

Minutes of the February Plenary Council Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams on Monday 10th February 2025 at 3.00p.m.	
Presiding	Cllr. P. Keane, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present (Elected Members)	Councillors: A. Burke, M.J. Crowe, A. Curran, A. Cheevers, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, J. Forde, S. Forde, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, H. Ogbu, E. Seoighthe
Present (virtually)	Councillors: C. Higgins, J. McDonagh
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. H. Martyn, A/Senior Executive Officer Mr. M. Cormican, A/Senior Engineer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Mr. R. Leihman, Tourism Officer Ms. R. Mulhern, Arts Officer Mr. J. Russell, Senior Planner Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner Mr. D. Healy, A/Administrative Officer Ms. A. Kenny, Administrative Officer
Apologies	Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services

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 to the meeting and referred Members to agenda item 1 and invited comments.

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

There were no conflicts disclosed.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

(a) January Plenary Council meeting held on 13th January 2025.

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

There were no matters of accuracy. Matters arising were as follows:

Cllr. N. McNelis asked for a report and update on the Pálás Cinema and requested that NOM05/2025 remain on the agenda until report is received.

Cllr. S. Forde referenced the Ballybane Community Centre and expressed gratitude to Mr. D. Pender for his response and asked for clarification regarding the composition of the community centre board. This was supported by Cllr. D. McDonnell.

Cllr. A. Curran referenced the red light camera system and asked for this to be on the agenda. He also referred to his request for a report on the Christmas Markets and Park and Ride system for 2024.

Cllr. E. Hoare referred to the Multi Modal Transport Project and sought clarification and accountability in relation to the delays and timelines.

Additional matters discussed included an update on the valuations for the Crown Square site, an update on the pay and display machines, an update on Galway City's Tier 5 status, and an update on the three-year capital programme.

The Executive responded to queries raised.

Mr. L. Cleary addressed the query regarding the Pálás Cinema and informed Members that he anticipates receiving the commercial appraisal within the next few weeks. He assured them that an update will be provided as soon as available.

Mr. P. Greene advised Members that the reports on the Christmas markets and park-and-ride system will be available for the March plenary meeting.

Mayor P. Keane addressed the request at the last meeting to meet with the Galway Culture Company, and informed Members that the board of the Galway Culture Company have accepted the invitation to attend a meeting of this Council. However, they have requested a deferral until April to allow time for the completion of their financial accounts. Additionally, he discussed tier categorisation, noting that he and the Senior Management Team recently met with Oireachtas members, where this issue was a primary topic of discussion. He further stated that the City Council will engage with Oireachtas Members again throughout the year.

Cllr. N. McNelis highlighted an ongoing scam involving parking meters and QR codes and requested that a public communication be issued to inform residents that Galway City Council does not use QR codes for its parking machines.

Several members referenced the aftermath of Storm Éowyn and raised multiple queries regarding the impact and damage caused to streetlights, debris and fallen trees, community facilities and Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs), as well as damage to social housing. Members also expressed concerns about the associated costs of the damage and whether these costs can be recouped from Central Government.

Mr. P. Greene addressed the queries concerning Storm Éowyn, informing Members that the clean-up efforts are ongoing and will continue for several weeks. Ms. H. Kilroy provided Members with an estimate of the damage costs, which are projected

to be between €10 and €15 million, and cautioned that these expenses could impact the budget should the City Council be required to absorb any portion of the cost.

Ms. L. Fanning addressed queries regarding the damage to social housing and recommended that any additional concerns be directed to the housing department.

Mr. L. Cleary assured Members that the CCMA is actively collaborating with the Department to address the aftermath of storm Éowyn. They are seeking national support and are in the process of quantifying all associated costs. He expressed confidence that support will be forthcoming and advised that he would revert to Members should there be a need to cover any shortfall.

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

Proposed By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty	Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell
2(a) January Plenary Council meeting held on 13 th January 2025.	
The minutes of the January plenary council meeting were agreed and adopted.	

3. Business Prescribed by Statute

(a) St. Patrick's Day Parade Event Licence 2025 - for adoption.

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

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 in favour of agenda item 3(a).

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy
3(a) St. Patrick's Day Parade Event Licence 2025	
In favour: 18	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 0
Present: 18	
The St. Patrick's Day Parade Event Licence 2025 was agreed and adopted.	

3(b) Grants Committee - Appointment of 9 Committee Members. (3 Committee Members from each Ward/Group system of appointment applies) Chairperson: Cllr. D McDonnell was appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

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

Mayor P. Keane Proposed 9 committee Members, 3 from each Ward, and nominated the following Members to the Grants Committee:

- East Area Committee nominees: Cllrs. A. Cheevers, S. Forde & H. Ogbu

- Central Area Committee nominees: Cllrs. M. Cubbard, E. Hoare & J. McDonagh
- West Area Committee nominees: Mayor P. Keane, Cllrs. A Curran & D. Lyons

This was Seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell and agreed.

Cllr. M. Cubbard referred to the draft Terms of Reference for the Grants committee and to bullet point 2, item no. 4.0 and Proposed that the wording “and councillors” be included. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell and agreed.

Proposed By: Cllr. M. Cubbard		Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		
Draft Terms of Reference for the Grants committee - Bullet point 2, item no. 4.0 the wording “and councillors” be included.				
<i>“To consider project proposals submitted to Galway City Council for local funding by applicant community and voluntary bodies and councillors”</i>				
In favour: 18		Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 0
Present: 18				
This motion was carried.				

Mr. L. Cleary informed Members that he will be appointing three new Urban and Community Development Officers, whose responsibilities will include assisting and supporting communities with voluntary capacity, project development applications and other related tasks.

3(c) Draft West Regional Homeless Action plan 2025-2027.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(c) and informed Members that this item was discussed at a recent information briefing. Mr. D. Healy gave a brief overview on this item.

Mayor P. Keane called for a proposer and seconder and a show of hands in favour of agenda item 3(c).

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis		
3(c) Draft West Regional Homeless Action plan 2025-2027				
In favour: 18	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 0	Present: 18
The West Regional Homeless Action Plan 2025-2027 was adopted.				

3(d) Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025 - for adoption.

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

Cllr. M. Cubbard welcomed the plan and proposed that a comprehensive review of the plans progress be conducted in the second quarter of 2025 to assess the status of the projects. He further proposed that the review be included as an item on the agenda for the July meeting. This was Seconded by Mayor P. Keane and agreed.

Proposed By: Cllr. M. Cubbard	Seconded By: Mayor P. Keane
That a comprehensive review of the Galway City ASDP 2025 progress be conducted in the second quarter of 2025 to assess the status of the projects and that this review be included as an item on the agenda for the July meeting.	
In favour: 18	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 0
Present: 18	
This motion was carried.	

Mayor P. Keane called for a proposer and seconder for agenda item 3(d).

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis
3(d) Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025	
The Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025 was adopted.	

3(e) Draft SPC Standing Orders

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(e) and invited comments. As this item was discussed at a recent information briefing, Mayor P. Keane called for a proposed and seconder and for a show of hands in favour of agenda item 3(e).

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis
3(e) Draft SPC Standing Orders	
In favour: 18	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 0
Present: 18	
The SPC Standing Orders were adopted.	

3(f) Declaration of Public Road/Taking in Charge of McConn's Lane, Threadneedle Road, Salthill, Galway.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(f) and invited comments. As this item was discussed at a recent information briefing, Mayor P. Keane called for a proposed and seconder and for a show of hands in favour of agenda item 3(f).

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis
3(f) Declaration of Public Road/Taking in Charge of McConn's Lane, Threadneedle Road, Salthill, Galway.	
In favour: 18	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 0
Present: 18	
The Declaration of Public Road/Taking in Charge of McConn's Lane, Threadneedle Road, Salthill, Galway was adopted.	

4. Reports of Committee Meetings

(a) Draft notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 4th February 2025.

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

Cllr. D Lyons asked for the notes to reflect the change of the meeting time with the County Council. This was agreed.

Cllr. F. Fahy asked for an update on twinning and our Sister Cities. Mr. L. Cleary responded to this inquiry and informed Members that he will be appointing a Twinning Officer to handle these matters.

Cllr. D. Lyons commended the Mayor and the Management Team for the program presented to the Oireachtas Members. He referenced the Tier 5 categorisation and asked if a list of the current Tier 5 Local Authorities could be circulated to the Members.

Mayor P. Keane referenced the CPG notes and to a number of recommendations for approval by the full council. He requested a proposer and a seconder, followed by a show of hands in support of the following recommendations.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
Proposal from An Choiste Gaeilge to incorporate use of Irish at the March Council during Seachtain na Gaeilge	
In favour: 18	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 0
Present: 18	
This was approved and agreed.	

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	Seconded By: Cllr. S. Forde
The adoption of the Training & Development Programme for Councillors for 2025	
In favour: 18	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 0
Present: 18	
This was approved and agreed.	

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	Seconded By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty
To extend an invitation to the Lorient Delegation to attend Galway City during Brittany Fest and to recommend that the Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Councillor deputising for the Mayor visit Seattle in March 2025 and represent Galway City.	
In favour: 18	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 0
Present: 18	
This was approved and agreed.	

5. Consideration of Reports of Officials

(a) Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for February 2025.

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

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

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis	Seconded by: Cllr. D. McDonnell
5(a) Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for February 2025.	
The CE's Monthly Management report for February was noted.	

5(b) Arts Act Grants to Organisations 2025.

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

Ms. R. Mulhern presented on this item. Mayor P. Keane commended the Arts Officer on a very comprehensive report and added that Members are delighted to be able to give this funding to the Arts and Culture organisations. He called for a proposer and seconder and for a show of hands in favour of agenda item 5(b).

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell
5(b) Arts Act Grants to Organisations 2025.	
In favour: 18	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 0
Present: 18	
The Arts Grants to organisations 2025 were noted and agreed.	

5(c) Proposed Neighbourhood Centre and Social Housing Scheme at Ballyburke, Galway – Post Part 8 Amendments.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 5(c), acknowledged it as read and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell
5(c) Proposed Neighbourhood Centre and Social Housing Scheme at Ballyburke, Galway – Post Part 8 Amendments.	
This item was noted and agreed.	

6. Notice of Motions

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 6 and to NOM05/2025 and invited comments. Cllr. N. McNelis commented on this item and requested that it remain on the agenda until the commercial valuation is received. This was agreed.

NOM 05/2025, submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on 06/01/2025
Discussed at January plenary council meeting on 13/01/25 – agreed to arrange a commercial evaluation and to leave NOM on agenda
That Galway City Council continues to support Galway City as a UNESCO City of Film and ensures an unbroken operation of the Palas as an art house cinema. Galway City Council will work with project partners Element Pictures, Department of Arts, Screen Ireland, Western Development Commission and initiate further partnerships with University of Galway, Atlantic Technical University and Galway Roscommon Education Training Board and others.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to NOM06/2025 and invited comments. Members were informed that a response was issued on 10th February 2025. Cllr. H. Ogbu expressed satisfaction with the response but emphasised that there are a number of existing trees in poor condition that require attention.

NOM 06/2025, submitted by Cllr. Helen Ogbu on 28/01/2025

That Galway City Council conducts a comprehensive survey of existing trees in the city to assess their health and stability, with the objective of identifying and mitigating potential risks posed by weakened or unstable trees. This motion further calls for the implementation of a proactive tree maintenance and pruning program to enhance public safety, reduce the risk of future storm damage, and promote long-term tree health and urban biodiversity.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to NOM08/2025 and invited comments. Cllr. N. McNelis commented briefly on this motion. Mayor P. Keane called for a proposer and seconder and for a show of hands in favour of NOM08/2025.

NOM 08/2025, submitted by Cllr. Níall McNelis on 03/02/2025

Proposed by Cllr. N. McNelis Seconded by Cllr. A. Curran & Cllr. D. Lyons

That this Council writes to the Minister responsible for Local Government and Planning with the following proposal; That as part of the conditions for planning applications for new housing estates, developers must install Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). We are also calling on the Minister to instigate a review in order to install AEDs in all existing residential developments across Ireland. 70% of cardiac arrests happen at home, every minute that there is a delay in acting reduces the person's chance of survival by 10%. Having the AED close at hand provides a vital link in the chain of survival and offers the person, adult, baby or child the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest.

In favour: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Present: 18
This motion was unanimously carried

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to NOM09/2025 and invited comments. Cllr. N. McNelis commented briefly on this motion. Mayor P. Keane called for a proposer and a seconder and a show of hands in favour of NOM09/2025.

NOM 09/2025, submitted by Cllr. Níall McNelis on 03/02/2025

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis Seconded by: Cllr. D. Lyons

That this Council calls on the new Minister for Arts and Culture for the continuation / mainstreaming of the Basic Income for the Arts scheme. The pilot has been a great success and the 2,000 artists and creative workers from the total eligible pool of 8,000 have had a transformative experience.

Reasoning: The effect on these artists' lives and the cultural community in general has had a similar impact as the Rural Social Scheme (AKA 'Small Farmer's Dole') has had on part-time farmers, on their families and on their rural communities and is no less important than that scheme.

The pilot of the Basic Income for the Arts had robust eligibility criteria but only a quarter of those deemed eligible were included in the initial 3-year scheme. That cohort have had the time and space to work as artists but have also periodically reported back to the Department on the effect the scheme has had on their work and their lives.

I really strongly urge that the new government continues the scheme (including the reporting mechanism required of participants); continue the participation of the current cohort of 2,000; extend the scheme to the 6,000 artists who weren't lucky enough in the pilot and re-open an application process.

I believe this support to artists and the creative community can only deepen the strength and quality of the cultural life of Ireland. It is an opportunity to impact on individual artists and creative workers, the cultural community, the local communities in which they live and work and to our reputation nationally and internationally.

In favour: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Present: 18
This motion was unanimously carried.

8. Correspondence

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

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded by: Cllr. J. McDonagh
(a) Correspondence from Roscommon County Council, received on 17/01/2025 – resolution regarding rural and urban isolation.	
(b) Correspondence from Clare County Council, received on 15/01/2025 – resolution regarding older peoples grants.	
(c) Correspondence from Clare County Council, received on 15/01/2025 – resolution regarding GAA admission charge.	
(d) Correspondence from Galway Culture Company, received on 05/02/2025.	
Correspondence was noted.	

9. Conferences & Training

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 9 and invited comments.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded by: Cllr. D. McDonnell	
	Provider	Details	Date & Location
(a)	AILG / OPR	Webinar – Learnings from Judicial Review Proceedings'	24th January at 10.00am
(b)	Association of Irish Regions (AIR)	Annual Training Seminar 2025	5th - 6th of February 2025 in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
(c)	AILG	February Training Module - An Overview of Wind Energy: Contribution to Economy, Climate Action and Future Potential	Thursday 20 th February 2025 10.00am – 1.00pm Fairways Hotel, Dundalk
(d)	Celtic Conferences	Conference – Health Services Entitlements	7 th – 9 th March 2025

			Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
(e)	AILG	Annual Training Conference 2025	Wednesday, April 2nd, and Thursday, April 3rd at the Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick.
Conferences and training were noted and agreed.			

10. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 10 and invited comments.

Mayor P. Keane proposed a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Cllr. Anthony Waldron, Councillor with Roscommon County Council.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Mr. Michael Coleman, former Galway hurler.

Cllr. N. McNelis proposed a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Ms. Maeve Joyce-Crehan.

Cllr. E. Hoare proposed a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Mr. John Cooney, Galway boxer.

Votes of sympathy were Seconded by Cllr. D McDonnell and agreed.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell
• Cllr. Anthony Waldron, Roscommon County Council, RIP • Mr. Michael Coleman, RIP • Ms. Maeve Joyce-Crehan, RIP • Ms. Teresa Moloney, RIP • Ms. Anne Quinn, RIP • Ms. Bridie (Bridget) O'Grady, RIP • John Nicholas (Noel) Carr, RIP	• Mr. John Cooney, RIP • Ms. Lynne Hill, RIP • Ms. Deirdre Maguire, RIP • Mr. Dave Spokes, RIP • Mr. Tommie Weir, RIP • Mr. Martin O'Grady, RIP • Ms. Connie Turley, RIP
Votes of Sympathy were noted.	

11. Any Other Business

Cllr. S. Forde informed the Members that he had extended an invitation to the Chief Superintendent and three members of the Gardaí to attend the next East Area Committee meeting. He also inquired whether the Chief Executive could attend, subject to availability. In response, Mr. L. Cleary stated that he would attend if his schedule permitted.

Ms. A. Rohan reminded the Members that the deadline for submitting their completed Annual Ethics Declarations is Friday, 28th February 2025.

Cllr. E. Hoare inquired whether Members could receive an update on the establishment of the new Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). In response, Mr. L. Cleary stated that he is awaiting an announcement from the new Minister regarding the CSPs and will provide an update as soon as the information becomes available.

Cllr. M.J. Crowe highlighted the instability of the guest Wi-Fi in the chamber and asked that the issue be investigated.

The meeting concluded at 18:05.

