

Minutes of the March Plenary Council Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams on Monday 10th March 2025 at 3.00p.m.	
Presiding	Cllr. P. Keane, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present (Elected Members)	Councillors: A. Burke, A. Curran, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, J. McDonagh, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, H. Ogbu, E. Seoighthe
Present (virtually)	Councillors: M.J. Crowe, S. Forde
Present (Executive)	Mr. L. Cleary, Chief Executive Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Ms. H. Kilroy, Director of Finance Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner Ms. S. Carroll, Senior Executive Officer Mr. B. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer Mr. J. Higgins, Heritage Officer Ms. A. Kenny, Administrative Officer
Apologies	Cllr. A. Cheevers, J. Forde

Note: The Minutes of the Meeting and Agenda items are recorded in the order of their consideration.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator commenced the meeting with a statement of intent to conduct the business of the meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Mayor P. Keane welcomed all attendees. As this meeting of the City Council was to be conducted bilingually (Irish and English), the Mayor proposed the suspension of Standing Orders to facilitate the recording of a portion of the proceedings. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

Mayor. P. Keane gave a brief introduction As Gaeilge. He described the meeting as a historic occasion, marking the first fully bilingual meeting since the establishment of Galway City Council and emphasised the significance of the Irish language and Seachtain na Gaeilge to the city.

The Mayor invited the Chief Executive, Mr. L. Cleary to give a brief address. Mr. L. Cleary described the meeting as an opportunity to reflect on Galway City's achievements in promoting the Irish language to date and highlighted the substantial work required to fulfill obligations under the Official Languages Act.

A number of Members welcomed the fully bilingual meeting, highlighting the importance of the Irish language and expressed their appreciation to the Executive for its organisation. Cllr. F. Fahy suggested that a fully bilingual meeting should become an annual event and proposed that it be held each year during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

1. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest (Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended).

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 1 and invited comments. There were no conflicts disclosed.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

(a) January Plenary Council meeting held on 10th February 2025.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 2(a) and invited matters of accuracy or matters arising.

Under matters of accuracy, Cllr. E. Hoare referred to his comments on Multimodal Transport and asked if these could be included in the draft minutes. This was agreed.

The following matters were raised under matters arising:

- Update on the estimated cost of the damage from storm Éowyn and what the plan is for dangerous & fallen trees.
- Update on the Ballybane Community Centre lease agreement.
- Update on the Pálas Cinema and what the feasibility is of holding the Fleadh in the Pálas venue this summer.
- Update on Crown Square Project, consultations with staff and unions regarding the move and valuations.
- Update on the timeline for Multimodal Transport.

Cllr. M. Cubbard also referred to a recent media article concerning proposals for the Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP) 2025 discussed at the February meeting and requested the Executive to confirm that no proposals were submitted for ASDP 2025 at the February plenary meeting.

The Executive responded to matters raised. Mr. L. Cleary advised Members that the Executive are working closely with the Unions & staff regarding the move to Crown Square and that he hopes to have the valuations available for the April meeting.

Cllr. C. Higgins proposed that a special meeting be convened to discuss the Crown Square Project and its valuations, with the valuation report made available at the meeting. This was Seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and agreed.

Mayor P. Keane called for a show of hands in favour of this proposal.

Proposed By: Cllr. C. Higgins		Seconded By: Cllr. T. O’Flaherty		
A Special Council meeting be convened to discuss the Crown Square Project and its valuations, with the valuation report made available at the meeting.				
In favour: 15	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 3	Present: 15
This motion was carried.				

Mayor P. Keane called for a Proposer and Seconder for agenda item 2(a).

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy
2(a) February Plenary Council meeting held on 10 th February 2025.	
The minutes of the February plenary council meeting were agreed and adopted.	

3. Business Prescribed by Statute

3(a) LCDC Annual Report 2024 (for noting)

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(a) and invited comments.

The Chair of the LCDC, Cllr. H. Ogbu briefed Members on this item and thanked her colleagues and the Executive for their commitment.

3(a) LCDC Annual Report 2024
The LCDC Annual Report 2024 was noted by Members.

3(b) Local Community Development Committee – Appointment of One (1) Member (for the lifetime of the Council) (Group system of appointment applies).

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(b) and invited proposals.

Cllr. F. Fahy proposed Cllr. N. McNelis. This proposal was subsequently withdrawn.

Cllr. A. Curran proposed Cllr. E. Seoighthe. This was Seconded by Cllr. E. Hoare and agreed.

Mayor P. Keane called for a show of hands in favour of this proposal.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran	Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare
Cllr. E. Seoighthe be appointed to the Local Community Development Committee for the lifetime of the Council.	
In favour: 15	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 3
Present: 15	
This motion was carried.	

3(c) Naming and Civic Commemorative Committee Recommendations.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(c) and invited comments.

Ms. A. Rohan commented on this item and informed Members that at the Civic Naming Committee meetings held on 11 February 2025 and 12 November 2024, it was agreed by the committee that two names be recommended to CPG for consideration for commemoration in Galway City for Mr. Ronnie O’Gorman and Mr. C.I. O’Flynn. Having considered the recommendations at the CPG meeting on 3 March 2025, the Corporate Policy Group approved that the two proposals progress to Council for consideration.

A discussion followed, during which several Members expressed their support for both recommendations, highlighting it as a meaningful gesture to honour and acknowledge both men’s legacy and contributions to the city.

Mayor P. Keane called for a show of hands in favour of the following recommendation:

Proposed By: Cllr. T. O’Flaherty	Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell
That Mr. Ronnie O’ Gorman & Mr. C.I. O’ Flynn be considered for commemoration in Galway City.	
In favour: 14	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 4
Present: 14	
This motion was carried.	

3(d) Audit Committee Annual Report 2024 (for noting).

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(d) and invited comments.

Ms. H. Kilroy briefed Members on this item.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy
3(d) Audit Committee Annual Report 2024	
The Audit Committee Annual Report 2024 was noted.	

3(e) Audit Committee S121 Report (for noting).

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(e) and invited comments.

Ms. H. Kilroy briefed Members on this item.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy
3(e) Audit Committee S121 Report	
The Audit Committee S121 Report was noted.	

3(f) Audited Annual Financial Statements and Statutory Local Government Audit Report for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(f) and invited comments.

Ms. H. Kilroy briefed Members on this item. A brief discussion followed where several queries were raised by Members and responded to by Ms. H. Kilroy.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy
3(f) Audited Annual Financial Statements and Statutory Local Government Audit Report for the year ended 31 December 2023.	
In favour: 14 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 4 Present: 14 Item 3(f) was agreed and approved.	

3(g) Audit Committee Charter.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(g) and invited comments.

Ms. H. Kilroy briefed Members on this item. Mayor P. Keane called for a proposer and seconder and for a show of hands in favour of agenda item 3(g).

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare
3(g) Audit Committee Charter.	
In favour: 14 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 4 Present: 14 Item 3(g) was agreed and approved.	

4(a) Notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 3rd March 2025.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 4(a) and invited comments.

Mayor P. Keane called for a proposer and seconder for agenda item 4(a).

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare
4(a) Notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 3 rd March 2025.	
Item 4(a) was noted and agreed.	

5(a) Land Development Agency (LDA) - Part 10 application for new housing at the Dyke Road (verbal update).

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 5(a) and invited comments.

Mr. L. Cleary provided an update on this item, informing Members that two briefing sessions had been held on the matter. He expressed gratitude to the LDA and Elected Members for their engagement and contributions. Addressing concerns

regarding parking, he noted that a viable solution had been identified. He assured Members that investment in a multi-story car park would be considered when necessary and sought their support for such an initiative when required. He clarified that the approval for 219 apartments constitutes Phase 1 as a standalone project, while Phase 2 will specifically address the multi-story car park. He requested Members' consent for Phase 1, which will include mitigation measures for parking as well as provisions to integrate park-and-ride facilities with the BusConnects program. Additionally, Mr. L. Cleary advised Members that a briefing will be held on the five locations of Park and Ride.

A discussion followed and a number of queries were raised by Members and responded to by the Executive.

Mayor P. Keane called for a proposer and seconder and for a show of hands for agenda item 5(a) and to progress with Phase 1 of the project.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy
5(a) Land Development Agency (LDA) - Part 10 application for new housing at the Dyke Road	
In favour: 13	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Present: 13	
Item 5(a) was agreed and approved.	

5(b) Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for March 2025.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 5(b) and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy
5(b) Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for March 2025.	
Item 5(b) was noted and agreed.	

5(c) Galway City Heritage Plan 2025-2030 (for adoption).

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 5(c) and invited comments.

Mr. J. Higgins, Heritage Officer presented on this item. A brief discussion followed.

Mayor P. Keane called for a proposer and seconder and for a show of hands in favour of agenda item 5(c).

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
5(c) Galway City Heritage Plan 2025-2030	
In favour: 13	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 5
Present: 13	
Item 5(c) was agreed and adopted.	

5(d) 2-year review of the Galway City Development Plan (for noting).

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 5(d) and invited comments. Mr. E. Lynch provided an update on this item. A discussion followed and a number of queries were raised by Members and responded to by Mr. E. Lynch.

5(d) 2-year review of the Galway City Development Plan
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Item 5(d) was noted.

5(e) 2024 Christmas Park and Ride Report.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 5(e) and invited comments.

A brief discussion followed with queries raised by Members and responded to by Mr. P. Greene and Mr. B. Gallagher. Mr. P. Greene informed Members that this service incurs a cost and emphasised that the City Council must determine whether to continue it in the future.

Mayor P. Keane proposed that this matter be referred to CPG for further consideration. This was agreed.

6. Notice of Motions

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 6 and to NOM11/2025 and invited comments. Cllr. D. Lyons commented on this NOM.

Mayor P. Keane called for a seconder and for a show of hands in favour of NOM11/2025.

NOM 11/2025, submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on 02/03/2025

Proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty
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In order to create awareness of Lyme Disease that Galway City Council would install signage in parks and recreation areas (provided free of charge from the Lyme Resource Centre) that could help raise awareness, inform people on how to protect themselves, and provide guidance on proper tick removal—particularly for children, who are especially vulnerable.
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In favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 7 Present: 11
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This motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda to NOM12/2025 and invited comments. Cllr. H. Ogbu commented on this NOM and thanked Ms. L. Fanning the response previously issued. Mr. L. Cleary provided further clarification on the response issued.

Mayor P. Keane called for a seconder and for a show of hands in favour of NOM12/2025.

NOM 12/2025, submitted by Cllr. H. Ogbu on 03/03/2025**Proposed by Cllr. H. Ogbu****Seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis**

Establishment of a Disability Access Officer and Disability & Inclusion Committee;
COMMUNITY/SERVICES.

I propose the following motion for consideration by the Council Members. That
Galway City Council:

1. Creates the position of a Disability Access Officer, whose responsibility will be to coordinate and oversee accessibility initiatives within the city, ensuring that people with disabilities have a dedicated advocate within the Council.
2. Establishes a Disability & Inclusion Committee, similar to Wicklow County Council's DISC, to ensure that disabled people are actively involved in shaping policies and decision-making processes.

This committee, facilitated by the Disability Access Officer, will work in partnership with relevant stakeholders, advocacy groups, and community representatives to improve accessibility and inclusivity across all Council services. By taking this step, Galway City Council will demonstrate leadership in championing disability rights and fostering a more inclusive city for all.

In favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 7 Present: 11
This motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda to NOM13/2025 and invited comments. Cllr. E. Seoighthe requested that this NOM be deferred to the next meeting. This was agreed.

NOM 13/2025, submitted by Cllr. E. Seoighthe on 03/03/2025

That Galway City Council, in light of the damage done following Storm Eowyn's and the financial pressure this will place on the Council's resources, will suspend all trips abroad until further notice to elected members, with the exception of the planned trip in March 2025. The Council points out how important it is to maintain international relationships and will use technological opportunities available to promote those relationships. This decision would be reviewed as part of the October 2025 budget process.

NOM 13/2025 deferred to the April meeting.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda to NOM14/2025 and invited comments. Cllr. N. McNelis commented on this NOM.

Mayor P. Keane called for a seconder and for a show of hands in favour of
NOM14/2025.

NOM 14/2025, submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on 03/03/2025**Proposed by Cllr. N. McNelis****Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons**

Galway City Council calls onto the government to address the ongoing pay injustice facing Section 39 workers. These essential workers provide critical services in our communities, yet they continue to be treated unfairly in comparison to their counterparts in Section 38 and public sector employment.

In favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 7 Present: 11
This motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor P. Keane proposed to suspend standing orders and to extend the meeting to finish the agenda. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

7. Questions

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 7 and proposed that questions for which a response has been provided be removed from the agenda, while questions without a response be carried forward to the April meeting. This was agreed.

Q2/2025, submitted by Cllr. M. Cubbard on 19/02/2025

Can the Director of Services with responsibility for the parking meters please outline what issues continue to rise at multiple locations in the city. Why are some machines still not accepting cash. Can the Director of Finance provide what income was received from parking in January and February 2024 and also provide a comparable figure for January and February 2025.

Response issued to Members on 07/03/2025

Q4/2025, submitted by Cllr. S. Forde on 20/02/2025

What in total is the number of homes Galway City Council owns?
What is the percentage of homes owned by Galway City Council that are in arrears? At present how much is owed in total by housing tenants to Galway City Council?

Response issued to Members on 07/03/2025

Q5/2025, submitted by Cllr. M.J. Crowe on 24/02/2025

I have a concern about the amount of 'Vape' stores that are opening in Galway City. I believe that there are serious questions around 'Vapes' and I see them as a possible unknown and unquantified threat to people's health. I understand that the current development plan has restrictions on certain types of businesses opening and also some restrictions on an intensification of 'similar' or 'same like' business in and around the city. Considering the aforementioned, can GCC clarify the following:

1. Is it possible that a measure can be introduced that makes it compulsory that ALL 'Vape' shops MUST apply for planning?

2. Also, can it be checked and confirmed that all current 'Vape' shops that are trading in the city have the correct planning permission to trade at their locations and that each individual shop that have displays and signage, also have the correct permission to have the correct permission(s) to have same?

No response issued, carry forward to the April plenary council meeting.

Q6/2025, submitted by Cllr. H. Ogbu on 03/03/2025

As we mark three years since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, thousands of Ukrainians living in Galway continue to face significant challenges, particularly around housing. Many are asking what supports are available to them, and whether they can access HAP like other residents. While I acknowledge that this is a national issue requiring national action, can Galway City Council take the lead in advocating for these individuals by pushing for a clear, supportive housing pathway? What steps can we take to address this locally while calling for broader policy changes?

Response issued to Members on 07/03/2025**Q7/2025, submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on 03/03/2025**

What use of AI is Galway City Council operating at moment. Will its use affect current jobs in Finance, communications, customer service and public works. What actions have been taken to minimise any risk of data leakage, data loss or other unintended consequences.

Response issued to Members on 07/03/2025**8. Correspondence**

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 8 and invited comments.

Mayor P. Keane called for a proposer and seconder for agenda item 8.

Proposed by Cllr. D. McDonnell**Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons**

- (a) Correspondence received on 13/02/2025 from South Dublin County Council – motion passed regarding Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- (b) Correspondence received on 13/02/2025 from Sligo County Council – motion passed regarding VAT rate on electricity costs.
- (c) Correspondence received on 17/02/2025 from Roscommon County Council – motion passed regarding landowner's incentive trees.
- (d) Correspondence received on 17/02/2025 from Roscommon County Council – motion passed regarding Government phone network access.
- (e) Correspondence received on 17/02/2025 from Roscommon County Council – motion passed regarding exam time learning difficulties.
- (f) Correspondence received on 17/02/2025 from Roscommon County Council – motion passed regarding power lines in forestry.
- (g) Correspondence received on 20/02/2025 from Limerick City & County Council – motion passed regarding recent weather events and additional funding.

- (h) Correspondence received on 20/02/2025 from Limerick City & County Council – motion passed regarding financial support for the purchase of generators.
- (i) Correspondence received on 20/02/2025 from Limerick City & County Council – motion passed regarding recent weather events.
- (j) Correspondence received on 04/03/2025 from Sligo County Council – motion passed regarding legislation to ensure school places for children with additional needs.
- (k) Correspondence received on 04/03/2025 from Sligo County Council – motion passed regarding prohibiting the use of counselling and therapy notes in all cases of gender-based violence.
- (l) Correspondence received on 05/03/2025 from Uisce Éireann regarding LRSD Query.

Correspondence was noted.

10. Conferences & Training

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 10 and called for a proposer and seconder for agenda item 10.

Proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded by Cllr. J. McDonagh	
	Provider	Details	Date & Location
(a)	AILG	AILG February Training Module: "An Overview of Wind Energy: Contribution to Economy, Climate Action and Future Potential"	Thurs 20 th February and Saturday 22 nd February 2025 Fairways Hotel, Dundalk
(b)	AILG	Video Content Creation Training for Local Authority Elected Members	TBC

Conferences and training were agreed and approved.

11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 11 and called for a proposer and seconder for agenda item 11.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed a minute's silence in memory of the late Mr. Gerard Molloy, a distinguished Member of Galway City Council, who passed away on the day of his 90th birthday. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell and agreed.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell
• Mr. Gerard Molloy, RIP • Ms. Maura Caulfield, RIP • Mr. Joseph Hanley, RIP • Ms. Lucy McCafferty, RIP • Ms. Teresa Bridget McCormack Mangan, RIP	• Mr. Tom Joe Furey, RIP • Mr. Willie Farragher, RIP • Mr. Louis G. Brennan, RIP • Mr. Gerry O'Grady, RIP
Votes of Sympathy were noted.	

13.AOB

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 13 and invited comments. There was no other business.

Mayor P. Keane expressed gratitude to the Members, the Executive, and the Media for their participation in today's meeting. This concluded the meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 18.35. The next plenary council meeting is scheduled for Monday 14th April 2025.

Minutes Confirmed & Signed

Deputy Mayor of Galway