

Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams on Friday 20th June 2025 at 4.00p.m.	
Presiding:	Cllr. P. Keane, Outgoing Mayor of Galway City. Cllr. M. Cubbard, Newly Elected Mayor of Galway City.
Present (Elected Members):	Councillors: A. Burke, A. Cheevers, M.J. Crowe, A. Curran, J. Forde, S. Forde, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, J. McDonagh, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, H. Ogbu, E. Seoighthe.
Apologies:	Cllr. F. Fahy.
Present (Executive):	Mr. L. Cleary, Chief Executive; Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services; Ms. E. Fanning Acting Director of Services, Ms. F. Holland, Acting Director of Services, Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator; Ms. M. Duddy, Administrative Officer.

The Meeting in accordance with Local Government Act 2001, Schedule 10 commenced with a statement of intention to conduct the business of the meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Mayor P. Keane requested the suspension of Standing Order 22: Recording of Meetings to allow for photographs and videos.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. J. Forde and agreed.

Mayor Keane expressed his profound honour and privilege to serve the city and its people for the last year. He extended his sincere appreciation to the Chief Executive Leonard Cleary, Directors of Services, Senior Management Team and Staff for their professionalism and courtesy. The Mayor acknowledged the challenging decisions made in relation to the local property tax, commercial rates, and the Differential Rent Review. Mayor P. Keane stated while these decisions were not taken lightly, they form part of a broader and compelling case for change, particularly in advocating for Galway's reclassification within the national funding model and the mechanisms that support grants, arts and other programmes in the City.

The Mayor conveyed that representing Galway, both at home and abroad, had been among the greatest honours and was privileged to witness the spirit, determination, and genuine decency of the community. The Mayor acknowledged his fellow Councillors and applauded their dedication to giving voice to the people of Galway. In a concluding statement The Mayor conveyed a strong sense of gratitude and hope for the remaining term, with confidence his role delivered on effective and efficient governance and a bright future for Galway City.

"Is ócáid speisialta a bheith ag Freastal mar Meara, go raibh maith agat as ucht an combhair tríd an bhliain".

Members praised Mayor P. Keane for his leadership as Mayor, highlighting his professionalism, fairness, and commitment to the city and its people. He was commended for supporting the arts and business communities and for his efforts in building on twinning relationships. He was acknowledged for making difficult decisions and being an inclusive and respectful leader. Councillors acknowledged his integrity,

empathy, and ability to connect with different opinions. He was praised for his dignified and principled approach to chairing meetings and representing Galway.

The Chief Executive Leonard Cleary summarised the hallmarks of leadership, strategic development, good governance, and the strong partnership between the executive and Councillors. “Jab iontach a rinne tú ar son Cathair na Gaillimhe”.

1. Election of Mayor

Outgoing Mayor P. Keane called for Nominations for the Position of Mayor of the City of Galway.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed Cllr. Mike Cubbard as Mayor of the City of Galway which was seconded by Cllr. J. McDonagh.

Cllr. C. Higgins proposed the nomination of Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe and Cllr. A. Curran seconded the nomination.

Councillors spoke in favour of supporting their nominated proposals highlighting their experience and suitability for the role.

In accordance with Local Government Act, 2001 Section 37(c) Ms. A. Rohan conducted a poll.

Election of Mayor

In Favour of Cllr. Mike Cubbard: 11

In Favour of Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe: 6

Absent: 1 Present: 17

Cllr. Mike Cubbard was deemed Elected as Mayor of the City of Galway

Cllr. Mike Cubbard was deemed elected as Mayor of the City of Galway and took up his position as Chair accordingly.

Councillor M. Cubbard was invested by the outgoing Mayor P. Keane with the chain of office.

Mayor Cubbard addressed the meeting and expressed his gratitude for the honour of the role. He thanked his proposer Cllr. D. McDonnell and seconder Cllr. J. McDonagh and paid tribute to his predecessor, Cllr. P. Keane.

Mayor M. Cubbard expressed his commiserations to Cllr. Seoighthe. The Mayor committed to represent Galway with pride at home and abroad, to keep grounded, focused and safeguard democratic values for future generations. He thanked his wife Karen, their three boys Ryan, Adam, and Ben and extended family and friends for their continued support.

2. Election of Deputy Mayor

Mayor M. Cubbard invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor of Galway City.

Cllr. J. Forde proposed Cllr. A. Cheevers as Deputy Mayor, which was seconded by Cllr. H. Ogbu.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed Cllr. A. Curran as Deputy Mayor, which was seconded by Cllr. E. Seoighthe.

Councillors spoke in favour of their proposed nominations highlighting their experience and suitability for the role.

In accordance with Local Government Act, 2001 Section 37 Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator conducted a poll.

Election of Deputy Mayor

In Favour of Cllr. Alan Cheevers: 13

In Favour of Cllr. Alan Curran: 4

Absent: 1 Present: 17

Cllr. Alan Cheevers was deemed Elected as Deputy Mayor of the City of Galway

The results concluded Cllr. A. Cheevers elected as Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. Alan Cheevers was deemed elected as Deputy Mayor.

Deputy Mayor Cllr. A. Cheevers was invested by the outgoing Deputy Mayor Cllr. N. McNelis with the Deputy Mayor chain of office.

Individual Councillors congratulated the newly elected Deputy Mayor and expressed appreciation for the contributions of outgoing Deputy Mayor N. McNelis.

The Chief Executive congratulated Deputy Mayor A. Cheevers and conveyed the support of all Council staff in his role. He also acknowledged the work of outgoing Deputy Mayor N. McNelis over the past year in supporting the Mayor and promoting the City.

3. Appointment of Representative on Other Body

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd (IPB) Appointment of One (1) Member (for a period of one year). (Non-Group – Appointment by Vote.)

Cllr. P. Keane proposed for Cllr. E. Hoare to be appointed to the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd (IPB) and seconded by Cllr. M.J. Crowe.

No other nominations were received.

Ms. A. Rohan conducted a poll resulting in 17 in favour and Cllr. E. Hoare was appointed for another term.

Absent: 1 Present: 17

4. To Fix Dates for Meetings of Galway City Council

The Plenary Meetings are to be held on the second Monday of each month at 3p.m., except for the month of August.

Cllr. C. Higgins proposed for the October meeting to be changed to Monday, 6th October 2025 due to other commitments. This motion was seconded by Mayor M. Cubbard and agreed. Dates were agreed by Council as follows:

September Plenary meeting:	Monday, 8 th September 2025.
October Plenary meeting:	Monday, 6 th October 2025.
November Ordinary meeting:	Monday 10 th November 2025.
December Ordinary meeting:	Monday, 8 th December 2025.
January Ordinary meeting:	Monday 12 th January 2026
February Ordinary meeting:	Monday 9 th February 2026.
March Ordinary meeting:	Monday 9 th March 2026.
April Ordinary meeting:	Monday 13 th April 2026.
May Ordinary meeting:	Monday 11 th May 2026.
June Ordinary meeting:	Monday 8 th June 2026.

The Meetings Administrator invited Members to assemble outside for photographs of the Council.

The Meeting concluded at 17:30p.m.



Minutes Confirmed & Signed
Mayor of Galway