

**7 Bealtaine 2025
7 May 2025**

Fógra/Notice

**Cruinnithe Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council Meeting**

Do Gach Ball de Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe:

A Chara,

Tionólfar Gnáthchruinniú de Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe ar an **Luain, 12 Bealtaine 2025 ar a 3.00in sa Seomra na Comhairle, Halla na Cathrach, Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe agus ar líne ar MS Teams**. Tá cóip de Chlár an Chruinnithe seo ar fáil ag an bhFáiltiú ar mhaithe le hiniúchadh.

Tá clár an chruinnithe leagtha amach faoi seo.

A Plenary Meeting of Galway City Council will be held on **Monday, 12th May 2025 at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Galway City Council and online via MS Teams**. A copy of the agenda for this meeting is available at Reception for inspection.

The agenda for the meeting is set out hereunder. Members are requested to send queries regarding Matters Arising relating to Item 2(a) in writing, in advance of the meeting, to the undersigned.



Ailish Rohan,
Riarthóir na gCruinnithe / Meetings Administrator

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**Fáiltítear roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge.
Correspondence in Irish is welcome.**

Halla na Cathrach, Bóthar an Choláiste, Gaillimh,
H91 X4K8

City Hall, College Road, Galway, H91 X4K8



Clár/Agenda Plenary Meeting - Monday 12th May 2025
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- 1. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest** (Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended).
- 2. Confirmation of Minutes**
 - (a) April Plenary Council meeting held on 14th April 2025 – attached.
- 3. Business Prescribed by Statute**
 - (a) Salmon Weir Pedestrian Crossing Section 38 Completion - for noting.
 - (b) Approving of a loan allocation in relation to the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme - attached report and resolution for consideration.
 - (c) World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy Cities Network Phase VII Accreditation - Report attached and Resolution for consideration.
- 4. Reports of Committee Meetings**
 - (a) Notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 6th May 2025 – to follow.
 - (b) Report from Grants Committee meeting held on 23rd April 2025 - attached to consider for approval.
- 5. Consideration of Reports of Officials**
 - (a) Monthly Management Report for May 2025 - attached for noting.
 - (b) The Electoral Commission Oversight Report on The Electoral Registers - attached for noting.
 - (c) National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Annual Report 2024 - attached for noting.



6. Notice of Motions

NOM 23/2025, submitted by Cllr. E. Seoighthe on 07/04/2025

Response issued 14/04/2025. Request to leave on the Agenda.

That this Council requests a full report from the Chief Executive detailing the purchase of Crown Square including:

1. The rationale for the purchase and how it aligns with the Council's Development Plan and strategic objectives.
2. The total purchase price, source of funding, and any additional financial commitments associated with the acquisition.
3. A breakdown of the due diligence process undertaken, including property valuation, structural surveys, legal title checks, and planning compliance.
4. Details of the procurement or selection process, including whether alternative properties were considered and if a competitive process was followed.
5. Any future plans for the property, associated costs, and the expected timeline for its use.
6. Confirmation of compliance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and other relevant legislative provisions.

Furthermore, this Council calls for a review of the governance procedures surrounding property acquisitions to ensure full transparency, value for money, and accountability in all future purchases.

7. Questions

Q8/2025, submitted by Cllr. J. Forde on 05/03/2025

I would like to raise a question at the March meeting regarding the status of outside dining for commercial ratepayers in Woodquay for 2025. Last year, businesses such as McGinn's and the Italian restaurant were denied permission for outdoor dining. However, during discussions on the commercial rate increase, I highlighted the importance of reconsidering this decision. With commercial rates now increased, it is crucial that businesses in Wood Quay receive fair treatment, especially compared to those in the West, where outdoor dining is permitted from May to September. The businesses in Woodquay are requesting approval for a much shorter period - only from July to the end of August.

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Q9/2025, submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on 26/03/2025

Please give a breakdown of all the properties that the City Council is currently renting for office space or other purposes; their location and use; how many staff are working in those offices/spaces (listed for each space rented); the yearly rents paid on those properties and the current status of the leases (start and finish month/year). Also, will Crown Square accommodate all of the office staff currently working in those rented properties including the staff in City Hall.

Q11/2025, submitted by Cllr. H. Ogbu on 07/04/2025

At the January Council meeting, I raised the need for access to the email addresses of Residents' Associations in Galway City. Previously, this information was available via a link on the old website, but it has since been removed. Given that restoring access would facilitate better engagement, empowerment, and information sharing for communities, as well as assist the Council in disseminating information on funding, grants, planning, and consultations, can the Council take steps to reinstate this access?

Furthermore, can this process begin while we continue recruiting the Community Development Officers, under whose remit this would eventually fall?

Q12/2025, submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on 06/04/2025

Chief Executive, could you please let me know how many planning applications have been received by Galway City Council for retention of use for short term letting of residential properties and how many offices / commercial units for change of use to short term letting have been received in last 3 years. Can you please give numbers for how many have received permission for same. Will Chief Executive outline the planning process for short term lets and why as reported in local media that Galway City has hundreds of properties advertised online with no planning, In the middle of a housing crisis has this local authority enough resources to tackle unauthorised short term letting with staffing and current planning laws.

Q13/2025, submitted by Cllr. A. Curran on 06/03/2025

Can the council provide an updated report on the recorded speed data from the 19 driver feedback signs in the city, to include the following data in tabular format:

- Number of records
- Volume per Hour
- Mean Speed
- Median Speed
- Mean Speed by Hour
- Median Speed by Hour
- 85th Percentile Speed



Q14/2025, submitted by Cllr. J. McDonagh on 07/04/2025

Questions for Galway City Council Regarding Street Lighting Failures and National Infrastructure Issues

1. What immediate actions are being taken to restore street lighting in the Galway estates left in darkness since January due to Storm Eowyn And how many are there?
2. How is the Council addressing the widespread issue of outdated underground cabling—particularly the pre-1995 two-core systems lacking earth wires, which no longer meet modern safety standards?
3. Given that these underground systems were inherited from the ESB in 2009, what efforts have been made since then to assess, upgrade, or maintain this critical infrastructure?
4. Why has there been a delay in replacing such obviously unsafe and obsolete cabling, and what are the risks posed to public safety in the meantime?
5. Is the estimated cost to repair the affected Galway estates €1 million, with a citywide upgrade potentially exceeding €10 million. What funding mechanisms are being pursued to cover these costs?
6. Has the Council engaged with national government agencies to seek emergency funding or a broader infrastructure investment plan? If so, what was the outcome?
7. Can the Council clarify if this infrastructure is covered by insurance, and if not what steps, if any, are being taken to address the lack of coverage?
8. What is the Council's position on the claim that this is not just a Galway issue but a nationwide infrastructure failure requiring urgent national intervention?
9. Are there any plans to conduct a full audit of the city's underground lighting infrastructure to identify other at-risk areas before further failures occur?
10. What is the timeline for restoring lighting in the currently affected estates, and how will residents be kept informed.

Q15/2025, submitted by Cllr. J. Forde on 03/04/2025

Residents of Muster Avenue have once again raised concerns about parking, especially with the busy summer season approaching. Is there a plan in place to manage the situation?

The residents are requesting a meeting with the Director of Services, along with myself and city centre councillors, to discuss this matter. Could we look into arranging this meeting?

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Q16/2025, submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on 01/05/2025

Following council motions passed and previous written questions to Galway City Council executive, can you please advise what is the update on the removal of the Iron Railings at the Queens Gap on the River Corrib.

In 2022 a motion was passed following concerns raised then and still in place about safety issues raised by Galway Fire Station, Claddagh Watch, RNLI and Garda.

8. Correspondence

- (a) Correspondence received on 29/04/2025 from Kerry County Council – motion passed regarding grant applications.
- (b) Ireland West Airport 2024 Annual Review

9. Items for Councillors Information

None

10. Conferences & Training

	Provider	Details	Date & Location
(a)	AILG	Elected Member 2025 Training Programme	29 th May 2025, Athlone Springs Hotel

11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

12. Other Business set forth in the notice convening the meeting

13. Any Other Business