

CHIEF EXECUTIVE MONTHLY REPORT BEALTAINÉ / MAY 2023



TUARASCÁIL AN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNAIGH

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT

BEALTAINÉ / MAY 2023

Do Gach Ball do Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe,

Re: Agenda Item 4(c)(ii) 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

NTA Capital Projects

1.1 Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Walkway

A tender for the construction of a pedestrian walkway on the southern elevation of the Wolfe Tone Bridge was published on eTenders on Monday the 24/04/2023. It is anticipated that a preferred contractor will be identified in June 2023.

1.2 Pedestrian crossing at Browne Roundabout

A tender for the appointment of an engineering consultant to provide a design for a pedestrian crossing at Browne Roundabout is anticipated to be issued to tenderers by the end of May 2023.

1.3 Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme

The Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme proceeded to Part 8 Public Consultation on the 27th of April 2023 and a Councillor briefing on the proposed scheme was held on Wednesday 26th of April 2023. Public Consultation will close on 08th June 2023.

1.4 Eglinton Canal Active Travel Scheme

The main works contract for the Eglinton Canal Active Travel Scheme was signed by Jons Civils on Wednesday 26th of April 2023. Works on the existing canal route will commence in early May 2023 subject to approval of the contractor's programme. Works are envisaged to take nine months to complete.

Operations & Maintenance

1.5 Road Resurfacing projects

Road surfacing has been carried out and completed at the following locations:

- Seaman Drive L-50346
- University Close L-50063
- Tirellan Heights L-10056
- Barna Rd R336

- Merchants Road R336
- Seamus Quirke Road

Pothole repairs are also being carried out at multiple locations across the city in addition to the above.

1.5.1 Kingston Road

Road resurfacing works has commenced on the Barna Road R336/ Kingston Road R337. The works consist of a full resurface of the entire Kingston Road R337 and a section of the Barna Road R336.

Section 1 along the Barna Road commenced on Monday 24th April and is nearing completion. Section 2 will commence on the Kingston Road R337 on Monday the 8th May. This will include the entire Kingston Road R337.

A monetary contribution towards the cost of the resurfacing works has been received by Galway City Council from the contractor who carried out the Kingston Road Water Main Upgrade Works on behalf of Irish Water.

1.6 Mobility Improvement Works

Mobility improvement works and renewal of footpaths were completed at the following locations:

- St Anthony's Terrace
- Blackrock promenade

1.7 Proactive Drainage Maintenance

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

1.8 Flood Protection/Storm Preparedness & Winter Maintenance

The Flood protection barrier at Spanish Arch and flood barriers along Salthill were removed on the 21st April. The Winter Maintenance period is also nearing to a close and thankfully there were no major severe weather events. The crews were prepared and on hand for all and any eventuality during the Winter Season.

1.9 Bridge Rehabilitation Works

A contract for bridge maintenance & rehabilitation works is at the award stage. A tender process is ongoing for the appointment of a consulting engineer to supply consultancy/design services for bridge maintenance and rehabilitation works.

1.10 Speed Limit Review

Galway City Council Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws No. 1, 2023 were approved by the elected members at the meeting of Galway City Council held on 17th April 2023.

The Bye-Laws will come into operation on 28th August 2023.

1.11 Street Rehabilitation and Drainage upgrade works, Shop Street / High Street – Contract No. 9 – Phase 7

Street rehabilitation and drainage works Upgrade works on Shop Street/High Street intersection have commenced on Monday 20th March 2023. P&D Lydon have been contracted to complete the construction works on behalf of Galway City Council.

Works are progressing well, with stage 2 of works being complete with coming weeks. Works have moved to the entrance to Churchyard Street (Traders Market), to facilitate pavement works, market trader's vehicle traffic entering Churchyard Street will be restricted across the weekends of 6th/7th May and 13/14th May to allow pavement to bound. Pedestrian traffic will be maintained during this time. Unfortunately, on Wednesday 03rd May 2023 a serious watermain burst took place arising from the works. Full service was restored as quickly as possible. Inconveniences to local business during that time is seriously regretted.

The team in Transport have been liaising with local businesses and stakeholders in the immediate vicinity of the works area, and engagement will continue throughout the project, with a dedicated point of contact available 24 hours a day.

Climate Action

1.12 Energy Awareness Day

The Climate Action team arranged an in-house Energy information day for all staff of Galway City Council on the 24th April 2023. It included 8 no. stands offering information and education across a variety of different sectors including Firebird Heating Solutions, Kingspan Insulation, Kearney Cycles, Go-Car, Galway City Council Climate action Team, Western Motors, Galway City Council mobility hub and SEAI.

The SEAI held hourly presentations to demonstrate how to avail of energy retrofit grants available for the home, in addition to energy savings tips for the home and workspace, these were followed up with an engaging open forum Q&A session after each presentation where attendees were able to highlight and raise any technical queries they may have had with the presenters.

Over the course of the 4 hours, almost 100 people attended the information day with GO Car activating 19 new accounts with Galway City council staff and 23 people signing up to become Climate Change ambassadors within their relevant departments. The number of climate ambassadors within Galway City Council is now rising close to 40.

It is envisioned that similar information events will be offered to communities as the Climate Action dept disseminate information to the public in respect of the decarbonising zone and climate action plan later this year.

Staff members who wish to contribute any ideas associated with particular relevant topics can be brought through their department climate ambassador or contact a member of the climate action team.

1.13 EU Missions Adaptation

Galway City Council have been accepted onto the European Commission Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change. By signing the Charter Galway City Council make it clear that they want to cooperate, mobilise resources and develop activities to reach their climate adaptation goals. The Mission Adaptation aims to support regions and communities in accelerating their transformation towards climate resilience by 2030. It will help these regions and local authorities to better understand, prepare for and manage climate risks, as well as to develop innovative solutions to build resilience. The Mission also makes it possible to build joint initiatives with other EU Missions and programmes, and provides opportunities for networking, exchange of best practices between regions and local authorities, and support to engage citizens.

This will allow for the broadest uptake of adaptation measures in Europe and lead the way towards a climate-resilient future.

1.14 Weather Impacts REGISTER (WIRE) App Training

Climate Change department arranged for staff training for a selected group of staff from various departments on how to use this new app developed by CARO. This app enables Local Authority staff to capture the impacts of weather events with an associated Map Viewer and Data Dashboard to view and analyse the collected data. This App provides a simple tool to local authorities to record and collate the actual impacts and some of the associated costs of climate change in their areas. Staff members can then take practical steps towards mitigating the effects of climate change and promoting sustainability in their local community.

CARO Weather Impacts Register Data Collection Form

Event Details:

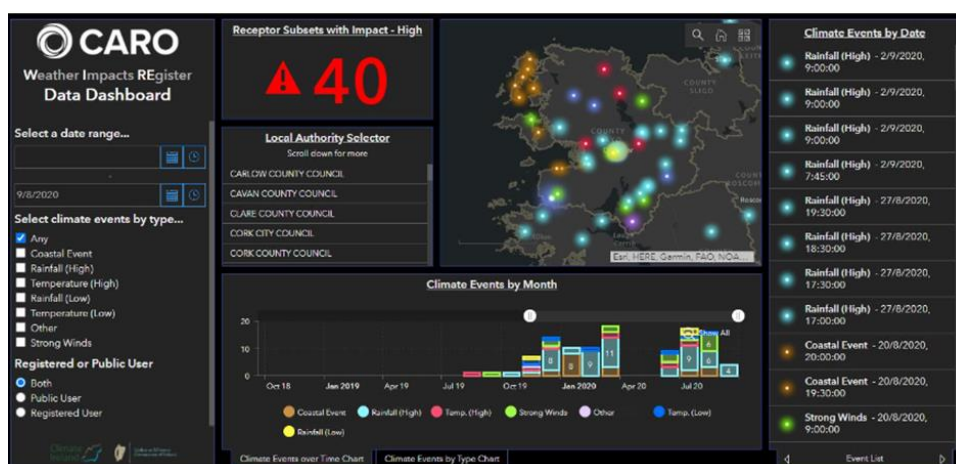
Event Date: *
 Tuesday, August 25, 2020
 3:33 PM

Geolocation: *
 Capturing event location is required. Location will default to your current device location; if different, please select via the map button.

Hazards/Climate Events: *
 Select the applicable hazard or climate event present. If reporting on multiple hazards for the same event, please fill out a new form for each hazard.

Impact Assessment:
 Have any of the following been impacted?
 List will expand on selection. Indicate level of impact to various categories. See below for a description on each.

Additional Information:
 Image:
 Upload a photo of the site. Capturing an image of the site is vital so please ensure an image is taken if possible.



1.15 Measure and Reporting of Energy use

Galway City Council's energy use for 2022 has been determined and uploaded to the SEAI web portal in advance of the deadline of Friday the 28th of April. A report on energy use for 2022 will be published shortly. Data will include all GCC fuel use e.g., fuels used for transport/fuels used in buildings. Also, any energy saving projects that were carried out during 2022 need to be recorded on this system as it will track our Total Annual Savings (kWh). This data is utilised to measure the local authorities performance against previous years and to determine our pathway to achieving emissions reductions target by 2030.

2. Housing

2.1 Changes to the operation of the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

Circular 12/2023 sets the revisions to the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) operated by Local Authorities as a support to Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) in the delivery of social housing units to be made available under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP). These changes arise following the completion of a review of the P&A-CALF funding model which is Commitment 4.10 under Housing for All. A copy of the review report is available on this Department's website. This review was undertaken following consultation with all stakeholders and is driven by the need to ensure that the P&A-CALF funding model continues to be fit for purpose and can support the required level of social housing delivery by the AHB sector in all Local Authority areas. Accordingly, these changes will assist Local Authorities in reaching their overall social housing targets under Housing for All.

Housing for All.

Housing for All recognised that AHBs have been significant partners in the delivery of social housing in recent years. Under Housing for All, the AHB sector has been allocated specific targets for social housing delivery under each Local Authority Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP). Accordingly, the AHB sector is now responsible for the delivery of on average 43% of total new build social housing in 2023 and about 40% of the 1,580 Cost Rental homes.

In order to deliver on these targets, increased funding is being made available to the AHB sector through increases in the budget available for CALF. In order to assist both the AHB sector and Local Authorities in achieving these ambitious targets for social housing delivery, Housing for All contains a specific commitment (4.10) to carry out a review of P&A-CALF funding. In this review, which commenced in December 2021, this Department and the Housing Agency has examined the structure and operation of the P&A-CALF funding model to assess whether refinements to the facility were required to support delivery of social housing by the AHB sector across a wider range of Local Authority areas. AHB sector through increases in the budget available for CALF. In order to assist both the AHB sector and Local Authorities in achieving these ambitious targets for social housing delivery, Housing for All contains a specific commitment (4.10) to carry out a review of P&A-CALF funding. In this review, which commenced in December 2021, this Department and the Housing Agency has examined the structure and operation of the P&A-CALF funding model to assess whether refinements to the facility were required to support delivery of social housing by the AHB sector across a wider range of Local Authority

areas. A formal review of the P&A-CALF funding arrangements was last undertaken in 2018 and since that review, the landscape within which the scheme operates has continued to evolve at pace.

Main changes to the CALF Funding Model.

There are a number of changes to P&A-CALF Funding model following the review of the scheme and these are set out below.

Table A: Summary of the changes to the CALF Funding model

Pre P&A-CALF Review	Post P&A-CALF Review
Payment & Availability (P&A) amount limited to maximum of 92% of the market rent or 95% where service charges apply.	P&A amount to be established by reference to the overall capital and operational costs and the link to market rent be discontinued.
No minimum floor for CALF funding	Minimum floor of 25% CALF funding
Word based application form	Revised Excel based application form
Funding Approval letters cover current lending Interest Rate only	Funding Approval letters will provide flexibility to deal with changing Interest Rates
Market rent valuation required	Market rent valuation not required

2.2 Temporary Cost Rental Tenant in-Situ (CRTiS) Scheme

Circular 16/2023 is to set out arrangements for the temporary Cost Rental Tenant In-Situ (CRTiS) Scheme from 1st April 2023 onwards. The intention of the proposed Cost Rental Tenant In-Situ (CRTiS) Scheme is to provide an additional option for households who are at risk of homelessness. The scheme will be available where a household faces the termination of a tenancy due to the intended sale of the property, is not able to purchase it from the landlord, is at risk of homelessness, is not in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and meets income eligibility criteria. In such circumstances, the Housing Agency may acquire the property with the tenant in-situ, subject to certain conditions relating to the status of the tenant and the property. The home will continue to be rented to the household at the same rent. The CRTiS Scheme will operate on a temporary administrative basis from 1st April

2023, prior to the legislative enactments or further funding sanctions required to formally establish a longer term cost rental scheme.

While the CRTiS Scheme is an interim measure introduced to mitigate the immediate effects of the end of the 'Winter Emergency Period' among a particular target cohort, who will continue to pay rent at the current level for these homes, it is the intention for these tenancies and properties to be transitioned to the standard legal and administrative framework for Cost Rental over the longer term. This will require further legislative work to be done and the Department will work with stakeholders to provide a new formal scheme in this regard as soon as possible.

Funding and Delivery Streams

Local Authorities will have responsibility for the initial assessment of tenants who are in receipt of a valid Notice of Termination due to an intended sale of the property and who consequently claim to be at risk of homelessness. This assessment is conducted by a Local Authority's Housing Officer in the same manner and using the same evidence base as any other situation in which someone presents to the Authority and claims to be at risk of homelessness. Where a tenant is judged to be at risk of homelessness, and the household is not in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment, the Local Authority may pass the details of the tenant(s) and the property to the Housing Agency for consideration as a potential acquisition under the CRTiS Scheme.

These acquisitions by the Housing Agency are supported by capital funds from the Department with the tasks of tenancy and property management handled on an externally procured contract basis. The Housing Agency will have delegated sanction to make these acquisitions, subject to the Acquisition Cost Guidelines issued by the Department to Local Authorities for the acquisition of individual second-hand homes for social housing provisions. Specific sanction can be sought by the Housing Agency from the Department for acquisitions outside these Guidelines on a case-by-case basis. An independent valuation and any necessary professional and technical assessments must be obtained for each acquisition in line with established practice for social housing acquisitions. The cost for CRTiS acquisitions must include an estimate for any renovation or refurbishment work necessary to bring the property into compliance with the 2019 Rental Regulations.

The Department will be requesting that reports are provided by the Housing Agency in relation to the numbers, typology, and anonymised tenant profiles of CRTiS acquisitions that are considered and completed. The Department will also request that reports are provided by Local Authorities in relation to the numbers and characteristics of tenants presenting with claims of a risk of homelessness due to termination of a tenancy because of an intended sale of the property, who are not assisted with social housing supports, and who are consequently passed to the Housing Agency under the CRTiS Scheme.

2.3 Launch of CPO Activation Programme

Circular 14/2023 sets out the proposed arrangements for the launch of a CPO Activation Programme for the activation of vacant and derelict properties.

Addressing vacancy and maximising the use of existing housing stock is a primary objective of Government. Housing for All provides a housing plan for Ireland to 2030 with the overall objective that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes. Addressing vacancy is a key part of the strategy, as set out in “Housing for All” on Addressing Vacancy and Efficient Use of Existing Stock. The Vacant Homes Action Plan, launched in January 2023, consolidates the various strands of work to address vacancy, with data on progress and delivery to date and actions being pursued. This Action Plan includes an objective Housing for All which provides for the introduction of a new programme for the CPO of vacant properties for resale on the open market.

A number of measures have been implemented to address vacancy and bring properties back into use. Initiatives such as the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant and Ready to Build Scheme, under the Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund, provide financial incentives for people to buy and refurbish vacant properties and sites to be their principal private residence; while the Repair and Leasing and Buy and Renew Schemes involve the local authority leasing or buying the vacant property from the owner to assist in the provision of social housing. Full-time Vacant Homes Officers (VHOs) are now in place across 30 local authorities, whose role is to identify vacant properties, engage with the owners and promote and lead the uptake of initiatives, schemes and funding programmes which will bring those properties back into use, working with the relevant teams e.g., Derelict sites team, Town Regeneration Officer in the local authority to do so.

Under this CPO Activation Programme, local authorities are now required to adopt a proactive, planned and systematic approach to the identification and activation of vacant and derelict properties. Such an approach is already in place in some local authorities. The main steps of the Programme include:

- identification of vacant and derelict properties,
- identification of and engagement with owners,
- communication regarding the various schemes and measures in place to support bringing the property back into use, and
- where owners of vacant and derelict properties cannot be identified or where they are unwilling to engage, use of available legislative powers to compulsory purchase or acquire such properties using either the Housing Act, 1966 or the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

The acquired properties may subsequently be used for social housing, made available for sale on the open market or used for other purposes e.g., community use. Targets for the number of vacant and derelict properties to enter the Programme and for the compulsory acquisition of vacant and derelict properties

have been developed (see below) and a communication will follow to each local authority in respect of their individual targets for 2023. The success of this Programme and the activation of properties, bringing them into residential use, will require consultation and co-ordination between the relevant teams in the local authority including – the Vacant Homes Officer, the Derelict Sites team, the CPO team and Town Regeneration Officers, as appropriate.

Where properties have been acquired, the objective for the local authority is to bring them back into use as quickly as possible. The local authority should engage with their Housing Section to consider if the property is suitable for social housing use, taking into account the need for sustainable communities and mixed tenure. Once this option has been considered and it is determined that the property is not required, then the local authority may sell the property on the open market as the most appropriate means of addressing the dereliction in a timely manner.

Where the property is being made available for sale on the open market, local authorities should in the first instance try to dispose of properties without carrying out works. If considered appropriate, some de-risking works which make the property more attractive for sale, e.g., clearing up and around the property, creating easy access to the property, may be carried out. A local authority must seek approval from the Council Members to sell/dispose of a property as set out in Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

The third round of funding support under the ***Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)***, which is specifically designed to address long term vacancy and dereliction across URDF cities and towns and the acceleration of the provision of residential accommodation, aligns with the launch of this CPO Activation Programme. Under Call 3, up to €150m of URDF support is being made available to local authorities by way of individual allocations to each local authority to be used to tackle long term vacancy and dereliction. This third round of funding support under the URDF programme is not seeking to replicate or replace the various social housing programmes available to local authorities to tackle vacant and derelict buildings and sites. The fund is intended to act as an additional and broader tool for the activation of such buildings and sites. Where a local authority has identified a vacant site or building as being potentially suitable for the advancement of a social and/or affordable housing development, funding for any such project should be sought using existing funding programmes run by the Department's Housing Divisions. Opportunities now exist for local authorities to utilise the URDF Call 3 funding in tackling vacancy and dereliction as part of the CPO Activation Programme. It is important, however, to note that the Call 3 URDF funding has a specific focus on town centre properties in URDF eligible areas only.

Targets have been set for each local authority for the number of identified vacant and derelict properties to enter the CPO Activation Programme. Overall, there is a target of 4,000 properties entering the CPO Activation Programme in 2023. These are based on levels of vacancy in the local authority area. Systematic engagement will be required in relation to each property identified, with the objective of bringing

the property into residential use, including through the use of compulsory acquisition where necessary, with recording of outcomes.

Of these, a target of 400 has been set for properties to enter the compulsory acquisition process, where engagement with the owner has not resulted in the vacant or derelict property being brought back into use, to be subsequently used for social housing or made available for sale on the open market. The Vacant Homes Unit in the Department has been liaising with each local authority in respect of compulsory acquisition targets. These targets take into account a number of factors, including the level of vacancy in each local authority and the number of properties on the local authority's Derelict Sites Register. Local authorities should initially focus on these properties on their Derelict Sites Registers. Where engagement with owners has not resulted in these properties being brought into use, the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 may be used to compulsorily acquire those properties. A communication will follow to each local authority in respect of their individual Programme and compulsory acquisition targets for 2023.

Resources/Structures/Funding to address vacancy and dereliction in the local authorities

The activation of vacant and derelict properties and the success of this Programme is dependent on the coordination of resources, supports and teams in each local authority. This may require consideration of structures and the location of resources as well as agreed processes across different business areas, sections and directorships. This is an opportunity to review those structures and ensure the effective and efficient use of resources local authority-wide in addressing vacancy and dereliction and bringing properties back into use as homes.

The Department is currently examining the resources needed to further support the activation of vacant and derelict properties across local authorities and will communicate with all local authorities in due course. The provision of any additional funding support to local authorities will involve the submission of a business case by each local authority, outlining the activities undertaken and outcomes i.e., the number of vacant and derelict properties brought back into use to date, along with the planned activities, in the context of targets for the year ahead. Galway City Council requires additional administrative and technical resources to fully implement this programme. The City Council will be making a business case for these resources in the near future. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will coordinate and oversee the implementation of the CPO Activation Programme on an ongoing basis.

Funding from within the local authority e.g., through use of Derelict Sites levy funds.

- The Programme can also be supported by a bridging finance facility from the Housing Finance Agency (HFA) for property acquisitions. The HFA can provide funding for local authorities for the compulsory acquisition and compulsory purchase of vacant and derelict properties. The funding will take the form of a 'Revolving Facility' for each local authority up to a maximum limit.

- Use of Urban Regeneration Development Funds being provided as part of the third round of funding support which is being made available for local authorities to acquire vacant or derelict properties and sites for re-use or sale.

3. Recreation & Amenity

3.1 Sports Capital

3.1.1 Corrib Park Grass Pitch

The contractor has constructed the temporary access road onto Seamus Quirke Rd and is progressing with the main earthworks element of the project. Commencement of the earthworks was delayed due to the exceptionally wet weather experienced in March.

3.1.2 Refurbishment of Glen Oaks/Drom Chaoin MUGA

Refurbishment works on the lower MUGA pitch are nearly completed with the artificial grass surface currently being installed. It is envisaged that construction of the new MUGA will be completed by early June. Preliminary design has been completed for the landscaping scheme and public consultation is due to be organised in the coming weeks.



3.1.3 Corrib Park MUGA

Detailed design is well advanced with tender documents nearing completion. It is envisaged that a request for tender will be advertised in early June.

3.2 Woodquay Park Development

The preliminary design stage is advancing with a range of surveys currently being procured. Initial deliverables will entail a range of surveys and site investigative works being undertaken, design development and engagement with various stakeholders. The preliminary design stage is due to be completed in June 2023.

3.3 Salthill Tidal Pool Feasibility Study

Tender assessment for multi-disciplinary consultancy services has been completed and the contract is due to be awarded imminently. The contract will involve scheme design and feasibility assessment for the refurbishment of the dis-used tidal pool at Ladies Beach and, additionally the alternative option of developing a new tidal pool facility.

3.4 Refurbishment of Blackrock Diving Tower

A structural assessment has been undertaken on the diving tower to determine the extent of rehabilitation works. Scoping of further structural investigative works is being carried out, which will involve closure of the tower for a brief period. The timing of these works has yet to be determined but consideration will be given to the busy summer period.

3.5 Cemeteries

The new container block has been delivered to Bohermore Cemetery. When complete, the block will provide office space, staff canteen and a wheelchair accessible public toilet.

3.6 Playgrounds and Skateparks

Grant funding was recently secured by R&A Operations for a See-Saw Wheelchair Swing under a Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth capital grant. The project involves supply & installation of the See-Saw including black wet pour safety surfacing in the Westside playground. See below photo of the equipment.



This See Saw equipment went into Grange Park Playground in Omagh. Positive feedback from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council was received on this equipment. See below photos of this. Other stakeholders consulted were GCC Social Inclusion Officer, Brothers of Charity, Disability Foundation Ireland and Ability West.



Works continue by R&A Operations on refurbishing Childrens Millenium Park Skatepark. See below photos of the upgrade which has been welcomed and received much positive feedback from the Galway Skater Group.



Boat planters were recently installed in the refurbished South Park playground to go along with the nautical theme. These are to get new suitable plants and flowers to provide colour the year round.



3.7 Grass Cutting Operations

Grass cutting operations have re-commenced after the winter period. See attached photos of works on Galway City Council pitches.

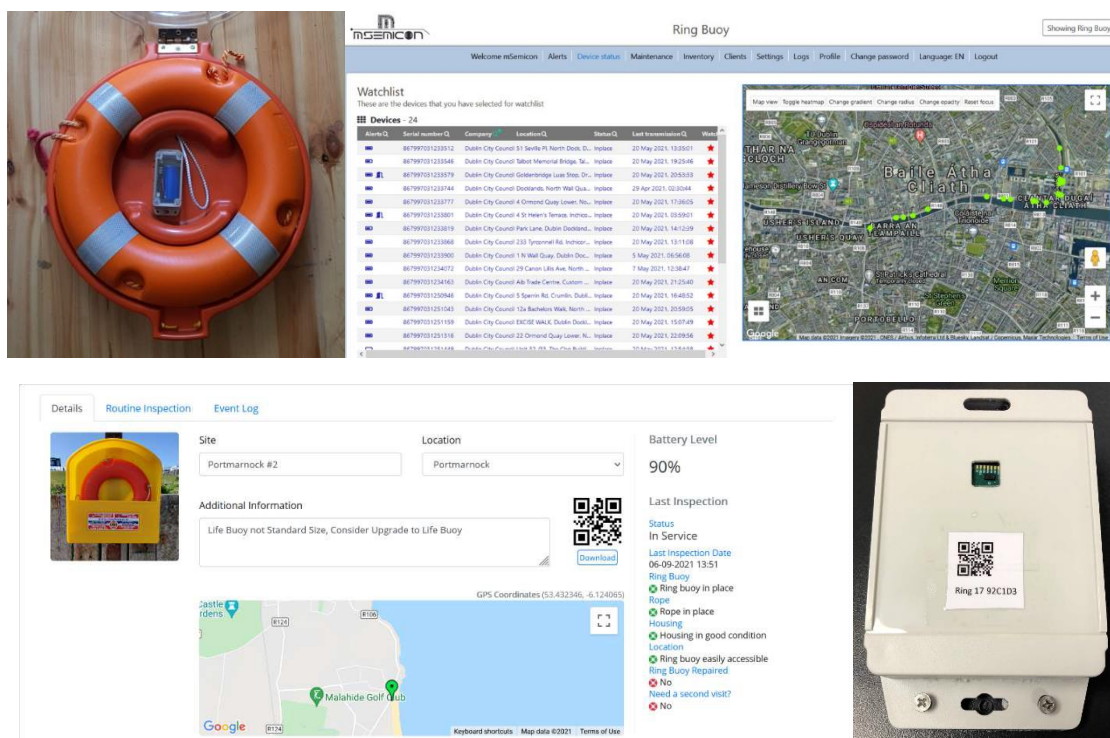


3.8 Bathing Waters/Water Safety

Ring buoy theft is a serious issue for Galway City Council. Over €36,000 has been spent by Galway City Council on replacing stolen life buoys in the last three years. Much time and effort goes into inspecting and replacing ring buoy housing, ropes and buoys. A stolen ring buoy is a stolen life. Recently on Tuesday the 25th of April 2023 Galway Business Watch held an exercise with local children in the Claddagh Basin to show people how to use a life buoy and ensure the safety of a rescuer.



R&A operations recently set up a meeting with Dublin City Council to discuss the Smart City project of installing sensors on ring buoys. The aim is to save lives and reduce Ring Buoy Theft. Innovative low-cost, retrofit, end-to-end Internet of Things (IoT) solutions to alert, monitor and report on Ring Buoys were examined. Sensors connect to either the SigFox, LTE-M or NB-IoT networks to communicate. Some devices and software photos from Dublin's pilot project are shown below.



R&A operations are looking to trail sensors and pilot a GCC Smart City scheme in consultation with the Garda Síochána, the RNLI, Galway Fire and Rescue Service, Water Safety Ireland and Claddagh Watch to make safer use of this large water amenity for the City. This is a timely project due to the recent tragedy in Menlo Pier.

3.9 Biodiversity & Pollinator Plan Updates

3.9.1 Green Spaces Strategy

The public consultation for the Green Spaces Strategy launched on Friday 28th April with a full-page advert in the Galway Advertiser, social media and the GCC website. A Councillor briefing was held on the 25th April and another on the 3rd of May. The briefings are to provide details of the project scope which includes an ecosystem services assessment of the current green network and establishing emerging need regarding passive and active recreation (sports) facilities across the city.

Emerging need will be established through public consultation and engagement with stakeholders, including sporting bodies (at a high level), local sports clubs, other interest groups, active retirement communities, youth groups and ordinary citizens. The engagement will be through a combination of direct meeting with specific stakeholders, x5 public meetings during the month of May and during the summer, an online and printed survey to gather feedback and a public webinar to provide feedback at the end of the engagement process.

The Stage 1 report will be sent initially to the GCC Steering Group for consideration in the coming weeks to ensure the strategy aligns with other plans and policies within the Council. The Steering Group is made up of officials from departments in the city Council. The Council will then be consulted further in due course.



3.9.2 Pollinator Plan

The Parks department trialled a wildflower seed ‘shade mix’ in Millennium Park in 2021 and this spring it has been hugely successful with plenty of colour coming through and much interest from visitors to the park. This is a perennial mix which means it does not have to be re seeded each year. What is particularly good about this seed mix is that it provides flowers early in the season (most wildflower mixes only come out in late spring or during the summer).



3.10 Children's Millennium Park

Before wildflower seeding works commence in the parks later this month, the Parks department have prepared the areas using 'foam-stream'. This is a hot foam and starch mixture which is used for treating weeds and it is 100% chemical free and biodegradable. In 2022 Recreation & Amenity carried out trials using foam-stream as part of our duty under the Sustainable Use of herbicide Directive which sets EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030. Each local authority needs to establish an Integrated Pest Management Control system designed to encourage trialling alternatives to pesticides. A key element of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is to reduce/ eradicate the use of chemical pesticides.



Foam treating weeds at O'Sullivan Park



Foam treating weeds at Children's Millennium Park

The No Mow areas are being established in the open spaces around the city below is the No Mow at McGraths Field in conjunction with Love Knocknacarra, the local Health Green Spaces group in the area.



Establishing the No Mow area in McGraths Field

3.11 Healthy Green Spaces

Mini Orchard planting took place on Saturday 15th with the Clareview Estate Residents Association (Ballybane). Several dwarf apple trees and some soft fruits (redcurrant, blackcurrant, loganberry and gooseberry) were planted using a no dig method. No dig is a permaculture method which protects soil organisms by reducing the need to break up the ground.



Clareview Estate Residents Association (Ballybane) using permaculture methods to set up their mini orchard



GCC Rec & Amenity staff helping residents

3.12 Allotments

Hedge planting has been completed around the outside perimeter fence of Merlin Woods Community Allotments. A mixed hedge including native species of Hawthorn, Ribes, Hazel and Viburnum Opulus has been planted by our Parks Operation Team.



3.13 Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees

Expressions of Interest for Water Related Recreation & Amenity Activities in the Claddagh Basin, Galway City for the period June 2023 to March 2024 have been sought via The Trustees. The closing date for receipt of applications from interested parties is Friday 12th May 2023 and the advert was published on Thursday 27th April 2023.

A trial of herbicide free weed treatment and pan cleaning using steam took place at Steamers Quay. The pier surface is scheduled for cleaning in early May.



The ongoing works at Lisloughrey Pier are in the concluding stages of the project objectives.



The opening of the Claddagh basin Lock Gates has been scheduled for May 17th and advertised on the LCNT Facebook page. Notices have been erected at the Claddagh basin also advertising same.



ADVANCE NOTICE

**Lock Gates will be opened at 4.30pm
on Wednesday 17th of May to allow
boats to exit the Claddagh Basin.**

3.14 Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy - Launch of Statutory Consultation.

This Plan recognises Climate Change as a key driver for both behavioural change and improved waste management practices. The Plan will be evaluated annually for climate impact and annual work plans will be adapted to respond to the climate challenge. The transition to a circular economy requires a collaborative national response across all sectors of the economy through the lifecycle of products and materials. The content of this Plan has been created through extensive collaboration with key partners, stakeholders and the wider waste audience and the principle of co-ownership has been embedded into the responses to the challenges identified.

Ireland is moving away from the traditional linear 'take-make-use-dispose' model towards a 'circular economy' regenerative growth model where resources are reused or recycled as much as possible and the generation of waste is minimised. The transition to a circular economy is essential to reduce pressure on natural resources, aid in achieving climate targets, support Sustainable Development Goals and create sustainable growth and jobs.

The transition to a circular economy is essential to reduce pressure on natural resources, aid in achieving climate targets, support Sustainable Development Goals and create sustainable growth and jobs. The Circular Economy Act 2022 is

supported by a wider circular policy base which establishes the framework for the national transition to a circular economy.

The statutory consultation period for the Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (Draft Plan) commenced on Wednesday the 3rd of May 2023 and will run until the 5th July 2023.

4. Economic & Culture & Community & Sports Partnership

4.1 Building a vision for Innovative Creative Technology Companies in The West of Ireland

Last week Simon Coveney, TD, Minister for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment placed a ceremonial brick to officially mark the construction of the CREW Creative Enterprise Hub located at ATU's Wellpark Road Campus, Galway.

The state-of-the-art CREW Creative Enterprise Hub is the first hub in the West Region focused on the development of start-up and early-stage companies in the Creative Industries. The CREW Hub will provide shared and own-door enterprise space, collaboration areas and event space. The Hub will be home to 150 Creative Technology and Creative Digital entrepreneurs in areas such as game development, animation, immersive technology, content creation and digital design. CREW was founded by Atlantic Technological University Galway City (Wellpark Road), The Western Development Commission and Ardán.

The CREW Creative Enterprise Hub will serve as a regional centre for the Creative Industries, delivering programmes and masterclasses in entrepreneurship to founders from the West Region. The hub will also provide meetup spaces and innovation areas for the Creative Industries welcoming industry experts, hosting meetups and networking events.

CREW, which secured over €3.2 million from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment's Regional Enterprise Development Fund, is an integral part of the West Regional Enterprise Plan and has a lead role in implementing the strategic objective to strengthen and harness the cultural and creative sector to attract new investment, commercialisation, and collaboration opportunities. The CREW Creative Enterprise Hub is due to open in late 2023.



4.2 PorterShed celebrates 7th birthday with official opening of Market St location

Simon Coveney, TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment officially opened PorterShed A Dó, on Market Street on Thursday 21st April 2023. The official opening coincides with the organisation's 7th birthday. Founded in 2016 the PorterShed has to date supported the creation of more than 835 high value jobs in the region. The new building, funded by the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment through Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Development Fund

(REDF) initiative, will become home to an additional 200 indigenous tech startup members, offering a collaborative innovation space, production studio, boardroom podcast studio, rooftop garden, and conference rooms.

PorterShed has already established itself as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship under the banner of Galway City Innovation District, creating a down-town Innovation Community in the heart of Galway City. The new building will help support the growth of even more indigenous tech startups in the region. The innovation space will provide opportunities for members to come together and share ideas, while the production studio and podcast studio will offer state-of-the-art facilities for content creation. The rooftop garden and multiple conference rooms will provide space for events and meetings, making PorterShed a Dó the perfect location for any tech startup looking to take their innovation driven enterprise to the next level.



4.3 PorterShed wins national award for Best Enterprise and Start-up Hub

PorterShed, a leading co-working space and innovation hub in Galway recently won the prestigious Enterprise and Start-up Hub Award at the 2023 All Ireland Community and Council Awards. These awards recognize and celebrate community and councils working together to make Ireland a better place to live, work, and do business. The Enterprise and Start-up Hub Award recognizes PorterShed's outstanding contribution to supporting the growth and development of startups and innovative businesses in the Galway region. This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved with PorterShed, and we are excited to continue supporting the growth of innovative businesses in the region.

4.4 Enterprise Ireland reports record exports at €32.1 billion in 2022

Enterprise Ireland, the state agency of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment responsible for helping Irish companies to enter and expand in

international markets, saw exports by companies it supports increase by 19% to a record €32.1 billion in 2022.

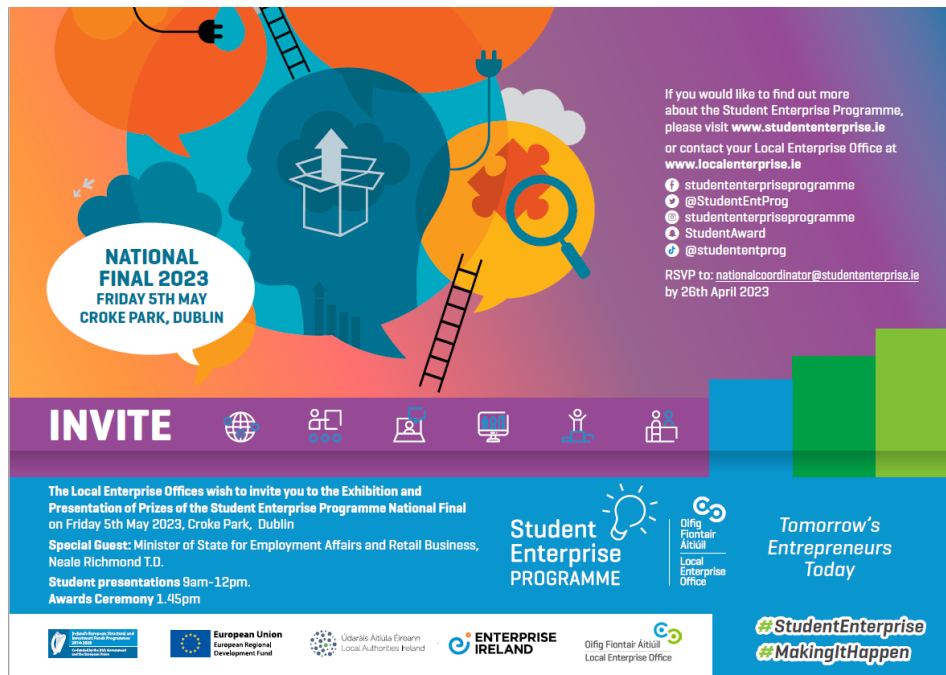
This is the highest ever level of growth for Enterprise Ireland-backed companies in export value. Growth occurred across all overseas regions and in individual industry sectors. Enterprise Ireland-backed companies now employ more than 218,000 people in every region and county in Ireland.

Exports to the Eurozone increased by 28% in 2022, with the Eurozone now representing 25% of all exports by Enterprise Ireland backed companies. Expansion in trade with the Eurozone has taken place in tandem with strong Irish exports to the UK post-Brexit. Exports to the UK increased by 13%, reaching €9.2 billion. The UK now accounts for 29% of all exports by Enterprise Ireland backed companies.

Increases in exports were recorded across all sectors with Food and Sustainability increasing by 23%, Technology and Services increasing by 18% and Industrial and Life Sciences increasing by 14%. The results were announced at the Enterprise Ireland summit which took place at the end of April in the RDS, Dublin where business leaders and key stakeholders met to discuss future opportunities for Irish enterprise.

4.5 Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs Today

An initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices to encourage entrepreneurship in secondary schools, the Student Enterprise Programme has seen over 325,000 secondary school students take part in the programme since it first began, with over 25,000 participants expected this year. Participating students will compete across three categories, Junior (1st year), Intermediate (2nd and 3rd year) and Senior (4th, 5th and 6th year, LVA, LCA and Youth Outreach). Each student enterprise is challenged with creating, setting up and running their own business, which must show viable sales of their service or product. Following county and regional finals Student Enterprises from across the country took part in the Final at Croke Park on Friday 5th May 2023.



4.6 Start Your Own Business Programme

Learn all the skills you need to make sure your start-up is a success. The next course is beginning on 8th May 2023. For further information and for booking visit <https://loom.ly/qegHNu8>

4.7 Green for Micro – Small Changes. Big Impact!

Green for Micro is a FREE programme that helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving you access to a green consultant who'll show you the small changes that can have a big impact on your company - and the world around you. Developing a 'greener' policy can offer many benefits to your business, including:

- Increased cost savings
- Improved resource efficiency (for example: using less energy, water, and materials)
- Reduced environmental footprint and greenhouse gas emissions
- Opportunities for higher and additional value on products and services
- Increased access to customers, improved corporate image and reputation.
- Increased resilience to climate change impacts

To find out more visit <https://loom.ly/aPikWMg>



TOURISM

4.8 Access & Occupancy

Shannon Airport (117%), Knock Airport (119%) and Kerry Airport (108%) are all filed above June 2019 levels. Even with economic and geopolitical uncertainties, the demand for air travel continues to recover around the world.

A strong restoration of direct air access capacity to the island of Ireland is scheduled for the upcoming summer season. Based on latest OAG filings, scheduled air seat capacity to the island of Ireland for June 2023 will be 102% of June 2019 levels, with almost 2.7 million seats filed. Scheduled seat capacity from GB and Other Areas is above 2019 levels, at 107% and 112% respectively. Seat capacity from Mainland Europe and North America is filed at 99% and 96% of June 2019 levels respectively.

Latest data from the CSO shows a total of almost 2.5 million arrivals (including residents of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland) to air and seaports in the Republic of Ireland during the first two months of 2023. This represents 103% of January-February 2019 levels. STR reports that hotel occupancy on the island of Ireland was 67% for the first three months of 2023, a +2% increase on the same period in 2019. The average daily rate was €141, a +33% increase on January-March 2019.

4.9 An Tóstal

Through funding supplied by the Galway City Council Marketing Fund, the Salthill Village will revive and celebrate the 70th Anniversary of An Tóstal, Traditional Irish Racing in Galway Bay.

The two-day gathering of traditional currachs and rowers at Ladies Beach in Galway The Galway Hooker Sailing Club, in partnership with The Salthill Village, Blackrock Cottage, the Gráinne Mhaol Rowing Club, and Galway City Council will include a Family Fun Day with Galway City Partnership and Healthy Galway. The family fun day will replicate some of the events that got washed out as part of the St Patricks Festival.

In 2023, the traditional racing currachs and rowers will gather once again at Ladies Beach in Salthill for the first time in 10 years. The foundation for this gathering was laid out in the early 1950s, and Tóstal na Gaillimhe of 1953 marked the beginning of the All-Ireland Currach Racing Championships. Dignitaries and thousands of spectators gathered to witness the rowers compete for championship titles and glory.

ARTS OFFICE & CULTURE & CREATIVITY TEAM

4.10 Arts Grants

The annual grant of €400,000, supporting arts organisations across the city, has been announced and dissemination of funding will occur over the coming weeks. The Arts team met with The Arts Advisory Committee on March 29th. The committee considered the report from staff of the Arts Office. Following full consideration and debate of applications, the committee proposed the recommendations to the Mayor and Members of Galway City Council. These recommendations were accepted at the April Council meeting. The Arts Office have issued letters of offer and Form A.

With a view to ensuring sufficient time is allowed for organisations to plan their financial commitments, the Arts Grant for 2024 will be launched in September 2023 and the grant will continue this schedule annually.

Arts Grants 2023	
APPLICANT /IARRATASÓIR	AWARD /DUAIS
126 Artist Run Gallery	€ 11,000
An Taibhdhearc	€ 4,250
Architecture at the Edge	€ 4,000
Artspace Studios	€ 10,500
Baboró International Arts Festival for Children	€ 20,000
Blue Teapot Theatre Co	€ 5,000
Branar	€ 8,000
Brothers of Charity Galway - Programmes: That's Life and Arts Alive	€ 6,000

Brú Theatre	€ 2,250
Club Shine	€ 600
Cois Cladaigh	€ 1,200
Crannóg Magazine	€ 2,000
Cúirt International Festival of Literature	€ 15,000
Decadent Theatre Co	€ 4,000
Druid	€ 28,000
Eastside Community Drama	€ 2,000
Engage Art Studios	€ 13,500
Eva's Echo Theatre Co.	€ 1,000
Galway African Diaspora	€ 1,000
Galway Art Club	€ 500
Galway Arts Centre	€ 35,000
Galway Baroque Singers	€ 1,400
Galway Baytones	€ 1,000
Galway Cartoon Festival	€ 1,000
Galway Cathedral Recitals	€ 1,500
Galway Choral Association	€ 1,000
Galway Community Circus	€ 10,000
Galway Dance Project	€ 6,500
Galway Early Music	€ 4,000
Galway Film Fleadh	€ 19,000
Galway Film Society	€ 3,000
Galway International Arts Festival	€ 46,000
Galway Music Residency	€ 26,000
Galway Musical Society	€ 500
Galway Percy French Society	€ 300
Galway Theatre Festival	€ 11,000
Galway Ukulele festival	€ 500

Galway Youth Orchestra	€ 1,000
Galway Youth Theatre	€ 3,000
Irish Patchwork Society	€ 450
Junior Galway Film Fleadh	€ 1,500
Knocknacarra Amateur Theatre Society (KATS)	€ 500
Luminosa	€ 4,000
Macnas	€ 24,000
Misleór	€ 1,500
Moon Fish Theatre Company	€ 6,000
Moth & Butterfly Festival	€ 1,000
Music for Galway	€ 16,000
Red Bird Youth Collective	€ 1,500
Renmore Pantomime	€ 1,000
Resurgam	€ 1,200
Saolta Arts	€ 5,000
Skylight 47	€ 900
St Nicholas Collegiate Church Schola Cantorum	€ 1,200
The Forge Clay Studios	€ 2,000
Tulca Festival of Visual Art	€ 14,000
Westside Arts Festival	€ 5,000
Youth Ballet Galway	€ 1,750
Total	€ 400,000

4.11 Arts Office Funding

The annual Band Grant, Creative Practitioner Bursary (formerly the Individual Artist Bursary) and Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary have closed and applications are under review. The Band Grant has received 6 applications compared to 4 last year. The arts office specifically increased communications to schools this year and as a result 5 applications are to establish or maintain primary and secondary school bands. The arts office will consider all applications and awards should be made in May.

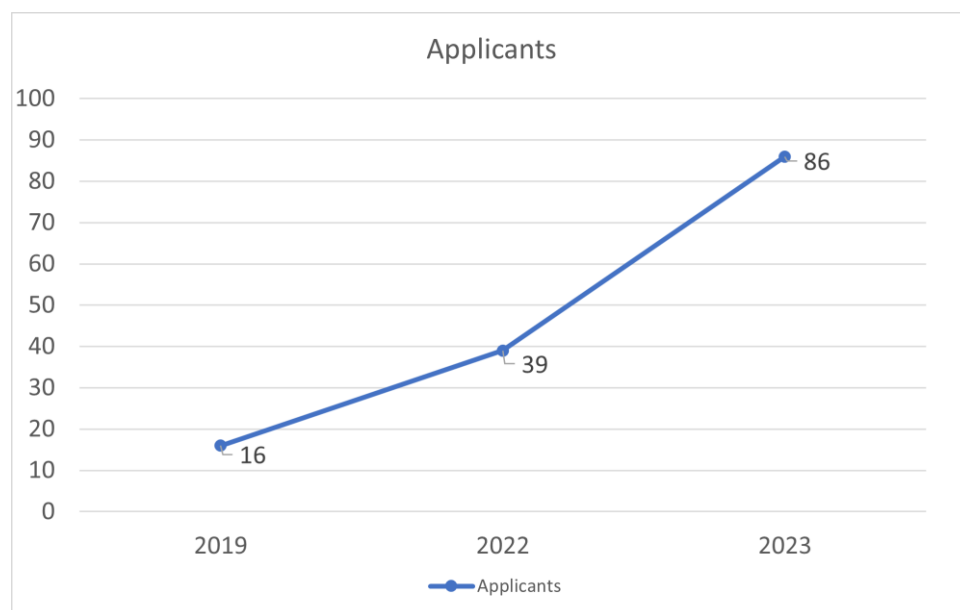
The Creative Practitioner Bursary for 2023 now features two funding bands. Band 1 for funding up to €500 and Band 2 for funding from €501 to €3,000. Previously the award had been capped at €1,500 however the arts office is keen to support creative practitioners working on ambitious projects as well as developing capacity within the sector. Strand 2 was the most popular with 82 applications. Strand 1 Received 5.

A total of **€227,326** has been applied for through this year's bursary.

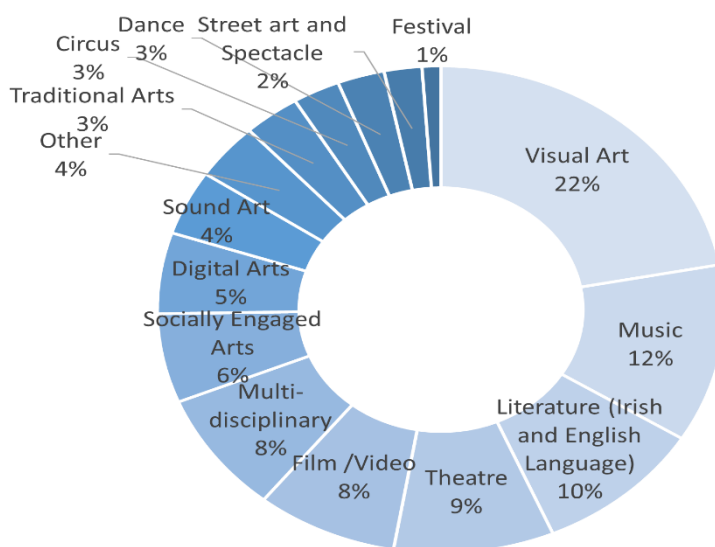
2019 - 2023 Comparison

2020/2021 Awards did not go ahead due to Covid-19

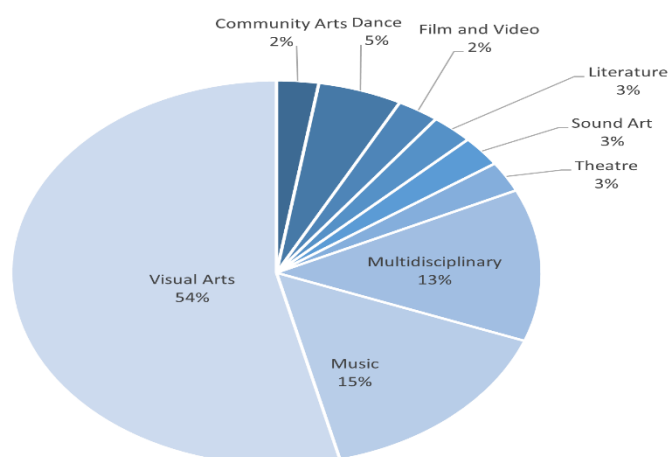
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applicants	TBC	16	N/A	N/A	39	86
Successful	14	11	N/A	N/A	22	TBC
Total Expenditure	€8,500	€10,000	N/A	N/A	€14,250	€22,000



Application numbers more than doubled for this year's bursary following an enhanced marketing campaign and streamlined application. This year's application collected more social statistics from applicants to enable the arts office to develop monitoring and evaluation processes. We are now able to map the applicants across the 3 electoral areas. Examining the domicile address provided by each applicant reveals we received 31, 27 and 16 applications from Galway West, Galway City Central and Galway East respectively. This will inform our outreach strategy for the 2024 award so we can raise the level of applications from Galway East.



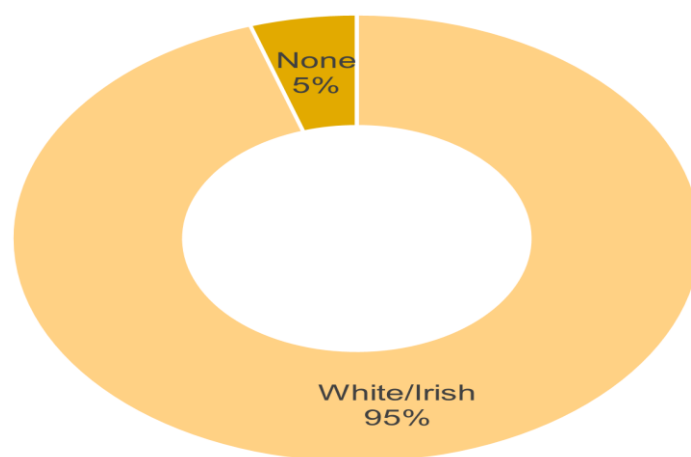
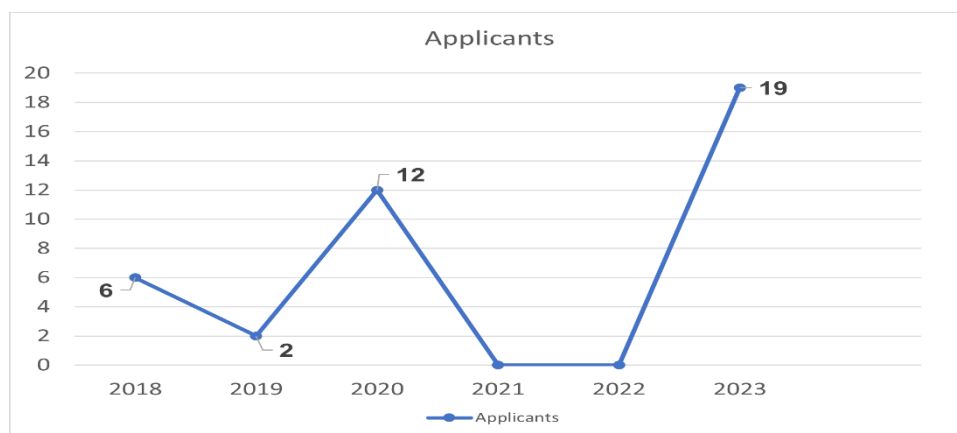
2022



The Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary has also seen an increase in applicants this year. The applications are under review but initial data analysis shows 95% of applicants identified themselves as White Irish, indicating significant work must be undertaken by the arts office to ensure a broad range of applicants find the process is accessible and are encouraged to apply. Examining the domicile address provided by each applicant reveals we received 8, 8 and 3 applications from Galway West, Galway City Central and Galway East respectively.

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applicants	6	2	12	0	N/A	19
Successful	2	2	0	0	N/A	TBC
Total Expenditure	€1,400	€1,400	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBC

2020/2021 Awards did not go ahead due to Covid-19 and in 2022 due to the Tyrone Centre Availability



Ethnicity/Race

4.12 VAI Galway 2023 Programming – Artist Supports

In response to the Artists Needs analysis session and survey, the Arts Office, in collaboration with the Galway Culture Company and Galway County Council will host an in-person networking event in Portershed 2 for artists to meet and engage with organisations based in the city and county, the two Arts Office teams, and the Galway Culture Company. 22 artists based in the city will attend and 26 artists based in the county.

4.13 Cruinniú na nÓg 2023

Galway City Council, in partnership with Youth Work Ireland Galway, has received applications from city based cultural partners for this year's Cruinniú na nÓg Irelands National Day of Creativity for Children and Young People on June 10. Cruinniú na nÓg celebrates and encourages children and young people's participation in culture and creativity by providing free, accessible, activity-based creative action in their local areas. Several key events have been highlighted on the Creative Ireland website with the remaining events to be announced in the coming weeks.

4.14 Galway City Creative Ireland Creative Communities Grant 2023

The application for Galway city based creative practitioners, organisations and communities of place and interest to submit applications for the Galway City Creative Communities Grant 2023 is currently open with a deadline of May 5th. These grants are offered as part of Galway City's Creative Ireland Communities Programme to deliver activities taking place in 2023.

The Creative Communities Programme is an initiative committed to enhancing access to, engagement with, and enjoyment of Ireland's culture and creativity. Within the broad range of available definitions, creativity is considered as a set of innate abilities and learned skills; the capacity of individuals and organisations to transcend accepted ideas and norms and by drawing on imagination to create new ideas that bring additional value to human activity.

Strand 1. Professional, collective, or organisation: This strand of the funding scheme is aimed at Galway City-based individual professional creative practitioners, collectives and organisations that wish to develop and deliver collaborative community-centred projects based in the city of Galway. The grant can be used on research and development activities and/or the costs of implementing the project. The community at the centre of the proposed project should be actively involved in the proposed research and development activities and in delivery of the project.

Strand 2. Community groups, of place or interest: This strand of the funding scheme is aimed at Galway City-based community groups of place or of interest that wish to develop and deliver creative projects that promote active participation, understanding of creativity, and creative engagement within their communities.

4.15 Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023

The Arts Office in partnership with Galway City Libraries and Galway City Museum made an application to the community strand of the programme. The application was successful, and a programme will be delivered from September to December 2023.

Preparations are underway to devise and deliver the project - *REFLECTIONS – A Commemoration to the Women of 1923* - a series of talks, and residencies exploring and reflecting on the role, experiences, expectations of women, and their contribution to events that occurred during a significant period in Irish History. The

approach is creative, collaborative, and participative in nature - artists, creatives, community groups, academics, writers, and thinkers will come together to create a platform to encourage reflection and creative responses. The purpose – a deeper understanding of the context, the role of women, and their changing role in society.

4.16 Creative Ireland Creative Climate Action Fund II

The Arts Office in partnership with the Climate and Environment Section and the University of Galway made an application to the Creative Climate Action Fund II - Strand 2 - 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. The Arts Office awaits the outcome of the application from Creative Ireland.

4.17 Creative Communities Economic Action Fund

Ardán, with the support of Galway City Council and Creative Ireland, is delighted to announce the return of the Wild Galway Games Initiative (WGGI) 2023. This returning initiative is designed to unite and support local games developers to connect and collaborate with support from local professional games developers and Galway City cultural representatives. Over the next few months, we'll be hosting a series of events that will include an initial WGGI Pitch Meeting later in May, followed by a Feedback & Needs Finding Session, a series of regular Galway meetups, a larger international game dev industry meetup, and a finale for presenting the work.

Games developers who participate in this initiative can expect supports in networking, mentoring, workshops and team meetings as well as city centre desk space, and access to a suite of specialised game development hardware including top of the line laptops and VR headsets.

The aim of this initiative is to simultaneously give an opportunity to local developers to learn, connect, collaborate and be coached by top local game development talent with the goal of improving skills and portfolios in the grassroots game development community of Galway.

4.18 Arts Council Creative Places Fund

The Arts Office in partnership with the Galway Culture Company, ARD Family Resource Centre and the community of Doughiska made an application to Stand 2 of the Creative Places Fund.

Strand 2 - Creative Place Research and Development - This award is a one-off award and covers research fees and consultation costs. The maximum you can apply for is €35,000. In 2023 it is anticipated that up to three awards will be made. Creative Places is a programme for places around Ireland that have not had opportunities to benefit from sustained investment in the arts and creativity. The Arts Office awaits the outcome of the application from the Arts Council

4.19 ATU – Professional Development

The Arts Officer and Arts Development Officer attended ATU to meet MA students and give a presentation on professional development and the various opportunities and services provided by the Arts Office, as well as general funding and resources. The Arts Office is keen to develop this relationship and will deliver further talks to BA and MA students in 2024.

4.20 SALT

SALT, funded by the Galway City Arts Office, Arts Council, Galway County Arts Office, Creative Ireland, is a multidisciplinary, immersive, ritual celebration of our connection to the sea as a coastal community, inspired by the gathered powerful personal stories of a community of sea-swimmers. SALT, created and led by theatre-maker Vanessa Earl is a collaboration with composer Robbie Blake, poet Mary Madec, featuring a choir of 60, vocalist Ceara Conway and a professional ensemble Johanne Webb, Sophie Hutchinson & Daniel Guinnane and light-art by Mick Murray. The event takes place on Ladies Beach Salthill, on Monday, May 1 at 8.30pm.

4.21 TOWN HALL THEATRE

Town Hall Theatre in April announced details of a very busy schedule of Spring/Summer Shows, with an April line-up which featured many of the leading names in local and national theatre, music, comedy and dance. Theatre highlights included acclaimed productions of Martin Mc Donagh's Hangmen by Gaiety Productions directed by Galway's Andrew Flynn and Moliere's Tartuffe by the Abbey Theatre, and productions by Peter Gowen, Pan Pan Theatre and Brokentalkers. We proudly hosted (and provided marketing support and ticketing services for) full-scale festivals by Cúirt International Festival of Literature and Galway Theatre Festival, along with a performance of Werther from Irish National Opera. The welcome return of Galway Musical Society (after a long absence caused by Covid restrictions) and concerts by Donovan, Declan Nerney and Karan Casey were amongst the highlights of our music programme. Children and family audiences were treated to performances by Theatre Lovett and some of Galway's leading performing arts schools including Trading Faces and Antoinette Casserly. Our dance programme

included performances by Stephanie Dufresne and Galway Dance Project and our comedy line-up included Martin Angolo.

GALWAY CITY MUSEUM

4.22 Soroptimist Collection Donated to Galway City Museum



At the presentation to Galway City Museum were Maeve Moriarty, Soroptimist International of Galway, Carmel Garrett, last President of Soroptimist International of Galway, Mayor Clodagh Higgins and Eithne Verling, Museum Director

Soroptimist International of Galway recently donated a collection to Galway City Museum, which includes their chain of office and minute books dating back to the 1950s.

4.23 This Is The Modern World Exhibition

'This Is The Modern World' is a poster exhibition of live gigs in Galway 1977-82 and is due to open on the 6th of June 2023 in Galway City Museum. The 16 posters are from GCM's collection and on loan. The exhibition is still in its planning and design stage and will also include tickets, flyers, correspondence letters and setlists from the gigs featured in the exhibition.

4.24 Tours

4.24.1 1 April – GUIDED TOUR

Free guided tour of the highlights of Galway City Museum for families

4.24.2 8 April – GUIDED TOUR

Free guided tour of the highlights of Galway City Museum for families

There were 17 Self-Guided Visits with 813 attendees.

4.24.3 11 April – OUTREACH

Brendan McGowan, Education Officer, gave an illustrated presentation about the Museum, its exhibitions, events, projects and future plans, to Newcastle Active Retirement Association at Westside Library.

4.24.4 15 April – TALK: The End of the Civil War & the executions at Tuam Barracks

On 11 April 1923, five anti-treaty IRA Volunteers from Galway – Francis Cunnane (23), Michael Monaghan (22), Martin Moylan (24), John Newell (29) and James O'Malley (25) – were executed at Tuam Barracks, having been found guilty by a Free State Military Court of the unlawful possession of arms and ammunition. Local historian Cormac Ó Comhraí, author of *Sa Bhearna Bhaoil: Gaillimh 1913–1923*, discussed the executed men, the end of the Irish Civil War and its legacy. More than 40 people attended. The event, curated as part of Galway City Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023, was recorded and is now available on the Museum's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/IEjhh1m1POo>

4.24.5 22 April – WORKSHOPS: Sewing 101 – How to Use a Sewing Machine

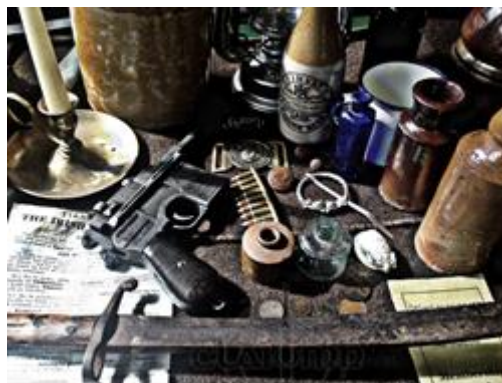
Eimear Greaney of Upsew (www.upsew.ie) and Cathriona Naughton gave a machine sewing workshop for beginners. The event was organised to coincide with Fashion Revolution Week, 22 to 29 April 2023. Founded in 2013, Fashion Revolution is a movement that strives for 'a global fashion industry that conserves and restores the environment and values people over growth and profit'. Among its aims are 'an end to throwaway culture and shift to a system where materials are used for much longer and nothing goes to waste'.



Pupils from Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara, Carna, taking part in the Material Culture of the Irish Revolution workshop at the Museum.

4.24.6 25 to 28 April – LIVING-HISTORY WORKSHOPS FOR SCHOOLS - Material Culture of the Irish Revolution

Between the Easter Rising of 1916 and the end of the Civil War in 1923 Ireland experienced a political and military struggle that led to the foundation of the Irish Free State. To mark the centenary of the end of the Civil War, Galway City Museum invited secondary schools to a special living-history workshop. Accompanied by Museum staff, pupils visited the Revolution in Galway, 1913–1923 and War of Friends, 1922–1923 exhibitions to learn about some of the Galway personalities and stories connected to the struggle for independence. Afterwards Dave Swift of Claíomh gave a living-history demonstration of the material culture of the Irish revolution, giving pupils the opportunity of getting up close and hands-on with items from the period. More than 220 upper primary and post primary pupils attended. This series of events was curated as part of Galway City Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023, with funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.



Material Culture of the Revolution

29 April – SHOW & TELL and TALK & DISPLAY: Material Culture of the Irish Revolution As above (for the general public)



Education Room at the Museum

4.25 Education Room

The Museum's Education Room has been used by several groups, including Ukrainians Helping Ukrainians Galway (UHUG), Galway City Partnership, and Baboró.

LEISURELAND

4.26 Amusement site –

Currys Amusements are set up in the amusement site and are currently open on weekends. Then from July and August they will open every day for the summer season. Discussions are taking place regarding the site for the upcoming winter season.

4.27 Event Hall –

Leisureland had a busy start to the year in the Event Hall with Foil Arms and Hog along with Mario Rosenstock comedy shows, The High Kings, Paul Heaton concerts as well as a Charity Event for Syria. It also had had two exhibitions, Miniature World and The Galway Body and Mind experience. The centre also hosted The Marty Party variety show for the first time in the venue. Leisureland has less Bingo Locos booked this year. Leisureland also hosted a Jehovah's Witness Conference.

In April, Leisureland hosted a very successful professional boxing event. The first one in several years and they are looking at further dates. At the end of April, the

centre had a National Children's Choir, Bingo Loco and a sold-out Rock Orchestra show.

In May Jurassic Live children's show will return to Leisureland with six shows. The centre will also have two more Orchestra performances in the venue. Trad on the Prom will return with their Irish traditional music shows on 14th May and will perform 3 times per week (Tuesday, Thursday and Sundays) until the end of September. There are also the regular weekly activities in our rooms including Dance Classes for children, Salthill Active Retirement meetings, Baby sensory classes and Unislim meetings. The Event Hall is also being used weekly by Irish Water Safety for resuscitation training.

4.28 Pool

The Leisureland Swim Academy this term now has 1,679 children learning to swim each week (this will increase as this term has just started). The Easter to summer pool timetable is full, with only a few sessions available. Leisureland has reorganized the pool timetable for September to accommodate the additional schools that are trying to access our school's swim program. This September's school term pool bookings are filling fast and look likely to increase usage on previous years. The facility successfully restarted our pool inflatable fun session, with a brand-new pool inflatable. This now operates every weekend and during holiday periods. Leisureland had a successful new Easter swim academy camp of 145 swimmers learning to swim and hope to run these swim camps, during future holiday break periods.

4.29 Potential works:

Leisureland is investigating Asset management and Energy works comprising of the foyer re-roofing, Air handling units for both the pool hall and Event Hall. Also possibly renovating the Event Hall entrance and facilities. Leisureland is are investigating grants available for these works. Repairs were carried out on the adventure golf course along with a full resurfacing of the artificial grass. The work is fully completed, and the amenity reopened the Adventure golf over the Easter holiday period and from now on, as demand requires. The waterslide was serviced and hope to reopen it in the coming days. The pneumatic valves are being replaced in the Leisure pool so that all the pool features will operate again. Some mechanical works are underway to ensure heating capacity. Leisure pool heat exchanger and CHP unit circulating pump.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4.30 Africa Day 2023

Africa Day, the annual celebration of the continent's cultures and people, falls on May 25th each year. Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs partners with local authorities around Ireland to organise events aimed at marking this special and unique day. The following groups will be running events: AMDAF - Amdalah Africa Foundation; FAI - Football Association of Ireland; GAD - Galway African Diaspora; Shining Light; AUG - Africa United Galway; Galway City Baptist Church.

4.31 Galway City Mayors Awards 2023

The 20th Annual Mayor's Awards were open for nominations to mark outstanding contributions made by individuals, community and voluntary groups across Galway City. Many nominations were received across the different categories by the closing date of Friday 24th March 2023. The judging panel met on 3rd May 2023 and selected the winners of the Mayor's Awards categories. All nominees will be presented with an individually designed Mayoral Certificate at the Awards Ceremony which will be held on **Wednesday 24th May 2023 starting at 7.00pm in the Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill**, Galway where the Mayor of Galway City Cllr. Clodagh Higgins will announce the winners including the Galway City Volunteer of the Year Award.

4.32 LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The Local Community Development Committee met on the 26th April and agreed on a significant element of the next Local Economic & Community Plan including the plan's overall Vision, 5 High Level Goals and 17 Objectives. The Committee were advised on progress in relation to the development of the Plan and timescales for completion by Q4 2023. Following agreement on the 17 Objectives in Plan, a 2-year Implementation Plan for 2024 – 2026 will shortly be prepared in draft form for consideration by the LCDC at its next meeting in July 2023.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND FUNDING

4.33 Community Support Fund

Under The Community Support Fund (CSF) all approved groups have received the first 50% payment of their allocated grant. The grant will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with current costs including non-pay running costs such as energy costs (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay

operating costs for e.g., rental/lease costs, insurance bills and capital costs including carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, purchase equipment e.g. tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies, and training equipment etc. Groups have until Friday 28th July 2023 to drawdown their allocated grants.

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

4.34 Offer A Home Scheme

The Offer a Home Scheme was launched nationally in November 2022 and focuses on vacant properties suitable for non-shared accommodation for Displaced Ukrainians. A tax-free recognition payment of €800 per month is available for such properties offered through the scheme. Interested parties register their interest on the offer-a-home website, and the Local Authority coordinates the process with the property owner from there – further details are available here:

<https://offerahome.ie/?faq=1>.

To date, 22 properties have been registered in Galway City, of which 17 properties qualified as non-shared options. Properties which did not qualify under the scheme have been referred to the DCEDIY and Irish Red Cross, depending on their status. With the assistance of Galway City Partnership, 47 displaced Ukrainians have so far been accommodated in 11 of the registered properties. The remaining 6 properties will be coming on-stream for allocation from May to August 2023.



4.35 HEALTHY GALWAY CITY

The Healthy Ireland Fund Local Strategy for Galway City 2023 – 2025 and the Healthy Galway City Round 4 application have been approved by Pobal and are currently with the Department of Health for final approval. Final approval is expected in the coming weeks. Following the stakeholder consultation process and local health risk analysis, the Outcome Indicators selected for the HIF Round 4 are as follows: Percentage of adults & children meeting physical activity guidelines and Increase in individual's level of positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality Index.

Target Groups for prioritisation during HIF Round 4 2023 – 2025 are People living in Disadvantaged Communities; The Traveller Community; People with disabilities / People with mental health issues and Older adults. HGC funded programmes

including Healthy Cookery Demonstrations, walking groups, yoga, gentle exercise, singing lessons are currently taking places in areas including Westside, Ballybane and Ballinfoile. HGC sponsored the University of Galway Paediatric Society "Healthy Heroes" event in March. The event saw local primary school students attend interactive workshops on healthy habits. HGC is partnering with Galway Sports Partnership and the GCC Tourism Office to organise a Family Fun Day in Salthill on Sunday 7th May.

The Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support programme continues to empower the Ukrainian community living in Galway to participate in activities that promote positive mental health and wellbeing. Activities offered so far have included Nature for Health, Dance workshops, Drama workshops, Music Therapy, Art Therapy, Music workshops, social circus programmes and excursions.

Відвідайте Brigit's Garden
Для українських родин, які проживають у місті Голвей
 Субота 27 травня з 9:00 до 15:00
 Забір із театру Black Box о 09:00
 Насолоджуйтесь закусками після прибуття
 Розваги для дітей, екскурсії для дорослих
 Обід надається
 Щоб висловити свою зацікавленість в участі, відвідайте
<https://www.galwaycity.ie/UkrainianWellbeing>
 Ця програма фінансується Департаментом охорони здоров'я та підтримки здоров'я та добробуту українських біженців

Galway City Council has been awarded €10,000 by Department of Health under the Period Poverty Project to deliver pilot project relating to the provision of free period products in certain locations managed by the LA. Free period products will be rolled out in venues managed by Galway City Council in the coming months.

4.36 COMHAIRLE NA NÓg

The Galway City Comhairle na nÓg committee continue to meet weekly in the training room in City Hall on Monday evenings to work on the topic for 2023, which is Physical Disabilities and Accessibility. Galway City Comhairle na nÓg will host an upcoming youth consultation on the 16th of May from 10 am – 1 pm, venue TBC,

with the support of Access For All Galway. The consultation will be for two age ranges of young people with physical disabilities, 12-17 and 18-24. If interested, contact Deirdre Bermingham at deirdre.bermingham@youthworkgalway.ie or 0873291931.

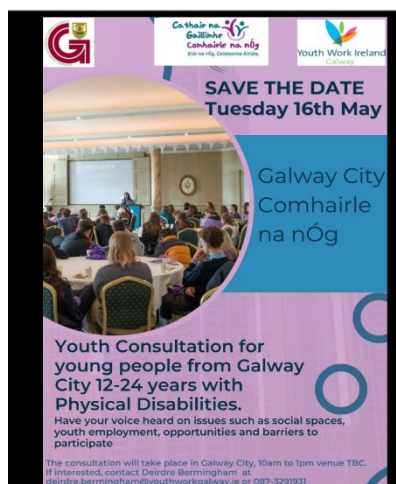
The Comhairle na nÓg Annual Organisers Event 2023 will take place on Friday May 26th at Miesian Plaza. For more information on the work of Galway City Comhairle na nÓg, please follow the social media pages.

www.youthworkgalway.ie

<https://www.facebook.com/youthworkirelandgalway>

<https://www.facebook.com/GalwayCityComhairleNanOg>

<https://www.instagram.com/galwaycitycomhairle>



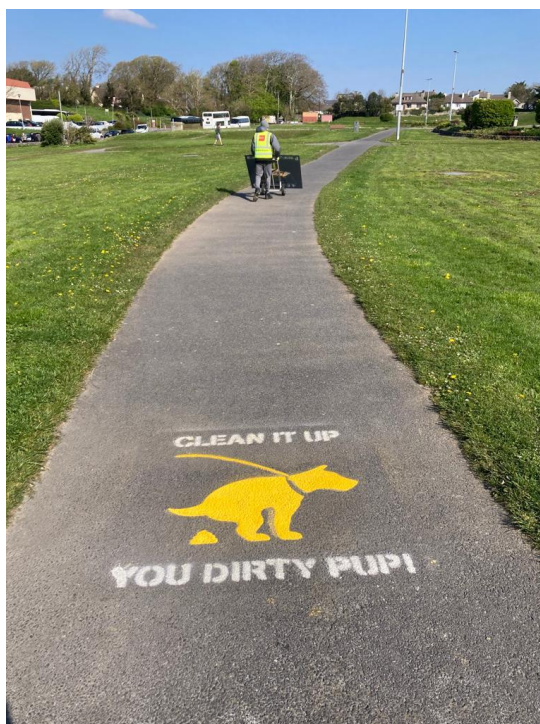
5. Environment & Climate Change

5.1 Greening the laneways



The Greening the Laneways initiative is continuing with good engagement on a local level. The Rocky Road laneway in Westside has now been completed with environmentally friendly murals on the themes of active travel and green energy. Again, the intention is to get buy-in from the start and create a sense of ownership from the locals - and importantly the young people - then we hope it will pay dividends with a reduction in littering, dumping and graffiti and an increase in biodiversity and environmental awareness.

5.2 Clean it up you dirty pup!



The Clean it up you dirty pup! Campaign is progressing with Community Service Galway stencilling and erecting posters in public spaces all over the city. A call out to Residents Association's has been issued in April and a further call out to Businesses and community groups will be issued in May. Groups will be asked to circle dog fouls in their area and the Community service will stencil the footpath and put-up signage in these areas. Galway City and County Council have also developed a joint cinema advert on dog fouling to deal with this challenging area, which is a problem across many Local Authorities.

5.3 Galway City Gardens of the year 2023



Galway City Council is inviting all keen gardeners to celebrate their wonderful green spaces in the annual Garden of the year awards 2023. Entries are welcome in a variety of categories including 'Best Residential Estate', 'Best Front Garden', 'Best School', 'Best Public and Commercial Building' and 'Best Community Project'. Entries are invited online, by (date). Judging will take place throughout June and July with prizes including trophies and up to €300 for winners at an awards ceremony in the Autumn. Please note the competition has been rebranded from the Tidy Towns and Garden Competition to the Galway City Gardens of the year 2023. Entries are welcome online, through <https://www.galwaycity.ie/galway-city-gardens-of-the-year> by 4.00pm on Friday 26th May 2023.

5.4 Automatic Public Convenience

The changing place facility in Ladies Beach is nearing completion with final snags/defects to be closed out. Ongoing engagement occurs with Healthmatic in relation to any maintenance issues that may arise in an effort to ensure that such issues are dealt with promptly.

5.5 Litter Management

Street cleaning crews continue to commence work daily at 5am. 4no road sweepers sweep the City Centre and then move to different sections of the city. The deep

clean trial is continuing where a tractor and bowser spray water on to the streets in the early morning which help the road sweepers with the brushing of the road. We are now going to progress this trial on to other areas of the city centre. For the most part the feedback on this initiative has been positive, with people pleased with the results. Two business to date have made complaints regarding water getting in under their doors. GCC has engaged with this business to see if the business can incorporate simple changes to prevent the ingress of water. GCC are also reviewing if the power of the water being distributed by the tanker can be changed depending on the locations.

Litter management crews work throughout the city daily undertaking litter picks, cleaning illegal dumping, emptying street litter bins, bulky good collections, and community clean up collections. There has been an increase in the participation in Community clean ups in the last month.

The Civic Amenity Site is open, 6 days a week and is a frequently used facility by the public.

The amount of cardboard being collected by GCC staff in the City Centre has reduced last month compared to previous months. This cardboard originates from Businesses that leave it out for collection overnight. The cardboard bundles are being ripped open and thrown around the streets. Business have taken steps to improve and secure their presentation of cardboard.

The roof of the toilet block in Eyre Square is cleared daily of rubbish being stored on top of it. The instances on rubbish being found there have now greatly reduced.

Bins continue to be vandalised on a regular basis. This includes graffiti, political posters, advertising posters and damage to the cigarette holders on the sides of the bins. It has been noted that there is a significant increase in the number of Posters been stuck on the bins, which when removed leave glue residue which is difficult to take off. Community wardens are currently investigating any leads to this vandalism.

5.6 Markets/Casual Trading

The Casual Trading Bye Law 2022 review submissions opened on 06.03.2023 and closed on the 14.04.2023. 23 submissions have been received, 15 online via the portal and 8 written submissions were received by post. The submissions received are currently being considered and engagement with other departments across the Council may be necessary. The matter will come up for discussion at the Climate Action, Environment, Recreation & Amenity SPC meeting of 24th May 2023.

5.7 Waste Enforcement

Waste enforcement staff continue to work through Galway City Council's inspection plan for 2023, aligned with the following waste enforcement priorities:

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity
- Construction and demolition activity

- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) Directive & the Waste Metal Industry
- Waste Collection – Household & Commercial
- Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities

1,660 waste inspections are planned for 2023. Non-compliances detected through routine and non-routine inspections are followed up with enforcement action, as appropriate. By end April 2023, 468 waste-related inspections were completed. In most cases, compliance was achieved following engagement with those involved. In a small number of cases, however, enforcement action was necessary; 5 Section 14 Directions were issued, 1 Section 55 Notice was issued, 2 Notices under the Packaging Regulations were issued, and legal proceedings were instigated against 2 individuals for unauthorised waste activity.

In May, staff from the Community Warden team and the Environment Team will undertake waste enforcement training to build capacity within Galway City Council for tackling waste enforcement issues. The bespoke training course was designed specifically for Galway City Council staff and will focus on case studies and scenarios, as well as the powers of an authorised officer and the enforcement options available to local authority staff under the waste legislation. 17 Galway City Council staff are scheduled to attend.

The Waste Enforcement Officer has commenced the process of validating the Waste Collection Permit and Waste Facility Annual Returns for 2022. This is a significant and valuable body of work that allows for the monitoring and tracking of waste activity in Galway City. There are currently 15 permitted waste collectors based in Galway City. There are currently 3 facilities with a Waste Facility Permit and 1 facility with a Certificate of Registration in Galway City.

5.8 Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023

Galway City Council has applied for funding for 7 projects under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023. It is expected that the successful projects will be announced in the coming weeks, with project work planned for the summer months. The Anti-Dumping Initiative, which is funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, aims to reduce incidents of illegal dumping by supporting projects aimed at tackling the problem. Details on the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023, along with the project selection criteria, were set out in Circular WP 05.23, dated 14th March 2023, from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

6. Financial Report

The Local Government Auditor has commenced some preliminary Audit work on the unaudited Financial Statements for 2022 and this work continued during April 2023.

These unaudited accounts for 2022 were approved by Council at the April 2023 Council meeting on 12th April 2023.

Capital Expenditure of €11m has been incurred in so far in 2023 and has been across the following areas:

- Housing Construction and Acquisitions,
- Housing Adaption Grants
- Capital Advance Leasing Facility
- Road traffic Improvements
- Transport Planning

Approval for an overdraft limit of €8m was sanctioned by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government for 2023 and Galway City Council did not require the use of this facility during April 2023.

Commercial Rates

2023 rate demands totaling €39,297,819 were issued on the 19th January to 3,762 customers in Galway City. Receipts to end April amount to €12.62m which is favorable on that collected in the same period previous years.

We continue to offer various payment options and payment plans and promote our direct debit facility, which allows businesses to spread the costs across the year. This year direct debits will be taken over a ten month period instead of 9 months in previous years, thus reducing instalment amounts, so far we have had a significant increase in customers opting to pay by Direct Debit.

Commercial Rates Revaluation 2023

Further Proposed Valuation Certs (PVC) (Tranche 4) were issued on the 13th April 2023 with a representation submission deadline of 22nd May 2023. They relate to properties, mainly in the Medical/Pharma sector.

The Valuation Office have advised that all remaining PVCs will issue on the following dates:

- 18th May (270 between all the REVAL counties)
- 27th May (3500 in total between all the REVAL counties)

Housing Rents & Loans

Our collection on Housing Rents to end of March was €3.08m and €506,255 in Loans which is line with same period last year. The standard variable interest rate charged by local authorities to variable rate mortgage holders increased by 1% with effect from 1 April 2023. Notification was issued in March to variable interest customers regarding

their change of instalment and were advised to make the necessary arrangements to amend payments. Increased interest rates together with an increase in cost of living may have an impact on repayment capacity, however the Debt Management Unit will work with any customer who faces difficulties in meeting their loan repayments.

7. Other Issues

7.1 Salthill Knockacarra Ladies Football Club Receive Mayoral Reception

A Mayoral Reception was held on Monday, the 17th of April to celebrate the historic achievement of the Salthill Knocknacarra Ladies Football Team, on winning the All-Ireland Championship on the 17th of December 2022.



Speaking about the achievements of the team, Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Clodagh Higgins said, “After one tough hour on the pitch, the scores were Salthill Knocknacarra 1-7, Naomh Aban 0-4 – making Salthill Knocknacarra Junior Ladies victorious in their task of becoming All-Ireland Junior Football Club Champions 2022.”

“I wish to congratulate you on your fantastic achievement as a team, and as young women in sport.”

“It is widely acknowledged that participation in sport has a wealth of positive impacts. It boosts our heart health, our physical fitness, our flexibility and most importantly, our mental health. Sport also brings a wealth of other positive impacts, including building self-confidence and teamwork skills.”

“And still in spite of these amazing benefits, girls frequently give up sport.”

“There is much discussion about what can be done to address this, from looking at the impact of injury, to the influence of social media and the importance of non-sporting interactions.”

“However, when I look for inspiration for girls in their young sporting careers, I sincerely believe that the achievements of the Junior Ladies All-Ireland football champions in this room will have untold positive impacts for girls in sport in Galway.”

“The girls who are practicing their camogie, football, basketball, or swimming of a weekday evening, who feel like giving up – your example, your enthusiasm, your skill, and pure joy in sport are the best sales pitch there is. You are a living example of what can be achieved by women in sport.”

“Congratulations to you all on what is only the start of your personal and sporting achievements. I have no doubt that the skills and experiences you have had to get to this point will stand you in good stead in future – the ability to work together as a team; your dedication turning up to training and honing your skills week in week out; the mental resilience required to take the good with the bad, and to keep coming back – these achievements will stand to you in your sporting and personal lives.”

“Congratulations to all of the parents and family in the room today – your dedication and belief in your daughters, sisters and nieces is palpable, and so is your pride. And so, you should be proud of these exemplary sportspeople.”

“To the backroom team – led by team Manger Donal O’Connell - You support and guide the team through every match and every training session, and you are to be commended for sharing your time, knowledge and skills, particularly as you are all volunteers. No doubt you will lead this team, and the teams of young girls coming up behind them, to many more victories.”

“As my local team, I am particularly interested in seeing what else you have in store, as you continue to take to the pitch. Here’s to the next big win for Salthill Knocknacarra GAA!”

7.2 Richard Hayes Honoured at Mayoral Reception for Circumnavigating Ireland Solo

On Friday 21st April 2023, the Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Clodagh Higgins, hosted a mayoral reception in honour of Richard Hayes. In May 2018, Richard set off on a solo circumnavigation of Ireland, in a tiny dingy called the Laser One. Having passed Slyne Head, Malin Head, Rathlin Island and the Antrim Coast, the Blasket Islands, a pod of dolphins, and the highest sea cliffs in Ireland, Richard sailed into Galway Bay on Saturday the 15th September 2018 - all without a backup water support team. Richard’s voyage had two main aims - to highlight the preventable nature of cardiovascular disease and stroke, and to fundraise for equipment such as defibrillators.



Speaking about the achievements of Richard Hayes, Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Clodagh Higgins said, “An unsupported solo sail around Ireland is a very rare event – requiring skill, dedication, fitness and also a lot of patience – to plan and prepare for such an ambitious task, and to wait for the right weather and the right conditions... Along the way on Richard’s solo sail around Ireland, Richard and his family met with the kindness of strangers many times – from those who offered beds, to meals and coffee, and the farmers who towed the boat up sand dunes with their quad bikes. Communities across Ireland have been repaid in kind, in your efforts to keep them and their loved ones free from the heartache of losing a loved one to heart disease”.

Richard’s mother Celine introduced him to sailing when he was just 8 years old, in Loug Derg, Co. Galway. Some years later, Celine passed away as a result of a heart attack – there was no access to a defibrillator, which might have saved her life. Richard’s trip raised over 11,270euro for local heart health charity, Croí.

Croí is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the fight against heart disease and stroke, two major causes of death in Ireland. Croí provides our community with a state-of-the-art Heart and Stroke Centre in Galway and complimentary apartments for family members of those receiving treatment during one of the most stressful and frightening times of their lives. Mayor Higgins encouraged attendees to continue to support Croí in their vital work.

Mayor Higgins also paid tribute to Richard’s family, Michael, Libhín and Michelle, who supported him every step of the way on this journey, and wished Richard the very best in his future, on the water, and on land.

7.3 Correspondence from Minister O'Donnell re: Galway City Development Plan & Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000

On the 3rd of May 2023, Kieran O'Donnell TD, Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, wrote to Galway City Council issuing a Direction regarding the City Development Plan. This was in response to the submissions made to the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) by the Council in relation to the Galway City Development Plan 2023- 2029, as adopted by the elected members of the Council on the 24th November 2022.

For full text of both Ministerial Direction and the attached letter, see Appendix 1 on pg. 67.

7.4 The Archive of His Excellency Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe and Galway City Council has been engaging with the Office of the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins for some time in relation to the hosting of the Presidents archive in Galway City. Agreement has now been reached in principle that the archive of the President will be hosted in Galway. A significant portion of the Presidents archive will be hosted by and curated by the University of Galway. The Mayor, Councillor Clodagh Higgins and the Chief Executive met with the President and his staff on the 02nd May 2022 to agree to the manner in which the archive will be housed across Galway City. Both the local authority and the Presidents office believe that the archive will become a major addition to Galway's cultural, social and historical life, highlighting the unique connection between the President and the people of Galway. The archive will include many international aspects of the Presidents work, particularly in Latin America and Africa. Galway City Council has jointly agreed with the University of Galway to collaborate fully in relation to the Presidents archive. The City Councils involvement with the archive will provide for public access to the Presidents book collection through the City and County Library service. Part of the Presidents archive, artefacts and artwork will be housed in the city museum and also in the future, in existing local authority property once grant support has been received to renovate some additional space. The President of the University of Galway, Ciarán O hÓgartaigh, the Mayor of Galway Councillor Clodagh Higgins and the undersigned are delighted that this prestigious archive has been secured for Galway and we wish to commend an tUachtarán Michael D. Higgins and his team for working so closely with the University and the City Council over the last few years to secure the archive for Galway. The President has expressed his thanks and satisfaction to the University and the City Council for ensuring that his historic, valuable and interesting archive will be available to future generations in Galway highlighting all aspects of the Presidents life and career across academia, social justice, irish language, public representative and President of Ireland. The public-facing elements of the archive, including the Presidents book

collection will be hugely important, interesting and a future tourist and visitor attraction across the city museum, city library and other Galway City Council facilities.

7.5 Local Level Women's Caucus Workshop, 24th May

In 2021, following the publication of Department funded research undertaken by the National Women's Council of Ireland, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage allocated funding to local authorities for the establishment and support of local level women's caucuses. Following an application process, 24 local authorities in total (including a regional caucus incorporating a number of local authorities co-ordinated by AILG and the SHE Project) received funding. In 2022, this funding stream was amalgamated with the *Increasing the Participation of Women and Diversity in Local Government* Call for Funding to Local Authorities, with further funding offered to support existing caucuses or for the establishment of new ones.

The Department, in collaboration with the WoMeN's Regional Caucus and the National Women's Council, now feel it is opportune to organise a workshop type event for local authority officials who have a role in the aforementioned caucuses, to discuss issues such as structures, challenges, opportunities, further Department support and an opportunity to share experiences.

The Department also wishes to engage with officials from local authorities who do not have a caucus in place or have not previously availed of supports made available by the Department. Research has shown that caucuses for women in politics are one mechanism that have been used internationally to strengthen the capacity of women holding elected office and increase the number of women contesting for seats. Therefore, the Department would be very keen to ensure that all local authorities consider the possibility of establishing caucuses within their own area to support existing women councillors. This event may be particularly useful to hear about the experiences of other local authorities and officials, while the regional caucus executive will speak about their experiences.

It is proposed to hold the workshop type event on May 24th at a location in Mullingar. To gauge numbers, The Department would appreciate if Galway City Council officials and elected members could indicate their availability as soon as possible. An agenda will issue nearer the time.

To read the Department funded research by the National Women's Council underpinning this initiative, see here:

https://www.nwci.ie/images/uploads/Women_doing_politics_differently_-_establishing_caucus_with_women_councillors.pdf

7.6 Water Sector - Master Co-operation Agreement & Data Sharing Agreements

It has been agreed that all 31 Local Authorities, including Galway City Council, will formally sign with Uisce Éireann a Master Co-operation & Data Sharing Agreements on Friday 5th May 2023.

In 2013, the Water Services (No. 2) Act established Irish Water as the company that would be legally responsible for owning, operating and maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure and delivering water services and wastewater services in Ireland. The effect of this legislation meant that local authorities ceased to have the functions and the powers previously conferred on them by the Water Services Act 2007.

Irish Water is now formally known as Uisce Éireann. To enable Uisce Éireann to discharge its functions under the Water Services (No.2) Act 2013, Uisce Éireann and the local authorities entered into a Service Level Agreement dated 01st January 2014 which (1) detailed the services that the local authority would provide to Uisce Éireann in support of the Water Services Functions; and (2) detailed a relationship between Uisce Éireann and Galway City Council with respect to such services (the “SLA”). The SLA is due to expire on the 01st January 2026.

On the 23rd February 2021 the Government issued a revised policy paper – “Uisce Éireann – Towards a national, publicly-owned, regulated, water services utility”. In June 2022, The Workplace Relations Commission published a document entitled “Framework For the Future Delivery of Water Services (the Framework)”. This provides for a new agreement to replace the Service Level Agreement. It has now been agreed between the parties that the Service Level Agreement is to be terminated and replaced by a Master Co-operation Agreement. The purpose of this new agreement is to provide for Uisce Éireann to have full accountability for water services functions and also for Uisce Éireann to have the necessary management and direction of Galway City Council water services staff (as will be defined in a supporting document).

Separately, Irish Water and all local authorities, including Galway City Council, will enter into a Support Services Agreement. This will set out the services that Galway City Council has agreed to provide to Uisce Éireann in the support of the delivery by Uisce Éireann of specified water services functions. It is anticipated that in Galway City Council’s case that a Support Services Agreement will be finalised, if possible, by the end of June 2023. In the event that the agreement is not finalised by this date, Galway City Council will continue to provide SLA support services until the Support Services Agreement is signed and commenced. Preparatory work to enable the commencement of the finalised Support Services Agreement will be extensive and very onerous. It will require significant inputs from various department in Galway City Council, including the existing water services unit, human resources, corporate services, ICT, facilities, health & safety, corporate governance etc.

Nationally, the transition to Uisce Éireann taking full operational command and control of water service function delivery will be completed before the 31st December 2023 over three tranches. Galway City Council forms part of Tranche One transition group and as outlined, we will be aiming to complete the transition before the end of June 2023. With the commencement of the new arrangements, recruitment of new staff to water service functions will commence directly by Uisce Éireann. Existing staff who may wish to transition to Uisce Éireann or to remain with the local authority will have to the end of 2026 to finalise their position. By this date, all local authorities will have ceased completely to have any role in relation to water services provision. It is anticipated that most existing staff will finalise their position earlier in the process. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has formally committed to recoup and be responsible for all local authority stranded costs arising from the transition to Uisce Éireann. Furthermore, existing local authority staff who do not transition to Uisce Éireann will have the relevant costs recouped to Galway City Council.

The Council will be kept informed as this transition progresses over the coming weeks/months.

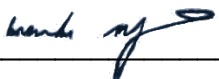
The signing of the Framework Agreement will initiate the process of transitioning to effective command and control of water services delivery by Uisce Éireann for the various tranches of Local Authorities, Galway City being in tranche one. Please be advised that the signing of the Master Co-operation Agreement by each Chief Executive does not in the short term have any effect to Water Operations on the ground. Direction and control of water services will only pass to Uisce Éireann from proposed effective dates.

Effective dates for each local authority will follow and the Council will be kept informed as the transition progresses.

8. Notable Dates

Date	Time – Meeting
08/05/2023	15:00 – 18:30 Ordinary Council Meeting
09/05/2023	09:30 – 11:30 Transport SPC
12/05/2023	14:00 – 15:30 Economic, Community & Culture SPC
19/05/2023	11:00 – 13:00 Northern & Western Regional Assembly
22/05/2023	15:00 – 18:00 Special Council Meeting
24/05/2023	14:30 – 17:00 Environment SPC
24/05/2023	10:00 – 11:30 LTACC Meeting
26/05/2023	09:30 – 11:30 Housing SPC
29/05/2023	Planning SPC
30/05/2023	Audit Meeting

9. Update on issues arising from previous Council Meetings

Signed: 

Brendan McGrath,
Chief Executive

5th May 2023

Appendix 1

Letter from Minister Kieran O'Donnell regarding Section 31 Direction

An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



3rd May 2023

For the Attention of: Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive

Galway City Council
City Hall
College Road
Galway
H91 X4K8

Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
Decision to Issue a Direction to Galway City Council regarding the
Galway City Development Plan 2023 – 2029

Dear Brendan,

I am writing to inform you of the following in relation to the section 31 draft Direction that issued to Galway City Council on 13th January 2023, and the subsequent consideration by the Office of the Planning Regulator ('the Office') of your report and the submissions made directly to the Office in connection with the Galway City Development Plan 2023 – 2029, as adopted by the elected members of Galway City Council on 24th November 2022.

The Office notified the Minister pursuant to section 31AN(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 ('the Act') on 23rd March 2023 and recommended that I, as Minister, issue the Direction as attached to the *Notice of Intention to Issue a Direction*, with minor amendments.

The draft Direction contained the following parts:

- Part 2(a) - reinstate zoning objectives to that of the draft Plan in the case of fourteen (14) identified locations in Galway City;
- Part 2(b) - delete eleven (11) zoning objectives from the adopted Plan: i.e. the subject land is unzoned.

Oifig an tAire Stáit atá freagrach as an
Rialtas Áitiúil agus Pleanáil
Minister of State for Local
Government and Planning

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A copy of the notice letter and proposed final Direction was submitted to the Minister by the Office along with supporting documentation, which included the following:

- Galway City Council Chief Executive's Report issued under section 31(8) of the Act;
- A copy of submissions received by the Office pursuant to section 31(10) of the Act.

Having reviewed and considered the Office's notification letter under section 31AN(4), your report on the draft Direction and submissions received, and the submissions made directly by elected members of the Council to the Office, I am of the opinion that the Direction should be issued in line with the recommendations of the Office (with minor renumbering to address a typographical issue), and in that regard I refer you to the Statement of Reasons set out in the enclosed Direction.

Having noted your recommendations as Chief Executive under section 31(9) of the Act in relation to the best manner in which to give effect to the draft Direction, I am in agreement with the Office's recommendation to also omit identified specific development objectives from the plan that correspond to individual land use zonings included in the Direction and in this regard you will note the insertion of Part 2(c) in the final Direction as issued.

In relation to your recommendation to consider the insertion of appropriate alternative land use zoning objectives on certain identified lands, I am of the opinion that should the planning authority consider alternative zoning objectives are necessary, this is a matter that would be most appropriately determined by the elected members of Galway City Council in exercise of their reserved function to vary the development plan pursuant to section 13 of the Act. This process would be informed by environmental assessment, as well as public consultation, and would provide an opportunity for further engagement with the Office. In relation to specific matters raised in submissions relating to the development of land which previously had the benefit of a grant of permission, I am specifically precluded by section 30 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) from exercising any power or control in relation to any particular case



with which a planning authority is or may be concerned. I am of the opinion that matters relating to such lands are most appropriately dealt with at the local level by the City Council as planning authority.

Accordingly, Galway City Council should **TAKE NOTICE** that on the 3rd day of May, 2023 I have issued a Direction pursuant to section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Pursuant to section 31(17) of the Act this Direction is deemed to have immediate effect and its terms are considered to be incorporated into the plan. A copy of this Direction is enclosed.

In light of the foregoing, Galway City Council is required, pursuant to section 31(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to comply with this Direction so as to rectify the matter in a manner that, in my opinion, will ensure that the Galway City Development Plan 2023 – 2029 sets out an overall strategy for proper planning and sustainable development and meets the requirements of the Act.

The Council should ensure that the Direction is available for inspection at its offices and on its website.

My officials remain available to assist you, as necessary, in complying with the foregoing process.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran O'Donnell TD

Minister of State for Local Government and Planning

Direction from the Minister of State for Local Government under Section 31 regarding Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029

DIRECTION IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 31

OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (as amended)

Galway City Development Plan 2023 – 2029

"Development Plan" means the Galway City Development Plan 2023 – 2029

"Planning Authority" means Galway City Council

The Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (No.30 of 2000) and the Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2023 (S.I. No. 116 of 2023), and consequent to a recommendation made to him by the Office of the Planning Regulator under section 31AN(4) of the Act, hereby directs as follows:

(1) This Direction may be cited as the Planning and Development (Galway City Development Plan 2023 – 2029) Direction 2023.

(2) The Planning Authority is hereby directed to take the following steps with regard to the Development Plan:

(a) Reinstate the following zoning objectives to that of the draft Plan:

- (i) A.4 Coolagh Road – i.e. subject land reverts to Agriculture and High Amenity (G) from Enterprise, Light Industry and Commercial (CI).
- (ii) A.9 Off Headford Road and Sandyvale Lawn – i.e. subject land reverts to Recreation and Amenity (RA) from Residential (R).
- (iii) A.11 Dublin Road – i.e. subject land reverts to Recreation and Amenity (RA) from Residential (R).

- (iv) A.13 Terryland – i.e. subject land reverts to Recreation and Amenity from Residential.
- (v) A.15 Quarry Road, Menlo – i.e. subject land reverts to Agriculture (A) from Residential (R2).
- (vi) A.16 Ballindoooley – i.e. subject land reverts to Agriculture (A) from Residential (R2).
- (vii) A.17 Off Circular Road – i.e. subject land reverts to Agriculture (A) from Residential (R2).
- (viii) A.18 Off Circular Road – i.e. subject land reverts to Agriculture (A) from Residential (R2).
- (ix) A.19 Menlo Village Extension – i.e. subject land reverts to Agriculture and High Amenity (G) from Residential (R2).
- (x) A.20 Quarry Road – i.e. subject land reverts to Agriculture and High Amenity (G) from Residential (R2).
- (xi) A.21 Roscam – i.e. subject land reverts to Agriculture and High Amenity (G) from Residential (R2).
- (xii) A.23 Roscam – i.e. subject land reverts to Agriculture and High Amenity (G) from Residential (R2).
- (xiii) A.24 Menlo Village Extension – i.e. subject land reverts to Agriculture and High Amenity (G) from Residential (R2).
- (xiv) A.25 Headford Road – i.e. subject land reverts to Recreation and Amenity (RA) from Residential R2.

(b) Delete the following zoning objectives from the adopted Plan: i.e. the subject land is unzoned:

- (i) Land zoned Residential R2 in the adopted Plan at Cappagh consistent with the recommendation of the chief executive's report dated 16th June 2022.
- (ii) Figure 11.20 Ballindoooley.
- (iii) Figure 11.26 Coolagh area.

- (iv) Figure 11.31 Coolagh area.
- (v) Figure 11.29 Quarry Road Menlo and two further sites on Monument Road Menlo.
- (vi) Figure 11.27 in the Castlegar area.
- (vii) Figure 11.28 in the Castlegar area.
- (viii) Figure 11.24 in the Roscam area.
- (ix) Figure 11.30 in the Roscam area.
- (x) Figure 11.14 in the extended Roscam area.
- (xi) Figure 11.25 Murrough.

(c) Omit the specific development objectives in Section 11.2.8 of the Development Plan for the following lands as set out in the Chief Executive recommendations in the Chief Executive's Report dated 3rd March 2023:

- A.15 Quarry Road, Menlo.
- A.16 Ballindooley.
- A.19 Menlo Village Extension.
- A.20 Quarry Road.
- A.23 Roscam.
- A.24 Menlo Village Extension.
- Land zoned Residential R2 in the adopted Plan at Cappagh consistent with the recommendation of the chief executive's report dated 16th June 2022.
- Figure 11.20 Ballindooley.
- Figure 11.26 Coolagh area.
- Figure 11.31 Coolagh area.
- Figure 11.29 Quarry Road Menlo and two further sites on Monument Road Menlo.

- Figure 11.27 in the Castlegar area.
- Figure 11.28 in the Castlegar area.
- Figure 11.24 in the Roscam area.
- Figure 11.30 in the Roscam area.
- Figure 11.14 in the extended Roscam area.
- Figure 11.25 Murrough.

STATEMENT OF REASONS

I. Pursuant to section 31(1)(b), section 31(1)(ba)(i) and section 31(1)(c)

The Development Plan as made includes land zoned for residential development that individually and cumulatively are not consistent with the Core Strategy, national and regional planning policy, and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, including:

- a. Land zoned for residential development that is not consistent with the Core Strategy in the adopted Plan.
- b. Land zoned for residential development in peripheral and unserved locations in a piecemeal and non-sequential manner inconsistent with the requirement for compact growth in NPO 3(a-b) of the NPF and RPO 3.2 of the RSES and to strengthen the value of greenbelts and green spaces under NPO 62, the requirement under section 10(2)(n) of the Act for objectives to promote sustainable settlement and transport strategies to reduce energy use and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and fails to have regard to the sequential approach to development having regard to the policy and objective of the Development Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022) ("the Development Plan Guidelines") regarding the sequential approach to zoning for residential development (section 6.2.3)

II. Pursuant to section 31(1)(ba)(i) and section 31(1)(c)

The Development Plan as made includes extensive areas of land zoned Residential R2 in a piecemeal manner in unserviced and peripheral and/ or isolated locations, and more often in areas otherwise zoned Agriculture or Agriculture and High Amenity, that would undermine the potential of the city to deliver its 50% compact growth target in NPO 3(a-b) of the NPF, and inconsistent with NPO 62 to strengthen the value of greenbelts and green spaces at a city level.

III. Pursuant to section 31(1)(ba)(i) and section 31(1)(c)

Land zoned for Enterprise, Light Industry and Commercial (CI) at an unserviced and remote location at Coolagh Road (material amendment A.4) inconsistent with the tiered approach to zoning under NPO 72 (a-c) of the NPF, the requirement under section 10(2)(n) of the Act for objectives to promote sustainable settlement and transport strategies to reduce energy use and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and fails to have regard to Development Plans Guidelines regarding sequential development in a city context, in particular in relation to the prioritisation of new development along high quality public transport corridors.

IV Pursuant to section 31(1)(ba)(i) and section 31(1)(c)

Land zoned for residential development in areas known to be at risk of flooding inconsistent with NPO 57 of the NPF, which seeks to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding in accordance with Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Act, The Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) ("the Flood Guidelines").

V Pursuant to section 31(1)(c)

No adequate reasons nor explanations relating to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area have been provided to explain why lands have been zoned in such a way and how this approach (involving a failure to zone lands having regard to the Development Plan Guidelines and

Flood Guidelines) is consistent with an overall strategy for the proper and sustainable development of the area.

VI Pursuant to section 31(1)(a)(i)(II)

The Development Plan has not been made in a manner consistent with, and has failed to implement, the recommendations of the Office of the Planning Regulator under Section 31AM of the Act.

GIVEN under my hand,



Kieran O'Donnell TD
Minister of State for Local Government and Planning

3 May, 2023