

Tuairisc Bainistíochta na Míosa

Management Monthly Update

Iúil/ July 2024



1. Seirbhísí agus Rialachas Corparáideach, Pobal agus Athrú Aeráide

Corporate Governance and Services, Community and Climate Action

Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse | Director of Service: Derek Pender

1.1 Seirbhísí agus Rialachas Corparáideach | Corporate Governance and

Buacphointí | Highlights

Newly Elected Council 2024 - 2029

Clár | Key Dates:

15th July - closing date for EOI Chairperson Local Community Safety Partnership

24th July - Local Community Development Committee Meeting

9 September 2024 - September Ordinary Council meeting

19 September 2024 - East & Central Area Committee Meetings

20 September 2024 - West Area Committee Meeting

Services

First meeting of the newly Elected Council

The first meeting of the new Council took place on Friday 21st June 2024. A new Mayor and Deputy Mayor were elected at this meeting. Congratulations to Cllr. Peter Keane, who was elected Mayor of Galway City and to Cllr. Níall McNelis, who was elected Deputy Mayor.

Campaign to improve the data quality on the Electoral Register

In preparation for migration to Voter.ie, the Register of Electors team will be running a campaign over the next couple of months to improve the quality of data on the electoral register.

Freedom of the city of Galway

The highest honour of Freedom of the city was bestowed on Keith Finnegan Friday, 31 May 2024 by Galway City Council Parkrun visit to City Hall To honour the achievements of Park Run Galway on Tuesday, 28th May 2024, at 4.30pm followed by light refreshments.

Social Media & Data Protection Training

An in person and online training session will be organised for Elected Members on Monday 8th July 2024.

Crown Square

The Project Team can now confirm that the Crown Project Governance Board did receive the overall first stage design as was anticipated. That first stage design was arrived at after the first rounds of the staff consultation process was concluded. Following receipt of this first stage design, the project Governance Board authorised the project to move forward to the next phase which is Stage 2(a), a twostep process which involves the formulation of a detailed design and the obtaining of statutory certificates.

This stage, as with the others, will involve extensive consultation with staff across all grades and departments and engagement with the Integrated Design Team to help shape the final design of the new civic offices. This phase will enable and refine the space planning requirements, the amenities and facilities required to support staff and the final agreement on floor plan layouts. Consultations with Departments has commenced this week and will continue and the feedback to the consultants will shape the overall final detailed design.

The consultation that has taken place to date, through staff surveys, interviews and workshops has helped provide a solid foundation on which the Integrated Design Team can build so as to ensure that the best building fitout possible is attained for staff, elected representatives and the public, and we look forward to the next round of engagement.

1.2 Pobal | Community

Local Community Safety Partnership

In preparation for the national roll out of the Local Community Safety Partnerships in line with the [Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024](#), three Local Community Safety

Partnerships have been undergoing pilots over the past two years. It is now Government's intention to establish such partnerships nationwide. LCSP's will replace the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) structure and will bring all the relevant state services and the community together at local authority level. This will build on the work undertaken through JPC's and supplement it by ensuring that all other relevant stakeholders necessary to constitute a more holistic forum for discussion and decisions on community priorities are present.

It is intended that membership of the LCSP will include residents; community representatives, including representatives of youth, new communities and the voluntary sector; business and education representatives; relevant public services in the area, including HSE, Tusla, AGS, and the local authority; and local councillors. The LCSP will have a maximum of 30 members.

Expressions of interest are now being sought from suitably qualified persons with relevant expertise for consideration for appointment as **Chairperson of the Local Community Safety Partnership**. The EOI was launched in each Local Authority on the week of 24th June to run until the 15th July 2024. A review and panel assessment process will then take place with a view to a Chairperson being appointed to LCSPs in August. Each partnership will be supported by a dedicated Community Safety Coordinator.

Local Community Festival Grants

The funding for the Local Community Festivals Grant Scheme in 2024 is €15,000, which was open for online applications until 31st May. 35 applications were received with funding sought of c.€95,000. All applications were reviewed and assessed internally in accordance with the selection criteria. Notifications have issued to those groups who have been awarded funding.

Local Enhancement Programme 2024

Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) announced capital funding of €105,219.39 for 56 projects in Galway City under the Local Enhancement Programme 2024 in June. The link [here](#) includes the list of successful groups. Applicants were notified of the outcome of their grant application and payments are being processed to groups as they complete their projects. Groups have until the 1st November 2024 to complete their project and drawdown their allocated funding. Details of successful projects under the ring-fenced funding for Women's Groups as part of awarded a total funding of €22,387. The press release is attached [here](#).

Age Friendly Update ‘Ceol an tSamhraidh

Music in Residential Healthcare settings was launched on 24th of May. This initiative engaging with the Nursing Homes in Galway City in conjunction with Creative Ireland and Healthy Homes Ireland, will see four different musical performers perform in various nursing homes in the city over the summer months.

Integration Support Service

Two new accommodation centres have opened for international protection applicants in Galway city. 208 beds will be provided for people seeking refuge in Ireland who are International Protection Applicants in Centrepont Apartments, Liosban Industrial Estate, Co. Galway. 50 beds will be provided for people seeking refuge in Ireland who are International Protection Applicants in Savoy Hostel, Eglinton, Street, Galway City.

1.3 Gníomhú Aeráide | Climate Action

Strategy/Plans

Climate Action Dept were successful in securing €60,000 grant funding from the European Commission to develop feasibility studies relating to renewable energy and energy management systems. EU Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change, Technical Assistance (Climate Matters) ongoing, current phase is focussed on assessment and appraisal of potential projects and funding mechanisms to deliver.

Energy/Emission reduction

Yearly validation of MPRN's and GPRN's has been completed and issued to Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). LED light upgrades to Sandy Road depot has commenced which will significantly reduce emissions and electricity bills.

A tender for a specialist consultant to prepare tender documents for significant retrofit to the Museum, Knocknacarra community centre and Ballinfoyle community centre has been evaluated and tender award will occur in July 2024. Climate Action Dept were successful in securing 30% grant funding to complete Retrofits to East United Dressing rooms, Bowling Green site office, Dog Pound, and Melody Court community centre. The overall cost of works will be €150,000 euro which is due to commence in July 2024. Galway City has been invited to

participate in the EU Mission Cities Conference in Valencia, Spain on June 25th and June 26th 2024. Galway City will host a Challenge Workshop, as part of the conference, entitled 'Accelerating individual action for city-wide decarbonisation'.

Pictiúir na Míosa | The Month in Pictures



Newly Elected Council

The first meeting of the new Council took place on Friday 21st June 2024.

A new Mayor and Deputy Mayor were elected at this meeting.

Congratulations to Cllr. Peter Keane, who was elected Mayor of the city of Galway and to Cllr. Niall McNelis, who was elected Deputy Mayor



Mayor Peter Keane, Leonard Cleary Chief Executive and Deputy Mayor Niall McNelis



Launch of Ceol an tSamhraidh: Music in Residential Healthcare settings in Aparee Nursing Home.



Freedom of the city of Galway

**The highest honour of Freedom of the city was bestowed on Keith Finnegan
on Friday 31 May 2024 by Galway City Council**



Visit to City Hall to honour the achievements of Park Run Galway on 28th May 2024

2. Bóithre agus Iompar (Oibríochtaí), Caitheamh Aimsire agus Taitneamhacht, Caipiteal Spóirt, Comhshaol

Roads and Transport (Operations), Recreation and Amenity, Sports Capital, Environment

Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse | Director of Service: Patrick Greene

2.1 Bóithre agus Iompar (Oibríochtaí) | Roads and Transport (Operations)

Operations & Maintenance Resurfacing works completed at

- Liosbaun Ind. Est. L-50488
- Rockbarton Road L-5015
- Monksfield L-50172
- Cookes Terrace L-50494
- Monument Road L-1006
- Ballindooley Village L-51513
- Bohermore R336

Mobility Improvements completed at

- Quincentennial Drive
- Devon Park
- Devon Gardens
- Cookes Terrace
- Bohermore
- Lakewood Park
- Tirellan Heights
- Riverside
- Salthill Lower
- Mobility Improvements and footpath renewal is now completed at Rosshill Rd Junction

Junction Enhancements

Works to upgrade ducting, poles and signal heads at Cookes Corner are complete. New ducting was required to allow removal of the existing power connection from inside the control

panel. These works will speed up intermittent repairs and help prevent major failures at this junction as part of a risk based preventative maintenance program.

Road Safety

A committee is now in place to progress delivery of Galway City & County Road Safety Plan. Work is progressing using RSA guidance document. Next meeting with all stakeholders scheduled for July.

Noise Action Plan

Galway City Council is currently progressing the Galway City Draft Noise Action Plan (NAP) 2024-2028. This will provide a summary of the results of the strategic noise mapping and will address priorities in this area with a view to identifying measures that will help avoid, prevent or reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise. A period of public consultation on the NAP will commence in Q2/Q3.

2.2 Caitheamh Aimsire agus Taitneamhacht | Recreation and Amenity

Community Centres

For the early days of June Westside CC was the focus as the Local elections count centre was located in Westside. Cleaning and painting contractors were employed to carry out a deep clean throughout the building and the internal walls were painted. Carpenters and electrical contractors were employed to create the space within the main hall for the count and when it was complete to dismantle all after the event. An additional temporary bike stand was provided by the T&I. Drainage facilities were improved within the building and old tiling replaced. Grass was cut and areas tidied up around the centre.

Within Knocknacarra CC a new storage facility has been fitted to provide much need storage within the main hall.

General Operations

- Summer Wildflower beds were sown in O'Sullivan Park, Children's Millenium Park and Quinquennial Park.
- A tender for the refurbishment of Children's Millenium Playground went live on eTenders in May. Tender submissions have been received and the process is now at tender assessment stage. A social inclusive playground has been specified.
- In Cappagh Park the missing signage was replaced at the entrance gates.

- Councillors have voted to prioritised LSSIF application for Kingston/ Millars Lane project and an application will be submitted 1st July 2024.
- A submission is also being made for the Tidal Pool in Salthill.



Eyre Square Steps to plaza area are being upgraded



Refurbishment works in Westside Community Centre



There was a fantastic turnout for GCC sustainable gardening course with horticulturist Aoife Munn, at the Ballybane Community Garden in June. There were lots of interesting topics discussed, including vegetable growing, planting for pollinators and composting.



Mootlida and Ashley had their calves early June, we're looking forward to seeing them running around the 'buaile' later this year.

2.3 Comhshaol | Environment

Bathing Waters

The Bathing Water season began on June 1st and all samples taken at our Beaches at Ballyloughane, Grattan Road, Salthill and Silverstrand have all returned values of excellent. Testing of samples continues throughout the summer. Updates through social media and through www.beaches.ie inform the public of these results and results are also posted on notice boards at each beach.



Bathing Water results

Dog Pound

Media campaign continuing to notify the public of requirements associated with Dog Licences. The public will be notified as to the areas we will be carrying out inspections in the coming weeks and months.

Responsible Dog Workshops

Galway City Schools will soon have the opportunity to participate in responsible dog workshops with MADRA, Children will learn how to properly handle and take care of dogs. This initiative is sponsored by Galway City Council and will commence in September – further updates to follow.



Responsible Dog Owner education programme within schools to commence September 24

Casual Traders Licences

Casual Traders Licences for St Nicholas Summer Market July – August are currently being processed and successful traders will commence trading in July.

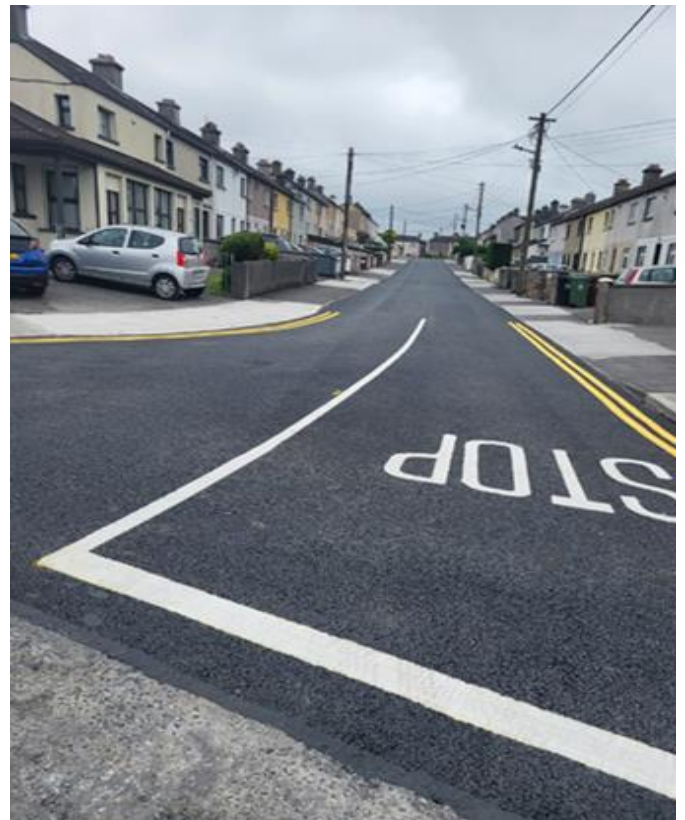


Summer Casual Trading 24

Pictiúir na Míosa | The Month in Pictures



Junction Enhancements, Cookes Corner



Resurfacing at Cookes Terrace



Resurfacing Works at Liosbaun Industrial Estate



Surfacing enhancement at Rockbarton



**Mobility Enhancements at
Quincentennial Drive**

3. Forbairt Bonneagair agus Pleanáil

Infrastructure Development and Planning

Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse | Director of Service: Patricia Philbin

Buacphointí | Highlights

Substantial completion of Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Bridge II Project

Draft Heritage Plan on Public Display

Clár | Key Dates:

17 May - The formal opening of three Active Travel Projects

13 May - Part 8 Planning Approval of the Bóthair Stiofáin Cycle Scheme

31 May - Unveiling of plaque by Mayor to mark naming of Droichead an Dóchais

Housing Taskforce 11th June 2024

Approved Housing Body Forum 17th June 2024

Affordable Housing Practitioners Conference 26th June 2024

Draft Galway City Heritage Plan 2024-2029 on public display until 25th July 2024

3.1 Maoin Iompair | Transport Capital

Works on the Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Bridge II were completed, with the official opening held on 17 May 2024. This project consisted of the construction of a 2m wide cantilever bridge footway on the south side of the existing Wolfe Tone Bridge, similar to the footway on the northern side. This project allows safer crossings of the bridge on a wider, fully segregated footpath.

Bóthar Stiofáin Part 8 Planning Application for the Active Travel scheme was presented to Councillors at the meeting of 13th May 2024. A review of the public consultation submissions was included. The scheme was well received and passed unanimously with two amendments:

1. The current drop-off at the entrance to the Retail Park is to be removed. The removal of this drop-off had been raised in 13 of the 23 submissions received.
2. The design of the kerb on the cycle lane adjacent to the road is to be assessed and amended in order to give more protection to the cyclist.

The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) is being prepared and detailed design will be done concurrently. The active travel section assisted with the promotion of Bike Week events, including the city centre cycle for school students. An efficiency of Space Active Travel Picture was taken on Threadneedle Road in order to demonstrate how road space can be saved if more people cycle or take public transport, rather than travelling by car. This was a collaboration between Salerno College and An Mheitheal Rothar which was supported by GCC.

3.2 Caipiteal Tithíochta | Housing Capital

Ballyburke

84 social houses. Part 8 planning was granted by the Elected Members on the 13th May 2024 with commencement on site by year end. A shadow design team is currently under evaluation with a works tender to be published in Q4.

Merchants Road

A high-quality infill project in Galway's cultural area backing onto the Palas Cinema. It contains a new civil/cultural space to the ground floor with 12 no. residential apartments above. Granted planning through Part X process with An Bord Pleanála in late Q2. Currently in discussions with design team to progress to procurement and onto construction.

CREL

A letter of comfort will be provided to AHB Cluid in support of 75 CREL units at Maolchnoc, Ballymoneen Road.

An Expression of interest advertisement was published in June via eTenders and to local newspapers calling for land banks and/or turnkey developments. Additionally, we have launched social media posts to advertise our interest in land and/or turnkeys.

<https://www.galwaycity.ie/news/3811/59/Galway-City-Council-Turnkey-Housing/d,NewsDetail>

3.3 Pleanáil | Planning

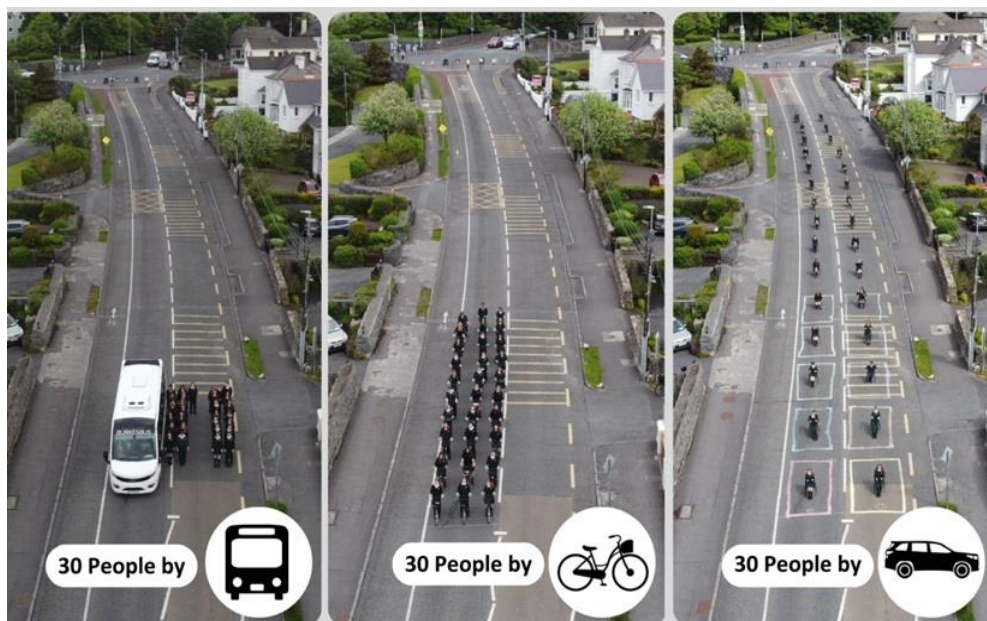
Draft Heritage Plan - The Draft Galway City Heritage Plan 2024-2029 is currently on public display until the 25th of July 2024. Prior to the publication extensive consultation took place with the SPC and Heritage groups. Any Submissions/Observations received will be reviewed and amendments to the Draft Heritage Plan will if deemed necessary.

<https://consult.galwaycity.ie/en/consultation/draft-heritage-plan-2024-2029>

Pictiúir na Míosa | The Month in Pictures



Naming ceremony for Droichead an Dóchais



Efficiency of Space Active Travel Threadneedle Road



Official opening of Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Bridge



Merchants Road

4. Tithíocht, Forbairt Eacnamaíochta agus Cultúr Housing, Economic Development and Culture

Buacphointí | Highlights

Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 on public consultation

Gra Chocolates named regional winner at National Enterprise Awards 2024

Clár | Key Dates:

4 July 2024 – Galway City Council Culture Night Listing & Event Fund - Deadline for applications 4pm 4 July 2024

The Air We Share - Launch 13 July 2024 as part of Westside Arts Festival

Local Food and Craft Fair 2024 - Closing date for completed applications is Wednesday 24 July 2024

Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse/G | A/Director of Service: Elizabeth Fanning

4.1 Tithíocht | Housing

197 Castle Park operated as a Community Creche until its closure in 2023. This unit has been brought up to standard and it complies with the Fire Regulations and the Building Regulations. Following an Expression of Interest process from other Creche operators, Galway Regional Youth Federation, signed a licence in May 2024 and have commenced operations.

The Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 is on public consultation from 4 July 2024 to 30 August 2024. The Draft Plan is available for inspection in Galway City Council and at www.galwaycity.ie. Submissions can be made in writing to Traveller Accommodation Unit, Galway City Council, or Email: travelleraccommodationunit@galwaycity.ie

Further to actions under Housing for All and Galway Social Housing Taskforce a pilot has been rolled out by Galway Local Authorities to identify and provide enhanced tenancy sustainment supports to families experiencing long-term homelessness, helping them exit homelessness and maintain their homes. The pilot will be managed by COPE Galway. This scheme will operate on a pilot basis for an initial period of 18 months after which a review will take place.

4.2 Forbairt Eacnamaíoch | Economic Development

Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 – 2025

Following a recent call for funding proposals to develop and deliver new collaborative programmes, projects or initiatives with a focus on innovation, growth and ensuring the resilience of our local economy, Galway City Council has approved funding to the following organisations for new projects that will deliver outcomes for the following objectives:

- Galway City Partnership & SCCUL Enterprises CLG - Develop, encourage and create an ecosystem for innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurship, including community/ social enterprise that is environmentally sustainable
- Comhoibriú CLG (trading as CREW) - Support increased enterprise development, innovation, and jobs growth in the Creative Technology (CreaTech) sector
- PorterShed - Maximise the potential of the Connected Hubs initiative to assist Placemaking and Talent Retention

Tourism - Ireland West Airport Knock

Galway City Council supported a delegation of Tourism Businesses on a promotional tour of Milan and Cologne to support the provision of seasonal flights from Ireland West Airport –Knock. The tour included 80 meetings between the local tourism industry and tour operators and travel agents in both locations. The tour was supported by the IWAK Airport, Tourism Ireland and the 7 local authorities with a stake in the airport. The industry from Galway City in attendance included Connacht Hospitality Group, Lally Tours and the University of Galway summer accommodation.

4.3 Cultúr | Culture

Culture Night Call Out

The nineteenth edition of Culture Night will take place on Friday 20 September 2024. Galway City Council Arts Office is leading Culture Night Galway City and have just launched an open call to the local arts and culture community.

<https://www.galwaycity.ie/news/3803/59/Galway-City-Council-Culture-Night-Listing-and-Event-Fund-/d,NewsDetail>

Cruinniú na nÓg

Saturday 15 June saw a lively programme of free events and activities for Cruinniú na nÓg, a national day of free creative activity for children and young people.

<https://www.galwaycity.ie/news/3766/59/Dare-to-Create-Galway-City-Launches-its-Cruinni%C3%BA-na-n%C3%93g-Irelands-National-Day-of-Youth-Creativity/d,NewsDetail#:~:text=A%20vibrant%20programme%20of%20arts,Street%20on%20Tuesday%2021%20May>

Leisureland prepares for a busy summer schedule with classes booked and a very exciting list of events. The Amusement Fair operates daily from 12pm to late.

Pictiúir na Míosa | The Month in Pictures



The crew of Unspeakable Conversations in rehearsals ahead of Galway International Arts Festival



Local Food and Craft Fair 2024

5. Airgeadas agus TFC

Finance and ICT

Ceann Airgeadais agus Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse TFC | Director of Finance and ICT:

Helen Kilroy

Revenue Income and Expenditure Report May 2024

Galway City Council
Revenue Expenditure and Income by Division with Adopted Budget
5 months to 31st May 2024

	Expenditure				Income			
	Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Remaining 2024	% Spent	Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Not Rec'd 2024	% Rec'd 2024
A - Housing and Building	18,950,041	49,445,810	30,495,769	38%	17,260,013	43,752,337	26,492,324	39%
B - Road Transport & Safety	5,850,837	14,396,696	8,545,859	41%	2,282,414	8,776,496	6,494,082	26%
C - Water Services	1,228,111	3,181,824	1,953,713	39%	918,456	2,845,697	1,927,241	32%
D - Development Management	6,263,121	11,429,068	5,165,947	55%	3,933,876	3,447,813	486,063	114%
E - Environmental Services	5,413,047	13,863,088	8,450,041	39%	408,903	1,196,378	787,475	34%
F - Recreation and Amenity	8,119,846	20,751,534	12,631,688	39%	3,364,513	7,369,598	4,005,085	46%
G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	98,530	269,171	170,641	37%	27,695	66,782	39,087	41%
H - Miscellaneous Services	2,404,899	8,037,365	5,632,466	30%	802,400	5,143,512	4,341,112	16%
LG - Local Government Fund	-	-	-	-	2,548,536	6,116,487	3,567,951	42%
RA - Rates	-	-	-	-	17,750,078	42,659,456	24,909,378	42%
Grand Totals	48,328,432	121,374,556	73,046,124	40%	49,296,884	121,374,556	72,077,672	41%

Revenue Collection Rates

Performance of Local Authority Revenue collection levels May 2024

	Total for Collection	Amount Collected	Arrears at 31/05/2024	% Collected
	€	€	€	
Rates	51,117,708	19,396,023	31,721,685	38%
Rents & Annuities	6,474,715	4,105,794	2,368,921	63%
Housing Loans	944,687	744,787	199,900	79%

Overdraft Facility

No. of Days in Overdraft	0 Days
Max Value of overdraft used	-

Appendix:

Quarterly Update



1. Seirbhísí agus Rialachas Corparáideach, Pobal agus Athrú Aeráide

Corporate Governance and Services, Community and Climate Action

Director of Services – Derek Pender

A. Seirbhísí agus Rialachas Corparáideach | Corporate Governance and Services

Customer Service

The Customer Service team continued to provide support to both internal and external customers during the second quarter of 2024. The Reception and Cash Office is open to the public daily from 9.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. Monday to Friday, to facilitate payments, appointments and deliveries. The Call Centre operates from 9.00a.m. to 5.00p.m. Monday to Friday, providing additional telephone assistance to both staff and outside callers. Statistics for Q2 2024

The Customer Service team provided the following departmental support during Q2 of 2024:

- 277 Resident/Carers permits printed and posted and 1,518 Visitor permits processed by the Customer Service team.
- 259 orders received for Bulky Goods collection service processed on behalf of the Environment department, this was distributed over 12 collection dates.
- Customer Service provided bags, gloves and litter pickers to community groups and arranged the collection from 31 clean ups which took place around the city.
- Processed payments for and distributed changing room keys whilst monitoring the supply of these on behalf of the Recreation & Amenity department.
- Received and logged a total of 197 XY Comply incidents.
- 3,246 receipts were taken at the cash desk in City Hall during Q2 period.
- Customer Service team continue to be the liaison person with the local papers in relation to Adverts for all sections in Galway City Council which is done on a weekly basis.

- Assisting the Housing Section by taking details of those who are homeless and passing these on to Homeless services team. Continue to answer any telephone queries in relation to “Choice Based Letting”, unlocking and resetting customers passwords whilst continuing to be the front face for the housing department after 10’clock Monday to Friday.

Call Centre: 13,967 calls were received by Galway City Council’s main line in Q2 to date with 83% of these calls handled by Customer Service.

Out-of-Hours Service: 161 Calls were handled by our Out-of-Hours service during Q2 2024.

B. Pobal | Community

Healthy Galway City

The Healthy Galway City Round 4 2023 finance and progress reports have been approved by Pobal and the Department of Health and 90% funding for Year 2 2024 projects has been allocated to Galway City Council (€147,629.24). The ‘Healthy Men, Happy Tribes’ Men’s Health event was held on Monday 10th June in St. Patrick’s Band Hall Galway City. Over 120 men attended this multi-agency health event and received support and expert advice from local organisations on topics of physical and mental health, social inclusion, financial wellbeing and more. Healthy Galway City is funding Galway Traveller Movements ‘Healthy Eating and Nutrition’ workshops to young traveller women in Galway City throughout June and July 2024.

Community Recognition Fund 2024

Galway City Council was notified of a second round of funding under the Community Recognition Fund on 15th March 2024. The allocation to Galway City is €1,702,897. The Community Recognition Fund aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. Online applications from the community were invited in April with a closing date of May 3rd and 22 proposals were received from community, sports, religious and educational organisations. 14 project proposals were submitted by Departments in Galway City Council. 13

projects amounting to €1,277,000 were submitted to the Department for consideration on 31st May 2024.

Community Centre Investment Fund

Department of Rural and Community Development have announced The Community Centre Investment Fund 2024. The Community Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) 2024 is designed to support the development and refurbishment of community centres across Ireland. The fund aims to enhance the quality and functionality of community centres to better serve local communities by supporting essential maintenance, retrofitting, and other necessary improvements. Under the Community Centres Investment Fund 2024, community organisations will be supported with grants of between €10,000 - €100,000 towards capital costs to develop and enhance their existing community facilities. Application window opens 29th of July through the Pobal website.

Mayor's Awards

Speaking at the awards ceremony at the Galway Bay Hotel on 1st May, the Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Eddie Hoare said that Galway City Council was proud to honour and celebrate the many people who work quietly behind the scenes to make their communities stronger, more vibrant, often inspiring and motivating to others. Speaking on the winners and nominees at the awards, Mayor Eddie Hoare commented: "The Mayor's Awards provide an opportunity to acknowledge people who commit time and effort to make their community a better place. We all know people who despite their incredibly busy lives still find time to support neighbours, local groups and communities in a very significant way. On this, the twenty first year of the Awards, I am delighted to acknowledge and celebrate true community spirit as per the long-established Irish meitheal that brings communities together". Over 80 individuals and groups were nominated across all categories.

Integration Support Service

The integration support staff are conducting support clinics across all centres housing international protection applicants and beneficiaries of temporary protection in Galway city.

Get Support!



Let's Meet!

Galway City Council Integration team can provide signposting to services you need:

- to access information, employment and training,
- to develop English language proficiency,
- to connect with healthcare and related services,
- to explore opportunities to engage with sporting, voluntary or any other community activities.

Our next meeting in the centre takes place on:





If you wish to contact us please email
IntegrationSupport@GalwayCity.ie



Africa Day celebrations took place on May 25th with eight groups awarded funding for 2024.



FAI	€600
United Women Galway	€1900
Shining Light	€1800
Youth Lift	€2750
UHUG	€800
Africa United Galway	€3700
Galway Diaspora	€1300
Saol Connect	€2150

Galway Sports Partnership (GSP)

Galway City Council Sports Club Grant 2024 - The annual sports club grant will be announced in the coming months with applications due to be opened on August 1st with a closing date of Sunday, September 15th at 11:59pm. There is a maximum of €3,500 per club, with clubs required to have a minimum of 30% expenditure on coaching courses.

Bike Week - 21 events took place catering for a variety of ages delivered by 12 different groups and 10 schools. Over 3,000 people took part in the events with the highlight being the City Centre Cycle, where 180 primary schools kids partook in a 5K trip around the city. This event was supported by An Garda Síochána, Community Wardens, Active Travel section, Galway City Council Staff and the staff of GSP. There were bike repair workshops, high nelly events, historical cycles, cycle and coffee, spin 'n' swim as well as yoga. €20,000 was allocated for the events which proved a big hit with the people of Galway.



Nurturing Mental Well-Being in Young Players (The role of coaches & parents) - GSP delivered workshops under the Sports Mental Health Project funding. Mental health is a big topic of discussion across the board today, and sport is no different. Working with Dolores Andrew, an

award-winning wellness trainer, GSP delivered 3 free workshops across the city, (Knocknacarra, Ballinfoile, Connacht Hotel). The target of this round of workshops were coaches and parents.



Equipment Sports Club and School Grants - Five clubs were awarded funding under the above scheme, West United, Fr. Griffin/Éire Óg, St. Michael's GAA, Ragoon/Newcastle GAA club and Corrib Rangers FC. Each club allocated €2,000 to purchase equipment to support their underaged sections.





The Healthy Men, Happy Tribes Men Health event held on Monday 10th June in St. Patricks Band Hall Galway

C. Gníomhú Aeráide | Climate Action

Implementation of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan LACAP adopted in February 2024 has commenced.

A number of building retrofit projects have secured grant funding and are being progressed.

A list of Community Climate Action projects has been issued to the dept for review and approval.

The Net Zero Cities project is supporting communities understand the retrofit and grant application process.

2. Bóithre agus lompar (Oibríochtaí), Caitheamh Aimsire agus Taitneamhacht, Caipiteal Spóirt, Comhshaol

Roads and Transport (Operations), Recreation and Amenity, Sports Capital, Environment

Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse | Director of Service: Patrick Greene

D. Bóithre agus lompar (Oibríochtaí) | Roads and Transport (Operations)

Operations & Maintenance Strengthening & surface repairs

Works completed at:

- Bothar Ui Roideachain (Davis Rd)
- Liosbaun Industrial Estate L-50488
- Rockbarton Road L-5015
- Monksfield L-50172
- Cookes Terrace L-50494
- Monument Road L-1006
- Ballindooley Village L-51513 Bridge

Maintenance Remedial works at Mill Street Bridge are now complete. Works included:

- Removal of vegetation and cleaning the bridge,
- Masonry repairs and repointing to the abutments, piers, wing walls, arch-barrels, and parapet walls,
- Reconstruction of the existing concrete beam extensions,
- Reconstruction of sections of the parapet walls,
- Mobility improvement works at the junction of Parkavara and Mill Street.

Safety & Mobility improvements

Mobility Improvement & footpath renewal works were completed at multiple locations including:

- Glenina Heights
- Davis Road
- Seapoint Promenade
- Parnell Avenue
- Renmore Park
- Dangan
- Barnacranny
- St James Church, Bushypark
- Quincentennial Drive
- Devon Park & Gardens
- Cookes Terrace
- Bohermore
- Lakewood Park
- Tirellan Heights
- Riverside
- Salthill Lower
- Mobility Improvements and footpath renewal is completed at Rosshill Road

Noise Action Plan

- Galway City Council is currently progressing the Galway City Draft Noise Action Plan (NAP) 2024-2028 in line with the European framework – Environmental Noise Directive (END). The END is transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 (as amended) (the Regulations).
- Environmental noise is ‘unwanted or harmful outdoor sound’ arising from human activity. The most common sources of environmental noise exposure are from transport including road, rail and aircraft and industry.
- Noise mapping of major roads in Galway City was undertaken during 2022/23.
- A number of priority areas identified by the mapping exercise, will be selected for assessment during the lifecycle of the NAP.
- A period of public consultation will commence in Q2/Q3 2024.

- The results of the public consultation will be considered in the preparation of the Galway City Noise Final Action Plan 2024-2028.

Multi-Modal Transport Corridors MMTc

In September 2023 Galway City Council (GCC) commissioned a feasibility study associated with the provision of walking, cycling, public transport & private Car for a number of roads identified in the GCDP. The study examining possible design options for each road is ongoing and a report expected in quarter three 2024. A program of design will then be established.

City Centre Pedestrian Area Rehabilitation

Tender Documents for pavement rehabilitation works on High Street issued to the market at the beginning of June are currently being assessed. It is anticipated that a preferred contractor will be identified by end of July. The works are to be undertaken in two stages commencing in September under a formal road closure. Local businesses and stakeholders in the immediate vicinity of the works area have been informed of the planned works and engagement will continue throughout this project with a dedicated point of contact available 24 hours a day.

Parking Review

A review of the Council's parking arrangements began in Sep 2023 by consultants Iregan Advisors, with the aims of understanding current arrangements and future needs. Areas examined include P&D equipment, digital payment solutions for parking, and an upgraded software solution for parking fines management. Recommendations were presented to the SMT and at a Transport SPC meeting in February 2024. Following the review, tenders have been published for upgraded P&D equipment, for a digital payment solution for parking ("Pay by Phone"), and for a Parking Fines Management Solution (PFMS). Preferred bidders have been identified for P&D and PFMS tenders. Expected implementation timeframe is 2-3 months for P&D and 3-4 months for PFMS. The Pay by Phone tender is ongoing, and it is expected that a preferred bidder will be identified by the end of July.



Millstreet Bridge

E. Caitheamh Aimsire agus Taitneamhacht | Recreation and Amenity

The Department manages on an ongoing basis a network of Public Parks, Woodlands, Civic Spaces, Play Facilities, Skate Parks, All Weather Sports Facilities, Natural Sports Pitches, Dressing rooms, Recreation Centres, a Boxing Club and Snooker Hall, Beaches, Bathing Areas & Changing Facilities, Rivers & Streams, Promenades, Quays & Piers, Diving & Swim Facilities, Lifeguard facilities & staffing, Water Safety, Heritage & Archaeological sites, Housing Estate Open Spaces and Road side amenities & roundabouts.

Japanese Knotweed Management & Control operations are ongoing on over 14 sites across the City. Effective Management of outbreaks can take between 3 -4 years to bring under effective control.

General Operations:

- Work on floral displays in summer planter boxes were completed. River Walk flower bed was tidied up. See below photos.



- Cappagh Park playground had worn out play equipment panels removed, and new ones installed.



- Doughiska playground had an extensive cutting and clean up by R&A outdoor crews.



- A new safety surface is to be installed in Ballinfoyle Park Playground after recent vandalism occurred that extensively damaged the Playground.



- Eyre Square steps to plaza area are being upgraded.
- Summer Wildflower beds were sown in O'Sullivan Park, Children's Millenium Park and Quinquennially Park.



A tender for the refurbishment of Children's Millenium Playground went live on eTenders in May. Tender submissions have been received and the process is now at tender assessment stage. A social inclusive playground has been specified. See below photos of some of the inclusive features specified in the tender.



F. Comhshaol | Environment

Galway City Council received €101,445 for 5 projects under the 2024 Anti-Dumping Initiative. The projects that received funding through the initiative include;

1. Circular City Galway
2. Sliabh Rua - Sruthan Mhuirlinne Upkeep Project
3. Household Bulky Goods Collection Day – in conjunction with Galway County Council.
4. Water Station Installation project – installation of 3 water stations on the East.
5. Eglington Canal project

Waste Enforcement

- The Waste Enforcement Unit continued to promote compliance with waste management legislation, focusing on the National Waste Enforcement Priorities for 2024. Routine and non-routine inspections are ongoing, and the Environment & Climate Change Department is liaising with the Community Wardens, the Housing Department, the Gardaí and other stakeholders in relation to environmental complaints. An upkeep project campaign will shortly commence to include 2 estates in Ballybane to complement and support anti-dumping/littering initiatives taking place in the area under the Anti-Dumping Initiative. This is in keeping with an intense campaign on waste enforcement and will be an on-going project for a number of years.
- Waste awareness campaigns ongoing in conjunction with Communities and Tenant Liaison Officers. Bulky Goods collection service operating on a weekly basis & Spring cleaning initiatives. Delivery of a new Litter Management plan has commenced with previous engagement public engagement events that have taken place further continuation to materialise over the coming months.

MADRA Schools workshop

MADRA had completed their trial of a responsible dog ownership workshop in 3 National Schools in the City. The workshops focused on microchipping, how to approach a dog, how to control a dog, cleaning up dog poo (which each person got to do) and the feedback from

Schools has been excellent. Galway City Council paid for the trial and have agreed to roll out this initiative City wide in 2024.

3. Forbairt Bonneagair agus Pleanáil

Infrastructure Development and Planning

Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse | Director of Service: Patricia Philbin

G. Maoin Iompair | Transport Capital

Droichead an Dóchais

At a special meeting of Galway City Council on 22 April, Councillors voted to name the Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge as Droichead an Dóchais. This name had been recommended by the Civic Naming Committee which had considered over 60 suggestions from the public. On May 31 Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Eddie Hoare unveiled a plaque to mark the official naming. As part of the event, members of the public who proposed Dóchas/Hope as the bridge name were in attendance and presented with a certificate to commemorate their suggestions which inspired the final name of the new bridge.

Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Bridge II project

The Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Bridge II project was completed in May. This entailed the construction of a 2m wide cantilever bridge footway on the south side of the existing Wolfe Tone Bridge, similar to the footway on the northern side. This project allows safer crossings of the bridge by pedestrians, on a wider footpath which is segregated from the road. Official Opening Event – On May 17, Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Eddie Hoare and Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D. opened the Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Bridge II, and officially opened the completed School Street at Scoil Iognáid, Raleigh Row and the Eglinton Canal Active Travel Scheme.

Bóthar Stiofáin Cycle Scheme

870m in length, stretching from the junction with Western Distributor Road to the junction with Ragoon Road. This scheme will improve safety, reduce vehicle speeds and contribute to increased levels of walking and cycling. A Part 8 Planning Application was lodged on January 25. The public submission period was open for six weeks. This Application including a review of public consultation submissions was presented to Councillors on May 13. The scheme was well-received and passed unanimously with two amendments: 1. The current drop-off at the entrance to the Retail Park is to be removed (as had been raised in 13 of 23 submissions received) 2. The design of the kerb on the cycle lane adjacent to the road is to be assessed and amended in order to give more protection to the cyclist. The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) is being prepared and detailed design is underway. The Parkmore Road Bus Priority Scheme is progressing and is scheduled to be completed in Q1

N6 Galway City Ring Road

An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on 6 December 2021, approved with conditions and modifications, the N6 GCRR and the scheme became operative on 27 January 2022. Judicial Review proceedings challenging the decisions of the Board were taken, and not opposed by ABP on the issue relating to the Climate Action Plan 2021. On 30 January 2023 the High Court made orders quashing the decisions approving the N6 GCRR. However, the Court also ordered that the applications for approval be remitted back to the Board from the point in time immediately after the submission of the Inspector's Report. On 6 December 2023 a Request for Further Information (RFI) was issued by the Board to Galway County Council, seeking relevant updates and submissions. Work on this response is ongoing and includes:

- Transport and Traffic Assessments
- Biodiversity Surveys and Assessments
- Landowner Consultation ABP have been advised that the additional information will be available on or before 20 Sept 24.

Urbanism & Placemaking Cross Street Rejuvenation

Following the announcement of the project in November 2023, a tender for the appointment of an Architect Led Multidisciplinary design team was published in February 2024. The tender process was completed in May. BDP Architects have been appointed as the project design

team. Lombard Street Rejuvenation – a tender for the appointment of an Architect Led Multidisciplinary design team for the project is being developed. The project aims to implement the objectives of the Public Realm Strategy. It is proposed to publish the tender in June 2024. Multidisciplinary Design Services for the preparation of an Infrastructural Implementation Plan and Cost Estimate for the delivery of the Ardaun Local Area Plan - A tender for the appointment of a Multidisciplinary design team for the review and development of an Implementation Plan and Cost Estimate for the Ardaun Area has been progressed. Tenders are due for return at the end of June 2024.



Lombard Street

Artist's impression showing the extension of the Saturday market into Mainguard Street and a more pedestrian-friendly environment (part of the Lombard Street Rejuvenation project). The view shows wider pavement which will allow cafes and restaurants spill out onto the street.



Bóthar Stiofáin Cycle Scheme



Droichead an Dóchais

At the naming ceremony for Droichead an Dóchais, Mayor Eddie Hoare presented certificates to those who suggested Hope / Dóchais as part of the name, including representatives of Anam Croí, Claregalway.

Caipiteal Tithíochta | Housing Capital

LA Owned: Garrai Beag Social Housing Scheme: Project contractor for scheme advised that they are in a position to complete and handover 10 of the 58 units early Q3 approximately 4 months in advance of the completion of the remainder of the scheme. **Merlin Woods:** The Merlin Woods Project is a mixed social and affordable housing project of 103 residential units, 5 commercial units and a Crèche. Galway City Council are currently working on stage two procurement documents which include the draft development agreement.

Clybaun Road: The proposal is for a 61 units housing project comprising of 30 Social and 31 Affordable units. Departmental Stage 2 approval was received in February 2024, and 179a planning was signed by and the drawings are on display to the public for the period Thursday 25th of April 2024 up to and including Monday 24th of June 2024.

LA Owned: Seamus Quirke Road Day Centre and Temporary Homeless Accommodation: The project involves the demolition of the existing single storey building and replacement with a part 2 storey / part 3 storey development. We are in the process of establishing a Multi Party Framework Agreement for delivery of this scheme. The project is currently on programme to go to tender in August 2024, with a projected completion date of Q4 2025.

Munster Ave: This project looks at high-quality urban infill housing in a city central location. The existing house will be renovated to become a 2-bed unit, with 3 no. new 1-bed apartments adjacent to the existing house. It is intended to have completed the Section 179A exempted development planning process in early Q3. Delivery is expected end of Q4 2025.

Acquisitions: 21 Acquisitions completed year to date. 14 of these units were Tenant in Situ. GCC have 29 acquisitions currently going through conveyancing, with a further 14 Expression of Interests received.

VHO Scheme update: A total of 65 applications have been submitted since the launch of Croi Conaithe, with 23 received YTD. We have received full final invoices on 7 applications, with 2 drawn downs expected to close end of June. The remaining 5 applications are progressing to closure. In order, to boost knowledge, understanding and applications we have launched fresh Social Media posts outlining this grant and linking viewers to our website.

Coill Tire Turnkey: GCC has submitted a single stage capital appraisal in February 2024 for the acquisition of a Turnkey of 10 units, at Coill Tire Doughiska. Subject to approval, delivery will be in Q3 2024.

CALF: Cnocan Glas is on track for delivery of phase 4 by end of July 2024 (23 Units), and phase 5 end of Q3 2024 (4 Units).

LA - Part V: Maolchnoc, Ballymoneen Road: 10 Units for delivery end of August 2024 and a further 14 units for delivery in Q1, 2025.

CAS – Part V: Garrai na Saili: Ability West AHB is on target to deliver 7 units in Q4 2024

CAS Construction: 111 Upper Newcastle Road: 10 Units due for delivery Q3 2024 by Galway Simon

Circular Road: A scheme to provide 5 Culturally Specific Traveller Units has been designed for this site. Works on site commenced in Q4 2023. This development will replace the existing halting site bays. Currently on target and due for completion end Q4 2024.

H. Pleanáil | Planning

Joint Retail Strategy for Galway City and Metropolitan Area.

It is an objective of the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 and the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 to carry out a Joint Retail Strategy for Galway City and Metropolitan Area. A tender seeking expert consultants to assist in carrying out this work was advertised, and a number of consultancies have expressed interest. Tender submissions are currently being evaluated and it is expected to award the tender in the coming days and commence the project in July 2024 with a 6 month timescale. The strategy will consider all aspects of retailing in the Galway City and towns of Oranmore, Bearna and Baile Cláir.

Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan.

A Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan has commenced with the preparation and advertisement of tenders. This is in line with the requirements of Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 (Policy 10.3 Salthill). A number of tenders have been received and are currently being evaluated. The Framework Plan will be a visionary document prepared in collaboration with all stakeholders. Public engagement will be a central element of the process. The Plan will support the implementation of a range of national and local policy priorities in particular building climate resilience, supporting compact growth, health and wellbeing and sustainable mobility.

Draft Heritage Plan

The Draft Galway City Heritage Plan 2024-2029 is currently on public display until the 25th of July 2024. Prior to the publication extensive consultation took place with the SPC and Heritage groups. Any Submissions/Observations received will be reviewed and amendments to the Draft Heritage Plan will if deemed necessary.

<https://consult.galwaycity.ie/en/consultation/draft-heritage-plan-2024-2029>

Development Management Stats.

Total No. of applications received Year to date 162 No. of retention apps 35 No. received through online portal 136 No. paper apps received 26.

4. Tithíocht, Forbairt Eacnamaíochta agus Cultúr

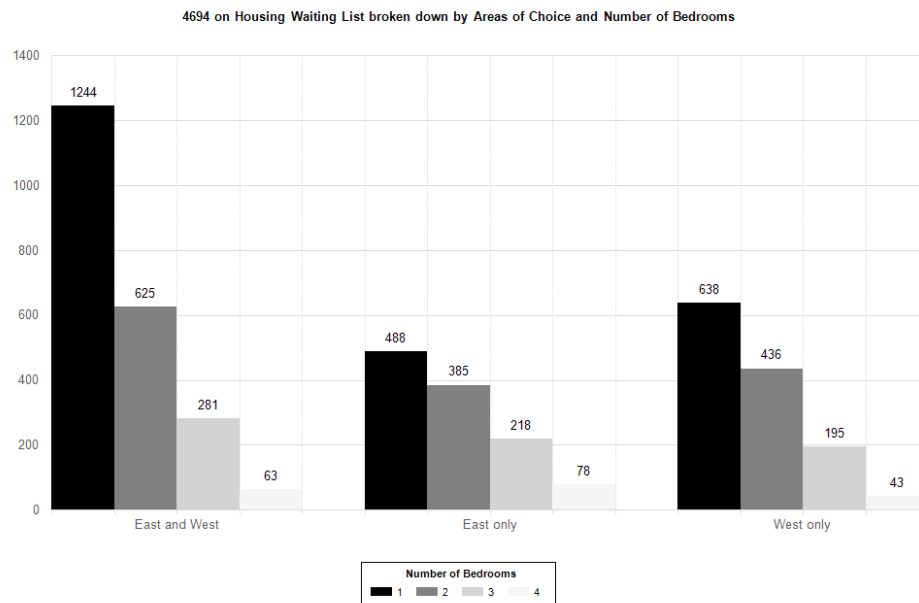
Housing, Economic Development and Culture

Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse/G | A/Director of Service: Elizabeth Fanning

I. Housing Tithíocht | Housing

May Homeless figures indicate 223 adults were accessing city emergency accommodation of which there 81 families. 18 tenancies were set up in Q2 by HAP Place finder Service. Currently 142 valid NTQs. 37 tenancies were allocated in Q2 - 27 new tenancies and 10 transfers comprising 34 local authority units and 3 approved housing bodies. The units were allocated to on basis of need of to a variety of categories on the list. 198 new Housing applications were received in Q2. 121 additional households were placed on the housing waiting list. Work on developing Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 continued throughout q2 and public consultation will commence in July 2024. Circular Road Housing Scheme 5 units of culturally appropriate Traveller accommodation due for completion December 2024. Allocation 2024 Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme for private homes €1,496,429 (80% Exchequer & 20% LA).

Figures on the Housing Waiting List below include those households also in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) or Long-Term Leasing Scheme (LTL) and Transfers.



The above graph gives the breakdown of the Housing Waiting List at Quarter 2. It demonstrates preference for both East and West, East only and West only.

Private Housing Grant Type	Total Completed 2024	Total Payments 2024
Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG) Private	30	€294,202.17
Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP)	88	€537,436.73
Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)	4	€13,785.00
TOTAL	122	€845,423.90
LA Housing Grant Type	Total Completed 2024	Total Payments 2024
Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG) LA	16	€184,404.70

In Q2, the implementation of the new Housing Asset Management ICT system (Addjust) commenced, works are ongoing between GCC IT Department & LGMA/Conpay on the integration of ihouse & Addjust. In Q2, the appointment of the Contractor/surveyor to carry out stock conditions across Galway City Council housing stock is underway, and it is programmed to commence these surveys on properties in Q3. At the end of Q2, 91 Council owned vacant Units awaiting pre-tenancy works or allocation to tenants. Of the total, works are complete on 17 Units pending allocation. Pre-tenancy works are currently underway on a further 74 Units, a significant number of properties will be returned for reletting in Q3. The EERP continues in 2024. Funding approval of €1,489,000 to retrofit 44 properties to a B2/Cost Optimal standard in March. Works on the first tranche of 19 units for deep retrofit works are complete, second tranche of 25 Units completed in Q3.

Planned Maintenance Works Programme 2024 includes

- Radon Testing of 1930 properties & 232 remediation works done under this programme; and 85 Tests underway in 2024.
- Boiler Replacement in 322 properties installed under this programme; and 73 replacements in 2024.
- External Window & Door Replacement in 230 properties installed under this programme, and 96 replacements in 2024.
- Damp Remediation works in 25 properties completed under this programme and 12 remediated in 2024.
- Roof & Gutter repair works on 253 properties completed under this programme and 135 properties received repairs in 2024. Minimum Standards Inspections to date (19.06.2024)
Number of properties inspected 219 Number of properties passed 37 Number of improvement letters issued 188.

Housing Adaptation Grants

Allocation 2024 Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme for private homes €1,496,429 (80% Exchequer & 20% LA).

Adaptations and extensions to local authority dwellings: Galway City Councils 2024 allocation is €653,331 comprising of €587,998 which represents 90% Department Contribution and €65,333 is the 10% Local Authority Contribution

4 Properties have been sold to date in 2024 – Total Market Value - €855,000. GCC received €465,000. 10 Tenant Purchase Applications have been received to date in 2024. A Tenant Purchase application fee of €20 has been introduced for Tenant Purchase first time applications, and a €100 fee has been introduced for second and subsequent applications.

Housing Loans

- Galway City Council has received approval for €6,080,000 for new lending approval in 2024.
- Any loan approvals that expire in 2024 may be 'recycled' for the purpose of the 2024 allocation.
- Members approved the raising of a loan of €6,080,000 at the Council Meeting in April.
- 382 applications have been received by Galway City Council under the Loan Schemes since initiation.
- 172 loan applications have been approved to a total value of €44,091,318 • 33 of are under the Tenant Purchase Scheme, where tenants were approved funding to buy the property.

J. Forbairt Eacnamaíoch | Economic Development

New 3.2 million Creative Enterprise Hub opens in Galway

Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Dara Calleary officially opened the CREW Creative Enterprise and Innovation Hub in April 2024, marking a significant milestone for creative entrepreneurs and innovators in the west of Ireland. Funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment through Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) initiative, CREW represents the first innovation hub in the West dedicated to nurturing entrepreneurs in the creative industries.

Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 – 2025

Following a recent call for funding proposals to develop and deliver new collaborative programmes, projects or initiatives with a focus on innovation, growth and ensuring the resilience of our local economy, Galway City Council has approved funding to the following organisations for new projects that will deliver outcomes for the following objectives:

- **Galway City Partnership & SCCUL Enterprises CLG** - Develop, encourage and create an ecosystem for innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurship, including community/ social enterprise that is environmentally sustainable
- **Comhoibriú CLG (trading as CREW)** - Support increased enterprise development, innovation, and jobs growth in the Creative Technology (CreaTech) sector
- **PorterShed** - Maximise the potential of the Connected Hubs initiative to assist Placemaking and Talent Retention

Gra Chocolates named regional winner at National Enterprise Awards

Gra Chocolates who are supported by the Galway City Council Local Enterprise Office, were winners at this year's National Enterprise Awards. The awards, which took place in the Mansion House, Dublin were in their 24th year and run annually by the Local Enterprise Offices.

Tourism

Galway City Council supported a delegation of Tourism Businesses on a promotional tour of Milan and Cologne to support the provision of seasonal flights from Ireland West Airport –Knock.

A tender was issued to develop a new Tourist Office in Eyre Square in partnership with Fáilte Ireland. Galway City Council will build the facility and the tourist office will be operated by Fáilte Ireland. The Tourist Office will replace the kiosk and look at upgrading the toilet facilities to include an additional changing places facility.

Leisureland consultation has continued with meetings with local schools and other stakeholders.

Night-Time Economy

- Continued engagement with NTE stakeholders, focus groups, and youth consultation. Drafting of the action plan and report.
- Cruinniú Lates at Cruinniú na nÓg 2024, developed as part of the Night-Time Economy Action Plan, supported by Galway City Council and funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media. Cruinniú Lates is about empowering young people to shape their own vibrant nightlife experiences.

Beats and Beyond at Cruinniú Lates: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97Ni4_VZcl8

Scratch Night at Cruinniú Lates: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGdFukan-2w>

K. Cultúr | Culture

Levelling Access

The Arts Office led a Galway Arts and Disability event on 6 June at Blue Teapot Theatre that focused on collaboration, visibility, and access for disabled artists, reviewing the Levelling Access mapping arts and disability provision report, and fostering connections among 25 attendees from various art forms and support agencies.

Creative Ireland

Cruinniú na nÓg

Saturday 15 June saw a lively programme of free events and activities for Cruinniú na nÓg, a national day of free creative activity for children and young people. This year saw an increase in the number of events and an extended programme, including a Cruinniú Lates offering for 16–18-year-olds in collaboration with GCC's Night Time Economy Advisor.

Mending Hearts

Funding of €140,000 over 2024-25 has been successfully awarded to GCC's application for Creative Ireland's Creative Health & Wellbeing in the Community Fund. 'Mending Hearts: Cardiovascular Arts Programme' is led by GCC in collaboration with Galway County Council, Saolta Arts and Croí.

Town Hall Theatre

One of the many highlights of the very busy April-June programme of events at the Town Hall Theatre was the WhistleBlast Quartet collaboration with That's Life, on their groundbreaking new opera Mr President.



Town Hall Theatre supported this very special production which featured participants in leading roles from Galway's special arts organization 'That's Life' and their spin out band Electric Dreams, accompanied by the young musicians of Limerick's 'Ceol na Mara Youth Orchestra', with new music composed and performed by all participants in That's Life, and original gamelan music led by That's Life Programme Leader Andrew Madec plus a wonderful shadow puppet visual created by the That's Life team alongside the extraordinary talents of Mezzo-soprano Catherine Donnelly, jazz guitarist Aengus Hackett and Whistleblast Quartet and with the support of Irish Nation Opera and Town Hall Theatre.

Galway City Museum

Exhibitions

- The new exhibition, Surrounded by Stone, Galway: 1100 BC – AD 1750 was launched at Galway City Museum on Wednesday, 29 May 2024 Lynn Scarff, Director of the National Museum of Ireland launched the new exhibition in the medieval gallery at Galway City Museum. Other speakers at the event included the Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Eddie Hoare, the Chief Executive of Galway City Council, Leonard Cleary and the Director of the Galway City Museum, Eithne Verling.
- Two new temporary exhibitions also launched on the day include Biodiversity at Merlin Park Woods, an outdoor display of photos by Galway photographer Colin Stanley and Aran Island Life: the Ritchie-Pickow Collection.



Events: April/May/June

- WORKSHOP: Mending and Maintenance
- ILLUSTRATED TALK: A Guide to Sustainable Fabrics
- Talk at Renmore Active Retirement '*From Galway to Montserrat: The Blake legacy and Irish migration to the Caribbean*'
- TALK & STORYTELLING: Old Irish May Customs
- CREATIVE WRITING FOR BEALTAINE: Inspired by Objects

May

- ILLUSTRATED TALK: Biodiversity at Merlin Park Woods
- Guided tour with Iranian Ambassador to Ireland, Dr Kazem Sharif Kazemi, Charge d'Affaires
- Launch of Active travel Scheme
- LIVING HISTORY DEMO: Traditional wool-spinning and weaving in Ireland
- **ILLUSTRATED TALK:** Paisley and Galway Shawls

Críoch | Ends
