

CHIEF EXECUTIVE MONTHLY REPORT EANÁIR / JANUARY 2023



TUARASCÁIL AN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNAIGH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT
EANÁIR 2023 / JANUARY 2023

Do Gach Ball do Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe,

Re: Agenda Item 4(c)(i) Chief Executive’s Report

A Chara,

I set out hereunder the Chief Executive’s monthly management report, as provided for under Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. The Report outlines the current position on strategic and other issues, on the Council’s financial position and on matters arising from the previous meeting of Galway City Council.

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1. Transport

1.1 Galway Transport Strategy – Review

The National Transport Authority has requested tenders for the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy, the review of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS).

The tender is to appoint consultants to develop a transport strategy for the Galway Metropolitan Area for the period 2023 to 2043, and addressing all land transport modes. It is anticipated that the draft will be completed in Q3, 2023 and public consultation will be undertaken in Q4, 2023.

1.2 Galway BusConnects - Dublin Road

The Options Assessment Process is now complete with an Emerging Preferred Option (EPO) identified. The EPO takes into account the observations and comments received during the first non-statutory public consultation as well as new technical guidance for BusConnects projects. A second non-statutory public consultation on the EPO will be undertaken in January. The consultation period will be for a minimum of 4 weeks with an in person event to be held at The Renmore Community Centre on 23rd January. A Councillor information session on the scheme will be held prior to the consultation going live, further information on the date and location will be issued in the New Year.

1.3 Salmon Weir Bridge

The proposed Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the NTA. The new bridge will be quite unique, as it will cross the three separate watercourses (Persse's Distillery River, River Corrib and Friar's River Canal) south of the existing Salmon Weir Bridge, spanning a total of 85m.

The planning consent application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2020 and the decision to approve the application was made in August 2021. The land necessary for the construction of the bridge have also been secured for the project.

The construction of the Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge is progressing well with the foundations completed in early September. The concrete decks for the approach spans over Persse's Distillery and Friar's River have been poured. The main bridge components were installed on site on the 12th December 2022, having been assembled in the Cathedral car park. The project will be completed in 2023

1.4 Parkmore – Tuam Road Signalisation

Galway City Council has undertaken an assessment of the proposed upgrade of the L7101 Parkmore Road junction with the N83 Tuam Road. A design was developed in

conjunction with the National Transport Authority. The design included the signalisation of the junction, the introduction of a transition zone, traffic calming gateways and a reduction in speed limit. The proposed upgrade would provide safer facilities for pedestrians and cyclists and provide a bus stop for public transport vehicles.

Traffic modelling was undertaken on the proposed junction, and the outcome has forecast that the junction will operate above capacity with traffic que lengths in excess of 800m during Am and Pm peak traffic. These que lengths would stretch beyond the transitions zone into the 100km/h speed limit zone which would have the potential to increase collision risks, and impact on the previously treated HD 15 High Collision Site at Killeen (McHughs Traditional Pub and Restaurant). It was also noted that such que lengths would result in rat running between the Tuam Road and Headford Road therefore displacing traffic onto minor roads in the area.

Therefore, it is not appropriate to proceed with a signalisation of this junction as proposed due to the negative consequences that would result, excessive que lengths leading to risk of collisions at McHughs junction and the rat running onto local roads that would not be suitable. It is considered more appropriate to consider a junction upgrade that would include land take and road widening, however that is outside the scope of the NTA as it is a National Secondary Road. Discussion in regard to a broader scheme are ongoing with Galway County Council and TII.

1.5 Martin Junction

A Communication update on the Martin Junction Upgrade was delivered to residents and businesses in Durabhán/ on Wednesday 19th October with subsequent updates on the scheme being posted online at www.galwaycity.ie/martinjunction and on social media feeds. In December, an update was published from Fox Building and Engineering Ltd on the junction pavement programme which is currently underway.

The public lighting element of the project are nearing completion along with Phase 1 and 2 of the road resurfacing now complete. The surfacing of the segregated cycle lanes will be undertaken in January and the new fencing to the Old Dublin Road is now installed. The new cantilever signal pole has been installed at the Doughiska Road Junction with commissioning to commence in January. Kerbing and footpath works are progressing well with the Link Road footpaths and cycle lanes to be completed in the next month.

1.6 Pedestrian Crossings

The construction phase for the delivery of two pedestrian crossings at Blackrock, Salthill and on the Tuam Road south of the Joyce Road Junction are nearing complete with commissioning on-going at both locations. Subject to energisation by the ESB it is programmed to have both crossings commissioned in January.

The pedestrian crossing on the Ragoon Road to complement the Millers Lane Permeability Project with is currently envisaged to be delivered under the ongoing Millers Lane contract.

1.7 Operations & Maintenance

1.7.1 Road surface minor repair works

Road surfacing repairs have been completed at the following locations:

- Monument Rd
- Taylors Hill
- Letteragh Rd
- Headford Rd
- Circular Rd

1.7.2 Mobility Improvement Works

Mobility improvement works and footpath repairs were carried out at the following locations:

- McDonagh Avenue
- Glenard Crescent junction at Dr Mannix Road

1.7.3 Proactive Drainage maintenance.

Proactive drainage maintenance is being carried across the city throughout the year to combat any potential risk of flooding.

1.7.4 Flood Protection & Storm preparedness

Operations and Maintenance installed the flood defence barrier at Spanish Arch and flood protection barriers along Salthill on the 15th December. All crews are prepared for any storm forecast over the winter break and into the new year.



- The flood barrier erected at Spanish Arch & Salthill
- Sandbags are filled and stored at Galway City Council Depot.
- Staff rota in place for any storm/ winter requirements.
- Drainage maintenance carried out across the city to minimise potential flooding risks.
- Customer Service Team put in place for extended hours to deal with calls

1.7.5 Winter Maintenance

Salting and Gritting across the city's national, regional & local roads commenced on November 17th. This is continuously monitored during the winter season with salt stocks monitored and crews prepared in the event of predicted low temperatures.



1.7.6 Bridge Rehabilitation Works

Masonry repairs and repointing to the northwest parapet wall of the Salmon Weir Bridge are complete.



2. Housing

2.1 Changes to Income Eligibility Thresholds

The social housing income eligibility bands, the respective thresholds, and the local authorities assigned to each band were introduced in 2011. They were developed with reference to the income needed to provide for a household's basic needs, plus a comparative analysis of the local rental cost of housing accommodation across the country, at that time. Notwithstanding an increase in the thresholds for a small number of local authorities in October this year, the thresholds have remained largely unchanged since 2011. In the meantime, accommodation costs have increased significantly nationwide. For this reason, Government has agreed to increase the baseline income thresholds by €5,000 for all local authorities with effect from 1 January 2023. This significant change is being taken pending the development and roll-out of a revised income eligibility model (and income thresholds) in 2023. It will ensure social housing support is available to vulnerable households and will help protect those most at risk from the recent increase in the cost of living. The new thresholds are outlined below:

Band	Counties	Revised Threshold
1	Cork City, Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Galway City, Meath, South Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow	€40,000
2	Carlow, Clare, Cork County, Galway County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Louth, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford	€35,000
3	Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Longford, Mayo, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary	€30,000

2.2 Additional affordability measures

Consequent changes to the Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) Scheme

Increased level of AHF subsidy for applications in respect of development of Cost Rental apartments in cities

This relates to AHF applications in respect of Cost Rental apartments located in one of the five cities. The level of subvention available under the Affordable Housing Fund is increased in the case of certain apartment schemes to a maximum of €150,000 per cost rental unit. The overall level of subvention will be set at the scale required to achieve target cost rents and only the level of funding required will be provided. In order for an AHF application to qualify for this enhanced level of AHF subsidy, the scheme in respect of which the subsidy application is made must fulfil the following criteria -

- (a) located in one of the five cities designated under the National Planning Framework;
- (b) an apartment development intended to be designated as Cost Rental; and
- (c) units being subsidised must be apartments / high density (>50 unit/hectare) typologies.

AHF funding allocated must be deployed to achieve at least a minimum discount on market rents of 25% and the resulting cost rent must be affordable to those eligible for Cost Rental under the current Regulation¹ (under €53,000 net household income). Where AHF does achieve a minimum discount to market rent of 25%, but does not result in cost rents that are considered affordable to eligible applicants, then a higher allocation of AHF subsidy may be made available on a sliding scale up to a maximum of €150,000 of the capital cost of the development.

Subject to the overall maximum AHF subsidy limit of €150,000 per unit, in limited circumstances and for strategically important locations, an AHF allocation which results in a rental discount of in excess of 33% on market value will be considered in order to deliver rents deemed affordable to the target cohort.

A local authority, located in one of the five cities, with a Cost Rental apartment scheme Approved in Principle for AHF may now resubmit their application to seek the higher level of subvention.

2.2.1 Additional Final Review Stage

For AHF subsidy applications to which the revised ceiling applies, the application / approval process will have an additional approval stage. The amount of subsidy approved will be reviewed when final costs and financing rate have been fixed and the subsidy level necessary to deliver cost rents of between 25% and 33% below market rents in the area are known.

2.2.2 Submission of Cost Rental model by a local authority

Where a local authority is applying for AHF subvention in respect of Cost Rental dwellings, modelling of cost rents in a manner consistent with cost rental designation requirements must be included with the application. The Housing Agency and the Department are available to assist local authorities with the preparation of such models in the required format. Local authorities should also consult with the HFA to access specific lending terms available to them for the delivery of Cost Rental homes.

2.2.3 Revised AHF application form

The original AHF application form which was circulated to all local authorities in October 2021 was subsequently revised to include projected delivery dates of schemes. A new AHF application form incorporating further amendments to meet any additional information requirements arising from new provisions set out above has been issued and future subsidy applications will be submitted on this form.

2.2.4 Approved Housing Bodies and delivery of Cost Rental

Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) are currently delivering Cost Rental housing using Cost Rental Equity Loan (CREL) funding provided by the Department via the Housing Agency. This provides a 40-year loan with a fixed interest rate of 1% for the provision of Cost Rental homes, in a similar manner to the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) scheme for social housing. In light of the current viability issues facing the delivery of Cost Rental homes, and in tandem with the adjustments being made to the AHF, changes are being made to the operation and availability of CREL funding. This will involve CREL funding being available on a sliding scale basis of up to 45% of the total capital cost of the properties (up from a previous flat rate of 30%) so as to meet the minimum threshold of 25% discount to the prevailing open market rent, with the associated benefits for landlords and tenants. As with AHF, where this does not result in cost rents that are considered affordable to eligible applicants, the proportion of CREL loan can be increased to further reduce the rents to a more affordable level, again within the capital cost ceiling of 45%.

AHBs and the local authority will continue to engage regularly regarding delivery of cost rental homes in its functional area.

2.3 Current status of Traveller Accommodation and identified need

Information in the table below was gathered from the Annual Estimate of Traveller Families and their Accommodation Needs (census) 2021, and then further updated to reflect current position. This information forms part of the mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024.

Accommodation Type	No of Households
Standard LA Lettings	264
LA Group Houses	22
Families living in houses acquired or improved with the assistance of LA	13
Families living in houses acquired by Travellers without LA assistance (estimate)	3
Private Rented accommodation (incl HAP, rent supplement, RAS, LTL)	163
Approved Housing Body	63
Supported Projects	12
Sharing in Standard Lettings	37
Sharing in Group Houses	6
Sharing in Private Rented Accommodation	10
Sharing in Voluntary Housing	1
Permanent Halting Sites	23
Temporary Halting Site	13
Transient Sites	20
Sharing on Permanent Halting Sites	13
Families on Unauthorised Sites	8
Total number of Traveller families in the LA area	671

Accommodation Targets - TAP 2019 – 2024

Accommodation Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Standard Local Authority (incl Transfers)	10	10	10	10	10	50
AHB standard housing	10	10	5	5	0	30
Extensions to Standard Local Authority	1	1	1	1	1	5
Group Housing Scheme (LA and AHB)	0	10 (2 schemes)	0	0	5 (1 scheme)	15

Culturally Specific Traveller Accommodation	5 (1 scheme)	20 (3 schemes)	0	0	0	25
Permanent Residential Halting Site	2	1	1	1	2	7
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	1	1	1	1	1	5
Long-Term Leasing Scheme	1	1	1	1	1	5
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	20	20	20	20	20	100
Total	50	74	39	39	40	242

2.4 Circular Road Redevelopment

Galway City Council received Stage 3 approval from the Department in December 2022 with a recommended overall budget of €2,127,422.16, subject to conditions including a reduction to reflect the omission of costs associated with the provision of sheds as minimum internal storage space requirements are being met and provided for within the proposed units. Galway City Council will continue to seek this funding with the Department as extensive consultation process took place with traveller families after which the sheds were included to ensure the accommodation is culturally appropriate and a success. The procurement process to appoint a Contractor will not commence with an expected start date on site in Quarter 1 of 2023.

2.5 Seamus Quirke Road : Notice of Part 8 Publication on the 8th of December 2022

In accordance with Part X1 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Part 8, Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) notice is hereby given by Galway City Council of a proposed homeless day centre with temporary & emergency homeless accommodation at Seamus Quirke Road, Galway.

The development will consist of:

(a) demolition of the existing building and ancillary site structures and boundary walls, (b) construction of new part 3-storey / part 2-storey development to include (i) reinstatement of existing day care facilities (ii) 08 No. one bed units which have the potential to be changed to

08 No. 3 person dormitories as an emergency cold weather response, (iii) 02 No. two bed units and (iv) night staff quarters (c) landscaped courtyard garden with outdoor training area, (d) new site boundary treatment and (e) all other associated site development and ancillary works, including temporary construction signage

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy for a period of **4 weeks from Thursday, 08th December 2022** up to and including **Friday 13th January 2023** during public hours at the Planning Office, Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway, **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** from 9:00am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays.

For appointments, please contact planning at 091 536599 or by email planning@galwaycity.ie

[View Plans and Particulars for Seamus Quirke Road - Part 8](#)

There is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment so therefore the preliminary assessment has concluded that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is not required. Any person may, within 4 weeks from the date of the notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Written submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development is situated may be made in writing, with reference to the proposal, to arrive no later than: **4.00 p.m. on Friday 27th January 2023** to:

Senior Planner, Planning Department, Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway, or by e-mail to planning@galwaycity.ie.

3. Recreation & Amenity

3.1 Sports Capital

3.1.1 Tennis Courts

Roscam tennis and basketball courts have been fully completed and are now open to the public.



3.1.2 Corrib Park Grass Pitch

The start date for the contract has been delayed due to a combination of design changes, inclement weather and ongoing discussions with the contractor. The contractor has issued a revised construction programme proposing to undertake initial site clearance works in January 2023 followed by full mobilisation in February 2023. Grass seeding and demobilisation are targeted to be completed by June 2023.

3.1.3 Refurbishment of Glen Oaks/Drom Chaoin MUGA

Drawdown of grant funding has been approved and the Letter of Acceptance is to be issued to the contractor imminently. There is a two-month lead-in time for delivery of some materials which will mean works on site are envisaged to commence in February 2023. Preliminary design has been completed for the landscaping scheme.

Corrib Park MUGA

Consultancy services awarded to STRI. They will complete out the detail design, tender documents for construction and Re role on site. Design work for this is due to commence in January 2023.

Woodquay Park Development

A request for tender of multi-disciplinary consultancy services has been advertised on eTenders with a deadline for tender submissions set for mid-January. It is envisaged that this contract shall be awarded in early February following tender assessment.

3.2 Cemeteries

Repairs to the stone wall in Ragoon Cemetery are now Complete.



Works for installation of ducting and base for new storage shed in Bohermore Cemetery are now complete.



Final draft of Cemeteries Code of Practice is complete and awaiting approval.



Ragoon Lawn Cemetery is open for burials and urn interments. New signage has been erected at the entrances to the Lawn Cemetery to inform the public of the restrictions that are in place and that it is an area of lawn cemetery only.

Old Ragoon Cemetery strimming and maintenance works continue.



Two new General Operatives have started in the Cemetery section.

Awaiting final ground investigation report for Dublin Rd Cemetery site.

3.3 Operations

3.3.1 Community Centres

During December there was a severe weather warning which resulted in the activation of the Westside Community Centre for rough sleepers as part of the Council's Cold Weather Response Plan. This option was used last year for a red alert weather warning. 20 persons on average were accommodated in the Community Centre which was used over several nights during the cold weather period in mid-December. Community Centre Caretakers worked with the staff from COPE to ensure suitable accommodation and services were provided to the rough sleepers while maintaining of the normal operational services to the public as much as possible.



3.3.2 Westside Memorial Garden

Works are nearing completion on a memorial garden for deceased in Westside. See below photos of the landscaping and public lighting upgrades at the Rocky Road.





3.4 Roundabouts

Winter planting, pruning, litter picking and removal of dead vegetation has been carried out on the R&A City roundabouts and verges contract. See below photos of the works.





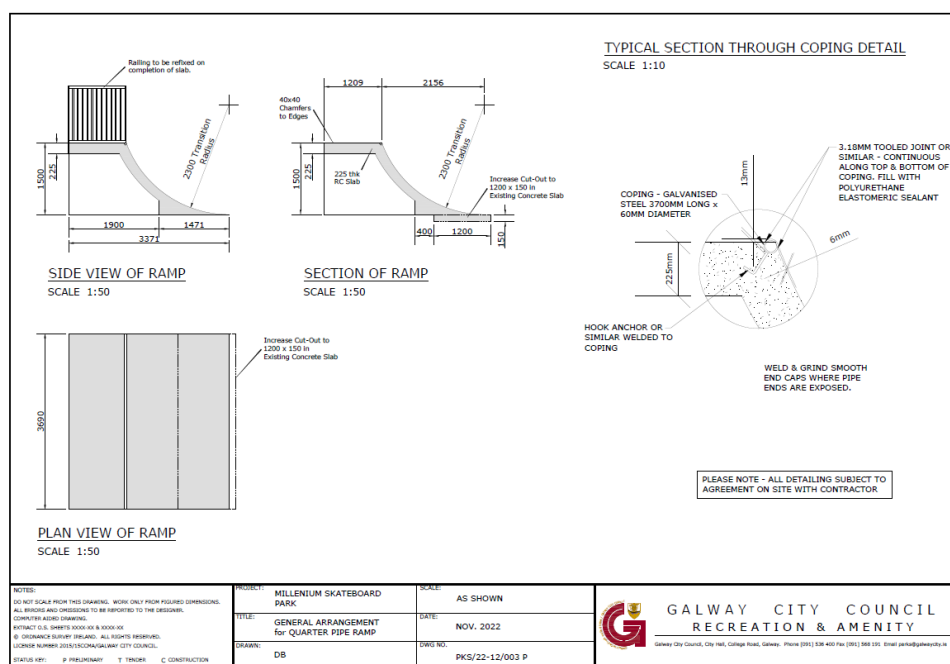
3.5 Trees

Tree surround works was completed outside of Jurys Inn off Quay Street and at Spanish Arch. The new sustainable drainage system is a flexipave porous surfacing system. It is made from recycled tyres rubber, stone, aggregate and a binding agent. See below photos of the finished tree surrounds. Hard surfacing has had a huge impact on urban environments contributing to the problem of urban flooding. This modern surfacing solutions help to alleviate surface water drainage.



3.6 Playgrounds and Skateparks

Works are ongoing at Children's Millenium Park skatepark. See below photos of the renovation works.





3.7 Operations Projects

An electrical power supply upgrade for events in Eyre Square was carried out. See below photos of the three electrical cabinet works.



Photo of Eyre Square Sub-Station cabinet



Photo of Eyre Square West Café Nero Cabinet



Photo of the St Columbus Credit Union cabinet

3.8 Beaches

A new shower is being installed along Salthill Prom for Councillors Niall Murphy and Niall McNelis under their local improvement scheme funding. See below photo of the water connection works near the Galway Bay Hotel.



3.9 Biodiversity & Pollinator Plan Updates

3.9.1 Pollinator Plan

The Parks Department submitted our All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Council Partner 2022 update to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC). It is now mandatory to submit annual progress updates to the NBDC.

3.9.2 No Mow

As part of the Parks Departments commitment to raising awareness of GCC's No Mow Strategy, Lisa Smyth A/SEO gave a presentation at this year's annual Tidy Garden's Competition Award ceremony for homeowners in the city. The presentation was on how and why everyone should implement a No Mow area in their garden and encourage gardeners to reduce their grass cutting regime and to provide food and shelter to pollinating insects.



Recreation & Amenity Section
No Mow Strategy



3.9.3 Other

The Crib in Eyre Square has been upcycled and improved for this year's Christmas Market. For many years it was a poorly lit, brown steel-tech shed with a small window which made it inaccessible for children or wheelchair users to view in. The Parks Department had the old shed re-clad in a warm timber exterior finish with a bigger viewing window (wider and lower) to make it easier to see into the crib. The interior of the crib was panelled out and a colourful mural painting now depicts a cheerful stable scene with a starry night sky. New lighting was installed to make the overall effect warm, welcoming and visible.

Before & after photos of Christmas Crib:





3.10 Allotments

Pest control contractor undertaking a rodent treatment program at both Shantalla & Merlin Woods Community Allotments until the end of the year.

4. Economic, Culture, Community & Sports Partnership

4.1 IDA Annual Employment Results

On 12th December, IDA Ireland announced its 2022 Annual Employment results. There was a record year of job creation nationally with the highest number of net new jobs created with 24,019 net new jobs created.

- In the West Region, 2022 was another year of significant job growth with 31,490 people working in IDA Ireland supported companies.
- In Galway City and County, there are now 99 IDA Ireland client companies employing 24,400 people, a net increase of 1,690 jobs.

4.2 Wild Galway Games Initiative 2022

Galway City Council, with the support of Ardán and Creative Ireland successfully delivered the Wild Galway Games Initiative (WGGI) in 2022. This pilot project was the first of its kind in Galway City and supported local games developers to connect and collaborate with support from local professional games developers and Galway City cultural representatives.

The concept of WGGI 2022 arose from Galway City Council engaging with Creative Ireland via the Creative Communities Economic Action (CCEA) fund. The objective of the fund is to support local authorities to “lead the development of the creative economy at local/regional level through initiatives and models which harness and demonstrate the value of culture and creativity in local economic development”.

The project was show-cased at the national Creative Ireland Coordinators’ Conference held in Dublin on 7th December and has prompted interest as an exemplar of good practise from a number of other local authorities. It is expected that a further expansion and development of the concepts explored in the pilot programme of WGGI will be put forward to Creative Ireland under its Creative Economy call for the digital economy in Q1 of 2023.

4.3 ARTS & CULTURE

4.3.1 Arts Funding

The Arts Office has continued preparations for the Arts funding streams we intend to launch in Q1 of 2023. These include our annual Arts Grant, Band Grant, Creative Practitioner Bursary and Tyrone Guthrie Regional Bursary. These funding schemes aim to develop high quality cultural work in Galway City as well as invest in creative practitioners and organisations to build capacity going forward. The arts office has researched extensively to establish national best practice in relation to application policies and procedures and have implemented streamlined application forms which removes the barrier to entry for less experienced and emerging talent. This has informed the development of all our funding schemes. We have also developed funding templates to ensure adequate financial data is collected. Our new suite of applications includes detailed information about the assessment criteria and scoring process to ensure equity and transparency. We also detail how applicants can access feedback to ensure they are well equipped for future applications.

4.3.2 Arts Grants

The annual Arts Grant of €400,000 which supports arts organisations across the city has had several developments in line with the goals and values in *New Directions: Strategic Plan for the Arts 2021 -2026*. This includes the introduction of two application strands, one for professional organisations and one for Community, Voluntary and Amateur organisation. This new model ensures that's smaller organisations are not disadvantaged throughout the application process given larger organisations can dedicate significant resources to their application.

Arts Grants from 2022 have now been disbursed fully with organisations providing their financial and programming information from this year. As this award is typically advertised late in the year we have seen organisations put under pressure to disperse their funding and return appropriate reporting. The Arts Office has worked with IT and Communications to ensure the 2023 Arts Grant Applications will now open in January, ensuring organisations can make financial decisions as early as possible. In this vein the Arts Grant for 2024 will be launched in September 2023 and will continue this annual schedule.



Galway Arts Centre awarded €35,000 through Arts Grant 2022
The Array collective, Síbín installation at Galway Arts Centre 2022.
2021 Turner Prize Winner.

4.3.3 Band Grant

The Arts Office awarded 4 Band Grants for 2022 totalling €14,250. These awards have been fully paid and reports submitted from each awardee. Similarly, to the Arts Grant, we intend to launch the Band Grant for 2023 in January to ensure applicants have sufficient time to apply and can plan their financial year appropriately. We also intend to launch the 2024 funding in September 2023. This will then continue on an annual basis to allow for optimal application processing time and programme delivery.



St. Patrick's Brass Band, Junior Band, performed their inaugural concert.

4.3.4 Individual Artist Bursary/Creative Practitioner Bursary

Successful applicants from this year's Individual Artist Bursary have now returned their reports and financial information and have been issued their final payment. A total of €13,750 was awarded to 21 artists.

The Creative Practitioner Bursary 2023, formerly the individual artists bursary, has undergone changes to ensure equity of access and clarity of purpose. The bursary is intended to support the individual practice of artist, musicians, performers and creatives across the city but has formerly seen applicants predominantly working in visual art. To ensure we better support the full spectrum of creativity and culture, the bursary has been renamed and we intend to target advertising to encourage a more diverse cohort of applicants. Given we received the highest number of applicants this year, 39 in total, we are keen to develop this bursary further to support deep and meaningful engagement between creative practitioners and Galway City Council.

The application for this bursary as well as the Tyrone Guthrie Arts Centre Regional Bursary now includes an optional section which collects detailed information about the applicant's social identities, including ethnicity, level of education, gender and age. This will assist us in mapping communities we may not be reaching and ensuring we can track how our funding supports the diverse range of creative practitioners in the city.



Conversations with the sea, ceramic - Lorna Murphy - recipient of Individual Artists Bursary 2022,

4.3.5 Tyrone Guthrie Arts Centre Regional Bursary



The Tyrone Guthrie Arts Centre Regional Bursary affords artists, writers and creatives the time and space to develop their practice. The Bursary is offered by over 27 local authorities and is highly competitive. Two awards will be made in 2023 with one reserved for artists affected by marginalisation. The application will open in January and the Arts Office will advertise the opportunity broadly to ensure applicants from across the creative and social spectrum.

4.4 Communications Infrastructure

The arts office has secured the services of Pure Design, a Galway based graphic design company, to develop a visual identity and suite of digital assets for use on our website, publications and across social media. This compliments our communication strategy for 2023 which will include a new social media channel, additional website information and monthly email update for artists.

The Arts Office is working with the Communications team to launch a new Instagram account in January which will be updated several times a week to advertise open calls, resources, events and cultural news in the region. Posts will feature in both English and Irish and a monthly review and planning meeting will occur between the arts and comms teams.

We intend to further enhance our communications with an email newsletter updating the public on the activity of the arts office and highlighting potential opportunities. Following a needs analysis, facilitated by Visual Artists Ireland and in partnership with Galway County Council, we found artists and creative practitioners are keen to hear more about the work of the arts office and city council.

4.5 Ukrainian Wellbeing Fund

The arts office continues to work with the Sports Partnership Coordinator and the Healthy Ireland Coordinator on the activities planned for Q1 2023 to support the health and wellbeing of Ukrainian refugees in Galway City. This will include Art Therapy sessions, woodland walks and a family activity day.

4.6 Arts Council & Public Art

The Arts Officer and Arts Development Officer met with Sinead O'Reilly, Head of Local, Place and Public Art at the Arts Council to discuss the development of an up to date, fit-for-purpose Public Art policy for Galway City. This will be developed throughout January. A revised National Public Art Policy is currently being developed under the leadership of Prof. Ciarán Benson which is expected to be finalised in early 2024. A meeting has also taken place with members of GCC's Salmon Weir Pedestrian Footbridge team to advance proposals for a Per Cent for Art scheme in the coming year for the new bridge which is nearing completion.

4.7 Creative Schools

The Arts Officer and Arts Development Officer attended a Creative Schools Regional Coordinator session to learn more about the programme and support Galway City based schools in their applications in 2023.

4.8 Town Hall Theatre

The Arts Officer and Arts Development Officer met with the manager of the Town Hall Theatre to discuss how both might collaborate on various programmes during 2023. The Town Hall has undergone an audit of their Equality, Diversity and Inclusion practices and intends to implement a new E,D,I policy in 2023. They are also reviewing and updating their website to showcase the artist supports and resources they provide.

4.9 VAI Galway 2023 Programming

In response to the Artists Needs analysis session and survey, the arts office will work with VAI to develop and deliver a suite of training sessions in 2023 to build capacity and encourage artist networking.



4.10 Creative Ireland

Creative Communities under Creative Ireland delivered over 1,500 projects in one year, supporting 6,100 creatives across Ireland.

Over the past few years, the pandemic brought into sharp focus the value of promoting creativity to provide individuals and communities with a strategy for wellbeing, social cohesion and economic development. The efforts of the Culture and Creativity Teams in local authorities, including Galway City, have not gone unnoticed and this is best illustrated by the announcements below by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media that specifically reference investment in the partnership between the Creative Ireland Programme and Local Authority Culture and Creativity Teams.

Announcements in 2022 from Creative Ireland:

- In **January**, Minister Catherine Martin and Minister Darragh O'Brien announced €6.6 million in 2022 for Creative Ireland local authority projects ([info](#))
- In **March** 2022 Creative Ireland announced awards over €1,000,000 to creative projects for older people ([info](#))
- In **April**, Creative Ireland awarded €551,000 to support local authority development of creative industries ([info](#))
- In **May** Cruinniú na nÓg 2022 – a day of free creative activity for young people was launched by Minister Martin ([info](#))

- In **June** The Art of Being Healthy and Well: National Symposium on the role of creativity and arts in health and wellbeing took place on 22 June 2022, that included an announcement around Social Prescribing ([info](#))
- In **June**, a Government announcement around supports for young Ukrainians in Ireland through arts and creativity included programming from local authorities ([info](#))
- In early **December**, the Minister announced that three of the units within her Department - Tourism, Creative Ireland and Gaeltacht - would be supported under the government's Shared Island Initiative ([info](#))
- In **December** the new €3 million creative climate action fund was launched by Government ([info](#))
- And finally in **December**, the announcement around the extension of the Creative Ireland Programme that prioritises community and inclusion for another 5 years ([info](#))



Cover of Galway City Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023 - 2027

The researching and writing of new Culture and Creativity Strategies 2023-2027, helped focus the minds of all those who work with the Galway City Cultural and Creativity Team as a result of Creative Ireland, within and across the local authority. Creative Ireland will be providing an overview of common strategic priority areas across local authorities which may spark some collaborative thinking between a number of local authorities in the future. The strategies will be launched at a date to be confirmed in February 2023; celebrating all the work involved in putting the strategies together.

4.11 Funding and Investment

Galway City Council's Culture and Creativity Team is to receive a total of €191,000 in funding from Creative Ireland to support its Creative Communities and Cruinniú na nÓg programmes in 2023. In addition, the team will also be involved in local and national calls under the strands of Creativity and Older People, Youth, Health & Well Being, Creative Economy and under the already-launched Creative Climate Action Fund. Members of the team attended a preliminary information session on the fund in December and will follow up with a wider partner-matching event in late January.

A €3 million creative climate action fund was launched by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin, and Minister for the Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport, Eamon Ryan. The fund aims to support imaginative creative projects that build awareness around climate change and empower citizens to make meaningful behavioural changes.

The 'Creative Climate Action II: Agents of Change' programme is a joint initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. The programme is calling for creative projects which address the following:

- Encourage everyone to rethink their lifestyles
- Connect with the biodiversity crisis
- Enable a fair and just transition in making lifestyle changes
- Assist citizens to understand the climate crisis
- Adapt to the effects of climate change

There are two funding strands:

Spark

This strand is for those looking to pilot a new idea, or who want to deliver a creative project at a local level. Organisations, community groups and creative groups who can inspire, build knowledge, skills and confidence are welcome to apply for grants between €20,000 and €50,000.

Ignite

This funding strand is suitable for those with experience in delivering public engagement projects at scale and are proposing durational projects with extensive public participation. Applicants may be eligible for grants between €50,000 and €250,000.

Arts Council Funding 2023

The Arts Council has released their preliminary schedule for funding application in 2023. Found [here](#).

4.12 Tourism

4.12.1 Tourism Ireland 2023 Marketing Plans

Tourism Ireland will launch its 2023 Marketing Plans in Dublin on 16 January and Belfast on 18 January. The events will include a plenary presentation, followed by breakout sessions. New for 2023 is the Overseas Business Exchange – a workshop with pre-scheduled, one-to-one appointments with Tourism Ireland market representatives. Registration can be made here - <https://tourismirelandevents.com/dublin/registration.html>

4.12.2 Galway Comedy Festival

The Galway Comedy Festival performed exceptionally well in 2022. Support from the Galway City Council Marketing Fund was included in all promotional materials. Over 15,000 tickets were sold for the festival with 76% coming from outside the local area.

The 2022 Festival featured 100+ artists from Ireland and abroad, in 68 shows across 17 venues (including a bus), over 7 days and nights. Through our 2022 Festival campaign from mid-September to the end of October, Galway was promoted as a destination both nationally and internationally through a national PR/digital activity, as well as the organic promotion of our Festival and Galway of the programme by the 100+ artists (with total followers in the millions) whom were excitedly posting about their upcoming visit to Galway Comedy Festival

4.13 Christmas Lights

The process of removing the Christmas Lights has begun and will be removed in the coming days. All lights will be checked before returning them to storage in Sandy Road. The final results of the review of the Christmas Market survey will be delivered shortly and any recommendations will be considered as part of a new tender for the market.

4.14 Purple Flag

Judges from the CCMA visited Galway City & Salthill in November & December to review the night time economy. They explored parts of the city in the company of Galway City Council officials, An Garda Síochána members as well as local businesses and community groups. A full report is due in January with the results of the visit.

4.15 Ireland West Airport reports strong performance in 2022

2022 has proven to be a strong year of recovery at Ireland West Airport, with passenger numbers increasing by 314% to 722,000 compared to 174,000 passengers in 2021. Compared to pre-covid levels, passenger numbers recovered to 89% of the record 2019 level of 807,000 passengers.

The number of passengers traveling on services to and from Mainland and Continental Europe hit a new high for the airport, surpassing 2019 levels, increasing by 9% to 138,621, with a particularly strong performance recorded on services to and from Cologne, Barcelona and Milan which in turn generated significant economic benefits for the West, North West and Midlands regions through increased overseas visitors from these regions.

Passenger numbers travelling on services to and from the UK reached 578,000, boosted by the commencement of 3 new services to Birmingham, Edinburgh and Manchester with Ryanair and the return of the popular Aer Lingus service to London Gatwick. In addition, Ryanair recorded its busiest ever year for passenger numbers at Ireland West Airport, carrying a total of 654k passengers in 2022.

2022 was a milestone year for the airport, as along with Shannon Airport, both airports became the first airports in the world to be recognised as Age Friendly, as endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), in June and in October were crowned joint winners of the Age Friendly Transport Award at the prestigious National Age Friendly Transport Awards. The Age Friendly Transport Award recognises the vital difference that availability to good quality, easily accessible, user friendly and reliable transport options can make to an older person.

Furthermore 2022 saw continued investment in the Airport Transformation Program with several infrastructural projects commencing during the course of 2022, aimed at continuing to enhance the airports facility to meet the future needs of both our airline customers and passengers.

Projects which commenced in 2022 include:

- Sustainability Master Plan to support the airports sustainability and environmental strategy
- Major upgrade of the airport's electrical infrastructure across the entire airport campus

- Upgrade of the airport ground services fleet of vehicles to electric vehicles
- Purchase of new Fire Tender Vehicle
- Resurfacing and upgrading of the airport car parking facilities at Ireland West Airport.
- Essential maintenance works in the upstairs Sláinte Restaurant area of the airport.

2023 has already got off to a good start with the announcement by Ryanair of their biggest ever Ireland West Airport schedule in 2023 with 16 routes, operating 120 weekly flights, a 15% increase on 2022, including an exciting new route to Lanzarote for Summer 2023. In addition Ryanair have Increased frequencies on 5 UK routes, adding an extra 40,000+ seats on services to Birmingham, Bristol, East Midlands, Liverpool and Manchester.

4.16 LEISURELAND

4.16.1 Amusement site

The Ice Rink was cancelled on 30th October for this Christmas season, which led to the amusement site being unused for this holiday period. We investigated alternative events, but had no success. Discussions will have to take place to see how best to utilise the site for this period, in the future.

4.16.2 Event Hall

In December Tommy Tiernan was back with his comedy show and there were also the following events: Children's Christmas show and two large concerts- The Fontaines D.C. and The Stunners. There were also two Bingo Loco events at both the start and end of December.

All other groups including Baby Sensory and Phoenix Stage School still operated their classes weekly.

The Leisureland Board, Management and Staff were delighted to announce that the Leisureland Complex has achieved the Outstanding, National Quality Award from Ireland Active for 2023. Leisureland was the recipient of the prestigious Ireland Active National Quality Award and was delighted to be selected as being of an outstanding quality.

These awards are granted to Leisure Facilities in Ireland that have been successful in maintaining a rigorous set of criteria, ensuring the highest standards being provided to the public at the facility. The National Quality Standard award has established itself as the Quality Mark that all leisure facilities should strive to achieve.

Leisureland has and continues to be an invaluable asset to the city of Galway. Over 3,000 children per week currently have swimming lessons at the Galway City Council facility through their schools, clubs or directly through the Leisureland academy.



Pictured in the photograph receiving the Outstanding National Quality Award are – Joe Cosgrove (Chairperson of Ireland Active), Ian Brennan (Leisureland) and Una May (CEO of Sport Ireland).

The Leisureland Swim Academy last term had 1,553 children learning to swim each week, the highest number since the Academy started in 2015.

The pools are very heavily booked and Schools etc. have already booked up the pools until June 2023, which was never the case before. An Inter County Swimming Club gala is also already booked for next year.

4.17 Galway City Museum



Launch at the Museum and Talks Events at the Mick Lally Theatre.. Photos by Boyd Challenger.

War of Friends, 1922–23 – launch and talks event

On 3 December, Clodagh Higgins, Mayor of the City of Galway, officially launched the civil war exhibition, *War of Friends, 1922–23: the civil war story of Pádraic Ó Máille and Liam Mellows*, at Galway City Museum. Among the attendees were many of the extended Ó Máille family. Afterwards, more than 100 people attended a talks event on the same topic at the Druid Theatre. The speakers included John Cunningham on the civil war, Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh on Pádraic Ó Máille, and Cormac Ó Comhraí on Liam Mellows; afterwards John Cunningham chaired a Q&A session with members of the audience. The talks event was filmed and is now available on the Museum's YouTube channel. The launch, the talks event and film are all part of Galway City Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2022, and have been funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

December 1 2022

advertiser

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Galway City Museum

Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe

SHORT TALK SERIES SRAITH GHEARR CHAINTE



Pádraic Ó Máille (1876-1945) Liam Mellows (1892-1922)

War of Friends, 1922-23: the civil war story of Pádraic Ó Máille and Liam Mellows

Cogadh na gCarad, 1922-23: scéal cogadh cathartha Pádraic Ó Máille agus Liam Mellows

DATE DÁTA: 3 DECEMBER 3 NOLLAIG 2022, 1pm - 2.30pm
 VENUE: Mick Lally Theatre, Druid Lane, Galway, H91 N5X9
 IONAD: Amharclann Mick Lally, Lána Druid, Gaillimh, H91 N5X9
 BOOKINGS ÁIRITHINTÍ: museum@galwaycity.ie / 091 532460
WWW.GALWAYCITYMUSEUM.IE

Galway City Museum is a member of the Galway City Council and is a member of the Galway City Museum Trust.

Advertisement in the Galway Advertiser, 1 December 2022.

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CONNACHT TRIBUNE

9 DECEMBER 2022

War of Friends: The civil war story of Pádraic Ó Máille and Liam Mellows

Irish civil war is the focus of an exhibition at the Connacht Tribune, which is the focus of the exhibition. The exhibition is a collection of photographs and documents that tell the story of the civil war in Ireland. It is a collection of photographs and documents that tell the story of the civil war in Ireland. It is a collection of photographs and documents that tell the story of the civil war in Ireland.



The exhibition is a collection of photographs and documents that tell the story of the civil war in Ireland. It is a collection of photographs and documents that tell the story of the civil war in Ireland. It is a collection of photographs and documents that tell the story of the civil war in Ireland.

Exhibition coverage in the Connacht Tribune, 9 December 2022.

A Tale/Trail of Two Brothers – Pádraic and Tomás Ó Máille – talk and walk event

On 14 December, Galway City Museum ran an event highlighting and connecting the two exhibitions currently on show in Galway City that relate to the Ó Máille brothers, Pádraic

(1876—1946) and Tomás (1880—1938), of north Connemara, who were prominent figures in the Irish-Ireland movement of the early twentieth century and made significant contributions to the emerging Irish state.

Talks at Galway City Museum and the University of Galway.

Brendan McGowan, curator of the Pádraic Ó Máille and Liam Mellows exhibition at Galway City Museum, and Deirdre Ní Chonghaile, curator of the Tomás Ó Máille exhibition at the University of Galway, gave tours of both exhibitions, offering a rare opportunity to consider the legacy of the remarkable Ó Máille family.

Guided Tours

The Museum provided guided tours to multiple groups from Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh, Knocknacarra; SN na bhForbacha; Claddagh NS; and St Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar.

4.18 TOWN HALL THEATRE

Town Hall Theatre & Black Box Theatre: To present, promote and produce a wide range of professional performing arts and cultural events for Galway

Town Hall Theatre in December had an eclectic line-up which featured many leading names in local and national theatre, music and dance.

For many, the highlight of the month was the long-awaited return of Renmore Pantomime after a 2 year absence arising from the Covid pandemic.

Theatre highlights included Little John Nee with his brand new show, our opera programme featured Irish National Opera and we had comedy from the established David O'Doherty and the emerging Shane Clifford. Dance highlights included Ballet Ireland and Youth Ballet West and special events included the annual Christmas Food and Craft Fair at the Black Box.

Music highlights included Sean Keane, Phil Coulter, Villagers and Damien Dempsey. Family Events included Hession School of Dancing, PASG, Salerno Secondary School. Our studio space and the Black Box were used by local artists to develop, rehearse and present work.

4.19 COMMUNITY & SPORT

4.19.1 Galway City COVID-19 Community Call Helpline

The Galway City COVID-19 Community Call Helpline continues to provide a dedicated community response helpline to ensure that all vulnerable members of our community are appropriately supported as we continue with our response to COVID-19. The Helpline is operational from 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday by Freephone 1800 400 150 and email to covidsupport@galwaycity.ie. Outside of normal working hours, including weekend's calls / requests will automatically route to our out of hours call service and are dealt with accordingly. A key purpose of the Helpline is to ensure that older people and those who are vulnerable in our community have access to very practical supports such as groceries, meals on wheels, medication collection social supports / engagement and information relevant to their needs.

4.19.2 COVID-19 Booster dose

Booster vaccine doses are now being offered for COVID-19:

- third booster - people age 65 and older, people age 12 and older with a weak immune system
- second booster - see who can get a second booster
- first booster - all people age 12 and older and 5 to 11 year olds with a weak immune system.

How to get your booster

- book a vaccine appointment on a day and time that suits you
- Go to a walk-in booster clinic
- Call HSELive for an appointment on 1800 700 700
- Go to a participating pharmacy

Wait at least 4 months since getting your last COVID-19 vaccine. You can check the date of your last vaccine on your digital COVID-19 certificate.

4.19.3 Galway City Ukrainian Community Response

As members will be aware as part of the national response to the Ukrainian crisis, the Galway City Community Response Forum has been repurposed to respond to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees in Galway City. The Forum continues to coordinate the community-led response in the provision of assistance and support to Ukrainian refugees as they are accommodated in the City. Through the efforts of local volunteers, community workers, public bodies and private sector contributions many recent arrivals are being supported with basic needs such as clothing, access to the internet, transport, English classes and information on how to access local services such childcare, healthcare and

education. An online information portal for Ukrainian refugees arriving in Galway City has been developed by Galway City Council, providing information on access to essential services and useful links and contacts relating to housing, education, health and other areas. This forms part of the local authority's work with organisations and agencies locally and nationally to coordinate the response to the Ukraine crisis. [GalwayCity - Ukrainian Support Information](#)

4.19.4 “Offer A Home” - New appeal for unoccupied properties to temporarily house those fleeing war in Ukraine

Galway City Council is leading a new initiative in collaboration with our colleague local authorities and Government appealing to those who have unoccupied properties to offer them as temporary homes for those fleeing war in Ukraine. This new government initiative, led by Galway City Council will take and manage offers of unoccupied houses, apartments or holiday homes to house people and families from Ukraine. These are properties that are available for a limited time but would not otherwise be available for sale, rental or other use. To date, more than 69,000 people have arrived in Ireland from Ukraine, and most need safe and secure accommodation while they are here.

Under the new ‘Offer a Home’ initiative, Galway City Council along with the other local authorities are appealing for offers of houses, apartments, or holiday homes for use as temporary accommodation for those arriving from Ukraine. Ideally, properties would be available for at least six months. Property owners can offer homes at OfferAHome.ie or offers may also be made directly in relation to properties in Galway City by email to offerahome@galwaycity.ie – dedicated contact details for each local authority are available at offerahome.ie.

The local authority in which the property is located will be the point of contact for owners throughout the offer and assessment process. Owners can expect to be contacted by the local authority within 5 working days of making an offer and an assessment of the property will be carried out shortly after. The local authority will keep the owner of the property informed throughout the process and anybody who offers a property through the website will be able to check the status of their offer at any stage through the site. Local authorities will also match suitable properties to Ukrainian beneficiaries and can support in agreeing licence agreement and other arrangements.

Full details of the call for properties are available at www.offerahome.ie. While rent will not be payable to those who offer properties, a tax-free recognition payment of €800 per month will be available from the Department of Social Protection to [those who offer accommodation](#) to people from Ukraine. This payment rate applied from 1st December 2022.



4.19.5 Minister Joe O'Brien announces funding of €10 million for social inclusion programme to support people arriving from Ukraine

Minister for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD has announced funding of €10 million for Local Development Companies delivering supports to people arriving from Ukraine. The funding allocated as part of Budget 2023, is in addition to the €44.3 million secured for the Government's Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) for 2023. The Social Inclusion Programme aims to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion by supporting communities and individuals in rural and urban areas. In 2021, 2,646 community groups and 26,483 individuals were assisted through the SICAP programme. Recently, the programme has also been providing support to those fleeing war in Ukraine. The additional funding announced today ensures that normal SICAP service delivery will be maintained together with the on-the-ground response and services for people arriving from Ukraine. As new arrivals begin to settle into community life in Ireland, this additional funding will help ensure support is available for those most in need.

4.19.6 Growing Communities Campaign Video Resources

Minister O'Brien launched a social media video campaign that highlights the role played by the community and voluntary sector and Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in welcoming new arrivals to Ireland. The campaign has been designed in collaboration with the ILDN, Pobal, Volunteer Ireland and Changing Ireland. The campaign, entitled #GrowingCommunities, consists of a series of six short video clips highlighting how communities and individuals have welcomed new arrivals and benefited from integration into local communities and workplaces. You can watch the Minister's introductory video [here](#). The first [#GrowingCommunities](#) story illustrates how the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) has helped provide vital services to new arrivals from Ukraine through some 600 community workers.

4.19.7 Host Supports- The Open Community

The Open Community with the support of hosts and other partners have developed a free toolkit of supports and resources, these include trauma-informed online training, regular online support sessions, a home sharing agreement, multilingual Integration app, and access to free legal advice. All the supports can be accessed on the Host Supports

page <https://theopencommunity.ie/host-supports/> they are also available through the [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - How people and community groups can help (www.gov.ie)

4.19.8 Healthy Galway City - Healthy Ireland Round 4

Healthy Galway City Coordinator and Healthy Galway City Steering Committee currently working on the planning and application process for Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 2023 – 2025. The deadline for submission of completed application, Healthy Ireland Fund Local Strategy (HIFLS) 2023 – 2025 and 2023 Annual Activities workplan is Friday 27th January 2023. The appraisal of submissions will take place in February and March 2023 with a view to final decisions being made at the end of Q1 2023.

Two HIFLS 2023 – 2025 Stakeholder Consultations were held in late November and early December 2022 to assist in the identification of local health risks and outcome indicators for the HIFLS 2023 – 2025 and to guide planning and application process. An online survey has been disseminated to stakeholders as part of the Healthy Galway City 2023 – 2025 consultation process. At the time of writing, outcome indicators selected for having the most impact on the health and wellbeing of the people of Galway City are:

- Percentage of adults & children meeting physical activity guidelines
- Increase in individual's level of positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality Index
- Percentage of those at risk of poverty & basic deprivation

Target Groups suggested for prioritisation during HGC Round 4 2023 – 2025:

- People living in Disadvantaged Communities
- The Traveller Community
- Adolescents and Young People
- People with disabilities / People with mental health issues

The HGC Coordinator and Steering Committee continue to develop the HGC application, HIFLS 2023 – 2025 and annual activities workplan for approval by the LCDC and final submission in January 2023.

Nutrition: The Healthy Food Made Easy (HFME) programme has been delivered through 2022:

- Westside Resource Centre (funded through safefood CFI fund)

- Ballybane Community Resource Centre (funded through safe food CFI fund)
- Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre (funded through HI fund)
- Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre Pavee Lacken women's group (funded through HI fund)
- Healthy Galway City hosted a Healthy Food Stand at Westside Christmas Market on 8th December with fresh fruit and a raffle for a fruit basket.

Physical Activity: Physical Activity Leader's (PALs) Training workshops for older people in Galway city in partnership with Galway Sports Partnership and Age & Opportunity began mid-October; 17 participants registered. This 9-week programme ran until December 2022. The programme has been very popular with participants and feedback has been extremely positive. Westside Walking Group started November, meets Thursdays @ 10 am at Westside Public Library. This group will resume in the New Year.

Mental Health: Healthy Galway City with Mental Health Ireland and local OTs are planning to offer a further Woodlands For Health programme in the New Year.

Health Galway City supported an extension to the extremely successful Creative Ireland Funded "Reconnecting Communities" project. 100 Older Adults received a Christmas Lunch and attended a social get-together on the 6th December 2022 at the Connacht Hotel.



Healthy Galway City funded Christmas Crafting Workshops for older adults living in disadvantaged areas including Westside, Ballinfoile and Ballybane.

4.19.9 Free online Minding Your Wellbeing Programme

HSE Health & Wellbeing have a free, online mental health and wellbeing programme called Minding Your Wellbeing. This consists of 5 video sessions of 20 minutes – click [here](#) or www.yourmentalhealth.ie



The booklet is designed by HSE Health and Wellbeing to support people to engage with the key messages from the Minding Your Wellbeing programme. It can be downloaded from www.healthpromotion.ie

Additional Funds: The safefood Community Fund Initiatives 2022 two small projects and two Community Events are now completed. End of year financial and progress reporting to be submitted January 2023. Galway City Council Creative Ireland Funding 2022: "Reconnecting Communities" completed and final financial and progress reports submitted. Funding provided by Galway City Joint Policing Committee to offer Christmas lunch to older adults involved in "Reconnecting Communities" and their communities. Funding approved during December 2022 from the Department of Health for the Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support Fund to Galway City Council in the amount of €28,575. Activations selected to promote health and wellbeing of Ukrainian refugees including art and music therapy, physical activities, trauma-informed workshops with psychotherapists, Woodlands for Health and excursions / family days.

4.19.10 Free online Stress Control Programme

HSE Health & Wellbeing are offering the next free online Stress Control programme from Monday 23rd January 2023. The six session online programme will run over 3 weeks, each session is 90 minutes and covers different topics. Participants are encouraged to watch all sessions, but can join at any stage for one of more sessions. To register visit www.stresscontrol.ie

4.19.11 Galway City Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg are taking a break over the Christmas period after a very busy and successful year. The funding call for 2023 and Annual report for 2022 are currently being worked on to be submitted to Pobal before the deadline Friday 13th January 2023.

4.19.12 Galway City Local Community & Development Committee (LCDC)

The last meeting of Galway City LCDC took place on Wednesday 14th December 2022 in the Council Chamber. A presentation was given from Rebecca Jackson, GCCN on the progress made to date under the Dormant Account Fund Engagement Project. The SICAP Annual Plan for 2023 was discussed, the new Community Support Fund, the Women's Shed Fund and an update on the Community Response Forum. The next meeting of Galway City LCDC will take place on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 3.00 p.m.

4.19.13 Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State, Joe O'Brien TD, announced funding to support 180 community and voluntary groups with their energy bills. The Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme (CVESS) was launched during November 2022 in response to the rising cost of energy and the impact it is having on the sector. Under the initiative, small grants are being provided to community groups, development associations, and volunteer-led organisations. Minister Humphreys and Minister O'Brien have published the first tranche of applicants that will benefit from funding. The scheme aims to provide for a once-off payment to eligible charities and community and voluntary sector organisations towards their energy costs for 2022. The scheme has reopened for applications, and will close on Friday, 20th January 2023 at 3pm. Organisations that have already submitted their application do not need to reapply. For further information, eligibility, and link to the application process please visit the [Community and Voluntary Sector Energy Support Scheme - Pobal](#). Further tranches of funding are set to be announced in the coming weeks.

4.19.14 Community Support Fund & Women's Sheds Fund

Galway City Council through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) invites applications for funding from interested community groups within the Galway City administrative area under two new schemes called Community Support Fund (CSF) & Women's Sheds Fund (WSF). Both schemes are being administered by Galway City LCDC on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development, with the total funding allocated to Galway City under the scheme being €274,070 & €2,768 respectively.

The aim of both schemes will be to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with their non-pay running costs, for example, energy costs (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for example rental/lease costs, insurance bills. In addition, The Community Support Fund (CSF) can also be used to carry out necessary repairs and minor improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment, for example, tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies, and training equipment. Under the programme the LCDC will

ring-fence some funding to provide small grants of €1,000 or less, which will allow a larger volume of those with limited resources to receive some funding. This funding is aimed at addressing disadvantage and applications should relate to one or more key priority areas identified in the Galway City Local Economic & Community Plan 2015 – 2021 which can be viewed online at <https://www.galwaycity.ie/local-economic-and-community-plan/lecp>. To ensure appropriate monitoring and governance, the Department is stating that only operating/running costs related to this period are eligible - 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023 will now be eligible under the fund. To make your online application please follow the below steps if not done so already:

Step 1:

Please ensure you have registered at www.galwaycity.ie/communityfundingregistration

This will enable you to proceed to the Galway City Council Community Support Fund and will save your organisation/group/club details for any future funding applications.

Step 2:

On receipt of your unique ID, applications for the Community Support Fund and Women's Shed Fund can be completed and submitted online at www.galwaycity.ie/csf and www.galwaycity.ie/wsf and a copy of the terms and conditions, including the guidelines are available on this link to assist with your online application.

The closing date for applications online under the Community Support Fund & Women's Sheds Fund is Friday 27th January 2023 at 4.00pm.

The Community Support Fund (CSF) is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Please see the following link for a press release for further information: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/aec90-ministers-humphreys-and-joe-obrien-announce-10-million-fund-to-support-parish-halls-and-community-centres-with-energy-bills/>

4.20 Galway City Community Network (GCCN)

4.20.1 General Operations

GCCN continues to hold monthly Secretariat meetings. The GCCN AGM 2022 was held in July. The second GCCN Plenary meeting of the year was held at the end of September, however the final plenary was postponed until January. Ongoing support is offered to all GCCN representatives. GCCN is currently in the process of recruiting new replacement

representatives for the environmental seats on the Local Community Development Committee, and the Galway City Planning SPC as well as a representative on the Comhairle na nÓg. Elections will be held at the deferred Winter Plenary which will now be held in January.

GCCN continues to build on its membership base through active recruitment. They provide ongoing individual support to new and existing members through targeting of relevant information, and training while actively seeking the participation of groups who are the most marginalised in our communities. Two online GCCN Induction sessions for GCCN members were held in October and November.

GCCN continues to attend meetings of the National Communications Subgroup established by the Department of Rural and Community Development to oversee and input into the development of the National PPN Communications Campaign.

Linkage Groups

Linkage Group and Thematic Group meetings are held to discuss issues in advance of the SPC, LCDDC and JPC meetings. The Older Persons' Forum was recently launched. GCCN, Galway City Partnership, Galway City Council and other stakeholders collaborate on this. However, it was not possible to hold all linkage group meetings in advance of SPC's as the supporting documentation was not received in time to schedule a meeting.

The updated GCCN Policies and Positions is being drafted, and we expect them to be published in Q1 2023.

Access for All - GCCN representatives continues to provide support to Access for All and GCCN is part of the task group of the Gold Star Initiative in Galway. This initiative is supported by Access for All and Galway City Partnership.

Standing Together Against Racism - GCCN continues to attend the meetings of the Standing Together Against Direct Provision (STAD) and to work on the Communities Against Racism Initiative.

Community Response - GCCN engages in the re-activated Community Response Forum to support Ukrainian refugees arriving in Ireland. Meetings with a Ukrainian community group have been held and work on a handbook aimed at helping new arrivals navigate accessing services has now been finalised. The upload of this document to the website is pending and will be completed when our website is updated in January 2023.

Active Travel in Galway City and County - GCCN and Galway County PPN continue to hold a series of meetings around [Active Travel in Galway](#) aimed at facilitating a collective voice for active travel and public transport users. The well attended meetings brought together groups and individuals who are passionate about creating a Galway City and County that are accessible for all types of active travel.

Policy Submissions - GCCN continues to support its linkage groups and members to produce policy submissions on matters of relevance to them, including the LECP, and the National SDG Implementation Plan through collaborative consultation and participation processes. Access for all were facilitated to submit a rights based LECP submission in September. GCCN has also partnered with Galway City Partnership and Ukrainian communities, and the Older Peoples Council to produce a submission for the LECP consultation at this time. A submission on the PPN Structural Review Submission was made in August. The LGBT+ Interagency Group was also supported to make submissions to the LECP in September. GCCN recently collaborated with Planning, Transport, and Access for all reps to develop a submission for the City Connects Plan.

Local Economic and Community Plan - GCCN continues to work on the implementation of the LECP in collaboration with a range of partners and manages the LECP Action for Equality Worker, who is supported by funding from Galway City Council. These are innovative initiatives that draw a range of partners together to collaborate on a number of themes.

4.21 Galway Volunteer Centre

Service User Numbers - 1,257 new members of the public registered in 2022 to date, 37 new organisations, 139 new volunteer roles. The last 6 months figures show a return to normality after COVID-19.

Ukraine Activities - Olena and Tetiana our two new staff members have begun networking with other key workers in City and County and providing services from our small office space. This has included:

- Cross Cultural Dialogues to assist Ukrainians to understand life in Ireland
- Understanding Ukrainians workshop for service providers, host families and members of the public
- Breakthrough English classes for Ukrainians with no English
- Empathy Support Workshops

- Introduction to volunteering groups and one to one workshops
- Assisting with Christmas shoebox gifting to Ukraine

Community Volunteers - Community Volunteers have assisted COPE Galway for the first time and a continuous working relationship is being discussed with St. Nicholas Collegiate Church for future events. Events supported in last month have been Hand In Hand Acapella Knights concert in Cathedral, Galway Music Residency, and Ukrainian Christmas Concert in St. Nicholas.

Human Library - We plan on running at least 2 more public events in 2023 in partnership with the international Human Library organisation.

Organisation Supports - Our Autumn Academy of 12 online workshops have been completed with high levels of attendance and satisfaction with workshop content and delivery.

Biodiversity/Environment - Engagement starting with University of Galway and other community partners on Decarbonization project which will fund part-time worker for 3 years. In Galway City this work will focus on the Decarbonization Zone in Westside.

4.22 Galway City Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The next meeting of Galway City JPC is scheduled to take place on Monday 27th March 2023 at 11.00am. Members will receive an update from Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche on the Garda Report, in addition to receiving updates on the ongoing initiatives through the JPC Sub Committees. The JPC Annual Report for 2022 will be worked on in early 2023 and a draft will be brought before the committee members at the March 2023 meeting.

4.23 Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) Report:

December has been a busy month for GSP with a number of programmes coming to an end and planning for 2023. We continued to deliver Safeguarding and first aid courses.

A calendar of courses can be found at this [link](#)

4.24 Galway City Council Sports Club Grant Scheme 2022

For many clubs the big item from December was the announcement of the Galway City Council Sports Club Grant Scheme 2022. In all, €140,000 was allocated to 53 different clubs with 22 clubs receiving the maximum grant amount of €3,500 and another 12 receiving €2,500 or over. A wide range of sports is represented from mainstream to minority sports. The funding allocated to the successful clubs will go towards the costs of equipment, coaching, travel as well as a significant level going towards up-skilling volunteers.

4.24.1 Walking Football

Our Walking Football group who trained every Monday at 3pm in Westside Community Centre took on Willow Park FC walking football club from Athlone on 19th December in Mervue. The group will restart again after Christmas, GSP also hopes to grow the walking football concept to other areas targeting both men and women over 50 to take part. We had 14 people take part in the programme across the 8 weeks in Westside Community Centre.

Partnering with [Healthy Galway City](#) [FAI Grassroots](#) [Galway City Council](#) & [Croí Heart](#) [Stroke](#) [Charity](#)

We finished off the programme with a number of small sided games against [Willow Park Fc](#) in [Mervue United FC](#) all-weather facilities.



4.24.2 Box-Up

As part of a national delegation of Active Cities representative, Jason Craughwell visited Switzerland to investigate the Box-Up concept with a view to reporting back to the national group. Box-up is a system where by sports equipment is available to use by people through an app. The system is free to the end user and easy to use.

It was agreed to purchase a number of the Box-Up systems with GSP seeking 2 to be funded under the Dormant Accounts Fund through Active Cities.



4.24.3 Connacht Women's Winter Gravel Series

GSP linking with Cycling Ireland delivered Round 2 of the Connacht Women's Winter Gravel Series in Clonbur. The event was hosted by Corrib Mountain Bike Club on Sunday, 11th December. The idea of the series is to encourage women to get involved in a sport with a difference.

4.24.4 Westside Walking Group

GSP has set up a community walking group that met every Thursday at 10am outside the Westside Resource Centre. The group continues and we encourage people to come along and join in. The WWG normally use the running track in Westside for the activity.

WESTSIDE WALKING GROUP



Thursdays Mornings

Meet Up: Westside Library

Time: 10am



**Register and start date:
Thurs 24th Nov 2022**

Contact Ciara for more details
email: ciara@gcp.ie mobile: 0830234390



4.24.5 Ballybane Doughiska Community Sports Hub

Eastside Urban Welking Group

Social walking group continued their walks and encouraged people of all ages to get involved in walking.

4.24.6 COME & TRY PICKLEBALL

Pickleball is a game suitable for all ages and abilities. It is played on a smaller court than tennis and allows for greater participation and rallies.

The come and try events took place in Castlegar GAA Club, Doughiska Rd, Mondays at 11.30am and Ballybane Community Resource Centre Tuesdays at 11.30am.

4.25 Woodlands for Health

GSP working with Mental Health Ireland, the Friends of Merlin Woods and Healthy Galway City are rolling out the Woodlands for Health programme in Merlin Woods with the mental health service users in the city. The programme will operate for 10 weeks and started September 16th. The programme is over subscribe which is testament to the impact of the Nature For Health programme delivered by GSP and Healthy Galway City in the past.

4.26 Sports Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO)

Galway Sports Partnership's SIDO supports the delivery of activity for people with disabilities and older adults across the City and County.

4.27 Horse Connect Equine Programme

Rehab Care participants are taking part in an 8-week Over Equine Time program funded by HSE. 6 participants are taking part in this program where they groom, feed, lead and have an introduction to horse riding. (November to December) funded under the Disability Participation and Awareness funding.



4.28 Sports Energy Support Scheme.

Sport Ireland announced a €35 million of funding in response to the rising energy costs crisis. The purpose of the funding, which was secured as part of Budget 2023, is to support National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) and their affiliated Clubs with the rising energy costs associated with the provision of sport throughout the winter period. Funding guidelines were disseminated to all Sport Ireland funded NGBs. The closing date for applications from these organisations was on Friday, November 25th 2022. Clubs affiliated to Sport Ireland Funded NGBs should engage directly with their relevant NGB with any queries they may have in relation to the Scheme.

Up-coming items:

Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support

GSP was successful in obtaining €28,575 to deliver a number of programmes across the age ranges for Ukrainian Refugees living in Galway City. Supports include therapy, play and activity programmes that will help those effected by the war in their home country. An large element of the programme is integration; and we hope that the delivered activities will have a mix of current residence and those here from Ukraine. The programme will be completed by end March 2023.

Bike Week

Galway City Council's application for Bike Week funding will be sent to the National Transport Authority by 13th January. Bike Week will take place in May but plans will be well underway by the end of January.

If any groups wish to apply for funding or have ideas for events, please contact Jason Craughwell before Wednesday 11th January by email: jason.craughwell@galwaycity.ie

5. Environment & Climate Change

5.1 Environment General

5.1.1 Automatic Public Conveniences

Upgrades as part of the 2022 service have now been completed and the APC's are providing an essential service to members of the public.

The changing place facility in ladies Beach, Salthill is complete but cannot be opened until vacancies are filled within the department to manage the contract.

5.1.2 Waste Enforcement

Circular WP07/22, issued to local authorities on 18th November 2022, outlines the waste enforcement priorities for 2022-2024. They are (i) Tackling significant illegal waste activity, (ii) Construction and Demolition Activity, (iii) End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) Directive & the Waste Metal Industry, (iv) Waste Collection- Household & Commercial and (v) Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities.

Galway City Council's waste enforcement work focuses on these high-level enforcement priorities. Inspections are on-going across all waste management areas, from household surveys and commercial waste inspections to roadside checkpoints and facility audits. Galway City Council staff recently participated in a multi-agency inspection with Galway County Council, Roscommon County Council, WERLA and the EPA relating to waste metal.

5.2 Environmental Awareness

5.2.1 Tidy Towns and Garden Competition 2022 awards

The Tidy Towns and Garden Competition awards 2022 were held in the Connacht Hotel. St. Patricks NS pupils provided some entertainment and Mayor Cllr. Cloddagh Higgins gave out the awards with the help of Lisa Smyth from Parks.



Overall garden winner Michael Duffy receiving his certificate and prizes.

5.2.2 Coffee cup campaign Green Friday

9 cafes taking part in the Galway City Council returnable cup trial are giving a fantastic Green Friday gift to their customers - discounted €2 coffees in their 2GoCups, all day, on Friday the 2nd of December 2022! Get your €2 coffee in Anton's Café, Fr Griffin Road; C'est la Vie, Terryland; The Creamery, Salthill; Greens & Co, Henry Street; Mocha Beans, Salthill, Cross Street; and Newcastle Road; Roscoes, Eglinton Street or Rouge, Dominic Street. Customers can reduce coffee cup waste, save money, and support a local business over their morning coffee!

Speaking about the initiative, Tiarnan McCusker, Environmental Awareness Officer with Galway City Council explained, "We have just had Black Friday which is a welcome boost to the local retailers but inadvertently leads to an increase in packaging waste. Green Friday is a novel way for us to do something good for the environment. A €2 coffee in a 2GoCup will save you money and reduce the 22,000 coffee cups disposed of each hour in Ireland. Simply 'borrow' a fresh reusable cup for €1 from any of the participating cafes, and you can return it at any time to get your money back".

Aoine Glas Green Friday!
2 Nollaig 22 2 December 22

€2 caife an lá ar fad ag caiféanna 2GoCup
coffee all day at 2GoCup cafes!

Anton's Bóthar an Athar Uí Ghriofa/ Fr. Griffin Road	Mocha Beans Bóthar na Trá/ Salthill
C'est la Vie Tír Oileáin/ Terryland	Roscoes Sráid Eglinton/ Eglinton Street
The Creamery Bóthar na Trá/ Salthill	Greens & Co. Sráid Anraí/ Henry Street
Rouge Sráid Dhoimínic/ Dominick Street	

www.GalwayCity.ie/UseYourMug

**Ár mbronntanas duit!
Our gift to you!**

5.3 Workshops Completed

5.3.1 Anti litter/Anti Graffiti claim

The Anti Litter Anti Graffiti claim was submitted to the Department in November for a total of 24,456, 70% of the total expenditure of 34,948. The funding was spent on Clean it up you dirty pup! Campaign, a new Schools MADRA workshop, mutt mitts, Love your beach week, Picker pals, the Schools calendar, cinema advert and Spring clean.

5.3.2 MADRA Schools workshop

MADRA have completed their trial of a responsible dog ownership workshop in 3 National Schools in the City. The workshops focused on microchipping, how to approach a dog, how to control a dog, cleaning up dog poo (which each person got to do) and the feedback from Schools has been excellent. Galway City Council paid for the trial with a view to rolling them out City wide in 2023.



5.4 National Reuse month 2022

As part of National Reuse Month, Galway City Council funded online workshops with Fast Fashion Ireland to 10 secondary schools in the City. "These online workshops will introduce students to the complexities of the global fashion industry and the impact it has on both our planet and people. As the industry is now confirmed as

one of the world's most significant contributors to climate change, how can we transition and make sustainable fashion attainable? As young consumers often feel overwhelmed as to how they can join the sustainable fashion movement, Circular Fashion Ireland will navigate students through the world of sustainable fashion, via reuse and repair, sustainable brands, who to follow and how to avoid greenwashing. Equipping students with the information to aid conscious consumerism thus reducing their clothing's carbon footprint.”

5.5 Greening the laneways

Due to unusually wet conditions the 2 Greening the laneways to be completed by year end were postponed many times. The Rocky Road project in Westside has now been actioned and the Cabbage lane project is being actioned the first week of December. Both projects aim to reduce the existing graffiti and engage the community in making these laneways more vibrant and welcoming space. Both projects are funded by Creative Ireland funding.

5.6 Grattan beach Nature based Solutions project

The services of a consultant was procured to produce a stakeholder engagement process for the Grattan beach and dune site which will be utilised as an exemplar for future works within the city associated with Nature Based Solutions. Three workshops have been completed which has been attended by relevant approval bodies, non government



organisations and community representatives. Significant insights have been gained into; 1) how stakeholders value Grattan 2) the issues it faces 3) Shape the Grattan Beach and Dune site transformation scheme 4) Views regarding future uses, improvements and management of the beach. There was a fantastic level of interest in the stakeholder engagement process with over 40 people attending a workshop in the Salthill Hotel on the 7th December 2022. The output of the process will be a broadly representative plan / roadmap for developing the site as a national demonstration site for Nature-based Solutions to climate change to be further progressed in quarter 1 2023.



5.7 Litter Management

Below is a summary of the available information on waste accepted into the Civic Amenity Site, this covers up until the end of November 2022.

The waste codes and figures below include waste brought to the civic amenity site by the litter management team. They are compiled throughout the year and are shown in this summary table below in months. Figures in table one are kilograms.

INDEX	Month	WASTE ACCEPTED	
		200303	200399
1	JAN	120363	5555
2	FEB	103416	16026
3	MAR	83750	9695
4	Quarter 1 totals	307529	31276
5	APR	80060	7560
6	MAY	98890	19565
7	JUN	124520	124520
8	Quarter 2 Totals	303470	151645
9	JUL	136570	17062
10	AUG	123424	24435
11	SEP	121644	18650
12	Quarter 3 Totals	381638	60147
13	OCT	191942	21259
14	NOV	248780	24415
15	DEC	0	0
16	Quarter 4 Totals	440722	45674
17	YEAR TOTALS	1433359	288742

Table 1 - Waste Accepted to Civic Amenity Site End of December 2022.

The litter management's unit's main waste codes are,

- 20 03 03 - street-cleaning residues – Road Sweepers
- 20 03 99 - municipal wastes not otherwise specified – Street Bins, illegal dumping, litter picks etc.

Waste from the Litter Management Unit is also brought directly to license facilities by Galway City Council Vehicles. This waste would be the waste collected from street bins, litter picking, spring cleans, bulky goods collections, illegal dumping. Waste is also collected by our waste collection contractor at various locations throughout the city. The below weights have been converted to tonnes.

GCC Crew	578.87
Waste Contractor	45.966
GCC Crews to Sandy Rd	288.742
Total	<u>913.578</u>

Table 2 – Tonnages of Waste Collected from Street Bins Etc.

NOTE: Figures available to us at time of issue of this report are typically up to the end of November 2022, we will have an update on December totals mid January 2023.

To the end of November 2022, the Road sweepers have gathered a total of 1433359kg of waste or 1,433 Tonnes of street cleaning waste.

In total Galway City Council crews gather to the end of November 2022, the following weights summarized below.

Road Sweeping	1433
Street Bin Collections	913.57
Total	<u>2346.57</u>

Table 3 - Total Weights Collected by GCC.

Litter management Services will be operating at reduced capacity throughout November and December 2022. This is due to a reduced number of personnel being available to work as they have historical annual leave built up over approximately a fifteen-year period which they would lose by the end of 2022 if they didn't use it. To keep essential services operating there will be a reduction in the workforce in the West, North and East of the city. Additional personnel are scheduled to work additional overtime to maintain the city centre throughout December especially at weekends.

The Bulky Good Services is suspended from the 29th of November 2022 to the 10th of January 2023. The Civic Amenity Site will shut on the 23rd of December 2022 at 1pm and open again on the 3rd of January 2023.

5.8 Dangerous Structures

There is currently 68 no. locations in Galway City that have been inspected and assessed as to whether they maybe dangerous structures or not.

- 1 no. location – Glenard Crescent is awaiting budget and personnel to undertake works in relation to a wall.
- 3 no. locations – Significant works maybe required at the following locations:
 - 251-256 Laurel park
 - 13-17 Cruahan park
 - 152 Seacrest

These are locations where the boundary wall maybe a dangerous structure, adjacent to a public area. Legal opinion has been sought to see if the local authority may have any responsibility at these locations.

Other locations such as Millers Lane, Ballymoneen Road, Ragoon Road have walls that need repair, the responsibility of which is being investigated. These are walls adjacent to public roads and in line with GCC taking in charge policy, these typically remain the responsibility of home or landowners.

A number of other locations which have been inspected and assessed as being dangerous structures or potentially dangerous structures have been communicated to landowners/homeowners. As these areas of concern are for private resolution, Galway City Council are maintaining a monitoring brief and review cases as required.

5.9 Derelict Sites

The number of sites remaining on the current Galway City Council Derelict Site Register is currently 8. The City Council is presently reassessing 291 files that have previously been examined as potential derelict sites under The Derelict Sites Act, 1990 as amended. Inspections are ongoing in relation to a number of these sites and correspondence to property owners issues on a regular basis regarding those sites under current investigation, 10 site visits were conducted in December 2022. This work was placed on temporary hold while awaiting resources.

5.10 Markets/Casual Trading

The St. Nicholas Christmas Market has been running from the 14th – 22nd December with a total of 38 traders registered. Some stall holders have noted that the recent weather conditions have made trading difficult at times, however no issues have been reported from the Wardens or Stall holders to date.

The annual licenses for St Nicholas weekend trading 2023 have been allocated and the maps completed. Emails of the maps have been distributed to all license holders with the hard copy licenses and maps being sent via post.

For the Saturday market 75 traders have registered. Although there were 86 applicants, there are limited trading bays available. To ensure the attractiveness and diversity of the market, preference is given to foods/crafts produced locally/regionally. There was one new addition to the Saturday market, a trader who previously held a Sunday license trading in crafts. Her attendance at the market showed a dedication to trading, and the quality of her products proved in-keeping with the ethos of St. Nicholas’.

54 traders have registered for the Sunday market. Slightly less subscribed than the Saturday market, 2 new traders were added – one offering a food combination not already available at the market, and the other trading in their handmade planters made using recycled materials.

5.11 Air Monitoring

The Air monitoring unit in Briarhill has been installed and has been commissioned by the EPA. This site will continuously monitor air quality which will be live in the next few weeks with results available at <https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/air/> .

5.12 Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees

The December meeting of the Trustees took place on Tuesday 13th December, the election of new Secretary Mr Maurice Headd was dealt with as was the appointment of new Trustee member Cllr Andrew Reddington. Updates were provided to the members regarding ongoing maintenance works and on the Lisloughrey Pier Slipway upgrade works. Update also provided on inspection of new pontoon which will be installed at the new slipway. Updates to Trustees were also provided on several other ongoing initiatives.

5.13 Climate Action

5.13.1 Galway City seeks to become European Net Zero Pilot City

New hub could be a 'One Stop Shop' for Energy Retrofit in Galway

Galway City Council launched an application to the European Commission to become a 'Net Zero Pilot City' - bringing €1.5million in funding to implement innovative approaches to carbon reduction over a two year pilot programme. If successful, Galway City Council will be one of 30 'Pilot Cities' in Europe, working across thematic areas to reduce carbon emissions. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021 commits Ireland to reach a legally binding target of net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a cut of 51% by 2030. Galway City Council is supported in this ambitious application by Atlantic Technological University, University of Galway, Galway Chamber, Galway Harbour Company, Northern and Western Regional Assembly, Westside Resource Centre, Westside Sustainable Energy Community-Galway Energy Co-operative, Western Development Commission and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Galway City Council's goal as part of the Pilot Cities application is to vastly reduce Carbon Emissions, focusing on the built environment, and specifically on the retrofit of buildings. The pilot will focus on addressing systemic barriers to rapid retrofitting in Galway, including lack of skilled contractors; high upfront cost of retrofitting; lack of awareness of existing incentives; long administrative & bureaucratic processes; and apathy of residents to retrofit.

The application is being supported by stakeholders locally, regionally and nationally. David Minton, Director of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly - a partner in the application - said that 'improved energy efficiency in buildings is a major pillar of EU decarbonisation and the European Green Deal. Furthermore, the Climate Pact's main objectives include catalysing engagement and connecting citizens and organisations to act. Nowhere is better placed than Galway, which has already demonstrated its values of inclusion and sustainability through the arts and education. The proposed pilot activities for Galway incorporate these key components of the European strategy, while aligning firmly with Irish national ambitions and addressing major barriers to success'.

Europe has pledged to lead on climate action, and has set forth ambitious goals and directives to achieve that commitment. The Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe research and innovation programmes, the European Green Deal and other European Union policies and directives propel European Member States towards a 55% cut in emissions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050.

Galway City Council expects to hear results of the application in February 2023.

5.14 Local Authority Climate Action Plan Grant Application

Galway City Council submitted a grant application the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and were awarded a sum of 253,780euro for works to establish the evidence base, resource requirements, delivery of climate action plan and requirements of each Local Authority Climate Action Plan. Resource requirements have been identified and are due to be filled in early 2023.

6. Financial Report

The Finance Department has primary responsibility for a range of functions including:

- As a public body charged with the prudent management of the expenditure of public monies and the effective utilisation of scarce resources, Galway City Council will continue in 2022 to strengthen the governance function of the Council
- Continue to support strong audit, financial, risk, data and corporate governance and reporting systems to build public confidence, maximise efficiency and ensure compliance with our obligations
- Prepare and publish quarterly financial reporting and statutory Annual Financial Statements in line with Accounting Code of Practice and statutory deadlines
- Prepare and publish annual statutory Budgets in consultation with the public and elected members.
- To promote a best practice procurement culture across the organisation in order to deliver value for money savings and efficiencies, mitigate against procurement risks and ensure compliance with local and national policy and legislation.
- Work in partnership with Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Co in order to ensure adequate levels of Insurance Cover, to reduce insurance risks and to administer claims effectively and efficiently.
- Maximise income collection from major revenue sources- rates, rents, loans, NPPR and others. Explore the potential for additional sources of revenue and expand payment options for customers.
- Efficient and effective administration of the Purchase to Pay process including payroll.
- Ensuring financial stability through ongoing management of all cash flows, maximising on investment returns and minimising our exposure to overdraft.
- Assist in development of the 3 Year Capital Programme (2024-2027)

The key objective for the Finance department in 2022 is to engage with and support the Valuation Office and our Commercial Customers to ensure the delivery and implementation of the National Revaluation Programme 2022.

Expenditure has been planned across the Council's Service Divisions as follows in 2022:

Gross Expenditure	Adopted Budget 2022		Adopted Budget 2021	
Housing & Building	38,643,175	37%	39,146,826	38%
Road, Transport & Safety	14,512,312	14%	14,918,607	15%
Water Services	3,963,556	4%	3,881,702	4%
Development Management	10,019,570	10%	8,756,194	9%
Environmental Services	13,110,799	13%	12,537,214	12%
Recreation & Amenity	16,981,733	16%	17,131,135	17%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	295,486	0%	250,465	0%
Miscellaneous Services	6,114,137	6%	5,918,266	6%
	103,640,768		102,540,409	

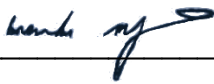
The delivery of these principal functions will involve:

- interacting with 35,000 customers, processing payments to circa 2,750 no suppliers, and responsible for managing tax related deductions on behalf of Revenue and processing payments for 546 staff and 258 pensioners
- Managing €12.1m tax related deductions on behalf of Revenue
- Overseeing the Capital Budget for Galway City Council's 3-year Capital plan
- Responsible for €1.3bn worth of assets and managing a loan book of €51m
- Processing €103m Electronic Fund Transfers for all external stakeholders, including government departments and agencies.

7. Notable Dates

Date	Time : Meeting
17.01.23	Audit Meeting
20.01.23	11:00 – 13:00 : Northern & Western Regional Assembly
07.02.23	09:30 – 11:30 : Transport SPC
13.02.23	15:00 – 18:30 : Ordinary Council Meeting

8. Update on issues arising from previous Council Meetings

Signed: 

Brendan McGrath,
Chief Executive

6th December 2023