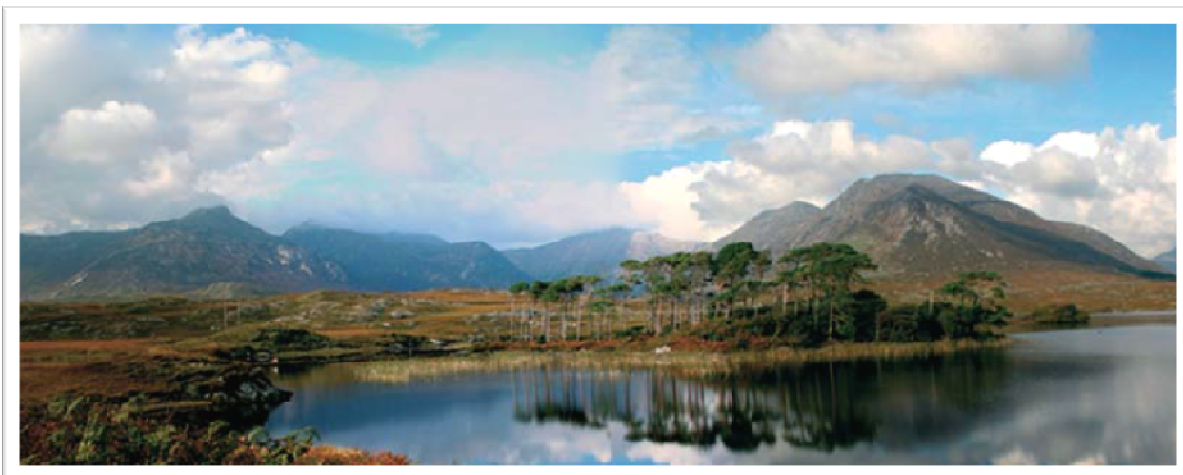


GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2010





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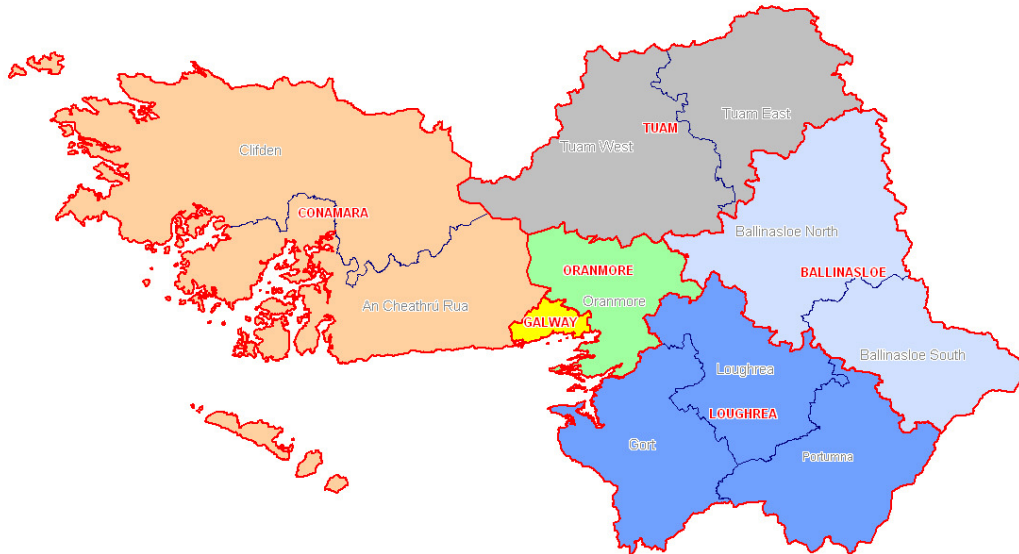
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Important Note: Copies of the Annual Report are available on request in alternate formats contact : Corporate & Cultural Affairs Unit Aras an Chontae Prospect Hill Galway
Tel: 091- 509000 or email general@galwaycoco.ie

MISSION STATEMENT



TO DELIVER LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES FOR COUNTY GALWAY WHICH ENHANCE THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE OF THE CITIZENS.



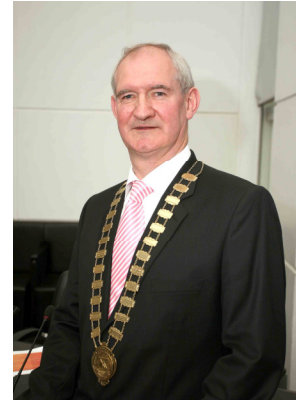
CORE VALUES:-

- **Democratic**
- **Inclusiveness**
- **Transparency and Accountability**
- **Value for Money**
- **Responsiveness**
- **Community Leadership and Public Confidence**
- **Accessibility**
-



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY

It gives me great pleasure, as Mayor of the County of Galway, to introduce on behalf of County Galway Local Authorities, this Annual Report which records the progress of services delivered in 2010.



County Galway Local Authorities are among the largest public service providers in the County with a responsibility and an obligation to provide a quality service to all our customers. We seek to continually improve the economic, social, cultural and physical infrastructure throughout the County for all our citizens. We provide a range of services throughout County Galway including housing, roads, water, planning, library, fire, motor tax, veterinary and we also provide higher education grant services for people in both Galway City and County. Town Councils operate in Ballinasloe, Tuam and Loughrea to support the local democratic process and also provide a number of functions including housing, amenity services and local representation.

Every year brings its own challenges and in 2010 we experienced further reductions in both staffing and financial resources. This presented many challenges in terms of providing additional services while maintaining customer service standards and also in responding to unforeseen events such as the very severe cold weather conditions at the latter end of 2010, which drew heavily on both staff and financial resources.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the County Manager, her Management Team and staff for the tremendous work they carry out on a daily basis for the development of this County. I would also like to thank Councillor Tom Mc Hugh who presided as Mayor for the first six months of the year and also thank my colleagues in the Council for their support and co-operation during my period as Mayor.

*Cllr Jimmy Mc Clearn
Mayor of the County of Galway*

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER



Galway County Council invested €350m on services and infrastructure in 2010. The opening of the M18 Gort to Crusheen brings substantial benefits for the County. Major improvements were made to water services facilities including remedial works to public water schemes to ensure that they meet the required standard for water production and supply. The County Library Services won a National Award for its work with communities. Great strides were made in improving our approach to Health and Safety and this will continue in 2011.

We are however living in uncertain times. During the year 2010, we experienced considerable change and contraction in the wake of the changing economic context in which we operate. Income from various sources continue to decline including planning fees, fire certificates etc. There were major adjustments for the Council in terms of responding to the reduction in financial resources which were available.

Since the introduction of the moratorium on recruitment in the Public Sector the staffing levels in Galway County Council have been reduced significantly. An analysis of staff changes from September 2008 to December 2010 indicates that the Council has seen a reduction of almost twenty-percent in fulltime staff numbers.

This Annual Report outlines the many services that the Council has delivered in 2010. Whilst the reduction in staffing numbers and other resources have had an impact on the Council's capacity to deliver services, the potential impact has been reduced by the willingness and flexibility shown by the remaining staff to meet our service priorities. I would like to thank staff for their achievements in this regard and also the Elected Members who have shown resilience and flexibility in responding to the changed circumstances.

Martina Moloney
County Manager

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS 2010

CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA



Councillors

	Telephone	Mobile
1. Comh. Seosamh O'Cuaig, Aill na Brún, Cill Chiaráin	095 33428	087 2194247
2. Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin, Na Fothraí Maola Thiar, Bearna		087 2933782
3. Cllr. Sean Kyne, Clydagh, Moycullen,		087 6137372
4. Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Sky Road, Clifden		087 9555645
5. Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg, Aille Thiar, Indreabhán,	091593084	086 3864179
6. Cllr. Seamus Walsh, Glann, Oughterard	091552726	087 0519884
7. Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cregg, Oughterard,	091552959	087 2855676

LOUGHREA ELECTORAL AREA



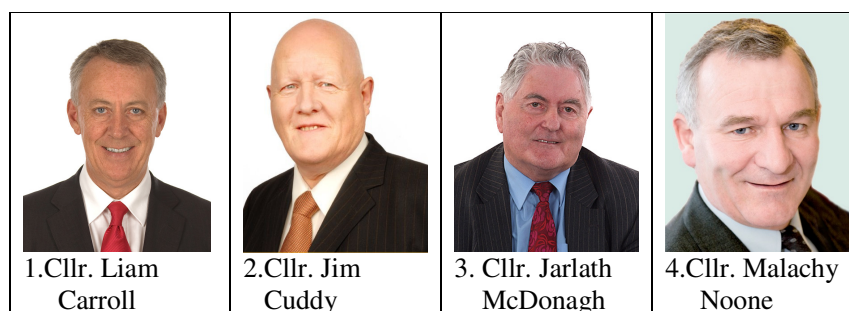
Councillors	Telephone	Mobile
1.Cllr. Michael Fahy, Caherduff, Ardrahan	091635177	087 2456000
2.Cllr. Peter Feeney, Ballydavid, Athenry	091844735	087 6812403
3.Cllr. Gerry Finnerty, Ballymurphy, Gort.	091 632167/633291	087 2674295
4.Cllr. Pat Hynes, "Dun Gaire", Gort Road, Loughrea	091842399	087 2404404
5.Cllr. Michael 'Moegie' Maher, Clostown, Loughrea	091 842968	087 0409208
6.Cllr. Jimmy Mc Clearn, Tynagh Road, Killimor,	090 9676235	087 2548723
7.Cllr. Bridie Willers, Grannagh, Ardrahan	091635425	086 0847270

TUAM ELECTORAL AREA**Councillors**

	Telephone	Mobile
1.Cllr. Sean Canney, Claretuam, Tuam	093 55367	086 2513639
2.Cllr. Michael Connolly, Moyloughmore, Moylough	090 9679465	087 6829049
3.Cllr. Mary Hoade, Main Street, Headford,	093 35763	087 2255979
4.Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Kilcreevanty, Tuam	093 60586	087 6776812
5.Cllr. Tom McHugh, Kilcolghans, Tuam	093 28486	086 2574192
6.Cllr. Peter Roche, Moyne, Abbeyknockmoy, Tuam	093 49187	087 8251470
7.Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh, Ardeevin, Williamstown	094 9659046	086-8514674

BALLINASLOE ELECTORAL AREA**Councillors**

	Telephone	Mobile
1.Cllr. Tim Broderick, Corraneena, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe;	090 9686896	087 2728058
2.Cllr. Paul Connaughton, Mountbellew, Ballinasloe		087 2354682
3.Cllr. Dermot Connolly, Glennavaddogue, Aughrim	090 9642986	0860886160
4.Cllr. Tomás Mannion, Shruffane, Caltra, Ballinasloe	090 9678212	087 6787490
5.Cllr. Michael Mullins, Cleaghmore, Ballinasloe	090 9642728	087 2607405

ORANMORE ELECTORAL AREA**Councillors**

	Telephone	Mobile
1.Cllr. Liam Carroll, Frenchfort, Oranmore		087 6488684
3.Cllr. Jim Cuddy, Lydican, Carnmore, Oranmore	091798136	087 6360242
3.Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh, "Teach Shligigh" Turloughmore	091841411	087 2346012
4.Cllr. Malachy Noone, Crusheen, Claregalway	091 798297	087 1333711

GENERAL INFORMATION

Galway County Council is responsible for the administrative area of County Galway, excluding Galway City and Ballinasloe Town Council area. The Council is responsible for the planning, design and construction of roads, water supply schemes, drainage facilities, housing, fire stations, libraries and burial grounds. It 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, business, social, arts, heritage and cultural affairs.

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

The **representational role** of Galway County Council is performed directly by the elected members of the Council. There are thirty members (Councillors), who are elected from five local electoral areas:-

Ballinasloe	5 members
Conamara	7 members
Loughrea	7 members
Oranmore	4 members
Tuam	7 members

These members are elected for a period of five years and local elections were held in 2009. The Council elects a Mayor from its Members at its Annual Meeting.

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

Such functions include:

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

The Council makes its decisions by resolution at its meetings.

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

These functions include:

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

The County Manager, 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

According to the Local Government Act 2001, 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.

The thirty elected representatives lay down the framework for the policy under which a Management 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. A Management Team consisting of Directors of Services and County Manager operate in an executive capacity.

Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group comprises the Mayor, Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees and is supported by the County Manager. The CPG links the work of the different SPCs and act as a 'cabinet' to provide 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.

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:

- Housing Fire & Emergency Services
- Roads and Transportation
- Planning, Economic Development & Community
- Environment, & Water Services
- Corporate Affairs and Cultural

Area Committees

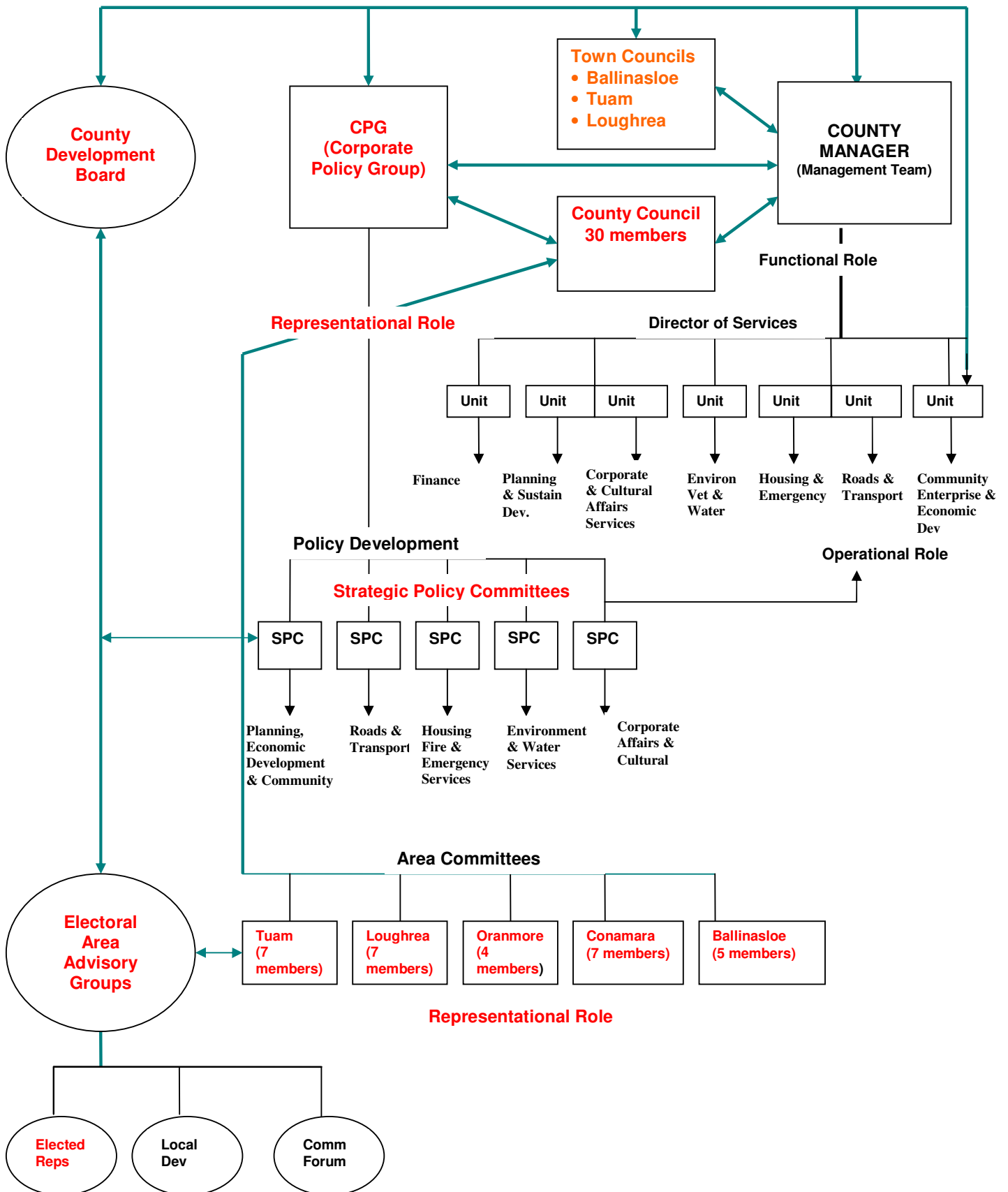
Each Electoral Area of the County is served by the Area Committee comprising the elected representatives from that area. The Area Committee structure enables an area/local-based dimension

to the delivery of services and local operational issues of concern. The Area Committee deals with matters relating to the operational delivery of local authority services.

Town Councils

Town Council representative and policy-making structures operate in Ballinasloe, Tuam and Loughrea. Each Town Council has 9 members. Town Councils perform important representational functions and articulate the views of their areas in relation to policy and operational matters. Ballinasloe Town Council is the third largest town authority in the Country in geographical terms and in addition to providing essential services such as public lighting, street cleaning, social housing, development control and physical planning, the Town Council is involved in a wide range of other activities such as the provision and maintenance of recreational and amenity facilities, casual trading, the October Fair and tidy town.

GALWAY LOCAL AUTHORITIES ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2010



CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

The Corporate Plan 2010 – 2014 serves as the strategic framework for the future actions of the Council during that period. It identifies nine Strategic Objectives and Supporting Strategies to achieve the Council’s Mission Statement and Core Values. The strategic objectives and supporting strategies as identified in the Plan are presented in the table below.

Ref:	Objectives	Strategies
1.	To Achieve Balanced and Sustainable Development	Further develop the County in a balanced manner through progressive planning that meets the needs of industry and communities and through the provision of essential infrastructure.
2.	To Preserve and Enhance the Environment	Manage the natural heritage of the County to meet the needs of local communities in the present, while ensuring that future generations can sustain a living in harmony with their environment.
3.	To Develop Sustainable Communities	Strengthen local communities through the provision of community assets and resources through engagement and proactive support.
4.	To Maximise Social Inclusion and Local Governance	Strive to improve the public services in the County which contribute to the quality of life of all citizens and recognise and support communities to play an active part in society.
5.	To Support County Galway’s Unique Culture	Support the Irish language and culture and celebrate cultural diversity and encourage participation in the arts and sports.
6.	To Maximise Organisational Efficiency and Effectiveness	Improve the effectiveness of the local authority to plan and deliver its services based on efficiency, accountability, value for money and optimisation of resources across all areas of the organisation including human, financial and information communications technology.
7	To Enhance Quality Customer Services and Delivery	Implement best practice standards in delivery of quality services to our customers.
8	To Support and Enhance Local Democracy	Facilitate the Elected Members and Community Representatives within our democratic structures in carrying out their representational role in response to the needs of the Community.
9	To Optimise Human Resources	Fully utilise the Performance Management and Development System throughout the organisation and promote Safety, Health and Welfare of all employees.

The progress and achievements of the organisation for 2010 in relation to the Strategic Objectives are presented under each Unit in the following sections.

CORPORATE AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS UNIT

The Corporate and Cultural Affairs Unit is committed to the development of a positive corporate image through the provision of efficient professional and competent services to the Council, Senior Management and the general public. The Unit encompasses a wide variety of Council services ranging from Corporate Affairs to, Library Services, Internal Audit, Legal Services, Human Resource Management and support to the Council in the form of Corporate Secretariat. Progress and achievements of the Unit for 2010 are presented below appropriate to the relevant objectives contained in the Corporate Plan 2010-2014.

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME

Tuam Library; The new Tuam Library and Regional Office were officially opened by the Mayor of Co. Galway Cllr. Tom McHugh and Tuam Town Mayor Cllr Tom Reilly on the 18th May 2010.



Mobile Library; The New Mobile Library was officially launched by the Mayor Cllr Tom McHugh at the Heritage Centre in Castleblakeney on June 2nd 2010. A large number of mobile library members attended, and long term members were presented with roses to mark the occasion. Entertainment was provided by the local primary school choir. Valerie Kinsella and her staff at the Heritage Centre provided the refreshments.



Ballinasloe Library ; The proposal to locate the new Ballinasloe Library in the old Mercy Convent building advanced to Stage Two. Sketch Designs and Cost Plans for the development were submitted to the Department of the Environment and it is envisaged that the project will proceed through planning in 2011.

Award for best Public Library Service; At the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award Ceremony in Dublin in October, Galway County Libraries won The Best Public Service award for their Public Library Provision through Public Community Partnerships. There are Public Community Partnerships involved in 17 Branch Libraries.

Co. Librarian honoured. Mr Pat Mc Mahon was honoured on the 17th June in the Mansion House, at the award ceremony to announce the winner of the International Dublin Impac Literary Award. Every year a librarian is honoured for his contribution and support for the award. This was the first time an Irish Librarian was honoured in the ten year history of the award.

LIBRARY SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS

Libraries are at the heart of their local communities, providing a free public space for books, information, internet access, art exhibitions, music, poetry, literature etc. Despite staffing difficulties, all of our libraries performed well. The numbers using libraries has increased despite a decrease in the number of hours open to the public. The Library is the only public space that is free, open and accessible to all people.



Library Service won the **Best Library Service Award** at Chambers Ireland Awards 2010

European Events ; Each of the 27 countries of the European Union was twinned with a Branch Library and a cultural event held to celebrate the poetry of that particular country. The events were sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The first event was held in Loughrea Library and greek poetry was celebrated with the help of Baffle the local poetry group.

The Lithuanian Ambassador travelled to Inishbofin Island during the Inishbofin Arts Week in May to celebrate the poetry and poets of Lithuania.

Con Tempo String Quartet: On the first Tuesday of every month in the City Library, Con Tempo played to capacity audiences. They also held a number of concerts in Gort Library, and music workshop for children in Westside, Ballybane and Oranmore Libraries.

Adventures in Music Workshops for children were held in Westside library in September, October and November.

In Loughrea Library a local Music Group held free Classical Concerts on the first Sunday of every month at 7pm. They were very well attended and enjoyed by all.

Gort Library hosted the Gort Vibes Cinema Club during the winter months.

East Galway Art Trail, is now an annual event. It is organised by Joyce Little, Ballinasloe Artist and Mary Dillon, Executive Librarian. Five artists were chosen and their work exhibited in the five local libraries of East Galway, Ballinasloe, Portumna, Killimor, Eyrecourt and Woodford.

Over the Edge; This very successful event for all poetry and prose lovers, is in its seventh year, and held in Galway City Library on the last Thursday of the month. It is hosted by Kevin Higgins and Susan Miller du Mars.

Culture Night: This a national event to celebrate our culture and was celebrated in Galway City Library with a Finnish Night of literature, music and food.

Local Arts Festivals;

Clifden Library was the venue for fourteen events during the Clifden Arts Festival.

Gort Library hosted events for the Forge Literature Festival in March.

Loughrea Library was packed to capacity for Feile Räfteiri to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge. Westside, Ballinsloe, Inishbofin Ballybane, Dunmore, Tuam Libraries were involved in local Arts Festivals.

Reading and Books are at the heart of libraries. Reading Groups are very popular and a great way of promoting books. **There are 18 Reading Groups in 13 Libraries and many libraries support private book clubs.**

Westside Library supports a Book Club for a group of visually impaired people and also a group of people with hearing impairment.

Europe Direct Centres are located in Ballinasloe and Carraroe Libraries. They provide information on EU affairs and put on exhibitions and events to highlight the culture of the various counties of the EU.

Social Inclusion Week in conjunction with Social Inclusion Office. Events were held in Oranmore, Tuam and Gort.

Promoting children's literature and encouraging children to read is fundamental to the role of librarianship. All Branch Libraries make great efforts to work with local schools, preschools, parents and carers in encouraging children to visit their local library and to develop the habit of reading.

Some examples of this are:

One Book One Tuam

This event is in its second year, organised by the School Liaison Team and Ms Emer Donoghue, Tuam Library. The chosen book was *Cirque du Freak* by Darren Shann. Students visited the library for readings and other events associated with the book. It was a great success.

Three Rivers Storytelling Festival

This is now an established festival involving Athlone IT, Athlone Library, Ballinasloe Library and the libraries of East Galway, Portumna, Killimor, Eyrecourt and Woodford. It is facilitated by Liz Warren, a College Lecturer from Phoenix Arizona with a great interest in storytelling. Some of her students accompany her. Storytellers visit all the libraries, spinning yarns. They included Pat Speight from Cork, Melissa Baker, an American, Spud and Yam, an English duo, and Liz Weir from Armagh.

Space Hop – The Summer Reading Challenge

3,269 children in 24 Branch Libraries joined up for the challenge of reading at least six books and visiting their local library during July and August. Space Rockets launched the event in many Branch Libraries! It was a great success supported by teachers, parents and children.

2,039 Reading Certificates were presented to the successful children. The Mayor Cllr Jimmy McClearn presented Certificates in Ballinasloe, Killimor, Eyrecourt, Woodford, Loughrea, Dunmore and Gort.

Storytelling Festival

The Festival was funded by the Arts Officer and held in October during the National Children's Book Festival. Storytellers roamed the County delighting children with their fantastic and magical tales. It was a wonderful success.

70 storytelling events were held in 25 Branch Libraries

Over 2,000 children experienced a storytelling session.

RECREATION AND AMENITY FACILITIES

The Recreation and Amenity Framework is an important element of the overall social and community approach pursued by Galway County Council

- Funding was provided to Athenry Arts and Heritage Ltd for the operation of the Athenry Heritage Centre. Aghrim and Gort Heritage Centres were opened during the summer season.
- Two new beach guard huts were installed in 2010 and the Lifeguard Programme implemented on a seasonal basis.
- Under the Recreation and Amenity Framework, two All-Weather Multi-Games Facilities were completed in Barna and Clifden in 2010. Aghrim Recreation Park and Carrabane Forest Trail were also completed during the year. Co-funding was provided for completion of Town Trails in Loughrea and Tuam and for works progressed on the Clifden Town Trail.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

The number of students assisted by the Council under the Higher Education Grants Scheme for the academic year 2009/10 was 2,776. Expenditure for 2010 was €16.2m for the 2009/10 academic year.

COMMUNITY WARDEN SCHEME

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; gardai and state agencies,
- Observing and Reporting on all the above.

The following table shows Community Warden outcomes under the various activities for 2010

HEADING	SECTION	ACTION TAKEN
Abandoned/burnt out vehicles	Environment Section	272 Vehicles removed
Stationary traffic offences	Roads Section	2881 Fines Issued
Litter offences	Environment Section	498 Fines issued 15 Case referred to court
Waste disposal/ Illegal dumping	Environment Section	84 Statutory notices issued under the Waste Management Act. 272 Clean Ups by the Council
Casual Trading	General Purposes	1695 Inspections carried out
Dog Licences	Environment	1070 Inspections carried out

MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The publication date for the Register of Electors is the 15th February each year. The Electoral Act also provides for the preparation and publication of a Supplement to the Register. The closing date for entry on the supplement is 14 working days before an election or referendum. The number of electors registered is 130,988

Thirty Candidates are elected to Galway County Council in five Electoral Areas.

Ballinasloe	5
Loughrea	7
Tuam	7
Oranmore	4
Conamara	7.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND SUPPORT

- Ethics Register – the Register for Members and relevant staff was updated during the year.
- Corporate Policy Group – The Group held four meetings in 2010.
- Housing Fire & Emergency Services SPC – held three meetings
- Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee –held three meetings
- Planning, Economic Development & Community SPS – held four meetings
- Environment, & Water Services SPS – held four meetings.
- Corporate Affairs and Cultural SPC - held two meetings



Outgoing Mayor of the County Cllr. Tom Mc Hugh 2009-2010 congratulates Incoming Mayor of the County Cllr. Jimmy Mc Clearn 2010-2011

ACCESSIBILITY

Under the National Disability Strategy, Galway County Council received funding from the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government which was utilised for the ongoing implementation of the Disability Action Plan 2007 – 2015. Considerable progress was made to address accessibility in towns and villages.

- Completion and submission of the NDA Questionnaire for monitoring Local Authorities on the Implementation of Statutory Instrument 163 of 2006:- Code of Practice on Accessibility of Public Services and Information provided by Public Bodies
- New Co Hall Access Booklet completed and posted on the Council Intranet Accessibility webpage.
- Access complaints procedure enhanced.
- Review commenced in all Electoral Areas of completed works carried out under the Disability Action Plan 2007 – 2015
- Initiative to provide Wheelchair accessible bus stops at three locations commenced.
- Promotion of Disability Accessibility Week 29th Nov- 3rd Dec.

SUPPORTING CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTING THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Galway County Council is committed to improving service through Irish and have continued with the statutory obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003 and the implementation of Scéim Teanga 2005 -2008. The Council also looks to support and promote the Irish language throughout the County.

The following activities were achieved:

- *Irish courses*, language awareness and language support material was made available to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe to enhance the provision of services through Irish. Many staff successfully undertook the *Teastas Eorpach sa Ghaeilge* qualification during the year.
- *The East Galway Language Surveys Project*, initiated to identify the Irish language needs of towns in East Galway, progressed significantly with the completion of the field work for surveys on Athenry and Ballinasloe which will be published in 2011 in association with Gaeilge Locha Riach and Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge.
- *Do Sheans ar CD* - Approximately 400 people between students teachers and parents attended the launch and live performances of the CD '*Ár Seans*' which was as a result of the annual collaborative awareness project with County Galway VEC and Gaeilge Locha Riach inviting national and secondary schools in East Galway to compose new songs in Irish or create new arrangements of traditional songs.
- *Stéibh 2010* - 200 people between students, teachers and parents attended launch of the CD *Stéibh 2010* which was a song writing/performing competition in Irish for Gaeltacht Schools in collaboration with Co. Gal VEC & Óige na Gaeltachta. Project has received a lot of positive attention in the Irish language media.
- *Do Sheans le Greannáin* - This project was launched for national and secondary schools in east Galway in association with Gaeilge Locha Riach and County Galway VEC to create new comic strips or characters through Irish to provide enjoyable reading material for young students of Irish. A massive response was received and it is hoped to publish the best efforts in 2011.
- *Language Planning* - Continued participation in the preparation process for a Comprehensive Language Plan for An Spidéal continued. Other areas were also encouraged to embark on the language planning process.
- *Dara Scéim Teanga Údaráis Áitiúla Chontae na Gaillimhe* – Discussion with An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe & Gaeltachta continued towards the approval and agreement of the second language scheme. The 2005-2008 Scéim Teanga remains in force until a new Scéim is agreed.
- *Glór na nGael* - Galway County Council continued its support of the Glór na nGael initiative in providing funding for a County Galway award for Communities that promote and enhance the Irish language.

MAXIMISING ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The I.T. Section provides ICT equipment maintenance and support services throughout the Organisation. Staff numbers have decreased and productivity remains on a par with previous years, primarily due to increased automation and simplification of previously complex systems.

Resources were invested in the following projects in 2010.

- Server virtualisation was completed and has increased resilience and uptime, reduced license, maintenance & energy costs.
- eMail archiving continued to be rolled out to reduce data loss & counter the risk of data leakage, all mail accounts will be included by the end of Q2 2011.
- Database consolidation was completed reducing licence costs and improving performance.
- Managed Print Services was tendered in Sept. with a view to outsourcing starting Jan. 2011.
- Redundant firewall and network connections were commissioned and tested improving the resilience of the infrastructure.
- LGMA network security audit and implementation of recommendations was undertaken.
- Our web site was improved taking into account recommendation from an internal audit report on usability including new interactive forms, revised site structure, new search engine & corporate/county calendar etc.
- Upgraded GIS technologies to allow for use of the Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) Grid on mapping systems.
- Improvement of data storage capacity.
- Supporting the implementation of a HR, Payroll & Superannuation system (CORE HR)

INTERNAL AUDIT

Audit Reports

Internal Audits were carried out in 7 areas of work culminating in the completion of audit reports containing recommendations for improvements. The reports were issued to the Senior Management Team, Local Government Auditor and the members of the external Audit Committee. The content and recommendations was discussed at each Audit Committee meeting.

Audit Report Reviews

A review of the status of all the recommendations made in the audit reports covering the period 2008 to 2010 was carried out and presented to the Audit Committee.

The majority of recommendations made in the audit reports have now been implemented with work ongoing in some areas.

Checking Function

Scheduled checking of receipts and lodgements continued throughout 2010.

A review of internal controls was undertaken with work ongoing in this area.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Human Resources Department plays a supporting role in the achievement of Galway County Council's strategic and business objectives. It promotes a positive working environment, equality of opportunity for all employees and a culture of mutual respect.

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

The key functions of the Human Resources Department are supporting Line Managers across the organisation, workforce planning and staff recruitment, the training and development of staff, the management and delivery of statutory and non-statutory staff welfare policies and procedures, maintaining stable industrial relations as well as creating an equitable, consultative and supportive working environment:

Staff Training and Development

The requirement for a flexible and highly skilled workforce is recognized by the Training Unit which offers opportunities to help staff develop, improve performance, overcome challenges, and lead within the Council. A Learning and Development Plan is developed annually and informed by the training needs identified by staff and their Line Managers through the Performance Management and Development System. In 2010, over 4% of total payroll costs were spent on staff training and development and 2,479 training days were provided by both external and internal trainers. Particular emphasis was placed in 2010 on Leadership in Local Government, Health & Safety, Water/Waste Water Management, Supervisory Skills, Technical Skills, Biodiversity and on-the-job Training.

Galway County Council's commitment to training and staff development ensures that staff have the necessary skills and competencies to respond to the ongoing challenges of providing a high quality, customer focused and cost effective service.

Staff Recruitment

The Human Resources Department processed applications for various positions during 2010. Vacancies were advertised in the local and/or national press and also on the Council and Local Government Jobs websites: www.galwaycoco.ie ; www.localgovernmentjobs.ie. In addition, there were a number of promotional opportunities within the Council and interviews were arranged to have these positions filled. In total, 15 recruitment competitions were held during the year and 107 candidates were interviewed for the various positions.

Retirements

In the course of the year a total of thirty seven employees retired from the service of Galway County Council and Management and Staff of the Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all the retirees for their years of dedicated service and commitment to Galway County Council.

Industrial Relations

The policy of fostering good industrial relations at corporate level has continued during the year with every effort to resolve staff issues, at the earliest possible stage, was taken in an open and co-operative manner with Trade Unions.

Staff Welfare

The Human Resources Department is responsible for formulating and implementing a range of policies to assist staff to balance work and life, manage the sick pay scheme and facilitate the provision of an independent Employee Assistance Programme designed to help employees meet work and/or personal life challenges. Details of all family friendly policies are available on the Council's intranet website, the HR Department and communicated to all new employees.

Core HR/Payroll and Superannuation Project

County Galway Local Authorities commenced the implementation of the new integrated Core Human Resources/Payroll and Superannuation System in 2010. The system comprises of the following modules: Organisational Structure and Department Returns; Payroll; Time and Attendance and Leave; Superannuation/Pensions; Recruitment; Training; Performance Management and Health & Safety. A key feature of the project is the design and standardisation of processes across the sector.

LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

The Law Agent's Section provided legal services for all programme areas, including the purchase and sale of properties, conduct of litigation including District Court prosecutions, Circuit and High Court litigation, including judicial review. In particular, the Compulsory Acquisition and preparation for oral hearing and arbitration of lands required for inter-urban routes was a substantial area of work. A system of quarterly/bi-annual meetings was set up with all Units of the Council, in order to aid planning of work in progress and anticipated work.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

Continuous progress was made during the year in the provision and maximising of office accommodation:

- Lease of offices in Liosbaun was terminated with the transfer of 35 Finance Staff to Áras an Chontae which will result in further savings on rental and service charges.
- Maintenance contracts were reviewed to achieve reductions in costs where feasible.
- New Cleaning contracts agreed in September 2010.
- All lights in Áras an Chontae and Centrepoint offices were replaced with more energy efficient luminaries. New LED technology was used in Centrepoint.

MANAGEMENT OF RECORDS AND ARCHIVES

In compliance with our Record Management Policy the following activities were conducted in 2010

- Monitored the environmental conditions of the archives and endeavoured to ensure their continued protection, preservation and management.
- Provided researchers with access to the archives and assisted with internal and external research queries.
- Developed the Archives web-site, and to further extend access to researchers launched the Archives on-line catalogue at <http://apps.galwaycoco.ie/adlib/>

- Outreach also included contributions to the Irish Archives Repository (IAR) web portal <http://www.iar.ie/>
- Continued our programme of processing archive collections.
- Managed conservation work of fragile items (Gort Poor Law Union collection, phase 2).
- Provided records management advice and assistance to several sections, drafted and endeavoured to obtain agreement on file classifications and retention schedules for several.
- Continued the programme of ensuring the transfer of records to off-site storage in accordance with the Records Management Policy & Procedures.
- Continued the management of non-current record retrievals & returns: 719 controlled recalls carried out during 2010.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

A total of 56 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2010 under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 as amended.

Of these, 2 sought access to personal information and 54 sought access to non-personal information. The following table shows an analysis of the decisions made on these requests:

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	20
Requests Part-Granted	30
Requests Refused	6

WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP

- Recommendations from the Report by the Organisational Efficiency, Effectiveness and Cost Reduction Partnership Working Group were approved by the Management Team who outlined specific timeframes and assigned personnel to carry out the recommendations.
- Two meetings were held under the Information and Consultation Agreement on 10th March 2010 and 28th April 2010. The Workplace Partnership Committee resumed their monthly meetings in July.
- The Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014 and the Local Government Efficiency Review Group Report were examined by the Committee
- Bi-monthly publication of the organisation newsletter Aon Scéal.
- Application to LANPAG for project funding for an Occupational Health and Safety Management System OHSAS 18001.
- Meeting of the Handling Significant Change Through Partnership Forum held on 30th November .

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Ongoing implementation of The Customer Service Action Plan 2010 – 2010 was co-ordinated by the Customer Services Officers Group. A specific Customer Service Action Plan for 2010 was developed which resulted in a number of initiatives being further progressed.

- Bi-monthly meetings of the Customer Services Officers Group (CSOG) held in 2010.
- Customer Services Action Plan 2010 - 2014 identifying twelve Customer Services Principles was adopted.
- A Customer Services Action Plan for 2010 implemented.
- New Customer Services Charter and new Customer Code of Conduct developed and posted at all customer services locations.
- Customer Services Complaints procedure enhanced.
- Area Offices Customer Services Sub-Group established.
- New Council Twitter Page developed.
- New Events Calendar launched on Council Website.
- New Webpage Maintenance Policy for staff agreed by the CSOG
- New Webpage Editor Manual developed by IS dept. to assist staff in managing the uploading of regular Customer Services updates of their respective Units for the Intranet and Internet.
- Telephone Best Practice Guidelines revised and circulated to all staff

ENVIRONMENT, VETERINARY & WATER SERVICES UNIT

In 2010, the **Environment , Veterinary & Water Services Unit** continued to progress and develop its extensive and varied work programme, with significant progress being made in many key areas, the details of which are set out below.

ENVIRONMENT & VETERINARY

ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE (EWS 4)

The Council operates three recycling centres in (Tuam, Clifden and Ballinasloe), and the Part 8 for Cashla has been approved. The Council provides 86 Bring Bank Centres located throughout the County for the collection of glass and beverage cans for recycling. Timpeallacht na nOilean operates an integrated waste management scheme for the Aran Islands, on a partnership arrangement with the Council.

Galway County Council continued the implementation of the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration (LAPD) Programme. The main focus of the programme was to prevent waste and reduce consumption of water and energy. which included the following initiatives ;

- Green Business Initiative
- Public Building Initiative
- Green Community Initiative
- Electronic Auditing Tool

Mobile Hazardous Waste, as well as Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) collections were organised.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (END-OF-LIFE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 2006

Under these regulations, a producer, who is a person who imports into or manufactures a vehicle, in the state, is responsible for the appropriate treatment and recovery of the end-of-life vehicle. In 2010, 21 producers were registered with Galway County Council.

There are 5 registered Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF's) in the functional area of Galway County Council. ATF's are facilities which will accept vehicles free of charge in accordance with the provisions of Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2006

WASTE MANAGEMENT (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) REGULATIONS 2005

Under the above Regulations, retailers are required to take back electrical and electronic equipment from members of the public, free of charge, on a one-to-one basis.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (PACKAGING) REGULATIONS 2007

The above Regulations are aimed at increasing recycling and recovery of packaging waste and place obligations on businesses which sell or supply packaging material or packaged products on the Irish Market

PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT MEASURES (EWS 9)

The Council issued enforcement notices and initiated prosecutions under Waste Management, Litter Pollution, and Water Pollution Legislation. The Council has issued a total of 498 on-the-spot fines for litter were issued. In 2010, 140 letters were issued in relation to discharge licences. New discharge licences were issued in relation to 6 facilities.

The Council inspected and audited the operations of selected waste collector permit holders and waste facility permit holders on a priority basis.

The use of CCTV to monitor illegal dumping was extended to various locations throughout the County, including several Bring Banks.

Blue Flag status was awarded to the following beaches in 2010,

- The Long Point, Loughrea
- Tra an Doilin, An Cheathru Rua
- Tra Mor Coill Rua, Indreabhan,
- Tra Cill Mhuirbhigh, Inis Mor

.Green Coast Awards were received by the following

- Dogs Bay, Roundstone
- East End Inishboffin
- Inis Oirr, Aran Islands
- Aillebrack, Ballyconneely

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

DERELICT SITES (EWS 11)

There are currently 51 sites entered in the Derelict Sites Register. 37 sites have been removed from the register.

BURIAL GROUNDS (EWS 12)

There are currently 234 burial grounds situated throughout the County. The Council, with the participation of the many local burial ground committees, carry out works of maintenance and improvements.

An annual grant of €450 was provided to committees who maintain the burial grounds in their area and 155 committees were awarded a grant.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & EDUCATION (EWS 14)

The Environment Awareness Officers were involved in promoting environmental awareness through information meetings with community, voluntary groups, and tidy towns committees. Press releases and radio advertising on environmental issues were produced and circulated.

The implementation of the Green Schools programme is on-going and has been very successful to date with 156 schools being awarded the Green Flag. 93% of all schools are now involved in the programme

The following actions and achievements were also undertaken in 2010

- Information meetings with the community, voluntary groups and tidy towns committees.
- Reusable shopping bags with anti-litter message distributed.

- A National Spring Clean campaign was undertaken..
- Published information leaflets on waste management issues.

ANIMAL CONTROL & WELFARE (EWS 16)

Animal welfare cases involving dogs, cattle and sheep were investigated in conjunction with Gardai, Dept of Agriculture and welfare groups.

FOOD SAFETY (EWS 17)

The council provides a Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service under the terms of its service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland

There are 10 licenced abattoirs in the county and the licencing of these is the responsibility of the local authority. The council approves, registers and has responsibility for the day to day supervision of these premises. The council supervises 10 premises in both the city and county

MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

CORPORATE SUPPORT (EWS 22)

The Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee met on 4 occasions during 2010. At these meetings, discussion took place in relation to:

- Water Conservation Programme
- Water Metering Programme
- Remedial Action Programme
- Wastewater Treatment Units for single houses
- Implementation and Adoption of River Basin Management Plans
- Energy and Efficiency
- Environmental Enforcement
- Water Services Investment Programme
- Climate Change Policy
- Burial grounds

MAXIMISING ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

OVERVIEW OF ENERGY USAGE IN 2010

Galway County Council is in year two of implementing a structured Energy Management Action Programme (Energy MAP). The main energy consumption across our range services are electricity (65% water services provision, 15% office buildings, 10% public lighting, 10% other buildings/facilities), transport fuel, and heating provision to our buildings and facilities.

The council have an Energy Team in place who prepare an annual energy action plan of projects to be implemented each year by the team members

Actions Undertaken in 2010

In 2010 *Galway County Council* undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

- Energy efficient lighting retrofit in County Hall, Machinery Yard and Centrepoint Offices which resulted in 91,319kWh of annual savings
- Energy Performance Indicators in Luimnagh Waterworks which resulted in 519,438kWh of annual savings
- Pump retrofit and VSD control at Portumna Waterworks which resulted in 33,000kWh of annual savings
- Server virtualisation and computer auto shutdown in main offices which resulted in County Hall overall electricity consumption reduction of 15%
- Aeration system improvements works at Portumna Wastewater which resulted in 9,987kWh of annual savings
- Aeration system improvements works at Poolboy wastewater which resulted in 37,557kWh of annual savings

CUSTOMER SERVICE (EWS 24)

The Unit is complying with the service delivery standards as set out in the Customer Service Action Plan. A transaction aid kit is also available at the public counter in Centrepoint to improve customer service.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (EWS 26)

The Units budgets are monitored on a weekly basis and regular financial reports prepared

WATER SERVICES

The Water Services Investment Programme, the Drinking Water Remedial Action Programme and the Rural Water Programme enables the Council to upgrade existing or provide new infrastructure for use by domestic or non-domestic users, with a major emphasis on water conservation, source protection, catchment management and operational effectiveness. The Council acknowledges that water is a limited resource and must be managed in a sustainable manner, to allow for an increasing population and increased demand. There will be an increasing emphasis in the years to come on water conservation and that is reflected in a significant investment in water conservation during 2010.

ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE: EW1

The following schemes were completed in 2010

- Barna Sewerage
- Dunmore Sewerage DBO
- Kilkerrin Sewerage DBO
- Leenane Sewerage DBO

The following schemes were under construction in 2010

- Tuam Town Water and Wastewater (Big Dig)
- Gort Mains Replacement (Ennis Rd/GalwayRd)

**RURAL WATER PROGRAMME
(GROUP WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES) EWS 2 & 3**

The Rural Water Programme plays a critical role in sustaining local communities through financial supports for new and existing Group Water Supply Schemes. The total expenditure on the programme was €14.5 m for 2010.

Subsidies:

No. of Schemes assisted	98
No. of Individual Wells	13

Contract Works for Water Quality Improvement

DBO Bundle No. 1.	14
DBO Bundle No. 2 (Planning)	33
New Schemes and Upgrading	24
Taking in Charge	46

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMME: EWS 6

The Water Conservation Programme enhances environmental sustainability and aims to improve operational cost and efficiency of water schemes by reducing the volume of unaccounted for water, and it has the potential to be a viable alternative to capital expenditure on new infrastructure provisions. In the coming years it will be the case that before any new investment in existing water schemes to provide for extra capacity is approved, it will have to be shown that an active and effective water conservation programme is in place to justify such new investment.

By the end of 2010 both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project will be substantially completed. Phase 1 involved the identification and audit of all the water services infrastructure that is in place and this information was used to design the works for Phase 2. Phase 2 of the Water Conservation Programme commenced in 2009 and continued into 2010 and included the design and installation of district metering areas (DMAs), further leak detection and repair. The total budget provided by the DOEHLG for this phase is €5.84 m and is targeted for completion in 2011.

HOUSING & EMERGENCY UNIT

The Housing Unit continued to progress the provision of appropriate housing accommodation and provide a responsive housing service for those in need of assistance during 2010.

ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

LAND ACQUISITION

In order to facilitate Housing Construction Programmes it had been the practice that the Council acquired lands from time to time and in order to maintain and to ensure that land was available in the right locations to facilitate the provision of houses through the housing capital programme. Given the current financial position and the economic climate there has been a considerable shift in policy at national level away from the traditional construction programme. There is now a focus on the provision of houses under the Rental Accommodation Scheme and the Long Term Leasing Initiative. In 2010 the Council did not acquire any lands for housing construction purposes.

PRESERVING AND ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT

Galway Fire and Rescue Services

Fire Operations

The total number of emergency turn-outs attended by Galway Fire Service from all 10 Fire stations on behalf of Galway County Council and Galway City Council in 2010 was 2363. This was a significant increase on 2009 and was driven largely by increase of about 50% on previous years on bog/grass and forest fires.

Performance indicators are set by DEHLG for the Fire Service and are reported nationally on an annual basis. One of the key performance indicators is time to mobilisation of fire Engine from time of alert of fire personnel for both f-t and retained Fire stations

In 2010 the average time to mobilise fire brigades in full time stations in respect of fire incidents was 2.86 minutes and it was 5.02 minutes in part time stations (retained service) respectively .

For all other emergency incidents the average turn-out times were 2.73 minutes for Galway City and 4.95 minutes for county stations

Training was continued to be delivered in all Fire Stations and Galway Fire Service commenced role of out of first 5 Standard Operating Guidance to national template, but customised locally in all it's retained Fire stations

Fire Prevention

Work was ongoing in Fire Prevention Department

The Fire Service fire prevention staff carried out 238 inspections of premises as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act 1981, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, Dangerous

Substances Act and carried out 320 inspections for the issue of Fire Safety Certificates under Building Control Act 1990. The Fire section received 358 public licence applications and dealt with 156 planning applications in the city and county in 2009.

The Fire Department dealt with 259 Fire Safety Certificate Applications under Building Control Regulations, 110 in the County area and 49 in the City Area. These figures reflected the downturn in construction activity in the Galway area in 2010, but have slightly increased on 2009.

Community Fire Safety

Self contained smoke alarms with long life batteries were issued for 1000 houses in the County for installation by Community Groups in conjunction with the Council's Community and Enterprise Section

Capital

The Council issued orders to purchase of a new Aerial Ladder Platform and an Emergency Tender for Galway Fire Service at a total combined cost of just under €1million following specific approval in Feb 2010, with expected delivery in 2011

Galway Fire Service was given approval from the Dept of Environment, Heritage & Local Government for the purchase of Breathing Apparatus sets for retained and full-time fire fighters. which it procured in 2010 and replaced all existing BA Sets and pressurised air cylinders

Major Emergency Management

The Major Emergency Development Programme remained ongoing, with the Council involved in west regional working groups and regional steering groups with its partner Principal Response Agencies i.e. other Local Authorities, local Garda Divisions and HSE West

An interagency exercise involving the local Principal Emergency Services i.e. Galway Fire Service, Galway Garda Division and HSE West Ambulance service was held on M6 Motorway in April 2010 following its opening in late 2009.

Work was ongoing in Galway County council using Galway major emergency development committee and in Galway region using county interagency group chaired by Ciaran Hayes Dos Galway City Council

Galway City and West of Galway Fire and Emergency Cover Review

A group chaired by Frank Gilmore Dos was set up to review the provision of fire cover in Galway city and west Galway involving members from Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Dehlg, Mayo County Council- CAMP West- , and outside experts from Limerick City Council and Strathclyde Fire and rescue service in Scotland .It is expected to complete its work in early 2011

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

HOUSING PROGRAMME

The provision of Social Housing by the Council may be achieved by construction of new houses, re-allocation of existing houses, purchase of houses or procurement of housing units under Part V of the Housing Strategy. The following table shows the number of houses allocated to persons on the waiting list throughout the year:

<i>Programme</i>	<i>No. allocations 2010</i>
Provision of new / purchased houses	4
Housing Strategy – Part V	37
Re-allocation of existing houses through casual vacancies	66
<i>Total allocations</i>	<i>107</i>

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Our Social & Affordable Housing Action Plan continued to meet its targets with an end of year review conducted and agreed with the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government. The Council purchased a total of 20 housing units at locations throughout the County to meet the housing needs. Work continued on the completion of units that were under construction from previous years.

REMEDIAL WORKS

The remedial works scheme at Ballygar continued in 2010. Three lots of rural houses in south and east Galway were re-tendered for works under the remedial works scheme due to the fact that the originally appointed contractor was unable to deliver the programme for financial reasons. The new contract was awarded and works will take place in 2011.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Affordable Housing Register had 501 applications registered in 2010 with a total of 248 units allocated to date. Affordable units are allocated in accordance with a scheme for Affordable Housing, which was adopted by the Council. The economic climate in 2010 had a major impact on the operations of the scheme and the only affordable units sold were those provided by under the Affordable Housing Initiative at Athenry.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE

Under the *Sustaining Progress Partnership Agreement*, the Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI) was established. Its aim is to provide homes for those, who in the past would have been expected to purchase a house from their own resources, but who find that they are unable to do so in the current housing market. 62 houses were provided under the initiative at Gortnahown, Athenry of which 30 were sold at the end of 2010.

HOUSING STRATEGY

Under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, local authorities can acquire units in private developments which are allocated to applicants on the Affordable and Social Housing Registers. 53 houses have been acquired for *Affordable Housing* under Part V to date while 111 houses have been acquired under Part V for *Social Housing*. Formal agreements are in place for the acquisition of further units, however, the delivery of the units is dependent on the construction of them and issues such as NAMA, the developers financial position and their ability to deliver the units.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

Under the Capital Assistance Scheme the Peter Triest Housing Association provided accommodation for 5 people with specific housing needs in Drumacoo, Kilcolgan. This is a small project in a rural area which will enable a group with special needs to live within their own community.

Under the Capital Loan & Subsidy Scheme Cluid Housing Association are providing 7 completed units of accommodation at a recently developed housing estate at Eskershills, Ballinasloe. Based on an identified need in the area, the development allows for a mix of two and three bedroom units.

Applications that were being considered by the Department at the end of 2010 include a 13 unit project by Respond! Voluntary Housing under the Capital Assistance Scheme in Kinvarra and a 25 unit project by Cluid Voluntary Housing also under the Capital Assistance Scheme in Letterfrack.

A grant was approved under the Lottery Funds Grant Scheme for the provision of Communal Facilities by Tuam Voluntary Housing Agency at the Old Racecourse Estate in Tuam. Work is due to start on this project in 2011.

MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

HOUSING SERVICES SPC

There were 3 meetings of the Housing SPC during 2010. The following issues and policies were reviewed by the SPC during the year included Tenants Responsibilities, An Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, Traveller Accommodation, Long Term Leasing Initiative, Incremental Purchase Scheme, Affordable, Housing Capital Allocation, Remedial Works Programme and the Fire & Emergency Operations Plan.

HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Housing Unit administers a range of loans and grants schemes aimed at assisting persons who are housing themselves. In addition, the Unit administers specific programmes and initiatives aimed to assist, and encourage participation, within particular categories of need.

LOANS & GRANTS SCHEMES

The Disabled Persons Grant and the Essential Repairs Grant have now been replaced by three new grants in Housing; the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme and Housing Aid for Older People. The level of activity under these schemes are as follows:

Disabled Persons Grants	
No of applications paid	269

Value of applications paid	€844,588
Essential Repairs Grants	
No of applications paid	202
Value of applications paid	€1,162,437
Mobility Aids Grants	
No of applications received	50
No of applications approved	5
Housing Adaptation Grant	
No of applications received	163
No of Applications approved	125
Housing Aid for Older People	
No of applications received	343
No of applications approved	301

Tenant Purchase & Annuity Loans/Shared Ownership Loans:

The level of activity on the Shared Ownership Scheme and Housing Loans in 2010 are as follows:

	Tenant Purchase	Housing Loans	Shared Ownership
Applications Received	7	3	0
Loans Approved	4	0	0
Loans Paid	5	0	0

Home Choice Loan

Home Choice Loan is a mortgage provided nationally through four local authorities for First Time Buyers who can not get sufficient finance from a bank or building society. Galway County Council is one of the four designated Local Authorities and will provide mortgages to all counties in Connaught and also Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal. Home Choice Loan will provide up to 92% of the market value of a property purchased, to a maximum of €285,000. The loan is a normal Capital and interest bearing mortgage which is repaid on a monthly basis. The mortgage term will be for a maximum of 30 years. Home Choice Loan will only be available for newly built and self build homes. One application was received under this scheme in 2010.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is a nationwide scheme for people who are receiving rent supplement and have a long term housing need. Galway County Council is currently rolling out this scheme on a phased basis throughout the County, and is also implementing the scheme for the town of Ballinasloe.

The scheme involves the Local Authority sourcing accommodation, transferring persons with long term housing need to the Local Authority; entering contractual agreements with Landlords; arranging rent payments; and recoupments from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

There are a number of benefits for those eligible for RAS. These include the provision of long-term housing security and access to a range of housing supports. The RAS will also lead to improvements to the quality and standard of housing accommodation. Finally, if you get a job you can stay in RAS and Galway County Council will continue to pay rent to your Landlord but you will have to make an increased contribution towards your rent.

Galway County Council has transferred 455 Rent Supplement Recipients and has entered into 301 contracts with private landlords.

STANDARDS FOR RENTED DWELLINGS

The Residential Tenancies Act 2004 requires the registration of tenancies with the Private Rented Tenancies Board. The published register is available on the Private Residential Tenancies Board website.

Galway County Council inspected 320 units in 2010, to ensure compliance with standards for rented houses and issue of rent books. 94 Improvement notices were issued to landlords whose properties failed to comply with the current standards. The main areas where properties have failed to meet the standards are due to lack of Fire Blankets; Smoke Alarms; Lagging Jackets on Hot Water Tanks and no Extractor Fans over cooking areas.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORTS

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 sets out the aims of the Council for accommodating travellers in traveller-specific accommodation such as group housing and halting sites, as well as in standard houses and single instance (purchased) houses. The Programme was adopted in 2009

The Annual Count of Traveller Families and their accommodation position was carried out on 26th November 2010, and showed that there were 583 traveller families living in Galway County, as follows:

Type of Accommodation	Number of families
Local Authority housing	306
Voluntary Housing	7
Home ownership facilitated by Local Authority Schemes	66
Home ownership without LA assistance	5
Private-rented accommodation incl RAS	139
Involuntary sharing with other families	16
Halting Sites	16
Unauthorised sites	28

Three meetings of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee were held in 2010.

HOMELESSNESS

A total of 49 persons presented as homeless to the Housing Unit in 2010 with emergency accommodation provided for 31 cases.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

Work continued under the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme with a number of units completed and contracts awarded where the works will be carried out in 2011.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Funding for estate management initiatives was used to bring about improvements in the Council's Housing Estates in consultation with Resident Associations established by the Housing Liaison Officers. The Housing Unit investigated breaches of tenancy, in liaison with An Garda Síochána as appropriate, and took disciplinary action against tenants in these cases. In accordance with Section 35 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 2009 the Council adopted an "Anti Social Behaviour Strategy" in 2010 and its provisions will be used to assist with estate management.

PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2010 the **Planning & Sustainable Development Unit** continued to promote and support development within the county so that our customers can live in vibrant communities, where cultural differences are valued and encouraged, where everyone can be actively involved in economic, social and cultural life, where people have access to an acceptable level of services and infrastructure.

ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FORWARD PLANNING

- This Section continued with the review and preparation of the Tuam Local Area Plan 2011-2017 throughout 2010. The proposed Amendments and Material Alterations to the Tuam Draft Plan together with the Strategic Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Addendum reports were on public display from 24th November 2010 to 22nd December 2010 during which time 7 submissions were received. The Manager's Report on these submissions was prepared and is being considered by the Elected Members and the Tuam Local Area Plan was adopted in February 2011 and the plan will come into effect immediately.
- Preparatory work commenced on the Core Strategy in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG's) adopted on the 19th October 2010 which will be included as a variation to the Galway County Development Plan 2011-2017 in 2011.
- Preparatory work commenced on the Galway County Wind Energy Strategy. Comments / Observations were invited in December 2010. Consideration of the appointment of Consultants for the preparation of a full Strategic Environment Assessment and Appropriate Assessment began and it is expected to appoint a consultant in February 2011.
- Work is ongoing on setting up Management tools for managing and assessing the need for Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive for plans, projects and planning applications on an ongoing basis.
- Compiled the Annual Housing returns for the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government
- Advice given on the Ballinasloe Town's Park Inner Relief Road Project by the Forward Planning unit.
- Ongoing input into the Draft Regional Guidelines for the West Region 2010-2022 during 2010 (Guidelines adopted in October 2010)
- The Smart Travel Plan in association with the Roads and Transportation Section and Galway City Council was prepared and a submission was made to the Department of Transport. The final outcome is pending.

The following briefly outlines the work progressed on Smart Travel in 2010.

- Stage 1 bid prepared for the Smarter Travel Demonstration Areas Competition for the Galway Metropolitan Smarter Travel Area in partnership with Galway City Council and submitted to the Department of Transport.
- A second Stage 1 bid was also prepared By Galway County Council for the town of Loughrea and submitted to the Department of Transport.

Out of 39 bids nationwide, both bids were successful in Stage 1 of the competition and were 2 of 11 bids shortlisted for Stage 2.

- Final outcome is pending.

- The Final Drafts of the Eastern Environs Strategic Framework Report, the summary document and the Appropriate Assessment were completed in April 2010

Heritage Plan

A draft Heritage plan has been agreed by Galway county Heritage Forum and also the Cultural and General Services SPC. It will be presented to the full Council in the near future for adoption.

The Galway County Council's Heritage Grant Scheme was advertised in January 2010 and adopted by the Elected Members of Galway County Council in June 2010. A fund of €12,500 was available for this scheme and was divided among 65 successful grants applicants.

Galway County Council sponsor the Heritage Bursary to GMIT Best Heritage Studies student for 2010

The Heritage Officer provided advice to individuals, school communities and heritage groups throughout the year. This advice included information on grants, aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage, heritage publications and school projects.

The Heritage Officer has provided assistance and advice to other sections of Galway County Council and also inputs to Galway County Development Plan, Local Area Plans and Planning applications.

Projects undertaken in 2010 are as follows:

- Coastal Heritage Audit
- Golden Mile Competition and Calendar 2010
- Galway Digital Heritage Projects including GAA Digital Heritage Project
- Field Names Project
- 'People and Nature' Galway County Biodiversity Project
- Biodiversity Training course for Galway County Council staff
- Discover the beaches of County Galway
- Ballinasloe Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Walks and Talks
- Graveyard Digital Mapping Project
- Graveyard Publication
- Esker Publication
- Galway County Heritage Awards Scheme
- National Heritage Week Events
- Lough Derg Project
- Athenry Town Walls Conservation Project
- Publication on Heritage Boats in the County
- Dry Stone Walling Workshop on Inis Oir
- Burke & Wills Expedition Anniversary Seminar 4/9/2010

- Big House Seminar 21/11/2010
- Field Monument Advisor
- Insight into our Folklore and Oral Heritage Seminar 4/12/2010

The Heritage office has supported and partnered several groups and organisations in the county in delivering their heritage projects. This includes:

- 'Mapping Williamstown' and Williamstown Christmas card 2010
- Glinsk Biodiversity Day
- Genealogical workshops in Clifden 17/04/2010
- Friends of Coole events
- Clarenbridge Folklore Course
- Maam Women's Group Heritage Day
- Western Family history Genealogy course
- Bird watching in Glenamaddy

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

- 1917 Planning Applications were presented at the Planning Office in 2010.
- 81 invalid applications received
- 934 of the planning applications received were for Dwellinghouses.
- 46 applications were for agricultural developments.
- 316 were for domestic extensions
- €658,903.95 was received in Planning Fees.
- €3,886,854.59 was received for Development Contributions.

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.

2010 was a busy year for this section as can be seen from the following:

Complaints Received in year 2010.									499
No. of the received cases dismissed, that were received in year 2010.									109
Warning Letters issued, that were received in year 2010.									224
Enforcement Notices Issued, that were received in year 2010.									112
Section 155 breakdown.(urgent Enf. Notice.), that were received in year 2010.									56
Files prepared for Summary Proceedings, that were received in year 2010.									25
Files referred to Law agent for Summary Proceedings, that were received in year 2010.									21
Court Date Set, that were received in year 2010.									2
Number of cases where costs were recovered in the same									1

month, that were received in year 2010.				
Retention Approved - awaiting end of appeal period before issue of C3, that were received in year 2010.				9
Retention Granted, of cases received in the month, that were received in year 2010.				3
Cases Closed (including those closed by grant of retention) that were received in the month, that were received in year 2010.				16
Cases Closed (for any reason) that were received in year 2010.				112

BUILDING CONTROL

- 727 commencement notices have been received in 2010.
- 150 Fire Safety Certificate applications were submitted. The unit has continued to monitor and process applications for the Taking in Charge of Housing estates under the new guidelines for 'Taking in Charge of Developments' which were adopted by Galway County Council last year.

Taking in Charge:

- A database has been compiled of all estates in the County with a view to establishing the current status of each one and prioritizing estates for Taking in Charge.
- It is proposed to continue to assess and process Taking in Charge Applications in 2011 within available resources.

CONSERVATION

- Galway County Council continued to implement the legislation for the protection of the architectural heritage through providing advice to the statutory agencies, local communities and to owners and occupiers of buildings of special architectural merit and to maintain and update the Record of Protected Structures in liaison with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)
- 2 Section 55 Notices were completed, resulting in two additions onto the RPS (RPS 3000 & 3001)
- The DoEHLG allocation for Conservation Grants for 2010 is €130,000. 30 applications were received; 15 projects were brought to conclusion
- Comment and advice on planning applications and Local Area Plans for works to Protected Structures and within Architectural Conservation Areas, preplanning consultations and advise on architectural conservation within the local authority and to the general statutory and non statutory bodies.
- Applied for funding in January 2010 for Civics Structures Grants: Liaised with the Roads Department in relation to two grants for Bridges. Library in Gort successful in obtaining grant aid to repair stain glass windows.
- Galway County Council received confirmation of grant funding in April 2010 from the Civic Structures Grant Scheme, and from the Heritage Council to carry out necessary conservation works on the 'Dennis Mausoleum' RPS 40: Works completed late November. Follies Trust and Clonbern Development Association to support publication next year.
- Liaised with Leader Group for lecture series on the use of lime including presentation at public lecture. Also advertised to owners occupiers and the wider public as awareness raising
- Completed 2 section 57 declarations; Inisheer Lighthouse and Castle Turvin. 1 pending

- Liaised with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), the recommended architectural heritage in the Western section of the County is now available on the Buildings of Ireland website.

MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL

GOVERNANCE.

- Four meetings of the Unit's SPC were held during 2010. The main topics debated during the year included the control of opening hours for fast food outlets by way of planning condition/byelaws, the provision of CCTV cameras on commercial buildings as a condition of planning, the control of "Head" Shops which provides for the sale of legal drugs by way of planning condition/bye-law, the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022, the Draft City Development Plan 2011-2017, review of Local Area Plans, Galway County Council's Social Inclusion Action Plan 2010, Economic Development & Tourism Strategy, Planning & Development (Amended) Act 2010, Garraun/Ardaun.

**MAXIMISING ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND
EFFECTIVENESS**

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- All referrals to the statutory bodies are now issued electronically apart from The D.O.E.H.L.G., N.R.A. and An Taisce who require hard copies.
 - A new browser was introduced on the website that provides a more efficient method of looking up planning applications
 - Planning staff and council members have been provided, with training/information regarding the new Planning & Development Act 2010.
-

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

The Community Enterprise and Economic Development Unit contributes to the achievement of the corporate objectives of Galway County Council in the areas of Economic and Tourism Development, Social Inclusion, Arts, Culture and Sports. The Unit operates its projects and services under three main areas

BRU- Business Response Unit – providing a point of contact for businesses to interact with the Council and services that support economic development

PLACE - Programmes and services that support local Communities including the Sports Partnership and County Arts Office.

INCLUSION – Programmes and services that support inclusion such as the RAPID programme in Tuam and Ballinasloe and the Social Inclusion Unit.

The nature of the supports provided included;

- direct financial assistance,
- capacity building
- advisory services,
- research, and
- project management services.

During 2010, the Unit invested on behalf of Galway County Council €237,000 in Community and Voluntary projects with a further €175,000 in the Arts Programme and community arts and additional funding of €143,000 through the Sports Partnership. During the year the Unit worked closely with the Community Forum and local groups to implement the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme, Pride of Place Competition and Comhairle na nÓg events.

ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Supporting Galway County Development

The Unit provides support services for **Galway County Development Board (CDB)** which met four times in 2010. The CDB enables public service providers, communities, business, farming and trade union interests to work together on economic, social and cultural projects.

The CDB has a priority programme of work in place for integrated activity in the County. The Plan has **five strategic priorities and 50 projects** on development of infrastructure; sustainable economic development; making use of our indigenous resources; improving community services and implementing national priority actions

Supporting Economic Development

The Council operates **BRU** (a Business Response Unit) which provides a single point of contact for businesses to engage with the Local Authority.

The BRU co-ordinates the implementation of the BMW Regional Assembly ERDF Gateways and Hubs Fund for projects in Tuam.

Support for community enterprise centres remained a priority in 2010. Advice and financial support was provided to community groups in Headford and Tuam to develop Community Enterprise Centre facilities. Support was provided to Clonberne Enterprise Centre to upgrade and maintain their existing services and facilities. Community based Economic Initiatives were supported through the allocation €97,000 to 43 projects including Enterprise Centres, Tourist Offices, local shows, markets and tourism based events and activities

The Unit continued to promote Galway an enterprise location and support entrepreneurship and broadband development. Projects included preparation of a report on the regional economic impact of Galway Airport, support for the Galway Science Festival and Entrepreneurism Briefings with Enterprise Ireland.

The Unit has been exploring innovative ways to use technology to promote economic growth. Two examples of these projects include:

A calendar of events targeted at visitors to Galway on www.galway.ie in 2010
AN online craft trail published on the county website www.galway.ie

Supporting Tourism Development

In 2010 the Council continued its strategy to promote new things to do in the County and worked with members of the CDB City and County Tourism Forum which is made up of those in the tourism industry and Fáilte Ireland West. In 2010, self guided walking tours were developed in Loughrea and Tuam with funding from Fáilte Ireland

The Council worked in partnership with local groups to progress a walking trail route, the Hymany Way, in the east of the county. The Council provided advice and financial supports to groups and local Chambers of Commerce to develop festival and events through its Arts Grants and Community Support Schemes

TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

The Unit continued to work with Environment, Planning and Roads Units to support **Tidy Towns** activities (including County winners Abbey, Monivea and Milltown and the Regional Environmental winner Athenry). Galway County Council invested €65,000 supporting 26 Tidy Towns groups directly. The unit organised a Tidy Towns Grants & Information Seminar focusing on best practice with National Adjudicator, Mary Flynn, and Galway County Council staff presenting at the event

The Unit also provided assistance to groups on their draft applications to the National Tidy Towns Competition. We continued to provide information / advisory support to all Tidy Towns groups in the County, in part resulting in an average increase of 5 marks per group in 2010. The following towns had considerable increases in their marks; Castleblakeney, Claregalway, Clifden, Glenamaddy, Glinsk, Leenane, Moylough, Oughterard, Portumna, Tynagh & Williamstown. While Oranmore were awarded a National Endeavour Award

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

In 2010, the Unit invested €140,000 supporting 95 community projects (focused on public amenities, improving disability access and fire safety in community facilities, increased participation in sports and community services)

The Unit implemented the **All-Island Pride of Place Initiative** with Inis Oírr and Letterfrack being the proud recipients of two ‘*Pride of Place*’ Awards presented at a gala ceremony in Trim, County Meath. These award winning communities were two of three communities nominated by Galway Council County to represent the County this year, the third representative was Tuam RAPID under the Community Response to Unemployment.

The community of Inis Oírr were announced as the 2010 All-Island Winners under the Islands category. The Chairman of Co-Operation Ireland, Christopher Moran & the Minister for Transport, Noel Dempsey T.D., presented the award which was accepted by Áine Uí hAlmhain, Gráinne Ní Chonghaile, Paddy Crowe & the Mayor of the County Cllr. Jimmy McClearn on behalf of Pobail Inis Oírr. Letterfrack were nominated for their efforts in responding to change in their community and providing services for the entire community. Letterfrack was awarded runner up under the population category 0-200 and this award was accepted on behalf of the community by Breda Conneys, Ann Pollington, Samantha Flaherty & the Mayor of the County Cllr. Jimmy McClearn.

Promotion of **Active Citizenship** is a goal of the Council and in 2010, the Unit continued to develop six Local Area **Comhairle nÓg** youth networks at Electoral area level and promote participation by Galway at the National Dáil na nÓg.

Membership of the **Community Forum** grew to 670 Community and Voluntary Groups in 2010 and the Council continued to provide a full time worker to support the activity of this forum. With over 95% of membership on email, the Forum also provides an important information distribution service and social marketing tool for the Council and other public bodies. The forum maintain two area forum offices in Clonberne & Killimor which provide support and information to Community and Voluntary groups operating in rural areas. The forum continued to provide funding workshops, training and electoral area meetings countywide on issues of interest to the groups registered with the Forum

Supporting Social and Economic Development in RAPID areas Tuam and Ballinasloe

In 2010, the Council employed RAPID Co-ordinators in each town to provide ongoing advisory project management services to agencies and communities. The Co-ordinators facilitated RAPID Area Implementation Teams (AIT) and sub-groups involving a cross-section of agencies and community representatives to progress Strategic Plans on Community Safety & Anti Social Behaviour, Health, Family Support, Education, Employment & Training and the Physical Environment. This focused approach enabled staff to work closely with local groups and has assisted in delivering better services and securing additional national and local funding for both towns. Some of the specific initiatives included were:

- 13 local groups/projects were assisted in the Ballinasloe RAPID area using co-financing between Galway County Council and the Department of Community Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs
- Under the theme of Employment & Training two events were organised in 2010 in Ballinasloe for 18–25 year olds. Attendance was high with respective attendances of 243 and 130
- Dormant Account funding continued to be made available for agreed projects in the Ballinasloe and Tuam RAPID Areas

TO MAXIMISE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Social Inclusion Unit

The Social Inclusion Unit continued its work to embed social inclusion policy and practice into the day to day operations of the Council, and worked with other organisations to support the Council in improving the inclusion of all members of the Community in accessing services. The Social Inclusion Unit developed the Social Inclusion Action Plan 2010 in consultation with staff and implemented a range of actions under the 6 key objectives

Key achievements of the Social Inclusion Unit in 2010 included organising **Social Inclusion Week** which took place in October as part of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The Social Inclusion Unit put together a week long programme with over 55 events taking place. The Unit produced a **Social Inclusion handbook** for staff and elected members along with a wall calendar highlighting the 2010 Year. The Unit organised NALA Plain English & Literacy awareness training and also worked with the IPA to deliver Equality & Diversity sessions for staff



The Unit worked with the Fire Service and County Galway Community & Voluntary Forum on the **Community Smoke Alarm Scheme 2010** which resulted in the delivery and installation of 600 sets of smoke alarms to vulnerable members of the community free of charge.

During 2010 the Unit facilitated the **Social Inclusion Measures Committee (SIM)** of the County Development Board. During 2010 the committee has been involved in delivering 4 priority actions focussing on Integration, Youth, Older People and Disability. Galway County Council was successful in its funding application to the Office of the Minister for Integration in 2010 and secured €40,000 to develop and support projects that focus on integration.

Galway County Council hosted the first meeting of the Connaught / Ulster forum of the **Ministerial Council on Integration** in the Council Chamber in October 2010. The Minister for Equality, Integration and Human Rights, Ms. Mary White, T.D., attended the meeting along with the Council members who represent 14 different nationalities. The Council provides a forum where migrants can speak directly to the Minister regarding their experiences of integration in Ireland and thereby promote better-informed policymaking.



Ministerial Council on Integration

Galway County Council facilitates the **County Galway Traveller Interagency Group** whose purpose is to improve the delivery of services to the Traveller Community through agencies, groups and Traveller working better together. The group met seven times in 2010 and have prepared a new strategy for the period 2010 – 2013. The group were also successful in their funding application under the FAS Traveller Employment Initiative and secured funding for the position of 2 development workers to look at employment and self employment opportunities for Travellers.

The Unit also developed and piloted **poverty impact assessment** for the draft Tuam Local Area Plan in consultation with the Planning section of the Council. The Unit organised an information evening for members of the public in Tuam during the public display period and worked closely with Planning on the assessment template.

TO SUPPORT COUNTY GALWAY'S UNIQUE CULTURE

Promoting and Developing Arts Activity

In 2010, the Arts Office continued its support for development of the creative economy locally, sustaining employment in the art sector and promoting access to the Arts. The office provides information and advice service to community groups, individual artists, Elected Members and other sections of the Council on arts activity.

The Council invested €71,000 (€40,000 Arts Act Supports, €21,000 Arts Programming and €10,000 Community Grants) to support 73 organisations to undertake festivals, events and to provide increased access to arts activity throughout the County. Support was provided for major events such as the County Programme of the Galway Arts Festival; Clifden Arts Week and development of Arts

programme at Coole Park. The development and promotion of new arts activity by 18 Artists resident in County was supported by investing €30,000 on Individual Artist's Bursary Awards.

The development of the creative economy offers opportunities for County Galway and in 2010 Galway County Council was the first authority in the region to support 'Screen West' a web-site and marketing initiative to make it easy for filmmakers to come to the West to make productions - www.screenwest.ie

County Council's Strategic Arts Development Plan 2006-2009 was completed with a range of projects and programmes to support arts activities in Public Health Facilities, Schools, and Communities and with 'at risk' youth groups using film, visual arts, theatre in partnership with other public and community groups. Co-funding of €85,000 was provided by the Arts Council.

Supporting Access to Sport

The County Galway Local Sports Partnership is managed by Galway County Council. The vision of the Galway LSP is to make sport and recreation part of every day life for the citizens in County Galway. The Sports Partnership Board (which includes 14 members' organisations - 18 members) convened four times in 2009 to oversee investment of €143,833 from the Irish Sports Council. (Supports provided include €15,000 for Youth and Sports projects and €10,000 on Club Development).

Core programmes of the Irish Sports Council -Buntús to primary and pre-schools were rolled out. Nine Code of Ethics courses delivered throughout County targeting range of sports groups. Two programmes for Women in Sport delivered Girls LEP Rugby in association with Connaught Rugby and Basketball in association with Barna Basketball Club and co-funding from HSE.

The LSP supported a Hurling Development Officer in partnership with County Council and GAA to increase participation in hurling in Gort, Tuam, Athenry, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Clifden. Enhancement of access to Sport for all remains an important goal and an activity course for sufferers of Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus; GOYA outdoor project in Kinvarra and 'Youth in Action' projects in North Connemara in association with FORUM Connemara Ltd were supported. The LSP secured €41,000 from Dormant Accounts for projects promoting sport in RAPID areas of Tuam and Ballinasloe.

The Partnership also co-hosted a well attended Sports Conference in Galway on the 3rd October with Galway City Sports Partnership, that was addressed by some of the most respected practitioners in sport psychology and physical fitness

TO MAXIMISE ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

1,000 copies of the Social Inclusion handbook were distributed to staff and elected members in 2010. The handbook was also used as part of the social inclusion awareness session delivered to 30 staff. As a result Council staff are more aware of social exclusion and how to better interact with our diversity of customers.

Equality & Diversity training was delivered over two days by the IPA and 31 staff attended. This resulted in Staff being more aware of equality and diversity issues and how these can relate to their area of work.

TO ENHANCE QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICES AND DELIVERY

All meetings / events and workshops organised by the Unit were, where possible held in venues that are suitable to the needs of people with a disability. As a result people with a disability are not excluded from attending events / meetings.

Documentation and application forms associated with the Community Support Scheme were revised using Plain English guidelines. The Plain English guidelines were issued to all staff and specific training on website writing (including guidelines) was provided by NALA and 12 staff attended.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION UNIT 2010

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 Marine, Road Safety and Arterial Drainage.

A number of significant achievements were recorded by the Roads & Transportation Unit during 2010, including:

- The completion of the N59 National Secondary Low Volume Pilot Scheme at Derrylea, Clifden.
- The official opening of the M18 Gort to Crusheen Motorway.
- The substantial completion of the Cartymore Road/Tuam Road Link of the Athenry Northern Ring Road.
- **The coordination and delivery of a substantial work programme, aimed at identifying areas where an economically feasible solution to reduce the potential for future flooding existed, and the substantial completion of in excess of 50 such schemes at a cost of approximately €3.2 million.**
- The completion of a significant programme of weather related rehabilitation works across the road network, to address damage arising from the severe weather, experienced in late 2009/early 2010.
- The continuation of work on the development of Cill Rónáin Harbour at a cost of €8,864,824.
- The submission of Stage II Bids for Loughrea Smarter Travel Town and the Galway Metropolitan Smarter Travel Area for the National Competition for Smarter Travel Areas.

In addition, the Unit responded to the significant challenge presented by the severe weather experienced in January 2010 and again in November/December 2010, through the allocation of significant resources for winter maintenance operations across the National, Regional & Local Road Network.

The Unit worked in partnership with the HSE, An Garda Síochána and the National Roads Authority, to provide an appropriate and effective response, within the limits of the resources available to the response agencies, throughout the extended period of severe weather. The Unit also harnessed community support and participation through the provision of grit at over 80 locations across the County, to enable local community to assist in the response effort by gritting local roads and in the vicinity of community facilities.



Official Opening of M18 Gort / Crusheen Scheme



M18 Gort / Crusheen - Project Team

TO ACHIEVE BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The final grant allocation from the National Roads Authority for 2010 was **€137,354,316** comprised as follows:

Improvement Works	€135,207,309
Maintenance Works	€ 2,147,007

Significant funding was provided in 2010 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban Routes element of the National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 & Transport 21. The following projects were managed by the National Roads Design Office during 2010 with the costs associated with this programme recouped in full from the National Roads Authority:

National Road No.	Route Section
M6	Athlone / Ballinasloe
N6	Galway City Outer Bypass
M6	Galway / Ballinasloe
M17/18	Gort / Tuam (incl Tuam Bypass)
M17	Tuam to Claremorris
N59	Maigh Cuilinn Bypass
N59	Clifden to Oughterard
M18	Gort / Crusheen

- Construction work on the M18 Gort to Crusheen Motorway continued during 2010 with the official opening being performed by the Minister for Transport, Mr. Noel Dempsey TD on Friday, 12th November 2010.
- The M18 / M17 Gort to North of Tuam PPP Scheme was advanced through the public procurement process as a public private partnership project.
- The Supreme Court referred the issue of the interpretation of the EU Habitats Directive to the European Court of Justice, in the context of determining the appeal against the decision of An Bord Pleanála, regarding the Galway City Outer Bypass.

- Funding was provided for a design team to advance the upgrade of the N59 Clifden to Oughterard Route as a pilot national secondary low volume scheme.



Official Opening of the National Secondary Low Volume Pilot Scheme incorporating Cycleway. on the N59 at Derrylea, Clifden

Other milestones achieved relating to the National Primary & Secondary Road Network during 2010 included:

- The annual resurfacing and maintenance programme for National Routes was undertaken in accordance with the budget for maintenance works notified by the National Roads Authority.
- The N59 Derrylea scheme consisting of the realignment of approx 3.9 km of the N59 including the provision of a cycleway was completed based on a new design standard for low-volume rural roads. The Official Opening was performed by Mr. Éamon Ó'Cuív, TD, Minister for Social Protection on Monday, 19th July 2010.
- The National Roads Authority provided funding to facilitate the construction of 3 Salt Barns at Gort, Loughrea & Tuam. In addition funding was provided for winter maintenance equipment including salt gritters.
- A programme of works on the M6/M18 residual network including haul roads and upgrade of road signage was undertaken on foot of funding provided by the National Roads Authority.

N59 National Secondary Low Volume Pilot Scheme at Derrylea, Clifden:



'Before'



'After'

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

National Primary Pavement & Minor Improvements:

N18 Gort Main Street	N17 Cregboy, Baile Chláir	N18 Roundabouts Oranmore
N17 Baile Chláir Traffic Route Lighting Works		

National Secondary Pavement & Minor Improvements:

N59 Roscahill	N84 Headford	N63 Marley Junction
N59 Letterfrack	N65 Heathlawn	N59 Tullyconnor
N59 Glengowla	N66 Gort – Loughrea	N63 Newbridge
N59 Gleenagevlagh	N63 Moylough	N63 Turloughmore
N59 Cnocnaraw to Moyard	N59 Leenane – Clifden	N65 Ballydoogan
N59 Cleggan Junction	N59 Moyard	N59 Streamstown
N59 Tullywee Bridge to Kylemore	N59 Kileen – Oranswell	N59 Garrowman
N83 Dunmore Southern Approach		

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS:

The total initial grant allocation of €22,682,148 for Regional & Local Roads divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€15,110,148
Maintenance Works	€ 7,572,000

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

Grant Category	2010
Improvement Grant (2010)	€10,169,000
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€4,093,000
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€3,479,000
Specific Improvement Grants	€1,360,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€235,000
Regional Roads Signposting Grant	€130,000
Footpaths Tuam (FTC)	€144,000
Footpaths Loughrea (FTC)	€144,000
Strategic Regional & Local Roads (SNNR) Grant	€2,928,148

The grant stream for regional and local road improvements was refocused by the Department of Transport in 2010 to afford greater flexibility to deal with the urgent repair of damage to the road network arising from the flooding and prolonged severe winter weather experienced in late 2009/early 2010.

Accordingly, as a once off measure the Restoration Improvement Programme was suspended for 2010 and the Restoration Improvement Grant and the Discretionary Improvement Grant were amalgamated into a single “2010 Improvement Grant” in the amount of **€10,169,000**.

Specific Improvement & Strategic Regional & Local Roads:

The following roads were allocated funding under the Specific Improvement Grant Scheme during 2010:

R339 Carnmore – Monivea	R336 Maam / Leenane
R341 Clifden/Roundstone/Canal Stage	R340 Attry / Carna
R336 Bearna	R351 Loughrea / Woodford
L3416 Cappataggle, Kilconnell	

In addition, the National Roads Authority facilitated the transfer of a significant portion of the 2010 allocation for the Conamara Access Road (*R336 Bearna to Scríob via Ros an Mhíl*) to the Specific Improvement Grant to facilitate the following additional projects:

- R336 Screebe / Casla
- R341 / N59 Clifden Roundstone Loop
- R336 Maam Cross / Screebe

A procurement process to facilitate the appointment of consultants to advance the Baile Chláir Relief Road was progressed during 2010.

The Mayor of the County of Galway, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn turned the sod to mark the commencement of works on the Cartymore Road / Tuam Road Link of the Athenry Northern Relief Road on Wednesday, 21st July 2010 with work substantially completed by December 2010.

Athenry Northern Ring Road:



Sod Turning - July 2010



Substantial Completion – December 2010

Improvement, Resurfacing & Maintenance Programme for Regional & Local Roads

A total of 99,975.68 square metres of regional roads were improved under the Improvement Grant at a total cost of €2,018,566 with a further 459,204.65 square metres of local roads improved under the grant at a cost of €8,034,309.

A total of 119,982 square metres of regional roads were surface dressed under the Restoration Maintenance Programme at a total cost of €829,806 with a further 567,145 square metres of local roads were surface dressed under the Programme at a cost of €3,246,353.

Local Roads Maintenance

The sum provided from the Council's resources in 2010 was **€5,463,697**. The Local Roads General Maintenance allocation of **€3,570,259** provided a unit allocation of **€655** per km.

The sum of **€3,570,259** was allocated as follows:

(1)	Local Roads Verge Trimming	€ 180,000
(2)	Local Roads Drainage	€ 220,000
(3)	Local Roads Renewal & Provision of Signage	€ 100,000
(4)	Local Roads General Maintenance	€2,580,000
(5)	Local Roads Winter Maintenance	€ 290,250
(6)	Local Roads Bridge Maintenance	€ 200,000

Additional funding in the amount of €260,000, to supplement the Council's resources for Winter Maintenance operations on regional and local roads was made available by the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government via the Local Government Fund in November 2010 in response to the severe weather.

PIERS & HARBOURS

Strategic Piers And Harbours:

Progress was achieved during 2010 in advancing the programme of works under the Strategic Piers & Harbours Programme. Some notable milestones included:

- A feasibility study was completed in regard to the Caladh Mór Phase III Harbour Development, Inis Meáin.
- Planning documentation was completed in regard to Cé Ard Thoir, Carna.
- Work continued on the development of Cill Rónáin Harbour at an estimated total cost of approximately €40 million represent the highest ever spend on island infrastructure in the history of the State.



An Aerial View of the Development of Cill Rónáin Harbour

Small Piers And Harbours

- Completion of a repair and maintenance programme on Corradain Pier, Carna.
- Undertaking repair and maintenance works Duibthir, An Cheathrú Rua.
- The preparation of the tender documentation for the maintenance of Yacht Moorings.
- Completion of safety improvements works on Annaghdown Pier.

The following projects were undertaken with funding from the Small Piers & Harbours Programme:

Pier	Roinn Allocation	County Council Allocation	Total Funding
Cé Doire Fhéarta, An Cheathrú Rua	€100,000	€0	€100,000
Cé Glas na nÚan, Tír an Fhia	€37,500	€12,500	€50,000
Cé an Phortaigh, Maoighnis, Carna	€75,000	€25,000	€100,000
Cé an Dóilín, Loch na Aortha	€79,500	€26,500	€106,000
Cé Chorradáin, Dubhithir, Carna	€108,000	€0	€108,000
Cé Foirmis North (Paddy Jacks)	€63,750	€21,250	€85,000

TO PRESERVE & ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

ARTERIAL DRAINAGE

The Council discharged its statutory responsibility for the maintenance of certain drainage works in the County through the Roads and Transportation Unit and the Council's Regional and Area Offices. The Council has charge of twelve Drainage Districts and there are two Districts in the charge of Joint Drainage Committees with Roscommon and Clare County Councils.

Drainage Districts:

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

Joint Drainage Districts:

River Fergus Joint Drainage Committee
River Suck Joint Drainage Committee

Ahascragh Drainage District / Bunowen River:



'Before'



'After'

FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS & STUDIES

- The Joint Flood Working Group comprising representatives from Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works met on a monthly basis during 2010 to identify and progress works aimed at reducing the risk of future flooding.
- A total of more than 95 areas were examined with a view to determining whether an economically feasible solution to reduce the potential for future flooding existed.
- Arising from the inspection of such areas, funding in the amount of approximately €3.2 million for works at 58 locations has been allocated by the Office of Public Works with

match funding from Galway County Council. In excess of 50 of these schemes have been substantially completed to date.

- A Joint Steering Group comprised of representatives of Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works was established during 2010 and was tasked to advance works on the Dunkellin River Flood Relief Scheme and the Clare River Flood Relief Scheme.
- A review of the Dunkellin was completed identifying the necessary works required to be undertaken within the scope of the Dunkellin Flood Relief Scheme. The scheme is currently estimated to cost in the region of €3.8million

Lavally Drainage District / River Clarin, Athenry:



'Before'



'After'

- The public procurement process for the appointment of consultants to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Dunkellin Flood Relief Scheme was published by Galway County Council in November 2010.
- Advance works commenced on the N17 Baile Chláir Clare River Crossing including archaeological works to facilitate the diversion of services to allow for the provision of an additional flood relief channel. The advance works form part of the Clare River Flood Relief Scheme which has a current total estimated cost of approximately €7.5 million.
- The Council supported the OPW and Jennings O'Donovan's review of the recommendations of the 1998 South Galway Report being undertaken in the context of the more severe flooding experienced in 2009.

Newtown Abbeyknockmoy:



'Before' - Blockages in Existing Drains

'After' – Remedial Works on Existing Drains



Ballymurray Bridge

East Bridge Channel B'sloe

Gort River Outfall

COASTAL PROTECTION:

The Commissioners of Public Works allocated funding for Minor Coastal Protection Works to be undertaken by the Council as follows:

Project Location	Works	OPW Funding	Council Funding	Total
Inis Ní Pier, Roundstone	Public Access Road	€171,000	€19,000	€190,000
Doonlooughan Pier	Public Access Road	€153,000	€17,000	€170,000
Total Funding Minor Coastal Protection Works				€360,000

TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

SMARTER TRAVEL & SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY:

The Council continued its proactive role in promoting sustainable mobility by delivering a programme of events to mark European Mobility Week (16th – 22nd September 2010). The events were designed to encourage people to consider changing their travel habits to more sustainable means such as cycling, walking and public transport.

European Mobility Week 2011:



'Streets Alive' Athenry – Car Free Day on the 22nd September 2010



*Indicative Image of Main Street, Loughrea as a Pedestrian Priority Street
(Stage II Bid for Loughrea Smarter Travel Town)*

The Council in partnership with Galway City Council submitted the Stage II Bid for the Department of Transport's National Smarter Travel Areas Competition in relation to the Galway Metropolitan

Smarter Travel Area. In addition, the Council also submitted a Stage II Bid under the competition for Loughrea Smarter Travel Town.

Preliminary working including a pre draft public consultation process for the development of an Integrated Walking & Cycling Strategy for County Galway was undertaken during 2010.

The Council worked with the Galway Transportation Unit and Galway City Council in advancing a walking and cycling strategy for Galway City & Environs including Oranmore, Baile Chlair & Bearna.

The Council led a range of events in June 2010 to mark National Bike Week, including hosting 'Pedal A Smoothie' and 'Go Electric' promotions in Áras an Chontae.



'Go Electric' Promotion in Áras an Chontae for National Bike Week 2010

The Unit took a lead role in working in partnership with Irish Rail to advance the development of the Oranmore Railway Station and Park & Ride facility at Garraun, Oranmore with the planning application for same lodged in December 2010.



An Indicative Image of Oranmore Railway Station at Garraun, Oranmore

ROAD SAFETY:

Road Safety Together Committee:

- The Road Safety Together Committee continued its active role in the promotion of road safety and held 2 meetings in 2010.
- The County Galway Primary Schools Cycling Championship took place on Thursday, 17th June, 2010. The event was organised by the Council as part of its Programme of Events to mark National Bike Week.
- Galway County Council joined up with its Sports Partnership Section and the Irish Heart Foundation in relation to a Fit Walking Programme which was carried out in Oranmore and Furbo in May, 2010, by providing high visibility vests to each person who took part in this walking initiative.
- Irish Road Safety Week took place between 11th and 17th October, '10, and the Council held various initiatives, e.g. Road Safety Awareness Poster Competition; distribution of leaflets e.g. speeding; drink driving; distribution of high visibility vests; promotion of eye tests, etc.



Road Safety Interactive Shuttle visits Athenry to mark European Mobility Week 2010



*3rd Annual County Galway Primary Schools Cycling Championship
(National Bike Week 2010)*



Doorús National School



Kilnadeema National School



Ballygar National School

Specific road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2010 included:

- Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for Post Primary Schools.
- Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme.
- Support for the Cycling Safety Training Programme in national schools
- Road safety messages on iRadio in May, June, August and October Bank Holidays in conjunction with Mayo, Donegal and Sligo County Councils
- Road safety promotional material distributed to Galway Motor Club for circulation at the Galway Summer Rally held in August, '10
- Galway Co. Council and Rennicks teamed up, during the Christmas holiday period, to provide Variable Message Signs which displayed road safety messages as visible

reminders for all road users of the importance of road safety and the messages related to the dangers of driving under the influence; speed, fatigue etc.

- During 2010, road safety awareness messages appeared in 'Aon Scéal', the Council's staff magazine in order to continue raising road safety awareness to its staff members.

Safety Improvement Works and Measures:

The National Roads Authority provided funding for Safety Measures on the following National Primary & Secondary roads:

N18 Kilcolgan
N63 Annagh Hill School
N66 Fahy's Cross Rakerin
N84 Corrandulla Junction

An allocation of **€235,000** was provided by the Department of Transport to enable low cost safety improvement works on the following regional and local roads:

L-3102 Cregmore Bridge
L-2121/ L-2119 Junction & Alignment East of Peggy's Bar
R-358/L-3406 Junction of the Ballyforan Road with the R-358
R-322/LP-2114 Junction of the R-322 & L-2114 AT Carrowmoneen, Tuam
R-332 Kilbennan
R-336 Lettermuckoo Road surface
R-339 Ballynamona
L-4312 Tynagh Village: Eastern approach

The Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Bye Laws 2009 were implemented in April 2010. While the Unit, continued to implement Road Works Speed Limits, in consultation with An Garda Síochána and the National Roads Authority, as deemed necessary to facilitate the delivery of the Council's various works programmes.

PUBLIC LIGHTING:

- A sum of **€620,000** was provided in the 2010 Budget to fund the cost of the public lighting programme including the maintenance/energy costs.
- In addition the National Roads Authority provided funding of **€88,901** for National Primary/Secondary Route Lighting.
- The Council availed of the liberalisation of the electricity market for unmetered supply to tender for the public lighting supply (energy) with the contract being awarded to Energia on the basis of a one year fixed price unit cost basis.



Site Visit by the
Mayor of the County of
Galway, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn
to view progress on the
Development of Backlawn
Car Park, Athenry
July 2010

TO MAXIMISE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES

Community Employment Schemes:

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

Community Involvement in Roadwork's Scheme

The Council continued to actively promote the Community Involvement in Roadwork's Scheme as a means of harnessing community support for road works on suitable local roads. A sum of **€196,495** was provided from the 2010 Improvement Grant with a further sum of **€222,300** from the Restoration Maintenance Grant provided a total budget of **€418,795** for the scheme.

A total of **67** applications were received to avail of the 2010 scheme. Following assessment a total of **50** were recommended for funding with provisional approval being granted for **39** schemes in 2010.

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 **€xxxx** in 2010 to facilitate 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.

*Bearna**Baile Chláir (Claregalway)**Abbey*

Local Improvement Schemes:

In recognition of the opportunity provided by Local Improvement Schemes to provide assistance towards the construction or improvement of non-public roads, the Unit continued to actively promote this scheme during 2010. A grant allocation of **€308,000** was provided by the Department of Transport in 2010 which together with a local contribution of **€45,776** facilitated **17** schemes being undertaken during the year.

TO SUPPORT COUNTY GALWAY'S UNIQUE CULTURE

SIGNAGE

- A grant of **€130,000** was provided in 2010 by the Department of Transport to facilitate the completion of the Regional Roads Signposting Programme which began in 2003.
- Funding in the amount of **€100,000** was provided from the General Maintenance allocation for the provision and renewal of signage on local roads.
- Signage was upgraded on the old N6/R446 and related road network to reflect the opening of the M6 Galway / Ballinasloe Motorway.
- In addition, funding was made available from the National Road and Regional Road Maintenance allocations for the maintenance and renewal of signage.

TO MAXIMISE ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

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

The Roads & Transportation Unit worked in partnership with Galway City Council and the Galway Transportation Unit to submit the Stage II Bid under the National Sustainable Travel Areas

Competition for the Galway Metropolitan Smarter Travel Area. In addition, the local authorities also collaborated on a number of projects including the development of a walking and cycling strategy for Galway City & Environs and a joint programme for National Bike Week.

The Unit continued to engage with An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta and Údarás na Gaeltachta through regular meetings to address a broad range of issues of mutual interest.

MACHINERY YARD:

The supply and maintenance of Plant and Machinery for the Council's use is managed by the Machinery Yard and 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. The plant and machinery available to the Machinery Yard was further supplemented during 2010 with the acquisition of 4 additional trucks.

The Machinery Yard also played a lead role in coordinating salt gritting operations during the period of severe cold weather experienced during 2010 thereby ensuring that through the provision of an effective and timely response all national and strategic regional and local roads remained passable. Additional winter maintenance equipment was acquired during 2010 with funding provided by the National Roads Authority.

TO ENHANCE QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICES & DELIVERY

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- During the severe weather experienced in both early and late 2010 the Unit availed of www.galway.ie to provide detailed information to the public on the winter service plan, the gritting of roads and related information.
- The Roads & Transportation Unit hosted Supplier Workshops to facilitate the operation of LAQuotes.ie as a means of submitting on-line quotations for supplies and services, plant hire and tool hire for 2011.
- The Unit operated 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 2010 to provide a Traffic Information Service, providing information on traffic disruptions arising as a result of road works, temporary road closures, roadwork's speed limits etc.

TO SUPPORT & ENHANCE LOCAL DEMOCRACY

CORPORATE SUPPORT

The Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee met on 3 occasions during 2010 and recommended the following policies which were subsequently adopted by Council:

- Sponsorship of the Maintenance of Designated Roundabouts
- Traffic Management Policy – Introduction of Traffic Management Plans & Measures
- Procedure for the Extinguishment of a Public Right of Way

A Winter Service Plan was prepared in Q4 2010 as required by the Department of Transport and following consideration by the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee was approved by Council.

The policy on the operation of the Community Involvement in Roadwork's Scheme was also amended to allow for the inclusion of additional categories of works under the scheme including litter control and verge trimming.



Aerial View of Work on N59 at Derrylea, Clifden



Work in Progress on N59 at Derrylea, Clifden

**COUNCILLORS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES & OTHER BODIES
2010**

Galway Harbour Board Company

Cllr. Peter Feeney

River Suck Joint Drainage Committee

Cllr. Paul Connaughton

Cllr. Sean Canney

Cllr. Tomas Mannion

West Regional Authority

Comh. Tomas O Curraoin

Cllr. Gerry Finnerty

Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh

Cllr. Peter Feeney

Cllr. Michael Mullins

Cllr. Paul Connaughton

Cllr. Peter Roche

B.M.W. Regional Assembly

Cllr. Gerry Finnerty

Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh

Cllr. Peter Feeney

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Comh. Seosamh O Cuaig

Cllr. Tomas Mannion

Cllr. Gerry Finnerty

Cllr. Peter Feeney

Cllr. Tom McHugh

Cllr. Peter Roche

Cllr. Michael Maher

Cllr. Liam Carroll

Galway County and City Enterprise Board

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Galway Rural Development Company

Cllr. Peter Feeney

Cllr. Michael Mullins

Cllr. Jim Cuddy

Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd.

Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Michael Maher

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

Association of County and City Councils

Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh
Cllr. Peter Feeney

General Council of County Councils

Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh
Cllr. Sean Canney

Fáilte Ireland West

Cllr. Peter Feeney

County and City Tourism Forum

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

County (Local) Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Peter Roche

Loughrea Heritage Committee

Cllr. Bridie Willers
Cllr. Michael Maher

Knock Airport Consultative Committee

Cllr. Jim Cuddy

Board of Directors of Corrib Airport Ltd

Cllr. Liam Carroll

Integrated Transport Coordinating Group

Cllr. Colm Keaveney

LAMA

Cllr. Michael Mullins

Meitheal Forbartha na Gaeltachta/Cumas

Comh. Seosamh O Cuaig
Comh. Sean O Tuairisg

Board of Directors of Galway Arts Centre

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

Western Inter-County Rail Committee

Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Sean Canney
Cllr. Bridie Willers
Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Peter Roche

County Galway Vocational Education Committee

Cllr. Michael Connolly
Comh. Sean O Tuairisg
Comh. Seosamh O Cuaig
Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh
Cllr. Liam Carroll
Cllr. Michael Mullins
Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Paul Connaughton
Cllr. Michael Maher

Regional Health Forum Representation, West

Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Malachy Noone
Cllr. Colm Keaveney
Cllr. Michael Mullins
Cllr. Tim Broderick

Forum Conamara Ltd.

Cllr. Sean Kyne
Comh. Seosamh O Cuaig
Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Thomas Welby

Comhar na nOileán Teoranta

Comh. Seosamh O Cuaig

City and County Liaison Committee

Cllr. Bridie Willers
Cllr. Seosamh O Cuaig
Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Jim Cuddy

Galway County Committee of Agriculture & Rural Development (CCARD)

Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Dermot Connolly

County Development Board

Cllr. Tom McHugh,
Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh,
Cllr. Colm Keaveney
Cllr. Michael Fahy
Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Cllr. Pat Hynes

Western River Basin District Advisory Council

Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Tom Welby

Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council

Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

County Galway Local Sports Partnership

Cllr. Tomás Mannion
Cllr. Dermot Connolly

Joint Policing Committee

Cllr. Tom McHugh, Comh. Seamus O Cuaig, Cllr. Sean Canney, Comh. Tomas O Curraoin, Cllr. Mary Hoade, Cllr. Malachy Noone, Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cllr. Tim Broderick, Cllr. Tomas Mannion, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Comh. Sean O Tuairisg, Cllr. Sean Kyne, Cllr. Michael Fahy, Cllr. Peter Roche.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE ELECTED MEMBERS

	Conference	Organised By	Date & Venue	No. Attended
1	Irish Language Course for Councillors	Esperanza Enterprises	Connemara Coast Hotel, Furbo, Co. Galway 02. – 04.01.2009	3
2	The Greening of Irish Agriculture	Institute of International & European Affairs	Dublin Castle 09.01.2009	2
3	The Local Government Planning Service	Esperanza Enterprises	Hotel Westport, Westport, Co. Mayo 09. – 11.01.2009	7
4	Effective Communications for Councillors	Superior Training	Days Hotel, 1 Merchants Quay, Waterford 16. – 18.01.2009	1
5	Antrim Tourism Conference	Clare Tourist Council & Antrim Borough Council	Dunadry Hotel, Muckamore, Dunadry, Co. Antrim 23. – 24.01.2009	1
6	The Local Government Planning Service	Superior Training	The Granville Hotel, Waterford 23. – 25.01.2009	4
7	Effective Communications for Councillors	Kadenza Consultancies	Clonea Strand Hotel, Clonea, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford 30.01. – 01.02.2009	1
8	Information & Communication Technologies for Councillors	Esperanza Enterprises	The Glendalough Hotel, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow 06. – 08.02.2009	3
9	Spring Seminar 2009	A.M.A.I.	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 13. – 14.02.2009	15
10	15 th Annual Conference	Mid-West Regional Authority	Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick 19. – 20.02.2009	4
11	Freedom of Information Seminar	TJK Conferences Ltd.	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick 20. – 21.02.2009	4
12	Review & Reform of Local Govt. in Ireland, North/South	Kadenza Consultancies	Bellingham Castle Hotel, Co. Louth 20. – 21.02.2009	2
13	Women of 1916	Enniscorthy Town Council	Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford 21.02.2009	1
14	Playing Fair Conference	Combat Poverty	Bridgewater House, Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin 8 24.02.2009	1

15	Maximising Your Vote	Third Sector Forum	Red Cow Moran Hotel, Naas Rd., Dublin 22 26. – 28.02.2009	3
16	20 th Colmille Winter School – Ireland & the Recession	Colmille Heritage Trust	Colmille Heritage Centre, Gartan Church Hill, Co. Donegal 27.02. – 01.03.2009	3
17	Count Me In! Including People with a Disability in Local Govt. Structures & Services	Disability Federation of Ireland	Hilton Hotel, Kilmainham, Dublin 03.03.2009	2
18	Revisiting the Cost of Children: Theory & Evidence from Ireland	Combat Poverty	Bridgewater House, Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin 8 03.03.2009	1
19	International Local Govt. Convention	Destination Killarney	INEC Conference Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry 03. – 06.03.2009	1
20	17 th Annual Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference	Rattoo Heritage Society	Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry 04. – 08.03.2009	6
21	Ireland & its People (Jobs, economics & skills for the future)	Special Olympics Connaught	Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Rd., Sligo 05. – 06.03.2009	2
22	Forum for a Nuclear Free Future	All Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities	Carrickdale Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth 13.03.2009	1
23	Planning & Development Control	Esperanza Enterprises	Glenlo Abbey Hotel, Bushypark, Galway 20. – 22.03.2009	1
24	National Music Symposium	Artscope	St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9 24.03.2009	1
25	The Economic & Social Benefits of Preserving our Cultural Heritage	Kerry Literary & Cultural Centre	Listowel Arms Hotel, Listowel, Co. Kerry 26. – 27.03.2009	2
26	Civic Leadership & Local Government	Superior Training	Park House Hotel, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford 27. – 28.03.2009	2

27	Annual Conference 2009	Association of County & City Councils	Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny 02. – 03.04.2009	4
28	Public Relations & the Media	Kadenza Consultancies	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 03. – 05.04.2009	1
29	29 th Annual Conference	L.A.M.A.	The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois 16. – 17.04.2009	7
30	Is Combatting Poverty a Dead Agenda?	Respond	Osprey Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare 07.05.2009	1
31	83 rd Annual General Meeting	Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance	The Burlington Hotel, Dublin 13.05.2009	2
32	Byrne/Perry Summer School 2009	County Wexford Enterprise Board	Christian Brothers School, Wexford St., Gorey 26. – 28.06.2009	6
33	From the Canvass to the Council Chamber	Kadenza Consultancies	West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, Co. Cork 03. – 05.07.2009	2
34	Effective Local Govt. Policy Making in the current recession	Superior Training	West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, Co. Cork 10. – 12.07.2009	3

36	The Irish Economy – What went wrong? How will we fix it?	MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Co. Donegal 19. – 24.07.2009	7
37	Planning & Building Regulations	Esperanza Enterprises	Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford 24. – 26.07.2009	1
38	Renewable Energy & Energy Conservation	Ashford Building Services	Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 07. – 09.08.2009	2
39	Leisure & Recreation in Ireland	Parnell Society / Parnell Summer School	Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow 09. – 14.08.2009	1
40	Merriman Summer School 2009 – Are we there yet? Facing the future anew	Cumann Merriman	Ennis, Co. Clare 16. – 22.08.2009	1
41	Humbert Summer School – Can Ireland be Redeemed?	International Humbert School	Art Centre, Ballina, Co. Mayo 20. – 23.08.2009	5
42	Irish Language Course for Councillors	Superior Training	Seaview Hotel, Gweedore, Co. Donegal 28. – 30.08.2009	3
43	Extraordinary General Meeting	Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance	The Burlington Hotel, Dublin 03.09.2009	1
44	Planning & the European Law	Ashford Building Services	Days Hotel, 1 Merchants Quay, Waterford	3

			04. – 06.09.2009	
45	96 th Annual Conference	A.M.A.I.	Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry 10. – 12.09.2009	8
46	Ireland the Food Island – A Myth or a Reality?	Agricultural Science Association	Castleknock Hotel & Country Club, Dublin 15 11.09.2009	2
47	7 th National Tourism Conference	Carlow Tourism	Talbot Hotel, Carlow 24 – 26.09.2009	3
48	Local Govt. Seminar for Councillors	TJK Conferences	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick 26. – 26.09.2009	5
49	Induction Training for Newly Elected Members	Institute of Public Administration	Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, Co. Kildare 30.09.2009	2
50	Are Local Authorities good for your Health? – La Touche Legacy Seminar 2009	Greystones Town Council	Charlesland Golf & Country Club, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 02 – 04.10.2009	4
51	National Rural Development Conference 2009	Teagasc	Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Cork 08.10.2009	6
52	Marketing your area / project for the future	Blackwater Valley Tourism	Hibernian Hotel, Mallow, Co. Cork 08. – 10.10.2009	2
53	Induction Training for Newly Elected Members	Institute of Public Administration	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo 14.10.2009	4
54	Douglas Hyde Conference 2009 – Culture & the Economy	Roscommon County Council / Arts Office	Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon 16. – 18.10.2009	1
55	Voluntary Housing & Sheltered Housing for the Elderly	Ashford Building Services	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 23. – 25.10.2009	1
56	Public Policy Making & the Councillor	Superior Training	Carlton Atlantic Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo 30.10. – 01.11.2009	2
57	The Ceifin Conference 2009	The Ceifin Centre	West County Hotel, Ennis 03. – 04.11.2009	1

67	Promoting Partnership in Tourism – 21 Years of Progress	Clare Tourist Council	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare 27. – 28.11.2009	3
68	Information & Communication Technologies for Councillors	Superior Training	Park House Hotel, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford 01. – 03.12.2009	1
69	The Value of Volunteering	Volunteering Ireland	Morrison Hotel, Dublin 03.12.2009	1
70	Internet Constituents	www.4u.ie	Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 04. – 06.12.2009	8
71	Delivering Appropriate Assessment in Ireland	Institute of Environmental Management & Assistance	RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 10.12.2009	1
72	The Local Govt. Budget 2010	Superior Training	Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford 11. – 13.12.2009	2

	Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council Meetings	Organised By	Venue	No. Attended
1		SRBDAC	Ballymahon, Co. Longford 22.01.2009	2
2		SRBDAC	Dublin 12.02.2009	2
3		SRBDAC	Gormanston, Co. Meath 26.03.2009	1

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

The Strategic Policy Committee system is intended to give Councillors and relevant Sectoral interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy shaping process from the earliest stages. The various SPCs met on several occasions during 2009 to produce policy documents for approval by the full Council.

Housing, Fire & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

1. Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh (Chair)
2. Cllr. Thomas Welby
3. Cllr. Bridie Willers
4. Cllr. Tomás Mannion
5. Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh
6. Cllr. Seamus Walsh
7. Cllr. Sally Ann Flanagan (Tuam TC)
8. Cllr. Sylvia Burke (Loughrea TC)
9. Mark Coffey (CIF), Coffey Construction, Athenry, Co. Galway
10. Noel Tarmey (Community/Voluntary), Williamstown, Co. Galway.
11. Dan Dowling (Disadvantaged), Ruane, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
12. Pat Hardiman (ICTU), 14 O'Flaherty Road, Galway.

Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

1. Cllr. Colm Keaveney (Chair)
2. Cllr. Peter Roche
3. Cllr. Paul Connaughton
4. Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin
5. Cllr. Peter Feeney
6. Cllr. Michael Connolly
7. Cllr. Mike Kelly (Ballinasloe TC)
8. Michael Long (IRHA), Two Trees, Rosshill, Galway.
9. Aodan Mac Donnacha (Community/Voluntary), An Pairc, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe.
10. Martin Callanan (Farming), Moyvilla West, Oranmore, Co. Galway.
11. Pat Kane (ICTU), C/o TEEU, Forster Court, Galway.

Planning, Economic Development & Community Strategic Policy Committee

1. Cllr. Michael Fahy (Chair)
2. Cllr. Jimmy McClearn
3. Cllr. Dermot Connolly
4. Cllr. Liam Carroll
5. Comh. Seán O Tuairisg
6. Cllr. Seán Canney
7. Cllr. Geraldine Bane (Loughrea TC)
8. Justin Molloy (CIF), 8 Mountpellier Tce., The Crescent, Galway
9. Michael Naughton (GEAG), Cushmaighmore, Na Forbacha, Co. na Gaillimhe.
10. Ray O'Donoghue (Community/Voluntary), Dublin Road, Oranmore, Co. Galway.
11. Michael Healy (Farming), Lakeview, Moylough, Co. Galway.

Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee

1. Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Chair)
2. Cllr. Eileen Mannion
3. Cllr. Michael Mullins
4. Cllr.. Michael Maher
5. Cllr. Tim Broderick
6. Cllr. Gerry Finnerty
7. Cllr. Lucy Lloyd-Keighery (B'sloe TC)
8. Mark Green (Environmental), Amicus Technology, Slievaun, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway.
9. Christy Cunniffe (Conservation), Clonfert, Co. Galway.
10. Diarmuid Mulcahy (Community/Voluntary), Ballinahallia, Moycullen, Co. Galway.
11. Barry Donnelly (Farming), Conicre, Abbey, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

Corporate Affairs & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee

1. Cllr. Pat Hynes (Chair)
 2. Cllr. Tom McHugh
 3. Cllr. Malachy Noone
 4. Cllr. Seán Kyne
 5. Cllr. Mary Hoade
 6. Comh. Seosamh O Cuaig
 7. Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe (Tuam TC)
 8. Frances O'Reilly (Community/Voluntary), Deerpark, Headford, Co. Galway.
 9. Maura Kelly Stewart (Culture), Kyle na Melly, Woodford, Co. Galway
 10. Bridín Ní Chonceanainn (Islands), An Comhaircumann, Inis Meain, Co. na Gaillimhe
 11. Noreen Ui Dhonnacha (Gaeltacht), Carraig Oisín, Sruthán, An Cheathrú Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe
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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

COUNTY MANAGER

Ms. Martina Moloney

CORPORATE & CULTURAL AFFAIRS UNIT

Director of Services:	Mr. Kevin Kelly
Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Bríd Dooley
Senior Executive Officer, Corporate & Cultural Affairs:	Ms. Breda McDermott
Administrative Officer, Corporate & Cultural Affairs:	Ms. Margaret Jordan / Ms. Eimear Dolan
Administrative Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Anne Gardiner
Head of Information Systems:	Mr. Morgan Matthews (Acting)
County Librarian:	Mr. Pat McMahan
Senior Executive Librarians:	Ms. Maureen Moran Ms. Bernie Kelly Mr. Peter Rabbitte
Senior Executive Engineer:	Mr. Steven Lally (Acting)
Law Agent:	Ms. Vivian Raine
Senior Executive Solicitors:	Ms. Angela Casey Ms. Anne McCormack (Temp)
Executive Solicitors:	Ms. Margaret Flynn Ms. Dorothea Turley (Temp) Ms. Noelle Hogan-Chambers (Temp) Ms. Orla Reilly (Temp)
Internal Auditor:	Ms. Bernie Welby

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Director of Services:	Mr. Paul Ridge
Senior Executive Officer:	Mr. Ger Scully / Ms. Eimear Dolan (Acting)
Administrative Officers:	Mr. Brian Barrett
Community & Enterprise Development Officers:	Ms. Ann Mallaghan Mr. Kieran Coyne
Arts Officer:	Ms. Maria Cunningham (Acting)

ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES UNIT

Director of Services:	Mr. Jim Cullen
Senior Executive Officer:	Mr. Colm Wallace
Administrative Officer, Environment:	Mr. Paraic Carroll
Administrative Officer, Water Services:	Mr. Mark O'Donnell
Senior Engineer, Environment:	Ms. Maire Ni Chionna
Senior Engineer, Water Services:	Mr. Liam Gavin
Senior Executive Engineers, Environment:	Mr. Tony McInerney Mr. Jim McGuirk (Acting)
Senior Executive Engineers, Water Services:	Ms. Martina Connaughton Ms. Fiona Holland Mr. John Diskin Mr. Paul Batty (Temp)
Chief Technician:	Mr. Paul Mulhern (Acting)
County Veterinary Officer:	Ms. Rita Gately

Veterinary Officer: Mr. James Casey
Mr. Pat McGrath (Temp)

HOUSING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT

Director of Services: Mr. Frank Gilmore
Senior Executive Officer: Ms. Jean Brann
Administrative Officer: Ms. Mary McGann
Senior Engineer: Mr. Michael Timmins
Senior Executive Engineers: Mr. Alan Raleigh
Mr. Michael Sheil
Senior Social Worker: Ms. Mary Forde
Chief Fire Officer: Mr. Michael Raftery
Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officers: Mr. Chris McMullin,
Mr. Joesph Kelly,
Mr. Michael Clifford,
Mr. Paul Duffy
Civil Defence Officer: Mr. Tom Casserly

PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Director of Services: Mr. Paul Ridge
Senior Executive Officer: Mr. Albert Comer
Administrative Officer: Mr. Enda Moloney
Senior Planner: Ms. Catherine McConnell
Senior Executive Engineers: Mr. Neil Howard
Mr. Paraic Breathnach
Senior Executive Planners: Ms. Saoirse Kennedy-Quinn
Ms. Valerie Loughnane
Senior Executive Planning: Mr. Noel Burke
Heritage Officer: Ms. Marie Mannion
Conservation Officer: Ms. Máirín Doddy

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION UNIT

Director of Services: Mr. John Morgan
Senior Executive Officer: Mr. Michael Owens
Administrative Officer: Mr. Sean Groarke
Senior Engineers: Mr. Jack Eising
Mr. Michael Dolly
Mr. Martin Lavelle
Mr. Evan Molloy
Senior Executive Engineers: Mr. Aengus Breathnach
Mr. Noel Forde
Mr. Tony Collins
Mr. Rory Timlin
Mr. Fintan O'Meara
Mr. Sean Breathnach
Mr. Uinsinn Finn
Mr. Diarmuid Croghan
Mr. John Leahy

Chief Technician:	Mr. Anthony Kelly
Health & Safety Officer:	John Maloney
Financial Accountant (NRDO):	Ms. Julianne Gavin
	Ms. Olivia Heffernan (Temp)

AREA ENGINEERS

Oranmore (Lackagh):	Mr. Enda Gallagher
Ballinasloe (East):	Mr. Adrian Headd
Ballinasloe (West):	Mr. Enda Mulryan
Clifden:	Mr. T.J. Redmond
An Cheathrú Rua:	Mr. Pat Clarke
Oughterard:	Mr. Feidhlim McGillicuddy
Gort:	Mr. John Costello
Loughrea:	Mr. Adrian Raftery
Portumna:	Mr. Cyril Mitchell
Tuam (West):	Mr. Peter Gavin
Tuam (East):	Mr. John Flesk

FINANCE UNIT

Head of Finance:	Mr. Gerard Mullarkey
Financial Accountant:	Ms. Áine Fenton
Management Accountant:	Mr. Michael McGovern
Administrative Officer:	Ms. Nuala Heffernan
Senior Executive Engineer:	Mr. Paul Duffy
Administrative Officer, Motor Tax:	Ms. Eileen Keaveney

BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL

Senior Executive Officer:	Mr. Alan Farrell
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WEST REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Director:	Mr. Jim McGovern
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PARTNERSHIP FACILITATOR:	Mr. M. J. Walsh
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OFFICES OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

HEADQUARTERS:

Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill,
Galway.
091 – 509000

FIRE BRIGADE:

Headquarters:
Fr. Griffin Road,
Galway.
091 - 570900

Housing Applications	(091) 509300
Housing Loans and Grants	(091) 509301
Environment	(091) 476402
Human Resources	(091) 509303
Motor Taxation	(091) 509099
Driving Licences	(091) 509305
Water Services	(091) 476427
Community, Enterprise & Economic Dev.	(091) 476400
Planning	(091) 509308
Engineering	(091) 509309
Register of Electors	(091) 509310
Higher Education Grants	(091) 509310

AREA OFFICES:**TELEPHONE NO.**

Athenry	(091)	844042
Lackagh	(091)	737020
Ballinasloe	(09096)	42274
Portumna	(09097)	41019
Gort	(091)	631040
An Cheathrú Rua	(091)	595771
Clifden	(095)	21186
TuamEast (Tuam)	(093)	24123
Tuam East (Mountbellew)	(09096)	79221
Tuam West (Milltown)	(093)	51314
Loughrea	(091)	841536
Oughterard	(091)	552353

OPENING HOURS – MONDAY TO FRIDAY:

GENERAL: 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

MOTOR TAXATION: 9.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE COUNTY



BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL

Ballinasloe Town Council, Civic Offices, Ballinasloe

Tel: (09096) 42263

Cllr. Jerry Broderick	54 St. Joseph's Place, Ballinasloe
Cllr. Cathal Concannon	Harbour Road Ballinasloe
Cllr. Matthew Ganly	Dunlo Hill Ballinasloe.
Cllr. Carmel Grealy	Brackernagh, Ballinasloe
Cllr. Mike Kelly	4 Oakmill Drive, Derrymullen,
Cllr. Lucy Lloyd-Keighery	27 St. Brendan's Terrace, Ballinasloe.
Cllr. Aidan McGrath	Ardcarn House Shannonbridge Road, Ballinasloe.
Cllr. Pat O'Sullivan	7, Kilgarve Park, Ballinasloe.
Cllr. Johnny Walsh	59 St. Joseph's Place, Ballinasloe.
Town Clerk: Mr. Alan Farrell	



TUAM TOWN COUNCIL

Tuam Town Council, Shop Street, Tuam

Tel: (093) 24246

Cllr. Tom Reilly	20 Trinity Court Galway Road Tuam
Cllr. Sally Anne Flanagan	12 Woodfield Galway Road Tuam
Cllr. Peter Warren	64 Athenry Road Tuam
Cllr. Mary Loftus	High Street Tuam
Cllr. Eamonn Kitt	Weir Road Tuam
Cllr. Imelda Kelly	3 Waterslade Downs Tullinadaly Road Tuam
Cllr. Lary Bane	3 the Oaks, Ballygaddy Road Tuam
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe	Ballygaddy Road Tuam
Cllr. Martin Ward	36 Tirboy, Tuam
Town Clerk: Ms Angela Holian	



LOUGHREA TOWN COUNCIL

Loughrea Town Council, Barrack Street, Loughrea

Tel: (091) 841536

Cllr. Geraldine Bane	17 Fahy Gardens, Loughrea.
Cllr. Gabriel Burke	Main Street, Loughrea.
Cllr. Sylvia Burke	Hollyhill, Gurtymadden, Loughrea.
Cllr. Jimmy Curley	8 Tullagh Na Corraig, Loughrea.
Cllr. Mary Gunter-Nix	Garrybreeda, Loughrea.
Cllr. Pat Hynes	Gort Road, Loughrea.
Cllr. Michael 'Moegie' Maher	Clostoken Loughrea.
Cllr. Norman Morgan	Bride Street, Loughrea.
Cllr. James Regan	Earlspark, Loughrea.
Town Clerk: Ms. Ann Power	

SERVICE INDICATORS 2010

F: FIRE SERVICE

F1: Fire Service Mobilisation

A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	2.49
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.02
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	2.70
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	4.70

F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes

A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	39.08
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	31.22
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	29.70
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	53.79
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	31.06
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	15.15

F.3 Fire Prevention

A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	191	Total consists of County 141 and City 98
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	145	Consists of County 121 and City 85
C. Total number of applications deemed invalid	49	Consists of County 20 and City 14

CP: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme**

Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme 62.26

CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum 670

C: CORPORATE ISSUES**C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness**

A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave 3.83

B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave 0.58

C.2 Staff Training and Development

Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs: 4.46 Includes Galway Co Co & Ballinasloe TC

E: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**WATER****E.1 Unaccounted For Water**

Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for 47.30

E.2 Drinking Water Analysis –Compliance with Statutory Requirements

A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes 94.62

B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate) 95.41

WASTE MANAGEMENT**E.3 Waste Segregation**

A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables 99.15

B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service And are provided with segregated waste collection for organics 15.07

E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling

A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling 27.77

B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling 11469

C. Tonnage of households waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities sent for recycling 5104

E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill

A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	61.68
B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	28624

E6: Recycling Facilities**Glass**

A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	86
B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
C. The total number of facilities for recycling	90
D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.83

Cans

E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	84
4F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
G. The total number of facilities for recycling	88
H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.76

Textiles

I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	66
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	69
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	2.17

Batteries

M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	4
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.13

Oils

Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	3
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09

Other materials

U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
W. The total number of facilities for recycling	4
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.13

E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement

A. Number of full-time litter wardens	0
B. Number of part-time litter wardens	16
C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.50
D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	519
E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	218
F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	23
G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	4
H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	0
I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	23
J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	4
K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	8
L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	54
M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	31
N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	5
O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	2

E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	1072
B. Number of complaints investigated	1132
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	695
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	407

E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns

A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	89.47
B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	88.24

H: HOUSING**H1: Housing Vacancies**

A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	2354
B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	2309
C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	5.19
D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	94.55
E- The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	5.45

H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let Available dwellings

The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	36.44
The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit	3.8

H3: Housing Repairs

Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	84.87
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H4: Traveller Accommodation

Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	40.74
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H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector

A. Total number of registered tenancies	PRTB data
B. Number of dwelling units inspected	320
C. Number of inspections carried out	320
D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	PRTB data

H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability

A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application	14
B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application	14

H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses

A. Total number of new local authority tenants	106
B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	75.47

L: LIBRARY SERVICES**L.1 Library Public Opening Hours**

A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	33.25
B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	11.75
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	20
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	97.5
E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100

L.2 Library Visits

Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	3456.21	Population includes County & City 231,670
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L.3 Library Stock

A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	1.42	Population includes County & City 231670
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	2.65	Population includes County & City 231670
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.09	Population includes County & City 231670

L.4 Internet Access through Libraries

Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	257.50
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M: MOTOR TAXATION**M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions**

A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	157804
B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	31957
C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	92766
D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	55.85
E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	11.31
F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	32.83

M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications

A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	28361
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B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	3161
C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	216
D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	219
E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	88.75
F. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	9.89
G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	0.68
H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	0.69

M.3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications

A. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	5215
B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	3422
C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	3533
D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	20389
E. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	16.02
F. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	10.51
G. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	10.85
H. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	62.62

M.4 Public opening hours

Average number of opening hours per week	32.50
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P: PLANNING

P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making

Individual Houses

A. Number of applications decided	571
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	190
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	264
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	117
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application	78

where further information was sought	
F. Percentage of applications granted	84.59
G. Percentage of applications refused	15.41
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	30.30
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	69.70

New Housing Development

A. Number of applications decided	23
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	6
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	9
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	8
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	78
F. Percentage of applications granted	69.57
G. Percentage of applications refused	30.43
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	22.22
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	77.78

Other: Not requiring Environment Impact Assessment

A. Number of applications decided	1140
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	790
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	291
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	58
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	76
F. Percentage of applications granted	94
G. Percentage of applications refused	6.23
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	67.83
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	32.17

Other: Requiring Environment Impact Assessment

A. Number of applications decided	10
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	8
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	2
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time	0

was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000

E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	87
F. Percentage of applications granted	90
G. Percentage of applications refused	10
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	42.86
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	57.14

P.2 Planning Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	513
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	71
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	135
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	286
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	181
F. Number of prosecutions	41

P.3 Planning Public opening hours

Average number of opening hours per week	34
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P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation

A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	211
B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	56

P.5 New Buildings inspected

Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	6.28
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P.6 Taking Estates in Charge

A- The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	45
B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	1
C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B	33
D- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	55.56
E- Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	0
F- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	0

Rec: RECREATIONAL SERVICES**Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds**

A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.09
B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.20

Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities

Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	1330.76
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Rev: REVENUE COLLECTION**Rev.1 House Rent**

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	91.14
B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are up to 4 weeks old	6.5
C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	7.3
D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6- 12 weeks old	9.5
E. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	76.7

Rev.2 Housing Loans

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	84.03
B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1 month old	0
C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	8.70
D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2 -3 months old	5.90
E. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	85.40

Rev.3 Commercial Rates

Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	78
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Rev.4 Refuse Charges

Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	0
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Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	50
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R: ROADS**R1: Road Restoration Programme**

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum **286.77 kms**

Note: The Restoration Improvement Programme was suspended for 2010 with the amalgamation of the Restoration Improvement Grant and the Discretionary Improvement Grant into a single '2010 Improvement Grant'. This amalgamation in 2010 hinders a direct comparison with previous years. The length of road noted above is the output achieved under the 2010 Improvement Grant and Restoration Maintenance Grant. The increase in preparatory works necessitated by the ongoing deterioration of the regional and local road network, further exacerbated by the impact of the severe weather in late 2009/early 2010 is reflected in the reduction of the length of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme in 2010. In addition, the increased use of bound materials i.e. overlay on the regional and local road network, providing greater longer term benefits including value of money, is also reflected in the 2010 service indicator.

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum **17.1 kms:**

Note: The final grant allocation for 2010 under the specific improvement grants scheme was €1,783,288. The increased output achieved during 2010 was due to a number of factors, including a significant refocusing of expenditure in favour of pavement overlay as opposed to realignment. Whilst, in addition the works undertaken during 2010 required only minor drainage works and involved no kerbing or extensive ancillary works.

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2010

Galway County Council adopted a Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to apply to all planning decisions made on or after the 8th March 2004.

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.

The attached table illustrates this point where from the inception of the scheme we have received **€38.21 million** to the end of December 2010, however we have commitments totalling **€38.21 million**. In addition I have listed details of our known commitments for projects due to commence in 2011 and beyond which total **€101.5 million** demonstrating the large funding gap that must be bridged to ensure that these projects proceed as planned.

Galway County Council also has significant demand for the development of our roads infrastructure to support development and growth, which is unlikely to be funded from existing resources. It will be necessary to revisit the existing Development Contribution Scheme if it is the intention to advance these desirable projects.

Summary of Development Contribution Scheme to 31 December 2010

Development Contributions Income

Year ended 31 December 2005	5,677,011
Year ended 31 December 2006	11,046,830
Year ended 31 December 2007	7,869,865
Year ended 31 December 2008	5,785,676
Year ended 31 December 2009	3,943,961
Year ended 31 December 2010	3,886,855
Total Income Received	38,210,198

Development Contributions Committed

Water and Waste Water Facilities	35,580,000
Recreation & Amenity	2,020,000
Car Parking Facilities	600,000
Funds Committed	38,200,000

Estimated Future Demands

Water and Waste Water Facilities	90,000,000
Recreation & Amenity	8,500,000
Car Parking Facilities	3,000,000
Subtotal of future demands	101,500,000

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2010

Income & Expenditure Account

EXPENDITURE	2009 €M	2010 €M
Housing	10.236	9.59
Roads	41.264	38.569
Sanitary Services	23.466	23.933
Planning & Development	8.548	7.237
Environmental Protection	17.257	17.224
Recreation & Amenity	7.700	7.899
Agriculture & Education	21.452	26.468
Miscellaneous Services	9.455	12.946
 Total Expenditure	 139.378	 143.866
 INCOME		
State Grants	92.480	95.167
Other Sources	54.757	54.998
Total Income	147.237	150.165
Surplus / (Deficit) for year before transfers	7.859	6.299
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	(7.982)	(-6.410)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(0.123)	(-0.111)
General Revenue Reserve at 1st January	(1.149)	(-1.272)
General Revenue Reserve at 31st December	(1.272)	(-1.383)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2010

Net Assets	2009 €M	2009 €M	2010 €M	2010 €M
Fixed Assets		3,515.520		3752.782
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses		425.023		228.249
Long Term Debtors		48.414		60.189
Current Assets	87.266		86.217	
Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)	(50.250)		(-56.474)	
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		37.016		29.743
Creditors (Amounts falling due after one year)		122.187		124.91
Total		3,903.786		3946.053
Represented By				
Capitalisation Account		3,515.520		3752.782
Receipts - Work in Progress		419.156		224.636
Other Reserves		(29.618)		(-29.982)
General Revenue Reserve		(1.272)		(-1.383)
Total		3,903.786		3946.053

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.
