

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2018 ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

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CONTENTS

MISSION STATEMENT	04
MESSAGE FROM THE CATHAOIRLEACH	05
MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (INTERIM)	07
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	09
ELECTED MEMBERS BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS	10
GENERAL INFORMATION	15
GOVERNANCE IN GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL	19
PROGRESS REPORT ON THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2015 – 2019	22
CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC, RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	24
HOUSING	105
PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES	124
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES	187
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT	209
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT	213
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	215

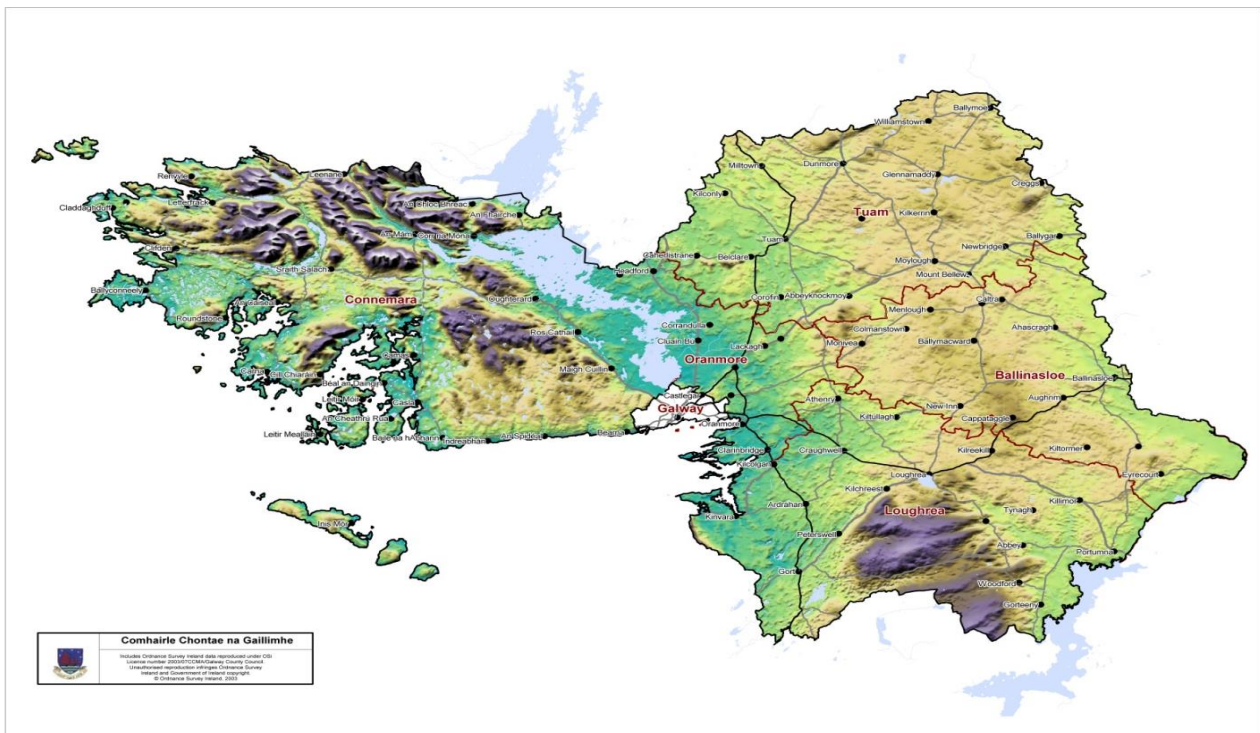
ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2018 UPDATE	226
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORTS	254
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT REPORTS	263
COUNCIL NOMINEES TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES	270
CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS	274
TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS	275
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES	277
PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL	279
OFFICES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL	283
UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME	284
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2018	286

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 2018 with over €120m Revenue expenditure and €76m Capital expenditure.

Galway County Council is among the largest public service providers in the Country, 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, will be held on the 30th March, 2019 and this will give me 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 will go to Pieta House, Strange Boat Donor Foundation & Circle of Life Garden and Zambia Housing Project.

The All-Ireland success by the Galway Minor Hurling team was an outstanding achievement and a source of pride and happiness for the people of Galway in 2018. 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 heartwarming to see the huge turnout of people who came to share in the celebrations. Comhghairdeas leis an bhfoireann maidir lena n-éachtaí iontacha.

Galway, West of Ireland, is the first European Region of Gastronomy (ERoG) in Ireland, receiving the designation following on from a marathon of other European partners. Acquiring the designation took significant time and dedication from a dedicated food community and a range of partners from the public, private, community and educational sectors. The overall bid was won by the people of Galway for the people of Galway and a very successful year has passed in this regard. Galway Gastronomy won the top five large experiences along the Wild Atlantic Way, the Top Economic Development project at the the Excellence in Local Government Awards and has built very sound foundations for the development of the food, tourism, culture and related sectors that made a significant economic and social contribution to our society.

I am delighted as Cathaoirleach that Galway County Council has developed an enhanced role both in economic and community development. The operation of the LCDC and other Committies of the County is assisting to enhance the quality of life for citizens and communities. The recent funding stream which has come available will continue to provide opportunities for the public and community sectors.

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 Cathaoirleach Eileen Mannion who presided as Cathaoirleach for the first six months in 2018 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. Sean O'Tuairisg,
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 2018 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 co-operation.

Galway County Council was involved in a number of projects and during 2018 work continued on the resolution of flooding problems in South Galway, Ballinasloe and elsewhere and the development of the harbour at Inis Oirr with preliminary works completed on these projects, implementing Government Policy and initiatives in respect of Housing delivery and maintenance. The commencement of the Ballinasloe Town Enhancement Scheme, the operation and remediation of the East Galway Landfill, the progression of a Food Hub in Athenry, the advancement of Greenway proposals, the development of a Climate Change Strategy, the delivery of European Region of Gastronomy 2018 and among the many other initiatives across the organisation. All of these and other projects will continue to advance in 2019.

Galway County Council, working under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water, continued to progress water services projects throughout 2018. An upgrade to the Oughterard wastewater treatment plant was officially opened by the Minister of State for Natural Resources, Community Affairs & Digital Development, Sean Kyne T.D. on 13th March 2018. The extension of Lough Mask RWSS in Co. Mayo to supply Williamstown, Ballinlough, Cloonfad and Granlahan was officially opened by Ciaran Cannon T.D. Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

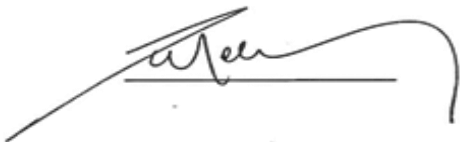
Galway County Council responded to the priority of housing delivery. The Council met the housing needs of 466 households during 2018, bringing 108 new homes into active social housing stock through build, acquisitions, voids and leasing programmes. This represents the delivery of 119% of the new build social housing target and 193% of the acquisition target. The Council also met the accommodation needs of 67 households under the Traveller Accommodation Programme in 2018 and exceeded the target under the 2014 – 2018 Programme by meeting the accommodation needs of 262 households. The Council remains on target to deliver 926 new homes by 2021 under Rebuilding Ireland.

The Council has continued to support communities and advance the economic development of the County. The Council in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport continued to advance the development of the Clifden to Galway Greenway with the completion of 6km at Ballinhinch which was opened to the public in May 2018. The Council also continued to progress the Conamara Interpretation and Infrastructure project - '*Conamara – Fiáin go smior / Wild at Heart*', in 2018 with the development of three driving routes through Conamara punctuated by 26 discovery points, with funding and assistance provided by Fáilte Ireland. This tourism initiative sets the scene for future public, private and local investment in the region by providing the vital link between existing tourism hotspots such as Kylemore Abbey and rural communities.

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. Eight projects were supported under the 2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme. 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.

Nonetheless, it has been a challenging year from both a financial and human resources perspective. Balancing the local authority budget to ensure that the many services and facilities provided by Galway County Council were maintained and enhanced in 2018 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.

I would like also to acknowledge and sincerely thank the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Sean Ó Tuairisg and former Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eileen Mannion and all Elected Members for their collective input and support in responding to the challenges in 2018. 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 2018. 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 2019.

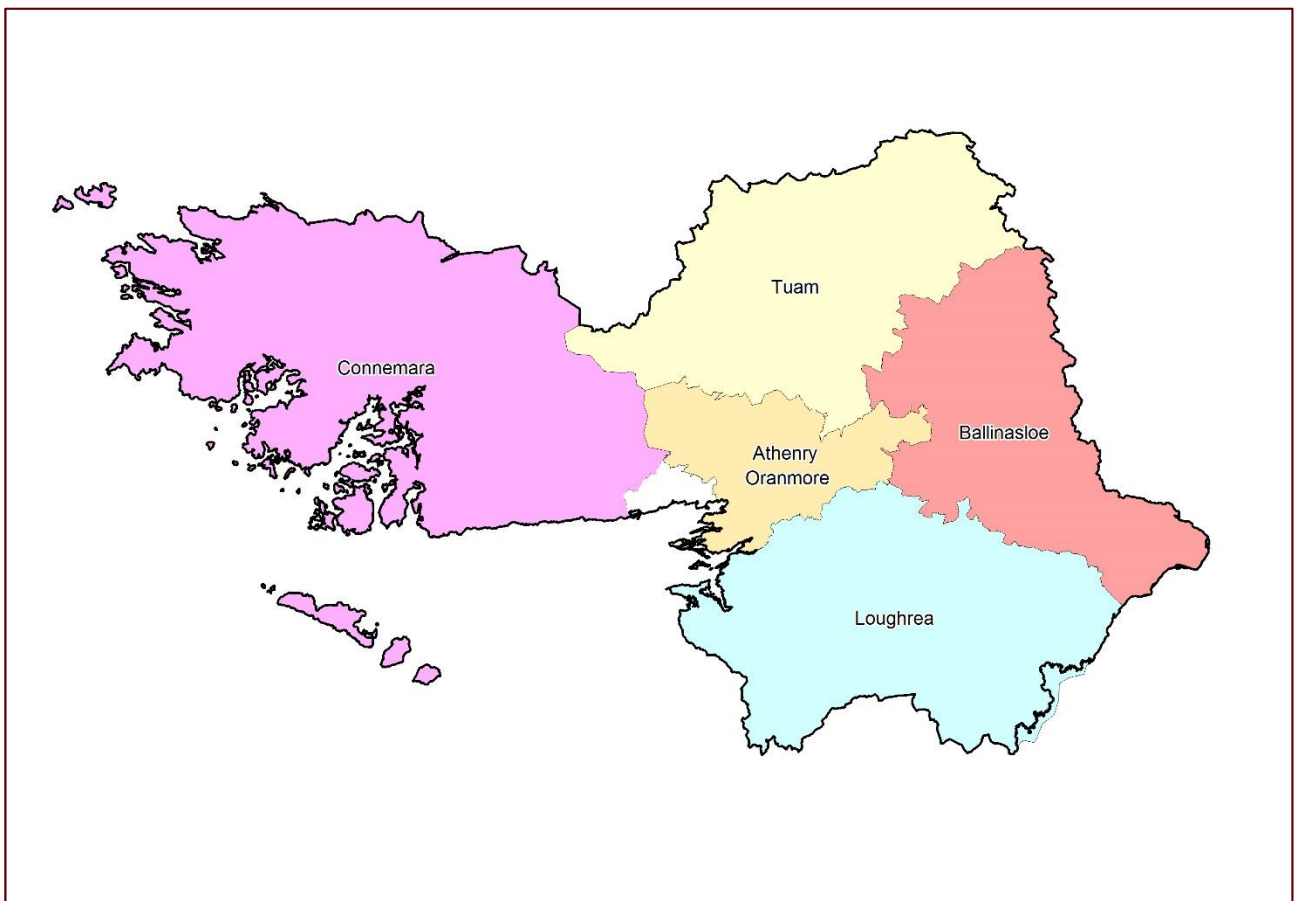


Mr. Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim)

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTORAL AREAS/ MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

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

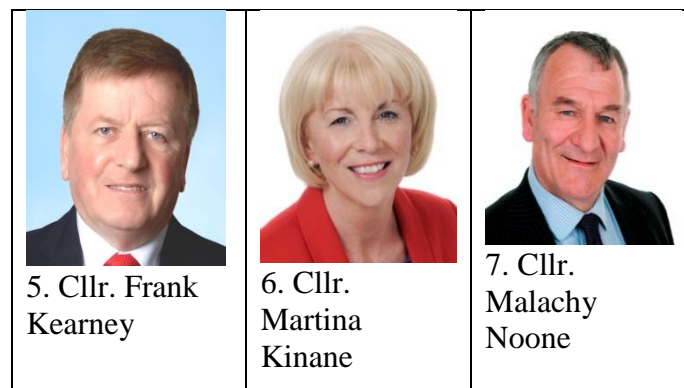


Elected Members

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, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway		087 2191792
2.Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly, Cloonkeen, Athenry, Co. Galway		087 2066810
3.Cllr. Jim Cuddy, An Laighdeacán, An Carn Mór, Oranmore, Co. Galway	091 798136	087 6360242
4.Cllr. 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 an 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

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

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA
Loughrea Electoral Area (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, Cloonassée, 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.

3 Meetings of the CPG took place in 2018.

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 2018
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

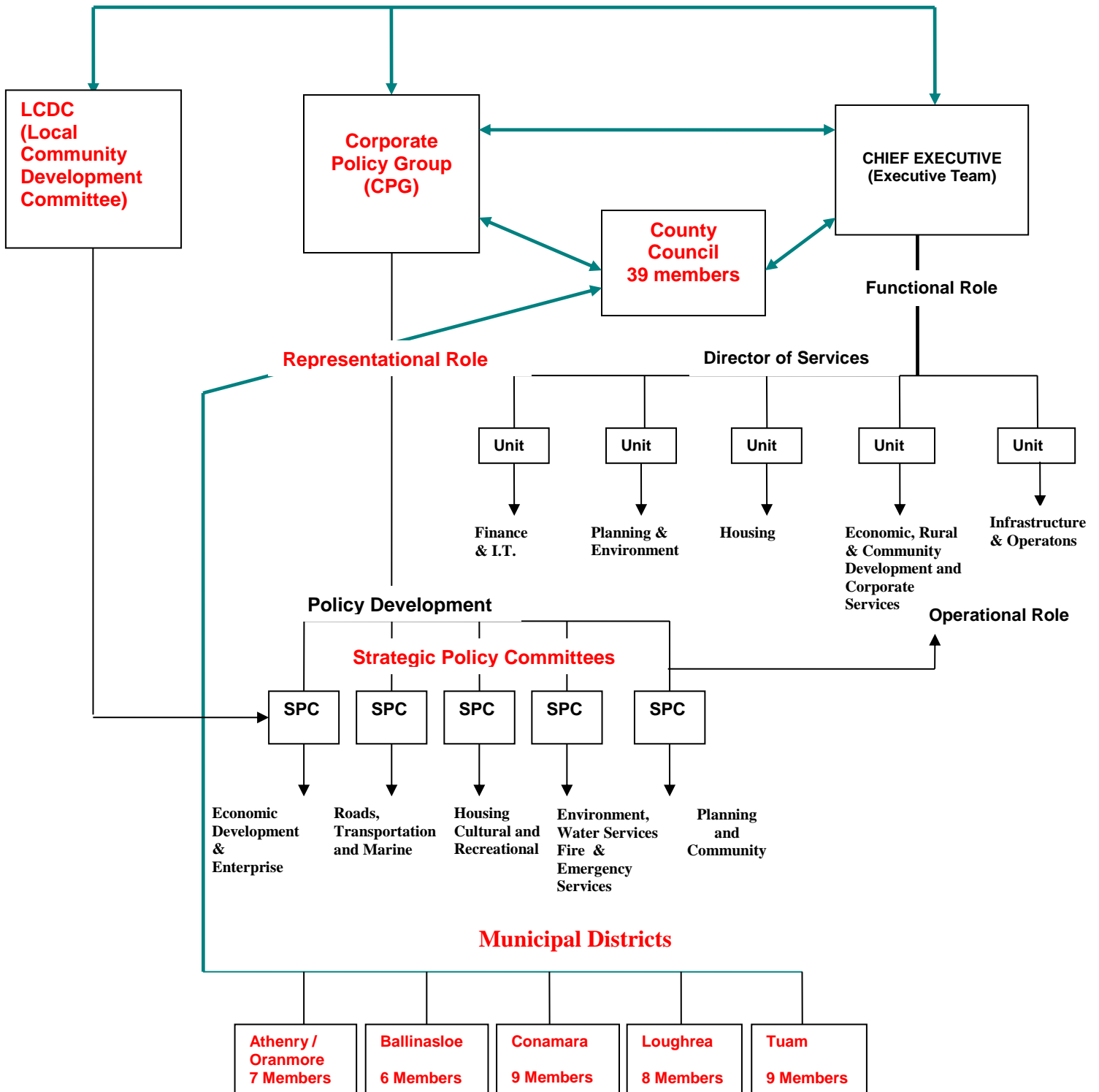
The sectoral representation is divided into 7 sectors:

- 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 2018



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 outlined 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

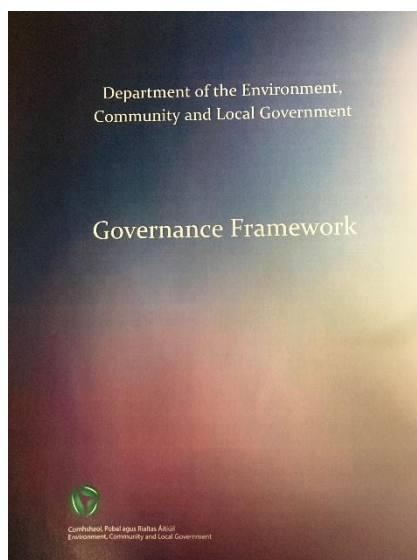
1. Ensuring that members and officials have the supports and appropriate structures they need to perform effectively in their roles.
2. Developing the capability of those with governance and leadership responsibilities to ensure outcomes achieved are consistent with good governance obligations.

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 progress achieved in the implementation of the Corporate Plan during 2018, 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 2018 Service Delivery Plan is also included on pages 235 to 262, while details of our performance against the national performance indicators is included on pages 224 to 234.

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

This Document can be located at:-

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



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

**CORPORATE SERVICES AND
ECONOMIC, RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Corporate Services

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

Progress and achievements of the Unit for 2018 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 2018 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 22nd 2018 and Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg was elected to replace Cllr. Eileen Mannion as Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Peter Keaveney was nominated to replace Cllr. Seamus Walsh as Leas-Chathaoirleach. The Council held its Annual Statutory Budget Meeting on November 30th, 2018 to consider and adopted the 2019 Revenue Budget and Three-Year Capital Programme.



Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg elected as Cathaoirleach accepting the Chain of office from outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eileen Mannion on, June 22nd 2018



Cllr. Peter Keaveney elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach accepting the Chain of office from outgoing Leas- Cathaoirleach Cllr. Seamus Walsh on, June 22nd 2018

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	3 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 2018, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work, in addressing local issues collectively and strategically.

The JPC held its regular JPC Meetings on 5th February, 15th April and 15th October 2018 and its Annual Public Meeting of the JPC was held on 5th November 2018 in Gort, in the Municipal District of Loughrea. Public meetings offer an excellent opportunity for local communities to participate and engage in relation to general policing matters affecting the policing of the County of Galway and in particular policing matters affecting their areas.

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

Membership of the JPC

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

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

Strategic Priority

To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.

Civic Receptions

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

A Civic Reception was held on 26th March 2018, at Áras an Chontae, to honour the achievements of the following:

- **Ms. Sinead Keon**, Medal Winner at the World Dwarf Games, Canada August 2017



*Ms. Sinead Keon accepting a presentation from the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion.
L-R: Mr. Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim), Ms. Sinead Keon, Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Eileen Mannion.*

- Team, Coaches and Gold Medal Winners, **Kiltormer and Eyrecourt Karate Club** on participating and winning four Gold Medals at Karatedo International Championships, Shanghai China, 2017



Mr. Shane Dolphin and Ms. Marie Dolphin accepting a presentation Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, along with members of the Kiltormer and Eyrecourt Karate Club

- **Galway County Under 16 Camogie Team** on winning a third All-Ireland in a row in 2015, 2016, 2017.



Members of the Galway County Under-16 Camogie Team together with the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion and Anne Kearney.

- **Galway Minor Camogie Team – All Ireland Winners 2017**



Members of the Galway County Minor Camogie Team together with the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, and Cllr. Frank Kearney, Cllr. J. McClearn, Comh. T. O'Curraoin, K. Kelly, Chief Executive, Gerry Helebert and Gerry Hennelly.

- **Galway U-14 Juvenile Ladies Gaelic Football - Winners of All Ireland Football Championship in 2017.**



Galway County Council hosted the visit of Mayor of the City of Boston Mr. Martin J Walsh, on 14th May 2018.



Mr. Martin J Walsh, well known as Marty Walsh, Mayor of the City of Boston, was granted with the distinction of being the first Honourary Freeman of the County of Galway at a Special Meeting of Galway County Council in Áras an Chontae on Monday, 14th May 2018. Members of Mayor Walsh's family from Conamara and Boston, distinguished guests from community, public service, community life were present at the formal Granting of the Freedom held in the Council Chamber followed by a Reception in the Atrium of Áras an Chontae.

The Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, granted the Freedom of the County of Galway to Mayor Martin J Walsh, as Gaeilge by reciting *'Is mian liom, mar Chathaoirleach ar Chontae na Gaillimhe agus mar aitheantas ar chinneadh Chomhaltaí Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, gradam Shaorfhear Oinigh Chontae na Gaillimhe a thairiscint duit mar dhuine cuí agus oiriúnach'* ('I for my part, as Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway and in recognition of the decision of Members of Galway County Council, offer you, a fit and proper person, the honour of Freeman of the County of Galway.



Alan Farrell, Kevin Kelly, Eileen Mannion (Cathaoirleach) Ger Mularkey, Michael Owens, Eimear Dolan, Martin J. Walsh, Eileen Ruane.



To confirm the Granting of the Freedom of the County of Galway to Mr. Martin J. Walsh from the Members of Galway County Council, Mayor Walsh was then presented with a special limited-edition book 'Conamara & Aran' by Walter Pfeiffer, published by Artisan House Conamara in 2017.

Mayor Walsh was then invited to sign the Leabhar Saoirse and the historic event recorded him as the First Freeman of the County of Galway which led to a standing ovation in the Chamber from Members and all those present. The Cathaoirelach and the Chief Executive then as Chief Witnesses signed Mayor Walsh's Freedom Scroll.

Mayor Walsh reserved a special thank you to the Members and Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway for the Honorary Freeman of the County and expressed his deep gratitude and said that as the first Freeman of the County it was a particular honour for him which he will cherish. Treasa Ní Cheannbháin then stilled the room and sang a Sean Nós piece reflecting the sailing tradition and history of South Conamara and especially composed verses referring to Mayor Walsh, his Conamara and Boston connections.

Mayor Walsh was presented then with a gift by the Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Members and Galway County Council and people of Galway, a specially commissioned wall painting by Conamara Carpets designed and made in Letterfrack Co. Galway for the occasion. This was a bespoke and unique commission to reflect the colours textures and tones of the Conamara Landscape.

Following the formal proceedings, Mayor Walsh met the Guests present from community, cultural and public service and many of the business community present including a number of Boston based companies providing employment in Galway.

Galway All-Ireland Minor Hurling Champions 2018

A Civic Welcome and Homecoming, hosted by the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Sean Ó'Tuairisg and Galway County Council, took place in Ballinasloe on Monday August 20th, 2018 to honour the All-Ireland Hurling success of the Galway Minor Hurling Team and the Galway Senior Hurling Team All-Ireland Finalists on the 19th August 2018 in Croke Park.

The Galway Minor Hurling Team claimed their second consecutive All-Ireland following a seven-point victory over Kilkenny in Croke Park.



L-R: Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg, Sean Neary, Captain Galway Minor Hurling Team, Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim), with the Irish Press Cup

Approximately 8,000 people gathered in the Fairgreen in Ballinasloe town for the homecoming celebrations to catch their first glimpse of Galway's All-Ireland winning team.

The excitement started to build from when the people started to arrive from about 2pm, 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



Shane Jennings Galway Minor Hurling Captain, with the Irish Press Cup, with Mr. Jeffrey Lynskey Team Manager, on their arrival in Ballinasloe for the Civic Welcome & Homecoming



Shane Jennings with the Irish Press Cup on his arrival to Ballinasloe, with Fran McEvoy, Town Engineer Ballinasloe.



Minor All-Ireland Hurling Team on stage at the Civic Welcome & Homecoming in Ballinasloe

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





The victorious minor team signed hurleys, and posed for pictures with the Irish Press cup while the senior team finalists were being honoured and speeches held.



Shane Jennings signing autographs and posing for photographs for supporters at the Homecoming in Ballinasloe

The senior team All-Ireland finalists then took the stage in the Ballinasloe Fairgreen to the delight of their fans.



The senior team members were introduced individually to the delighted crowd.



Image of the crowd that attended the Civic Welcome & Homecoming in Ballinasloe



Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Comh. Sean Ó'Tuairisg addresses the jubilant crowd



Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Comh. Sean Ó'Tuairisg, David Burke Galway Senior Team Captain, Kevin Kelly Chief Executive (Interim) Galway County Council



Ballinasloe MD Elected members Cllr. Michael Finnerty and Cllr. Donal Burke with the Cathaoirleach of the County, Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg at the Homecoming for the Minor and Senior All-Ireland Hurling Teams



Cllr. Mary Hoade, with her daughter Rachel Scully and Cllr. Michael Connolly with his grandchildren Ciara and Clodagh at the Civic Welcome & Homecoming



Cllr. Joe Byrne, Cllr. Aidan Donohue, Deputy Anne Rabbitt Cllr. Shane Donnellan, Deputy Ciaran Cannon, Kevin Kelly CE Galway County Council attending the Civic Welcome & Homecoming in Ballinasloe.



Cllr. Dermot Connolly with his son, Greallan, with Shane Jennings at the Civic Welcome & Homecoming



Comh. T. O'Curraoin, Seamus Callanan GAA Co-Ordinator, Geraldine Healy Event Organising Committee Galway County Council, Seamus Duffy Chairman Ballinasloe GAA, Pat Kearney Galway GAA Chairman at the Civic Welcome & Homecoming in Ballinasloe



*Galway County Council staff working at the Civic Welcome & Homecoming –
L-R: Una Ní Eidhin, Carol Walsh, Steven Lally, Geraldine Healy, Olivia Cloonan.*

It was a memorable afternoon for all - Well done and congratulations to the All-Ireland winning Minor Hurling team.

Twinning

Tuam has a long-standing town twinning relationship with the Bavarian town of Straubing.

In October 2018, 34 secondary 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.



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.



Spectators admiring dancers from a delegation from San Patricio Mexico at the Clifden Twinning event

In August 2018, a delegation from Galway County Council, led by the leas-Chathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Peter Keaveney, attended the 38th Annual on Milwaukee Irish Fest. The delegation also visited Washington County as the County of Galway is twinned with Washington County, Wisconsin, USA, since 2003.



Ruth Moran and Billy Condon, both Tourism Ireland; Brian O'Brien, Consul General of Ireland to Chicago and the Midwest USA; Breda Keaveney; Minister Pat Breen; Leas-Chathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Peter Keaveney, Bernie Donnellan and Ger Mullarkey, Galway County Council, pictured at the 38th annual Milwaukee Irish Fest.

Galway Associations

The contribution of the Galway Associations in supporting the Galway Diaspora was acknowledged with Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway accepting an invitation from the Galway Association Bedfordshire to attend their Annual Dinner Dance in February 2018.

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 2018/2019 was published on the 1st February, 2018.

The total number of Electors on the 2018/2019 Register of Electors is 137,782.

There was a Referendum on Repealing the Eight Amendment which was held on Friday 25th May, 2018.

The Presidential Election and Referendum on Blasphemy was held on 26th October, 2018.

The Draft Register of Electors was prepared in line with statutory deadlines in November 2018 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 157 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2018 under the Freedom of Information Act.

Of these, 36 no. sought access to personal information, 117 no. sought access to non-personal information and 4 no. were mixed.

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	59
Requests Part-Granted	38
Requests Refused	48
Requests Withdrawn	5
Requests Transferred	2
Requests granted outside of FOI	5

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

A total of 9 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2018 under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 – 2014.

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	3
Requests Part-Granted	5
Requests Refused	0
Requests Withdrawn/Transferred	1

Strategic Priority

To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise.

OPERATION OF MARKETS, CASUAL TRADING & FILM LICENCES

Casual Trading Licences are issued annually on payment of a fee for a number of towns and villages throughout the County including Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Dunmore, Gort, 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 Gleann an Mháma Fair, the Clifden Pony Show as well as the Kinvara (Cuckoo and Cruinniú 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.



Pictured with President Michael D. Higgins at Ballinasloe Fair & Festival 2018 are visitors from Chalonne Sur Loire in France which is Twinned with Ballinasloe.



President of Ireland Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina with the Cathairleach of the County of Galway, Comh. Sean Ó Tuairisg at the Ballinasloe Horse Fair 2018



View of the Ballinasloe Horse Fair

CASUAL TRADING BAYS

Annual Licences	
Area	No. of Licences Issued
Athenry	4
Ballinasloe (St. Michael's Square)	11
Clifden	6
Dunmore	2
Gort	7
Headford	1
Loughrea	2
Mountbellew	5
Tuam	9

Special Event Licences	
Area	No. of Licences Issued
Athenry Christmas Market	1
Ballinasloe Fair	108
Ballinasloe (St. Michael's Sq.)	39
Ballinasloe Christmas Market	2
Ballygar Festival	16
Clifden Pony Show	17
Clifden Festivals	3
Dunmore Festival	33
Kinvara – Cruinniú na mBád	8
Loughrea Medieval Festival	15
Gleann an Mháma Fair	18
Tuam Christmas Market	1

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

FILM LICENCES

Requests (22no.) 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 playgrounds in our main towns. In accordance with previous commitments under the Council's Play Policy, assistance has been provided to playgrounds through direct funding and provision of insurance. To-date, a total of 66 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 2018. 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 2018 as it assists Community Wardens carry out inspections using their smartphones and submit reports automatically. Reports are automatically filed providing a record of weekly inspections required for maintenance and insurance purposes.

Inclusive Play

The pleasure and sensation of using a swing can be experienced by children who use wheelchairs following the launch by Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway in March 2018 of wheelchair-friendly swings in the Palace Grounds Playground in Tuam and the public playground, to the rear of the Coral Leisure Centre, in Ballinasloe by Galway County Council.

Galway County Council acknowledges the support and assistance received from the Ballinasloe Accessibility Group, Brothers of Charity (Ballinasloe), Tuam Wheelchair Association, St. Oliver's Special School (Tuam) and the staff of both Coral Leisure Centres on these projects and the funding support received from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.



Members of Tuam Wheelchair Association & St. Oliver's Special School (Tuam) with L-R: Cllr. Tom McHugh, Christy Corcoran Community Warden, Cllr. Donagh Killilea, Marian Donohue Corporate Services GCC, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Cllr. Mary Hoade and Cllr. Karey McHugh



Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, with Annmarie Jordan & Terry McComish Larkin Engineering.



Cathairleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, officially opening the accessibility measures undertaken in Ballinasloe with Cllr. Michael Finnerty, Cllr. Aidan Donohue, Cllr. Michael Finnerty and members of Accessibility Ballinasloe



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

Water Safety Programme

The Water Safety Programme involved the recruitment of a panel of 42 trained Lifeguards to provide services at ten locations in the County [including Six Blue Flag Beaches] and at six locations in the City as part of a Shared Service Agreement with Galway City Council, with two lifeguards provided at all beaches in compliance with International Lifeguarding Federation of Europe (ILSE).

Lifeguard Induction training was held on 25th May 2018 and 29th June 2018. Services commenced on the 2nd June and continued until the 9th September 2018 and went full-time, a week earlier than usual, from the 25th June 2018, due to the spell of good weather experienced at the time.

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

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

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

Concessions were continued in 2018 to permit applicants to sell ice creams and soft drinks at Traught Beach, Kinvara, Beach at Céibh Nua an Spidéil, Na Forbacha Beach and An Trá Mhór Indreabhán, for the summer season.

Swimming Pools / Leisure Centres (Tuam and Ballinasloe)

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

Essential maintenance and health & safety works have been overseen for both Leisure Centres with each centre receiving investment in the infrastructure of the building and its equipment. These improvement works included replacement of external fire exit doors, refurbishment of the sauna room, tiling works. The Management Company continues to promote and grow its membership base.



Tuam Leisure Centre

Facilities Management - Office Accommodation and Libraries

- The Facilities Section continued to provide caretaking and facilities management services for the Council's building network of offices and libraries, of which 26 no. are directly owned by Galway County with the balance being leased. There are presently 38 different types of planned preventative maintenance contracts in place which give rise to over 1500 different inspections across this network of buildings.
- Occupancy levels in a number of areas here in County Hall have exceeded the available capacity necessitating for the requirement to complete some refurbishment works on the ground floor and the first floor to facilitate the provision of additional office and meeting room accommodation for the Housing and Finance Units.
- The Facilities Unit continued to undertake procurement processes for a range of facilities management related contracts to ensure value for money and quality of services are maintained.
-
- A CCTV register was established for all Offices & Libraries to comply with the requirements of GDPR.

Energy Management & Energy Reduction Initiatives

- Energy efficiency monitoring and management continued to be a priority focus in the facilities unit. Display Energy Certificates were completed and put on display for 18 offices and libraries which are greater than 250 sqm.
- County Hall continues to improve its operational Building Energy Rating (BER), on its Display Energy Certificate for 2018 being a B3.

Health and Safety

- The Unit continued to deliver on its requirements under the Safety Management Programme in areas such as PAT testing, periodic testing of electrical installations, VDU assessments for all Offices and Libraries.
- Health & Safety Inspections are carried out on a regular basis in line with implementation of the Council's Health & Safety Management Plan.

Safety works were completed at Westside Library to remove an oil tank and cage to the rear of the building in the interest

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 and is owned jointly by Galway County Council and Galway City Council. It is a designated location on the 'Wild Atlantic Way'. It is used extensively by local residents, visitors and local organisations such as Scouting Groups.

A seasonal Caretaker was employed by the Council from March to October.

A concession for the provision of refreshments at Renville Park from March to October was continued.

The Parks' Maintenance Programme continued to be delivered in partnership with local groups.



Palace Grounds, Tuam

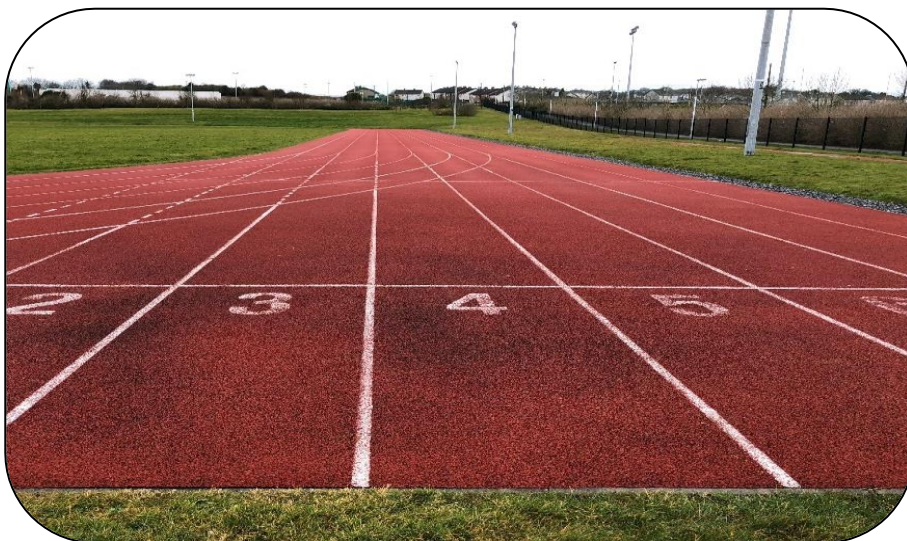
Support was provided for Palace Grounds Park area in Tuam and a maintenance programme was implemented by the Tuam Municipal District Office in association with a Council sponsored Community Employment (CE) Scheme.



Dunlo Athletic Track Ballinasloe

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

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



Tuam All Weather Pitches

Tuam All Weather Pitches continued to be operated under a Licence Agreement put in place with Tuam Celtic Football Club. 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.

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 2018.

Funding was awarded to several groups under these schemes with works required to be completed by the end of 2018.

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 2018, 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 2018, 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, included as follows:

- The Loughrea Remembered Conference entitled ‘1918 Ireland: Political and Social Change’ was held on 15th November 2018. This event was undertaken in partnership with Loughrea Memorial Group.

- A Conference entitled ‘Pioneering Women in Irish History’ was held in the Corralea Court Hotel, Tuam on 3rd November which showcased a lot of new research and knowledge in relation to the contribution made by women to our society, economy and political life down through the ages.
- A Conference entitled ‘Women: their contribution to Irish History & Society’ was held on 23rd October in Moylough, Co. Galway.
- Work continued on the ‘Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail (bi-lingual) Signage Project’ in 2018. 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 2019.



Dr Conor McNamara NUIG, Joe Loughnane Loughrea Memorial Group, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway Cllr. Sean Ó Tuairisg, Aisling Mitchell Galway Libraries, Steve Dolan Portumna Workhouse, Colman Shaughnessy Loughrea Memorial Group at the Conference on 1918 Ireland: Political and Social Change held in Loughrea

CREATIVE IRELAND PROGRAMME

Launch of 5-year Galway County Culture and Creativity Strategy

In Sept 2018, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD., was joined by Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Josepha Madigan TD., and Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD., for the launch of Galway County Council's Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 - 2022, as part of the all-of-government Creative Ireland Programme.

This ambitious and innovative 5-year Culture and Creativity Strategy had been developed by the Galway County Culture Team and local Creative Ireland Programme coordinator, in consultation with local artists, creatives, cultural and heritage organisations, community groups, the creative industries, centres of education and schools. The Strategy aims to provide meaningful opportunities for citizens and local communities, together with our Local Authorities, to nurture, sustain and facilitate participation in cultural and creative activities.

Creative Ireland Programme

The Creative Ireland Programme 2018 offered a wide range of initiatives programmed by the Galway County Culture Team. Projects included: **Sewing a Seed – Archives to Arts** which aimed to introduce a new audience – the artistic community – to our rich documentary heritage and to encourage the formation of links with the archives. Artists were invited to view the archives and to then explore, interpret and re-interpret items, finding inspiration for their work from the materials. A publication and exhibition was curated in Tuam Library in collaboration with the Archives. Other projects included; Ballinasloe Strings Festival (Library Service); The Moveable Feast – Headford (Arts Office), Architecture at the Edge 2018 (Conservation Officer), Community Digital Project (Heritage Office); Galway's Great Read (Library Service); Prop Art in Conamara (Arts Office); Féile Raifteirí; Gastronomy Heritage Project (Heritage Office); Déan É (Library Service); Collaborative Community Architectural Project (Conservation Office) and a number of Creative Ireland Bursaries were awarded to community groups and organisations to develop programmes to enable groups and individuals to realise their full creative potential.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2018

Cruinniú na nÓg was a new national day of creativity for children and young people which took place on Saturday the 23rd June 2018 and was funded by the Creative Ireland Programme.

Children and young people were invited to celebrate this inaugural festival, in 'making' 'doing' and 'creating'.

The County Galway programme included over 25 listings, spread across 16 locations, with a broad range of activities suitable for children from 6 months to 18 years. Events took place from Inis Oírr to Ballinasloe, An Cheathrú Rua to Gort. Libraries and venues opened their doors to welcoming children and teens, the children of Moylough, Loughrea and Athenry were invited to grab their cushions and hang on tight with acclaimed storyteller Niall de Búrca.



The under 4's (and their adults!) joined Branar Téatar do Pháistí in Ballinasloe Library for a performance of their show "The Shape of Things"; the Immersive Classroom project presented a virtual and augmented reality workshop for children aged 9 -12 years in Oranmore and Tuam Library.

The Irish Workhouse in Portumna hosted a full day of activities including a jewellery workshop with award winning designer Vivienne Martin, an origami workshop with Artist-in-Residence Jenny Wood-Sullivan and a big trad session with Noreen Ryan. Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua agus an Spidéil also hosted a puppet theatre and workshops with Little Gem Puppets. All events were free to the public and it was programmed on behalf of Galway County Council by the Arts Office and Library Service.



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 2018 were:

Lá na Gaeilge

In March, a special event, ‘Lá na Gaeilge’, was organised during Seachtain na Gaeilge (1-17 March 2018), in which an opportunity was given to local members of the public, businesses, community groups and so on, who conduct their business through Irish, to showcase their work to the general public in Áras an Chontae for the day. A musical showcase was also organized during this time, in which a primary school group from County Galway performed for staff and the general public.



Children from Bullaun N.S. with the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion at the Lá na Gaeilge' event in County Hall.

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiaraís 2018 / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships 2018
Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiaraís 2018 / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships 2018 were provided again this year by Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in collaboration with Summer Colleges in Conamara. 10 scholarships in total were provided to second level students in the County of Galway to attend Gaeltacht Summer Courses.

Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh / Pádraig Pearse Summer School

The fourth annual Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh / Pádraig Pearse Summer School was held in Conamara (Ros Muc and Indreabhán) over the course of two days, on the 26/27 July 2018. It celebrated the life of Pádraig Pearse, his vision and issues that he was very passionate about: Irish language, education, literature, culture and lots more.



Musicians taking part in Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh / Pádraig Pearse Summer School



Dancers and Musicians taking part in Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh / Pádraig Pearse Summer School



Discussion Panel at the Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh / Pádraig Pearse Summer School

(Images: Galway County Council/Photographer Seán Ó Máinín)

Community Support Grants

The Irish language was specifically included as a category in the Community Support Scheme in 2018. Small scale grants totalling €5,000.00 were approved for projects in Schools, Community & Voluntary Organisations to support the promotion and increased use of the Irish language.

Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga

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

General promotion of Gaeilge

- Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe continued its support of the promotion of Irish in communities throughout the County through the Glór na nGael Award, which was presented to Comharchumann Mhic Dara, An Cheathrú Rua, in March 2018, and also by helping to promote events as Gaeilge e.g National Heritage Week, Europe Direct Dialogue, etc through the Irish Language media.
- Irish language classes (beginner and intermediate levels) were organised for staff of the local authority and classes were also available for Councillors.

- An Award for the Irish Language continued to be included in the Cathaoirleach's Awards this year for Gaeltacht and Non-Gaeltacht communities and schools.
- Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe continued to work in partnership with other organisations, inform them of our Language Scheme and ensure that the measures of the Scheme were implemented where such was within the Council's control. Support and advice was provided, along with proofing services.
- Information and consultation continues to be provided to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation.
- Website content approval procedure continues to be implemented in association with Customer Services and IS, to ensure bilingualism on www.galway.ie / www.gaillimh.ie, in line with our language scheme and legislation.
- Mobile Simultaneous translation equipment continued to be used at Council meetings or other meetings at which translation may have been required.
- Drafting of the Third Language Scheme for Galway County Council was underway and an internal review of the Second Language Scheme was also in the final stages.



Neasa Ní Chuanaigh with Puppets of Fibín at the Lá na Gaeilge' event in County Hall

Strategic Priority

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

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 over 200 community clean ups in 2018.
- 1207 investigations under Air Pollution, Waste Management and Water Pollution legislation were carried out in 2018, 424 of which were initiated from the Community Wardens routine inspections.
- Environmental Enforcement including the issuing of Litter fines and notices under the Waste Management and Water pollution Acts continued to be undertaken by the Warden Service. 187 litter fines were issued in 2018.
- 282 surveys were carried out by the Community Wardens Service in relation to litter pollution in accordance with National Service indicators.
- Businesses in the County continued to be inspected by the Community Wardens Service in relation to compliance under the waste management producer responsibility categories, e.g. compliance in relation to plastic bag levy, packaging, waste tyres, WEEE, waste batteries, hazardous waste disposal.
- The Wardens continued to assist with the operation of pay parking and the implementation of traffic management plans in a number of towns across the County. Up to 1600 traffic fines were issued during 2018.
- Community Wardens continued to assist the Housing Section in implementing the Control of Horses Act 1996 among other duties.
- Dog Licensing inspection campaigns also continued throughout the year.
- The Wardens continued to implement the provisions of the Roads Act 1993, in relation to abandoned vehicles, with vehicles identified, reported and removed as necessary throughout the year.



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

CORONERS SERVICE

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

A revised Funeral Directors Scheme (for Funeral Directors who signed agreement to the Scheme) came into effect on 1st January 2018.

Strategic Priority

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

Customer Services

- The email address, customerservices@galwaycoco.ie and gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie remains a central point of access to information for Staff and Customers alike. Staff are asked to submit information on projects, campaigns, events, works etc. so that the Customer Services Team are aware what events are taking place across the Council and are better informed to handle queries. The general public can also email these addresses with general queries, which are acknowledged and directed to the relevant sections as required for their attention and direct reply.
- The Customer Services Officers Group (CSOG) continued to meet over 2018. The CSOG is comprised of staff representatives from all the main service areas.
- Customer Services continued to moderate and process Fix Your Street cases and follow up on outstanding cases with relevant sections. Fix Your Street is a national programme and is an on-line public forum where issues can be submitted by location to the relevant local authority.
- The centralised system for Public Notices continued in 2018 to enhance our Corporate Image in the Print Media, to generate savings through shared advertising space and also meet our requirements under National Procurement Framework. Advance copies of public notices prior to notices appearing in the various newspapers appear on Social Media and are sent to Elected Members with relevant contact details included.
- Customer Services is the central point of contact on behalf of Galway County Council for the new government portal for Public Consultations.
- Customer Services continues to maintain the system of re-formatting new application forms and updating existing forms when requested. We now have 215 forms and memorandums in total on our register/coding system, available via our website.
- Door access system cards and car park fobs continue to be issued and maintained by Customer Services.
- A newly formatted poster version of the Customer Charter, Code of Conduct and Services through Irish was made available at all Council public counters.

Customer Services Desk and Communications Centre

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

- Corporate Services staff based in Customer Services are assigned to support the Mobile Phone Policy of the organisation and day to day administration of the account.

Communications and Social Media

- Further increased use of Social Media (Twitter, FB) with 9,136 followers on Facebook and 12,451 followers on Twitter as of December 2018 and this is continuing to grow on a daily basis.

Social Media has been integrated with Advertising and other Promotional Campaigns of the Council and specific attention given to the use of Social Media during severe weather events. There has been an increase in the posting of events on behalf of staff with a focus on Road Works, Water Disruptions and any other day to day events happening throughout the County. The Customer Services team participated in 'Our Council Day' twitter campaign nationally as coordinated by the LGMA.

INTERNAL AUDIT**Internal Audit**

The 2018 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 8 areas for audit examination with audit reports on the following areas completed and presented to the Audit Committee at various meetings held during 2018,

- Review of The Risk Management Framework (2017 Audit Plan)
- Accounts Payable Role in The Purchase to Pay Cycle
- In depth checks on capital and revenue expenditure as part of the Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report to the National Audit Oversight Committee.
- Compliance Testing of the terms and conditions of use of Low Value Purchase Cards and Fuel Cards.
- 2017 Regional & Local Road Grant Allocation

The following audits from the 2018 work plan were commenced during 2018, completed in January 2019 and presented to the Audit Committee at the March 2019 meeting

- Expenditure & Recoupment on a sample of Housing Capital Projects
- Review of the Division of Roles between HR & Payroll Units under The My Pay Service Level Agreement

The following audit reports from the 2018 Audit Plan are pending agreement and due to be presented to the Audit Committee in April 2019:

- Corporate Governance Issues- Customer Complaints, FOI requests, Registers Of Electors- (Deletions and Additions), Ethics -Declaration of interests for staff and members
- 2017 Schedule of Uncollected Rates

Throughout 2018 ongoing reviews were carried out on issues raised in the Local Government Auditors report on the 2016 Annual Financial Statement.

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

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

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 2018. 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 2018 is 28,286.

In 2018 we had **621,524** visits to our libraries and we issued **619,577** items (NOAC indicator);

Internet desktop sessions were **45201** and **51741** wi-fi sessions.

17667 e-books and 15894 e-audio books were downloaded by Galway members.

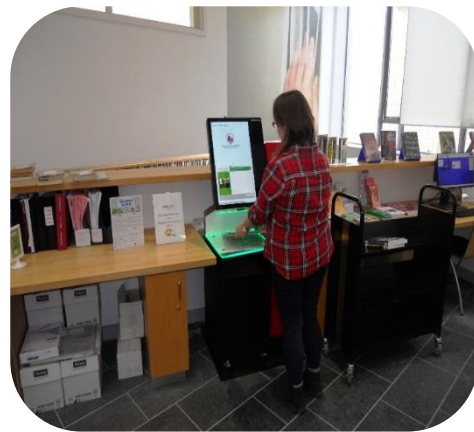
Compared to 2017, in 2018 our e-book loan usage increased by 54% and our e-audio loans increased by 109%

Indicative Activities in 2018:

- Library usage continued to increase in 2018. The Library Service of Galway County Council is one of the most heavily used services in Ireland and libraries are established FREE civic and cultural centres in their communities.
- Libraries remain the most visited public spaces in County Galway, with **621,524** visits in 2018.
- National library strategy launched – *Our Public Libraries 2022 Inspiring, connecting and empowering communities*
- The National Distribution service continues to prove popular. In 2018 we had **44,279** requests filled. Public reaction has been hugely positive to this service due to the

accessibility of out of print titles, the availability of course books and access to new titles. The community library has now become an important educational aid in more isolated areas of the county and being able to order books online and collect them locally has increased the relevance of the library.

- Ballygar and Woodford library were both computerised.
- Digital Literacy programmes continued including the continuance of IT classes in bigger branch libraries, facilitated by Age Action, Vodafone, Digitise the Nation and Rural Alliance.
- Staff training on the use of online resources and active promotion of same has contributed to the significant rise in usage.
- Customer led IT solutions included extending SurfBox to a number of libraries. SurfBox allows members of the public to send a print job to a printer in their local library. The print job can be sent from home, and it is released and collected at the library. In 2018 Surfbox was extended to Clifden and Oranmore. It is now available in Galway City, Ballybane, Oranmore, Ballinasloe, Westside, Tuam and Clifden. Work is nearly complete on providing a Surfbox service as gaeilge.
- Self-service technology was introduced to several branch libraries in 2018 including Tuam, Galway City, Ballybane, Loughrea, Clifden, Portumna, Athenry and An Cheathrú Rua;
- ICT funding has been accessed in 2018 to provide for the up-grade of ICT in branch libraries, including public access PC's, digital learning, digital signage and collaborative STEAM learning.
- ISO45001 accreditation was achieved for the Library Service as part of overall accreditation process.



Surf-box allows library users to send a print job from home and call down to collect it.

National Library Initiatives:

- **Healthy Ireland @ your library:**

The Department of Health has seen the potential to work with Public Libraries across Ireland, to deliver the Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme which aims to establish libraries as a valuable source within the community for health information. The Healthy Ireland at your Library Programme addresses 6 key areas: **Healthy Childhood, Healthy Eating and Active Living, Wellbeing and Mental Health, Positive Ageing, Alcohol and Tobacco.**

- The Programme enhances current health information in Galway Libraries by providing a comprehensive collection of new books, e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines & online courses on health and wellbeing. The Healthy Ireland Book Stock and online resources have been complimented by a series of talks, discussions and workshops with a focus on physical health, mental health and health literacy, these are ongoing.
- In 2018 91 events have taken place in Galway Libraries with **1,151** people attending. Topics covered have been Heart Health, Dementia Awareness, Healthy Ageing, Fitness for life, Growing fruit and vegetables. Information sessions have also taken place on Cancer Care and Prevention, by the National Screening Service and screening by Diabetes Ireland.
- Where suitable collaboration with Healthy Galway has taken place in maximizing publicity and event up-take eg Lá Sláinte na Mara in na Forbacha, Women's Health Day, Headford and Lawrencetown Community Programme.
- Work has commenced on delivering a cross-group programme to the Island communities as part of a Healthy Islands initiative.



Catherina McKiernan launching Healthy Ireland at your library programme – Ballinasloe



Liz Keane storytime at Lawrencetown Community Event



Chef Neven Maguire stopping by the library stand at the Glenamaddy Show

Work Matters:

- *Work Matters* is a service to support (together with local partners) people seeking employment, up-skilling or developing small businesses.
 - It includes dedicated, branded spaces with computers, broadband and wi-fi, printing and scanning facilities.
 - Book-stock and online resources to support employment and business activities
 - Expertise of library staff providing support through the relevant resources
 - Events and programming on business and work-related topics.
 - *Work Matters* and Online Resources brochure developed.
- *Work Matters* areas have been developed in Clifden, Portumna, Oranmore, Loughrea, Tuam, Ballinasloe and Galway City.



Work Matters Area Clifden and Loughrea Library



Right to Read

- **Children's events** – *Spring into Storytime* was delivered in branch libraries in April, delivering story times to branches throughout the county.
- *Children's Book Festival* was successfully run in October 2018 in conjunction with Galway County Council Arts Office. The month was launched in Athenry library and over 500 children enjoyed 40 events.
- The **Summer Reading Challenge** took place throughout the county with 4,600 children registering for the challenge and 3,000 completing. The National launch of Summer Stars took place in Oranmore library in July, launched by Minister Sean Kyne.
- Award ceremonies took place in branches in September and October.
- **Silent or wordless books** are those that can be 'read' by anyone as they have no words only pictures. Training on the use of the books was facilitated by author Debbie Thomas. Collections were purchased for some branch libraries and the Schools service.
- **Read your mind collections** were purchased for the library service. A bibliotherapy project allowing young people to borrow books to engage them in learning new ways to support their own mental health.



Spring into Storytime – Oughterard



Cathaoirleach Cllr Séan Ó Tuairisg and Minister Sean Kyne at the National Launch of the Summer Star Reading Initiative – Oranmore Library



Summer Star participant



Summer Star's Prizegiving – An Spidéal



Ceathrú Rua Library

- *Stuffed* a teen graphic novel project in Tuam was facilitated by Galway County Arts Office.
- Creative Ireland projects in 2018 have included:
 - Déan é, Galway's Great Read, Strings festival and *Look beyond our world*
 - Cruinniú na nÓg was celebrated on June 23rd, facilitated by Creative Ireland in several library branches throughout the municipal districts.
 - Déan é was delivered in library branches in November as part of libraries commitment to STEAM.
 - Lego clubs were established in Tuam, Portumna, Ballinasloe and Westside.
 - One Book One Town; Both Tuam and Galway City Libraries participated in 2018



Stuffed Launch Tuam Library – Alan Nolan (author), Catherine Gallagher, Co Librarian, participants, Sharon O'Grady, Arts Officer and Jo Vahey, Exec. Librarian



Déan É workshop as part of *Make a day of it* at Woodford Library; a day-long programme of events as part of Social Inclusion Week

Adult events –

- Fermata a collaborative project between Ballybane, Westside and Galway City library book clubs and Galway Music Residency encouraging literature and music.
- Continued expansion of Galway's Great Read programme, funded by Creative Ireland. 2018 featured *Women of the West: Art, Citizenship and Literature*; the event schedule commenced with a recreation of the visit of Christabel Pankhurst to Galway in 1911, where she spoke at the Town Hall. Events were delivered throughout the county and concluded with a gala evening in Ballinasloe. This event also forms part of our Decade of Commemoration programme.
- Westside Public Library in conjunction with community partners delivered the Westside Arts festival, Oranmore participated in the local arts festival.
- Event programme on the mobile library service at Lawrencetown and Central Park Nursing Home, Clonberne.
- Participation with Winterage festival in Gort library
- Outreach events were facilitated at Glenamaddy, Na Forbacha, Headford and as part of the Loving Galway festival.
- Support for Culture Night 2018 for Galway in conjunction with the Arts Office.
- Continue to support Galway Age Friendly City and County Programme.
- Worked collaboratively with Galway2020 to support delivery of programmes.
- Continued involvement with various festivals throughout the county and city including Cúirt Festival, Babaro, Shorelines and East Galway Art Trail.
- Europe Direct centres in Ballinasloe and An Cheathrú Rua continue to facilitate a number of annual events, both in branch and outreach. First Citizen's Dialogue as Gaeilge took place in An Cheathrú Rua library in November.
- Bliain na Gaeilge was celebrated in An Spidéal, An Cheathrú Rua, Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Galway City and through the Schools Library service.
- Bealtaine Festival in May was celebrated in a number of libraries.
- Mike McCormack won the International Dublin Literary Award, he was nominated by Galway Library service for the award.
- Art exhibitions, book clubs, book launches etc.



Tom Quinn, performing at Strings festival in Ballinasloe at 99 years of age!



Mary Clancy, NUIG, actors and Sharleen McAndrew, library service at the launch of Galway's Great Read, Town Hall Theatre



Jennifer Laverty performing as part of Galway's Great Read Portumna Library



Jo Vahey, Sharon O'Grady, Kevin Kelly Chief Executive, Martina Fitzgerald, Catherine Gallagher and Mary Clancy at the Galway Great Read Gala Evening, Ballinasloe Library



Siobhán Arkins, Exec. Librarian Galway City Library holding Solar Bones by Mike McCormack, winner of the International Dublin Literary Award. Siobhán had recommended Solar Bones as the Galway nomination



Author John Connell in Gort Library as part of the Winterage festival

- French book collections were launched in Clifden and Oranmore
- Social Inclusion Week and Galway Pride Week were supported in branch libraries.
- New Book drops were provided for Headford, Oranmore, Athenry and Oughterard.
- Work progressed on the MOL project.
- Branch libraries got new opening hours signage
- Ballygar and Woodford Library went online and are now part of the national library management system.
- Outdoor chess/draughts equipment installed at Portumna library
- Building improvement works were carried out in several Branch Libraries including Clifden, Ballygar, Galway City, Westside, Oranmore, Oughterard, Tuam and Portumna.



New teen area Tuam Library



Library Drop Box – Headford Library and Oughterard Library



Librarian Mary Lally and centenarian Nano Naughton, a long-time user of Ballygar library who got her first automated library card and borrowed books when the library re-opened.

Library students

The support of Library Students from Germany, Czech Republic and Japan greatly assisted the libraries staff in 2018. They worked in Westside, Oranmore, Ballybane and Galway City Library.

Proposals for 2019:

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

possible, including Creative Ireland, while operating within the constraints of local funding.

Community and Economic, Rural and Community Development Unit

The Economic, Rural and Community 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 and also works with local businesses and enterprises to create employment in County Galway. The unit operates over a broad spectrum stretching from sport to culture, employment creation to the physical enhancement of local areas, attraction of Foreign Direct Investment to harnessing the potential of our natural resources and improving the quality of life and employment opportunities for all citizens in County Galway through sustainable development.

Strategic Priority

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



European Region of Gastronomy 2018 launch

- Facilitated 4 meetings of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.
- For the European Region of Gastronomy (ERG) held over 200 individual meetings with Local, Regional and National Stakeholders; Held over 9 executive partner meetings with Galway City Council, Teagasc & GMIT; Established and facilitated the initiation of the ‘Galway Food Charter’ which has grown to 191 members and involves many agencies.
- Facilitated the Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).
- Worked with the HSE to facilitate the Health & Wellbeing Group to act as a sub group of the LCDC and prepared a submission to Healthy Ireland.
- Continued to support the integration of Rural Transport provision into a County wide service as Bealach na Gaillimhe, Transport Co-ordinating Unit (TCU) for County Galway. Submissions prepared and submitted for new routes and services in County Galway.
- Participated and vice chair of the Children & Young People’s Services Committee and provision of direct support to the development of the Children & Young Persons Services Plan.
- Facilitated the Galway Resettlement Interagency Group (GRIG) on behalf of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme.

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 2018, 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 2018 included:

- Over 800 groups / organisations were registered as members of the Galway County PPN at the end of 2018.
- Two plenary meetings of members were held during the year.
- The PPN Steering Committee met every 3 months to plan and organise the 2018 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.
- Funding was secured for the appointment of a support worker with this position being filled in the course of 2019.

Strategic Priority

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

- €2.4m was secured from Enterprise Ireland under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund for the development of the Food and Rural Innovation Hub at the Teagasc campus in Athenry in March 2018. A submission was made under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme which resulted in a further €200k being secured for the project. A further submission under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund was made by Galway County Council to secure additional funding for the project. Part VIII planning permission was granted for the development in June 2018. Procurement for Technical Consultancy Services for the development was published in early September 2018 with the appointment of consultants by year end.
- Supported community enterprise projects and initiatives that are employment creating e.g. BACD Enterprise Centre, Kinvara Enterprise Centre.
- Made in Galway worked with agency and industry partners to further develop the initiative to highlight the Food and Craft sectors in County Galway.
- Implemented actions assigned to CEED and coordinated reporting for which Galway County Council are responsible for in the Regional Action Plan for Jobs.
- Represented Galway County Council on the Northern Broadband Action Group.

- Working on the IWAK North West Local Authorities Group to promote the region as a tourism destination. Funding of €400,000 secured through REDZ for a flagship project to improve the visitor experience on arrival to Knock Airport. Visitor Discovery Centre officially opened November, 2018.
- Participated in the REDZ Flagship project for Lough Derg Blueway with Clare and Tipperary County Councils. Funding of €200,000 secured to promote Lough Derg as a Blueway. Blueway Project was launched in March, 2018 and Blueway Open Day held in Portumna. Developed Promotional Material, Video Content and Website
- Partner with National Heritage Council on the Beara Breifne Way Flagship project.
- Representing Galway County Council on the Fisheries Local Action Group West.

- Supported events that provide marketplace for Galway companies (Food Fairs/Farmers/Town Markets) i.e. Local Christmas market of Galway Producers, Sheep 2018 Artisan Market, Galway Food Festival Producers Market, Producers market at Claregalway Garden Show, Bia Lover Festival, Kylemore Abbey Producers Market, Seafest Producers Market, Galway Races Showcase, Food on the Edge.



ERG Van at Food on the Edge 2018

- Secured €25,000 funding from the Department of Agriculture for the development of Food Tourism initiatives in County Galway. Part of this will include upgrading the Made in Galway website.
- Made in Galway will continue to work with agency and industry partners to further develop the initiative to highlight the Food and Craft sectors in County Galway.

- Support and organization of an Artisan producers market at Teagasc Athenry – Sheep, Farm to Fork, a large event in the county for 2018 and a flagship event of the European Region of Gastronomy.
- Promoted Galway County as a Food Tourism destination at the Holiday world shows in Dublin, Belfast & Limerick. Local businesses had the opportunity to sell food experience packages.
- Supported and facilitated sub-groups under hospitality and SME's to develop appropriate activities for 2018. Supported a combined showcase of culinary dishes from hotel chefs using local producers from all parts of the county in partnership with the Irish Hotels Federation, developed a Galway on Tour van for promotion & support.
- Liaised with Bord Bia, BIM and Fáilte Ireland to maximise opportunities for businesses in Galway.
- Held a joint National Agri-tourism conference with Teagasc in Ballinasloe.
- Participated and presented at a number of conferences both in Ireland and Europe showcasing Galway's work as part of its designation as European Region of Gastronomy. TouRRoir Global Tourism, Food & Culture Conference in Galway, BIT Travel Exhibition in Milan, Noord Brabant IGCAT platform meeting in Noord Brabant, Netherlands, IGCAT Annual Experts Meeting in Minho.
- Part 8 planning achieved for the Bia Innovator Campus in Athenry following Enterprise Ireland Funding announced in later 2018.
- Developed European Region of Gastronomy (ERG) 2018 programme which will create a base for activity going forward and can potentially underpin county preparation for events during Galway2020.
- ERG Co-ordinator position in place until August 2019.
- Secured the 'TouRRoir' Global Conference on Food, Tourism & Culture for Galway as part of the European Region of Gastronomy designation.
- Continued to promote Galway as a location for investment and job creation.
- Compiled, published and circulated a brochure of Festivals taking place in the County for Tourism promotion.
- Continued to promote Galway in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland.
- Supported the Galway Science and Technology Festival, and Local Enterprise Office LOCAL Food & Craft Gift Fair.
- Supported the implementation of Tourism infrastructure projects in Portumna and supported Tourism developments in partnership with the Lough Derg Marketing Strategy Group.

- Supported overseas Tourism marketing and promotion events e.g. Milwaukee Irish Festival.
- Supported the following Flagship Tourism Events in County Galway; Baile Chláir Garden Festival, Loughrea Medieval Festival, and Baile Chláir Medieval Combat Tournament and Clifden Arts Festival.
- Continued to support the development of local festivals to become destination festivals that attract visitors and bed-nights from outside the County.
- Continued to work with GMIT in relation to a range of economic development areas including the food, tourism and creative sectors.
- Developed and published a map of Tourism attractions in County Galway for Visitors to the region.
- Facilitated the BOI Enterprising Towns Awards competition in County Galway.

Strategic Priority

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

- Continued to support 12 projects under the approved 2017 Town & Village Renewal scheme and secured over €900,000 for 8 projects under the 2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme.
- REDZ is a pilot scheme designed to foster rural economic development and there are 10 designated REDZ zones identified in County Galway. In 2018, Galway County Council supported and largely completed the development of proposals by communities for assistance under the scheme within 5 REDZ zones – Glenamaddy, An Cheathrú Rua, Galway Rural, Oranmore, and Gort.
- Submitted 6 proposals under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) initiative of a significant scale. The proposals submitted were for Tuam themed on connectivity, Ballinasloe themed on health and wellness, Clifden themed on tourism, Athenry themes on food, the Kinvara Boardwalk and a proposal focused on some important GCC assets to reimagine them as places of assembly.
- For CLÁR €609,459 was secured for 16 projects (10 under measure 1 safety works), (5 under measure 2 development of play areas) and (1 under measure 3 equipment for first response support)
- For the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Galway County Council secured €1,036,966 for 5 projects. €500,000 of this was secured for the Conamara Greenway project.



Conamara Greenway project

Strategic Priority

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

- Appointed a Temporary Arts Officer as replacement for Arts Officer on secondment to Galway 2020.
- Administered Arts Grants through the CSS Scheme, Individual Artists Bursaries and Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursaries.
- Successfully awarded Arts Council Invitation to Collaboration Award to develop large scale regional project in 2019.
- Provided an information and advice service to community groups, individual artists, festivals in the county.
- Delivered the Arts and Education Programme: 10 schools funded under this programme in 2018.

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



Strategic Priority

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

In 2018, all the community supports/grants provided by Galway County Council were administered in a co-ordinated fashion. This involved heritage grants schemes, community grants schemes and arts grants schemes.

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

Strategic Priority

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

Community Support

- *Two projects (Inis Meáin and Ballinasloe) entered into the 2018 Pride of Place competition.*
- *Continued to work with Tidy Towns groups to progress them within the National Tidy Towns competition.*
- €252,500 was approved for projects under the Community Support Scheme in 2018. The funding approved is across 10 categories which includes Economic Development, Tidy Towns, Social Inclusion, Upgrading of Facilities, Youth, Sport, Arts, Heritage and Promotion of the Irish language. 266 grants were awarded under this scheme.
- The Community Enhancement Programme was launched in May 2018. It replaced the Community Facilities Scheme and the recast RAPID programme that launched in 2018. The CEP was 100% funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development, with Galway

County LCDC administering the allocation of €378,936. The programme provided funding across the County to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas and disadvantage as identified in Galway County LECP. The funding was aimed at small to medium scale capital projects. There was huge demand for the scheme and a total of 78 community groups across the County received grant aid under the programme.

- The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) - Men's Shed Funds was a ring-fenced fund, under the Community Enhancement Programme, specifically for Men's Shed that were affiliated with Irish Men's Sheds Association. A total allocation of €18,841 was allocated to Galway County, which supported 14 Men's Sheds in 2018.

Social Inclusion

- Continued to expand delivery of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme targeting vulnerable people with no alarm or an alarm that has nearly reached its 10 year life span.
- Managed pilot programme for Healthy Ireland on behalf of the LCDC to March 2018 encompassing 11 projects with lead partners to meet Health and Wellbeing goals under the County Galway LECP.
- Co-ordinated an application process for a new Healthy Ireland programme for 2018-2019 on behalf of the LCDC and put an implementation group in place to oversee the programme on behalf of the partners.



Healthy Eating Talks with CROI in Ballymacward

- Supported other committees involved in Social Inclusion activities such as the LGBT Interagency Working Group, Bealach na Gaillimhe the Galway County Rural Transport Co-

ordinating Unit, Galway Childcare Committee, Tuam School Completion Programme, Clár Críochnú Scoile i gConamara.

- Review of Integration and Diversity Strategy for County Galway 2013-2018.
- Organised events for Bealtaine Festival for County Galway in May, 2018 which incorporated over 84 events in County Galway during the month.
- Reviewed the operation of the Traveller Interagency Group for Galway County and updated membership with an independent Chairperson.
- Organised Social Inclusion Week 2018 incorporating 35 events throughout the County 16th – 22nd October, 2018.



Moycullen Heritage organized guide and walks for Heritage week

- Co-ordinated and facilitated the Galway Age Friendly Programme, under the auspices of a new framework for Age Friendly Counties supported by a dedicated National Age Friendly unit in Meath County Council. Supported the amalgamation of the Galway Age Friendly Alliance and Implementation Groups and a review of priority actions leading to a streamlined strategy going forward under the auspices of the Local Economic Plans for County and City. Continued support of the Older Persons Council.

- Continued to provide support to Comhairle na nÓg on a Countywide basis.
- Ensured that Comhairle na nÓg is a key vehicle for consultation by existing and newly establishing bodies and committees in County Galway.
- Continued to administer and deliver the Comhairle na nÓg development fund from the DCYA for purposes of supporting Comhairle in County Galway.
- Completed the programme for support of the Resettlement and Integration of Syrian Refugees into County Galway as part of a national programme for Refugee Resettlement. Twenty three families of 99 persons in total have been resettled in County Galway by 2018.
- Identification of ongoing needs of refugees and other migrants in County Galway and commencement of work to develop a new Migrant Integration Strategy for Galway County during 2018.
- Participation in the NUI Galway University of Sanctuary committee and promotion of linkages between migrants, Travellers and other ethnic-minority groups and third level opportunities

Comhairle na nÓg

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

Sports Partnership

- Source and secure sufficient funding to fund the operations of Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) throughout 2018 – sources include Sport Ireland, Local Authorities, and other bodies. – Funding sourced through budget applications to Sport Ireland, HSE, Local Authorities and Dormant Accounts. We sourced funding in 2018 from Dormant Accounts for the position of a Sports Hub Coordinator for the Doughiska/Ballybane area and secured capital funding from the same source for the installation of a cricket crease at the location
- Oversee the implementation of all Sport Ireland programmes and locally required programmes throughout 2018 with particular emphases on three main areas of - *Sport Ireland programmes, Women in Sport and Sports Inclusion Disability programme, Community Coaching and Development Officer programme.* We have completed these programmes for all our target groups including women and girls, Older Adults, persons with Disabilities, Persons who are Unemployed and those from Disadvantaged backgrounds. Two Community Coaching courses sanctioned by Sport Ireland. – Galway City & Tuam. Recruitment through local Welfare office and course run in association with GRETB.

- Organise and run training courses for pre-schools and primary schools -, *Buntús Start, Be Active After Schools Activities, Sportshall Athletics, Mile Walk*. – One Buntús Start programme delivered, three Be Active After Schools programmes delivered, Sportshall Athletics programme run in 6 schools and one school represented Galway at All Ireland Finals in Athlone. The Mile Walk has been delivered in three schools and this is ongoing.
- For Second level schools organize and run the *Girls Active programme* and seek funding for *Beginner to Row programme for TY students*. – Girls Active programme run in eight second level schools. Funded by HSE. Along with Rowing Ireland we are in the process of running this programme through the purchase of three indoor rowing machines.



Girls Active 2018

- For Adults organize and run training courses such as *Safeguarding 1,2 and 3, SAQ, First Aid, Cycling Training, Walking leader Training, Activity Leader Training*. – We delivered -
30 Safeguarding 1 courses, 6 Safeguarding 2 courses, 3 Safeguarding 3 courses, 1 Activity Leader course, 4 First Aid courses, 1 SAQ course, 2 Cycle Training courses, 2 Disability Inclusion Training courses, and 4 disability Awareness training courses.
- Implement and organize activity programmes such as *Men on the Move, Couch to 5K, establishment of walking and cycling clubs*. – We have delivered 3 Men on the Move programmes, Three Couch 2 5K, two walking clubs and no cycling clubs to date in 2018.
- Secure funding from *Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport* and organize a list of programmes for *Bike Week 2018*. We sourced €8000 for Bike Week events in Galway County in association with Galway Co. Co. With this funding we ran 16 events, including Family Fun cycles X 5, Schools Cycling workshops X 3, Trips to Greenways in Mayo and Galway with schools X 3, Mountain Bike Spins X 5. We also purchased specially designed Bike Week gym sacs as promotional for the events

- Provide information to clubs, groups and organisations in Galway on various sources of funding should this become available, eg *Sports Capital Funding, Dormant Accounts, GSP Funding, Galway County Council Community Support Scheme and Galway City Council club grant*. We advised and assisted clubs and groups on Sports Capital applications. With the Dept of TT&S we organized one information workshop for applicant groups and the Sports Partnership oversaw the distribution of Galway City Council Sports Grants for 2018.
- Carry out review of *FIT TOWNS initiative* in 2018, with a view to improving its uptake and delivery. Review has been carried out, this initiative is to be re-branded and re-launched in 2019.
- Organise and run events in conjunction with *Operation Transformation* in Galway. We organized 7 walks across City & County, with a total of 2200 people taking part this year on Operation Transformation Walks day.



Operation Transformation Walk 2018

- Deliver the *Level 1 Sports Leadership Award* in association with Sport Ireland and implement the programme for young people in Galway. One Sports leader level 1 course delivered and one more to be delivered in Ballinasloe before Xmas 2018
- Arrange and facilitate meetings of GSP Steering group and relevant workgroups throughout 2018. To date we have had five Steering Group Meetings and four work-group meetings on programme funding and Fit Towns review.

- In association with the FAI, implement the joint initiative between *Galway County Council and the Football Association of Ireland*, in this the final year of the initiative. Final year of this three year initiative. Final report from Development Officers prepared and to be submitted.
- Deliver the *GSP Programme funding* scheme in 2018. We funded a total of 19 groups/clubs and organisations, 3 Club Development applications and 9 programmes for People with Disabilities under our programme funding 2018.
- Promote the work of GSP throughout Galway in 2018, through a targeted promotions strategy and implement staff training. New website established and continuous promotion of Activities of GSP through all social media outlets, local media and by way of email.
- Deliver the Sports Hub programme in Doughiska/Ballybane. Funding secured from Dormant Accounts for the position of a Sports Hub Coordinator for the Ballybane/Doughiska area and Coordinator in place since May 2018. Capital funding also secured for the installation of a cricket crease in the same location
- Participate in a new Community Physical Activity research programme with a number of other Sports Partnership and Waterford Institute of Technology. Programme finalized. This was a Men on the Move programme and the final report was issued in September 2018.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

HOUSING

HOUSING UNIT

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

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

Pillar 1: Address Homelessness

Pillar 2: Accelerate Social Housing

Pillar 3: Build More Homes

Pillar 4: Improve the Rental Sector

Pillar 5: Utilise Existing Housing



The Housing Unit of Galway County Council has delivered a significant number of Social Houses through various programmes in 2018:

466 - the number of new households that had their housing need met under Rebuilding Ireland in 2018.

108 new homes were brought into active social housing stock through build, acquisitions, voids and leasing programmes in 2018 (66 build, 10 renovated voids, 27 acquisitions and 5 long-term lease). This represents 119% achievement of the new build target and 193% of the acquisition target. The renovated voids to be counted as a delivery element of Rebuilding Ireland was limited to 10, however, a further 35 renovated voids were delivered by Galway County Council, meeting the housing needs of a further 35 households.

201 the number of new build social housing units at various stages of approval to be delivered directly by Galway County Council on 11 sites across the County under Rebuilding Ireland.

The Council supported 352 households to meet their housing need by means of the Housing Assistance Payment enabling individuals to work and also have autonomy in choosing the location and type of accommodation, depending on their own particular preference.

In addition to the delivery of new social housing supports, 174 housing adaptation grants were awarded by Galway County Council in 2018 to support individuals to remain in their own homes. This represents an increase of 15% on 2017.

67 households were accommodated in 2018 under the Traveller Accommodation Programme, with a total of 262 households accommodated over the period 2014 – 2018. This represents 150% of the initial target under the programme.

In a very challenging housing and rental sector, with limited opportunities for leasing, 6 homes were delivered through direct leasing and long term leasing schemes.

Galway County Council prioritised the installation of fire safety equipment, signage and the provision of fire safety training in its halting sites during 2018 at Tuam, Craughwell and Capira. This prioritisation reflects the responsibilities of the Council and those of the residents of Traveller accommodation to enhance and maintain appropriate and necessary fire safety standards.

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

Construction Activity

- 18 refurbished units were completed in Gilmartin Road, Tuam in 2018.
- Work commenced on the construction of 28 units at Gort an Chláir and 12 units at Cúil Ghréine, Tuam
- The development of 10 units at Garbally Drive, Ballinasloe.
- Development of 2 units with disability access at Esker Fields, Ballinasloe.
- 4 single rural dwellings were completed in 2018, with a further 1 under construction.
- 12 turnkey properties being constructed at Ashthorn, Headford



An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eileen Mannion at the sod turning of the development of Cúil Ghréine and Gort an Chláir, Tuam.

Design & Planning Activity

Other construction projects currently being progressed through design and planning stages are

- 26 units in Clifden, which includes conservation works to two protected buildings
- 10 units at Bridgecourt Ahascragh to be replaced by 6 refurbished units and 11 new units.
- 30 units in Phase1 at Gort Uí Lochlainn, Maigh Cuilinn.
- 10 units at Carton, Kinvara, 10 units at Caisleán Raithlín, Ardrahan and 5 units at Barrack Street, Loughrea being developed under one contract.
- 4 units at Cuileán, An Cheathrú Rua
- 14 units at Faiche an Aonaigh, Cloch na Rón.
- 13 units at Claremount, Oughterard.
- 30 units at Weir Road, Tuam.



18 Gilmartin Road

One of the houses renovated by Galway County Council

House Purchases

Under the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan 49 units were purchased in 2018 and a further 19 units are still currently under negotiation.

HAP

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

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

However, unlike Rent Supplement recipients, HAP recipients 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.

In order to further assist homeless households in exiting emergency accommodation, the Homeless Place Finder Service was introduced in Galway County Council in 2018. It is a targeted support for homeless households who are finding it difficult to secure HAP tenancies. It provides additional financial and related supports to tenants and landlords.

A total of 352 recipients signed up to the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme during 2018, with over 1,144 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 2018. The applications of 1,866 households, which had not been reviewed since 20th April 2017, were reviewed and assessed to ascertain if they still qualified for social housing supports. The assessment of housing need was completed under the following headings:

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

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

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

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

The total number of Housing Applicants on the Housing List at 31st December, 2018 was 3,422.



Single Rural dwelling at Ardrahan

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)/Short Term Leasing

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

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

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

Description	Galway County End of Q4 2018:
Number of Applicants accommodated in private rented accommodation through contracts agreed with private landlords	234 205 RAS and 29 short term leasing
Number of Applicants accommodated currently through contracts agreed with voluntary organizations	121

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 770 properties in 2018, to ensure compliance with standards for rented houses. A total of 322 re-inspections were carried out. 105 were compliant following on from re-inspections.

A total of 770 Properties failed to comply with the current standards on first inspection and 2 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. The property has to be assessed by Galway County Council as being viable to provide social housing for applicants on the Council's housing list.

It is a condition of the scheme that the property has to be vacant for at least 12 months prior to its' acceptance on the scheme. The minimum lease term is 5 years and the maximum is 20 years. The maximum cost of repairs allowable under the scheme is €40,000 (including VAT) per unit.

Galway County Council is interested in properties close to villages and town where schools and services are readily available.

Advantages for a property owner to taking part in the scheme are:

- Upgrading of a property by way of an interest free loan
- Guaranteed rent
- No loss of rent during vacant periods
- Council responsible for payment of rent to property owner, collection of rent from the tenant and the sourcing of a new tenant

In 2018, Galway County Council has received in excess of 100 expressions of interest in the scheme.



Single Rural dwelling at Cill Chiaráin, Conamara

Long Term Leasing

Under the Long Term Leasing scheme property owners can lease a property to Galway County Council for a period varying from 10 to 25 years, for the purposes of the provision of appropriate housing for applicants on the Council's social housing list.

Under this scheme Galway County Council considers leasing properties close to villages and town where schools and services are readily available. The property must be considered to meet rental standards prior to its' inclusion on this scheme.

In 2018, there has been considerable interest shown in this scheme by those with multiple units available for leasing, with 36 units under consideration.

Mortgage to Rent Scheme

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

The MTR scheme is a social housing option only available if one is eligible for social housing support and the mortgage is unsustainable. To qualify for the scheme the property owner must have participated in their lender's Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP), a process which the lender and the owner must take in order to try and resolve their financial difficulties.

Approved applicants will voluntarily surrender possession of their home to their mortgage lender who immediately sells it to a housing association who will then rent it back to the family. The proceeds from the sale of property to the housing association will go towards the mortgage debt and the applicant makes an arrangement with their lender for any remaining payments owed, if any. There is potential to buy back the home after a period of 5 years if the household's financial situation improves.

35 applications were received in 2018 with 24 applications receiving approval.

Loans

A Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a new Government backed mortgage for first time buyers. It became available on the 1st February 2018. As a first time buyer one can apply for a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build a home. The loan is a normal Capital and Interest-bearing mortgage which is repaid by direct debit on a monthly basis.

- Maximum market values of the property that can be purchased or self-built are €320,000.
- Approved applicants may borrow up to 90% of the market value of the property.
- This limits the amount that can be borrowed to no more than €288,000.

124 applications were received during 2018 with 15 applications drawn down and 30 offer letters issued. The average loan approved was €148,000.



Numbers 62 -72 Garbally Drive, Ballinasloe

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 120 units funded under the CALF programme to-date with a further 61 units in the pipeline.

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, at a discounted rate based on the applicant's income. If approved, the purchaser must continue to live in the house for as long as they own it. An incremental purchase charge is placed on the house which will be equal to the discount applied on the purchase price of the house. The charge will remain in place for 20, 25 or 30 years (depending on the discount given). The purchaser will be able to resell their home at any time if the local authority agrees. However, if the purchaser sells before the end of the 20, 25 or 30 years, they will have to pay back the value of the outstanding charge on the house to the local authority.

Throughout 2018 Galway County Council received 30 applications from local authority tenants to purchase their house and issued 17 house purchase offers and 9 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 less than 66 in certain circumstances depending on their state of health, their current housing conditions and their ability to assist themselves. Supporting documentation is required where the applicant is citing medical needs. Assistance was also provided in cases where the house was not considered to be in poor condition, but the works would, by addressing deficiencies, improve the quality of life of older persons.

- 285 valid applications received during 2018 for Housing Aid for Older People:
- 189 valid applications received during 2018 for Mobility Aid and Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a disability Scheme. Notification of these grants was not received until April 2018, which resulted in a reduced number of applications in this year.



Disability Access Units – Esker Fields

Housing Adaptation Grants for Local Authority Houses

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

A total of 16 local authority homes had housing adaptation works completed during 2018. Funding of €114,718.00 was made available from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to cover 90% of the cost of the works.

Housing Maintenance

The Council has a housing stock of 2,497 properties at the 31st December 2018. A significant programme of maintenance works is ongoing in these properties. 1,061 valid repair requests were received in 2018 with an associated expenditure of €1,968,000. Major refurbishment works were carried out in 74 vacant properties which facilitated new tenancies.

In 2018, it was decided to implement a planned preventative maintenance investment programme for the Council housing stock. This is in order to preserve both the condition and the value of the housing stock, achieve better value for money, improve service delivery and meet the responsibilities of the local authority as a landlord. To enable this programme of works a local facility of €10 million was approved by the plenary Council and sanctioned by the Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

It was decided to commence with a complete survey of the Council's housing stock to establish necessary, essential works. Following consideration, it was agreed to commence with the surveying of the stock in the Municipal District of Conamara.

Energy Efficiency & Retrofit Programme (EERP)

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government gave approval in 2018 to commence Phase 2 of the Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Programme (EERP) in 2019. In 2018, surveying of properties in the Conamara Municipal District took place. Windows and doors in 96 properties in the Conamara MD were deemed suitable for replacement and contract documentation was prepared for the works which will be completed in 2019.

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 5 new applicants per week presenting as homeless in 2018. An average of 25 families per week accommodated by Galway County Council in Emergency Temporary Accommodation for 2018. Single people accommodated in homeless or tourist hostels averaged at 15 at any time.

Currently Galway County Council has one transition house in the County, located in Tuam. A total of 27 applicants deemed homeless were offered a permanent tenancy by Galway County Council during 2018.



Contract Signing – Gilmartin Road, Tuam

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018

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. The Programme identified a requirement of 173 accommodation units to meet the then current and projected need, comprised of a current need of 48 and a projected need estimated at 125 accommodation units. During 2016, in accordance with Section 17 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, the Minister for Housing, Planning, and Community & Local Government directed that a review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme be carried out no later than the 31st December 2016.

This programme was reviewed and targets were revised with an overall increase in targets of 82 units, with a total of 255 units to be provided. Galway County Council exceeded this target, providing 262 units within the lifetime of the programme.

TAP Targets and Delivery 2014-2018

Accommodation Type	Target 2014- 2018	2014 Delivery	2015 Delivery	2016 Delivery	2017 Delivery	2018 Delivery	Total Delivery
Group Housing Scheme - Existing	15	1	4	1	1	0	7
Permanent Halting Site Service Block - Existing	18	3	5	1	3	1	13
Local Authority Standard Housing	54	11	12	11	22	21	77
Rental Accommodation Scheme / Long Term Leasing	8	6	0	0	0	0	6
Purchase by Galway County Council	7	2	3	0	2	0	7
Voluntary Housing	9	2	4	1	7	13	27
Purchase by Travellers	3	1	0	0	0	0	1
Housing Assistance Payment/ Private Rented Accommodation with/out Rent Supplement	141	14	0	34	44	32	124
Totals	255	40	28	48	79	67	262

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014–2018 was developed prior to the auditing of fire safety in local authority provided Traveller accommodation, in halting sites. The report relating to the audit was published in September 2016 and proposed a series of actions, to bring the accommodation in line with appropriate fire safety standards, together with a parallel programme of community fire safety. Galway County Council prioritised the installation of fire safety equipment, signage and the provision of fire safety training in its halting sites during 2018. This prioritisation reflects the responsibilities of the Council and those of the residents of Traveller accommodation to enhance and maintain appropriate and necessary fire safety standards.

The development and upgrade of traveller specific accommodation progressed at various locations in 2018:

- Works completed on the upgrade of entrance road to Tuam Halting Site.
- Improvement works completed to service facilities at Tuam Halting Site.
- Creggaun was successfully brought to tender stage during 2018 and submitted to Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for approval to proceed.
- Craughwell was successfully brought to tender stage during 2018.

The Annual Count of Traveller Families and their Accommodation Position 2018 identified 554 families in the County. The Council has, through experience and consultation, identified standard housing as the preferred accommodation option for the vast majority of Traveller families. Standard housing, including HAP, RAS and Private Rented Accommodation, provides for the inclusion of Travellers in mainstream housing programmes and aids the integration of Travellers into the community. 53 Traveller families were accommodated in 2018 in standard Local Authority housing and under the HAP Programmes. In the absence of an ethnic identifier there is a reliance on local and historical knowledge of staff in relation to the identification of individuals as travellers.



Upgraded access road to Tuam Halting Site

Disability Strategy

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

In co-operation with Approved Housing Bodies, Galway County Council has housed people under the disability strategy in shared housing, with supports in Loughrea and Ballinasloe. 4 people were housed in a shared housing facility in Loughrea in 2018. The Council continues to offer greater flexibility to people with disabilities with the provision of shared housing with support services, which may be provided by visiting or live-in services.

Tenancy and Estate Management

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

The Tenancy Sustainment Strategy for the County was adopted in 2017 and it outlines the interventions and supports available to assist our tenants in sustaining their tenancy and contribute positively to their neighbourhood and community. An inter-departmental and inter-agency approach is adopted by the Housing Unit and its partners, in an effort to improve the quality of life for residents in our housing estates. Staff members from the the Housing Unit held meetings with the Health Service Executive, Galway and Roscommon Educational and Training Board and Gardaí throughout the year and succeeded in working together in a number of areas with tenants requiring support.

Galway County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2018 – 2020 was produced in consultation with relevant stakeholders and adopted by the Council. It is recognised that anti-social behaviour can have an adverse effect on the quality of life of our tenants and the stability and sustainability of communities. It was introduced to prevent and reduce incidences of anti-social behaviour through multi-agency partnership and co-operation. The Strategy outlines the responsibilities and contributions of both the Council and the tenants to the development of sustainable communities. It also lays out the process for investigating and dealing with complaints including setting out the actions that may be taken by the Council in relation to same. This can include the use of community based CCTV systems, in accordance with Galway County Council's CCTV and Data Protection Policies. CCTV systems have been installed in 7 estates in Athenry, Loughrea, Ahascragh, Gort, Gilmartin Road Tuam, Tuam Halting Site and Tirboy, Tuam.



18 Garraí an Chlocair – renovated by Galway County Council



12 Na Clocha Rua, An Cheathrú Rua

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.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

PLANNING UNIT

In 2018 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 2018.

The main policy issues discussed during the year included:-

- Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ)
- Town and Village Renewal Scheme
- Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
- Urban and Rural Regeneration Funding Scheme
- Policy on Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Regional Spatial Economic Strategy submission (pre draft) and (draft)
- Outdoor Recreation 2018 submissions
- Community enhancement scheme 2018
- Clifden Local Area Plan
- Tuam Local Area Plan
- Flemish Decree

Strategic Priority

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

FORWARD PLANNING

- Adoption of Variation No. 2(a) and 2(b) to incorporate the Bearna 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
- Adoption of Tuam Local Area Plan
- Adoption of Clifden Local Area Plan
- Assisted in the operation of the Development Management Section at various time throughout the year.
- Attended preplan Strategic Housing Development meeting with An Bord Pleanala
- Prepare submission to Regional Social and Economic Strategy
- Prepared a submission to Galway City Council on the Draft Ardaun Plan
- Commenced preparatory work on the Landscape Character Assessment

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

- 1,898 Planning Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2018.
- 1,425 Planning decisions were made in 2018.
- €678,817 was received in Planning Fees in 2018.
- 70 Exempted Development Declaration Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2018.
- Strategic Housing Development – 3 pre consultation with An Bort Pleanala, 3 application consultations and 2 decisions made by An Bord Pleanala were facilitated during 2018.

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 2018	308
Warning Letters served	194
Enforcement Notice served	84
No. of new cases referred to Law Agent and external Solicitors for Summary Proceedings	43

BUILDING CONTROL

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

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

Commencement Notices 2018

<u>Number</u>	<u>Status on BCMS</u>
6 no.	Incomplete
624 no.	Complete
20 no.	Revised Information

Heritage: Report of Activities 2018

Geological Heritage Audit Phase 2: There are currently an estimated 135 County Geological Sites (CGS) in County Galway that have been provisionally listed by the Geological Survey of Ireland. Co Galway is being audited in a phased approach (Phase 1- 2017 covered CGS sites in the North West of the County).

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



Lacustrine pitting in karst limestone at the lake shore at Inis Mhic an Trír, Loch Coirib

Summer, 2018, saw the completion of the second stage of Geological Survey Ireland's and Galway County Council's Audit of Geological Heritage sites in County Galway. The county is widely known for its geological heritage, but this is understood or expressed for most people as the landscape or the scenery. Since it is the second largest of Irish counties, and because bedrock is in many parts generally well exposed, it has an extensive range of geological heritage sites, many of which are significant. The report which was completed in 2018 documents what are currently understood by the Irish Geological Heritage Programme (IGH) of the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) to be the most important geological sites within the north-eastern portion of County Galway, east of Loch Coirib and north of the M6. In total, fifty-three sites were surveyed and mapped in detail in 2018, with thirteen being rejected; hence, thus far, seventy nine County Geological Sites have therefore been thus far designated in County Galway (thirty nine in 2017 and forty in 2018). Short videos were also produced for Heritage Week and can be seen on the following link:

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/geology>

- **Galway West of Ireland Region of Gastronomy Heritage Projects 2018** – This project builds on the work started in 2017 and in 2018 it continued to work with local communities, heritage groups, schools and organisations gathering information relating to the gastronomic heritage of the county and produce written, audio and video outputs for the website. Please see the following link:
<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/galways-gastronomic-heritage>

The Schools Food Heritage Project has been accepted by the National Folklore Collection and will be archived and part of our national folklore narrative. For an insight into this project please see the following link:
<https://milltown.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/milltowns-gastronomical-heritage/recipes>

The National Folklore Collection at University College Dublin is delighted to archive the results of the exceptional Schools Heritage Food Project. This project, organised by the Milltown Heritage Group, and the Galway Community Heritage Office, coincides with Galway's designation as European Region of Gastronomy for 2018.

Of all aspects of our daily lives, food and food culture are vital components. And as the impressive work of the pupils of Belmont and Milltown National Schools demonstrates, Galway (and indeed Ireland as a whole) has a rich and diverse food heritage. The value of documenting traditional food recipes, and methods of preparing and cooking food, cannot be overstated. This project will preserve for future generations a distinctive record of food culture in Ireland at a particular moment in time, a culture that is being enriched by the experience and traditions of people from elsewhere in the world who have made Ireland their home in recent times.

On behalf of the National Folklore Collection I am pleased and proud to accept and to carefully preserve the work of all those who have contributed to this valuable and innovative project.

*Beir bua,
Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh
Director of the National Folklore Collection*



Friday 16th March 2018 saw the official launch of Galway European Region of Gastronomy 2018 project, Galway Gastronomy Heritage Project was showcased in Galway City Museum and featured on Nationwide a month later.

Sheep 2018 - Farm to Fork

Took place at Teagasc, Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co. Galway on **Saturday, 7th July 2018 from 10.00-17.00.**

This free event provided a wide range of new information, exhibits and activities for all the family. There was a series of interactive villages, workshops and stands covering all aspects of sheep production, this year, to tie in with **Galway, West of Ireland 2018, European Region of Gastronomy designation**, there was a significant emphasis on all aspects of food. The food element of the event was hosted in a specially designated Food Village. As with previous events there was a strong commercial aspect to this Sheep Industry Event and sheep breed displays and a number of societies had regional and national shows at Sheep 2018 Farm to Fork. **Sheep 2018 Farm to Fork** was much more than just a Sheep event. It had major attractions for both farmers and the non-farming public and indeed for family members of all ages.

Heritage of Food Village



The Heritage Office of Galway County Council, Galway Community Heritage (a member of Irish Community Archive Network), a number of Heritage Groups in the County of Galway and Galway Mens' Sheds provided a taste of the rich gastronomical heritage of the county. There was a traditional kitchen and old type shop display, churning and bread making, digging with the loy, some old farm machinery (courtesy of Kiltulla and District Vintage Club), fishing boats, displays of artifacts and photographs relating to the food heritage of different parts of the county. We also showcased the work of Galway Gastronomy Heritage Project. In addition to this Loughrea Craft Club were on hand with their 'make and do' food related workshops for children, Frans Photo booth was there to capture your photos. Melanie Loren, craft maker gave talks and workshops on 'The Wonder of Wheat'. Cuan Beo demonstrated the art of net mending, rope splicing and numerous knots.

Staff from the Irish Workhouse Centre in Portumna were on hand to share the workhouse story and tell us about Life and Diet in the Workhouse A free booklet on food in the workhouse was available on the day.

Declan Coyne and some of the Fair Balladeers also were part of the heritage village. 'Le Chéile' had a 'Round the House and Mind the Dresser' session of music, song and dance seisiúns that took place at: 10:30am – 11.45am; 12.30pm – 1.45pm - finishing off with a Céilí Mór from 4pm – 5pm.

A 'Taste of Galway's Past'

was held in Claregalway Castle on 12th December 2018 celebrated the rich food heritage of County Galway. This event comprised of lectures, short films, craft making and craft displays, food demonstrations, vintage farm machinery and music and song.

Speaking at the event, Cllr Seán o’Tuairisg, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway said “I would like to pay tribute to the heritage groups, schools and communities right across County Galway who have come here today to put on this free event for all of us to see and enjoy for the day”.

Heritage Groups from Abbey, Baile Chláir, Clarinbridge, Portumna, Glenamaddy, Tuam, Moylough, Skehana, Killererin, Maigh Cuilinn, Portumna, Woodford, Oughterard, Woodlawn and INSIGHT-NUIG showcased their food heritage projects. Kiltulla and District Vintage Club and Shrile Vintage Club had wonderful tractors and farm machinery on display while Cuan Beo presented an insight into our rich oyster heritage in the county. Claregalway Castle had an excellent demonstration of stone work and Castlebar Men’s Shed had a mobile coal forge on site. The Local Authority Waters Office also showcased the importance of our waters.

Jonny Dillon, Archivist from the National Folklore Collection accepted the schools food heritage projects from children from schools in Milltown, Killererin, Abbey, Baile Chláir, Maigh Cuilinn, Skehana and Bullaun. Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council said “It is wonderful that the children’s work will now be part of our National Folklore narrative and will be available for all to see. Indeed, I would like to pay tribute to all the heritage groups and schools that have taken part in this very worthwhile and important initiative”.



The public had a chance to have a taste of the past, as mutton and vegetable broth, brown bread and butter and Christmas cake were cooked and served by our culinary arts trio of Joe and Noel Loughnane and Anna O’Donnell.

People also had an opportunity to meet the craft makers and try their hand at some traditional crafts. There were also a number of lectures on the heritage of our food including the following, ‘Our Daily Bread: Food & Folk Tradition’ by Jonny Dillon, National Folklore Collection, University College Dublin; ‘Spicing Things Up’ by Margaret Hickey, author of *Ireland’s Green Larder*; ‘An archaeology of Food’ by Dr Christy Cunniffe, Community Archaeologist; ‘Galway Sheep - Those Woolly Jumpers’ by Dr Seamus J Hanrahan and Galway Community Heritage presented their work on Galway Gastronomy Heritage Project.

Also on show was a series of short films were commissioned by Galway County Council in conjunction with The Heritage Council and Galway Film Centre. They focused on agricultural heritage and feature short films from 2017 and brand new films, shot in Ireland and Austria for 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage. There were also some short films on Clarinbridge and the history of the oyster.

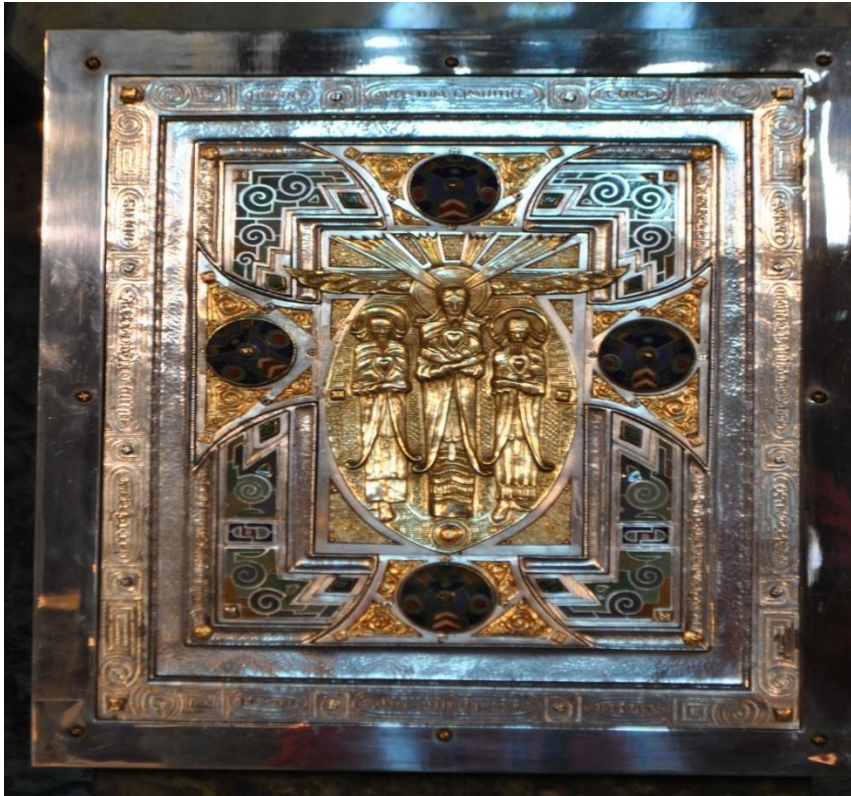
This free event was presented by the Heritage Office of Galway County Council, Galway Community Heritage, ICAN, the Irish Workhouse Centre, Claregalway Castle, Galway & Castlebar Men’s Sheds, Cuan Beo, Kelly Oysters, Kiltulla and District Vintage Club, Shrulie Vintage Club, the Local Authority Waters Office and other heritage groups in County Galway.

It sought to showcase the rich food heritage in the county and the work of community groups and schools in the county who are collecting, gathering and collating this rich heritage resource and making it available on their website

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/galways-gastronomic-heritage>

This event was part funded by Creative Ireland under *Galway County Council Cultural and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022* and is an initiative of the Heritage Office of Galway County Council and Galway, West of Ireland 2018, European Region of Gastronomy.





- **Book Title: An Illustrated Guide to the Ecclesiastical Heritage of County Galway**
This publication draws on audit reports, the website, the photographic archive and documented findings from 6 years community consultation, desk research and site visits to 140 churches in County Galway. The following is an outline of the information contained in the book. Introduction will provide an outline of the audit and its findings over the 6 years that it took place; variations in Church Styles, traces of Catholic Pre-Emancipation Churches, The Church and Its Spaces, Stained Glass, Stations of the Cross, Metalwork and Baptismal Fonts. This phase of the project presents the text (english only), photographs and overall design concept for the finalised book. The next phase in 2019 will involve translating the text into Irish and printing the publication.
- **The community archaeologist**



Tus and FAS participants revealing garden paths under archaeological guidance in Mountbellew Walled Garden

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. This year the Community Archaeologist contributed to a number of conferences, seminars and local heritage lectures. He organised fieldtrips to local areas of interest. He also organised a series of conferences seminars that promoted archaeology at local level. His role also involves giving radio and television interviews. Nearly every day he receives emails or phone calls (sometimes 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. He worked with schools, community groups, societies, farmers and other individuals on an ongoing basis. He engaged with third level archaeology and heritage studies students as a means of encouraging them to undertake research on aspects of Galway's archaeology. However, the bulk of his 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. He also answers a lot of queries via email. It is not a nine to five job as weekends and evenings are often the best time to meet individuals and nearly always the optional time for community groups.

- **Athenry Town Walls – North Gate – Capital Works 2018**



The tenth phase of works to the town walls, commenced on site in early August 2018, with a 6-week programme, including three weeks of a road closure to allow access to the arch and vaulted room. We prioritised the works in the following order: health and safety, integrity of the monument, protection. This translated in the works programme to- treatment and removal of vegetation and embedded roots; consolidation and repointing the west and south facades which had not been rebuilt in the 1970s.

- **Athenry Walled Town Day**



Athenry Walled Town Day took place on Sunday 19th August 2018 from 1pm – 5pm Over 3000 people attended this event which was titled *Savour the Past* which was themed to celebrate Galway's Year of Gastronomy with a Feast of Food, Music & Stories. It was a fun free programme of events which includes medieval re-enactments, children's craft workshops, puppet shows, have a go archery, music, food stalls, medieval arts & crafts and historical presentations. The programme of events was inclusive to all with events being held in Athenry Heritage Centre, Athenry Park and the Community Hall.



Athenry Heritage Trail – Z-card brochure and online trail

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

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

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

Loughrea Medieval Festival 24th – 26th August 2018



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

All events were free of charge. Events ranged from engaging talks, puppet shows, medieval

combat, archery, medieval food demonstrations, music, song and dance, stilt walkers, Loughrea Zibaldone project, Talking Food- Local Food and Local People, Crafts, games and photography and a medieval mass in the Carmelite abbey. Funding was provided by the Heritage Council, Irish Walled Towns Network, Galway 2020 and Galway County Council.



- **Stories from the Landscape** is a series of short films which deals with various aspects of our cultural, natural and built heritage. The series began in 2017 with 9 short films in Galway, Clare and Tipperary. For the European year of Cultural Heritage 2018 we have produced 2 short films, both filmed in Ireland and in Austria. The film supported by Galway County Council features a group of 'Dry stone wallers' from Ireland, Austria and Germany as they work together to build a dry stone hut in Langenlois, Austria. The film was made with support from the Heritage Council and produced by Galway Film. The film highlights the benefits of European co-operation between craftspeople. The film will further cement an already fantastic working relationship between Irish and Austria craftspeople. See link <http://vimeo.com/298739315>
- **'Go Wild' Summer Camps.** Developed two childrens biodiversity 2 day summer camps with BirdWatch Ireland, Maigh Cuilinn Heritage Group and Woodlawn Heritage Group. These successful courses were delivered in Maigh Cuilinn and Woodlawn in August 2018.
- **Turas Ruaidhrí: Food and Heritage Bus Tour (Free Tour Celebrating Heritage Week)** 52 People came on this bus tour on Wednesday 22nd August 2018. Michael Gibbons, renowned archaeologist and Pádraic O' Raighne, Conamara Pub Tours led the tour which commenced and finished in Maigh Cuilinn.

- **Oral Heritage Recording Workshops**

A Six week course on Oral Heritage Recording took place in An Seomra Glas at Áras Uilinn, Maigh Cuilinn, Co Galway. The course was delivered by Garry Kelly, GK Media and funded by Creative Ireland.

- **Introduction to Filmmaking Course**

This course was funded by Creative Ireland and was delivered by Merchant Gate Films. This course which commenced on 18th September 2018 is designed for local heritage groups in County Galway who would like to use video to tell heritage stories. Each group representative had the opportunity to learn about all the steps in filmmaking. This is a practical course and each group will make a 2-minute film as part of the course. The first meeting was classroom based - All others then were in the field. All training and films was done using smart phones and tablets. Groups should after completion of the course be able, in future, to make their own films without help.

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

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- **Invasive Species Working Group.** Working on an invasive species strategy with other sections of the Council in particular with the Roads Section, Community Wardens and IT. Funding applied for from NPWS, short film, interactive tool and invasive species training and Gunnera Treatment undertaken on Mám to Droichead an Mháma Road.

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- **Decade of Commemoration** - Further development and updating of the bi-lingual website for the Decade of Commemoration with additional information and podcasts. The Loughrea Remember Conference entitled *1918 Ireland: Political and Social Change* was held on 15 November 2018. 50 people attended this event. This event was undertaken in partnership with Loughrea Memorial Group.



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

Women: their contribution to Irish History & Society” Moylough

- Sabina Higgins wife of President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins spoke on women’s contribution to Irish society down through the years at very well attended conference on **Women: their contribution to Irish History & Society”** on 23 October in Moylough Community Center, Moylough, Co. Galway.

Cllr. Peter Keaveney, Leas Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council said “It is hard to believe that it is just a mere 100 years ago that Irish women were permitted by law to vote and stand in parliamentary elections. However only women over 30, who had property rights or a university education were entitled to vote under the Representation of the People Act, 1918. Countess de Markievicz was the first woman elected to the British Parliament at Westminster in 1918. She represented a Dublin constituency but never took her seat at Westminster. Instead she joined the revolutionary first Dáil, becoming the first female TD. Women over the age of 21 had to wait until the Constitution of the Irish Free State Act, 1922 in order to get full and equal voting rights”.

Emigration has been part and parcel of life in the country down through the ages and Eileen Davis who works as the Heritage Tourism Development Officer at Carna Emigrants Centre gave a very informative talk on “Women of the Atlantic- Conamara to Portland, Maine from the 1880s to the 1960”.

This was followed by a talk from Mary Ryan on the role and importance of the Irish Countrywomen’s Association and the Irish Housewives’ Association in the lives of Irish women.

Another very interesting talk was that on Ada English by Pat Johnston. Ada spent almost 40 years working at St Brigid’s Hospital, Ballinasloe. While there, she helped to introduce occupational therapy, which included sports, farming and horticulture, and weekly trips to the local cinema. She campaigned for better conditions for mentally ill patients at Ballinasloe, and throughout her life, she campaigned at a national level for reform of Ireland’s large psychiatric institutions. Ada was also very active in Irish political life.TJ

Carty, Chairperson, Moylough Heritage Group “said that the group was delighted with the quality and calibre of the lectures and that all the new research that is being carried out by local heritage groups is extremely important in helping us gain a greater understanding of all those who have gone before us”.

The story of the “Mountbellew Workhouse Orphan Girls sent to Western Australia in 1852 is incredible. The local group who are putting so much time and energy into researching this group of 33 young girls were transported to Australia on the Palestine ship, from the Mountbellew workhouse, are to be commended for all their work on this aspect of our hidden heritage. Key to their research was the records held in the Galway County Council Archives at Galway Library. Patria McWalter, Galway County Council Archivist is shown below during filming for RTE’s Nationwide programme when Patria read from the Minutes of Meetings held by the Board of Guardians of Mountbellew Workhouse which recorded arrangements being made for the sending of the Orphan Girls to Australia at that time.





Lorna Elms, National Museum of Ireland, Country Life Castlebar spoke about the “Our Irish Women Project” and its exhibition which is now on show in the museum in Castlebar. Several groups in the county such as Moylough Heritage Group, Skehana Heritage Group, Killarerin Heritage, Abbey Heritage, Baile Chláir Heritage, Abbey Heritage, Maigh Cuilinn and Oughterard Heritage Groups are involved in this community heritage project. The exhibition will also be coming for viewing in various parts of County Galway in 2019.

The conference closed with a wonderful session of music, song, dance and poetry by Roisín Mannion, Cathal Sweeney, Jo Vahey, Emily Greaney and Emmet Greaney. This part of the event was co-ordinated by Jo Vahey, Senior Librarian, Galway County Council.

- **Cathaoirleach Awards** - These Awards include an Award for the best heritage project and the best heritage publication. The Awards night took place on Thursday 31 May in Clifden. Maigh Cuilinn Heritage Group won the best contribution to heritage award and Paddy Beatty won the best heritage publication award.
- **ICAN – Community Heritage website.** The Heritage Office continued to work in partnership with the Museum of Country Life Castlebar and various communities throughout the county to further develop this website. Both technical and heritage training has been provided to the groups throughout the year. ICAN members have also embarked on the development of an exhibition entitled *Our Irish Women* that will be officially launched on Friday 9th November at the Museum of Country Life Castlebar.



- **Féile na gCloch** – Over 100 people attended Féile na gCloch on Inis Oírr which took place from Thursday 13 to Sunday 15 September. Participants had a choice of engaging in stone wall building, lettering, carving, paving, sketching and hot lime demo as well as listening to various related talks.
- **Community Events, Conferences and Workshops** – Assistance, advice, and support was also be given to numerous Tidy Town, Community Heritage and schools groups in 2018 and included advice and guidance on heritage publications, development of heritage trails, oral heritage recordings, Heritage Week Events, heritage training and relevant local heritage conferences and seminars etc.
- Emigration and Diaspora Projects: Tuke Emigration Scheme Project – continued to work with the Clifden 2012 Committee and Oughterard Heritage Group on this project. Developed and produced online information relating to emigration and diaspora.
- Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County – Continued to work with Galway Rural Development on mapped and memorial inscriptions will be recorded and up loaded to www.galway.ie
- The Beo Schools Project with INSIGHT, NUIG and Galway Education Centre ongoing.
- Participation on Committees/teams such as the Placenames Committee, Loughrea Heritage and Development Company, Creative Ireland and the Aran Life Project.
- Rolled out of the Heritage Grant Scheme as part of Community Grants.
- Townland Research – Working with GRD, Forum Conamara, Carna Emigration Centre and Corr na Móna etc. on recording and documenting townland historical research.
- The Golden Mile Calendar produced in December 2018.
- Have held meetings and progress heritage initiatives with Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Forum.

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 2018 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 2018:

- 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 March 2018 County Council Meeting.
- Carried out Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) assessments, including of historic demesnes.
- Carried out major update of the Architectural Inventory System (AIS) database of protected structures in liaison with GIS section.
- Liaison with community groups and statutory bodies regarding the conservation of graveyards.
- Liaised with local communities and tourism development bodies regarding Tidy Towns.
- Liaison with Galway 2020 and ICOMOS Ireland.

Structures at Risk Fund 2018

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.

Scheme was advertised and recommendations made from applications received. Funding of €7000 was received for repairs to the roof of Rathville House Kiltullagh from the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht:



Rathville House, repairs to roof and chimneys



Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2018

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.

€50,000 received under this Scheme for 9 projects. Works completed leveraged €163,673.00 spending on the conservation of the historic fabric, providing 410 days of employment



Church of the Immaculate Conception, Oughterard;
repairs to roof and masonry to prevent water ingress



Park Cottage Eyrecourt - Repairs to bay window and surrounding lime render



Ardrahan Church - Repairs to windows



Cartron House, Aughrim - Repairs to chimney



Straw thatch coat underway at Moyower, Eyrecourt

Table of funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2018

Ref. Number	Structure	Works	Paid
BHIS 18/03	Castle Ellen , Athenry	Repairs to roof	€3743
BHIS 18/04	Mountbellew Demesne Walled Garden	Repairs to masonry walls	€7,906
BHIS 18/05	Church of the Immaculate Conception, Oughterard	Repair to rain water goods	€3203
BHIS 18/07	Thatch House, Limehill	Rethatching roof	€4000
BHIS 18/08	Park Cottage, Eyrecourt	Repairs to windows	€4000
BHIS 18/09	Thatch House, Moyower, Eyrecourt	Rethatch and rebuilding chimney	€5209
BHIS 18/11	Ardrahan Church , Ardrahan	Repairs to windows	€4000
BHIS 18/14	Cartron House , Aughrim	Repairs to chimney	€5,006
BHIS 18/17	Christ Church , Clifden	Repairs to roof and RWGs	€8203

Traditional Skills Training

A one day workshop in the use of hot lime traditional skills was held in Mountbellew Walled garden in association with the Building Limes Forum Ireland and Mountbellew Heritage & Tourism Network C.L.G.

The workshop was targeted at MASONS and SPECIFIERS working with mortars for the repair of traditionally built buildings. It benefits the architect / mason making the transition into working on historic structures and serve as an update for those already working in conservation but who may not have used Hot-mixes and earth mortars. It also works as a forum for those wishing to share their experiences.



LIME MORTAR WORKSHOP – Friday 7th September, 2018

Mortar mixes for our Built heritage - HOT LIME and Earth mortars

Workshop hosted by Mountbellew Tourism and Heritage network

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. The Dunkellin and Aggard Flood relief scheme was a focus in 2018, as well as potential works at Cloon Weir.

Raising awareness

Galway Architectural Conservation unit with funding achieved through the Creative Ireland Initiative supported Architecture at the Edge is a weekend celebration of architecture in the West of Ireland. Featuring 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.

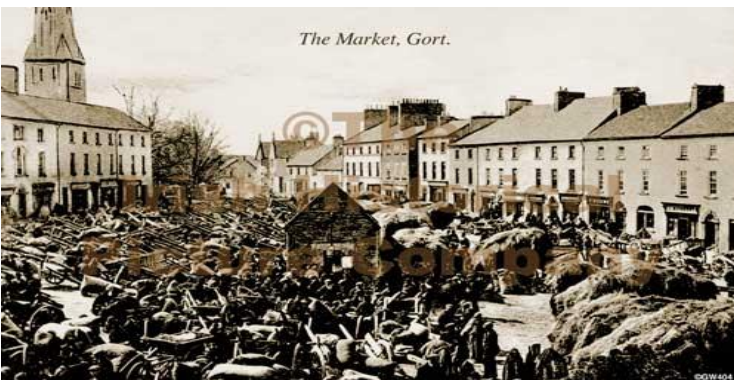


Ardamullivan Castle Gort

Opened to the public for Architecture at the Edge by the Office of Public Works who also provided a guide to the frescoes inside.

Gort

The Conservation Unit supported ICOMOS *Baile* Small town and Village group with Gaillimh 2020 Galway Cultural Capital, and Burren Lowland Development group in planning an integrated festival showcasing the town and its historic environment .



Ballygar

News from Home A film exploring the lyrics of Ballygar composer and bandmaster, PS Gilmore, and the town itself was screened in Ballygar Courthouse.

The film was made by Galway artist Louise Manifold, and it seeks to explore Ballygar, its architecture, and the surrounding area. It looks at local architectural follies, the solid stone round tower, the demolished market house that was originally in the square, and construction for the town's pavilion. The production of the film was funded by Creative Ireland supporting architecture.

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 Siochanna
- 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.

- 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.

Strategic Priority

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

- 28 inspections were carried out on waste permitted / certified sites.
- 129 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 58% 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. 120 inspections were carried out in accordance with the requirements of the NIP including verification inspections. 40 farm inspections were carried out.
- Contracts were in place for check & audit monitoring and raw water monitoring. 347 samples were taken of private GWS and private water supplies, with 98% of private GWS and 93% of private water supplies 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. 1300 complaints were closed.
- Joint inspections were carried out with REPAK on non-compliant businesses, under the CU WERLA pilot packaging programme.
- 7 litter “black spots” were cleaned up, barriers and signage erected and CCTV installed with funding provided by DCCAIE under the Anti- Dumping Initiative 2018.
- 28 unregistered tyre retailers were resolved.



Ballinderry Bog Road – Before and after

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 2018,
 - The Long Point, Loughrea
 - Traught, Kinvara
 - Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua
 - Trá Mhór, Coill Rua, Indreabhán,
 - Trá Chill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór
 - Portumna Bathing Area



Tra an Doilin

- Green Coast Awards were received for six beaches in 2018
 - Trá Pholl na gCaorach, Inis Oírr
 - East End Inishboffin
 - Dumhach, Inishboffin.
 - Inis Oírr, Oileáin Árann.
 - Aillebrack, Ballyconneely.
 - Renvyle Beach, Tully.



East End Inishboffin

- 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 149 committees were awarded a grant.
- A Best Kept Burial Ground competition was run in 2018 with 27 entrants.
- 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.

Strategic Priority

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

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



Strategic Priority

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

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

Water Services

Water Services projects have been progressed by Galway County Council, working under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water, under the Infrastructure Programme and Capital Works Programme throughout 2018. Planning, design and construction of new and upgraded infrastructure continues in the county, to deliver Irish Water's Investment Plan 2017-2021 targets, to ensure regulatory compliance, which in turn, provides enhanced protection for the environment, improved services for consumers and clean potable drinking water for all users.

Strategic 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. An upgrade to the Oughterard wastewater treatment plant was officially opened by the Minister of State for Natural Resources, Community Affairs & Digital Development, Sean Kyne T.D., on 13th March, 2018. The upgraded plant now has a treatment capacity of 2,400 population equivalent, replacing the old 500 P.E. plant. The new plant is a critical piece of infrastructure and is essential in supporting ongoing population and economic growth in Oughterard, while improving the water quality in the Owenriff River and Loch Coirib, and further enhancing the town's tourism potential.



Official opening of Oughterard Wastewater Treatment Plant, 13th March, 2018.

The official opening of the extension of the Lough Mask RWSS in Co. Mayo to supply Williamstown was held on 23rd November, 2018. This project involved a €10m investment in water infrastructure to provide an alternative treated water supply to Williamstown in Co. Galway, as well as the towns of Ballinlough, Cloodfad and Granlahan in Co. Roscommon. The official opening was performed by Ciaran Cannon T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Completion of this project facilitated the removal of the Williamstown WSS from the EPA's Remedial Action List.



Official opening of the Lough Mask Ext. to Williamstown scheme.

The upgrade works at Athenry Wastewater Treatment plant, increasing the plant capacity from 6,000 P.E. to 9,500 P.E., has continued with substantial completion expected in the second quarter of 2019. Route selection and design for the sewer network in Athenry has also significantly progressed.

A contract was signed with SIAC Construction Ltd. to carry out a second phase of significant upgrade works to the water distribution and drainage network at Ballinasloe, prior to street enhancement works. Works commenced in June and the water services element of the contract is expected to be completed in April, 2019.

Concept design was completed for new wastewater treatment plants at An Spidéal, An Cheathrú Rua, Ahascragh and Cloch na Rón. Planning and design for new wastewater treatment plants at Mountbellew and Glenamaddy were also progressed, with procurement of a contract to construct the new plant at Glenamaddy completed and a construction expected to commence early in 2019.

Procurement of a contract to construct 21km of watermain, a 1,000m³ reservoir and booster stations to extend the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme to Craughwell, Loughrea and environs was completed, with construction expected to commence early in 2019.

Strategic Priority

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

Among the works included in the Capital Works programmes, a programme of sewer rehabilitation for the towns of Portumna, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Mountbellew, Dunmore and Leenane progressed, with the completion of CCTV surveys of the relevant sections of the existing networks.

Upgrade works commenced at Tuam Wastewater Treatment Plant to optimise capacity of the plant and provide sludge reception facilities. Process optimisation works commenced at Gort and An Spidéal Water Treatment Plants.

Design progressed, and planning applications were submitted, for four proposed reservoirs for Gort, Tir an Fhia, Letterfrack and Kilkerrin/Moylough RWSS at Slieveroe.

Strategic Priority

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

Mains rehabilitation works are on-going throughout the County via the Leakage Reduction Program. Since the start of 2018 four tranches of mains replacement works totalling 21km of pipelines have progressed through the design stages and are at varying stages of completion. The majority of these

are set to be delivered in 2019 at locations including Ros Muc, An Spidéal, Clifden, Tuam, Kinvara, Portumna, Ahascragh, Bearna and Oughterard with a further works to be identified for progression.

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

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

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

Strategic 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 programme has migrated from a block grant based system which gave high discretion to the Local Authority in relation to the expenditure under the programme to a multi annual scheme specific programme where submissions for funding are considered by a national expert committee and scheme specific allocations of funds are made.

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 2018, Capital Grants in the region of €0.6m were paid out and Subsidies of in the region of €3.4m 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 and Rescue Service and Galway Civil Defence

Introduction

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

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

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



Figure 1: GFRS Fire Station Locations

Fire Stations are located at:

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

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

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



Figure 2 : New Fire Station in Tuam Operational October 2018

Strategic Priority

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

Keeping Communities Safe - A Framework for Fire Safety in Ireland

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

The draft area risk categorisation (ARC) for all Fire Station grounds in Galway had been completed and was submitted to NDFEM in summer of 2015 to form part of the 1st National External Validation Group (EVG) report, as requested by 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. Galway County Council’s (GCC) Section 26 operational plan has been updated and should be brought before the SPC and Council for adoption in early 2019.

Camp West (West Region Fire Control)

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

Health and Safety Management

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

ISO 45001: Occupational Health & Safety Management System

Having achieved accreditation to the OHSAS 18001 safety management system in May 2017 the retention of this accreditation and the H&S management programme have been major drivers of much of the fire service’s H&S related activities in 2018. and are briefly summarised as follows:-

- ISO 45001:** In October 2018 Galway FRS successfully achieved accreditation to the new National Standards Authority of Ireland Safety Management System ISO 45001 Surveillance audits conducted by the accreditation body (NSAI in this case) play a key role of the ISO 45001 system to ensure that safety management systems are constantly maintained and consistently improved as per the requirements of the code of practice. In this regard Galway FRS successfully passed the surveillance audit that that was conducted in 2018 and the next audits are scheduled for May 2018 at Portumna and Athenry fire stations.



Figure 3: OHSAS 18001 Presentation 2018

- Fire Station Safety Checks:** A new initiative of carrying out regular safety checks in fire stations was commenced in 2017. The purpose of these checks, which are conducted on a six monthly basis for county retained fire stations and on a quarterly basis for Galway City fire station, is to augment the existing suite of static risk assessments of our fire stations (which are reviewed on a three yearly basis). They also allow for the early identification of potential hazards in the fire stations thus expediting the implementation of appropriate control measures and corrective actions.
- Meetings / Consultations:** Galway FRS H&S Steering Group continued to meet monthly in 2018. H&S Operational Group meetings for the City & City Retained personnel and separately for County Retained personnel continued every two months in 2018.
- Audits:** As mentioned above the last OHSAS 18001 accreditation surveillance audit was conducted in October 2018 by the NSAI. The fire stations of An Cheathrú Rua and Galway City were selected as the locations of the audits. Fire service personnel at both locations made significant efforts to ensure that their fire stations were well presented. The NSAI found that there was no area of concern to warrant the withdrawal of certification and the new ISO 45001 certification was successfully attained. The next audits are scheduled for May 2019 at Portumna and Athenry fire stations.

- Legionella Control:** Following the legionella risk assessments of the fire stations that took place in 2016 a Legionella Control programme was developed and instigated in 2017. The programme involves the monthly monitoring of water services infrastructure in all fire stations by a specialist contractor. In parallel to this particular programme a separate programme of carrying out remedial works to water services infrastructure in all fire stations was initiated to address issues identified in the legionella risk assessments. These works, h were predominantly concluded in December 2017. Legionella monitoring continued in 2018 in order to continue to lower the legionella risk rating in fire stations.
- H&S Documentation:** A number of documents relating to the safety management system were reviewed & updated in 2018 and copies of same issued to fire stations. We have continued to upload documentation relating to the safety management system onto the Library function of the Incident Control Room software system and appliance tablets. It is planned to keep all such H&S documentation in this manner thus ensuring that the most up to date documentation will be available to all fire crews at all times. All operational guidance is circulated in the same manner.
- Accident Reporting:** Further training took place for fire service personnel regarding the procedures for the reporting of accidents and dangerous occurrences. 13 accidents were reported in 2018 and were broken down as follows:
 - 5 accidents without injury
 - 6 accidents with minor injury (2 of which involved lost time)
 - 2 near misses

Of the accidents that occurred 3 involved vehicles. Ongoing building maintenance to fire stations continued during 2018 including the implantation of the legionella control programme & remedial works and the installation of fire detection and alarm systems in remaining stations.

Fire Operations (Response)

The total number of emergency responses by Galway Fire Rescue Service (GFRS) in Galway City and County respectively, in 2017 was 1755 (1605 incidents) with 696 in Galway City Fire

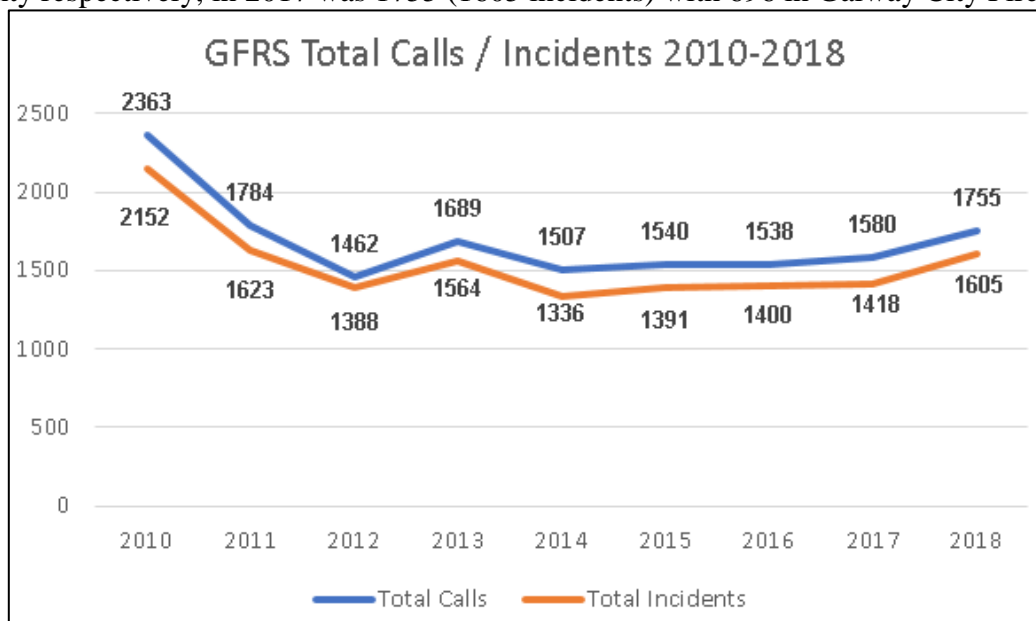


Figure 4: Incident Trends for Galway City and County 2010 – 2018

Ground and 1059 emergency responses in remainder of Galway County. The overall call rate represents an increase of 11% from 2017. Figure 4 shows the trend of incidents /responses from 2010 – 2018 for Galway City and County. The number of incidents / responses attended have more or less flat-lined since 2015 however there are signs of an increasing trend from 2017. Figure 5 shows trends of incidents / responses in the City and County Fire ground areas respectively from 2009 -2018.

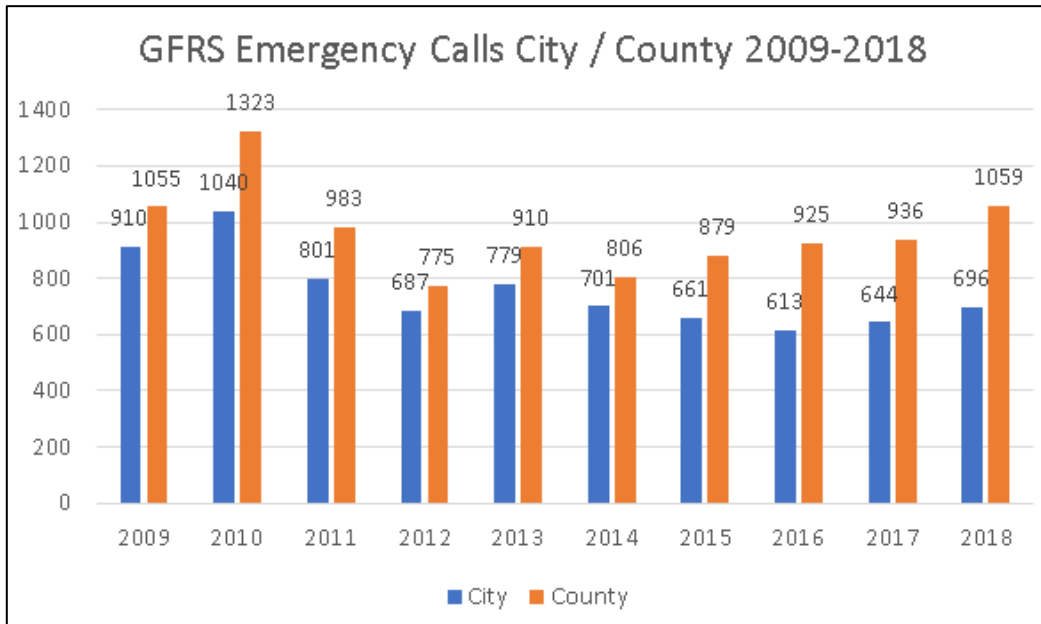


Figure 5: Incident Trends for City & County Fire Ground Areas 2010-2018

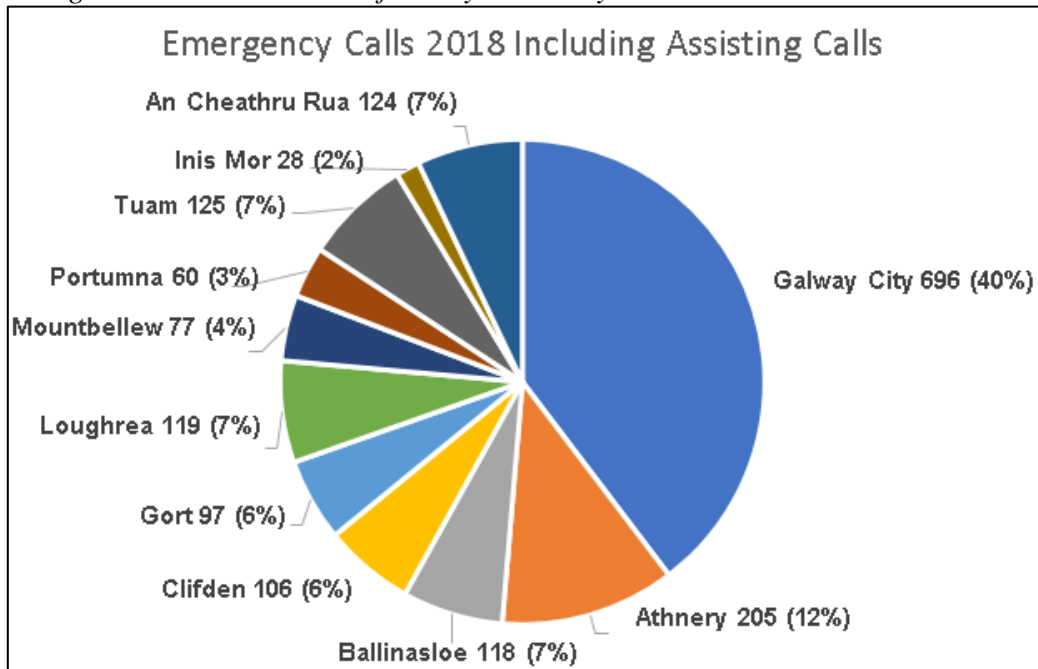


Figure 6: Breakdown of Emergency Calls Including Assisting Calls in 2018

Figures 6 & 7 give a breakdown of emergency responses and incidents by Fire Station for 2018 including and excluding assistance calls respectively. Overall activity levels have increased by 11% from 2017 levels with the percentage activity per station remaining relatively steady.

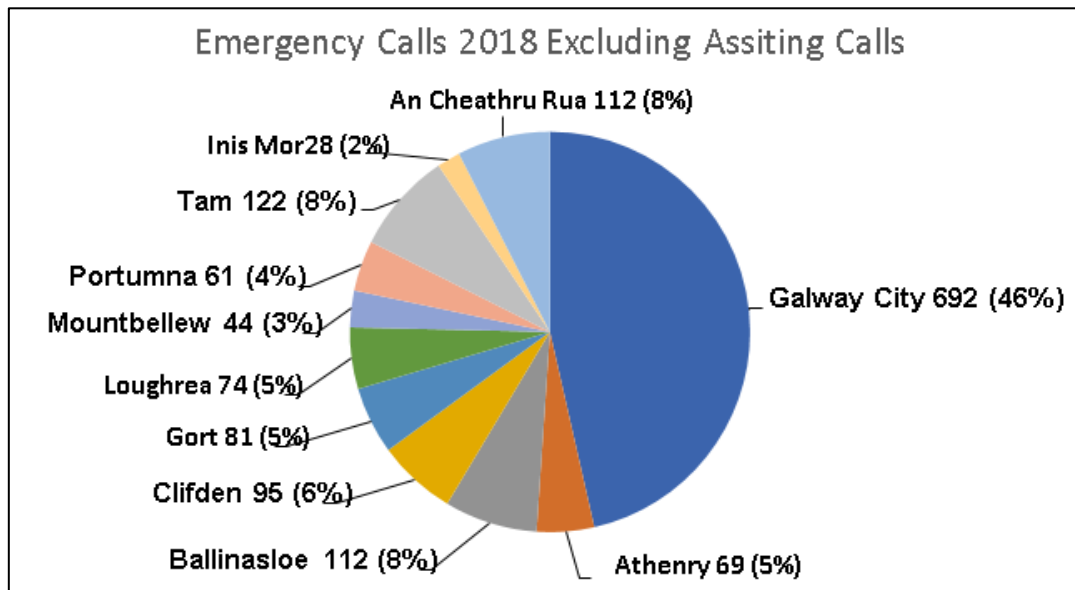


Figure 7: Breakdown by Station Excluding Assisting Calls in 2018

Operational Performance indicators 2018

The average cost per head of population for providing the Fire Service in Galway City and county was €47.68 in 2018. Performance indicators have been set nationally for local authority Fire Services:

Average response times for all incidents for first attendance vehicles in the City full-time and County retained stations were 2.33 mins and 5.38 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 – 32.5%;
- Greater than 10 minutes and less than 20 minutes – 40.4%
- Greater than 20 minutes – 27.1 %.

The performance indicators for all other incidents excluding fires for the same parameters were 45.9%; 39.9% and 14.2% respectively.

There were no fatalities due to accidental fires in 2018 in Galway city and county.

New Equipment

3 new water bowsers were purchased in 2018 for wildland fire fighting and for the islands as shown in Figure 8. It is hoped to complete this programme in 2019. A second-hand water tanker was also procured and refurbishment is scheduled to be completed in early 2019.

This vehicle will be located in An Cheathrú Rua. New confined space rescue equipment was also purchased in 2018.



Figure 8: Wildland Water Bowsers

Strategic Priority

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

Community Fire Safety and Prevention

Work was ongoing in the Fire Prevention & Fire Safety Section throughout 2018.

Inspections

The Fire Prevention Section carried out 241 inspections of premises in 2018 as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act 1981, Building Control Act 1990 and 2014, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, and the Dangerous Substances Act.

Public License Applications

The Fire Prevention Section received 294 applications and processed 159 public licence applications in 2018. The overall number of Public License applications was the same as 2017. Public license activity from 2008 to 2018 is shown in Figure 9.

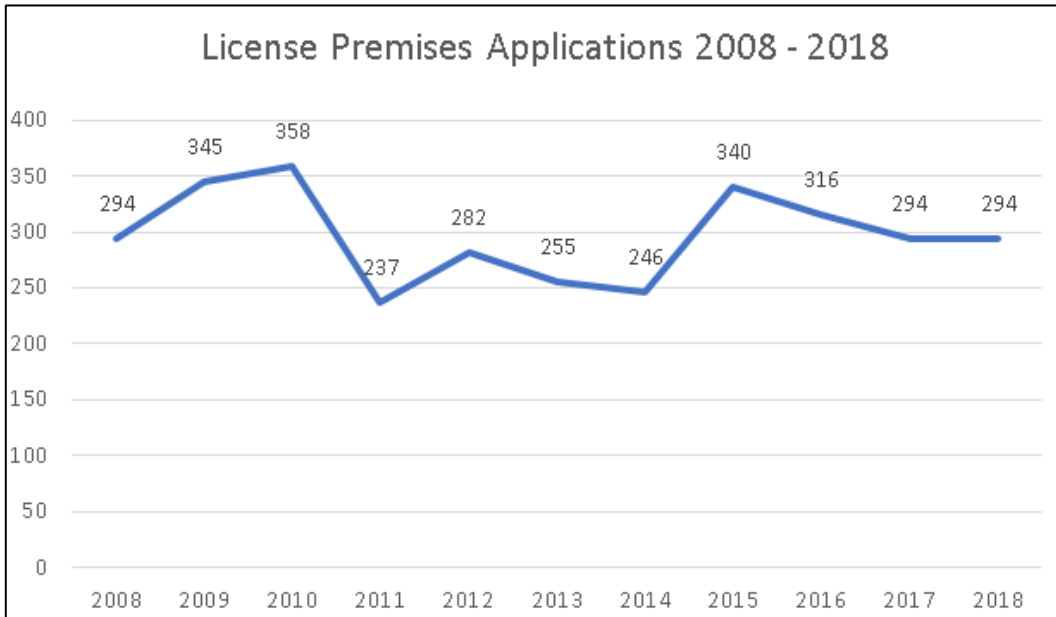


Figure 9: Public License Applications 2008- 2018

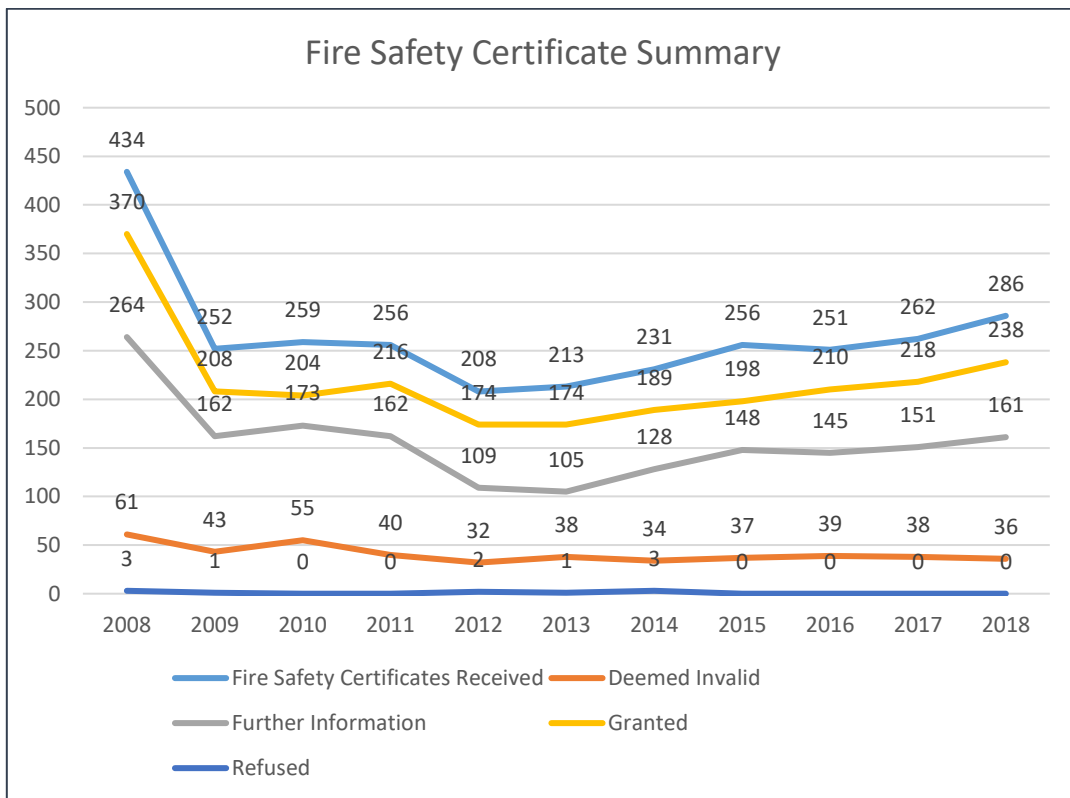


Figure 10: Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Activity 2008- 2018

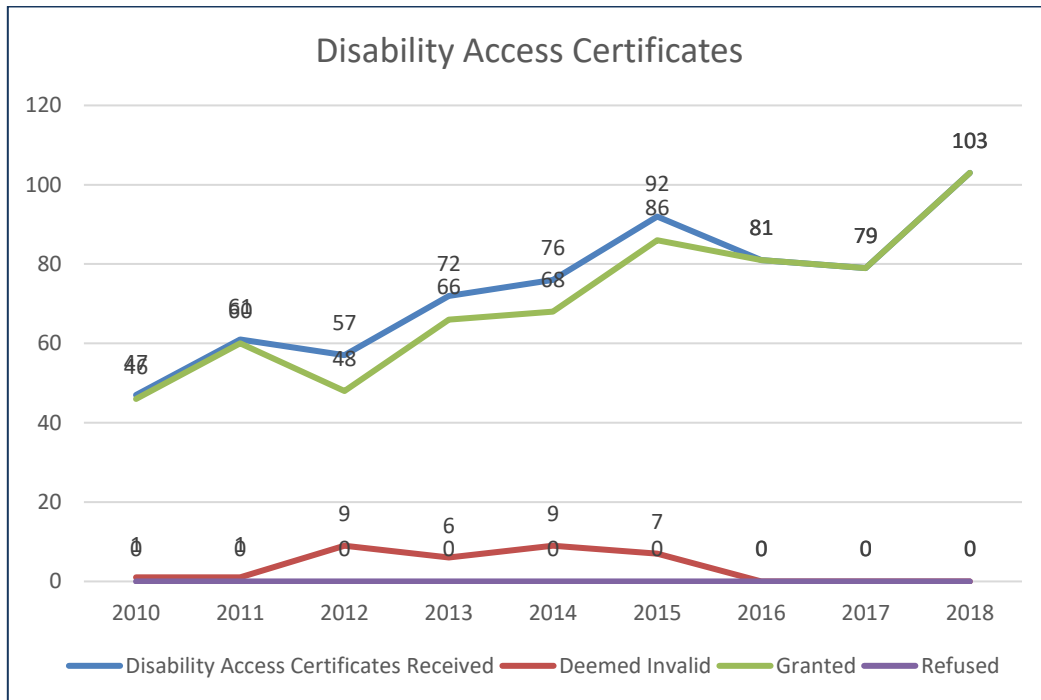


Figure 11: Disability Access Certificate Activity 2010-2018

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

The Fire Prevention Section dealt with 286 Fire Safety Certificate Applications of all types under the Building Control Regulations, 164 in the County Council area and 122 in the City Council area. The overall number of Fire Safety Certificate applications represents an increase of 9% from 2017. Fire Safety Certificate activity from 2008 to 2018 is shown in Figure 10.

These figures reflect a flat recovery in planned commercial construction activity in the Galway area in 2018 but are still low compared to boom years. However, the increasing number of FSC applications received in 2018 shows that they are returning to boom year levels with increasing size and complexity of commercial construction being proposed for development.

Disability Access Certificates

The total number of Disability Access Certificates dealt with in 2018 was 103 and increase of 30% from 2017. Disability Access Certificate activity from 2010 to 2018 is shown in Figure 11.

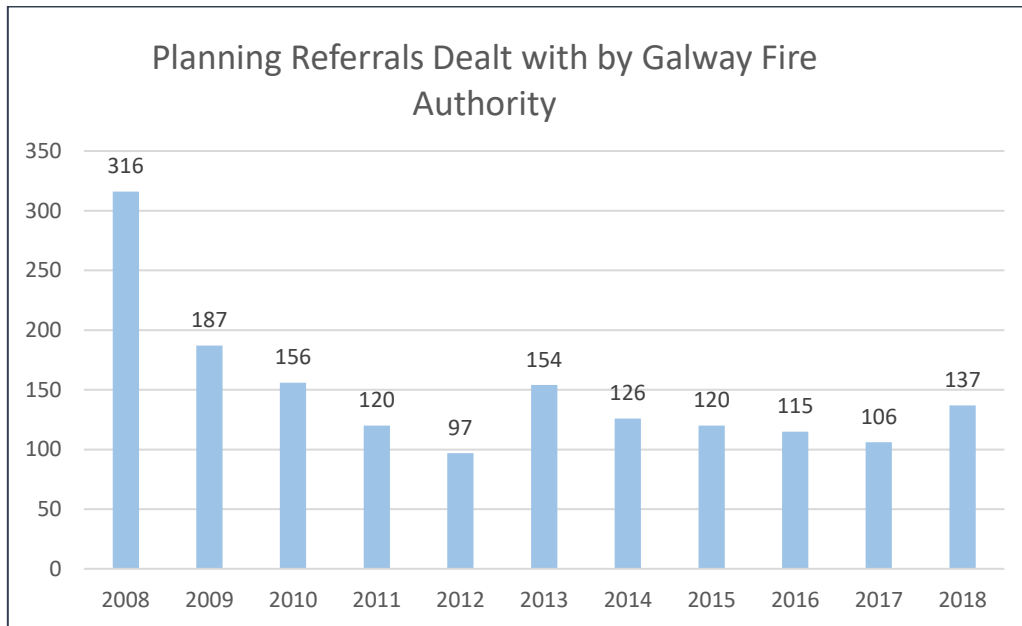


Figure 12: Planning Referrals 2008-2018

Planning Referrals

The total number of planning referrals in 2018 for the City and County was 137 and the planning referral activity from 2008 to 2018 are shown in Figure 12.

Community Fire Safety

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



Galway Fire & Rescue Service
Seirbhís Dóiteáin & Tarrthála na Gaillimhe



An Garda Síochána

Wildfire Information for Farmers & Landowners

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




Wildfire Information for the Public

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

PLEASE REMEMBER!

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

Figure 13: Wildfire Prevention Campaign Poster



Figure 14: Appliance Community Fire Safety Message

Galway FRS continued in 2018 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 2018 in the county.

Galway FRS also ran a wildfire ad campaign (see Figure 13) in local newspapers and on social media to try to reduce the number of wildfires particularly in Conamara and the South of the County. The posters were also displayed in prominent business in the areas. Galway FRS also commenced a trial of a community safety message on fire appliances reflecting the National STOP Fire campaign. It is hoped to extend this initiative to all first turn out appliances during 2019.

Major Emergency Management (MEM)

The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of New National Framework for Major Emergency Management (MEM) continued its work. Work was ongoing on reviewing the GCC Major Emergency Plan and this is due to be completed in early 2019. As part of this review the GCC Severe Weather and Flood Response Sub-plans were also being reviewed.

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

The following plans were reviewed and tested in 2018;

- The Cold Chon External Emergency Plan (Upper Tier COMAH Site)
- The Inter-Agency Island Response Plan

Preliminary meetings were held in relation to the review of the Circle K External Emergency Plan (Upper Tier COMAH Site) in conjunction with Galway City Council and this review must be completed in 2019. Work was also ongoing on the completion of an External Emergency Plan for Tynagh Power Station (a lower tier site).

The following major emergency exercises were held in 2018;

- Cold Chon in Oranmore on the 03 April 2018
- Island Response (Aer Arann) at Conamara Airport and Inis Meáin on the 16 October 2018

As part of these exercises GFRS continued to embed the Mobile On-Site Co-Ordination Unit (based in Gort fire station) as shown in Figure 15 and the refurbished Local Co-Ordination Centre as shown in Figure 16. Both use the new electronic information management system (eIMS).

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

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

mid 2018 a case was submitted to the NDFEM for funding to provide a back-up generator for the LCC as part of GCC's business continuity plan.

Galway County Council also managed the annual regional claim on behalf of the 8 PRA's in the West region in 2018 as in previous years.



Figure 15: Galway Regional MEM On-Site Co-Ordination Centre (OSCC) Unit

In both of the MEM exercises held in 2018, Galway FRS exercised both the multiple fatality container and the fleximort multiple fatality holding facility as shown in Figures 17, 18 and 19 below. The operation of these units is by Galway Civil Defence assisted by Galway FRS and the NAS as appropriate and necessary.

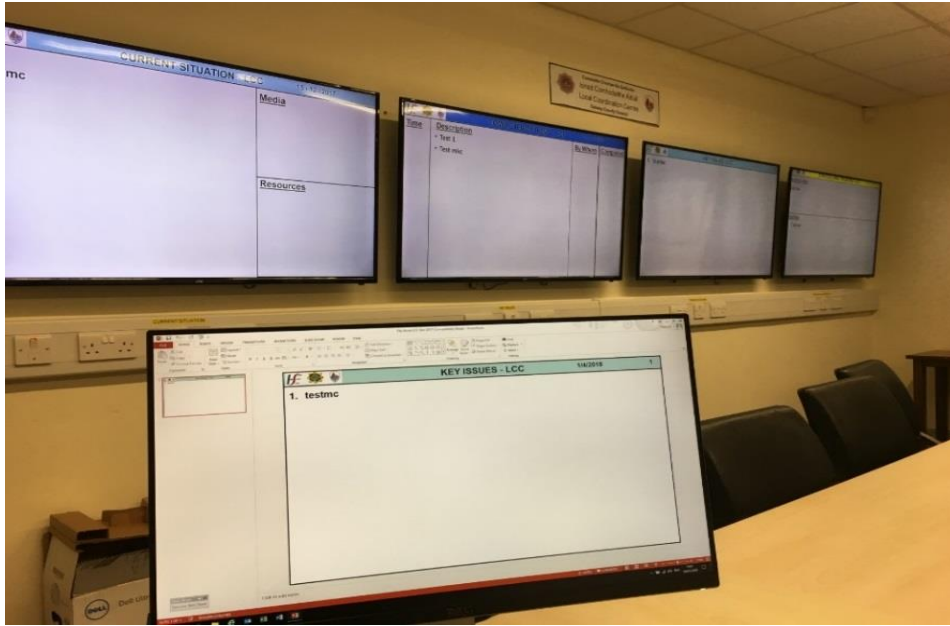


Figure 16: Local Co-Ordination Centre and Electronic Information Management System



Figure 17: Fleximort Refrigerated Multiple Fatality Storage Unit

Critical Incident Stress Management

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



Figure 18: Refrigerated Multiple Fatality Storage Container Unit

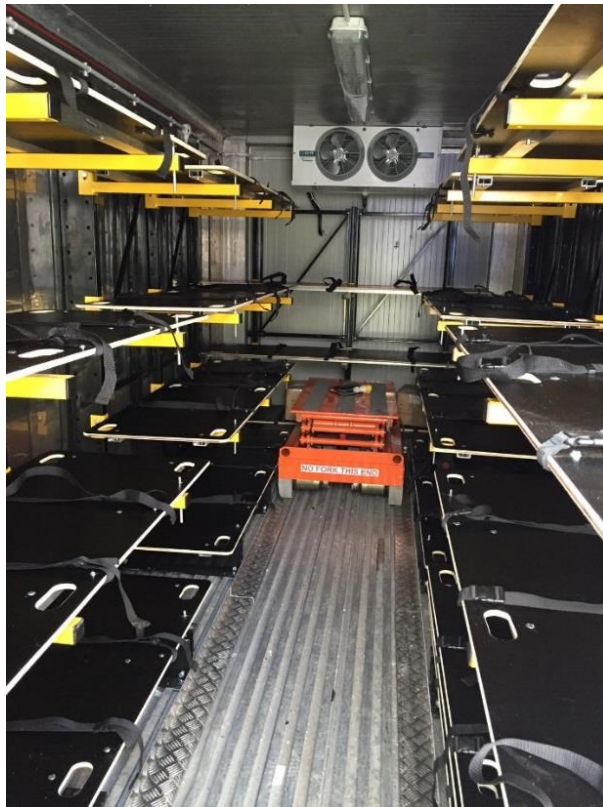


Figure 19: Internal Layout Multiple Fatality Storage Container Unit

Strategic Priority

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

Capital

In 2018, Galway Fire and Rescue Service applied for recoupment of capital funding of approximately €1.8 million from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management of the Department of Housing, Planning, and Community & Local Government. This related to the following;

- New Tuam Fire Station contract payments and professional fees
- Procurement of two pre-owned Class B Fire Appliances
- Procurement of a new 4WD for the county and a new saloon
- Procurement of a pre-owned van for the Brigade mechanic
- Smoke alarms procurement
- Annual Regional MEM claim

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

Training

As in previous years a significant amount of training was conducted by Galway FRS in 2018. This training is delivered by the following means:

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

Drill Night Training Programme

On-station training in accordance with the drill night training programme continued to be delivered locally in all retained Fire Stations in 2018. This training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station. Manual handling refresher training was also completed.

Daily Watch Training Programme

On-station training in accordance with the watch daily training programme continued to be delivered locally Galway City Fire Station for full-time personnel in 2018. This training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station. Skills maintenance for specialist roles was also carried out based on special appliances located at the station including the:

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

Centralised Training Programme

Initial training courses and refresher courses were organised centrally, as in previous years, as per the annual training programme for 2018. Courses conducted included:

- Breathing apparatus refresher
- Compartment fire behaviour initial and refresher
- Positive pressure ventilation

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

A specialised training course, confined space rescue for incident commanders / rope rescue supervisors, was delivered by the NDFEM. This course is in advance of the roll out of confined space training for all officers and fire fighters in 2019 / 2020. Firefighters across the county also attended both initial and refresher training in Emergency Medical First Responder training to support their life support skills at incidents.

A 3 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.

A full-time recruit fire fighter for Galway City successfully completed a 10 week recruits course at the Fire Service College UK and went operational in late 2018.

Centralised National Training

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

- Road traffic collision instructor course
- Hazardous materials course
- Hydra incident command training
- Senior officer operational command course
- Fire engineering and operational command seminars for senior officers



Figure 20: Compartment Fire Behaviour Training in Clifden



Figure 21: Confined Space Rescue Training in Tuam



Figure 22: The new Tuam Fire Station operational in October 2018

Fire Station Re-Development

A new 4 bay retained fire station became operational in Tuam in late October 2018 following a 10 month contract. Additional capital appraisals were submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management for Athenry and Ballinasloe fire stations and work was also progressed in relation to Galway City.

New class B Fire appliance

Tenders for the delivery of a new class B Fire Appliance were completed on a regional basis as part of the National Procurement Process from 2018-2020 and the new appliance is scheduled for delivery in Galway City in mid 2018.

Personnel

Maintaining crew numbers is a constant issue in the retained service and particular issues in Tuam required designated stand-by arrangements in late 2018. Crew recruitment continued in 2018 and the situation in Tuam will be fully addressed by mid-2019.

The retirements of three experienced retained Station Officers in 2018 is also acknowledged. SO Jody Kilkelly from Athenry, SO Ger King from Clifden and SO Enda Gill from Inis Mor retired and their considerable experience will be missed within Galway FRS. Subsequent promotional interviews were held in the relevant stations to ensure a full officer compliment.

Civil Defence

Galway Civil Defence, through their five training centres in Galway City, Oranmore, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Clonberne had an intensive year with duty activities and training, locally and centrally through the Civil Defence College, Roscrea. A programme of training in Cardiac First Response, First Aid Responder and Emergency First Response was ongoing through 2018.

Ongoing training through the Civil Defence College in Roscrea took place during 2018 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 continued their use of the e-vetting system for new and current members in 2018. This system continues to prove more efficient and vetting status returns are received in a much shorter timeframe.

In 2018, 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.

Ballinasloe Civil Defence with the assistance of the County unit again provided medical cover at the annual Ballinasloe Fair over a 10 day period.

Civil Defence 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. Two of our operators recertified as operators in 2018, in which one received instructor status for Civil Defence Flight School. Galway also qualified a third operator in 2018 which has increased operational response capabilities.

The SUA team were extensively involved the searches for missing persons in Galway throughout 2018 in conjunction with our shoreline search teams and in support of An Garda Siochana. Assistance of our SUA team was requested by other counties during the year to assist in missing person searches.

Galway Civil Defence assisted the PRA's during Storm Emma in late February 2018. Significant transport resources were supplied in support of the HSE Staff including Public Health Nurses, Home Care Staff and Critical Nursing Staff.

Civil Defence members continue to assist and build on their relationship and profile within their communities with their presence at duty/events, with over 270 events attended throughout the city and county in 2018. Civil Defence intend to remain in readiness to assist again in 2019.



Figure 23: Civil Defence Mobilisation Storm Emma February / March 2018

Strategic Priority

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

Customer Service

Galway Fire and Rescue Service processed and addressed fire prevention complaints as received on a prioritised basis. A new Customer Service section has been included in the revised Section 26 Plan.



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 2018 including:

- An application was made in October 2018 to An Bord Pleanála for the approval of the N6 Galway City Ring Road. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Natura Impact Statement, Motorway Scheme and Protected Road Scheme for the N6 Galway City Ring Road have been published and submitted to An Bord Pleanála. The period for submissions to An Bord Pleanála closed on the 21st December 2018. An Oral Hearing is to be held in Galway during 2019.
- Certificate of Substantial Completion issued in December 2018 for the N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh Hill Road Scheme.
- The CPO for N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara realignment was confirmed in March 2016. Land acquisition continued in 2018.

Strategic Priority

To support and enhance democratic representation and civic leadership.

The 2018 Roads Programme was prepared following allocations for National and Non-National road construction, repairs and maintenance grants totalling **€48,294,432** from Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and an allocation from Galway County Council:

National Roads -	€25,030,182
Non-National Roads -	€23,264,250

The Roads Programme was prepared in consultation with the elected members, reviewed and adopted by each Municipal District.

Strategic Priority

To drive and support sustainable economic development and enterprise.

The grant allocated by Transport Infrastructure Ireland for the Motorway & National Roads for the year 2018 was **€25,030,182**.

The 2018 allocation divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€ 23,512,935
Maintenance Works	€ 1,062,247
PPP Related costs	€ 455,000

Funding continued to be provided in 2018 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 Transport Infrastructure Ireland:

M6	Galway City Bypass	€ 2,189,379
M6	Galway/Ballinasloe (bypasses Ballinasloe, Loughrea & Oranmore)	€17,485
M17	Gort – Tuam	€219,012
	Total National Primary Major Scheme	€ 2,425,879

An application was made in October 2018 to An Bord Pleanála for the approval of the N6 Galway City Ring Road. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Natura Impact Statement, Motorway Scheme and Protected Road Scheme for the N6 Galway City Ring Road have been published and submitted to An Bord Pleanála. The period for submissions to An Bord Pleanála closed on the 21st December 2018 and the Oral Hearing is expected to be held during 2019.

Land Acquisitions:

- Land acquisitions were ongoing for the N59 Maigh Cuilinn ByPass and contractors were appointed in 2018 and it is intended that the scheme will go to tender in 2019
- Purchase of land continued to facilitate the N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annaghill road projects
- Purchase of land continues to facilitate the N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara realignment Phase 2 road project
- Land acquisitions were ongoing for the N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard scheme between Maam Cross and Bunakill

Other milestones achieved relating to the National Primary & Secondary Road Network during 2018 included:

- The development and delivery of a major programme of overlay and realignment projects on National Primary and National Secondary Route.
- Utilities advanced works commenced in 2018 on the N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara realignment Phase 2 scheme in order to facilitate the proposed road realignment

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 Leacht Seirse
N17 Tuam Town	N66 Kilchreest Section 1	

National Secondary Pavement & Minor Improvements:

N65 Portumna Resurfacing Works	N84 Luimnagh	N63 Moylough – HD pavement overlay
N59 Maigh Cuilinn reinstatement	N63 Liss to Abbey realignment	N59 West of Letterfrack widening
N65 Kilmeen Pavement Strengthening	N59 Sraith Salach	N84 at various locations

National Roads Maintenance:

Funding was allocated to the maintenance of the National Roads Network in 2018 as follows:

NP Winter Maintenance	€ 225,789
NP Ordinary Maintenance	€ 159,728
NP Pavement Renewals	€ 72,333
NP Route Lighting	€ 65,641
NP Motorway MMarC Lighting 2018	€ 8,297
NS Winter Maintenance	€ 357,424
NS Ordinary Maintenance	€ 567,389
NS Pavement Renewals	€ 427,194
NS Route Lighting	€ 138,093
Local Authority Support (Maintenance)	€ 75,036
Local Authority Support (Winter Maintenance)	€ 10,000
Total Motorway & National Road Maintenance works	€2,106,924

Additional funding for national roads was allocated by TII during 2018 in the amount of €1,675,335 for 14 Capital Pavement Schemes at 14 locations and €50,671 for bridge repair works at 3 locations.

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 2018 was €23,264,250 divided as follows:

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

The expenditure can be classified under the following broad headings:

Grant Category	2018
Improvement Grant	€11,995,352
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€ 4,392,775
Discretionary Grant	€ 6,012,726
Specific Improvement Grants	€ 230,080
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€ 231,243
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	€ 415,000
Strategic Regional and Local Roads	€ 34,409
Drainage Works	€ 690,573
Training	€ 95,000
Overall Total	€24,097,158

Local Roads Maintenance:

The sum provided from the Council's own resources in 2018 was **€5,668,836**. The Local Roads General Maintenance allocation of **€2,315,086**, which includes a provision of **€1,101,600** for ongoing operational costs. The sum of €1,213,486 was allocated amongst the Municipal District for Local Roads Maintenance as follows:

Athenry/Oranmore	Local Roads Maintenance	€111,453
Ballinasloe	Local Roads Maintenance	€237,544
Conamara	Local Roads Maintenance	€244,688
Loughrea	Local Roads Maintenance	€304,586
Tuam	Local Roads Maintenance	€315,215
	TOTAL	€1,213,486

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

An allocation of €265,000 was provided for Winter Maintenance in 2018, 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 2018-2019.

The unprecedented weather during 2018 provided an added challenge to our road maintenance crews; - Storm Emma in February/March, Storm Ali in September and Storm Callum in October. The Council road maintenance crews went from one extreme of ploughing snow during Storm Emma to gritting our County roads during the summer months due to melting tar from the hot weather.



REGIONAL & LOCAL ROAD BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME 2018

Funding of €415,000 was allocated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards the rehabilitation of 6 specific bridges in County Galway, which was expended as follows:

Bridge	2018 Expenditure €
BR R333 Coheenaheeny Footbridge, Headford	123,966
BR L1321 Chorbhuaile, Bearna	70,331
BR L74462 Beefield, New Inn	47,218
BR L12056 Úraid, Sraith Salach	107,713
BR L4514 Lurga, Gort	64,430
BR L4512 Ballybackagh Bridge	1,342
Total Bridge Rehabilitation	415,000

Works at Philbins and Úraid are to be completed in 2019 while emergency funding was received for works at Ballybackagh Bridge, Castledaly which will result in a reduced allocation in 2019.

Funding of €362,818 was allocated from the Discretionary grant for the repair of Regional and Local Roads Bridges:

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	BRIDGE	ALLOCATION
Ballinasloe	Coololla, Aughrim	€9,818
Conamara	Doire Chrith, Bearna	€48,262
	Cloonagh, Lettergesh	€6,583
	Drimneen, Oughterard	€4,204
	Idir Dhá Loch i gCarna	€23,835
	Philbins, Corr na Móna	€105,074
	Derrynavglau, Clifden	€6,640
Loughrea	Sonnagh, Kilchreest	€3,444
	Ballylee, Gort	€6,697
Tuam	Cloonkeen 3, Abbeyknockmoy	€74,207
	Moyne, Headford	€9,350
	Laughil, Clonbern	€1,000
	Cloondahamper	€1,000
	Gortadrishagh, Williamstown	7,500
	Barnaderg	7,500
	Design & Land Acquisition	€47,704
TOTAL ALLOCATION €362,818		

Bridge	2018 Expenditure €
BR R333 Coheenaheeny Footbridge, Headford	100,000
BR 345 Philbins, Corr na Móna	80,000
BR L1321 Chorbhuaile, Bearna	55,000
BR L74462 Beefield, New Inn	50,000
BR L12056 Úraid, Sraith Salach	60,000
BR L4514 Lurga, Gort	74,930
Total Bridge Rehabilitation	415,000

Works at Philbins and Oorid are to be completed in 2019 while emergency funding was received for works at Ballybackagh Bridge, Castledaly which will result in a reduced allocation in 2019.

Funding of **€360,500** was allocated from the Discretionary grant for the repair of Regional and Local Roads Bridges:

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	BRIDGE	ALLOCATION
Ballinasloe	Coololla, Aughrim	€10,000
Conamara	Doire Chrith, Bearna	€30,000
	Cloonagh, Lettergesh	€10,000
	Drimneen, Oughterard	€5,000
	Idir Dhá Loch i gCarna	€15,000
	Derrynavglau, Clifden	€28,000
Loughrea	Sonnagh, Kilchreest	€70,000
	Ballylee, Gort	€10,000
Tuam	Cloonkeen 3, Abbeyknockmoy	€50,000
	Moyne, Headford	€7,500
	Laughil, Clonbern	€50,000
	Cloondahamper	€50,000
	Design & Land Acquisition	€25,000
TOTAL ALLOCATION €360,500		

Works were completed at seven of the bridges along with five from the 2017 programme while works will be completed at Cloondahamper and Laughil in 2019.

Strategic Priority

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

MARINE MAINTENANCE

The marine maintenance programme is in place for 62 landing places identified as being in the charge of Galway County Council. The programme includes repairs and replacements to ladders and railings, regular removal of algal growth on slipways, and safety improvements to piers. It also includes maintenance of visitor yacht moorings and the maintenance of navigation lights that are in the charge of Galway County Council.

In 2018 safety improvements were installed at 2 piers (Árd Mhór and Béal Carra) and navigation lights were replaced at 4 locations. The sea wall at Clifden harbour which suffered storm damage was repaired to its original condition and repairs were also carried out to Oileán Mór slipway in Ros Muc.

Total expenditure on maintenance and repair came to €127,000.

STRATEGIC HARBOURS

Caladh Inis Oírr

Galway County Council appointed Punch Consulting to advance the design and construction phase of the harbour development. Surveys were completed to support the contract documents that have been prepared for the tender process. CPO documents have been prepared to satisfy the scheme needs. This work continues into 2019.

Caladh Mór Inis Meáin

A review of the feasibility study of 2009 supported the Business Plan application which has been submitted to Roinn na Gaeltachta for consideration.

COASTAL PROTECTION

The storm surge of 2 January 2018 (storm Eleanor) caused extensive damage to the coast in Leenane. Emergency works were carried out to stabilise the N59 but a longer term coastal protection scheme is required at this location. Statutory reports and assessments have been commissioned and this work is ongoing into 2019.

Strategic Priority

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

Town Enhancement Works at the Little Mill Wheel in Tuam were completed to a value of €100,000, in Q1 2018. The works enhanced the park immediately adjacent to the old mill museum, and a refurbishment of the mill wheel itself was included. The works included a new plaza area, new footpaths and kerbing, new street furniture and railings, all working towards the overall aim of displaying an integral part of the heritage of Tuam town; the old mill wheel and museum. Some photos showing the before and after are included below.



Strategic Priority

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

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP:

Conamara Greenway

In 2016, Fáilte Ireland awarded Galway County Council funding toward the development of the Conamara Green. In May 2018, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Cathaoirleach officially opened a section of the Conamara Greenway from Cloonbeg to Athry, running adjacent to Ballynahinch Castle.



Conamara Greenway Launch May 2018

The development is part of a wider plan for the Clifden to Oughterard Greenway that has linked up with the planned Greenway from Galway City to Oughterard, which will ultimately result in a 78Km Galway to Clifden when complete.



Greenway at Ballynahinch

Significant development work has been made over the past two years and the Roads, Transportation, Marine & General Services Unit will continue to work Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in order progress this project and development similar projects in the County.

Conamara – Fiáin go smior/Wild at Heart



The Council has continued to progress the Conamara Interpretation and Infrastructure project, which will be know as ‘Conamara – Fiáin go smior/Wild as Heart’. Conamara Wild at Heart is a tourism initiative which has delivered on a clear vision to enhance the visitor experience in Conamara as well as instilling a stronger sense of place among local communities. Its focus is to reinforce and extend Conamara’s renowned region’s distinctiveness, landscape, heritage and culture.



Conamara – Fiáin go smior/Wild at Heart signage at Cong and An Charraig Thoir, Conamara

Conamara ‘Wild At Heart’ has provided physical tourism infrastructure along distinctive driving routes – Mountain, Sea and Lakes - including welcome Gateways, engaging visitor information and memorable sculptural pieces along the way. This tourism initiative sets the scene for future public and private and local investment in the region by providing the vital link between existing congested tourism hotspots such as Kylemore Abbey and struggling rural communities. It thus creates a more sustainable, overall tourism proposition which encourages the visitor to stay longer and experience more.



Conamara Wild At Heart is intended as a ‘living’ initiative which will grow and develop with local community and business support and promotion. This initial infrastructure stage is only the beginning

of the journey. It sets the benchmark for future developments to be immersive and sustainable visitor experiences in keeping with Conamara Wild at Heart and the area's international reputation.

FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES & FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS

Galway County Council and the OPW work in partnership to deliver Flood Relief Schemes (substantial schemes) and Flood Mitigation works (local mitigation). The OPW funds all major flood relief schemes - schemes are carried out directly by the OPW under the Arterial Drainage Acts or can be carried out by Galway County Council under the Planning & Development Acts. The OPW also provides 90% funding towards local flood mitigation works. A steering group meets regularly to ensure timely delivery of proposals that will reduce the risk of future flooding.

The OPW also provides advice and assistance to Galway County Council when flood events occur.

Clare River (Baile Chláir) Flood Relief Scheme:

This OPW scheme was substantially completed in 2018

Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme:

In Craughwell, the bypass channel and works on the main channel were substantially completed in 2018. Works on five bridges and a one kilometre stretch of a two-stage channel were also completed on the scheme. The two remaining bridges and maintenance works on the Aggard Stream will be completed in 2019.



Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme – Newly installed flood eyes at Rinn Bridge in operation

South Galway, Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme:

A public consultation day was held in Gort in May 2018. Preliminary Environmental Assessments of the potential scheme was completed. Meetings were held with affected members for the public and threshold survey were carried out. Work on the complex hydraulic model for the scheme has been substantially completed. A Feasibility Study is due to be completed in 2019, with public exhibition scheduled for early 2020.



South Galway, Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme – Channel clearance works at Roxborough swallow holes undertaken as advanced works on the scheme

FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS

The Council carried out works at 21 locations in 2018, under the OPW funded Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme with a total expenditure of €554,583, of which 90% was funded by the OPW and 10% funded by the Council.

Additional funding of €605,507 was approved for further flood relief works by the OPW at 12 locations and works will be completed in 2019.

A further 17 reported flooding locations were initially assessed by Galway County Council and submitted to the OPW for consideration. Of these three are at coastal locations.

The OPW also provide a Remedial Works Scheme for works at homes that flooded but which do not meet the cost benefit criteria for funding under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works Scheme. Seven applications were submitted in 2018, with 2 approved to date.

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

The Council discharges its statutory responsibility for the maintenance of certain drainage works in the County through the Roads and Transportation Unit and the Council's Municipal District Offices. The Council has charge of twelve Drainage Districts and continues to allocate funds towards two former Joint Drainage Districts that were dissolved in 2014. The Council spent €173,000 on Drainage District works in 2018.

In 2018 maintenance works were carried out in the following Drainage Districts:- Ahascragh, Annagh, Boley, Dunkellin Loughrea, Kellysgrove, Kilchreest, Lavalyy, Mountbellew, Oranhill and Suck.

MACHINERY YARD:

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

Strategic Priority

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

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.

CLÁR:

County Galway received an allocation of €361,115 from the Department of Rural and Community Development for 10 projects under the CLÁR Meaure 1 projects - support for schools and community safety measures in rural areas. The facilities provided/upgraded, by the Council, included footpaths, safe & secure drop off areas at schools, line markings, zebra crossings 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 2018 Galway County Council was successful in securing funding for four more projects under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme:

- Enhance the visual impact, safety and accessibility of the Galway Road junction at the square in Headford town with a total cost of €125,000
- Finalise the refurbishment of the streetscape in Woodford - €125,000
- Reconstruction and enhancement of footpath on R348 in Ballinasloe, amount to €100,000
- Enhancement of village streetscape, provision of a safe and continuous pedestrian link in the form of a footpath between Tully and Tully Cross, roads surfacing to improve surface and drainage as well as the provision of a rejuvenated focal point with the installation of two picnic tables, benches and bike between the two villages - €125,000

The Council has further supported communities in directly accessing funding under this scheme by providing advice and assistance in developing suitable schemes for various locations. Approval on the 80% grant allocation for the above was announced by the Department of Rural & Community Development in late 2018 with works to be completed on the above projects mid year, 2019.

SMARTER TRAVEL & SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY:



The Council continued its proactive role in promoting sustainable mobility by delivering a programme of events to mark Bike Week 9th to 17th June 2018. Events included fun family cycles and bike repair workshops. One event involving the Conamara Greenway Alliance and school children from the local primary schools took place at the newly opened 8km Conamara Greenway from Ballinahinch Castle to Athry. A new and popular event held in 2018

was the Galway MTB Mountain Bike Spins which involved off road mountain bike spins for enthusiasts and beginners in forest tracks in Merline, Kilcornan, Monivea, Kylebrack and Rinville. As in previous years both Local Authorities in Galway, in association with Galway Sports Partnership cooperated in the promotion and advertisement of all Bike Week events.

Under the Smarter Travel initiative, an accessible bus stop was installed in Clifden.

Road Safety Together Committee

The Road Safety Together Committee met on three occasions in 2018 – continuing its active role in the promotion of road safety in Co. Galway.

Specific road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2018 included:

- Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for Post Primary Schools
- Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme
- The Council, in conjunction with Galway Fire & Rescue Service, Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána, teamed up for a worthy Road Safety Awareness Event at Gairmscoil na bPiarsach, Ros Muc, on 4th December. Pupils from Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara, Carna, 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 all the emergency services were present to advise 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, rucksack covers and bicycle lights, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority, were distributed to students attending the colleges.



NUIG Students Union



GMT Students Union

- Irish Road Safety Week took place in October 2018 and the Council raised road safety awareness amongst the general public by the distribution of leaflets such as speeding, drink driving, mobile phone use, correct use of roundabouts, etc., and free reflective materials were provided. Free Eye Tests were offered to the public, in conjunction with Specsavers, to ensure the correct vision for driving.

- The Council, in conjunction with St. Catherine's National School, Aughrim and An Garda Síochána, held a road safety awareness day and high visibility vests were circulated to the pupils present and an educational walk took place.



St. Catherine's National School, Aughrim - High Vis. Event

Community Employment Schemes



The Council, in partnership with the Department of Social Protection and the local community, continue to promote and encourage the development of Community Employment. In 2018, the Council continue to sponsor five schemes with 70 participants in the following locations:

Maigh Cuilinn/Oughterard, Laurencetown/Abbey, Gort & Environs, Tuam & Environs and Cloch na Rón/Clifden.

Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme

The Council continued to actively promote the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme as a means of harnessing community support for road works on suitable local roads. A sum of **€630,000** was allocated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards 39 approved schemes, to be completed over a two-year period. A total of €390,673 was spent in 2018, where 17 schemes were fully completed and a further 10 schemes partially complete, at year end.

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 **€930,000** in 2018 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 Athenry and Killimor. This work was co-funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and Galway County Council.

With financial support from the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Municipal District of Tuam completed the Town Enhancement Works in Headford. The works were centred on St. George's Square, and included undergrounding of services, and a dramatically improved streetscape. These works have enhanced the built environment for residents and visitors alike. The works will be extended in 2019, through an additional grant of €100,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development, which will be targeted at another location in the town centre.



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 2018 to provide a Traffic Information Service, providing information on traffic disruptions arising as a result of road works, temporary road closures, roadworks speed limits etc.
- The Unit communicated with the public through the use of various media, such as local radio, website, twitter, local newspapers, e-mails, texts, through the usage of the on-line customer comments system and the national on-line system Fix Your Street.ie.
- The Roads and Transportation Unit successfully and efficiently delivered an extensive programme of works in 2018, which included works in addition to those included in the Roads Programmes, funded by other Government Departments such as Department of Rural and Community Development, An Roinn Cultúir, Oidreacht agus Gaeltachta.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

The Human Resources Department actively engages with line managers and staff in promoting their personal and career development thus enabling them to reach their potential and contribute fully to the achievement of the Council's strategic and business objectives. The Human Resources Department through the implementation of Council policies and procedures support good governance and provide transparency and clarity to all employees about the principles, rules and guidelines that apply to their work and conditions of employment. The Human Resources Department promotes a positive working environment for our dedicated and highly skilled workforce; works to attract and retain the workforce we need to deliver on our commitments; maintains stable industrial relations; provides training and development opportunities for staff within financial constraints; makes provision for flexible work arrangements; delivers statutory and non-statutory leave variations and staff welfare policies which assists members of staff in creating a positive work life balance.

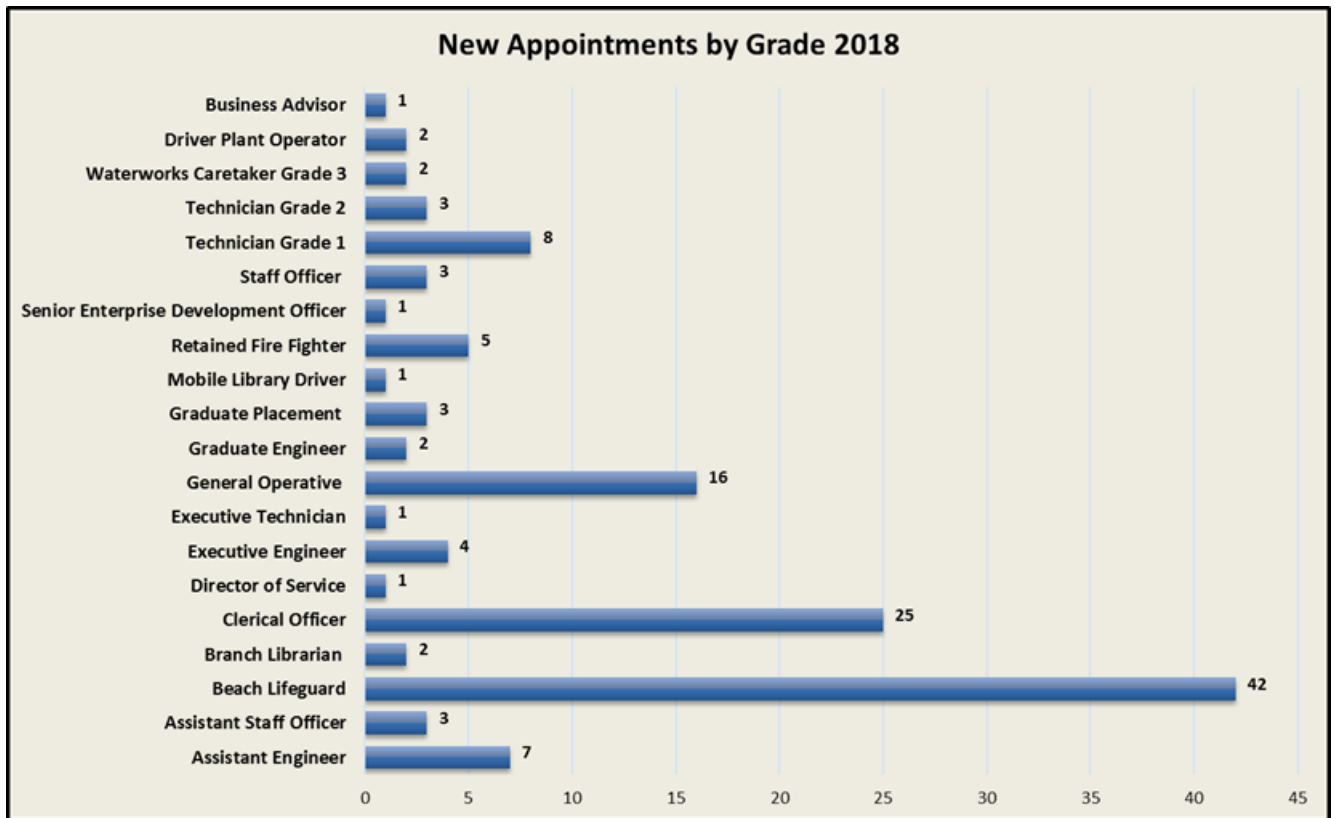
Workforce management/Recruitment

Workforce management is a critical function carried out by the Human Resources Department as it facilitates the assignment of staff throughout the organisation to achieve balance between service areas in accordance with organisational priorities and recent national agreements. This balance, while maintaining service delivery and planning for further local government reform, is a significant challenge for the Council. A detailed workforce plan was submitted to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in March 2014. The objective of the Workforce Plan is to enable effective and efficient service delivery with the staff level available within financial resources.

Galway County Council's Staff Headcount at the end of Quarter 4, 2018 is as follows:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Headcount</i>
<i>Core Staff</i>	<i>803</i>
<i>Retained Fire Fighters</i>	<i>103</i>
<i>Non-Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government</i>	<i>79</i>

The Human Resources Department ran 47 recruitment competitions up to the end of Quarter 4, 2018 which resulted in 132 new appointments and 80 promotional appointments. Staff recruitment and re-deployment has been targeted at the priority areas of Housing, Economic, Rural & Community Development and the National Roads Project Office.

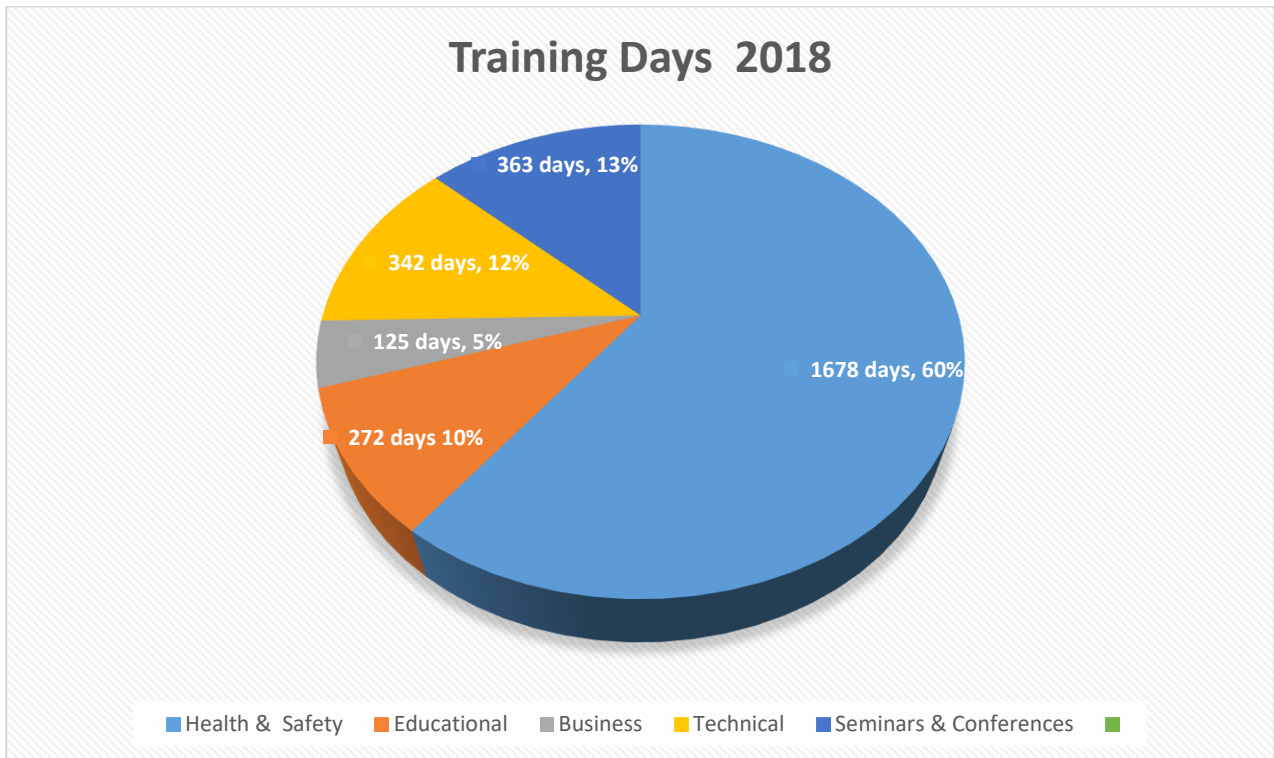


Galway County Council continues to facilitate community employment scheme placements and work experience placements from third level institutions.

Staff Training and Development

Comprehensive training for staff was carried out in 2018 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 2018.

The total number of Training Days in 2018 was 2780 as set out hereunder:



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 2018 eight hundred and ten staff availed of family friendly schemes, which were managed by the Human Resources Department, and include Shorter Working Year Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, New Parent Leave, Work Sharing, Career Breaks, Cycle to work and Travel Pass Schemes, together with Force Majeure leave, Bereavement leave 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

In 2018, twenty-six fulltime employees retired from the service of Galway County Council and nine retained fire service personnel also retired from their posts with Galway County Council.

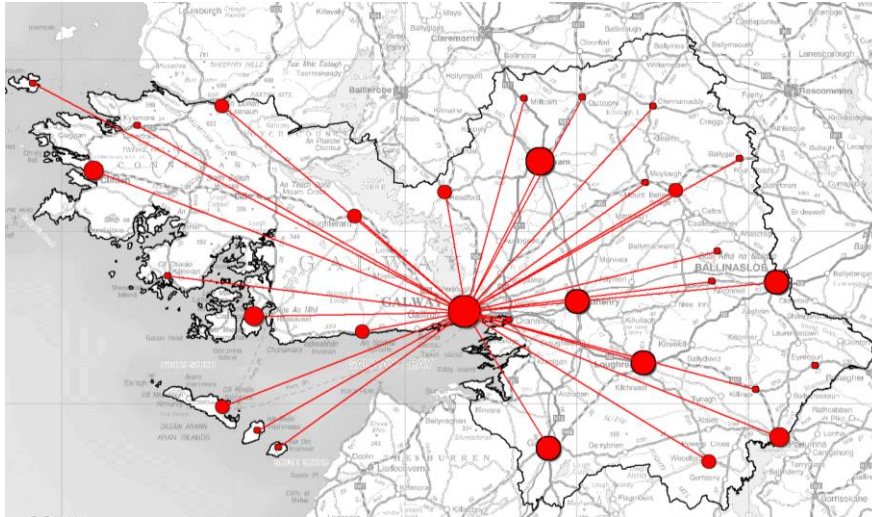
The Management and staff of the Council would like to take this opportunity to record its thanks to all of the retirees for their years of dedicated service and commitment to Galway County Council.



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 2018 including:

- Completed connection of the Inis Mór Firestation, Harbour Master Office, Water Treatment Plant and Public Library to Council Network for service access
- Replaced Network access equipment with Cloud Managed at 8 locations with enhance services and facilitate of audit compliance.
- Storage Area Network tender in workflow with Office of Government Procurement
- Upgrade to Regional Offices Tuam, Loughrea and Ballinasloe completed to Government Cloud Network (GCN) with 1 Gigabit access to Council HQ
- Implemented MFA (Multi Factor Authentication) for all staff to secure Cloud Resource access
- Completed on time launch of website for N6 Galway City Ring Road with Cloud capacity uplift for increases initial traffic loads .
- Automation workflow processing enhancements for increased and more reliable service offerings for Planning Mapping and notifications for staff and public.
- Support for Housing Choice Based Letting (CBL) Internet application. via internal developed application.
- Support to Library service for specification and procurement for public accessible IT equipment and services under 2018 Capital Grant Scheme.
- Completed national framework Fixed Telephony Line procurement with service cost reduction by access costs and rationalisation of non-use services.



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 2018, there are 37 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 E4)
- Planning (P1 to P5)
- Fire Service (F1 to F3)
- Library/Recreation (L1 and L2)
- Youth/Community (Y1 and Y2)
- Corporate (C1 to C5)
- Finance (M1 and M2)
- Economic Development (J1-J4)

Performance Indicators

01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018 (Annual)

Galway County Council

Status: Complete

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 1/1/2018	2370	There were 2405 properties in stock reported at 31/12/2017 - 35 properties were re-classified from Vacant - Major Refurbishment to Derelict so now excluded from stock at 01/01/2018 Exclude all AHBs: CAS/CLSS - 592 CALF - 121 (agreement in place that tenants have a 25/30 year lease)
	B. No. of dwellings added to the LA owned stock during 2018 (whether constructed or acquired)	52	49 Acquisitions 3 Construction
	C. No. of LA owned dwellings sold in 2018	9	
	D. No. of LA owned dwellings demolished in 2018	30	Gilmartin road, Tuam
	E. No. of dwellings in the ownership of the LA at 31/12/2018	2383	
	F. No. of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	8	
	A. The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2018	4.42 %	
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2018	105	
	A. Expenditure during 2018 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018, divided by the no. of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2018, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€933.82	
	Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works or the Fabric Upgrade Programme but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€2217823.78	

	Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works or the Fabric Upgrade Programme but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€2650020.86	
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2018 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2018	52.14 wk	
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2018, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2018	€18165.83	
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2018 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	49	
	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	2555 wk	
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€890125.53	
	The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2017 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2017	39.91 wk	
	The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2017, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2017	€13213.49	
	In 2017, the number of dwellings that were re-tenanted (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	43	
	In 2017, the the number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	1716 wk	
	In 2017, Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€568179.91	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of June 2018	6594	
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2018	770	
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2018 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	100 %	
	D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2018	105	
	The number of dwellings inspected in 2018 that were found not to be compliant with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations	770	
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 2018	58.00 %	
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2018 as recorded on the PASS system	50	

	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2018, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	29	
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	The % of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	The % of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/2018	1 %	
	A1. Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2018	1.0 km	
	A2. The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2018	€1.00	
	B1. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2018	1.0 km	
	B2. The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2018	€1.00	
	C1. Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2018	1.0 km	

	C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2018	€1.00	
	D1. Kilometres of local road resealed during 2018	1.0 km	
	D2. The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2018	€1.00	
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 2018	72.28 %	
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 2018	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 31/12/2018	13504	
	B. The % of households within the local authority (also as per the 2016 Census) that the number at A represents	21.53 %	
Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved	A1. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2018	1442	
	A2. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2018	1300	
	A3. Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2018	667	
	The opening number of cases carried forward from the year end 2017	525	
Litter Pollution: E3 Approved	A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was unpolluted or litter free	1 %	
	A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was slightly polluted	1 %	
	A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was moderately polluted	1 %	
	A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was significantly polluted	1 %	
	A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was grossly polluted	1 %	
Green Flag Status: E4 Approved	A. The % of schools that have been awarded green flag status	38.27 %	
Planning: P1 Approved	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	15.05 %	
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018 by a builder or developer on the local authority	784	
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2018 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2018 undertaken by the local authority	118	

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 2018	61	
	B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA	65.57 %	
	Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision (either with or without variation)	40	
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018 that were investigated	308	
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2018	207	
	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	81.64 %	
	D. % of cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	15.94 %	
	E. % Cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	2.42 %	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2018	1399	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000	169	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	33	
	Number of cases at 'B' that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	5	
	Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	A. The 2018 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€19.63
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 2018		€3522146.24	
A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt		64.52 %	
B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant		35.48 %	
The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were not withdrawn by the applicant		124	
The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application		80	
The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period		44	

Fire Service: F1 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2018 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	€47.60	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2018	€12328508	
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	2.33 min	
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.1 min	
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	2.29 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	5.8 min	
	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	32.47 %	
	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	40.35 %	
	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	27.18 %	
	D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	45.85 %	
	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	39.93 %	
	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	14.21 %	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	927	
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	301	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	374	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	252	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	591	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	271	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	236	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	84	

Library Service: L1 Approved	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census	2.41	
	B. Number of items issued to borrowers in the year	619577	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	621524	
Library Service: L2 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2018 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	€20.18	
	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 2018	€5208247	
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	77.14 %	
	Total number of second level schools in the LA area at 31/12/2018	35	
	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2018	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 31/12/2018	710	
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2018	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 & C5 Approved	A. The wholtime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2018	757.61
A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2018		4.21 %	
B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2018		0.27 %	
Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2018		7548 day	
Total Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2018		477 day	
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2018		6 day	
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2018		312 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		69 people on long term sick leave in 2018 (sick leave of 20+ days)	

	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018, divided by the WTE no.	€2560.15	
	Total ICT expenditure in 2018	€1939593	
	All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2017 to 31/12/2017, divided by the 2017 WTE no.	€2782.21	
	Total ICT expenditure in 2017	€2038472	
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	1.61	
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018 before transfers to or from reserves	120287035	
Corporate: C3 Approved	A. Total page views of the local authority's websites in 2018	1555479	
	B. Total number of followers at end 2018 of the LA's social media accounts	60093	
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	33	
Finance: M1 & M2 Approved	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-1891838	
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2015 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-1886030	
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2016 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-1959192	
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€-582156	Audited AFS for 2017
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	-€11,921	Deficit Unaudited AFS 2018
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2018 as a percentage of Total Income in 2018 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	-0.01%	
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2018	€670.53	
	The 2018 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€122773879	Unaudited AFS 2018
	The 2018 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€120287035	Unaudited AFS 2018
	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	84.0 %	
	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	86 %	

	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	90.0 %	
	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	91 %	
	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	76.0 %	Audited AFS 2017
	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	76 %	Unaudited AFS 2018
Economic Development: J1 to J4 Approved	A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	111.0	
	A. The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2018	53	
	B. The no. of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2018	22	
	A. The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	530	
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes	
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	No	Being recruited.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE

ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN

HOUSING		
Service area	To create balanced and mixed communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic background and socio-economic status and to endeavour to facilitate the provision of well managed and well maintained social housing within an environment that is attractive, safe and secure in a community which people will want to live.	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Social Housing Supports 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
<p>Delivery and management of homeless services in accordance with the Regional Action Plan and Framework Plan for County Galway.</p> <p>Establish on a pilot basis Outreach Clinics in Loughrea & Tuam in partnership with Galway Simon.</p>	<p>To ensure that priority is afforded in the operation of the Housing Allocation Scheme to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support.</p> <p>No. of Adults in Emergency Accommodation that are Long-Term Homeless as % of the Total No. of Homeless Adults in Emergency Accommodation at the End of 2019 (KPI H6A).</p> <p>No. of Families in Private Emergency Accommodation (PEA) as % of the Total No. of Homeless Families at the End of 2019.</p> <p>No. of Homeless Households accommodated via the HAP Place Finder Service at the End of 2019.</p>	<p>Number of allocations to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support in 2019.</p> <p>Less than 25%</p> <p>Less than 50%</p> <p>25%</p>
Adopt and implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.	Meet the targets for 2019 as detailed in the adopted Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024.	Total No. of Traveller families accommodated as a % of overall targets set in the Programme.

	<p>Complete capital projects at Tuam and Capira Halting sites.</p> <p>Progress capital works at Craughwell and Creggaun.</p> <p>Ongoing fire safety awareness and training for Halting Sites.</p>	<p>Complete capital works at Tuam and Capira and commence works at Craughwell and Creggaun.</p> <p>Q2 and Q4 2019.</p>
Implement the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability for County Galway.	<p>Targets as detailed in the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability.</p> <p>Disability Steering Group to agree details of allocations procedures & nominations to Voluntary bodies as well as information sharing re care plans and risk assessments.</p>	Meet Targets for all categories of housing provision.
Use Choice Based Letting (CBL) in the allocations process.	Allocate GCC units under Choice Based Letting (CBL) scheme.	Minimum of 50% of GCC relets via CBL.
Social Housing Supports.	Process valid applications for social housing and engage with applicants in a timely manner, maximising the information available to applicants on their housing options.	Process valid applications for Social Housing and engage with applicants within 12 weeks of receipt of application.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Supply of Social Housing 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Housing Supply.	<p>Progress the Housing Capital Programme in accordance with the targets and funding as per the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing & Homelessness.</p> <p>Work in close partnership with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) to assist in progressing their Capital & SHCEP projects.</p>	<p>Deliver a minimum of 156 housing units under the capital programme by the 31.12.2019.</p> <p>Increase the number of units delivered via Approved Housing Bodies in 2019 v 2018.</p>

Delivery of Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) & Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).	No. of Units Provided Under the RAS in 2019 (KPI 1C).	Targets as determined by Department. of Housing, Planning, and Local Government.
Delivery of revised Repair & Lease and/or Buy & Renew Schemes.	No. of Units Provided Under HAP in 2019 (KPI 1D).	
	No. of Units Provided Under Repair & Lease in 2019.	
	No. of Units Provided Under Buy & Renew in 2019.	
Actions	Performance Measure	
Preventative Maintenance Programme for Housing Stock.	Complete stock survey and establish programme of works for housing preventative maintenance. Progress the delivery of a priority programme of works to improve fire and electrical safety in all Council dwellings, following completion and analysis of stock survey. Progress contracts for further priority works as identified in stock survey.	Q4 2019 Q4 2019 Q4 2019
Housing Repairs.	Number of repairs completed as a % of valid repair requests received by 31.12.2019 for Priority, Urgent and Routine requests.	95%
Effective Management of Housing Vacancies.	Reduce level and duration of vacancies in Housing Stock: % of housing vacancies @ 31.12.2019 (KPI H2A). Average Time Taken from Date of Vacation of Dwelling to the Date in 2019 When a New Tenancy had Commenced (Weeks) (KPI H3A).	To achieve a reduction in the % of housing vacancies at 31.12.2019 v 31.12.2018. To achieve a reduction in the average re-let period in 2019 v 2018.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Tenancy & Estate Management to support Sustainable Communities. 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Effectual Tenancy Sustainment & Estate Management.	Implementation of the Tenancy Sustainment & Estate Management Strategy. Complete initial visit/inspection for all properties. Review and revise tenant and Council responsibilities document.	Number of home visits/inspections carried out by the 31.12.2019.

	Review and revise tenancy agreement.	Revised document in situ by 30.09.2019. Revised document in situ by 31.12.2019.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the effective regulation of the Private Rented Sector 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Property Inspections (RTB, HAP & RAS).	No. of Inspections Carried Out (KPI H5B).	Minimum of 15% of registered tenancies to be inspected by 31.12.2019.

CORPORATE SERVICES		
Service area	Provision of consistent, professional administrative services which support the highest governance standards in democratic representation and decision-making processes of Council and Executive Team.	
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support effective, open and transparent democratic representation and decision-making 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Maintain and publish the Electoral Register (2018/2019)	<p>To publish and make available to the public the Register of Electors (RoE) 2018/2019 within Statutory Deadlines.</p> <p>To facilitate the Local Elections 2019.</p>	<p>By the 15th February, 2019</p> <p>Draft by November 1st 2019.</p>
Co-ordinate public right of access to Council Records.	<p>Percentage of FOI and AIE requests for Corporate Services Unit processed in accordance with statutory requirements.</p> <p>Update FOI Publication Scheme for Corporate Services</p> <p>Number of complaints upheld by the Office of the Ombudsman</p>	<p>100% Compliance with Statutory deadlines</p> <p>Quarter 4 2019</p> <p>Less than 5</p>
Support Democratic Representation	<p>Management of Council meetings - Sustain monthly publication of Council Correspondence and Meeting Information to Extranet</p> <p>Monthly publication of Council Minutes to Council Web-site</p> <p>Establish Strategic Policy Committees</p> <p>Appointment of members to a number of Committees.</p>	<p>Sustain usage of Extranet by 90% of Members during 2019</p>
Co-ordinate County Joint Policing Committee	<p>Number of actions delivered annually as set out in the JPC Strategic Plan</p>	<p>3 Strategic Actions Agreed and Delivered in 2019.</p>
Implement Members Training Plan	<p>Compliance with Training & Conference Approval Regulations</p>	<p>100% compliance</p>
Administer Local Government	<p>Publication of Public Registers and Staff Registers (Ethics/Donations) by Statutory Deadlines.</p>	<p>Meet Statutory Deadlines</p>

Ethical Frameworks Standards.	Implementation of Lobbying Act and Protected Disclosures.	Compliance with Legislation
Objective 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Inclusive Access to Recreational and Leisure Amenities that contribute to Community Wellbeing 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Manage Ballinasloe & Tuam Leisure Centres (Swimming Pools & Gyms).	Total footfall per Leisure Centre Leisure Centres per annum	Ballinasloe 112,000 Tuam 165,500
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 2018 Season	16 City (10 in the County) 6,700 hours in County
Access to Playgrounds	Number provided directly by the Local Authority per 100 population of children under 12 years of age Number of Playgrounds facilitated per 100 population of children under 12 years of age (facilitated refers to community managed facilities insured by the Local Authority)	9.21 31.32
Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces (Tuam All-Weather Pitch, Dunlo Recreational Park)	Number of free Community hours available per week at Tuam All-Weather Pitch Number of Public Hours per Week at Dunlo Recreational Park	40 hours 48 hours
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 (Centre in receipt of financial support from Local Authority);	1,200 3,400
Objective 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster a culture of excellence in delivering customer services. 	
Actions	Performance Measure Provide an efficient effective customer service in Headquarters and across each of the the Municipal Districts.	Target 2019

Customer Services	Review the Customer Service Plan Number of followers on Twitter @GalwayCoCo Number of Likes on Facebook (Galway County) Total page views of Council website at end of 2019 Sustain a consistent incoming call answer rate on 091-509000 (main switch) throughout the working day	Q4 13,000 10,000 1.1m Sustain a minimum 90% call answer of less than 25 seconds
Casual Trading	Percentage of Casual Trading Licences applications and Filming Licences for processing within 15 working days.	100%
Manage safe, accessible service areas for public	Agreement of targets and compliance with OHSAS Inspections Rates and Standards for Corporate Facilities	Sustain OHSAS Accreditation in 2019
Objective 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the daily use of Irish in the provision of services and recognise the unique contribution of the Irish language to the cultural diversity of Galway. 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Promotion of Irish Language & Culture	Number of complaints upheld by An Coimisinéir Teanga in relation to Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Scéim Teanga. Number of Gaeltacht Scholarships Awarded Publication of Irish/English simultaneously on www.gaillimh.ie / www.galway.ie	Less than 3 10 Bi-lingual compliance.
Objective 5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve universal access to public spaces and amenities and to foster equal access to information and services 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Accessibility	Number of complaints upheld under the Disability Act 2005	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"> • Continue to liaise, inform and participate with public representatives, government agencies, LGMA, LCDC and community groups as necessary and relevant - Libraries to be accessible and welcoming 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
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.
Library Conditions	Maintenance of existing buildings and services within the confines of our budgetary position	Identified risks addressed in a timely manner - Correct/timely reporting of accident/incidents - Planned maintenance programme implemented.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Collection Management and Development - developing an appropriate physical and online collection. Marketing and Social Media 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Library and Local History information and service	Collecting the County's Culture and Memory	Strategy in place for local history collection – No of queries responded to. Participate in Decade of Commemorations projects.
Libraries collection	Provide relevant stock and information	Stock management policy developed and implemented - new stock tender successfully implemented - No's using online resources - social media statistics
	Provide book/items utilising the national library transport service	Support and co-operate with the inter-library lending system
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Libraries as culture centres for lifelong learning and recreation and encourage engagement by all. Support the quality of life agenda through literacy, information, education, and recreation and reader development. Libraries to offer creative activities and collaborate with others in the community 	

Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Libraries and Children	Encourage library usage by children.	<p>To promote at least one public event per quarter per library focused on children and young people. Participate in National Initiatives including Spring into Storytime and Summer Reading Challenge and Children's Book Festival.</p> <p>Continue to develop the role of the Schools' Library Service in Education, by: (a) collaborating with the teaching profession to encourage a love and appreciation of reading in pupils, and (b) assisting teachers in their book choices with regard to literacy and numeracy. (c) provide scheduled visits to national schools in the county during the school year to facilitate a school's library stock exchange. Assess service provision and focus delivery on targeted schools.</p> <p>Continue to promote reading for pleasure amongst key target groups.</p>
Libraries and Senior Citizens	Encourage library usage by maturing members of our community.	<p>To execute one event per library with Age Action/Age Friendly Ireland. To work on implementation of Age Friendly library services in consultation with other departments.</p> <p>Designate age-friendly library, action and promote current services. Continue to provide digital skills training for older people through a variety of agencies</p> <p>Install and foster usage of dementia tables in Ballybane and An Cheathrú Rua</p>
Libraries and services to the community	<p>Maintain and develop the Europe Direct centre at Ballinasloe and Carraroe.</p> <p>Deliver programmes in conjunction with other cultural partners promoting active</p>	<p>Programme delivered. Number of events held. Review of programmes</p> <p>Advocate for This Time I'm Voting – key plank of campaign for European Elections 2019</p> <p>Continue to deliver programmes in conjunction with Creative Ireland, Healthy Ireland @ your library, Right to Read, Seachtain na Gaeilge</p> <p>Develop co-operative work with Galway2020.</p>

	citizenship including ECOC, Creative Ireland, Healthy Ireland @ library, right to read, Seachtain na Gaeilge etc.	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries to support the local community 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
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). Continue roll out Work Matters areas in designated branch libraries.
	Update Online services	Continue to Monitor the provision of online services. Continue to promote usage of online services.
	Services to Visually impaired	Maintain and improve library Services to the Visually impaired
	Facilitate self-service option via RFID Implementation of ICT up-grade in library branches and creation of collaborative learning spaces.	Complete RFID in designated libraries in Q1 2019 All Public Access PC's to be replaced, creation of maker space in library. The promotion of STEM throughout the City and County libraries.

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries to plan and implement proposals in each Municipal District in the Library Development Programme 2016-2021. 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Library Development Plan and the Municipal Districts	Maximise available resources to deliver a cohesive service both at fixed service points and via mobile library service and online.	Complete review of Library opening times throughout all Municipal Districts. Implement 'My Open Library' on a phased pilot basis in Ballinasloe & Oranmore.
Proposed Library Services and Developments	Library Developments and service to the community Implement GDPR requirements	Plan, review and implement if required proposals in the plans.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To acquire, preserve and manage the Archives of Galway County Council, and when resources permit acquire archives, through private purchase or donation, which relate to the history, heritage and culture of the county. 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2018
Archive Services	Ensure the preservation of material Manage the Archives in accordance with best practice and make accessible to the public.	Maintain current environmental conditions to ensure no adverse damage occurs to the Archives. Process collections, to ensure their physical and moral protection in accordance with archival standards (ISAD). List on the archives management database (Adlib), and provide appropriate public access.

ROADS, TRANSPORTATION, MARINE AND GENERAL SERVICES		
Service area	To provide a safe and efficient road network for the movement of persons and goods and to support balanced economic development and the development of sustainable communities.	
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To advance major road schemes. 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
N6 Galway City Ring Road	Scheme submitted to An Bord Pleanála Preparation for Oral Hearing	Q2 2019
M17/M18 Gort to Tuam Motorway	Finalise land agreements Complete Works	Q2 2019 Q2 2019
N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass	Tender Award Construction to commence Complete Land Acquisitions	Q2 2019 Q3 2019 Q4 2019
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To advance strategic minor works schemes 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
N17 Milltown to Gortagunnad	Options selection report compete Preliminary Design to be completed	Q1 2019 Q3 2019
N17 Baile Chláir Traffic Calming	Progress to Part 8 planning permission	Q2 2019
N17 Tuam Town	Pavement completed	Q1 2019
N59 Maam Cross to Bunnakil	Design completed Tenders to be awarded	Q1 2019 Q2 2019
N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard	Land Acquisitions	Q4 2019
N59 West of Letterfrack Widening	Land acquisition completed Request for Tender Commence Construction	Q4 2019 Q1 2019 Q3 2019
N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh Hill	Construction completed Land Acquisitions ongoing	Q1 2019 Q4 2019
N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment	Appointment of Consultants	Q2 2019
N67 Ballindereen to Kinvara	Progress land acquisitions Request for Tender Commence Construction	Q4 2019 Q2 2019 Q3 2019

N84 Luimnagh Realignment Scheme	Complete land acquisitions	Q2 2019
N17 Carrownurlaur to Ballindine	Finalise land acquisitions	Q1 2019
N59 Eastern Approach to Oughterard Pavement Strengthening	Construction completed	Q3 2019
N59 Sraith Salach	Construction complete	Q4 2019
N60 Ballymoe North Pavement Overlay	Construction completed	Q2 2019
N65 Kilmeen Pavement Strengthening	Construction completed	Q3 2019
N67 Kinvara Pavement Strengthening	Construction completed	Q3 2019
N84 Bunnaconeen Pavement Overlay	Construction ongoing	Q1 2019
N63 Rooaunmore	Tender documents in progress Construction Complete	Q1 2019 Q3 2019
N83 An Poll Caoin	Tenders awarded Construction Complete	Q1 2019 Q2 2019

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve the road network of 6,700 kms throughout the County 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Improvement of Road Network	Number of Local Tertiary Roads repaired	47
Improvement of Road Network	Number of kilometres of Regional Road improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant Number of kilometres of Local Roads improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	26km 97km
Improvement of Road Network	Number of bridges improved	19
Improvement of Road Network	Number of kilometres of Regional Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant Number of kilometres of Local Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant	40km 115km
Maintenance of Road Network	Pothole Repairs – response time – number of working days, dependent on resources available: National Roads Regional Roads Local Primary and Secondary Roads Local Tertiary Roads	2 5 10 20
Improvement of Road Network	Completion of coastal storm damage repair programme, subsequent to 2014 coastal storm.	Programme of works completed by December 2019
Maintenance of Road Network	Continue programme of upgrading of Council fleet	Ongoing upgrading of fleet by December 2019
Maintenance of Road Network	Winter Service Programme – monitor weather conditions, and implement gritting programme on identified priority routes as required	Ongoing Winter Service
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the programme of Piers and Harbours improvements. 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Improvement of Pier Network	Number of piers upgraded/improved, as co-funded by Department of Agriculture, Food, and Marine and Galway County Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crumpan Pier • Droim Pier • Ceibh an Ard Thoir 	4

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roundstone 	
Construction of Strategic Pier	Substantially progress the procurement of contractor for new pier at Inis Oirr, including completion of all surveys and ground investigations works.	Appointment of Contractor by December 2019
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the OPW in relation to flood risk management 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Drainage Maintenance	Number of kilometres of drainage maintenance completed by year end	3km by December 2019
Minor Works Scheme	Continue to identify and submit projects for funding for minor flood relief works Complete minor flood relief works	20 submissions by December 2019 20 schemes completed by December 2019
Minor Works Scheme – Coastal	Identify and submit projects for funding to OPW	3 schemes to be submitted by December 2019
Flood Relief Schemes	Progress Dunkellin/Aggard Flood Relief Scheme	Complete works on Dunkellin Bridge & Craughwell Pedestrian Bridge by September 2019 Complete Aggard Stream Maintenance works by December 2019
Flood Relief Schemes	Substantially progress Gort Lowlands Flood Relief Scheme	Feasibility study completed and draft flood risk management plans completed by December 2019
Flood Relief Schemes	Substantially progress Clifden Flood Relief Scheme	Work to be substantially completed by December 2019
Flood Relief Schemes	Substantially progress Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme	Appointment of Consultants and preliminary report to be completed by December 2019
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance Traffic Management 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2018
Traffic Management	Number of parking permits issued annually Number of parking tickets issued annually	210 1,600
Traffic Management	Introduction of pay parking in Garraun train station car park (Oranmore)	Pay parking in situ Q4 2019

Traffic Management	Review of pay parking in County Galway	December 2019
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop road safety initiatives 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Road Safety	Number of schools for which support will be provided for Cycling Training Programme Number of schools for which support will be provided for Drive for Life Programme Successful operation of Junior School Warden scheme in County Galway 3 school wardens in operation in Loughrea and Ballinasloe	25 10 JSW scheme operations in 4 schools 3 school wardens in situ
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of Safety of Road Network 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Safety Improvement of Road Network	Number of Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes in place by year end. – locations to be advised by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.	13
Introduction of Slow Zones in Housing Estates 2015 -2018	Phase 4 – Slow Zone Bye-Laws implemented and adopted – 2018 allocation	20 by end of December 2019
Revision of Road Traffic Speed-Limit Bye-Laws in County Galway	Implementation of speed limit bye-laws review 2019	By 1 st March 2019
Control of Invasive Species	Develop programme for identification, recording and monitoring of invasive species Treatment of invasive species at priority locations	Ongoing Ongoing
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate and support community involvement and participation 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Enhancement of Physical Environment	Sponsorship of 5 Community Employment Schemes	80 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 28 locations by December 2019
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development of tourism & social initiatives 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019

Economic & Social Development	Finalising transfer of land surrounding Pearses Cottage.(Teach an Phiarsaigh)	Land transfer complete by December 2019
Economic & Social Development	Conamara Greenway – Galway to Oughterard Submit Planning Permission to An Bord Pleanála	December 2019
Economic & Social Development	Conamara Greenway – Oughterard to Clifden Complete Ballanahinch Section including Cloonbeg Bridge On Approval of funding, advance construction on next section	December 2019 Pending approval of funding
Economic & Social Development	Proposal submitted under Rural Regeneration Fund for connection between Marconi, Alcock & Brown discovery point and Clifden town in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland	Pending approval of funding from DRCD in order to progress
Economic & Social Development	Climate Change – support development of adaptation plan for Galway County Council in line with climate change requirements	Provision of ongoing support as necessary
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver quality services in accordance with our Customer Services Action Plan. 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Responding to customer complaints	Responding to Fix Your Street Complaints, subject to relevant information being available	2 days
Economic Development	Number of responses issued annually to Roads and Services queries Number of responses issued to Roads and Services queries within 15 days	520 450
	Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued annually Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued within 5 days	150 150
	Number of Road Opening Licences issued annually	260
	Number of Scaffolding Licences issued annually Number of Scaffolding Licences issued within 5 days	30 30
Emergency Response	Provide necessary response to serious flooding incidents	As required

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 2019
Development Management within the statutory and regulatory frameworks and in a fair and impartial manner.	Number of Applications dealt with in 8 weeks Number of Appeals to An Bord Pleanala % of Appeals upheld / overturned Number of Complaints to the Ombudsman. Average time to process Section 5 Applications Enurement queries responded to in a 2 week timeframe Introduction of E-Planning Services	60% Less than 10% of all decisions. 50% or more of GCC decisions upheld 5 or less 4 weeks for initial response A response to issue within 2 weeks of receipt of correspondence QT 3 - National Decision
Pre-Planning meetings facilitated	Number of Self Service Planning Queries generated Number of scheduled Pre-Planning Meetings facilitated.	Maintain existing numbers 40 average over 1 month period –
County Development Plan Objectives	Commence the preparation of the County Development Plan review and background works - review core strategies, Landscape strategies, renewable energy strategies (including wind energy strategies). Landscape Character Assessment Preparation of submissions and draft RSES/MASP Preparation of Settlement Plan (Draft)	100% (pending the adoption of the RSES) 100% 100% 70% 50% 50%

	Preparation of Public Realm Schemes (in conjunction with Heritage & Conservation) Preparation of Masterplan/Development frameworks for strategic County sites	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of Standards and Effective Enforcement 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Enforcement	All complaints acknowledged within 1 week and investigated within the statutory period.	90% target achieved
Building Control Inspections	To meet the minimum target for inspections – within statutory timeframes	15% inspection rate
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and relevant Development Plans and Local Area Plans 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create awareness, knowledge, pride and to protect the built, natural and cultural heritage 	
Actions	Performance Measure	
Built Heritage (Architectural Conservation)	<p>Number of Statutory notices issued under the Planning & Development Act (Architectural Conservation)</p> <p>Department Grants/funding opportunities availed of</p> <p>Number of recorded advisory sessions with individuals</p>	<p>All requests responded to within 4 weeks All funding opportunities availed of.</p> <p>100% of all requests facilitated</p>
Built, Natural & Cultural Heritage	<p>Department Grants/funding opportunities availed of</p> <p>Number of recorded advisory sessions with individuals</p> <p>12 Specific Actions under the Heritage Plan executed</p>	<p>All funding opportunities availed of 100% of all requests facilitated 12 named projects completed by year end</p>

ECONOMIC, RURAL AND COMMUNITY 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	To bring a strategic focus to our activities in relation to the promotion and support of economic development in the county.	
Actions	Performance Measure Target 2019	
Support of Economic Initiatives in Co Galway	No. of economic initiatives supported through the Community Support Scheme No. of economic initiatives supported (other than CSS)	45 5
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 2 Expo Events 25 Businesses supported to attend events
Development of Tourist Facilities	Co-ordination and progression of project proposals applied for under Outdoor Recreational Scheme 2018	Business Plans finalised for 5 prioritised projects
Post ERG 2018 designation	Agreement on programme of work between partners going forward	Agreed Programme

Objectives	Establish the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) as a strong, well-functioning committee.	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	No. Of meetings Facilitate sub-committee meetings Implement funding schemes assigned to LCDC: Oversight of SICAP 2018 – 2022 Programme Community Enhancement Scheme 2019 CLÁR	6 meetings Meetings of 3 sub-committees: Health & Wellbeing Education SICAP No. of reviews and payments approved Implement schemes per Departmental Guidelines and timeframes

Objectives	To develop and adopt the Local Economic and Community Plan as a cornerstone of Galway County Council's enhanced role as a driver of economic development.	
Actions	Performance Measure Target 2019	
Local Economic and Community Plan	Action Plan for 2018 set out and adopted by LCDC Monitoring system for LECP to be put in place and operating LECP review to be undertaken in line with national review of LCDCs	In accordance with LECP review guidelines Data collection & analysis To be implemented in accordance with Dept Guidelines
Objectives	To develop a culture that is supportive of economic development across all areas of business and services of the local authority.	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Support the Strategic Economic Development Role of Galway County Council	No. of meetings of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC and Business Incentive Scheme Finalise implementation of the Rural Economic Development Zone funding scheme Support the development and regeneration of town and village centres Progress the development of the Bia Innovator campus in Athenry	4 Meetings Q1 Secure resources from Departmental schemes (RRDF, Town & Village Renewal) Formation of CLG and appointment of company manager

Objectives	Fully integrate the Local Enterprise Officer (LEO) into the Economic Development activities of the local authority to position Galway County Council as a major driver and supporter of economic development in the county.	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Integration of Local Enterprise Officer (LEO) into the economic and enterprise development activities	No. of joint initiatives with LEO	5
Objective	Community Support to support communities in their activities.	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Provision of funding support through the <i>Community Support Scheme</i>	Communities invited to apply for funding Workshops/information evenings facilitated Applications assessed and recommendation to Council Issue notification letters and conditions Target No. of grants to be approved	January February March Plenary Council Meeting April 260
Tidy Towns	No. of communities supported for Tidy Towns initiatives under the CSS	30
Pride of Place	No. of Communities nominated for Pride of Place competition Site visits by national judges facilitated Attendance at National Awards Ceremony	2 June/July/Aug November
The provision of Arts and Cultural Services/Supports in the County	No. of arts grants approved No. of Arts Programmes supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arts & Disability Programme ➤ Arts & Education Programme ➤ Arts & Health Programme ➤ Arts & Libraries Programme ➤ Artists Support Programme ➤ Galway Music Education Programme (MEP) No. of artists supported under the Artist Bursaries No. of artists supported under Tyrone Guthrie scheme No. of schools/artists supported under Artists in School Programme Development of the County Galway Creative Ireland Strategy Implementation of the Creative Ireland Funding Scheme in County Galway	65 Budget allocations not finalised due to status of GMEP 15 15 2 10 Ongoing Dependent on Applications

Healthy Ireland Scheme	Secure funding under the Healthy Ireland Scheme 2018 Implement projects funded under the Healthy Ireland Scheme 2017	Q2 Ongoing
The facilitation of the Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) and delivery of sports support	No. of meetings of GSP No. of Meetings of Steering Group Workshops No. of sports participation programmes (e.g. Men on the Move, Bike Week, Galway Walking Week, Park Run, Girls Active Programme, Couch to 5 k etc.) delivered	4 4 40
Objectives	To facilitate the transition from Community & Voluntary Forum to the new Public Participation Network (PPN) structures and support their activities and input into local government	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Support the development of the <i>Public Participation Network</i> and community engagement	No. of organisations registered with PPN No. of meeting of County PPN Plenary No. of meeting of County PPN Secretariat No. of meetings of MDs Plenary	750 2 4 10 (2 in each MD area)
Objectives	Imbed Social Inclusion across the organisation in ethos and implementation.	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Social Inclusion Awareness/Development	No. of training events delivered for staff and Elected Members	1
<i>Bealtaine</i> – Celebrating Creativity As We Age	<i>Bealtaine</i> organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	May 35
<i>Traveller Pride Week</i>	<i>Traveller Pride Week</i> organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	June 10
<i>Culture Night</i>	<i>Culture Night</i> organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	September 75
<i>Social Inclusion Week</i>	Social Inclusion Week organised, facilitated and delivered No. of events facilitated/organised	October 35
Cathaoirleach Community Awards	Cathaoirleach Community Awards hosted	May
Age Friendly Programme	No. of meetings of Age Friendly Alliance & Age Friendly County Implementation Group (now amalgamated) No. of meetings of Older People’s Council	3 12

Youth & Children – Facilitation of <i>Comhairle na nÓg</i>	No. of youth and children participating in Comhairle na nÓg Percentage of schools and youth groups participating (KPI)	350 65%
Implementation of Syrian Resettlement Programme	Provide ongoing supports to families being resettled in County Galway in line with Departmental guidelines and funding supports	Ongoing
To support and drive the European Capital of Culture Designation to ensure maximum returns at community and economic levels to the County.		
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Support and drive the European Capital of Culture Designation and maximise UNESCO Creative City designation/network	Develop the ECOC in conjunction with City Council with significant county focus and geographical spread UNESCO Creative City of Film office established in co-operation with partners	Ongoing

ENVIRONMENT SERVICES		
Service Area	Protect and Enhance the Environment of County Galway in the interests of the quality of life of its citizens, economic development and to achieve water regulatory compliance.	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection and Improvement of Water Quality and Catchment Management. 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Protect Water Quality	Completion of national inspection plan for septic tanks (101 tanks) Completion of farm inspection programme (35 farms)	100% 100%
Monitoring	Carry out monitoring of rivers, lakes, discharge licences, bathing waters and drinking water private supplies in accordance with programme.	100%
Discharge Licences	No. High Risk Licenced Sites	24 (Baseline 2018 - 27)
Protect Bathing Water Quality	No. of beaches achieving either Blue Flag or Green Coast status No. beaches monitored	12 26 (Baseline 2018 – 24)
Implement Irish Water SLA	Completion of monitoring programme and incident response	100%
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate Monitoring and Enforcement Measures and Implementation of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Environmental Enforcement in line with National Priorities	% of Environmental Complaints Closed (National Indicator) Carry out inspections of high risk waste facility permits and certs, household and commercial premises, permitted and bogus waste collectors, illegal dumping and C&D sites.	75% (Baseline 2018 - 69%) Investigation of 100% of identified high risk sites / collectors
Provide Recycling Facilities	No. of facilities available for recycling	91
Derelict Sites	Investigate and report on all complaints received and if appropriate enter on Derelict Sites Register	100%
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased community involvement in Environmental Enhancement and Awareness. 	

Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Promote Environmental Awareness and Community Involvement	% of primary Schools participating in Environmental campaigns No. of Schools participating	95% 192
	% of secondary schools participating in Environmental campaigns No. of Schools participating No of other educational establishments participating	95% 34 16
	No. of groups in campaign's / events	94
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Burial Grounds in association with the community 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Burial Grounds	No. of sites where extensions facilitated	4
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of Dogs in accordance with legislative requirements 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Control of Animals	No. of Dog licences issued	10,000
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of a responsible approach to energy usage 	
Actions	Performance Measure	Target 2019
Energy	Promotion of sustainable energy initiatives with business and the community	20



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORTS

&

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT REPORTS

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES REPORTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2018

Membership

Name	Chair	Economic Development & Enterprise
Cllr. Peter Feeney	1	1
Cllr. Joe Byrne	1	3
Cllr. Tom Healy		2
Cllr. Sean Ó Tuairisg		3
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	1	1
Cllr. Mary Hoade	1	4
Cllr. Karey McHugh		1
Community/Voluntary		
Mr. Dan Dowling (Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd)		3
Trade Union		
Mr. Paul Quinn		1
Development and Construction Sector		
Mr. Paul Mannion (RIAI), Scott, Tallon, Walker Architects, 22 Eyre Square, Galway		3
Business/Commercial Sector		
Ms. Michelle Murphy (Galway Chamber), Collins McNicholas, Unit 27, Briarhill Business Park, Galway		

4 Meetings of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC took place in 2018.

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:

- Key presentations on the work of the European Region of Gastronomy (ERG), Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC), Broadband, the Local enterprise Office (LEO) the Public Participation Network (PPN) and developing a State of the Art Marine Innovation Park at Páirc na Mara and the Galway Convention Bureau

- Key updates on the Bia Food Innovation Hub in Athenry, The 2017 & 2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme, the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP), the Cleaner Communities competition, the Enterprise Awards initiative, tourism designations of the Wild Atlantic Way and Hidden Heartlands and the rollout of the Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) Programme.

Contributions from members were recorded and noted in the context of the presentations and updates received. Much of the work undertaken in 2018 will contribute to the ongoing economic and enterprise development of Galway and will continue to be priority actions over the coming years as per the agreed LECP.

HOUSING, CULTURE & RECREATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2018

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 2018.

The following are the main matters and policy issues discussed and considered by the Housing, Culture and Recreation SPC in 2018:

1. Capital Programme
2. Rebuilding Ireland
3. Local Strategic Plan- Disability
4. Homelessness Strategic Plan
5. Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024
6. Anti – Social Behaviour Strategy
7. Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2018
8. Vacant Homes Strategy

**ROADS, TRANSPORTATION AND MARINE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S
ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2018**

Membership

Name	Chair	Roads, Transportation & Marine
Cllr. Des Joyce		1
Cllr. Jim Cuddy		1
Cllr. Martina Kinane		1
Cllr. Michael Connolly		1
Cllr. Michael Finnerty	1	1
Cllr. Michael Maher		1
Cllr. Peter Roche		1
Cllr. Seosamh Ó Cualáin		1
Agriculture/Farming		
Mr. Michael Healy		1
Business/Commercial Sector		
Mr. Bryan Egan (GABC), Bryan Egan & Associates, Consulting Engineers, 12 St. Francis Street, Galway.		1
Community/Voluntary		
Mr. Tom Madden, Ballinasloe Training for Employment Ltd., Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre, Creagh Road, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.		1
Development and Construction Sector		
Mr. Mark Coffey (CIF), Coffey Construction, Castlewood, Moanbaun, Athenry, Co. Galway.		1

The Roads Strategic Policy Committee convened three times during 2018. The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

1. Junction at Kilmeen Cross and Signage Improvements
2. Inis Óirr Harbour Development
3. Flood Prevention Works
4. Road Signage

Following detailed discussions at several SPC meetings regarding the junction at Kilmeen Cross and general signage improvements across the County, it was agreed that a deputation of Councillors, two representatives from each Municipal District, attended a meeting with TII staff on 27th February 2018. Issues highlighted by the members of the SPC were sent to TII for their prior consideration.

In relation to the draft Bye-Laws for Inis Óirr harbour development, it was agreed that they would be brought before the SPC for their consideration and comments, the adoption of the final bye-laws is a function of the plenary Council.

CFRAMs advancement was agreed by the Roads & Transportation SPC and it was recommended that the Flood Risk Management Plans would be adopted and with the intention of bringing it to the plenary Council meeting in July 2018.

There were several discussions with regard additional signage on the M17 Gort to Tuam. It was agreed by the Committee to issue correspondence to the TII to install additional signage for the villages of Abbeyknockmoy, Mountbellew and Ballygar. The Roads & Transportation SPC also issued correspondence to Minister Séan Kyne in relation requesting that bilingual signage be erected for Baile Chláir.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2018

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		
Mr Diarmaid Kelly		1

4 Meetings of the Planning and Community SPC took place in 2018.

The main policy issues discussed during the year included:-

- Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ)
- Town and Village Renewal Scheme
- Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
- Urban and Rural Regeneration Funding Scheme
- Policy on Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Regional Spatial Economic Strategy submission (pre draft) and (draft)
- Outdoor Recreation 2018 submissions
- Community enhancement scheme 2018
- Clifden Local Area Plan
- Tuam Local Area Plan
- Flemish Decree

**ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION 2018**

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. Aodhán Mac Donnacha		1
Business/Commercial Sector		
Mr. David Courtney (GABC), David Courtney & Associates, Planning and Building Consultants.		1
Environment/Conservation		
Mr. Mark Green (Galway Environmental Network)		1
Mr. Diarmaid Kelly (Cuan Beo)		
Agriculture/Farming		
Mr. Henry Walsh		1

Environmental, Water, Fire and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

4 Meetings of the Environmental, Water and Emergency Services SPC took place in 2018.

The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

- Recommended minimum criteria for environmental inspections
- Anti-dumping initiatives 2018
- Catchment flood risk assessment & management
- River basin management plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021
- Illegal dumping & the Courts

- Waste presentation bye-laws
- Local authority waters support & advice team
- Climate action plan
- Burial grounds

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE – 2018

The members of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe met monthly with the exception of August in 2018.

At their meeting on 21st February, 2018 the members approved the Municipal District Schedule of Works 2018 (to include Roads Programme and Environment, Housing, Recreation and Amenity Schedule of repairs and maintenance) for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

A Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe was convened in May, 2018 to discuss the East Galway Landfill Liaison Fund.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 22nd June, 2018 where Cllr. Donal Burke, was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Michael Finnerty was elected Leas Cathaoirleach for 2018/2019.

At the Municipal District Meeting held on the 5th July, 2018 the members approved the appointment of Cllr. Michael Connolly as Director to Board of Ballinasloe Area Community Development (BACD) Company

At the September, 2018 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe Mr. Michael Clifford, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Galway Fire Station presented a detailed update on the Wildland Fire Incidents which occurred in June/July, 2018.

On the 25th October, 2018 at the Draft Budgetary Plan 2018 Meeting, the members approved the draft General Municipal Allocation of €4,722,672 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

In accordance with the Roads Act, 1993 the Municipal District of Ballinasloe declared two roads to be public roads in 2018.

During 2018 the members received:

- A Presentation on CFRAMS and Flooding update.
- A presentation regarding Galway County Council management of invasive species.
- An update from Waterways Ireland.
- A Presentation from Ms. Máire Ni Chionna, Senior Engineer in relation to the Draft Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye Laws 2018.

- Updates in relation to the East Galway Landfill from Mr. Jim Cullen, Director of Services and Mr. Mike Melody, Senior Executive Engineer.
- A Deputation from the Beechlawn Residents Association with regard to issues of concern including issues in relation to traffic, absence of a footpath, speed ramps, speed limit signs, and poor public lighting.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM - 2018

The members of the Municipal District of Tuam held eight meetings during 2018, including a budget meeting and the Annual General Meeting, at the Municipal District of Tuam offices on High Street, Tuam, Co Galway to discuss the provision of services for the district, community issues and concerns and matters appertaining to their representational role.

The Schedule of Works for the Municipal District was approved by the Members on the 19th February 2018 which amounted to €557,518 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 2018 including a specific allocation for Non-National roads in the Municipal District of Tuam totalling €5,272,514.

There were five deputations during 2018, three were in relation to safety measures, one in respect of footpaths and one in relation to anti-social behaviour.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 21st May 2018, Cllr. Peter Keaveney was elected as Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Mary Hoade was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Tuam for a period of 12 months.

Members received presentations on the following:

- Draft Tuam Local Area Plan by Ms. Fox
- Strategic Housing Application to An Bord Pleanála for the construction of 128 units in Tuam by Ms. V. Loughnane.
- Traffic Management Measure for Tuam, Ms. R. Lowe
- Invasive Species by Ms. R. Joyce
- Catchment Flood Risk Assessment & Management (CFRAM) by Mr. J. Cullen
- Speed Limit Review by Mr. D Flood & Ms. G. Mulkerrins
- Three year Roads Programme 2019-2021 by Ms. R. Lowe

A number of roads in the Municipal District were declared to be public roads, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

The members approved the draft General Municipal Allocation of €6,922,133 on the 24th October 2018 in advance of the 2019 Annual Budget meeting in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA-2018

The members of the Municipal District of Conamara held 7 meetings during 2018 to discuss the provision of services for their District, policy matters, community issues and concerns and matters appertaining to their representational role. They considered and approved the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District on the 23-2-2018 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 2018. They considered progress on the upgrade of the N-59 National Secondary Road between Oughterard -Maam Cross which was granted planning permission by An Bord Pleanála in December 2013 subject to the Council securing agreement on the method statements with NPWS. It was noted that the method statements were agreed with NPWS on the Maam Cross-Bunnakill section with completion of the tender process scheduled for 2019. A decision on the N59-Maam Cross-Clifden section which was refused planning permission by An Bord Pleanála in 2013 is awaited from T.I.I once it has conducted a reappraisal of the scheme. They discussed other road improvement works on the N59 such as the overlays at Sraith Salach and the repair of storm damage on other sections. They requested the Director of Services to conduct a re-assessment of the planning process in regard to the replacement/upgrade of the R336 Conamara Coast Road and to advise on its future direction. They approved the 3-Year Road Programme for 2019-2021 with the selection of projects for restoration improvement works based on overall needs & priorities with consideration given to usage, category of vehicles served and the extent of deterioration. They also considered the Road Traffic Special Speed Limits Byelaws 2018 under the Road Traffic Act 2004.

The members considered progress on the proposed development of new bridge/s (road & pedestrian) on the N59 at Oughterard-for which a stage 2 ecological assessment has been conducted and the Council is engaged in consultation with T.I.I and N.P.W.S. They also considered progress on the N59 Moycullen Bypass which is scheduled to advance to the completion of the Contract Documents and Tender stages in 2019 and requested that the approach roads be redesigned in accordance with the streetscape/landscape recommendations contained in the DMURS Manual. They declared a number of roads to be public roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 and considered progress on the implementation of bus stop facilities at Clifden, An Spidéal, Maigh Cuilinn and Oughterard in conjunction with the NTA- agreement was secured for completion of the works at Clifden. They considered the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received in regard to the Gaeltacht Plan which has been incorporated into the County Development Plan 2015-2021 and also the Draft Clifden Local Area Plan 2018-2024 which was on public display in July-August 2018. They received a presentation on the Strategic Development Plans for the provision of Housing at Moycullen and Oughterard in accordance with Rebuilding Ireland-the Government's Action Plan for Social Housing-the Council plans to formulate master plans for both developments. The members also discussed the policy in regard to the provision of Social Housing in the Gaeltacht and raised their concern that the lack of same is resulting in depopulation and decline in this area. They discussed progress on the

development of the Conamara Greenway following the announcement of the new strategy for the development of Regional & National Greenways by the Minister of Transport, Tourism & Sport on the 20-7-2018. The Council has constructed a 7 km stretch of Greenway between Athry-Cloonbeg near Ballynahinch Castle which was officially opened by Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Cathaoirleach on the 28-5-2018 and an application has been submitted for funding to the Department for the 32.5km route between Clifden-Oughterard for which planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála. Funding was allocated by the Department of Rural & Community Development which will be used to extend the Ballynahinch section by a further 3.5km. The Council will procure the services of a land valuer to assist in the negotiation for the acquisition of land and an agronomist to meet the landowners on the Galway-Oughterard section and prepare an AIA (Agricultural Impact Assessment). The members were advised that the Council plans to submit an application for planning approval for the Galway -Oughterard section towards the end of 2019.

The members received a presentation from Galway Rural Development (GRD) -SICAP (Social Inclusion Community Activation Program) team which provided information on Local Enterprise Courses, Community Employment Schemes and EU & National Programs such as LEADER, RSS (Rural Social Schemes), TUS, Back to Work Enterprise Initiatives and Learning for Life. They also received a presentation from Janice Fuller, Consultant Ecologist in regard to the management of invasive species such as knotweed, hogweed, gunnera, balsam, NZ flatworms and zebra mussels. They received deputations from the Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geo Enterprise Committee to discuss progress in regard to the development of a proposed Geopark in North Galway & South West Mayo and from the An Spidéal Community Committee to discuss the completion of the Shorewalk at An Spidéal. They arranged for the re-establishment of the Islands Committee which has representation from the islands of Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, Inis Oírr and Inishboffin which held its first meeting on the 13-9-2018. They discussed matters such as the management of water leaks and repair initiatives by Irish Water in conjunction with the Council and also the procedure as regards the trimming of trees, bushes, hedges & verges adjoining public roads. The members considered the draft General Municipal Allocation on the 26-10-2018 in advance of the Annual Budget for 2019 in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The Annual Meeting was held on the 7-6-2018 and Cllr. Niamh Byrne was replaced as Cathaoirleach by Cllr. Noel Thomas.

The following deputations/ presentations were received during 2018.

- Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geo Enterprise Committee.
- An Spidéal Community Committee.
- Galway Rural Development (GRD) -SICAP Team.
- Janice Fuller, Consultant Ecologist, Janice Fuller & Associates.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ATHENRY ORANMORE

Members of the Municipal District Council:

Cllr. Frank Kearney (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Martina Kinane (Leas Chathaoirleach)
Cllr. Malachy Noone,
Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Cllr. James Charity
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly
Cllr. Peter Feeney

The Members of the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District met on 10 occasions in 2018, to discuss the provision of services for the Municipal District, policy matters, community issues and concerns and matters relating to their representational role. 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 Cor an Dola, as well as dispersed rural areas that have experienced consistent population growth. Issues relating to road maintenance, realignment, salting and gritting, hedgecutting, speed limits, road safety and traffic calming measures, signage etc. were discussed at the Meetings and updates were given to the Members by the Engineers for the area.

During 2018, Members approved of the Declaration of road to be made Public Roads at An Mhainistir Estate, Baile Chláir.

At the February Meeting, the Municipal District Schedule of Works, which included the Roads Programme 2018, was presented to the Members and, following consideration and discussion, the Members approved the Schedule of Works and Roads Programme. The Members also discussed the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions received on the Proposed Variation to the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021.

The Members were informed that the Council has received an allocation of €275,000 from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government towards the refurbishment of houses in 2018 and that the Council proposed to raise a loan in the sum of €10 million to meet capital investment for housing stock.

The Members were given an update in relation to Playgrounds in the County at the April Meeting. At the May Meeting, the Members approved a One-Way System at the New Line, Athenry and they were given a presentation in relation to Invasive Species – Monitoring, Recording and Management.

The Members were given an update regarding the Catchment Flood Risk and Management Scheme and Flooding at the June Meeting and a discussion also took place regarding Voluntary and Community Group Schemes.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 25th June 2018 and Cllr. Frank Kearney was elected Cathaoirleach, for 2018 - 2019. Cllr. Martina Kinane was elected as Leas Chathaoirleach.

An update in relation to Taking in Charge of Estates in the Municipal District was given to the Members at the September Meeting. The Draft 3-Year Roads Programme 2019 – 2021 was presented to the Members at the October Meeting for their information.

The Municipal District Budget Meeting was held on the 23rd October, 2018 to consider (with or without amendment) a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District. Following consideration and discussion, the Members voted to reject the Draft Municipal District Budget for Athenry Oranmore.

The Members discussed the Draft Road Traffic Special Speed Limits County Galway Bye-Laws 2018 at the November Meeting. The Members agreed a number of revisions to the Speed Limits for bringing forward to the Plenary Council for consideration and adoption.

The problems caused by stray horses on the N84 was discussed at the November Meeting. The Members were informed that, given the exceptional circumstances that existed, the Council with the support and assistance of An Garda Síochána took action in early 2018 to address the significant concerns arising from ongoing reported instances of horses wandering on the N84 and that any incidences would be responded to as appropriate in conjunction with other Stakeholders.

The Members passed a number of Resolutions during 2018 in relation to matters such as funding of playgrounds; horse ownership and legislation; the funding mechanism for Municipal Districts; directional signs for Gaeltacht Placenames located outside the Gaeltacht.

The Members passed a Resolution at the May Meeting to write to Iarnród Éireann seeking a review of the Dublin to Galway train timetable in order that the last train leaving Dublin would stop at Oranmore Train Station. A reply was received from Iarnród Éireann indicating that 2 no. additional stops would be added to its timetable to serve Oranmore Train Station at 11.16 in the morning and 21.52 at night. These additional stops were very much welcomed by the Members.

The Members were informed at the November Meeting that €1.1m of additional funding had been received from the Department of Transport to deal with damage caused by the heatwave during the summer and the severe weather events which occurred earlier in 2018. They were informed that 10% of this funding would be allocated to the locations within 25km of Galway City, as previously agreed. This funding was welcomed by the Members.

The Municipal District 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 Mc Clearn
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty
Cllr. Donagh Killilea
Cllr. Thomas Welby

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

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

Loch Coirib Navigation Trustees

Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Niamh Byrne

Northern & Western Regional Assembly

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn
Cllr. Mary Hoade replaced Cllr. Martina Kinane
Cllr. Dermot Connolly replaced Comh Tomás Ó Curraoin

Galway Rural Development Company

Cllr. Martina Kinane
Cllr. Peter Roche

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 (Internal GCC Committee)

Cllr. Peter Roche
Cllr. Noel Thomas
Cllr. Joe Byrne

Loughrea Heritage Committee

Cllr. Shane Donnellan
Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher

Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)

Cllr. Tom McHugh

Western Inter-County Rail Committee

Comh. Seosamh Ó Cualáin

Cllr. Michael Connolly

Cllr. Gerry Finnerty replaced Cllr. Martina Kinane

Cllr. Frank Kearney replaced Cllr. Peter Roche Cllr. Billy Connelly

Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board (Formerly VEC)

Cllr. Tom Healy

Cllr. Karey McHugh

Cllr. Noel Thomas

Cllr. Michael “Moegie” Maher

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

Cllr. Michael Connolly replaced Cllr. Donal Burke

Comh. Sean O Tuairisg replaced Cllr Noel Thomas

Regional Health Forum Representation, West

Cllr. Donagh Killilea

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Cllr. D. Connolly replaced Cllr. Tim Broderick

Cllr. Michael Finnerty

Cllr. Aidan Donohue

Forum Conamara Ltd.

Comh. Sean Ó Tuairisg replaced Cllr. Niamh Byrne

Cllr. Eileen Mannion (28.3.11) reappointed 29.5.17

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

Cllr. Thomas Welby

Manager’s Nominee – Mr. Jim Cullen (Director of Service)

Comhar na nOileán Teoranta

Comh. Seosamh Ó Cualáin replaced Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

County Galway Local Sports Partnership

Cllr. Donagh Killilea

Joint Policing Committee (Internal Committee)

Comh. Seosamh Ó Cualáin

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Cllr. James Charity

Cllr. Tom Healy

Cllr. Noel Thomas

Cllr. Frank Kearney

Cllr. Michael ‘Moegie’ Maher replaced Cllr. Martina Kinane

Cllr. Malachy Noone

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Cllr. Michael Connolly

Cllr. Joe Byrne
Cllr. Aidan Donohue
Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Donagh Mark Killilea
Cllr. Peter Roche

Audit Committee (Internal Committee)

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Galway.

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

1	EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020	Celtic Conferences	Carlingford, Co. Louth 2 nd to 4 th February	4
2	Local Electoral Area Boundary Commission	Institute of Professional Training	Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 6 th to 8 th July	2
3	Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh 2018		Ros Muc, 26 th & 27 th July	2
4	Approaches in Contemporary River Management	Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty, Cork 7 th to 9 th December	1
5	EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020	Celtic Conferences	Carlingford, Co. Louth 14 th to 16 th December	1
6	Annual Planning Conference	Irish Planning Institute	Tralee, Co. Kerry 18 th to 20 th April	1
7	Citizens Assembly or an Assembly of Citizens	Institute of Professional Training	Wexford, 9 th to 11 th March	4

TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

	Training Event	Organised By	Venue & Date	Attendees
1	How best to convey your message as a member of your Council through media	AILG	Virginia, Co. Cavan 13 th February	11
			Mullingar, 22 nd February	1
			Carlow, 17 th February	2
2	The New National Planning Framework	LAMA	Donegal 6 th & 7 th April	17
3	Annual Conference	AILG	Dungarvan, Co. Waterford 12 th & 13 th April	11
4	Joint Policing Committee	AILG	Westport, Co. Mayo 19 th May	8
5	Irish Water & a Single Public Water Utility	AILG	Bundoran, Co. Donegal 28 th June	11

	Training Event	Organised By	Venue & Date	Attendees
6	Autumn Training Seminar 2018	LAMA	Castleisland, Co. Kerry 28 th & 29 th September	10
7	Autumn Training Seminar	AILG	Monaghan 25 th & 26 th October	8
8	The new ePlanning & The National Building Management Project	AILG	Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim, 11 th September Cork, 15 th September	8 2
9	LA Finance & Budgeting, Budget Preparation and key decisions for the Elected Members in the Budget Process	AILG	Sligo, 13 th October Longford, 11 th October	7 1
10	GDPR	AILG	Cavan 22 nd November	10

ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES

	Salary	Travel Expenses & Allowances	Cathaoir-leach Allowance	Leas Cathaoir-leach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	MD Chair Allowance	Expenses re: Attendance at training	Expenses re: Attendance at Conferences	Mobile Phone Allowance	Foreign Travel Expenses Claimed	TOTAL
Broderick Tim	€16,874.79	€9,865.15									€26,739.94
Burke Donal	€16,874.79	€11,024.76				€3,000.00					€30,899.55
Byrne Niamh	€16,874.79	€7,172.43				€3,000.00	2,636.88				€29,684.10
Byrne Joe	€16,874.79	€8,289.67				€3,000.00		255.80			€28,420.26
Canning Ivan	€16,874.79	€10,296.93				€3,000.00					€30,171.72
Cronnelly Gabriel	€16,874.79	€8,151.05									€25,025.84
Cuddy Jim	€16,874.79	€6,261.42					318.26				€23,454.47
Connelly Billy	€16,874.79	€7,820.72									€24,695.51
Connolly Dermot	€16,874.79	€10,441.75									€27,316.54
Connolly Michael	€16,874.79	€9,865.15					692.99		263.51		€27,696.44
Charity James	€16,874.79	€5,972.88			€6,000.02				331.85		€29,179.54
Cualáin Seosamh Ó	€16,874.79	€9,883.03					1,737.36				€28,495.18
Curraoin Tomás Ó	€16,874.79	€6,340.82					2,148.35	€383.66			€25,747.62
Cunniffe Shaun	€16,874.79	€8,340.08					2,286.83	512.01			€28,013.71
Donnellan Shane	€16,874.79	€8,981.56			€6,000.02		129.00				€31,985.37
Donohue Aidan	€16,874.79	€9,119.71				€3,000.00	1,402.97	92.27			€30,489.74
Fahy Michael	€16,874.79	€7,839.93					2,824.48	547.84	197.56		€28,284.60
Feeney Peter	€16,874.79	€6,709.37			€6,000.02						€29,584.18
Finnerty Gerry	€16,874.79	€7,646.34									€24,521.13
Finnerty Michael	€16,874.79	€10,499.05			€6,000.02						€33,373.86
Healy Tom	€16,874.79	€11,172.36									€28,047.15

	Salary	Travel Expenses & Allowances	Cathaoir-leach Allowance	Leas Cathaoir-leach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	MD Chair Allowance	Expenses re: Attendance at training	Expenses re: Attendance at Conferences	Mobile Phone Allowance	Foreign Travel Expenses Claimed	TOTAL
Hoade Mary	€16,874.79	€8,169.59					1,735.09				€26,779.47
Hynes Pat	€16,874.79	€8,612.39					2,538.16	555.00			€28,580.34
Joyce Des	€16,874.79	€9,777.85									€26,652.64
Kearney Frank	€16,874.79	€6,905.68				€3,000.00	2,110.00				€28,890.47
Keaveney Peter	€16,874.79	€10,615.00		3,001.00		€3,000.00					€33,490.79
Kinane Martina	€16,874.79	€7,044.06					1,936.69				€25,855.54
Killilea Donagh Mark	€16,874.79	€6,893.00				€3,000.00	285.12				€27,052.91
Mannion Eileen	€16,874.79	€10,846.48	€11,076.96								€38,798.23
Maher "Moegie"	€16,874.79	€8,198.21					2,318.14	€321.85			€27,712.99
McHugh Karey	€16,874.79	€6,978.82									€23,853.61
McHugh Tom	€16,874.79	€8,907.68					1,632.08				€27,414.55
McClearn Jimmy	€16,874.79	€9,710.21					2,164.15	€434.97			€29,184.12
Noone Malachy	€16,874.79	€5,727.85				€3,000.00					€25,602.64
Roche Peter	€16,874.79	€8,760.16					2,322.16	€494.99			€28,452.10
Thomas Noel	€16,874.79	€6,997.83				€3,000.00					€26,872.62
Tuairisg Seán Ó	€16,874.79	€7,726.80	11,500.06				1,796.26				€37,897.91
Walsh Séamus	€16,874.79	€7,525.15		€2,769.24	€6,000.02		1,856.20	€255.00			€35,280.40
Welby, Thomas	€16,874.79	€7,726.80					1,919.53				€26,521.12
	€658,116.8	€328,817.7	22577.02	5770.24	30000.1	30000	36,790.00	3,597.59	1048.72		€1,116,718.9



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Mr. Kevin Kelly (Interim)

HOUSING

Director of Services: Mr. Michael Owens (Acting)
 Senior Executive Officer: Ms. Jean Brann
 Senior Executive Officers: Mr. Gerard Scully
 Administrative Officer: Ms. Celine Delaney (Up to 14/10/2018)
 Ms. Nuala Heffernan (From 15/10/2018)
 Senior Social Worker: Ms. Mary Forde
 Senior Executive Engineer: Ms. Fiona Holland
 Mr. Kevin Finn (Acting)

ECONOMIC, RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Director of Services: Mr. Alan Farrell (Acting)
 Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services: Ms. Eimear Dolan (Acting up to 14/10/2018)
 Ms. Celine Delaney (Acting from 15/10/2018)
 Senior Executive Officer, Community & Enterprise: Mr. Brian Barrett (Acting)
 Administrative Officer, Community & Enterprise: Ms. Mary McGann
 Ms. Eimear Dolan (From 15/10/2018)
 Administrative Officer, Corporate Services: Ms. Geraldine Healy (Acting)
 County Librarian: Ms. Catherine Gallagher
 Senior Executive Librarian: Ms. Bernie Kelly
 Senior Executive Engineer, Corporate Services: Mr. Steven Lally (Acting)
 Law Agent: Mr. Robert Fergus Meehan
 Senior Executive Solicitors: Ms. Angela Casey
 Ms. Anne McCormack
 Executive Solicitors: Mr. Michael O'Doherty
 Internal Auditor: Ms. Bernie Welby

INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

Director of Services:	Mr. Jim Cullen
Administrative Officer:	Ms. Nuala Heffernan (Up to 14/10/2018) Ms. Eibhlin Curran (From 12/11/2018) Ms. Edel Hourigan (Acting)
Senior Engineers:	Ms. Máire Ní Chionna Mr. Damien Mitchell Mr. Derek Pender
Senior Executive Engineers:	Mr. Aengus Breathnach Mr. Sean Breathnach Mr. Fintan O'Meara Mr. Anthony Collins Mr. Alan Raleigh Mr. Paraic Breathnach Ms. Paula Higgins Ms. Rachel Lowe Mr. Enda Mulryan (Acting) Mr. Fran McEvoy (Acting) Mr. Adrian Grandison (Acting) Mr. Enda Gallagher (Acting)
Chief Technician:	Mr. John Maloney
Administrative Officer, Water Services:	Mr. Enda Moloney
Administrative Officer, Environment:	Mr. Páraic Carroll
Senior Engineer, Water Services:	Mr. Michael Timmins
Senior Executive Engineers, Water Services:	Ms. Martina Connaughton Mr. Diarmuid Croghan Mr. Anthony Kelly Mr. John McMyler (Acting) Mr. Cyril Mitchell (Acting) Mr. Mike Melody (Acting)
Safety Advisor/Health & Safety Officer:	Ms. Julianne Gavin

AREA ENGINEERS

Municipal District Ballinasloe:	Mr. Philip McLynn (Acting)
Municipal District Loughrea/Portumna:	Mr. Brendan Sheehy
Municipal District Loughrea (Gort):	Mr. Feidhlim McGillicuddy
Municipal District Athenry/Oranmore:	Ms. Peter Gavin (Acting)
Municipal District Tuam	Mr. John Coyle (Acting)
Municipal District Conamara (South):	Mr. Naoise O Conaola
Municipal District Conamara (North):	Mr. T.J. Redmond

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Director of Services:	Ms. Eileen Ruane
Senior Planner:	Ms. Valerie Loughnane Moran
Administrative Officer, Planning:	Ms. Eileen Keaveney
Senior Executive Planners:	Ms. Saoirse Kennedy
	Mr. James Russell (Acting)
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
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 G. Duffy
	Mr. Anthony Travers
Civil Defence Officer:	Mr. Brendan Qualter

HUMAN RESOURCES

Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Bríd Dooley
Administrative Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Anne Gardiner

FINANCE UNIT

Head of Finance:	Mr. Gerard Mullarkey
Financial Accountant:	Ms. Áine Fenton
Management Accountant:	Mr. Michael McGovern
Administrative Officers:	Mr. Sean Groarke
	Ms. Margaret Jordan
Head of Information Systems:	Mr. Michael Martyn (Acting)

OFFICES OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Comhairle Chontae Na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

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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 Tuam999 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 2018**

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Galway County Council adopted a Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in March 2016.

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

During 2018, the collection of Development Contributions remained a priority for the Council. The monies collected will be used to assist in the provision of necessary public infrastructure and community facilities for the County. A sum of €2.545 Million was collected under the Council's Section 48 Development Contribution scheme in 2018.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

EXPENDITURE 2018	€M
Housing	13.582
	42.444
Roads	
Sanitary Services	13.382
Planning & Development	9.740
Environmental Protection	17.536
Recreation & Amenity	8.616
Agriculture & Education	2.729
Miscellaneous Services	12.258
Total Expenditure	120.287
INCOME	
State Grants	80.348
Other Sources	42.425
Total Income	122.774
	2.487
Surplus / (Deficit) for year before transfers	
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	(1.917)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for year	.570
General Revenue Reserve at 1st January	(.582)
General Revenue Reserve at 31st December	(.012)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2018		
Fixed Assets		3,605,063
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses		189,570
Long Term Debtors		35,399
Current Assets	75,769	
Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)	(52,506)	
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		23,262
Creditors (Amounts falling due after one year)		(43,160)
Total		3,810,135
Represented By		
Capitalisation Account		3,605,063
Receipts - Work in Progress		187,393
Other Reserves		228
General Revenue Reserve		(12)
Other Balances		17,463
Total		3,810,135

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.