



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

PUBLIC SPENDING CODE

Quality Assurance Report 2022

As submitted to the National Oversight and Audit Commission
in compliance with the Public Spending Code

Certification

This Annual Quality Assurance Report reflects the Galway City Council's assessment of compliance with the Public Spending Code. It is based on the best financial, organisational and performance related information available across the various areas of responsibility.



**Patricia Philbin,
Interim Chief Executive.**

Dated: 10th August 2023

Part A – Introduction

Galway City Council has completed this Quality Assurance (QA) Report as part of its compliance with the Public Spending Code (PSC).

The Quality Assurance procedure aims to gauge the extent to which Galway City Council and its associated agencies are meeting the obligations set out in the Public Spending Code. The Public Spending Code seeks to ensure that all branches of the state achieve effective expenditure and value for money in the use of all public funds.

The Quality Assurance Process contains five steps:

1. **Draw up Inventories of all projects / programmes at different stages of the Project Life Cycle** (appraisal, planning/design, implementation, post implementation). The three sections are expenditure being considered, expenditure being incurred and expenditure recently ended. The inventory includes all projects above €0.5m in either total capital cost, or revenue cost for 2022.
2. **Publish summary information on website of all procurements in excess of €10m, whether new, in progress or completed.**
3. **Checklists to be completed in respect of different stages.** These checklists allow Galway City Council and its agencies to self-assess their compliance with the code, which are provided through the PSC document.
4. **Carry out a more in-depth check on a small number of selected projects / programmes.** A number of projects and programmes are selected to be reviewed more intensively. At least 5% of total declared Capital spending each year, and 1% of Revenue spending each year, with both averaged over a 3-year period.
5. **Complete a short report for the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC),** which includes the inventory of all projects, the publication of procurements over €10m, the completed checklists, the City Council's judgement on the findings from the in-depth checks and any proposals to remedy discovered inadequacies.

This report fulfils the requirements of the QA Process in Galway City Council for 2022.

Part B – Expenditure Analysis

Inventory of Projects / Programmes

This section details the inventory drawn up by Galway City Council in accordance with the guidance on the Quality Assurance process. The inventory lists all the City Council's projects and programmes at various stages of the project life cycle, which amounted to more than €0.5m. The inventory is based on Capital Projects (individual jobs), and Revenue Programmes based on the Service Level listing in Appendix 2 of the Annual Financial Statement for 2022.

The inventory is divided between three stages:

- Expenditure being considered
- Expenditure being incurred
- Expenditure that has recently ended

The following Table 1 lists the City Council's compiled inventory for 2022.

Expenditure Being Considered

Expenditure being considered, comprised capital projects recently initiated or likely to commence during the following year. Table 1 lists eight Capital Projects as being considered during 2022. These projects are at planning or commencement stage(s).

There were five new revenue projects in the expenditure reports of Galway City Council during 2022. New revenue Service Levels are usually the result of national or regional initiatives.

Expenditure Being Incurred

The Public Spending Code requires that all revenue Service Levels incurring expenditures over €0.5m would be declared. Accordingly, there are 36 revenue programmes listed in Table 1 for 2022.

Table 1 also lists 16 ongoing Capital Projects in various Directorates.

Expenditure Recently Ended

Table 1 confirms that six of the capital projects / programmes were concluded during 2022.

Table 1.

Galway City Council

Inventory of Projects and Programmes over €0.5m

The following contains an inventory of Expenditure on Projects / Programmes with a value above €0.5m, categorised by Expenditure being considered, Expenditure being incurred, and Expenditure recently ended. Only projects with expenditure matching these criteria are included in the inventory table.

Project/Scheme/Programme Name	Short Description	Expenditure being Considered - Greater than €0.5m (Capital and Current)			Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Non Grant)	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Grant)	Project/Programme Anticipated Timeline	Projected Lifetime Expenditure	Explanatory Notes
		Current Expenditure Amount in Reference Year	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Grant)					
CAP ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETRO PROG (EERP)	Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme	€ 601,339.09	€ 0.00	€ 601,339.09			Ongoing - as long as funding available from Dept. Recoupments in 2022 covered all the Expenditure on this Capital Job Code for 2022. This programme was launched by Dept. In 2013. "In 2022, EERP spends were charged to the R408015 & C116003 codes, I believe that €1,036,274.82 was spent in the revenue code. All department payments from the Energy Retrofit phase 1 programme and the new EERP were directed into C116003"	€ 601,339.09	Dept. Funded and Internal Capital Receipts if required for unfunded works
CAS 2021 BALLYBANE MORE (CARRAIG DUBH)	Capital Assistance Scheme (Loan)	€ 549,207.00	€ 0.00	€ 549,207.00			Completed - Final Expenditure received from AHB and awaiting Dept. to process recoupment to close Job Code	€ 549,207.00	100% Dept. Funded under CAS - Total Loan approved of €553,339 by Dept. Note: Possible small amount of ICR's will be used to pay for Legal Fees
SHIP 2021 - APARTMT DEV/UPDT 1 MUNSTER AVE	Capital Assistance Scheme - Construction (Loan)	€ 42,177.62	€ 0.00	€ 42,177.62			Expected substantial completion date of December 2024	€ 923,665.00	100% Dept. Funded under CAS - Loan approved of €923,665 (At Stage 1 Approval) Note: Possible small amount of ICR's will be used to pay for Legal Fees
SOUTH DOUGHERKA CYCLE SCHEME NTA 100% FUNDED	greater than €0.5m	€ 2,251.78	€ 0.00	€ 0.00				€ 1,400,000.00	100% funded(NTA and URDF Funded)
BALLYDOUGHANE RD CYCLE SCHEME NTA 100% FUNDED	greater than €0.5m	€ 462.33	€ 0.00	€ 0.00				€ 1,200,000.00	100% funded(NTA and URDF Funded)
PARKMORE PED CYCLE PACKAGE 3 NTA 100% FUNDED	greater than €0.5m	€ 44.40	€ 0.00	€ 0.00				€ 1,000,000.00	100% NTA Funded
NTA SPANISH ARCH ENHANCEMENT (100% FUNDED)	greater than €0.5m	€ 3.32	€ 0.00	€ 0.00				€ 700,000.00	100% NTA and URDF Funded
CORRIB PARK - GRASS PITCH (PART FUND SPORTS CAP)	Development of new grassed pitch	€ 12,171.68	€ 0.00	€ 0.00			Completed by Q3 2023	€ 810,000.00	DotCAGSM Sports Capital Programme Funding - €125,000; ECC Capital Budget - 685,000
Totals		€ 1,207,697	€	€ 1,192,724	€			€ 7,184,211	

Expenditure being incurred - Greater than €0.5m (Capital and Current)

Project/Scheme/Programme Name	Short Description	Current Expenditure Amount in Reference Year	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Non Grant)	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Grant)	Project/Programme Anticipated Timeline	Cumulative Expenditure to date	Projected Milestone Expenditure (Capital Only)	Explanatory Notes
CAP - GRANTS: DPG, HAG, MOBILITY AIDS	Hsg Grants	€	€	€ 1,390,676	- Programme	€	€ 1,400,000.00	Grant Aid
CAP - SIABH BHAM REMEDIAL WORKS	Remedial Work Scheme	€	€	-	- End of 2022	€	€ 5,000,000.00	Local Funding
SHIP - CONSTRUCT BALLYBRI RTD - 15 UNITS	Social Hsg Build	€	€	1,777,187	- End of 2023	€	€ 3,472,998	€ 6,019,405.00
SHIP - BALLYBANE LANDS - 58 UNITS	Social Hsg Build	€	€	1,558,827	- End of 2022	€	€ 14,152,045.00	Contract terminated
SHIP - MERLIN COAST ROAD - 59 UNITS	Social Hsg Build	€	€	6,453,487	- End of 2022	€	€ 13,200,000.00	Turn Key Project
CAP - BOILER REPLACE PROG 2017-2023	Remedial Works	€	€	-	- End of 2023	€	€ 1,500,000.00	Local Funding
CALF - ADVANCE LEASING FACILITY	AHB Accommodation	€	€	4,077,504	- Programme	€	€ 14,100,000.00	€ 19,100,000.00
CAP - CITY CENTRE PEDESTRIAN REHAB	Public Realm	€	€	-	- End of 2024	€	€ 25,000,000.00	GCC Funding 100%
CAP - NG CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT	Signal Junctions	€	€	2,561,928	- End of 2024	€	€ 20,478,626	Multi Phase
CAP - GALWAY CROSS CITY - TUAM ROAD	Bus Corridors	€	€	1,494,953	- End of 2028	€	€ 3,304,712	€ 76,000,000.00
CAP - SALMON WEIR CYCLE BRIDGE	Traffic Pinchpoint	€	€	2,834,983	- End of 2024	€	€ 4,332,739	Multi Phase, NTA Funded
CAP - BUS PRIORITY UTMIC (ADAPTIVE)	Traffic Light Control	€	€	375,242	- End of 2026	€	€ 1,107,228	€ 7,300,000.00
CAP - NEW CEMETERY DEVELOPMENTS	Provision of a New Cemetery	€	€	-	- End of 2025	€	€ 1,474,262	NTA 100% FUNDED
CAP - RAHOON CEMETERY EXTENSION	Graveyard Extension	€	€	162,861	- End of 2022	€	€ 3,500,000.00	GCC Funding 100%
CAP - ATLANTIC MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT	Cultural Dev	€	€	615,615	- End of 2023	€	€ 1,159,729	GCC Funding 100%
PEDESTRIAN & CYCLE SAFETY INTERVENTIONS	Public Safety	€	€	-	- End of 2024	€	€ 1,433,393	€ 10,500,000.00
CAP - PUBLIC LIGHTING LED REPLACEMENT	Energy Efficient	€	€	-	- End of 2022	€	€ 1,041,523	Fallite Ireland
A01 - Maintenance of LA Housing Units	Appendix 2	€	€	-	- End of 2022	€	€ 4,100,000	NTA 100% FUNDED
A01 - Housing Assessment, Allocation & Transfer	Appendix 2	€	€	10,221,803	- Budget	€	€ 10,221,804	GCC Funding 100%
A03 - Housing Rent & Tenant Purch Admin	Appendix 2	€	€	509,448	- Budget	€	€ 509,448	-
A04 - Housing Community Develop Support	Appendix 2	€	€	868,981	- Budget	€	€ 868,981	-
A05 - Administration of Homeless Service	Appendix 2	€	€	704,604	- Budget	€	€ 704,604	-
A05 - Support to Housing Capital Prog	Appendix 2	€	€	11,247,089	- Budget	€	€ 11,247,089	-
A07 - RAS and Leasing Programme	Appendix 2	€	€	7,821,894	- Budget	€	€ 7,821,894	-
A08 - Housing Loans Admin	Appendix 2	€	€	4,278,417	- Budget	€	€ 4,278,417	-
B03 - Regional Road - Maint & Imp	Appendix 2	€	€	1,700,070	- Budget	€	€ 1,700,070	-
B04 Local Road - Maint and Improve	Appendix 2	€	€	2,507,262	- Budget	€	€ 2,507,262	-
B05 - Public Lighting	Appendix 2	€	€	4,870,054	- Budget	€	€ 4,870,054	-
B06 - Traffic Management Improvement	Appendix 2	€	€	1,536,813	- Budget	€	€ 1,536,813	-
B09 - Car Parking	Appendix 2	€	€	1,353,084	- Budget	€	€ 1,353,084	-
C01 - Water Supply	Appendix 2	€	€	2,183,816	- Budget	€	€ 2,183,816	-
C02 - Waste Water Treatment	Appendix 2	€	€	920,566	- Budget	€	€ 920,566	-
D01 - Forward Planning	Appendix 2	€	€	851,480	- Budget	€	€ 851,480	-
D02 - Development Management	Appendix 2	€	€	1,852,330	- Budget	€	€ 1,852,330	-
D04 - Industrial and Commercial Facilities	Appendix 2	€	€	501,841	- Budget	€	€ 501,841	-
D05 - Tourism Development and Promotion	Appendix 2	€	€	858,925	- Budget	€	€ 858,925	-
D06 - Community and Enterprise Function	Appendix 2	€	€	2,545,184	- Budget	€	€ 2,545,184	-
D09 - Economic Develop and Promote	Appendix 2	€	€	1,191,355	- Budget	€	€ 1,191,355	-
E05 - Litter Management	Appendix 2	€	€	754,176	- Budget	€	€ 754,176	-
E06 - Street Clearing	Appendix 2	€	€	2,921,226	- Budget	€	€ 2,921,226	-
E07 - Waste Regs, Monitoring and Enforcement	Appendix 2	€	€	610,380	- Budget	€	€ 610,380	-
E09 - Maintenance of Burial Grounds	Appendix 2	€	€	1,887,754	- Budget	€	€ 1,887,754	-
E11 - Operation of Fire Service	Appendix 2	€	€	5,319,600	- Budget	€	€ 5,319,600	-
E15 - Climate Change and Flooding	Appendix 2	€	€	978,911	- Budget	€	€ 978,911	-
F01 - Leisure Facilities Operations	Appendix 2	€	€	3,080,686	- Budget	€	€ 3,080,686	-
F02 - Operation of Library & Archival Service	Appendix 2	€	€	1,791,140	- Budget	€	€ 1,791,140	-
F03 - Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations	Appendix 2	€	€	5,670,141	- Budget	€	€ 5,670,141	-
F04 - Community Sport & Recreat Develop	Appendix 2	€	€	2,891,442	- Budget	€	€ 2,891,442	-
F05 - Operation of Arts Programme	Appendix 2	€	€	5,660,874	- Budget	€	€ 5,660,874	-
H03 - Administration of Rates	Appendix 2	€	€	5,653,390	- Budget	€	€ 5,653,390	-
H09 Local Represent & Civic Leadership	Appendix 2	€	€	1,292,495	- Budget	€	€ 1,292,495	-
H11 Agency & Recoupable Services	Appendix 2	€	€	1,331,137	- Budget	€	€ 1,331,137	-
Totals		€	€	99,753,577		€	€ 208,925,055	€ 208,925,055
				23,253,213	3,994,141			

Projects/Programmes Completed or discontinued in the reference year - Greater than €0.5m (Capital and Current)							
Project/Scheme/Programme Name	Short Description	Current Expenditure Amount in Reference Year	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Non Grant)	Capital Expenditure Amount in Reference Year (Grant)	Project/Programme Completion Date	Final Outturn Expenditure	Explanatory Notes
CAS - COPE, 47 FORSTER STREET	Cap Asst Scheme				End of 2022	€ 4,000,000	
SHIP - RADHARC NA GRAINE - 52 UNITS	Social Hsg Build				End of 2022	€ 20,000,000	
SHIP - Ard Cre Phase 2	Social Hsg Build				End of 2022	€ 19,920,744	
LAND ACQUISITION SCHOOL ROAD	Land Purchase		€ 3,154,109		End of 2022	€ 3,224,109	
Merlin Lane	Land Purchase		€ 2,000,000		End of 2022	€ 2,000,000	
CAP - EUROPE CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2020	City of Culture		€ 594,968		End of 2022	€ 6,000,000	
Totals		€ 0.00	€ 5,749,076.61	€ 0.00		€ 55,144,852.21	

Published Summary of Procurements

As part of the Quality Assurance process in the Public Spending Code, Galway City Council is required to publish summary information of all procurements in excess of €10 million.

It is confirmed that the City Council **did not undertake** any single procurement worth over €10 million during 2022.

Part C – Assessment of Compliance

Checklist Completion: Approach Taken and Results

The third step in the Quality Assurance process involves completing a set of checklists covering all listed expenditure. The high level checks in Step 3 of the QA process are based on self-assessment of the various Directorates in Galway City Council, in respect of guidelines set out in the Public Spending Code. There are seven checklists in total:

- Checklist 1:** General Obligations,
(not specific to individual projects / programmes)
- Checklist 2:** Capital Projects being considered
- Checklist 3:** Current expenditure being considered
- Checklist 4:** Capital expenditure being incurred
- Checklist 5:** Current expenditure being incurred
- Checklist 6:** Capital expenditure completed
- Checklist 7:** Current expenditure completed

Galway City Council has completed the full set of checklists 1 – 7. The following pages list the completed checklist results. In addition to the self-assessed scoring, the majority of answers are accompanied by explanatory comments. Each question in the checklist is judged on a 4-point scale:

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Scope for significant improvements = a score of 1 |
| 2 | Compliant but with some improvement necessary = a score of 2 |
| 3 | Broadly Compliant = a score of 3 |
| N/A | Not Applicable |

Checklist 1 – To be completed in respect of general obligations not specific to individual projects/programmes.

	General Obligations not specific to individual projects/programmes.	Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1 - 3	Comment/Action Required
Q 1.1	Does the organisation ensure, on an ongoing basis, that appropriate people within the organisation and its agencies are aware of their requirements under the Public Spending Code (incl. through training)?	2	Relevant staff have been notified of their obligations under the PSC. Training commenced in 2022.
Q 1.2	Has internal training on the Public Spending Code been provided to relevant staff?	2	PSC Training commenced during 2022.
Q 1.3	Has the Public Spending Code been adapted for the type of project/programme that your organisation is responsible for, i.e., have adapted sectoral guidelines been developed?	3	Yes. Guidance document has been adapted for LA sector and is available on the intranet.
Q 1.4	Has the organisation in its role as Approving Authority satisfied itself that agencies that it funds comply with the Public Spending Code?	2	Agreements in place with relevant agencies.
Q 1.5	Have recommendations from previous QA reports (incl. spot checks) been disseminated, where appropriate, within the organisation and to agencies?	3	All Recommendations are distributed to Senior Management Team (SMT) and Audit Committee.
Q 1.6	Have recommendations from previous QA reports been acted upon?	3	SMT progress reports on all audit recommendations.
Q 1.7	Has an annual Public Spending Code QA report been submitted to and certified by the Chief Executive Officer, submitted to NOAC and published on the Local Authority's website?	3	PSC QA Report has been signed by CE, issued to NOAC; and published on the City Council website.
Q 1.8	Was the required sample of projects/programmes subjected to in-depth checking as per step 4 of the QAP?	2	Samples of both Revenue and Capital spending have been reviewed.
Q 1.9	Is there a process in place to plan for ex post evaluations? Ex-post evaluation is conducted after a certain period has passed since the completion of a target project with emphasis on the effectiveness and sustainability of the project.	3	The Purchasing and Procurement rules adopted by Galway City Council include the mandatory requirement.
Q 1.10	How many formal evaluations were completed in the year under review? Have they been published in a timely manner?	0	No Post-Project Reviews were delivered during 2022.
Q 1.11	Is there a process in place to follow up on the recommendations of previous evaluations?	3	SMT progress reports on all recommendations.
Q 1.12	How have the recommendations of reviews and ex post evaluations informed resource allocation decisions?	2	Decisions are based in part on SMT progress reports on all audit recommendations.

Checklist 2 – To be completed in respect of capital projects/programmes & capital grant schemes that were under consideration in the past year.

	Capital Expenditure being Considered – Appraisal and Approval	Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1-3	Comment/Action Required
Q 2.1	Was a Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) completed for all capital projects and programmes over €10m?	3	All Business cases presented and approved by Elected Members.
Q 2.2	Were performance indicators specified for each project/programme which will allow for a robust evaluation at a later date? Have steps been put in place to gather performance indicator data?	2	Specific targets and metrics are incorporated into Business cases for each Project.
Q 2.3	Was a Preliminary and Final Business Case, including appropriate financial and economic appraisal, completed for all capital projects and programmes?	3	All approved Business cases, forwarded to Funding Department.
Q 2.4	Were the proposal objectives SMART and aligned with Government policy including National Planning Framework, Climate Mitigation Plan etc?	2	Plans compiled as required by Funding Departments.
Q 2.5	Was an appropriate appraisal method and parameters used in respect of capital projects or capital programmes/grant schemes?	3	Plans compiled as required by Funding Departments.
Q 2.6	Was a financial appraisal carried out on all proposals and was there appropriate consideration of affordability?	2	Plans compiled as required by Funding Departments.
Q 2.7	Was the appraisal process commenced at an early enough stage to Inform decision making?	3	Approval in Principle acquired for each Project.
Q 2.8	Were sufficient options analysed in the business case for each capital proposal?	3	Plans compiled as required by Funding Departments.
Q 2.9	Was the evidence base for the estimated cost set out in each business case? Was an appropriate methodology used to estimate the cost? Were appropriate budget contingencies put in place?	3	Plans compiled as required by Funding Departments.
Q 2.10	Was risk considered and a risk mitigation strategy commenced? Was appropriate consideration given to governance and deliverability?	2	Plans compiled as required by Funding Departments.
Q 2.11	Were the Strategic Assessment Report, Preliminary and Final Business Case submitted to DPER for technical review for projects estimated to cost over €100m?	N/A	
Q 2.12	Was a detailed project brief including design brief and procurement strategy prepared for all investment projects?	3	Plans compiled as required by Funding Departments.
Q 2.13	Were procurement rules (both National and EU) complied with?	3	Procurement complies with Laws & Regulations.

Q 2.14	Was the Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) properly implemented?	3	Plans compiled as required by Funding Departments.
Q 2.15	Were State Aid rules checked for all support?	3	Plans compiled as required by Funding Departments
Q 2.16	Was approval sought from the Approving Authority at all decision gates?	3	Approval at each stage acquired for each Project.
Q 2.17	Was Value for Money assessed and confirmed at each decision gate by Sponsoring Agency and Approving Authority?	3	Approval at each stage acquired for each Project.
Q 2.18	Was approval sought from Government through a Memorandum for Government at the appropriate decision gates for projects estimated to cost over €100m?	N/A	

See Note 2 in the opening guidelines in relation to the interpretation of Capital Grant Schemes in the context of Local Government

Checklist 3 – To be completed in respect of new current expenditure under consideration in the past year.

	Current Expenditure being Considered – Appraisal and Approval	Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1 - 3	Comment/Action Required
Q 3.1	Were objectives clearly set out?	3	Departmental Circulars on Financial Supports.
Q 3.2	Are objectives measurable in quantitative terms?	3	Departmental Circulars on Financial Supports.
Q 3.3	Was a business case, incorporating financial and economic appraisal, prepared for new current expenditure proposals?	3	Departmental Circulars on Financial Supports.
Q 3.4	Was an appropriate appraisal method used?	3	Departmental Circulars on Financial Supports.
Q 3.5	Was an economic appraisal completed for all projects/programmes exceeding €20m or an annual spend of €5m over 4 years?	3	Departmental Circulars on Financial Supports.
Q 3.6	Did the business case include a section on piloting?	N/A	
Q 3.7	Were pilots undertaken for new current spending proposals involving total expenditure of at least €20m over the proposed duration of the programme and a minimum annual expenditure of €5m?	N/A	
Q 3.8	Have the methodology and data collection requirements for the pilot been agreed at the outset of the scheme?	N/A	
Q 3.9	Was the pilot formally evaluated and submitted for approval to the relevant Vote Section in DPER?	N/A	
Q 3.10	Has an assessment of likely demand for the new scheme/scheme extension been estimated based on empirical evidence?	3	Departmental Circulars on Financial Supports.
Q 3.11	Was the required approval granted?	3	Departmental Circulars on Financial Supports.
Q 3.12	Has a sunset clause been set?	N/A	
Q 3.13	If outsourcing was involved were both EU and National procurement rules complied with?	N/A	
Q 3.14	Were performance indicators specified for each new current expenditure proposal or expansion of existing current expenditure programme which will allow for a robust evaluation at a later date?	N/A	
Q 3.15	Have steps been put in place to gather performance indicator data?	N/A	

Checklist 4 – To be completed in respect of capital projects/programmes & capital grants schemes incurring expenditure in the year under review.

	Incurring Capital Expenditure	Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1 - 3	Comment/Action Required
Q 4.1	Was a contract signed and was it in line with the Approval given at each Decision Gate?	3	Agreed with Funding Dept. Received Council approved
Q 4.2	Did management boards/steering committees meet regularly as agreed?	2	Regular Meetings were held
Q 4.3	Were programme co-ordinators appointed to co-ordinate implementation?	3	Yes – Senior Staff Member appointed
Q 4.4	Were project managers, responsible for delivery, appointed and were the project managers at a suitably senior level for the scale of the project?	3	Yes – Senior Staff Member appointed
Q 4.5	Were monitoring reports prepared regularly, showing implementation against plan, budget, timescales and quality?	2	Yes – Regular Projects Reports prepared
Q 4.6	Did projects/programmes/grant schemes keep within their financial budget and time schedule?	2	No, inflation /supply chain delay led to overruns
Q 4.7	Did budgets have to be adjusted?	2	Yes, in line with Inflation/Supply Chain Delay Co Operation Framework
Q 4.8	Were decisions on changes to budgets / time schedules made promptly?	2	Changes were negotiated accordingly
Q 4.9	Did circumstances ever warrant questioning the viability of the project/programme/grant scheme and the business case (exceeding budget, lack of progress, changes in the environment, new evidence, etc.)?	2	Land Issues and Stalled stages of projects questioned by Council
Q 4.10	If circumstances did warrant questioning the viability of a project/programme/grant scheme was the project subjected to adequate examination?	2	Decision at Executive and Council levels
Q 4.11	If costs increased or there were other significant changes to the project was approval received from the Approving Authority?	2	Pre-spending approvals were sought
Q 4.12	Were any projects/programmes/grant schemes terminated because of deviations from the plan, the budget or because circumstances in the environment changed the need for the investment?	0	Yes, serious deviations from the programme resulted in a termination

See Note 2 in the opening guidelines in relation to the interpretation of Capital Grant Schemes in the context of Local Government

Checklist 5 – To be completed in respect of current expenditure programmes incurring expenditure in the year under review.

	Incurring Current Expenditure	Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1 -3	Comment/Action Required
Q 5.1	Are there clear objectives for all areas of current expenditure?	2	Almost all of the Service Levels have stated objectives
Q 5.2	Are outputs well defined?	2	Key Performance Indicators and objective targets are set
Q 5.3	Are outputs quantified on a regular basis?	2	Quarterly reports to SPCs and to Council
Q 5.4	Is there a method for monitoring efficiency on an ongoing basis?	2	Monthly and quarterly Finance Reporting
Q 5.5	Are outcomes well defined?	2	Quarterly monitoring of ongoing progress
Q 5.6	Are outcomes quantified on a regular basis?	2	Monthly and quarterly objectives reporting
Q 5.7	Are unit costings compiled for performance monitoring?	2	Limited evidence of the use of Unit Costings as part of performance monitoring
Q 5.8	Are other data compiled to monitor performance?	2	Monthly and quarterly objective reporting
Q 5.9	Is there a method for monitoring effectiveness on an ongoing basis?	2	Monthly and quarterly objective reporting
Q 5.10	Has the organisation engaged in any other 'evaluation proofing' of programmes/projects?	2	Evidence of use of non-financial data gathered as part of performance monitoring

Checklist 6 – To be completed in respect of capital projects/programmes & capital grant schemes discontinued in the year under review.

	Capital Expenditure Recently Completed	Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1 - 3	Comment/Action Required
Q 6.1	How many Project Completion Reports were completed in the year under review?	0	There were No Project Completion Reports completed in 2022
Q 6.2	Were lessons learned from Project Completion Reports incorporated into sectoral guidance and disseminated within the Sponsoring Agency and the Approving Authority?	N/A	
Q 6.3	How many Project Completion Reports were published in the year under review?	0	There were No Project Completion Reports completed in 2022
Q 6.4	How many Ex-Post Evaluations were completed in the year under review?	0	N/A
Q 6.5	How many Ex-Post Evaluations were published in the year under review?	0	N/A
Q 6.6	Were lessons learned from Ex-Post Evaluation reports incorporated into sectoral guidance and disseminated within the Sponsoring Agency and the Approving Authority?	N/A	
Q 6.7	Were Project Completion Reports and Ex-Post Evaluations carried out by staffing resources independent of project implementation?	N/A	
Q 6.8	Were Project Completion Reports and Ex-Post Evaluation Reports for projects over €50m sent to DPER for dissemination?	N/A	

See Note 2 in the opening guidelines in relation to the interpretation of Capital Grant Schemes in the context of Local Government

Checklist 7 – To be completed in respect of current expenditure programmes that reached the end of their planned timeframe during the year or were discontinued.

	Current Expenditure that (i) reached the end of its planned timeframe or (ii) was discontinued	Self-Assessed Compliance Rating: 1 - 3	Comment/Action Required
Q 7.1	Were reviews carried out of current expenditure programmes that matured during the year or were discontinued?	1	No reviews were made of the Projects finished during 2021
Q 7.2	Did those reviews reach conclusions on whether the programmes were efficient?	N/A	
Q 7.3	Did those reviews reach conclusions on whether the programmes were effective?	N/A	
Q 7.4	Have the conclusions reached been taken into account in related areas of expenditure?	N/A	
Q 7.5	Were any programmes discontinued following a review of a current expenditure programme?	N/A	
Q 7.6	Were reviews carried out by staffing resources independent of project implementation?	N/A	
Q 7.7	Were changes made to the organisation's practices in light of lessons learned from reviews?	N/A	

Notes:

- ❖ The scoring mechanism for the above checklists is as follows:
 - Scope for significant improvements = a score of **1**
 - Compliant but with some improvement necessary = a score of **2**
 - Broadly compliant = a score of **3**
- ❖ For some questions, the scoring mechanism is not always strictly relevant. In these cases, it is appropriate to mark as **N/A** and provide the required information in the commentary box as appropriate.
- ❖ The focus should be on providing descriptive and contextual information to frame the compliance ratings and to address the issues raised for each question. It is also important to provide summary details of key analytical outputs covered in the sample for those questions which address compliance with appraisal / evaluation requirements i.e. the annual number of appraisals (e.g. Cost Benefit Analyses or Multi Criteria Analyses), evaluations (e.g. Post Project Reviews). Key analytical outputs undertaken but outside of the sample should also be noted in the report.

Main Issues Arising from Checklist Assessment

The completed checklists show the extent to which Galway City Council believe they comply with the Public Spending Code. Overall, the checklists show a good level of compliance with the Code.

This is the ninth year that the Public Spending Code is being reported on by the Local Government sector. The process of embedding the principles of the code remains ongoing, and will be monitored as part of the Quality Assurance process in forthcoming years.

With regard to Checklist 2 – capital expenditure being considered, there were eight capital jobs to which the declaration criteria applied. These projects are at the preliminary stages, with funding and final approvals awaited. The standard of compliance may vary in future as additional capital projects are commenced.

For Checklist 3 – current expenditure being considered, there were five revenue programmes to be declared for 2022. New funding initiatives are usually commenced at a national or regional level.

Checklist 4 – capital expenditure incurred related to sixteen ongoing projects in 2022. The declared standards may vary over time depending on the changing quantity and value of capital projects.

For Checklist 5 – current expenditure incurred during 2022, the results are based on the average compliance of the listed 36 service level revenue programmes.

Checklist 6 – capital projects completed during 2022, the checklist reveals that six of the projects reached conclusion in 2022.

With regard to Checklist 7 – there was no current expenditure programmes terminated during 2022.

Part D – In-Depth Checks

The in-depth checks conducted by Crowleys DFK for the Public Spending Code Quality Assurance report are based on audits, in-depth reviews, and staff interviews.

Results from Crowleys DFK indicate that reasonable assurance can be placed on the sufficiency and operation of controls put in place by Galway City Council to comply with the Public Spending Code and internal procurement controls to mitigate and/or manage key inherent risks. Samples selected for review by Internal Audit consisted of 1 Capital project amounting to €4,100,000 and 2 Revenue Expenditures amounting to €4,779,196.

The Public Spending Code listed the requirement to complete in-depth reviews of 7% Capital and 15% Revenue expenditures, averaged over the last three years. The in-depth checks analysed for the PSC represented **2%** of Galway City Council's declared Capital projects, and 5% of the Revenue Service Levels, of the 2022 inventory.

Assessments

The annual Internal Audit Work Programme includes the requirement to conduct in-depth checks on sample projects and programmes, as part of the annual PSC Report to NOAC.

The recurring themes arising from in-depth reviews, etc. remains the ongoing benefits of robust enforcement of regulatory compliance, the advancement of Corporate Governance, the enhancement of our Risk Management Strategies; and recording of our Operating Procedures.

From the reviews previously conducted by Internal Audit, there was an identified issue of ensuring that Project Completion Reports / Post Project Reviews were being completed, to record the lessons learned both positive and negative, as a means of influencing future decision making.

The need for PSC Training, especially with regards to new staff appointments and promotions, has commenced during 2022. Also, reviews to confirm ongoing GDPR and FoI compliance were identified as needing attention.

Part E – Addressing Quality Assurance Issues

The Audit Committee continues to examine the completeness of recorded Policies and Procedures within Galway City Council.

The in-depth checks carried out on sampled programmes / projects revealed no substantive issues that would cast doubt on the City Council's compliance with the Code. It is acknowledged that ongoing training and attention will be required to ensure complete compliance with the Public Spending Code.