by Department of Agriculture, Food, Agriculture and the Marine and Galway County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fahy Pier • Clifden Pier • Bealacarra Pier • Cleggan Pier • Bunowen Pier • Dooneen Pier. • Crumpaun Pier. • Droim Pier. • Ard Thoir Pier. • Roundstone Pier. 	6	<p>1</p> <p>Co -funding was received from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine towards improvement works on 5 piers, but only 1 was delivered due to staffing changes/resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bealacarra Pier
Construction of Strategic Pier	Engage consultants and progress the construction of new pier at Inis Oirr	Commencement of construction by December 2017.	Environmental and engineering consultants were appointed by December 2017.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the OPW in relation to flood risk management 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Drainage Improvement	Number of proposed drainage improvement projects, subject to funding from Office of Public Works	9 completed by December 2017	9 completed by December 2017
Drainage Maintenance	Number of kilometres of drainage maintenance completed by year end	3km by December 2017	3km
Minor Works Scheme	Continue to identify and submit projects for funding for minor flood relief works Complete minor flood relief works	15 6	40 9
Flood Relief Schemes	Progress Dunkellin/Aggard Flood Relief Scheme	Complete year 1 of works by December 2017	Vegetation clearance and the construction of a Craughwell

			bypass channel was completed in 2017
Flood Relief Schemes	Substantially progress Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme	Progress by December 2017	An engineering consultant and an environmentalist were appointed by the end of 2017.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance Traffic Management 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Traffic Management	Completion of Traffic Management Plan in Tuam Preparation of Traffic Management Plan in Portumna	December 2017 December 2017	Minor amendments to Tuam Traffic Management plan
Traffic Management	Number of parking permits issued annually Number of parking tickets issued annually	260 1,480	208 – reduced no of applications 1,911
Traffic Management	Revision of parking places bye-laws for County Galway	December 2017	Review of all parking bye-laws ongoing
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop safety initiatives through the Road Safety Committee 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Road Safety	Number of schools for which support will be provided for Cycling Training Programme Number of schools for which support will be provided for Drive for Life Programme Successful operation of Junior School Warden scheme in County Galway 3 school wardens in operation in Loughrea and Ballinasloe	25 10 JSW scheme operational in 4 schools 3 school wardens in situ	12 – new training programme in place 1 JSW scheme operational in 4 schools 3 school wardens in situ
Road Safety	Publication of 4 year Road Safety Plan – 2017-2021	June 2017	Published in June 2017
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of Safety of Road Network 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome

Safety Improvement of Road Network	Number of Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes in place by year end – locations to be advised by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.	10	7 schemes delivered, as per funding provided by DTTAS
Introduction of Slow Zones in Housing Estates 2015 -2017	Phase 2 – Slow Zone Bye-Laws implemented and adopted – 2016 allocation	35 by end of January 2017	Adopted and implemented in 46 estates by end of January 2017
	Phase 3 – Slow Zone Bye-Laws implemented and adopted – 2017 allocation	35 by end of December 2017	Slow Zone Bye-Laws prepared, in December 2017, for 40 housing estates, for consideration, adoption and implementation in early 2018.
Revision of Road Traffic Speed-Limit Bye-Laws in County Galway	Revised speed limit bye-laws for County Galway to be adopted	Adopted by April 2017	Review of speed limit bye-laws ongoing in 2017 – for completion in 2018.
Control of Invasive Species	Implement control programme in selected areas	Ongoing	Development of system for recording and monitoring invasive species, with committee in place by December 2017.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and support community involvement and participation 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Enhancement of Physical Environment	Sponsorship of 5 Community Employment Schemes	80 employees	85 employees
Road Safety	Facilitate applications for road improvement works under the Community Involvement Scheme and complete relevant works with Community support	Completion of CIS works at 25 location by December 2017	27 schemes completed.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development of tourism & social initiatives 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome

Economic & Social Development	Finalising transfer of land surrounding Pearses Cottage.	Land transfer complete by December 2017	Land transfer ongoing - not completed in 2017.
Economic & Social Development	Conamara Greenway – Galway to Oughterard Completion of Environmental Impact Assessment and submission of planning application to An Bord Pleanála	Planning application submitted to An Bord Pleanála by Q4 2017	Planning application was not submitted. Awaiting the publication of the Greenway strategy by DTTAS, which is due to be published in Q3 2018, to ensure consistency.
Economic & Social Development	Conamara Greenway – Oughterard to Clifden Construct 6km of Greenway at Ballynahincy/Atry	6km constructed by December 2017	6km substantially constructed by December 2017.
Economic & Social Development	Wild Atlantic Way – Conamara Infrastructure Programme Complete construction of 29 viewing/discovery/gateway points in Conamara	29 viewing points constructed in Conamara by December 2017	26 viewing points constructed by December 2017.
Economic & Social Development	Development of proposal for connection between Marconi, Alcock & Brown discovery point and Clifden town in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland	Development and progression of proposal by December 2017	Ongoing progression in association with Fáilte Ireland
Economic & Social Development	Climate Change – support development of adaptation plan for Galway County Council in line with climate change requirements	Provision of ongoing support and change as necessary	Input provided as required
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver quality services in accordance with our Customer Services Action Plan. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Responding to customer complaints	Responding to Fix Your Street Complaints, subject to relevant information being available	2 days	2 days for initial response, detailed responses followed upon investigation of issue raised
Economic Development	Number of responses issued annually to Roads and Services queries	520	508
	Number of responses issued to Roads and Services queries within 15 days	450	380
	Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued annually	160	147

	Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued within 5 days	160	147
	Number of Road Opening Licences issued annually	260	340
	Number of Road Opening Licences issued within 10 days	200	300
	Number of Scaffolding Licences issued annually	30	36
	Number of Scaffolding Licences issued within 5 days	30	36
Emergency Response	Provide necessary response to serious flooding incidents	As required	Timely, efficient response to all serious incidents

PLANNING			
Service Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prudent, impartial and responsive Planning Service for the Development Sector and the general public. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Development Management within the statutory and regulatory frameworks and in a fair and impartial manner.	Number of Applications dealt with in 8 weeks	60%	61%
	Number of Appeals to An Bord Pleanala.	Less than 3% of all decisions.	2.72%
	% of Appeals upheld / overturned	50% or more of GCC decisions upheld.	82%
	Number of Complaints to the Ombudsman.	3 or less	3
	Average time to process Section 5 Applications	4 weeks for initial response	Complied
	Enurement queries responded to in a 2 week timeframe	A response to issue within 2 weeks of receipt of correspondence	
Pre-Planning meetings facilitated	Number of Self Service Planning Queries generated	10% above 2016 rate	Complied
	Number of <u>scheduled</u> Pre-Planning Meetings facilitated.	40 average over 1 month period	35 average
County Development Plan Objectives	Commence the implementation of 3 specific objectives of the County Development Plan	3 specific objectives under active consideration.	Adopted Variation No. 1 to the Co. Dev Plan Variation No 2a and 2b on public display

Objectives	• Protection of Standards and Effective Enforcement		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Enforcement	All complaints acknowledged within 1 week and investigated within the statutory period.	90% target achieved	Complied
Building Control Inspections	To meet the minimum target for inspections – within statutory timeframes	15% inspection rate.	Complied
Objectives	• Clear and relevant Development Plans and Local Area Plans		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Local Area Plans	2 Local Area Plans or equivalent to be prepared and brought to Elected members.	2 adopted by 2017	Loughrea Local Area Plan Deferred Athenry/Oranmore Local Area Plan Deferred
Objectives	• Enhanced places to live, work and enjoy.		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2016	Outcome
Unfinished estates	Number of Sites brought to acceptable standards with Developers	8	8
	Number of Bonds drawn down and works executed	8	8
Taking in Charge	Number of Estates recommended for Taking in Charge by Galway CoCo.	10 estates	16 estates

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create awareness, knowledge, pride and to protect the built, natural and cultural heritage 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Built Heritage (Architectural Conservation)	Number of Statutory notices issued under the Planning & Development Act (Architectural Conservation) Department Grants/funding opportunities availed of Number of recorded advisory sessions with individuals	All requests responded to within 4 weeks All funding opportunities availed of. 100% of all requests facilitated.	Complied Complied Complied
Built, Natural & Cultural Heritage	Department Grants/funding opportunities availed of Number of recorded advisory sessions with individuals 12 Specific Actions under the Heritage Plan executed	All funding opportunities availed of. 100% of all requests facilitated. 12 named projects completed by year end.	Complied Complied Complied

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Service Area	To assist communities to develop in a sustainable, healthy and inclusive manner. To facilitate, promote and participate in the integrated development of the local economy and to position the local authority as a driver of economic and social development in the County.		
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To bring a strategic focus to our activities in relation to the promotion and support of economic development in the county. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Support of Economic Initiatives in Co Galway	No. of economic initiatives supported through the Community Support Scheme No. of economic initiatives supported (excl. CSS)	60 5	79 6
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 Participation at Expo events	+ 10% Website Traffic +10% Facebook likes 4 Expo Events	+ 10% website traffic + 10% Facebook likes 6 Expo Events
Development of Tourist Facilities at Portumna/Lough Derg	Delivery of improved Marina facilities at Castle Marina, Portumna Delivery of kayak trail	Launch April 2017	Launched April 2017 121 Businesses supported
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) as a strong, well-functioning committee. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Local Community Development Committee	No. of meetings facilitated SICAP Commenced Oversight of SICAP	6 meetings Jan 2017 1 no. payment approved	6 Meetings Jan 2017 3 no. payments approved

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop and adopt the Local Economic and Community Plan as a cornerstone of Galway County Council's enhanced role as a driver of economic development. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Local Economic and Community Plan	6-year plan adopted by Council in accordance with regulations and guidelines.	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Action Plan for 2017 set out and adopted by LCDC	Ongoing	Ongoing
	LECP Sub-Committees Established	3	3
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a culture that is supportive of economic development across all areas of business and services of the local authority. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Support the Strategic Economic Development Role of Galway County Council	No. of meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC	4 Meetings	4 Meetings
	Business Incentive Scheme	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Implementation of the Rural Economic Development Zone funding scheme (subject to call)	Q4	Completion of scheme extended to Q2 2018
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully integrate the Local Enterprise Officer (LEO) into the Economic Development activities of the local authority to position Galway County Council as a major driver and supporter of economic development in the county. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Integration of Local Enterprise Officer (LEO) into the economic and enterprise development activities	No. of joint initiatives with LEO	5	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Support to support communities in their activities. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Provision of funding support through the <i>Community Support Scheme</i>	Communities invited to apply for funding	January	January

	Workshops/information evenings facilitated at Municipal District level Applications assessed and recommendation to Council Issue notification letters and conditions Target No. of grants to be approved	February March Co. Meeting April 315	February March April 382
Tidy Towns	No. of communities supported for Tidy Towns initiatives under the CSS	35	58
Pride of Place/LivCom	No. of Communities nominated for Pride of Place competition Site visits by national judges facilitated Attendance at National Awards Ceremony	3 June/July/Aug November	3 June/July/Aug November – 1 winning entry
The provision of Arts and Cultural Services/Supports in the County	No. of arts grants approved No. of Arts Programmes supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arts & Disability Programme ➤ Arts & Education Programme ➤ Arts & Health Programme ➤ Arts & Libraries Programme ➤ Artists Support Programme including training and child protection course ➤ Dance Project ➤ Dig Where You Stand (Film Project) ➤ Youth Arts Programme (Galway Youth Theatre) ➤ Burning Bright (Older Years Arts Programme) ➤ Branar Theatre Tour – Early Years Programme ➤ Galway Music Education Programme (MEP) No. of artists supported under the Artist Bursaries No. of artists supported under Tyrone Guthrie scheme	65 Budget allocations not finalised due to status of GMEP	74 12 18 2

	No. of schools/artists supported under Artists in School Programme		8
The facilitation of the Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) and delivery of sports support	No. of meetings of GSP	4	5
	No. of Meetings of Steering Group Workshops	4	3
	GSP Strategic Plan & new website launch	Q1	Launched Strategic Plan and website Q2
	No. of communities participating in the Fit Towns initiative	7	6
	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	42	56
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the transition from Community & Voluntary Forum to the new Public Participation Network (PPN) structures and support their activities and input into local government 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Support the development of the <i>Public Participation Network</i> and community engagement	No. of organisations registered with PPN	650	700
	No. of meeting of County PPN Plenary	2	2
	No. of meeting of County PPN Secretariat	4	4
	No. of meetings of MDs Plenary	1	1
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imbed Social Inclusion across the organisation in ethos and implementation. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Social Inclusion Awareness/Development	No. of training events delivered for staff and Elected Members	1	1
<i>Bealtaine</i> – Celebrating Creativity As We Age	<i>Bealtaine</i> organised, facilitated and delivered	May	May
	No. of events facilitated/organised	35	84
<i>Traveller Pride Week</i>	<i>Traveller Pride Week</i> organised, facilitated and delivered	June	June
	No. of events facilitated/organised	10	5
<i>Culture Night</i>	<i>Culture Night</i> organised, facilitated and delivered	September	September
	No. of events facilitated/organised	75	88

<i>Social Inclusion Week</i>	Social Inclusion Week organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	October 35	October 30
<i>Cathaoirleach Community Awards</i>	<i>Cathaoirleach Community Awards</i> hosted	November 2017	Deferred to 2018
Age Friendly Programme	No. of meetings of Age Friendly Alliance & Age Friendly County Implementation Group (now amalgamated) No. of meetings of Older People's Council	4 12	1 11
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%	400 77.14%
Integration and Diversity & Implementation of European Integration Fund (EIF) programme	No. of refugees supported.	Ongoing 97 Refugees.	Ongoing – 99 refugees.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support and drive the European Capital of Culture Designation to ensure maximum returns at community and economic levels to the County. 		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2017	Outcome
Support and drive the European Capital of Culture Designation and maximise UNESCO Creative City designation/network	Develop the ECOC in conjunction with City Council with significant county focus and geographical spread UNESCO Creative City of Film office established in cooperation with partners	Ongoing	Ongoing



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORTS

&

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT REPORTS

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES REPORTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2017

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
Community/Voluntary		
Mr. Dan Dowling (Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd)		1
Trade Union		
Mr. Paul Quinn		1
Development and Construction Sector		
Mr. Paul Mannion (RIAI), Scott, Tallon, Walker Architects, 22 Eyre Square, Galway		1
Business/Commercial Sector		
Ms. Michelle Murphy (Galway Chamber), Collins McNicholas, Unit 27, Briarhill Business Park, Galway		1

The Unit facilitated 4 meetings of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC during the year and some of the items for discussion were as follows:

- The rollout of the Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) Programme.
- The 2017 Town & Village Renewal Scheme.
- The 2017 Community Facilities Scheme.
- Applications under the Regional Economic Development Fund, i.e. Bia Innovator Campus, and Enterprise Centres.

- The European Region of Gastronomy designation in 2018.
- The future use of the Galway Airport site.
- Business Incentive Scheme.
- Tourism Strategy
- National Broadband Plan

**HOUSING, CULTURE & RECREATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S
ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2017**

Membership

Name	Chair	Housing Culture & Recreation
Cllr. Malachy Noone		1
Cllr. Seamus Walsh	1	1
Cllr. Eileen Mannion		1
Cllr. Michael Fahy		1
Cllr. Pat Hynes		1
Cllr. Donagh Killilea		1
Cllr. Tom McHugh		1
Community/Voluntary Sector		
Mr. Declan McKeon		1
Development and Construction Sector		
Ms. Helena McElmeel (RIAI)		1
Social Inclusion Sector		
Mr. Padraic Maher (Irish Wheelchair Association, Tuam)		1

4 Meetings of the Housing, Culture & Recreation SPC took place in 2017.

The following are the main matters and policy issues discussed and considered by the Housing, Culture and Recreation SPC in 2017:

1. Social Housing Strategy
2. Tenancy Sustainment Strategy
3. Housing Allocation Scheme
4. Review of Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme
5. Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018
6. 'Clár Éire Ildánach / Creative Ireland Programme
7. Review of Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
8. County Galway Homelessness Action Plan 2017-2018

**ROADS, TRANSPORTATION AND MARINE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S
ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2017**

Membership

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

4 Meetings of the Roads SPC took place in 2017.

The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

1. Public Lighting Policy
2. Speed Limits Review
3. Footpaths in Rural Areas
4. Motorway Signage
5. National Roads issues

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.

Following discussions at two SPC meetings, it was agreed that the draft public lighting policy, to include the changes recommended by the SPC be presented to the plenary Council for their consideration and decision.

Regular updates were provided to the SPC committee during 2017, informing them of the ongoing progress of the speed limits review and encouraging all elected members to submit comments or recommendations on same. The review of speed limits in County Galway is ongoing and updates will continue to be provided, as appropriate.

The Council's current policy in relation to the provision of footpaths in rural areas, whereby they are provided only in towns and villages, within speed limit zones and where public lighting is also provided, was considered. It was noted that many of the footpaths currently in situ require significant investment in repairs and that there is no specific funding made available for the repair or provision of footpaths. The discussion concluded with the following consensus from the members

- 1) Priority should be given to the maintenance of existing footpaths
- 2) There should not be a requirement to provide public lighting when providing a footpath
- 3) The provision of footpaths should be included in planning permissions
- 4) The footpaths should connect infrastructure, such as towns to community facilities and should not be confined to areas within speed limits.

The lack of directional signage for local towns and villages was discussed at several meetings. It was noted that Transport Infrastructure Ireland would put a residual signage programme in place by the end of 2017 to facilitate such directional signage.

During the year, updates on issues raised in relation to National Roads were requested by the committee from Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Following the SPC meeting on 18th September, correspondence was sent to the TII requesting that representatives attend a Galway County Council Roads and Transportation SPC meeting. A response from the TII indicated that they would facilitate a deputation, to attend at their offices in Dublin. They advised that the deputation should be comprised of 2 members from each Municipal District and Council officials to discuss and provide information on queries which were submitted in advance for consideration to the TII. It was agreed that a deputation would attend such a meeting in the New Year, with members of the SPC the preferred representatives to attend.

**PLANNING AND COMMUNITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL
REPORT SUBMISSION 2017**

Membership

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

The Planning and Community SPC had 4 meetings in 2017.

The main policy issues discussed during the year included:-

- Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ)
- Town and Village Renewal Scheme
- Pride of Place
- Rural Housing Guidelines
- Policy on Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Draft Bearna and Gaeltacht Plans
- Draft Heritage Plan 2017-2022
- Draft Tuam Local Area Plan

**ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2017**

Membership

Name	Chair	Environment, Water Services, Fire & Emergency Services
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly		1
Cllr. Tim Broderick		1
Cllr. Niamh Byrne		1
Cllr. Tomás Ó Curraoin		1
Cllr. Noel Thomas		1
Cllr. Shane Donnellan	1	1
Cllr. Ivan Canning		1
Cllr. Peter Keaveney		1
Community/Voluntary		
Mr. Aodhan Mac Donnacha		1
Business/Commercial Sector		
Mr. David Courtney (GABC), David Courtney & Associates, Planning and Building Consultants, Cathertymore, Athenry, Co. Galway		1
Environment/Conservation		
Mr. Mark Green (Galway Environmental Network)		1
Agriculture/Farming		
Mr. Bertie Roche, Kylemore Abbey, Loughrea, Co Galway,		1

4 Meetings of the Environmental, Water and Emergency Services SPC took place in 2017.

The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

- Draft River Basin Management Plans for Ireland 2018-2021,
- National Anti- Dumping Initiatives 2017,
- Anti-litter and Waste Campaign County Galway,
- Burning of Agricultural Waste,
- Invasive Species Strategy for County Galway,
- Energy & Climate Change,
- Recycling Strategy,
- Dog Control Policy.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS REPORTS**REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2017**
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE - 2017

The members of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe met monthly with the exception of August in 2017. The Annual General Meeting was held on the 14th June, 2017 where Cllr. Aidan Donohue, was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Michael Connolly was elected Leas Cathaoirleach for 2017/2018.

At their meeting on 15th February, 2017 the members approved the Municipal District Schedule of Works 2017 (to include Roads Programme and Environment, Housing, Recreation and Amenity Schedule of repairs and maintenance) for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

In accordance with the Roads Act, 1993 the Municipal District of Ballinasloe declared three roads to be public roads and approved the extinguishment of a Public Right of Way on two public roads in 2017.

During 2017 the members received:

- A presentation on the delivery of Fire Services in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe by Mr. Michael Raftery, Chief Fire Officer;
- An update in relation to the East Galway Landfill from Mr. Jim Cullen, DOS and Mr. Mike Melody, Senior Executive Engineer;
- A Presentation from Ms. Catherine Seale, Community Water Officer on the Local Authority Waters and Communities office;
- A Presentation and update from Ms. Breda Fox, Head of Enterprise;
- A Presentation from Ms. Máire Ni Chionna, Senior Engineer in relation to the Review of Speed Limits – National Roads;
- A Presentation by Ms. Elaine O’Riordan, Galway County Biodiversity Project Manager, NUI Galway on behalf of the Galway County Council invasive Species Working Group;
- A Presentation from Mr. Michael Owens, Acting Director of Services in relation to Part 8 Proposal for Creggaun, Ballinasloe and
- A Presentation from Mr. Alan Farrell, Senior Executive Officer, Community, Enterprise & Economic Development Department on the Community Facilities Scheme – Allocations.

The members received Deputations in 2017 from:

- a) Creagh Community Development Council in relation to the unacceptable condition of some footpaths, the provision of a carpark in St. Brigid's ground opposite Creagh Cemetery entrance, the daily dangers experienced by motorists at Creagh junction, the provision of Polling Booths at Creagh National School and dangerous speeding on the Creagh Road and
- b) Representatives of Ballinasloe Town in relation to issues of concern in relation to illegal dumping in Ballinasloe Town.

On the 25th October, 2017 at the Draft Budgetary Plan 2018 Meeting, the members rejected the draft General Municipal Allocation of €4,784,922 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

The members agreed to accept an invitation for the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe and an official to attend the 58th Fete des uVins d'Anjor by Stella DUPONT, Conseiller Général de Maine et Loire, Maire de CHALONNES SUR LOIRE on the 21st and 22nd May, 2017. The Cathaoirleach attended.

REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2017
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM - 2017

The members of the Municipal District of Tuam held eight meetings during 2017, 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 16th February 2017 which amounted to €50,617 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 2017 including a specific allocation for Non-National roads in the Municipal District of Tuam totalling €3,361,465. Two deputations were received during 2017, one in relation to the development of an ecclesiastical Greenway and one from a group of business people in the town of Tuam.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 29th May 2017, Cllr Donagh Killilea was elected as Cathaoirleach and Cllr Cunniffe was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Tuam for a period of 12 months.

During the meeting of the Municipal District on 09th May 2017, it was agreed to name a street in Tuam town as Straubing Street, in honour of Tuam's twinning with Straubing in Germany.

At the meeting on the 09th May 2017, two presentations were made - a presentation was made by Ms Elaine O'Riordan, invasive species officer, on an invasive species strategy for County Galway and the best practice on dealing with them and an informative presentation was made by Ms Catherine Seale, Community Water Officer, on her role in engaging local communities in water quality management. It was noted that a public consultation was to take place in Tuam town on 11th May 2017.

Discussions were held, at the meeting of the 13th November 2017, regarding the programme of installation of housing estate slow zones, in housing estates taken in charge in County Galway. Bye-laws were proposed for adoption by the plenary Council to facilitate the installation of these special speed limits in 13 housing estates in the Municipal District of Tuam in 2017.

A number of roads in the Municipal District were declared to be public roads, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

The members approved the draft General Municipal Allocation of €5,551,784 on the 26th October 2017 in advance of the 2018 Annual Budget meeting in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2017
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA - 2017

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 2017.

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 2017,
- Roads Programme 2017
- Flooding
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- Portumna Marina
- Taking in Charge
- Blue Way on Lough Derg
- Galway County Invasive Species Strategy
- Review of Speed Limits 2017
- Loughrea Local Area Plan
- Community Facilities Scheme 2017

Members also met a number of deputations during 2017 to hear and take actions on their concerns.

Cllr. Ivan Canning was elected Cathaoirleach at the Annual Meeting held in June 2017 ,while Cllr. Michael Maher was elected Leas Cathaoirleach .

REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2017 **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA 2017**

The members of the Municipal District of Conamara held 7 meetings during 2017 to discuss the provision of services for their District, policy matters, community issues and concerns and matters appertaining to their representational role.

The Municipal District considered and approved the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District on the 10-2-2017 in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014 which also incorporated the Roads Program 2017. They considered progress on the upgrade of the N-59 National Secondary Road at several meetings which included a deputation from the N-59 Action Group and also with the Chief Executive and his staff.

Bord Pleanála granted planning permission in December 2013 for the section between Oughterard-Maam Cross subject to the Council securing agreement on the method statements with NPWS. Progress was finally initiated on this in 2017 with agreement on the method statements for part of the route and the commencement of the Ground Investigation contract. The section between Maam Cross-Clifden was refused planning permission by An Bord Pleanála due to the Annexe 1 environmental designations and the Council is awaiting the assessment of TII on the implications of this planning decision and the requirements in regard to the re-submission of the planning application.

The Municipal District also re-considered the route selection process for the proposed new R-336 Regional Road – the Council has requested approval from TII in regard to the re-engagement of the Consultants in regard to this. They also considered progress on the Conamara Greenway project and the Cathaoirleach of the MD was in contact with Shane Ross T.D Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport in regard to this. The Minister also met Oireachtas members to discuss this and advised that his Department will issue a protocol on the future development of Greenways. Progress to date involves the development of the 7 km section between Clifden to Ballinahinch. The MD also had meetings with the Conamara Greenway Alliance and the Galway Cycling Solutions Group in regard to this issue.

The Municipal District received a presentation by Catherine Seale, Community Water Officer in regard to progress on the River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 and procedures for the management of Water Catchment areas. A presentation on the Draft Invasive Species Strategy was given by Elaine O’Riordan, Biodiversity Project Manager with NUI which highlighted the ecological threat posed by invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, Zebra mussels and the New Zealand flatworm. The members also considered proposals received from TII in regard to the speed limit review for the N-59 National Secondary Road.

The Municipal District considered the 2017 Community Facilities Scheme presented by the Community & Enterprise Section and received deputations from the following community groups:

- N59-Action Group
- Conamara Greenway Alliance
- Galway Cycling Solutions Group
- Coiste Bóthair Doire Fhatharta

- Barna Pier Group

The members highlighted several urgent safety measures such as the Bearna Road/N59 junction, the 2 dangerous bends at Doire Fhatharta near An Cheathrú Rua, safety measures for Tooreeney National School, Maigh Cuilinn, a pedestrian crossing for Letterfrack, the junctions at Tigh Tommy and Puiríní Inverin and the need for a review of safety for the slipways on piers and harbours. They considered the progress made in regard to the development of bus facilities at Oughterard, Maigh Cuilinn & An Spidéal in conjunction with the NTA and representations made with TII for a new pedestrian footbridge at Oughterard as this is a major safety issue.

The Municipal District declared a number of roads to be public roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 and discussed the policy as regards the cutting of trees and hedges which overhang onto public roads and therefore constitute a road safety issue.

The members considered the draft General Municipal Allocation on the 27-10-2017 in advance of the Annual Budget for 2018 in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The Annual Meeting was held on the 10-6-2017 and Cllr. Noel Thomas was replaced by Cllr. Niamh Byrne as Cathaoirleach.

REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2017
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ATHENRY ORANMORE

The Members of the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District met on eleven occasions in 2017, to discuss the provision of services for the District, policy matters, community issues and concerns and matters relating to their representational role. A Special Meeting was held on 30th January 2017 to consider the Proposed Traffic Calming Scheme for Clarenbridge.

All of the Meetings convened in Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway.

The District extends from the Galway City Boundary on the North, East and South and includes the main towns of and villages of Athenry, Oranmore, Baile Chláir, Clarenbridge and Cór an Dola well as dispersed rural areas that have experienced consistent population growth.

In advance of the November 2017 Meeting of the Municipal District, the Members received a Delegation from Bawnmore, Baile Chláir with regard to safety issues at Bawnmore Cross.

During 2017, Members approved of the Declaration of a number of roads to be made Public Roads and a number of roads to be abandoned.

The Members received presentations on the following:-

- A presentation on behalf of Iarnrod Eireann was given by Ms. Jane Cregan and Mr. Frank Martin.
- A presentation on the Water Framework Directive was given by Ms. Catherine Seale, Community Water Officer (Galway & South Roscommon).
- A presentation on the Rollout of Broadband by Mr. Paul Bradley, Director of Corporate Affairs, E.I.R.
- A presentation on the Draft Galway County Council Invasive Species Strategy was given by Ms. Elaine O’Riordan, Galway County Biodiversity Project Manager.

At the February Meeting, the Members approved the Municipal District Schedule of Works which included the Roads Programme, 2017. They also considered the 3 Year Multi-Annual Programme. In April, a Draft Management Measure for Oranmore was approved, in principle.

At the May Meeting, the Members considered the deferral of Notices under Section 20 3(a) and (ii) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended, in respect of the Oranmore and Athenry Local Area Plans, for a period of not exceeding five years (i.e.) 5 years from the 29th of May, 2017.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 13th June 2017 and Cllr. Malachy Noone was elected Cathaoirleach, for 2017 - 2018. Cllr. Peter Feeney was elected as Leas Chathaoirleach for 2017 – 2018.

At the September Meeting, the Members considered the Gaeltacht Local Area Plan which will form part of Variation No.2 (b) to the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021

At the October Meeting, the A/Director of Services advised the members that the village of Corrandulla would be in receipt of grant funding of €98,350 under the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme for a pedestrian crossing and resurfacing works in the village. Ms.

Catherine McConnell, Director of Services, Planning advised the meeting that there was only 5 applications in the Athenry Oranmore area under the Community Facilities Schemes for 2017 and the Members approved the grant allocation, with a cap of €1000 to the five groups.

The Municipal District Budget Meeting was held on the 27th October, 2017 to consider (with or without amendment) a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District. The Members voted to reject the Draft Municipal District Budget for Athenry Oranmore.

At the November Meeting, the Members discussed the Safety Measures for Bawnmore Cross and they agreed to introduce 30 km/h speed limits at Pairc na hAbhainn Housing Estate, Athenry, in accordance with Circular RW 12/2015.

The Meetings were facilitated by the Meetings Administrator and attended by the Director of Services for the Municipal District. Engineering and Administrative Staff from the Roads Section and the Municipal District Office and other Council Departments also attended the Meetings to deal with queries and issues raised by the Members.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

COUNCIL NOMINEES TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES

COUNCILLORS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES & OTHER BODIES

Association of Irish Local Government

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn replaced Cllr. Peter Feeney on 30.1.17

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

Cllr. D. Connolly replaced Comh Tomás Ó Curraoin on 30.01.2017

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. Martina Kinane (26.6.17)

Cllr. Peter Roche (26.6.17)

Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd.

Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Martina Kinane

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

Cllr. Donagh Killilea

County (Local) Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Cllr. Peter Roche
Cllr. Noel Thomas
Cllr. Joe Byrne

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. Gerry Finnerty
Cllr. Frank Kearney
Cllr. Billy Connelly

Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board (Formerly VEC)

Cllr. Tom Healy
Cllr. Karey McHugh
Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher
Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Michael Connolly
Comh Sean O Tuairisg

Regional Health Forum Representation, West

Cllr. Donagh Killilea
Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. D. Connolly
Cllr. Michael Finnerty
Cllr. Aidan Donohue

Forum Conamara Ltd.

Comh. Sean Ó Tuairisg replaced Cllr. Niamh Byrne on 29.05.17
Cllr. Eileen Mannion reappointed 29.5.17
Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Thomas Welby

Comhar na nOileán Teoranta

Comh. S. Ó Cualáin replaced Comh. S. O'Tuairisg on 23.10.17

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 Thomas
Cllr. Frank Kearney
Cllr. Michael 'Moegie' Maher
Cllr. Malachy Noone
Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Joe Byrne
Cllr. Aidan Donohue
Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Peter Roche
Cllr. Donagh Mark Killilea

Audit Committee

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Governing Authority of N.U.I.G.

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

Local Community Development Committee

Cllr. Dermot Connolly ratified again 25.9.17

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn ratified again 25.9.17

Cllr. Noel Thomas ratified again 25.9.17

Road Safety Together Committee (Internal GCC Committee)

Cllr. Malachy Noone

Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Galway.

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

Galway County Council Finance Committee (established 27 Feb 2017)

Cllr. Tom. Welby

Cllr. T. Broderick

Cllr. Shaun. Cunniffe

Cllr. Martina Kinane

Comh. Sean Ó Tuairisg

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Cllr. Tom Healy

Cllr. J. Byrne

Cllr. P. Roche

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Cllr. Michael Connolly

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

	Conference	Organised By	Venue	Attendees
1	“Tackling Japanese Knotweed – Functions of Local Authorities and NRA”	-	Clonakilty, Co. Cork 27 th – 29 th January 2017	1
2	2 Day Social Media Training for Councillors	ACE Management & Training	Clonakilty, Co. Cork. 22 nd & 23 rd February 2017	1
3	‘Ireland and the European Union Post British Withdrawal’	28 th Colmcille Winter School	Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 24 th & 25 th February 2017	2
4	‘What does a hard Brexit mean for Ireland’	Celtic Conferences	Carlingford, Co. Louth 31 st March, 1 st & 2 nd April, 2017 Clonakilty, Co. Cork 23 rd – 25 th June 2017	4 2
5	Mná na hÉireann 2017 – A Conference on the Theme of Women in Modern Ireland		An Grianan, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth 19 th & 20 th May 2017	1
6	Galway Chamber Energy Conference	Galway Chamber	5 th May 2017	2
7	Alcohol, Self Harm & Suicide – An All-Island Perspective Conference	Chartered Accounts	Pearse Street, Dublin 3 rd May 2017	1
8	Institute of Professional Training Conference – <i>National Planning Framework and the Councillor</i>	Institute of Professional Training	Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 26 th – 28 th May 2017	1
9	Doing More with Less – Managing Time and Productivity	Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty, Co. Cork 21 st , 22 nd and 23 rd July 2017	1

	Conference	Organised By	Venue	Attendees
10	37 th Annual MacGill Summer School & Arts Week – <i>Global Turbulence and Uncertainty</i>	MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Co. Donegal.	1
11	Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh 2017/Pearse’s Summer School 2017	Galway County Council	Ros Muc, Co. na Gaillimhe 27 th , 28 th , 29 th July 2017	1
12	National Tourism Conference – <i>Working as One on the Wild Atlantic Way – Building Sustainable Communities</i>	Kerry County Council	Listowel, Co. Kerry 5 th & 6 th September 2017	2
13	A Practical Guide to Budget 2018	Celtic Conferences	Carlingford, Co. Louth 13 th – 15 th October 2017	2
14	Straubing Twinning Festival	Tuam-Straubing Twinning	Tuam 15 th August, 2017	1

TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

	Training Event	Organised By	Venue & Date	Attendees
1	Cúrsa Gaeilge do Chomhairleoirí/Irish Course for Councillors	Galway County Council	County Hall 31 st January 2017	7
2	Local Government Structures, Services & Local Government Reform	Galway County Council	County Hall 12 th January 2017	7
3	Local Government Housing Services	Galway County Council	County Hall 26 th January 2017	6
4	Local Government Planning Services	Galway County Council	County Hall 2 nd February 2017	5
5	Local Government Environmental Services	Galway County Council	County Hall 2 nd February 2017	12
6	Local Government Roads & Transportation Services	Galway County Council	County Hall 9 th February 2017	10
7	Local Government Water Services	Galway County Council	County Hall 16 th February 2017	9
8	Local Government Funding & Financial Management	Galway County Council	County Hall 23 rd February 2017 10 th April 2017	7 10

	Training Event	Organised By	Venue & Date	Attendees
9	AILG – <i>New National Planning Framework Information Module</i>	A.I.L.G.	Co. Cavan 7 th February 2017	15
			Co. Waterford 11 th February 2017	4
7	AILG Annual Training Conference 2017	A.I.L.G.	6 th & 7 th April 2017	12
8	L.A.M.A. – Spring Training Seminar	LAMA	Gormanston, Co. Meath 28 th & 29 th April 2017	16
9	A.I.L.G. Training – <i>From Plans to Action – Urban & Rural SICAP & Rural Action Programmes</i>	A.I.L.G.	Westport, Co. Mayo 13 th May 2017	9
10	A.I.L.G. Training - <i>Brexit, Regional Planning & E.U. Affairs</i>	A.I.L.G.	Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow 26 th May 2017	2
11	A.I.L.G. Training – <i>Rates Reform & Re-Valuations</i>	A.I.L.G.	Killarney, Co. Kerry 8 th June 2017	1
			Bundoran, Co. Donegal 15 th June 2017	12
12	AILG Training – <i>Wellbeing for Councillors</i>	A.I.L.G.	Tuam, Co. Galway 19 th September 2017	4
			Tivoly, Co. Cork 23 rd September 2017	5

	Training Event	Organised By	Venue & Date	Attendees
13	LAMA 2017 Autumn Training Seminar	LAMA	Clonmel, Co. Tipperary 29 th & 30 th September 2017	11
14	AILG Annual Autumn Seminar	A.I.L.G.	Sligo 12 th & 13 th October 2017	13
15	AILG Training - <i>Library Development – Public Library Strategy 2018 - 2022</i>	A.I.L.G.	Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim 21st October 2017	2
16	AILG Training – <i>Local Government Management Agency</i>	A.I.L.G.	Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan 23 rd November 2017 Dublin 18 th November 2017	10 1

ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES

Galway County Council Annual Report | 2017

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
Broderick Tim	7,683.78	16,567.59				250.00						24,501.37
Burke Donal	9,719.32	16,567.59					2,769.24					29,056.15
Byrne Niamh	6,182.02	16,567.59				240.53	3,230.78	1,956.70	600.00			28,777.62
Byrne Joe	6,315.92	16,567.59		2,769.24				640.23				26,292.98
Canning, Ivan	8,918.26	16,567.59					3,230.78					28,716.63
Cronnelly Gabriel	6,382.48	16,567.59										22,950.07
Cuddy Jim	4,894.24	16,567.59			2,538.47			340.65				24,340.95
Connelly Billy	5,764.03	16,567.59										22,331.62
Connolly Dermot	8,758.36	16,567.59				1,796.53						27,122.48
Connolly Michael	7,683.78	16,567.59	12,214.86			1,250.00					331.32	38,047.55
Charity James	5,314.66	16,567.59			3,461.55					300.00		25,643.80
Cualáin Seosamh Ó	7,717.32	16,567.59						836.73	543.36			25,665.00

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
Curraoin Tomás Ó	5,000.84	16,567.59						2,155.00	564.14			24,287.57
Cunniffe Shaun	6,716.06	16,567.59						1,216.45	550.00			25,050.10
Donnellan Shane	6,983.08	16,567.59			6,000.02			667.94				30,218.63
Donohue Aidan	7,249.84	16,567.59				461.75	3,230.78	1,769.81	511.55			29,791.32
Fahy Michael	6,203.62	16,567.59						2,991.77	600.00		166.93	26,529.91
Feeney Peter	5,828.42	16,567.59			5,515.40							27,911.41
Finnerty Gerry	2,976.93	16,567.59										19,544.52
Finnerty Michael	8,864.96	16,567.59			5,515.40							30,947.95
Healy Tom	10,119.72	16,567.59				894.66		1,785.15				29,367.12
Hoade Mary	6,395.74	16,567.59				1,615.63		2,604.88	638.33			27,822.17
Hynes Pat	6,716.06	16,567.59						2,132.56	600.00			26,016.21
Joyce Des	8,109.12	16,567.59										24,676.71
Kearney Frank	5,314.66	16,567.59					2,769.24	2,079.94	61.08			26,792.51
Keaveney Peter	8,651.50	16,567.59										25,219.09
Kinane Martina	5,581.68	16,567.59				2,158.45		2,116.85	366.96			26,791.53

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
Killilea Donagh Mark	5,823.14	16,567.59					3,230.78		300.34	309.66		26,231.51
Mannion Eileen	9,512.36	16,567.59	12,923.12			1,456.85		426.79				40,886.71
Maher "Moegie"	6,609.20	16,567.59			484.62	537.92		2,416.10	498.87			27,114.30
McHugh Karey	6,048.64	16,567.59				503.30						23,119.53
McHugh Tom	6,929.78	16,567.59				3,566.49	2,769.24	1,346.77				31,179.87
McClearn Jimmy	8,004.36	16,567.59			484.62	3,214.19	2,769.24	1,617.95	593.13			33,251.08
Noone Malachy	5,214.56	16,567.59					3,230.78					25,012.93
Roche Peter	6,822.92	16,567.59				143.76		1,515.08	536.53			25,585.88
Thomas Noel	5,381.48	16,567.59					2,769.24					24,718.31
Tuairisg Seán Ó	6,075.42	16,567.59				730.46		2,224.62	555.00		139.05	26,292.14
Walsh Séamus	6,502.60	16,567.59		3,230.78	6,207.71	128.00		1,249.23	600.00			34,485.91
Welby, Thomas	6,075.42	16,567.59				5,337.94		2,478.20				30,459.15



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL
OFFICES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (INTERIM)

Mr. Kevin Kelly

CORPORATE SERVICES & HOUSING

Director of Services:	Mr. Michael Owens (Acting)
Senior Executive Officer, Housing:	Ms. Jean Brann
Senior Executive Officers, Corporate Services:	Mr. Gerard Scully
	Ms. Eimear Dolan (Acting)
Administrative Officers, Housing:	Ms. Margaret Jordan
Administrative Officer, Corporate Services:	Ms. Rose O'Boyle (Acting)
County Librarian:	Ms. Catherine Gallagher
Senior Social Worker:	Ms. Mary Forde
Senior Executive Librarian:	Ms. Bernie Kelly
Senior Executive Engineer, Housing:	Mr. Michael Sheil
	Mr. Kevin Finn (Acting)
Senior Executive Engineer, Corporate Services:	Mr. Steven Lally (Acting)
Law Agent:	Mr. Robert Fergus Meehan
Senior Executive Solicitors:	Ms. Anne McCormack
	Ms. Angela Casey
Executive Solicitors:	Ms. Margaret Flynn
	Mr. Michael O'Doherty
Internal Auditor:	Ms. Bernie Welby

WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director of Services:	Mr. Jim Cullen
Administrative Officer, Water Services:	Mr. Enda Moloney
Administrative Officer, Environment:	Mr. Páraic Carroll
Senior Engineers, Water Services:	Mr. Diarmuid Croghan (Acting)
Senior Executive Engineers, Water Services:	Ms. Martina Connaughton
	Ms. Fiona Holland
	Mr. Adrian Raftery (Acting)
	Mr. Anthony Kelly
	Mr. Cyril Mitchell (Acting)
	Mr. John McMyler (Acting)
Senior Executive Engineer, Environment:	Mr. Mike Melody (Acting)
Safety Advisor/Health & Safety Officer:	Ms. Julianne Gavin
County Veterinary Inspector:	Ms. Rita Gately
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

PLANNING, IR, 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 Planner:	Ms. Valerie Loughnane Moran (Acting)
Senior Executive Planner:	Ms. Saoirse Kennedy
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. Sharon O'Grady
Sports Co-ordinator	Mr. Michael Curley

ROADS, TRANSPORTATION, MARINE & GENERAL SERVICES

Director of Services:	Mr. Michael Timmins (Acting)
Administrative Officer:	Ms. Nuala Heffernan
	Ms. Celine Delaney (Acting)
Senior Engineers:	Ms. Máire Ní Chionna
	Mr. Damien Mitchell
Senior Executive Engineers:	Mr. Aengus Breathnach
	Mr. Sean Breathnach
	Mr. Fintan O'Meara
	Mr. Anthony Collins
	Mr. Alan Raleigh
	Mr. Paraic Breathnac
	Mr. Derek Pender
	Ms. Paula Higgins
	Mr. Enda Mulryan (Acting)
	Mr. Adrian Headd (Acting)
	Mr. Adrian Grandison (Acting)
	Mr. Enda Gallagher (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. Brendan Sheehy
Municipal District Loughrea (Gort):	Mr. Feidhlim McGillicuddy
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. John Coyle (Acting)
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 Conroy (Acting)

OFFICES OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Comhairle Chontae Na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

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

OPENING HOURS

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

OFFICE LOCATION

Headquarters(091) 509000

Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway

The following offices are located in Áras An Chontae

Housing Applications(091) 509300
Housing Loans & Grants(091) 509301
Human Resources(091) 509303
Motor Taxation(091) 509099
Planning(091) 509308
Roads, Transportation &
Marine.....(091) 509309
Rates.....(091) 509171
Register of Electors(091) 509310
Freedom of Information &
Access to Information on
the Environment(091) 509319
Casual Trading(091) 509327
Local Enterprise Office.....(091) 509090

The following offices are located at

*Centrepoint, Liosbaun, Tuam Road,
Galway*

Environment.....(091) 509510
Water Services(091) 509505
Community & Enterprise(091) 509521
Business Response Unit(091) 509521
Arts Office(091) 509521
Social Inclusion.....(091) 509521
Sports Partnership(091) 509521

The following office is located at

Corporate House, Ballybrit, Galway

National Roads Project
Office.....(091) 735052

AREA OFFICES

Athenry / Oranmore ..(091) 844042 / 509088
Ballinasloe(090) 9642274
Conamara South(091) 509060
Conamara North(095) 21186
Tuam(093) 24123

Gort(091) 631040
Portumna(090) 9741019
Loughrea(091) 841536

FIRE BRIGADES

Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden,
Galway City, Gort, Inis Mor,
Loughrea, Mountbellew,
Portumna and Tuam 999 or 112
Civil Defence Officer.....(091) 570900

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
Kilronan.....(099) 20937
Leenane(095) 42920
Letterfrack(091) 742666
Loughrea(091) 847220
Moylough(090) 9679072
Oranmore(091) 792117
Oughterard.....(091) 557002
Portumna(090) 9741261
Roundstone(095) 35518
Spiddal(091) 504028
Tuam(093) 24287
Woodford(090) 9749887

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



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Galway County Council adopted a Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in March 2016. The amount being levied on residential units was reduced by 50% by the members for a one year period from March 2016 – March 2017 and by 25% for the following one year period.

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 2017, 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 €1.8 Million was collected under the Council's Section 48 Development Contribution scheme in 2017.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017

EXPENDITURE	2017€M
Housing	11.957
Roads	37.915
Sanitary Services	12.677
Planning & Development	8.694
Environmental Protection	17.285
Recreation & Amenity	8.545
Agriculture & Education	2.236
Miscellaneous Services	13.197
Total Expenditure	112.506
INCOME	
State Grants	74.467
Other Sources	41.794
Total Income	116.260
Surplus / (Deficit) for year before transfers	3.755
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	(2.378)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for year	1.377
General Revenue Reserve at 1st January	(1.959)
General Revenue Reserve at 31st December	(.582)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2017		
Net Assets	2017 €M	2017 €M
Fixed Assets		3,589,371
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses		196,602
Long Term Debtors		36,321
Current Assets	69,119	
Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)	(46,874)	
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		22,244
Creditors (Amounts falling due after one year)		(44,894)
Total		3,799,645
Represented By		
Capitalisation Account		3,589,371
Receipts - Work in Progress		194,279
Other Reserves		228
General Revenue Reserve		(582)
Other Balances		16,349
Total		3,799,645

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.



