

# GALWAY CITY



## Socio-Economic Statement June 2015



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## 1. Introduction

Galway City is located in the West of Ireland, on the shores of Galway Bay and within sight of the Atlantic Ocean. The city is surrounded by the phenomenal landscape of Connemara to the west and Lough Corrib to the north. It is bisected by the river Corrib, whose stony bed (*Gaill Aimh*) gave the city its name, and the city centre is interwoven with canals and mill races which have their origins in the commercial heritage of earlier centuries.



GALWAY CITY. A place to live in, to work in and to visit.

Known the world over for its friendly people, charming streets, arts, culture and heritage, Galway is a city like no other.

**Galway is a growing city.** The population of the city has grown from 47,000 in 1986 to currently stand at 75,529 and the city has previously had the title of the fastest growing city in Europe. This growth not only reflects a national and international trend of increased urbanisation but more specifically reflects the attractiveness of Galway as a city to study in, to work in, to visit and to live in. There are a further 62,238 people who live within 30 minutes drive of the city centre.

**Galway is a young and vibrant city.** There are over 40,000 pupils and students in primary, secondary, further and third-level schools and colleges across Galway, including over 26,000 students enrolled in the National University of Ireland and in the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology. According to Census 2011, Galway's population of 20 to 24 year olds is more than twice the national average. Education and learning is part of the past, the present and the future of the city.

**Galway is a cultural, creative city.** The arts flourish in Galway city, with its bohemian and European twist, involving the community and encouraging creativity. The city has long been considered a centre of cultural excellence and its reputation in Ireland and overseas has been enhanced by the presence of world leaders in the arts, like the Druid Theatre Company and Galway International Arts Festival. The economic importance of the creative sector to Galway City is well documented and this has been further strengthened by the city's designation as a UNESCO City of Film. Galway City's bid to become the European Capital of Culture 2020 shows a commitment to the arts and culture from all agencies in the city.

**Galway is a multi-cultural city.** Galway is recognised internationally as a city which celebrates diversity. According to Census 2011 data, Galway City is the most multi-cultural location in Ireland with 19.4 per cent of its residents recorded as non-Irish, compared to a national average of 12%. It

is also Ireland's only bilingual city with a strong history and tradition of the Irish language.

**Galway is a historic city.** Originally a small O'Flaherty village in the Middle Ages, the city is famously known as the "City of the Tribes" after the fourteen "Tribes" (merchant families) who led the city in its Hiberno-Norman period. Galway City is a platform of history and, although vibrant and exciting, the city has maintained many relics from its medieval past, including cobbled streets, laneways, hidden archways and old medieval walls.

## **2. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

Local authorities are key drivers for stimulating and enabling enterprise and innovation in local regions. Galway City Council has the primary responsibility for leading economic, social and community development in Galway City. The local authority also plays a role in promoting the well-being and quality of life of the public and communities.

Over the next few months, Galway City Council will develop an integrated Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the city. This Plan will set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support economic development and local community development in Galway City, both by Galway City Council and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

The plan must be consistent with the core strategies and objectives of the Galway City Development Plan, the Regional Planning Guidelines and regional spatial and economic strategies. The plan must be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2015.

**Galway City Council is required to develop an integrated Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for Galway City.**

## **3. Have your Say on the Future of Galway City**

One of the first steps in preparing the LECP is the development of a Socio Economic Statement for Galway City which identifies the key objectives and actions to be included in the plan. This statement must be presented to the citizens of Galway City for their consideration and feedback. It is part of the consultation process to facilitate you to have your say on the development of our city. This Socio Economic Statement will inform the economic and community development of Galway City for the next six years.

Over recent months, Galway City Council have established a comprehensive socio-economic evidence base for Galway City and have considered relevant local, regional, national and European policy. The Socio-Economic Statement has been developed based on detailed analysis of that evidence and the final guidelines provided by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in January 2015.

**Galway City Council is inviting you to have your say on the future economic, social and community development of Galway City over the next six years.**

Galway City Council welcomes feedback and comment on (a) this Socio Economic Statement and (b) on the issues you believe should be included in the LECP.

Submissions can be made by email to [c&c@galwaycity.ie](mailto:c&c@galwaycity.ie) (please include LECP in the subject line) or in writing to: Feedback on Socio Economic Statement for Galway City, Community and Culture Department, Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway. **Submissions must be received by Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> 2015.**

#### **4. Socio Economic Statement**

The Socio Economic Statement sets out the high level goals and targets for the LECP based on the research and analysis carried out to date. It also sets out the broad outcomes to be achieved by the LECP within the overarching purpose of promoting well-being and quality of life in Galway City.

The high level goals will be expanded further in the LECP based on this Socio-Economic Statement and the feedback received on it, including specific stakeholder engagement processes, supported and validated by The Whitaker Institute, NUI Galway. Relevant policy and regulatory documents will also be considered.

The Socio Economic Statement attempts to create a link between the overall vision of the Galway City Development Plan and the principles underpinning the LECP, as outlined in Appendix II, and the requirements of the LECP to set out the objectives and actions needed for the City over the next six years.

#### **5. Baseline Data**

In 2014, Galway City Council, Galway County Council and the Whitaker Institute, NUI Galway began the process of creating a baseline study of Galway. This high level summary overview provides a snap shot of Galway City with respect to its demographic baseline. The Whitaker Institute begin with high level aggregated data taken primarily from the Central Statistics Office broken down into the three sections of Galway City - West, Galway East and Galway Central.

This overview uses a full range of socio-economic performance indicators and data from a range of sources (CSO, GEO Directory, POWSCAR, POBAL Deprivation Index and more) to create a complete picture of Galway in order for informed decision making to be a core principle of the LECP.

A full Baseline report and a website on the baseline data are currently being produced. These include a full range of strengths, opportunities and recommendations developed (by the Whitaker Institute) on how the indicators can be interpreted for the city (and county). These will be available to support a stakeholders engagement process that will seek to gather the views of the wider Galway City Community and create a detailed 6-year plan.

A table outlining a range of comparative indicators between County Galway, Galway City and the State is provided in Appendix III.

#### **6. Socio-Economic Analysis Highlights**

Some of the key findings that emerged from the socio-economic analysis carried out to date include:

- There is a diversified sectoral base in Galway, with a mix of traditional and new sectors.
- Third-level institutions and public research organisations, such as Marine Institute and Teagasc, are significant assets in Galway and they provide far-reaching benefits to the city and

county.

- Richness of culture and the natural environment, coupled with diversified sectors, are key elements of place-based innovation and they are key assets for future development in Galway.
- There are high levels of educational attainment and skills in Galway.
- A growing and globally recognized creative sector has contributed to the visibility of Galway globally.
- The medical device cluster is one of a rare set of successful international industrial clusters.
- There is a growing interest in entrepreneurship and business start-ups in Galway and this is particularly evident in ICT and food sectors
- There is an economic interdependency between Galway city and county.
- There is a significant intercultural population in Galway City, with non-Irish nationals accounting for 19.4 per cent of the population.
- The Deprivation Score for Galway City as a whole ranks the city as affluent. However, smaller area statistics show significant pockets of area-based deprivation across the city.

## **7. High Level Goals for Galway City**

**"That Galway would be a unique City Region\* with a creative, inclusive and innovative eco-system in place to ensure its sustainable development into the future"**

### **Develop and promote Galway as a world-class, creative City Region.**

- Recognise and build upon the significance of Galway's designation as a UNESCO City of Film.
- Support and promote Galway's bid for European Capital of Culture 2020.
- Protect, enhance and maximise the value of Galway city's natural, cultural and heritage resources.
- Develop Galway's unique Irish image and promote Galway city as a bilingual city.

### **Develop and promote Galway as an Innovative City Region.**

- Develop, encourage and create an environment for innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurship, including community/social enterprise.
- Create and support a series of innovation ecosystems, starting with a Galway City Innovation District.
- Work collaboratively to encourage foreign direct investment into Galway City.
- Foster the spirit of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in schools.
- Create new models of engagement and interaction within and between sectors and actors, including third level institutes and research centres, to support learning, knowledge transfer and collaboration.
- Provide relevant and focused education and training opportunities to meet the needs of businesses, employers and the unemployed, in conjunction with members of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

### **Encourage a self-sustaining urban eco-system in Galway as the regional capital of the West.**

- Define and nurture the uniqueness of Galway City and the region and, from this, develop a strong and coherent marketing strategy, nationally and internationally, for Brand Galway.
- Create linkages between all sectors, including food, culture, ICT and education, to maximise the potential of each sector, individually and as a collective.

- Build and support vibrant communities and a strong sense of place.
- Provide, maintain and enhance strategic infrastructure that supports economic and community development.
- Support sustainable development through environmental principles, while maximising the potential of the city's natural environment.

**Ensure Galway city is an equal and inclusive City Region**

- Promote social inclusion by reducing poverty and alleviating disadvantage.
- Support and promote Galway's bid for European Youth Capital 2017.
- Ensure full integration and equality of all people within our community.
- Recognise and support the value that diversity brings to the City Region.
- Work in partnership to roll out local and national programmes, such as SICAP, through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

**\*City Region.** A City Region is a core city or network of urban communities linked by functional economic and social ties to a hinterland. It is the area within and surrounding a city where most of the population conduct most of their lives, where they work, trade, shop and live. City regions rarely correspond neatly to existing administrative boundaries.

## 8. Key questions for consideration

There are number of key questions (in no particular order) to be considered when preparing the LECP relating to issues, priorities and opportunities for Galway City. These questions will be used throughout the stakeholder engagement process to stimulate discussion and populate the socio-economic statement and high level goals with actions that can be delivered for inclusion in the LECP within the 6 year period.

1. What are Galway City's best features or unique selling points?
2. Do people of all age groups and areas enjoy a good quality of life in Galway City? If not, what are the issues? How can it be improved?
3. Is Galway City an attractive place to visit? What would make it better?
4. Is Galway City a good place to develop a business or invest? What would make it better?
5. What opportunities can you see for your community or city?
6. Is your community adequately catered for in terms of employment, education and/or training? If not, how could it be improved?
7. Is your community/city adequately catered for in terms of community development services? If not how could it be improved?
8. Is Galway City well promoted? What can be done to enhance the image of Galway City?
9. Is Galway City accessible for all sectors of the community? How can it be improved?
10. What can be done to promote economic development in Galway City?
11. Is Galway City supportive and inclusive for minority communities? What would help make it better?
12. Are people of all age-groups and areas adequately catered for in terms of community services in Galway City? If not what are the issues and how can it be improved?
13. What are the major gaps in terms of social, cultural or economic services?
14. What is your future vision of Galway? How would you like to be able to describe it?
15. Are there any other points you would like to highlight about Galway City or your Community?



## APPENDIX I

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Cllr. Donal Lyons (Chairperson), Galway City Council  
Peter Salmon (Chief Officer), Administrative Officer, Galway City Council  
Cllr. Pdraig Conneely, Galway City Council  
Eoin Brown, Department of Social Protection  
David Leahy, Galway and Roscommon Education Training Board  
Ann O'Neill, HSE West  
Declan Brassil, Galway City Partnership  
Tommy Flaherty, Community & Voluntary PPN  
Irene Murphy, Community & Voluntary PPN  
Prof. Terrence McDonough, Environment PPN  
Margaret O Riada, Social Inclusion PPN  
Marian Maloney Nolan, Social Inclusion PPN  
Elaine Harvey, Trade Union Pillar  
Frank Greene, Galway Chamber of Commerce  
Breda Fox, Head of Local Enterprise Office  
Eileen Ruane, A/Director of Services, Galway City Council  
Liam Hanrahan, A/Senior Executive Officer, Galway City Council

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the establishment of a Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) as a sub-committee of the city/county council in each local authority area.

In Galway City, the LCDC was established in 2014 and the committee is made up of representatives from the local government and local development sectors, public bodies and representatives of social, economic, environmental and community interests.

The purpose of the Galway City LCDC is to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

The LCDC will prepare and oversee the 'community elements' of the 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), including:

- Implementation of the community elements of the LECP
- Revision of the plan at least every three years
- Monitoring and evaluating of the plan as appropriate
- Input into the economic element of the plan

## **Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC**

Cllr. Padraig Conneely (Chairperson), Galway City Council

Cllr. Noel Larkin, Galway City Council

Cllr. Frank Fahy, Galway City Council

Cllr. Niall McNelis, Galway City Council

Cllr. Mairead Farrell, Galway City Council

Cllr. Donal Lyons, Galway City Council

Cllr. Cathal O Conchuir, Galway City Council

Cllr. Declan McDonnell, Galway City Council

Anne Costello, PPN Representative

Caroline McNeill, PPN Representative

Mark Lohan, Trade Union Representative

Frank McDonagh, Chamber Representative

### **Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)**

The Galway City Council Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC was established in 2014 and met for the first time in February 2015. The committee is made up of representatives from the local government sectors as well as sectoral representatives.

The purpose of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Community SPC is to assist in the Council's decision making process and to advise on and formulate policy before being considered for adoption by the elected representatives of the full Council.

The Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC will prepare and oversee the 'economic elements' of the 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), including:

- Implementation of the economic elements of the LECP
- Revision of the plan at least every three years
- Monitoring and evaluating of the plan as appropriate
- Input into the community element of the plan

## APPENDIX II

The goals of the LECP will be in line with the current City Development Plan strategic goals to:

- Promote balanced and sustainable economic development that will enable Galway City to fulfil its role as a National Gateway and a Regional Centre, providing sufficient employment opportunities and appropriate services.
- Use the role of the Gateway to harness the strengths and maximise the economic development of the region.
- Provide for a built and natural environment that is of high quality and that contributes to providing a good quality of life for residents and visitors and affords sustainable transportation opportunities.
- Promote social inclusion in accordance with the National Anti-Poverty Strategy 2007 and the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 and aim to reduce and ultimately eliminate poverty levels in accordance with national targets.
- Facilitate the achievement of the goals contained in the GCDB Strategy Gaillimh Beo agus Briomhar 2002-2012.
- Promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through proactive measures in line with EU commitments to tackle climate change.

The underpinning principles of the LECP will be:

- The promotion and main-streaming of equality
- Sustainability – Promoting a more resource efficient, green and more inclusive economy
- Maximising returns by cooperation, collaboration and avoiding duplication
- Participative Planning – ensuring meaningful community participation and consultation in the planning process
- Community consultation and engagement
- Community development principles – addressing social exclusion and providing supports for the most marginalised
- Accessibility and ownership – written in a straight forward style

## APPENDIX III

**Table 1:** Comparative indicators between County Galway, Galway City, and the State.

	Co. Galway	Galway City	State
<b>Population Indicators</b>			
Population	175,124	75,529	4,588,252
% Population Change 2006-2011	+ 9.96%	+5.57%	+8.2%
% of population living in a Rural Area	77.4%	0%	38%
Age Vibrancy (Population aged 0-15 and 65+ as a % of total population)	35.1%	25.9%	33.1%
<b>Employment Indicators</b>			
Total at work	69,207	31,557	1,807,360
Labour Force Participation Rate (CSO 2011)	62.4%	61.5%	61.9%
Unemployment rate (CSO 2011)	18.1%	18.6%	19%
Numbers on Live Register (March 2015)	8,867	8,823	248,676
Numbers on Live Register U25 (March 2015)	1,165 (13.1%)	1049 (11.9%)	47,058 (18.9%)
<b>Social Inclusion</b>			
% of Resident population that are from the Traveller Community	1.4%	2.3%	0.6%
Total Persons classified as other than 'White Irish' or 'White Irish Traveller' in Census 2011 (non Irish-national population)	15,860 (9%)	16,019 (21.2%)	673,791 (15%)
Proportion of Population aged 15+ with third level education	28.4%	45.7%	24.3%
Deprivation Score 2006	-0.2	3.	NA
Deprivation Score 2011	-7.0	-1.9	NA
Ranking of affluence amongst Local Authority Areas 2006	10 <sup>th</sup> most affluent area	4 <sup>th</sup> most affluent area	NA
Ranking of affluence amongst Local Authority Areas 2011	10 <sup>th</sup> most affluent area	3 <sup>rd</sup> most affluent area	NA
<b>Household Indicators</b>			
% of households with at least one motor car	88.7%	76.3%	82.4%
% of people aged 15 and over who travel to work or school in ½ hour or less	57.3%	72.5%	55.9%
Vacancy in Housing ratio	19.4%	11.2%	14.5%
% of households living in a house (detached/Semi-D/Terrace)	94.7%	75.9%	86%
% of households living in a flat/apartment	3.5%	21.7%	10.7%
% of households with a PC	70.1%	75.6%	72.7%
% of households with a broadband connection	57.6%	72.8%	63.8%

<b>Health Indicators</b>			
% of population that considers their health 'good' or 'very good'	88.89%	87.9%	88.3%
% of population with a disability	12.1%	11.9%	13%
Suicide Rate	12.1 per 100,000	9.3 per 100,000	11.1 per 100,000
Infant mortality Rate (CSO 2010)	2.1 per 1,000	4.3 per 1,000	3.6 per 100,000
<b>Environment</b>			
Blue Flag Beaches (Green Coast)	5 (6)	2 (2)	76 (54)
Air Quality Status EPA monitoring (March 2014)	Good (Mace Head)	Good (Bodkin Roundabout)	NA
Renewable Energy Capacity - Existing Wind Energy MW's	71mw	NA	1751.mw
Renewable Energy Capacity - Total Potential Wind Farm Developments	476 mw	NA	2550.49 mw
<b>Water and Waste Water Services</b>			
Dwellings supplied by public mains	30,311 (49%)	25,389 (51.6%)	1,247,185 (75.6%)
Local Authority Group Scheme	14,592 (24%)	1,157 (4.2%)	144,428 (8.8%)
Dwellings with Individual Septic Tank	38,262 (63%)	944 (3.4%)	437,652 (26.5%)
Dwellings with individual treatment not septic tank	3,229 (5.3%)	101 (0.36%)	50,259 (3.0%)