

Local Enhancement Programme 2025



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
Chathair na Gaillimhe
Galway City Local Community Development
Committee

**Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe**
Our Rural
Future



**Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe**
Galway City Council



Local Enhancement Programme 2025

- Online applications for funding invited from interested Community / Voluntary Groups / Organisations / Clubs within the Galway City administrative area.
- The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and administered by Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in Galway City.
- The LEP aims to support and enhance Community / Voluntary Groups / Organisations / Clubs facilities in **disadvantaged areas**.
- The Department has recommended that **LCDCs ring-fence a proportion of funding to provide small capital grants of €1,000 or less**. Ring-fencing funding at this level will allow a larger volume of those with limited resources to receive some funding.
- Applications should be made to Galway City LCDC online at **www.galwaycity.ie/lepcapital** and **www.galwaycity.ie/lepcurrent** **by Friday 31st January 2025 at 4.00pm.**
- The total amount allocated to Galway City comprises as follows:
 - **€114,363 in Capital funding** for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment for e.g. such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.
 - **€20,241 in Current funding** to support non-pay running costs for example energy costs/bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges), rental/lease costs, insurance bills.

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

Who is eligible to apply?

Any not-for-profit community or voluntary group can apply.

Commercial organisations and individuals are not eligible for funding.

What projects are eligible for funding?

The Local Enhancement Programme will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas

- Groups will be able to use the capital element of funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment for e.g. such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.
- Groups will be able to use the current element of funding to support their non-pay running costs for example energy costs/bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges), rental/lease costs, insurance bills.

This funding is targeted towards supporting communities that are impacted by disadvantage as identified in the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP).

Applications should relate to one or more key priority areas identified in the Galway City Local Economic & Community Plan 2024 – 2029 which can be viewed online [here](#).

Costs eligible for Capital funding

The following provides a non-exhaustive list of capital projects that could receive funding under the programme:

- Development/renovation of community centres
- Accessibility improvements
- Community amenities
- Development of youth clubs or facilities
- Development of sports/recreation facilities
- Improvements to town parks and common areas and spaces
- Public realm improvements
- Street-scaping
- Development of play/recreation spaces
- Improving energy efficiency of community facilities to reduce ongoing costs
- Purchase of equipment,
- Purchase of laptops, tablets
- Maintenance of premises, including painting and repairs
- Capital work to increase biodiversity, or to reduce the carbon footprint of a facility

Costs eligible for Current funding

The following provides a list of non-pay costs that could receive current funding under the programme:

- ▶ Energy costs (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges)
- ▶ Operating costs (existing rental/lease costs, insurance bills)
- ▶ Website Maintenance
- ▶ Audit & Accountancy fees
- ▶ To ensure appropriate monitoring and governance, the Department is stating that only operating/running costs related to this period are eligible - **1st June 2024 to 30th May 2025.**

Please note that the max grant applicable under the current funding is €500.

Not eligible for funding

The following expenditure is **not** eligible for funding:

- Any project not in keeping with the ethos of the Programme
- Employment costs
- Legal fees
- Project management fees
- Purchase of lands or buildings
- Feasibility studies
- Private or commercial operations
- Costs which are being paid for by another funder or department

Online Application

- ▶ The online application form is detailed and is designed to ensure that it has the necessary information to evaluate each proposal accurately and fairly. **Please ensure that you complete the application form online in full and that any documentation in support of your application is submitted with your online application.**
- ▶ Only projects that meet the criteria as outlined will be considered eligible.
- ▶ Copy of the guidelines, including the terms and conditions are available to view online / assist with your online application.
- ▶ Applications should be made to Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) online by **Friday 31st January 2025 at 4.00pm** .
- ▶ For any queries, please email **candc@galwaycity.ie**

Programme Requirements

- ▶ **Quotations - Important note:** Please ensure that you submit 3 estimates/quotes for all aspects of the project you are seeking funding for.
- ▶ **Service / Utility bills** – incurred during 1st June 2024 to 30th May 2025.
- ▶ **Statutory Consents** - Applicants must ensure that all necessary statutory permissions or consents have been obtained before any works commence. This includes but is not confined to planning permission.
- ▶ **Governance** - Successful applications for funding under this programme will only be paid to the group/organisation's Bank Account.
- ▶ **Acknowledgment of funding** - Due to the value of some of these grants, it would not be cost-effective to require signage acknowledging the Department, Local Authority or LCDC. Other suitable acknowledgements will suffice e.g. on a group/organisation's website or social media platforms. Where signage is developed it should acknowledge the contribution of the Department.
- ▶ **Match-funding** - this is not a requirement under this programme.

Programme Requirements

- ▶ **Evidence of expenditure** - Receipts/invoices marked paid, for **vouched expenditure** (i.e. amount invoice has been paid) for all items purchased or work undertaken and bank statements must be retained and provided to Galway City Council when requested, and must relate to and be in line with the purpose of the grant approved.
- ▶ Only operating/running costs related to the following period are eligible – **1st June 2024 to 30th May 2025.**
- ▶ Funding will be issued in **two instalments** – 50% at acceptance of offer stage (Form A) and the remaining 50% will be paid once your project is completed and on receipt of a short report on the activity undertaken including photos, receipts / invoices for **vouched expenditure** (i.e. invoices must be marked paid) for all items purchased or work undertaken and bank statements.
- ▶ Grant funding must be drawn down by the **end of October 2025.**
- ▶ Applications online only.
- ▶ For any queries, please email **candc@galwaycity.ie**
- ▶ Late applications will not be considered.

Key Points

- ▶ Maximum capital grant applicable will be €10,000.
- ▶ Maximum current grant applicable will be €500.
- ▶ Successful groups will be notified by email with a letter of offer which will detail what exactly the grant is to be used towards. Any variations from this will not be covered by the grant unless permission is sought and approved from GCC beforehand.
- ▶ Successful applicants will have to be set up as a supplier with GCC if not already done so & must have a group bank account for this.
- ▶ Groups cannot proceed with works/purchases until they receive confirmation from Galway City Council of the outcome of their grant application. This will not be until late May 2025 until after the Ministers Press Release.
- ▶ Any invoices/expenditure submitted that predates the grant offer will not be eligible for funding.

Key Points

- ▶ Payments are released in two 50% instalments.
- ▶ First instalment once the grant offer is accepted and a Form A - Acceptance of Grant Terms & Conditions is returned.
- ▶ Second instalment when the project is complete & a Form B including invoices, bank statements, photos and a written report is submitted.
- ▶ Any invoices submitted that were paid through an individual group member's bank account will not be covered by the grant. Only purchases made through a group bank account will be accepted and bank statements will be requested as proof of expenditure.
- ▶ If a group received funding towards laptops for example under LEP 24 they will not receive funding towards laptops through this fund.
- ▶ Please ensure your group only applies for a level of funding that can be drawn down. No underspends where possible.

Thank You

- ▶ Online applications will go live on Monday 13th January 2025 at 9.00am.
- ▶ Applications may be made online until Friday 31st January 2025 at 4.00pm. No late applications will be accepted.
- ▶ Further information on the LEP 25 scheme is available at [here](#) .
- ▶ Thank you for listening. Any questions ?

