

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams on Monday, 6 October 2025 at 3.00p.m.	
Presiding:	Mayor Cllr. M. Cubbard.
Elected Members Present:	Councillors: A. Cheevers, A. Curran, F. Fahy, S. Forde, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, D. Lyons, J. McDonagh, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, H. Ogbu.
Elected Members Online:	Councillor: E Seoighthe.
Absent:	Councillors: A. Burke, M.J. Crowe, J. Forde.
Executive Present:	Chief Executive L. Cleary, Director of Services P. Philbin, H. Kilroy, D. Pender, A/DoS: L. Fanning, Senior Engineer: F. Holland, Senior Executive Officer: A. Rohan, Administrative Officer: M. Duddy, Clerical Officer: Caroline Cormican.

The Meeting commenced with a statement of intent to conduct the business of the meeting in line with Standing Orders which was followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Mayor Cubbard welcomed media students from the University of Galway and all present to the October Plenary Meeting.

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

Mayor Cubbard referred Members to item one for any disclosures. No disclosures were made.

2. Confirmation of Minutes:

(a) September Plenary Meeting held on 8 September 2025.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	Seconded By: Cllr. A. Curran
Resolved to adopt September Plenary Meeting held on 8 September 2025.	
The Minutes were adopted.	

Matters of Accuracy:

On a point of accuracy, Cllr. A. Curran noted Notice of Motion 58/2025, was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons. It was agreed that this amendment will be reflected in the adopted Minutes.

Matters Arising:

A synopsis of matters arising is outlined below:

An update on the status of the capital loan.

Request to review signage on parking meters throughout the city and Elected Members requested a detailed report on any revenue loss. How to pay for parking in City Hall after hours.

Clarification was sought on whether a meeting with Knocknacarra Football Club has been arranged.

Update requested regarding Park and Ride for Christmas and if there has been correspondence with ATU and NUIG.

Update on engagement with HSE regarding lands at Shantalla, whether a proposed date for public meeting has been agreed and request for a progress update in relation to the proposed bus corridor through the hospital.

Update requested on project timelines for Cross City link and Dublin Road.

Update on porridge spreading issue in the city and whether any claims have been received in connection to this matter.

Update on any proposed installation of Turbines along the city canals and clarification was sought on the potential environmental impacts it may have on flora and fauna.

Update on Ballybane active travel scheme, Elected Members noted that construction is causing inconvenience for road users and requested to consider measures to minimise disruption.

Requested clarification in respect to Bus Stop on Ballybane Castlepark Road, as previously informed it was governed by national legislation and recently informed there is a design issue.

Replies on the questions, queries and clarifications sought from the Members were provided by the Chief Executive and the relevant Directors of Services:

Ms. H. Kilroy agreed to circulate data on Parking Income up to end September 2025.
Ms. E. Fanning agreed to review/increase visibility of parking signage at City Hall.
Mr. D. Pender committed to provide an update on Turbines at the next meeting.
The Chief Executive advised that a further Report regarding parking will be provided to Councillors in early December.

Cllr. D. Lyons advised that a response had been received in relation to Notice of Motion 10/2025 regarding raised continuous footpaths on developments commencing. However he and Cllr. A. Curran were not satisfied with the response and requested that Notice of Motion 10/2025 remain on the Agenda.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty advised response has been received on Question 20/2025 regarding parking machines but believes it is not satisfactory. Ms F. Holland agreed to update reply.

Mayor Cubbard proposed a vote of sympathy to Mr. Jimmy Callan on the passing of his father, seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons.

(b) Special Meeting held on 15 September 2025.

Proposed By: Cllr D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare
Resolved to adopt Minutes of Special Meeting held on 15 September 2025.	
The Minutes were adopted.	

No matters of Accuracy or Matters Arising were raised.

3. Business Prescribed by Statute:

- (a) Planning & Development Act 2000, (as amended) Part 8 of Planning & Development Regulations 2001, Western Distributor Road Active Travel Scheme.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. A. Curran		
Resolved to approve Planning & Development Act 2000, (as amended) Part 8 of Planning & Development Regulations 2001, Western Distributor Road Active Travel Scheme.				
Present: 15	In Favour: 15	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 3
Result: The motion was approved.				

- (b) Raising of a Loan under the Capital Assistance Scheme for Acquisition / Refurbishment works of properties by Approved Housing Bodies.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. H. Ogbu		
Resolved to approve Raising of a Loan in the amount of €236,634 for 41a An Crumpan, Galway Simon Community, €190,000 for 229 Castlepark, COPE Galway and €419,175 for Brinkwater House, Peter Tiest Housing Association under the Capital Assistance Scheme for Acquisition / Refurbishment works of properties by Approved Housing Bodies per Report circulated on 1 st October 2025.				
Present: 15	In Favour: 15	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 3
Result: The raising of a loan under Capital Assistance Scheme for €236,634 for 41a An Crumpan, Galway Simon Community, €190,000 for 229 Castlepark, COPE Galway and €419,175 for Brinkwater House, Peter Tiest Housing Association				

- (c) Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act, 2000, for consideration at the October Plenary Meeting on 6 October 2025, the Disposal of Land at Cúl Gharraí, Ragoon, Galway to Peter Triest Housing Association.

Cllr. F. Fahy queried the reduction in the sale price amount and if Peter Triest Housing Association will pay contributions.
Ms. L. Fanning and Mr. M. McDonagh Housing Department responded to same.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. J. McDonagh		
Resolved to approve Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act, 2000, for the Disposal of Land at Cúl Gharraí, Rahoon, Galway to Peter Triest Housing Association per Report circulated on 24 th September 2025.				
Present: 15	In Favour: 15	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 3
Result: This Motion was approved.				

4. Reports of Committee Meetings

(a) Notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 29 September 2025.

In response to Cllr. D. Lyons enquiry whether an invitation had been issued to the Galway Culture Company to attend a Council meeting Ms. A. Rohan confirmed that an invite has issued and is awaiting a response.

Cllr. A. Curran queried if the Corporate Policy Group had considered his proposal for a name for the Western Distributor Road. Ms. A. Rohan responded that this matter is with the Civic Naming Committee for consideration.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell
To note Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 29 September 2025.	
Result: The report was noted.	

Recommendation:

(i) To hold the March Council Plenary Meeting as Gaeilge

Cllr. A. Curran requested phrases from last March to be recirculated.

Proposed By: Cllr F. Fahy	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
Resolved to hold the March Council Plenary Meeting as Gaeilge.	
Result: The motion was agreed and approved.	

(ii) To name the Laurel Park Pitches after Tommy Keane

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. J. McDonagh
Resolved to name the Laurel Park Pitches after Tommy Keane	
Result: The motion was agreed and approved.	

(b) Update on Potential Section 183 Lands adjacent to University Hospital.

This matter was discussed by Council under Agenda Item 2(a) Matters Arising.

5. Consideration of Reports of Officials

(a) Monthly Management Report for October 2025 and Quarterly Report.

There was broad consensus in paying tribute to Mr. Pat McPhilbin and the Litter Management crews, following the publication of an article in the Irish Independent. Acknowledgement and appreciation were also extended to the Parks Department for their wood carving initiative after Storm Éowyn. In response to Storm Amy, compliments were expressed to the Drainage and Outdoor Crews, as well as internal staff, for their coordinated efforts.

Cllr. C. Higgins highlighted that she believed the execution of the 'On-the-Go' pilot scheme with Re-Turn Ireland is not working as it is creating an eye sore and hygiene issue in the city and called for a solution to be environmentally sound.

Several Councillors raised matters concerning housing including: commending continued progress on retrofitting properties, what interventions/patterns are driving figures of homelessness down, the current average turnaround for use, minimum Standard Inspections and improvements works, breakdown of Affordable housing, arrears on Housing loans, how will notice to quit be accommodated, transfers/emergency accommodation, emergency hub accommodation and if the Council have a list of tenants households suitable for downsizing so to match household size to property size.

Cllr. A. Curran referred to the Access Officer post and asked whether a walking audit would be carried out and/or a report produced.

Cllr. J. McDonagh questioned the purpose of pipelaying works at South Park.

Cllr. McDonagh noted while he welcomes the nighttime economy he has received complaints from residents of loud music and bands playing on the streets calling for consultation with residents when planning events next year.

Cllr. D. Lyons referred to the NTA presentation showing Galway County Development Plan when the meeting was held with the City and disappointment that no consultation took place regarding R336, Cappagh Park or Western Distributor Road projects.

Cllr. D. Lyons highlighted the Upper Clybaun Road and West ward region which he believed has not received its complement of active recreation to replace pitches that were assigned to the central ward. He stated that the area is now depending on private facilities.

Cllr. E. Hoare raised concern regarding Market Street works and the relocation of traders to the Spanish Arch requesting for an alternative solution to be progressed. He also sought an update on the advancement of the Tier status of Galway city.

Cllr. A. Curran referred to the Access for All initiative and noted that Wicklow County Council have a dedicated Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) in place. Cllr. Curran suggested the establishment of a subcommittee within the relevant SPC to focus on

accessibility matters and proposed including representatives from the disabled community to ensure inclusive engagement.

Cllr. F. Fahy made reference to number of short term lets in the report.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty requested updates on the Dublin Road Graveyard and Crown Square site.

Cllr. S. Forde questioned the projected view to collect rates and loans before year end and the process for recruitment of the International Relations Officer role.

Cllr. S. Forde suggested that, given Galway's close proximity to the 2027 Ryder Cup venue, the Council should actively seek to maximise funding opportunities from EU/USA and highlighted the potential to attract substantial funding.

Cllr. H. Ogbu requested clarity on the Access Officer position if part time or fulltime.

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m. and resumed at 5:15 p.m.

In relation to Gaillimh Abu festival Cllr. Higgins suggested to extend this to Barna Woods similar to Dublin events in Marley Park.

Members summarised clarifications which were addressed by the Chief Executive and Directors.

Director of Services for Urban Development Ms. P. Philbin responded to comments on shortterm lets updating Members on the challenges encountered with management companies, the difficulties in implementing enforcement orders, and the issues surrounding the burden of proof. At the request of Cllr. A. Curran, Ms. Philbin agreed to circulate the report to Councillors.

Ms. L. Fanning responded to queries related to Housing, referring to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Report noting that the highest expenditure was on retrofitting, refusals were taken into account in turnaround properties. Ms. Fanning advised that both Retrofit and Maintenance teams are analysing expenditure and seeking additional funding where possible.

Ms. F. Holland informed of phased plans for Market Street noting option to relocate 26 Traders limited with space required. She noted Tiny Traders have operated from Spanish Arch previously which worked well and most logical alternative. A communications plan will be assisted by Galway City Council to notify people of relocation.

Ms. Kilroy responded to queries on payments, repossessions and advised of potential Budget 2026 payment incentive scheme to consider a credit to businesses that pay by date.

Mr. D. Pender agreed to revert with response to Cllr. Curran on the walking audit.

The matter of loud music raised by Cllr. J. McDonagh will be examined.

Ms. S. Connolly to report back to Cllr. J. McDonagh with details of works at South Park.

The Chief Executive detailed recruitment process surrounding the International Relations Officer role and advised that the vision was shaped by Elected Members through the Strategic Policy Committee.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell
Consideration of Monthly Management Report for October 2025 and Quarterly Report.	
Result: The report was noted.	

(b) Review Workshop on 5 Year Plan of Strategic Priorities.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty raised matter of a new graveyard provision and sought clarification as to how Masterplans will be progressed.

Cllr. F. Fahy raised questions in relation to sale of Royal Tara and monies ringfenced for new cemetery.

The Chief Executive noted that the objective outlined in the 5-Year Strategy had been achieved, and the project has progressed to the design stage. Funding provision has been made for the development of new graveyards. The Chief Executive highlighted that Masterplans are being developed on a cross-directorate basis, referring to budgets and the need for match funding.

Discussion ensued regarding Information Briefings.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded by: Cllr. J. McDonagh		
Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that the new draft Standing Orders include provision for Information Briefings. He noted that there is little value in Members attending briefings only to hear the same information repeated at Ordinary meetings and suggested no further Information Briefings be held until efforts are made to streamline the process agreed with Procedures Committee.				
Present: 14	In Favour: 11	Against: 3	Abstain: 0	Absent: 4
Result: The motion was carried.				

The Chief Executive advised that Standing Orders are an item currently being brought forward for review by the Procedures Committee. Members were invited to submit suggestions for improving the conduct of Plenary Meetings in advance of 20 October 2025. The Chief Executive outlined that the process is open to all Elected Members, and Head of Functions are also contributing on how meetings can be made more effective.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell	Seconded by: Cllr. N. McNelis
Review Workshop on 5 Year Plan of Strategic Priorities.	
The report was noted.	

(c) Linking University Car Parks to existing city bus services for approval.

Cllr. C. Higgins questioned who had made the decision not to allocate funding for the initiative. While acknowledging the current financial constraints, she suggested that consideration should have been given to redirecting the funding to support local businesses or weekend parking initiatives.

Cllr. D. Lyons requested an update on agreeing a time period for park-n-stride, Atlantic Technological University (ATU) had 5 days ear marked and no agreement with the University of Galway (UG).

Ms. F. Holland clarified dates from 19 to 24 December 2025 agreed with ATU and no agreement with UG to-date.

Cllr. E. Hoare noted potential to use UG student car park at weekends outside of this arrangement and added premature to make decision without UG response.

It was agreed for the item to remain on the Agenda.

(d) Customer Service Action Plan and Charter 2025-2029.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. A. Curran		
Resolved to adopt Customer Service Action Plan and Charter 2025-2029.				
Present:	In Favour:	Against:	Abstain:	Absent:
Result: The Customer Service Action Plan and Charter 2025-2029 was adopted				

(e) Galway City Invasive Species Strategy 2025-2030

Cllr. F. Fahy raised concerns regarding the presence and treatment of Japanese Knotweed, particularly on private lands. He emphasised the importance of collaboration with private landowners and the need for support in addressing and eradicating the invasive species across the city. Cllr. Fahy requested for proposals, plans, and budget provision for tackling the issue to be considered.

Ms. Paula Kearney Biodiversity Officer responded, referencing Regulation 49, which states that landowners are responsible for managing invasive species on their own property. She noted the difficulties using herbicide on private land, and informed of a proposal being submitted to Government to explore funding options that would allow private individuals to access support. She emphasised the need for coordinated action, which forms part of the strategy to assist and collaborate with those affected by infestations.

Cllr. N. McNelis queried whether Galway City Council could face penalties if it fails to meet its obligations.

In relation to artificial lighting, it was noted that there is currently no national policy or legislation in Ireland. However, a policy is being developed at EU level, which Ireland will be required to implement.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran		Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis		
Resolved to adopt Galway City Invasive Species Strategy 2025-2030.				
Present: 14	In Favour: 14	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 4
Result: The Strategy was adopted.				

(f) Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Curran		Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis		
Resolved to adopt Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030.				
Present: 14	In Favour: 14	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 4
Result: The Action Plan was adopted.				

(g) Heritage and Conservation Mutton Island Lighthouse.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell	Seconded By: Cllr. J. McDonagh
To note the Heritage and Conservation Mutton Island Lighthouse Report.	
Result: The report was noted by Council.	

(h) Heritage and Conservation Menlo Castle.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
To note Heritage and Conservation Menlo Castle.	
Result: The report was noted by Council.	

6. Notice of Motions

NOM 10/2025, submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on 02/03/2025
In future in order to avoid what has emerged on the Upper Clybaun Road where two housing developments opposite each other are under construction with hoardings erected on either side of the road, giving only a 5m clear road space, no pedestrian facilities, very poor sight lines and no public lighting, I request Galway City Council would introduce a Condition which would be applied to every Planning

Decision, to compel Developers to include raised continuous footpaths across junction entrances, narrow junction entrance radii, and to complete the public roadside footpaths, within a dedicated time of the Development commencing.

Response issued 17/09/2025, 06/10/2025

Cllr. D. Lyons and Cllr. A. Curran requested that NOM 10/2025 remain on the Agenda to allow time to consider the response.

NOM 33/2025, submitted by Cllr. J. McDonagh on 02/06/2025

That this Council affirms its commitment to transparency and public engagement and hereby resolves that no decision will be made to dispose of, sell, or otherwise transfer any part of Shantalla Park — including lands associated with the proposed helipad — without first conducting a full and proper consultation process with the local residents and relevant community.

NOM 44/2025, submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on 04/07/2025

The existing fire station on Fr. Griffin Road is in need of urgent replacement. In consultation with the Chief Executive of Galway County Council and the Chief Fire Officer of Galway City and County Fire Service can the Chief Executive give an update and time frame on the provision of a new site and fire station in Galway City for the Galway City and County Fire Service.

Response issued 03/10/2025

It was agreed to keep NOM 44/2025 on the Agenda.

NOM 45/2025, submitted by Cllr. H. Ogbu on 06/07/2025

Utility Reinstatement Standards and Oversight

That Galway City Council outlines the current measures in place to ensure quality control and proper reinstatement of footpaths and roads following works carried out by utility providers such as Irish Water, ESB, and others.

Given ongoing concerns about substandard reinstatement works in many areas resulting in long-term damage, safety issues, and additional costs to the Council, I call for the consideration of recruiting a new staff who will be assigned to the Licensing & Technical team to monitor and inspect utility works both prior to commencement and post-completion. This would help ensure compliance with agreed reinstatement standards and reduce the financial and operational burden on the local authority.

Response issued 03/10/2025

NOM 52/2025, submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers on 26/08/2025

That Galway City Council calls on the Government to reinstate the 9% VAT rate for food-led businesses from 1 January 2026 as part of Budget 2026, to protect jobs, prevent further closures. With 99.6% of businesses in the sector being SMEs, failure to reinstate the 9% VAT rate will result in the closure of many small businesses in our communities.

Due to Cllr. Cheever's absence, the motion was deferred.

NOM 53/2025, submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on 29/08/2025

In recent years there is strong evidence that there is a major change for people who pass away who are now being cremated instead of the usual burial in cemeteries/graveyards. I understand that in the City, 30% of people who pass away are now being cremated. I believe in future that this percentage will increase. I am requesting Galway City Council to examine the possibility of providing Columbarium Walls in designated areas in communities rather than in cemeteries.

Response issued 03/10/2025

Cllr. D. Lyons sought clarification if an objective needed to be included in the Development Plan regarding NOM 53/2025. The Chief Executive agreed to refer the matter to the Operational SPC to clarify policy as a first step.

NOM 55/2025, submitted by Cllr. S. Forde on 01/09/2025

That Galway City Council recognises the urgent and growing public safety hazard posed by the unregulated use of high powered e-scooters and e-bikes on footpaths, pedestrian areas, and shared public spaces across the city. The increasing number of collisions, near misses and injuries highlights the need for immediate intervention. Accordingly, this Council agrees:

1. To write to the Minister for Transport requesting the urgent introduction of national regulations requiring licensing, registration, and insurance for high powered e-scooters and e-bikes, in line with other motorised vehicles, to ensure accountability and public safety.
2. To engage with local Gardaí to coordinate a targeted enforcement blitz in high risk areas, including Galway City Centre and Parkmore, where pedestrian safety concerns are most acute.

This motion seeks to ensure Galway City remains a safe and accessible city for pedestrians, cyclists, and all road users, while also calling for national legislation to provide clear guidance and enforcement.

Response issued 02/09/2025**Proposed By: Cllr. S. Forde****Seconded By:**

To write to the Minister for Transport requesting the urgent introduction of national regulations requiring licensing, registration, and insurance for high powered e-scooters and e-bikes, in line with other motorised vehicles, to ensure accountability and public safety.

Present: 14**In Favour: 14****Against: 0****Abstain: 0****Absent: 4****Result: This was agreed and approved.**

NOM 57/2025, submitted by Cllr. H. Ogbu on 01/09/2025

That Galway City Council explore the feasibility of establishing a structured workplace internship programme for young people from Galway, aged 18 and over, within the local authority.

The programme would aim to:

- Provide participants with valuable first-hand experience of local government operations, community services, and policy development.
- Offer meaningful and challenging work opportunities during the summer months.
- Encourage future careers in public service and strengthen civic engagement among young people.
- Provide additional support to Council staff during periods of annual leave or reduced capacity.
- Enhance public awareness of the Council's work and its impact on the community, as seen through the perspective of young participants.

This initiative would serve to build stronger connections between Galway City Council and the next generation of leaders, while contributing to service delivery and community engagement.

Response issued 1 October 2025

Cllr. H. Ogbu informed of a meeting held with Director of Services P. Philbin and Human Resource Officers regarding this matter, and expressed appreciation for their time and engagement.

NOM 58/2025, submitted by Cllr. C. Higgins on 01/09/2025

That Galway City Council commit to:

1. The signage prohibiting water sports at Silver Strand beach be removed immediately.
2. That the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meets with the Galway City water sports groups to begin meaningful consultation.
3. That Galway City Council develops a Beach Management and Zoning plan **(that fully meets Criterion 30 of the Blue Flag beach criteria document)** for all Galway City Beaches.
4. That Galway City Council engages with all stakeholders to develop Zoning plans and maps for all Galway City Beaches **(consistent with Criterion 5 and Criterion 30 of the Blue Flag beach criteria document)** that allows for dedicated launch zones, improved access routes to the water, and provides for safe, inclusive use of our beaches for swimmers, watersports and beach users.

Blue Flag Criterion 30. There must be management of different users and uses of the beach so as to prevent conflicts and accidents.

Beaches that support multiple activities must have management plans to prevent accidents and conflicts. This must include zoning for swimmers, surfers, windsurfers and motor craft. At the same time, recreational use of the beach must be managed without a negative impact on the natural environment or the biodiversity of the beach, and with consideration for aesthetic issues.

Swimmers should be protected from all sea craft (motor, sail or pedal). Where necessary, zoning through the use of buoys, beacons or signs must be in place.

The same must be done for surfing areas. Distinctions should be made between motor, paddle or sail craft. The use of these various activities must be separated.

Blue Flag Criterion 5. A map of the beach indicating different facilities must be displayed.

A map showing the boundaries of the Blue Flag beach area and the location of key facilities and services must be posted on the Blue Flag information board. The required map elements should show the location of: zoning (swimming, surfing, sailing, boating, etc.)

Response issued 03 October 2025

Cllr. C. Higgins requested that NOM 58/2025 remain on the Agenda to allow time to consider the response.

Cllr. E. Seoighthe agreed to amend Notice of Motion 60/2025 to remove reference to the NTA. Cllr. P. Keane and Cllr. D. Lyons sought clarification regarding URDR funding and queried why the NTA Active Travel funding is no longer available.

Mr. D. Pender agreed to write to the NTA requesting an explanation.

The Chief Executive agreed to raise this matter at the Oireachtas briefing in November, noting that it is one of twelve key priority objectives for the city.

NOM 60/2025, submitted by Cllr. E. Seoighthe on 29/09/2025

That Galway City Council will write to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage to establish where the URDF funding stands at for the Galway to Clifden pedestrian bridge and when we can expect start date for same.

Proposed By: Cllr. E. Seoighthe

Seconded By: Cllr. A. Curran.

Present: 14

In Favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 4

Result: The Motion was carried

NOM 61/2025, submitted by Cllr. C. Higgins on 29/09/2025

Extension of Free Fares for Under-9s to Commercial Bus Operators

That Galway City Council supports the immediate inclusion of Commercial Bus Operators (CBOs) in the Child Leap Card Scheme, which provides free bus travel for children under nine. Council notes:

CBOs are an essential part of Ireland's public transport network, already delivering the Young Adult Leap Card and the Department of Social Protection's Travel Pass.

Their exclusion from the under-9 scheme creates unfairness, particularly for rural families who depend on them, and risks a two-tier bus system.

Extending the scheme would cost just €1 million, a modest sum that would support families during the cost-of-living crisis and encourage sustainable travel habits among children.

Therefore, Galway City Council calls on the Minister for Transport and the National Transport Authority to:

1. Urgently include CBOs in the Child Leap Card Scheme.
2. Ensure a fair and consistent transport policy that treats all children equally, regardless of geography or bus service used.

Recommendation:

That this motion be circulated to all city and county councils for endorsement and forwarded to the Minister for Transport for urgent consideration.

Proposed By: Cllr. C. Higgins

Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis

Galway City Council calls on the Minister for Transport and the National Transport Authority to:

1. Urgently include CBOs in the Child Leap Card Scheme.
2. Ensure a fair and consistent transport policy that treats all children equally, regardless of geography or bus service used.

Recommendation:

That this motion be circulated to all city and county councils for endorsement and forwarded to the Minister for Transport for urgent consideration.

Present: 14 In Favour: 14 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 4

Result: The Motion was carried

7. Questions

Q17/2025, submitted by Cllr. J. McDonagh on 02/06/2025

Can the Chief Executive detail what consultations, if any, have taken place between Galway City Council and the HSE regarding (a) the proposed helipad in Shantalla Park, and (b) any potential disposal or transfer of lands within Shantalla Park? Furthermore, can all relevant correspondence, meeting notes, and records of communication between the Council and the HSE on this matter, from January 2025 to the present, be provided to elected members?

Q19/2025, submitted by Cllr. H. Ogbu on 06/07/2025

Safety Concerns Related to E-Bike and E-Scooter Use on Shared Walkways
Can the Chief Executive advise if Galway City Council will consider installing signage and implementing other safety measures to address the increasing use of e-bikes and e-scooters on shared pedestrian walkways, such as the Railway Line Walk, which is particularly narrow in some areas?
In light of public concerns and safety risks especially for older people, children, and individuals with mobility challenges, can the Council explore options for signage, awareness campaigns, and potential collaboration with An Garda Síochána and Iarnród Éireann, to support enforcement and safer usage?

Q20/2025, submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on 29/08/2025

Please clarify the following in relation to parking in Galway City:

How many Pay & Display parking machines are there in the city and how many of them are out of order?

How much income has Galway City Council lost as a result of difficulties with the Pay & Display parking meters since January 2025 (with details of income for 2025 year to date, 2024 Jan-Aug inclusive and 2023 Jan-Aug inclusive)?

To what extent is the Council aware of instances where the parking app has not worked, is this an ongoing problem and how widespread is it (temporary glitches, out for hours, out for days)?

How many parking fines have been issued in relation to parking in areas covered by parking meters (with figures for the corresponding periods in 2024 and 2023)?

How many of these have been paid? How many court proceedings have been issued in any case of non-payment of fines this year (with corresponding figures for 2024 and 2023)?

If a motorist receives a parking fine currently, would this stand up in court taking into account the fact that the machines are cashless and cardless?

What is the current projected total income from parking meters in 2025, and what was the corresponding income in '24 and '23?

Response issued 03/10/2025

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty requested that Question 20/2025 remain on the Agenda.

Q21/2025, submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on 01/09/2025

Following on from reports in local media this week can Galway City Give an update on Mutton Island Treatment plant. Has Uisce Éireann informed Galway City Council about its concerns and future plans. Are time scales available and what if any threats exist to storm proofing existing site.

What impact does this have on possible future developments for housing.

Response issued 03/10/2025

Q23/2025, submitted by Cllr. E. Hoare on 18/09/2025

I refer to the Ceannt Station redevelopment project which commenced in 2024. The €70m redevelopment is being funded by the Department of Housing's Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and the National Transport Authority. This project is being carried out by BAM Ireland and it is planned to be completed by Q2 2026.

Galway City Council successfully applied for URDF Funding for this project. Can we please confirm the following with either or both of the funding partners:

1. When is this project expected to be concluded and new station operational?
2. Is the project being delivered within the initial budget? If not, what is the new revised costings for the project?
3. Have there been any disputes in relation to the project with the contractor?

8. Correspondence

It was proposed by Cllr D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy to note the correspondence listed on the agenda.

- (a) Sligo County Council Resolution:
To consider support Town and City Gift Card rollout
- (b) Carlow County Council Resolution:
Opposition to increase in college fees and to maintain grants
- (c) Department of Housing Response to Notice of Motion
Capital Acquisitions Scheme (Cllr. N. McNelis).
- (d) Kerry County Council Resolution:
Call for introduction of a ban on vaping in all workplaces.
- (e) Limerick City and County Council Resolution:
Removal of Vat\Tax Relief\Extension on Counselling & Psychotherapy Services

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis		Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare		
Agenda Item 8(a) Galway City Council supports the motion put forward by Sligo County Council to consider supporting the Town and City Gift Card rollout across every county:				
Present: 14	In Favour: 14	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 4
Result: The Motion was carried				

9. Items for Councillors Information

- (a) Letter from National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) regarding Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2024.

Item 9(a) was noted.

10. Conference, Training and other events

It was proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. J. McDonagh and unanimously agreed that Councillors could attend the following Conferences/Approved Training Events:

	Provider	Details	Date	Location
(a)	Gaelchultúr	Cúrsa Gaeilge do Chomhairleoirí Tofa – Irish Language for Elected Councillors	3 Mar. 2025	Online. Retrospective approval for Cllr. E. Seoighthe
(b)	UCD Prof. Academy	Diploma in Digital Media Design	18 Nov. 2025 (12 Wk)	University College Dublin. Approval for Cllr. C. Higgins

(c)	Celtic Conferences	The Evolving Role of AI in Public Relations	7-9 Nov. 2025	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.
(d)	AILG	Briefing on Updated Planning Legislation & Guidelines	15 Nov. 2025	Radisson Blu Athlone.
(e)	AILG	Local Authority Finance and Budget Process	9 Oct. 2025	Arklow Bay Hotel, Wicklow.
(f)	AILG	The European Accessibility Act – What Councillors Need to Know	21 Nov. 2025	Online
(g)	AILG	Supporting Councillors: Responding to Mental Health, Suicide, and Addiction Issues		Rescheduled Q1 2026.

Cllr. D. McDonnell raised matter that LAMA was not listed. Ms. A. Rohan Meetings Administrator advised this would be included in the November agenda.

11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded by: Cllr. D. McDonnell
George Conboy R.I.P.	Lorcan Kelly R.I.P.
Nancy Lillis R.I.P.	Neil Murray R.I.P.
John Phelan R.I.P.	Donncha Mac Sléimhne (Denis Slyne) R.I.P.
Tony McDonagh R.I.P.	

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

None

13. Any Other Business

Approval for a continued overdraft facility.

Ms. H. Kilroy, Director of Finance proposed the annual renewal of the overdraft facility. She advised that as the authorisation for the overdraft must be reviewed and considered each year, approval is now being sought to maintain the existing overdraft facility of €8 million for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Ms. Kilroy addressed queries from Cllr. D. McDonnell regarding the rationale for utilising an overdraft facility rather than use of the capital loan, explaining that the overdraft supports working capital requirements and provides for cash flow management. Ms. Kilroy outlined to Cllr. E. Hoare that surplus funds are placed on deposit to optimise returns, ensuring efficient use of available financial resources.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy		
Approval for a continued overdraft facility of €8 million for the twelve-month period from the 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.				
Present: 14	In Favour: 14	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 4
Result: The continued overdraft facility was approved				

Cllr. S. Forde discussed the importance of improved public communication regarding the Ballybane Scheme, suggesting local media engagement and a drop-in centre at the old Eircom building to inform residents and give a timeline on the construction phase. Several Councillors, including Cllrs. T. O' Flaherty and Cllr. D. McDonnell highlighted the need for clearer communication on design changes during construction such as bus stop relocations and narrowing estate entrances and suggested regular newsletter leaflet drops.

Mr. D. Pender noted that a Resident Engineer is available for queries and that the legal responsibility for project supervision lies with the Contract Supervisor. Mr. Pender outlined that the scheme design had already been through public consultation.

Cllr. D. Lyons highlighted that the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) meeting had been rescheduled for a third time. The Chief Executive acknowledged the frustration caused and advised that the suggested date of 7 November 2025 was set as a possible alternative, with possible option of an online facility.

Cllr. N. McNelis respectfully requested that Members be consulted in advance of any date changes. The Chief Executive confirmed that both the City and County CPGs, as well as Oireachtas Members, would be consulted to check availability for a revised date, to revert with confirmation of a suggested date.

Cllr. F. Fahy, raised issue of hedge cutting around this time of year which Ms. F. Holland agreed to discuss updates on works with Cllr. Fahy.

The Chief Executive, Leonard Cleary, informed the meeting that information will shortly be circulated regarding the Galway City and County Council's National Age Friendly Awards, which are scheduled to take place on 23 October 2025.

The meeting concluded at 18:20p.m.

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed
Mike
Mayor of Galway