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Foreword

Every 5 years, Galway City Council (GCC) is required to prepare a new Corporate Plan that will set out a vision and mission statement for Galway City Council, the only local democratically accountable body in the city. The Plan also sets out the core values, corporate goals and strategic priorities that underpin the work of the Council, its management and staff. It provides the critical platform through which the Council delivers its services.

Following the local elections in June 2024 and the start of a new council term, Galway City Council has engaged with the Elected Members, the public, and our staff, to develop the Galway City Council Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029.

This Plan presents the Council's leadership role in setting significant ambitions and opportunities for the People and City of Galway, as Ireland's fourth largest city. In addition, it underpins the City's leadership nationally in supporting Irish culture and heritage. Galway is a city of green and blue spaces, has over 25,700 tertiary level students, and is the key driver for socio-economic development along the Atlantic Economic Corridor.

The city is a creative and diverse place, with the ambition to grow by 40,000 people over the next 15 years. It will do so through sustainable, employment-led development.

No city is without its challenges – this Corporate Plan will support our city to address our challenges, and to thrive – with vibrant communities, strong employment and a flourishing natural environment.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the preparation of the Plan, and to the success of our city to date. The engagement of our many diverse communities, businesses and our voluntary sector from across the city, is central to the continued wellbeing and sustainable development of our city.

The Members, Staff and Management of Galway City Council are committed to continue to support and engage with the people of the city and beyond, to make Galway City a welcoming and thriving place, over the lifetime of this plan.



Cllr. Peter Keane Mayor



Leonard Cleary **Chief Executive**

Galway City East



Cllr. Aisling Burke



Cllr. Shane Forde



Cllr. Declan McDonnell



Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe



Cllr. John McDonagh



Cllr. Mike Cubbard



Cllr. Helen Uchechukwu Ogbu



Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty



Cllr. Alan Cheevers



Cllr. Frank Fahy



Cllr. Josie Forde



Cllr. Eddie Hoare

Galway City West



Cllr. Peter Keane Mayor



Cllr. John Connolly



Cllr. Alan Curran



Cllr. Clodagh Higgins



Cllr. Donal Lyons



Cllr. Níall McNelis

Senior Management Team



Patrica Philbin, Director of Services, **Urban Development** Directorate



Patrick Greene, Director of Services, Operational Development Directorate



Helen Kilroy, Director of Finance, Corporate Development Directorate



Derek Pender, Director of Services, Project Development Directorate



Elizabeth Fanning, **Acting Director** of Services, Social Development Directorate



Our Vision Statement

Galway City Council will lead a cultural and creative city, collaborating with the diverse communities and businesses of Galway and beyond, to strengthen and enhance our unique attributes, sustainability, inclusiveness, safety and innovation.

Accolades

2013 - Great Town of the Year Award

2014 – Best Overall Microcity in Europe

2014 - UNESCO City of Film

2015 - Purple Flag Accreditation

2016 – Galway City gains Official Bilingual Status

2017 - European Green Leaf City

2018 - European Region Of Gastronomy

2020 - European Capital of Culture

2022 – #6 European City for Raising Children

2024 – Micro European City of the Future – Human Capital and Lifestyle Category

2024 – 2nd Place Good Practice Competition. (Environmental Education Activities on Biodiversity category)

2024 - Runner Up Natural Heritage Award (Wild Bee Festival).

7th Best City in Europe for Air Quality (IQAIR)

Blue Flag and National Green Coasts Awards for City Beaches at Salthill and Silverstrand

Purple Flag – Internationally Renowned Safe City

European Union Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change member

European Union Net Zero Pilot City

5 Green Flags Parks in 2024 (Quincentennial Park, Millenium Park, Kennedy Park (Eyre Square), O'Sullivan Park and Terryland Forest Park

Droichead an Dóchais

International Bridge Project of the Year Award, New Civil Engineer Bridges Awards (shortlisted)

Civil Engineering Project of the Year, Engineering Excellence Awards 2024

Colm Ó Ríordáin – Gold Medal, Active Mobility Leader, Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Ireland (CILT) Mobility & Supply Chain Awards 2024



Our Core Values

We are guided by our Core Values in delivery of services by Galway City Council:

Respect

We respect and value our Councillors and Staff, and our communities and service-users, particularly those experiencing inequality, in our role as employer and in our work of delivering services for the people of the city, considering the many different needs of our modern society.

Democracy

We support our Councillors' leadership by providing the widest open transparent engagement with participation from the full diversity of our communities in the democratic process.

Accountability

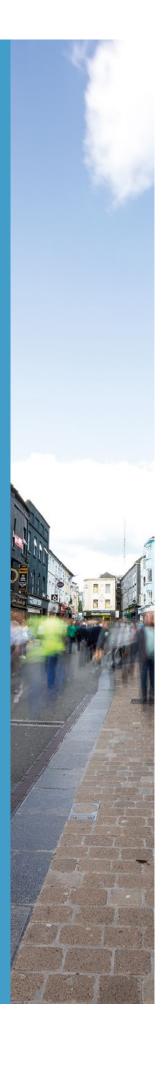
We will carry out our work with honesty and integrity to the highest professional standards across all our services ensuring decisions are made in the best public interest.

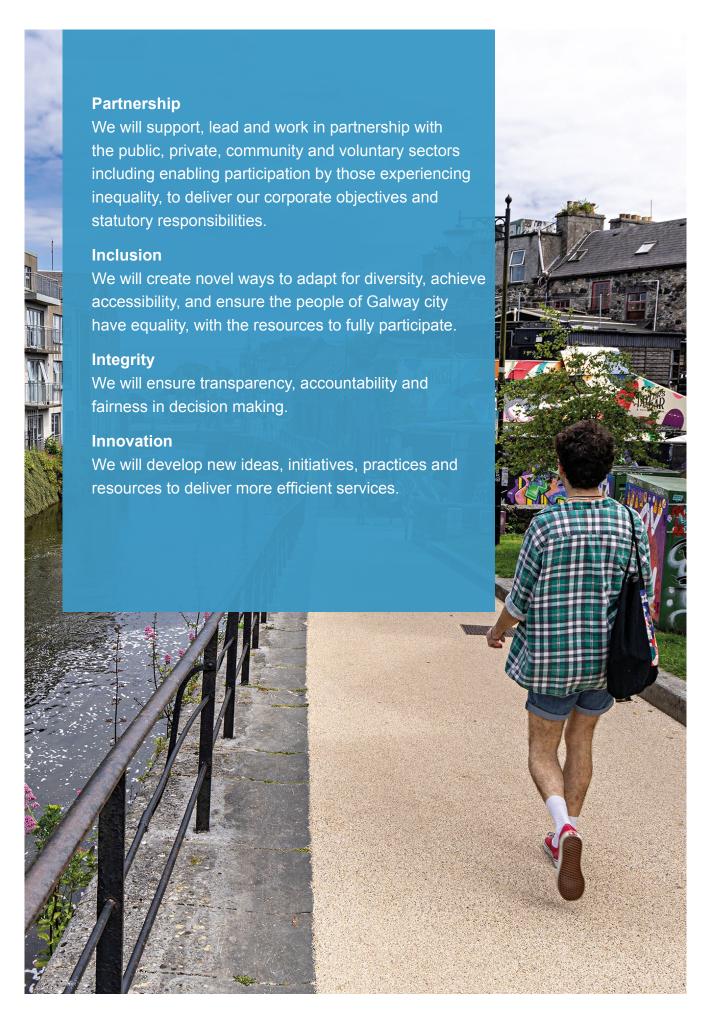
Equality

We will ensure equal treatment of all, recognise and adapt for the diversity of service-users and staff to ensure inclusion and accessibility that is universal and based on the principle of universal design, and embrace and strive for equality of outcomes for this diversity of people.

Sustainability

We will lead the way in achieving sustainability, advancing environmental justice and building resilience through a just transition implementing a range of distinct, but complementary, climate action adaptation and mitigation measures. We commit to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.





Our Commitments

Ambition

We are committed to Galway being a world class city.

Uniqueness

We will celebrate and enhance our unique attributes and features.

Creativity

We will build upon our diverse cultural, artistic and Irish language heritage to enrich and expand our creative communities.

Community

We will embrace new approaches and empower our communities, with particular regard to those experiencing inequality.

Rights Based Growth

We will deliver inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic growth for a vibrant, safe, inclusive, and attractive city.

A Modern Council

We are committed to drive efficiency and innovation to enable the delivery of our services across the City and to deliver on our public services duties. All Departments of Galway City Council will strive to deliver all applicable services via digital means as per the National Digital and ICT Strategy 2024 – 2030 and the Digital Government 2030 Act. We will implement the seven principles of Corporate Governance

Value for Money

We recognise our responsibility to achieve value for money in service delivery. We will seek to incorporate value for money principles in delivering services by taking account of costs, quality of services and the local context. We will access maximum resources from the National/EU exchequer and will underpin such funding through additional local resourcing across all income options, where feasible.



Our External Environment

Preparation of this corporate plan comes at a challenging time, historically, for the city, and Ireland. While considerable progress is being made in creating a world class city, the international instability of the past decade has created both political and economic conditions that will require on-going flexibility and agility in the socio-economic response of the Council.

In addition, on-going shifts in the international geopolitical environment means that the Council must be resilient and capable of responding to risks, many of which are outside of our immediate control, that will clearly be a feature of our operational environment over the life of the Plan.

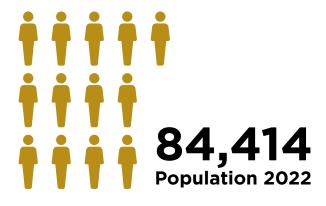
There will be many opportunities which the Council will use to the advantage of the city. Our move towards carbon neutrality, the growth in the skills of our people, led by a vibrant elected Council, among other positive features will help position the city to avoid the worse effects of international disruption, while underpinning its sustainable development.

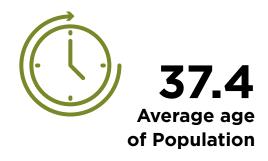
The growth of our population and our capacity for great culture and space for the arts, alongside a transformation of our physical realm and connectivity will position the city to be a world class city. Galway city will be a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive urban centre, positioning the city to meet the challenges of this century while preserving its unique cultural and environmental heritage.

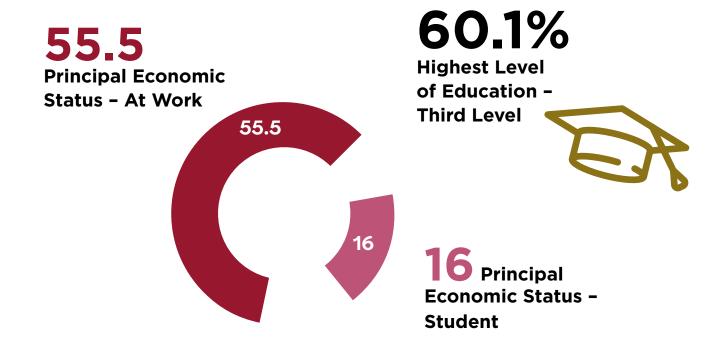


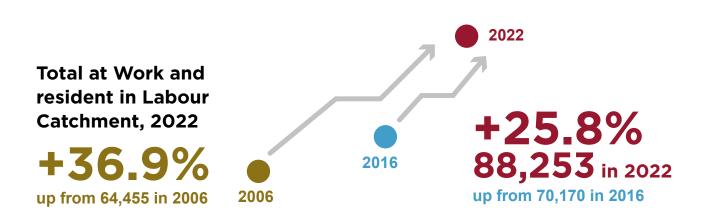
Operating Culture

Source: CSO Census 2022









Galway City

- Regional capital of the West located on the Atlantic Economic Corridor
- Only city in the North West Region and key driver for the West of Ireland
- Galway City has the lowest average age in the Western Region (37.4 years).
- Projected population growth in National Planning Framework from 80,000 to 125,000 by 2040
- Location of world recognised med-tech cluster
- Thriving third level sector catering for 30,000 students
- Top tourist destination with vibrant arts and cultural scene
- Holds bilingual city status and contains part of the largest and most populated Gaeltacht in the country
- Increasingly multicultural due to international students and immigrants



Galway City Council is committed to an ongoing implementation of the equality and human rights duty. In doing so, the City Council will embed an explicit, coherent and consistent focus on equality and human rights in all our operations across all our functions. We have developed an Equality and Human Rights Values Statement to frame and benchmark our approach to the Duty.

Galway City Council has implemented the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty in the preparation of this Corporate Plan. Galway City Council has framed its ambition for and benchmarked its approach to the Duty, based on the values of:

- dignity,
- autonomy,
- participation,
- inclusion,
- social justice, and
- environmental justice.







Overall responsibility for driving implementation of the Duty is held by the Corporate Development Directorate. The Directorate is supported by a cross-organisational working group that prepares an annual plan for action which is based on our implementation plan, provides support for its implementation, and gathers data and information to report annually on progress.

Galway City Council, in compliance with Section 42 of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Act, 2014 has undertaken an assessment of the equality and human rights issues for the identified groups that it believes to be relevant to its functions and purpose. The Public Sector Equality and **Human Rights assessment** is publicly available on Galway City Council's website.

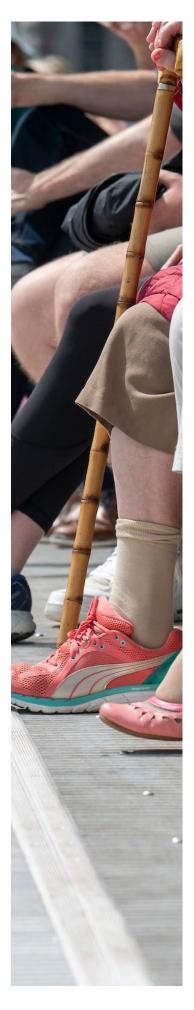
The assessment undertaken is both evidence-based, in drawing from national and local research, and participative, in involving civil society representatives of the identified groups for the Duty in the Assessment. The identified groups encompass those covered by the nine grounds under the legislation; those at risk of or experiencing poverty, those at the intersections of these grounds; and individual rights holders under the relevant human rights instruments.



In deploying the assessment of equality and human rights issues, Galway City Council will put in place and implement the following targeted initiatives to address the relevant equality and human rights issues through implementation of:

- The City Age Friendly Strategy 2025 2030
- The Council's Integration Strategy to be developed
- The Council's Housing Disability Strategy 2021 2026
- Traveller Accommodation Plan 2025 2029.
- Regional Homeless Action Plan 2025 2027

In preparing the Corporate Plan, Galway City Council identified eight priority overarching equality and human rights issues to be a focus in developing the Corporate Plan. More broadly, in recognising the ongoing nature of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, and the need to address the full range of equality and human rights issues identified in our assessment, Galway City Council has developed an Implementation Plan for the Duty, to guide, drive and direct its ongoing implementation as an integral part of our work. This Implementation Plan is publicly available on the Galway City Council's website.





The implementation plan sets out the steps that will be taken to enable an ongoing implementation of the Duty, including convening a cross-organisational Duty Working Group to drive and plan this work; staff familiarisation and training as required; and internal communication of our equality and human rights values.

The Implementation Plan identities the approach to be taken to implement the legislation and to ensure the relevant equality and human rights issues are addressed, at key moments, in particular the preparation of the Council's Annual Service Delivery Plans and the development and review, generally, of the plans, policies, strategies and programmes that flow from these annual service plans.

Galway City Council, through its Duty Working Group, and as part of its Annual Report, will report on progress made in implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, and achievements in addressing the relevant equality and human rights issues.

Commitment to the United Nations (UN) Strategic Development Goals

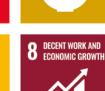
Sustainability is at the heart of our approach to ensuring Galway is a leading city across the Globe. The Council is committed to appraising all its policies and services to ensure that we minimise our impact on the environment, maximise the potential of our people and their heritage and skills.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all UN member states in 2015, outlines a collective vision for peace and prosperity, both now and in the future. Central to this agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are interconnected and indivisible. These goals aim to uphold the human rights of all people and promote gender equality. They emphasise that eliminating poverty and other forms of deprivation must be coupled with strategies that enhance health, education, and economic growth, while also addressing climate change. The SDGs have significantly shaped the development of this Corporate Plan and inform its policies, objectives, and actions.





13 CLIMATE ACTION



2 ZERO HUNGER

















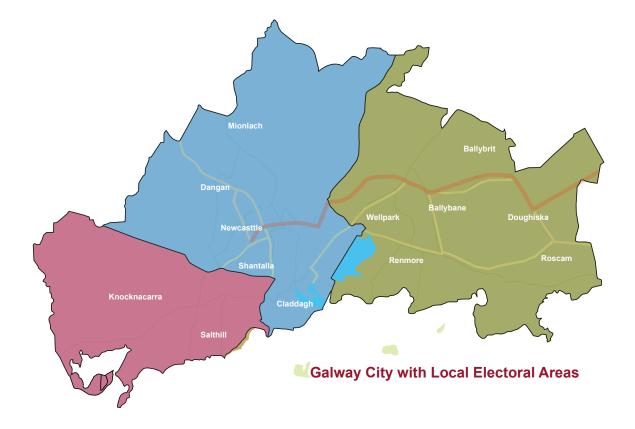












Galway City Council: Our Governance Structure

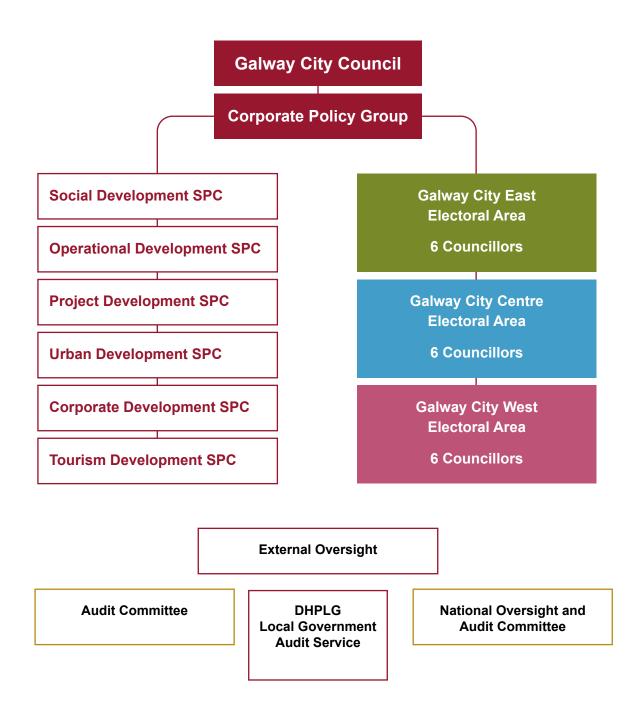
18 City Councillors are elected from three local electoral areas (East, West, Central) in the city covering the local authority area. Members meet to address the immediate issues of their Local Electoral Areas at Area Committee Meetings. Members also meet to address city wide issues as a plenary body involving all Elected Members.

Working collectively, the Councillors act as a governing body, working in partnership with the Chief Executive, Senior Management Team and Staff to develop and implement policy at local level. Each Department has a designated Head of Function who reports directly to one of the Management Team.

The Elected Council has a policy remit referenced as 'reserved functions' under legislation, such as the adoption of the annual budget and the City Development Plan. Decisions of the Council are made by way of resolution.

The Executive working with the Council's six Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), assist and advise the Council with its policy making role. One-third of the SPC membership comes from sectors related to the specific SPC's work, contributing to the improvement of the policy formulation process.

The Mayor and the Chairs of each SPC make up the Corporate Policy Group, which functions similarly to a cabinet, providing a platform for making high-level policy decisions to be submitted and recommended to the full City Council.



Organisational Structure and Principal Activities

Galway City Council is the most accessible form of government to the people of Galway City. It's 633 staff serve to deliver over 1,100 services for the people who live, are educated, work and create in Galway City. Above all, it is a local democratically accountable body, operating through its 18 Elected Members, across the city with a singular focus on the people of Galway.

The Council's organisation structure and functions are detailed overleaf:

Chief Executive Leonard Cleary

An Stiúrthóireacht um Fhorbairt Shóisialta

Social Development Directorate

Elizabeth Fanning Director of Services An Stiúrthóireacht An Stiúrthóireacht um Fhorbairt Oibriúcháin

Operational Development Directorate

Patrick Greene Director of Services An Stiúrthóireacht um Fhorbairt Tionscadal

Project
Development
Directorate

Derek Pender Director of Services An Stiúrthóireacht um Fhorbairt Uirbeach

Urban
Development
Directorate

Patricia Philbin
Director of Services

An Stiúrthóireacht um Fhorbairt Chorparáideach

Corporate
Development
Directorate

Helen Kilroy Director of Finance

Joint SPC

Forbairt Turasóireachta Tourism Development SPC

(Arts, Culture, Tourism and Community Development)

SPC

Forbairt Shóisialta Social Development SPC

Forbairt Oibriúcháin Operational Development SPC

Forbairt Tionscadail Project Development SPC

Forbairt Uirbeach Urban Development SPC

Forbairt Chorparáideach Corporate Development

East Local Area Committee

West Local Area Committee

Central Local Area
Committee

Project Management

Interim Deputy Chief Executive

Audit Committee

Functions

Housing Services
Housing Capital
Housing Maintenance
Traveller
Accommodation
Homelessness
Services
Social Inclusion
Ukrainian Services
Integration

Functions

Roads and Transportation Maintenance Environment Services Recreation and Amenity Water Services Community Centres

Functions

Office (PMO) and
Capital Development
New HQ development
City Hall site
re-development
Active Travel
GCRR Development
Property Assets and
Derelict Sites
Climate Change
Community
Development

Functions

Placemaking
Forward Planning
Development Control
Architectural Services
Economic
Development
Heritage and
Conservation
Tourism Development
Arts and Culture
Development
Human Resources

Functions

Finance
Corporate Services
Corporate
Governance
Communications
and Marketing
Gaeilge | Irish
Language
ICT and Digital
Corporate
Transformation
Change Management
Commercial Services

Fire and Emergency Shared Service

Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and Library Shared Service

Our Strategic Objectives and Supporting Strategies

Social Development Directorate

Housing and Social Inclusion Objective:

To enhance the quality of life for the people of Galway City through the acceleration of the delivery of quality social and affordable homes and housing supports to those in need and in appropriate locations, thereby creating socially inclusive and sustainable communities as an exemplar of Social Development.

We will achieve this objective by:

Implementing the objectives of Housing for All – a New Housing Plan for Ireland to 2030 to address housing supply and homelessness, ensuring the elimination of all forms of discrimination and addressing needs specific to those groups covered by the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. The Housing for All Plan's overall objective is to ensure: "Everyone in the State should have access to a home to purchase or rent at an affordable price, built to a high standard and in the right place, offering a high quality of life".

Implementation of the Galway City Council Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) 2022 – 2026 and any subsequent Plan to underpin housing delivery.

Ensure the city will have a strategic land bank in place to facilitate future development to meet social and affordable housing targets and support the delivery of sustainable, mixed tenure communities.

Provision of additional quality housing, of appropriate scale, in suitable locations and in line with the compact growth requirements of Galway City and taking into consideration our aging population and ensuring the elimination of all forms of discrimination and addressing the specific needs of the community.

Ensuring that people assessed as homeless by Galway City Council have an emergency accommodation option available to them and expanding the range of supports available to homeless households, with flexibility in design and delivery to take account of needs specific to those groups covered by the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

Adoption and delivery of the Regional Homeless Action Plan with a range of actions to prevent and reduce homelessness and the reliance on private emergency accommodation.

Provide a quality, customer focussed Housing Needs Assessment to inform the allocation of social housing, taking steps to ensure true preferences are identified.

Implementation and reporting on the Housing Assistant Payment (HAP) and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) schemes.

Enhanced management of our social housing stock including a planned maintenance programme and increased energy efficiency of social homes with a target for all housing stock to achieve minimum B2 BER rating.

Provision of tenancy supports and quality estate management services for all residents by promoting equality of opportunity and protecting human rights, ensuring socially inclusive, safe, and sustainable communities.

Ensuring achievement of relevant standards in housing and building control and support the implementation of minimum standards in the rented sector.

Carry out a differential rent review of all Council, Housing Assistant Payment and Rental Accommodation Scheme (HAP/ RAS), and Lease tenancies.

Provide an effective range of suitable housing supports including housing loans and housing grants to support individuals and families in adapting their accommodation to meet the changing needs of their households.

Deliver mixed tenure housing in Galway City whilst ensuring the elimination of all forms of discrimination and addressing the specific needs of the communities and people being served.

Accommodate the model for distribution for the Irish Refugee Protection Programme 3 (IRPP3) in a phased approach.

Addressing the needs of those groups covered by the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty and meeting the diverse needs of all residents by promoting equality of opportunity and protecting human rights through the implementation of Social Development Directorate targeted initiatives including;

- Traveller Accommodation Plan 2025 2029.
- Regional Homeless Action Plan 2025 2027.
- The Housing Disability Strategy.
- Scheme of Allocations of Social Housing.
- Scheme of Priorities for Affordable Housing.
- Estate Management Strategy.
- Integration Strategy.
- Traveller Specific Estate Management Policy to be adopted and implemented.

















Operational Development Directorate

Environment Objective:

To protect, enhance, and conserve the natural environment of our city, while promoting environmental awareness through collaboration with organisations and local communities. Our aim is to improve the quality of life for all residents by fostering a sustainable and eco-friendly urban environment.

We will achieve this objective by:

Providing supports for communities, including those experiencing inequality, taking steps to establish and ensure a just transition, and promoting environmental awareness in schools, businesses and local neighbourhoods.

Assist in raising environmental awareness to meet the objectives of Galway City Council's Climate Action Plan and National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

Implementing a Litter strategy and Litter Management Plan, and provision of sufficient recycling facilities for the city.

Deliver litter and waste enforcement services, and a planned scheduled street cleaning programme to ensure high standards of cleanliness in the city.

Comply with environmental legislation, carrying out regulatory functions and strive to achieve high environmental rankings.

Monitoring and improving the quality of bathing waters and air in the city.

Implement the annual Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) plan in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Administer and monitor compliance under the Control of Dogs legislation.















Recreation and Amenity Objective:

To protect, enhance and conserve the natural environment of our city and to develop and promote high quality, accessible and inclusive recreational, leisure and amenity facilities to improve quality of life.

We will achieve this objective by:

Initiating actions from the Green Spaces Strategy.

Maintain the standard of our community recreational facilities and continue to access our facilities with particular attention to accessibility for and inclusion of those groups covered by the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

Continue to maintain, improve and modernise facilities, in line with Climate Action requirements, equality and human rights considerations, and growing demands of the city's residents and visitors.

Implement Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030 and Pollinator Plan, where feasible.

Enhance and increase green and blue network throughout the city, where possible conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems, with an aim for no net loss of biodiversity and increase the capture of carbon dioxide (CO2) in soils and biomass.

Creating a sustainable, resilient community, ensuring the protection and preservation of the natural environment and the promotion of sustainable practices in all aspects of governance, planning, and service delivery.

Develop an "inclusive play" in the city policy, as per the Child Friendly City Initiative.

Develop facilities for minority sports as identified in the Green Spaces Strategy and in conjunction with Galway Sports Partnership.

Delivery of a reconfigured Wood Quay Park.

Lawn Cemetery at Old Dublin Road.

Sports Capital Projects (R&A).

Continue with Masterplans from conception through planning and implementation on the ground in a phased basis.

Retain five Green Flags for parks and two Blue Flag beaches/ Green Coast awards.

Continue to improve / upgrade existing parks with our focus on inclusion for all to take account of all age groups and abilities.

Develop and implement bye-laws for recreation and amenity facilities and open spaces inclusive of parks, pitches, woodlands and beaches.

Continue to provide cemetery and burial services and cater for the future needs of the city by provision of an additional burial ground in the East and the West of the city.

Continue to maintain all other green spaces including residential housing estates commensurate to resources.

Delivery of new sports facilities and enhancement of existing facilities in accordance with the strategic principles and implementation plans set out in the Galway City Green Spaces Strategy and the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

Seek to maximise grant funding through the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme and explore other funding opportunities to support the delivery of projects.





























Roads and Transportation Objective:

To provide, manage, and maintain the roads and transport network within the available budget, and to work in partnership with public transport providers and other agencies in developing integrated and sustainable transport policies. A further key objective is to implement a Major Emergency Management Framework incorporating response plans for severe weather events.

We work closely with the Department of Transport, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and other stakeholders to implement the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy.

The key elements of the strategy to be progressed during the lifespan of this plan include:

Delivering Road Maintenance and Restoration/Improvement work programmes in line with funding received from Department of Transport.

Maintenance of roads related infrastructure such as drainage, footpaths and public lighting subject to funding.

Works on National Routes as per TII funding.

Bridge inspection and maintenance works.

Facilitation of licensing and permits as required for works across the city.

Managing the Taking in Charge process.

Supporting the Climate Action Plan by implementing mobility enhancements and multi modal corridor works.

Ensuring effective management of the finite parking infrastructure in Galway, while facilitating access to the city to ensure the continued economic attractiveness of Galway City.

Additional Development opportunities – Fire-Station.

We will continue to engage with the Fire Services in relation to service and infrastructure needs for Galway city.

We will continue to work with Uisce Éireann in relation to the provision of surface water drainage for Ardaun.

Managing the Major Emergency Framework, coordinating multi-agency input into formulation of response plans for major emergencies as well as severe weather events. This includes leading and participating in multi-agency exercises to ensure readiness.

Road Safety measures, including road engineering measures/schemes, and maintenance and upgrade of public lighting.

Furthering Galway City Council's role in road safety by developing and implementing education and awareness initiatives for our diverse communities and by supporting key stakeholders to deliver initiatives of their own.

Working with Galway County Council in delivering a joint Road Safety Strategy to align with Government targets.

Support of the Planning Function of Galway City Council, where developments would have an impact on the transport network.

Responding to Customers reporting roads related issues in a timely manner.

Compilation of policies and plans relating to roads infrastructure, speed limits and safety measures. Review of relevant policies including bye-laws as required.

Management and improvement of signal-controlled junctions within the remit of the Urban Traffic Management Centre (UTMC).

Management of Galway City Council's fleet and aligning with climate targets related to same.



















Project Development Directorate

The Project Development Directorate will drive Galway City's evolution as a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive urban centre, positioning the city to meet the challenges of the 21st century while preserving its unique cultural and environmental heritage.

By bringing together Community Development, Climate Action, Active Travel, Property Assets, and Derelict Sites into a single, cohesive entity, the Directorate will enhance Galway's liveability, accessibility, inclusiveness, sustainability, and connectivity through a unified, forward-thinking approach.

The newly established Project Management and Capital Delivery Office (PMCDO) will bring rigour, efficiency, and transparency to the planning and delivery of Galway's capital projects.

Project Management and Capital Delivery Office Objective:

To oversee the professional and efficient management of capital projects, aligning them with the Council's strategic objectives and adhering to best practices in design and construction.

It will achieve this by:

Managing the design and execution of the Council's capital programme.

Safeguarding the city's built heritage.

Ensuring optimal value for investment.

Working in partnership with the key funding agencies and other stakeholders, namely Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform; the Department of Transport; the National Transport Authority; Transport infrastructure Ireland; the Office of Public Works; and the Department of Rural and Community Development, to implement and deliver this ambitious capital programme.

Adopting a defined set of project management governance principles and having a standardised project management approach.

Having a clear governance framework providing transparency and oversight

Advancing the delivery of key projects including, but not limited to,

- **Newcastle Community Centre**
- Coirib go Cósta Galway City Flood Relief Scheme
- Crown Square
- City Hall site redevelopment
- Museum extension
- Additional Community Development Infrastructure Library, Community Centres
- Public Realm Projects
- Property Assets and Derelict Sites Development
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience Projects

Facilitating and advancing the delivery and completion of key projects including the N6 Galway City Ring Road, Athlone to Galway Greenway, Galway to Oughterard Greenway, other National and Urban Greenway Developments and the Clifden Railway Pedestrian Bridge.

















Active Travel Objective:

To lead the roll out of new and upgraded walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure across the city, linking into the regional travel networks that are the responsibility of Galway City Council. This will help to deliver the vision of the Galway Transport Strategy, which identifies the need for a shift towards sustainable travel, reducing dependence on the private car. This includes the development of segregated cycle lanes and widened footpaths, new walking and cycling bridges, and new pedestrian crossings. One of the key aims is to increase the number of walking and cycling networks so that walking, cycling and public transport will account for 50% of all journeys made by 2030.-

We will achieve this objective by:

Further developing new and improved walking and cycling infrastructure throughout the city.

Progressing key active travel projects and the BusConnects schemes with attention given to accessibility requirements.

Promoting and encouraging sustainable transport and, in particular, to make it convenient and attractive to walk, cycling or use public transport.

Improving accessibility and permeability to and within the city centre for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users, while also maintaining an appropriate level of access for vehicle traffic for commercial and retail purposes. This will include conducting a permeability study for the city centre.

Maximising the safety and security of pedestrians, cyclists and other transport users, particularly within the core city centre.

Further developing the walking and cycling network across the city.

Participating in the development of the new Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy and supporting its implementation.

Working with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and other partners to secure funding to allow for further investment in active travel in Galway.

Supporting the NTA rollout of the Galway Bus Network redesign, giving attention to accessibility requirements.

Progressing the development of Park and Ride facilities at strategic locations across Galway.

Continuing the roll out of the Safe Route to Schools initiatives.

Advancing the delivery of other projects and initiatives including, but not limited to:

- Cycle Connects: Cycle Stage 1 East
- Cycle Connects: Cycle Stage 2 West
- BusConnects Bus corridor through University Hospital Galway















Community Development, Corporate Assets and Derelict Sites Objective:

To enhance quality of life by fostering community engagement, social cohesion, access to services and remediating abandoned or underutilised properties to revitalise communities.

To empower and engage the diversity of local voices and address the diverse needs of the community through programmes and initiatives, while also enhancing public safety and encouraging community investment.

We will achieve this objective by:

Reducing poverty and alleviating disadvantage through appropriate and targeted social inclusion, community development programmes and initiatives.

Promoting partnership approaches towards accessibility and services and recognising and enhancing the value that diversity brings to the city.

Reducing health inequality and improving health outcomes through implementation of programmes targeting physical, mental health, wellbeing and nutrition, including adoption of a City Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy.

Enhancing healthy lifestyles through the development of local sport and physical activity programmes and facilities.

Developing and implementing strategies for cleaning up, repurposing, or redeveloping derelict sites, transforming them into functional spaces that benefit the community.

Conducting thorough assessments and maintaining an updated inventory of derelict sites to identify priority areas for intervention and redevelopment.

Ensuring asset review, and management of assets and stock will be addressed and underpinned by appropriate maintenance plans.



















Climate Change and Sustainability Objective:

To be a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and carbon neutral city by no later than the end of 2050 by delivering transformative change, just transition and measurable climate action within our own organisation and services and across Galway City, through leadership, example, and mobilising action at a local level.

Addressing climate change has become a global priority, with efforts focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, promoting sustainable practices, and adapting to climate change well underway.

We will achieve these objectives by:

Implementing the Galway City Climate Action Plan on a whole of organisation basis through the agreed governance structures, having regard to the provisions of Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) Act.

Developing and resourcing, across the organisation, energy projects to achieve Carbon Emission and Energy Efficiency Targets for 2030 and 2050.

Fostering Governance, Leadership and Partnership for Climate Action.

Delivering on Climate Adaptation and Climate Resilience.

Mobilising Climate Action in the Diversity of our Local Communities.

Mobilising Climate Action in Enterprise and support Transition to an Inclusive, Net Zero and Circular Economy.

Achieving a 'Just Transition' particularly for Communities that may be Economically Disadvantaged by Decarbonising Projects.













Urban Development Directorate

Arts and Culture, Economic and Tourism Development Objective:

To facilitate a strong, sustainable, inclusive, economic ecosystem in Galway City, which offers access to employment for all, with particular attention to the diversity of groups covered by the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty; will provide a good quality of life for its residents; and will ensure the sustainable development of the region.

To make Galway City a model of cultural sustainability, community participation and exciting cultural and creative experiences.

We will achieve these objectives by:

Implementing the Local Economic and Community Plan, having regard to the requirements of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

Managing, maintaining and upgrading the enterprise and cultural infrastructure owned by Galway City Council.

Supporting the development of the night-time economy in Galway City.

Working with economic and cultural sectors to reduce the carbon footprint of the city.

Increasing revenue in the tourism sector, benefiting local businesses and employment.

Support indigenous and start up enterprises through the work of the Galway City Council Local Enterprise Office, responding to the specific needs across the diversity of our communities in this work.

Maintaining Galway's advantages as a location for inward investment and ensure that local enterprises can benefit from this investment.

Invest in key infrastructure projects that improve access to cultural sites and tourism attractions.

Safeguard and celebrate Galway City's unique cultural heritage while developing contemporary arts and creativity.

Using culture to implement new approaches to tackling disadvantage and social exclusion and engage marginalised and lesser heard communities.

Involve local communities in tourism and cultural initiatives to foster pride and participation.

Developing and enhancing Galway's standing as a bilingual city.

























Planning Objective:

To lead the development of Galway City, in a co-ordinated approach, to address the challenges of housing, movement and climate change to deliver a better city for all. The planning section will maintain an effective planning system that can successfully meet the city's sustainable economic, environmental, and social development goals.

We will achieve this objective by:

Strengthen the position of Galway City as the regional lead for the west of Ireland.

Align policies and plans with the National Planning Framework, National Development Plan, the North West Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES), and the Galway Metropolitan Area Plan (MASP).

Secure the policies and objectives of the current City Development Plan 2023 – 2029 including any future variations to same.

Support the effective use of funding sources through the preparation of strategic plans to unlock the potential of key urban sites and provide for compact growth.

Continue to advance improvements to public spaces through the implementation of the Public Realm Strategy, including concern for accessibility.

To embody the shared project that is the development of the city through a creative and collaborative approach to public engagement and co-design.

Continue to support the progression of twin tracking of the railway line from Galway City to Athenry.

Ensure the effective delivery of our development management functions and services and implement revisions arising from the New Planning Act and Regulations.

Drive the planning and development of Major Urban Housing Development Sites (MUHDS) and strategic infrastructure projects such as those outlined in the Galway Transport Strategy.

Continue to support the delivery of public infrastructure and services through the efficient management of the Development Contribution Scheme and prepare revised schemes as required by legislation.

Work in conjunction with the Land Development Agency to coordinate land within state control for more optimal uses including redevelopment and regeneration opportunities with a special focus on key brownfield lands.

Continue to review service delivery to enhance the effective operations of the planning authority to improve services for customers.

Preserving and enhancing the built and natural heritage, through the advancement of actions contained in the Galway City Heritage Plan 2027 – 2029.





















Human Resources Objectives:

To ensure adequate staff resources to meet Galway City Council's objectives, and to encourage, assist and support our staff through the employee life cycle in developing their full potential as valued employees of Galway City Council.

The key objectives for the Human Resources Department during the period of the Corporate Plan are as follows:

Deliver a human resources function that recruits the right people with the right skills for the tasks in hand and provides on-going advice, support and training for our line managers.

Utilise our staff resources to the maximum effect in the context of our changing environment.

Work in partnership with all the relevant stakeholders to maintain industrial peace and ensure a consistent high-quality service to our customers.

Facilitate the implementation of strategic workforce planning and delivery of annual recruitment programmes to meet service delivery needs of the organisation.

Facilitate engagement between management and trade unions on organisational change management programmes as relevant.

Manage and facilitate staff assignment process under the Water Services Transition Programme.

Support staff throughout the employee life cycle through the provision of training, staff welfare, and wellbeing initiatives.

Develop and review HR policies in accordance with relevant legislation as applicable, including the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

Conduct Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Values Training for all staff.

In delivering on the above, the HR Department will continue to endeavour to address employment inequalities, barriers, and participation across identified groups.













Corporate Development Directorate

Corporate Services Objectives:

To provide support services and resources to elected members, enabling them to fulfil their democratic responsibilities, and to provide staff with the tools they need to effectively implement their executive functions, ensuring the delivery of high-quality, efficient services to the people of Galway.

We will achieve this objective by:

Having robust governance structures in place to ensure the strategic framework set out in this Corporate Plan is delivered. Continue to embed the Corporate Governance and compliance Program across the organisation in the areas of Business Continuity, Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, Child Protection and Welfare, Data Protection, Internal Audit and Freedom of Information/ Access to Information on the Environment/ Ombudsman.

Developing realistic and achievable Annual Service Delivery Plans that are intrinsically linked to the annual budgetary process.

Providing updates on progress through the Chief Executive's Management Report to Council along with other reports and updates.

Providing full accountability each year for the work of the local authority through the Annual Report, Report of the Audit Committee, the independent Local Government Audit Service, National Service Indicators and reports of the National Oversight and Audit Committee.

Putting in place internal controls and procedures to ensure that accountability and value for money is being maintained and achieved.

Business Transformation through Enhanced Customer Service.

Ensuring that our services meet the needs of customers, that they are accessible to all and are in line with our public sector duty on equality and human rights.

Continued implementation and review of Customer Charter and Code of Conduct and Customer Services Action Plan in line with targets as set out in the Quality Customer Services Strategy. Revision of the Charter will commence to address the diversity of Council customers and their specific needs.

Optimise efficiency in the management and maintenance of Council facilities including offices, depots and other facilities.

Maintain and manage the Electoral Register.

Administer Public Liability Claims and ensure Corporate Liability is effectively managed.

Progress our vision for Galway as a bilingual city through the implementation of the 4ú Language Plan/Scéim Teanga and Official Languages Act (2003) and in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and continue to enhance our capacity to provide services through the Irish language, visibility of the Irish language and to promote the use of Irish.

Implement effective procedures to manage Archives and Record Management systems for the City Council. Manage a cross-departmental document and file retention programme.

Supporting our staff to engage in effective communications with our diverse internal and external stakeholders, across a range of channels – supporting access to services, information and fair dealings with the local authority, in a timely manner.

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work – continue to implement and enhance safety, health and welfare code as a key priority within Galway City Council.

Ensure successful delivery of Local Elections 2029.

Strive to achieve the 'Excellence in Local Government' award.

To deliver economies and efficiencies through working with other local authorities and agencies on shared services initiatives.











Finance Objectives:

The Council currently manages the following financial responsibilities:

Manages
Capital Budget
3 year capital
plan

Manages
Revenue Budget
€140m
per annum









Processes payroll payments for 633 staff
245 pensioners

35,000 customers and manages the collection of Income



Our key objectives will be to:

To maximise and manage resources available for infrastructural and service provision, ensuring efficient and effective use of these resources, the achievement of a balanced budget and the highest standards of accountability and financial probity.

To maximise all revenue streams and investments to ensure financial stability is sustained.

To exercise prudence in managing our finances, ensuring sufficient cashflow.

Engage with and support all our customers to ensure that all payment options are provided to them to ensure payment of liabilities as promptly as possible.

To ensure that all relevant financial returns are prepared on a timely basis.

To manage all taxes due to the national exchequer.

To process all Payroll payments for employees and pensioners to meet Council obligations.

To ensure internal controls exist and are applied consistently on all financial transactions, delivery of the Internal Audit Programme and facilitating the Audit Committee in their delivery programme.

To assist the overall corporate governance of the Council.

To ensure the implementation of the National Revaluation Programme 2021, of all rateable properties within the City as determined by the relevant provision of valuation and rating legislation is communicated and applied effectively.

The current service delivery model will be examined and reconfigured to facilitate shared service arrangements and potential consolidation of functions.











Information and Communications Technology (ICT) **Objectives:**

To fundamentally transform the way people, interact and do business with Galway City Council through the digitalisation of 90% of applicable services, in line with Ireland's Local Government Digital and ICT Strategy 2030, Digital Local Government: Working for Everyone and Connecting Government 2030 – the Digital Strategy for the Public Service.

ICT is a key enabler in the delivery of modern local government services, modern workplace technologies and the delivery of new systems which improve the efficiency and effectiveness of council staff.

We will achieve the following key strategic objectives:

We will continually improve the technology infrastructure to ensure our data and records are secure, following least privilege access principles, while being highly available and resilient to outages.

We will continue to provide cloud-based solutions, to improve both internal and external information management, access, and protection.

We will remain constantly vigilant regarding the increase in cybercrime attacks against public sector bodies. We will take all necessary steps to secure the City Council's data on all platforms. We will continue to invest in Cybersecurity measures.

We will ensure all staff have the technology, tools and skills they need to fully interact in a digital way.

We will provide easy access to digital local government services and encourage people to use these services by improving consistency and focusing on the needs of individuals planning when designing those services.

We will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the way we work by making the most of new technologies.









Cross Directorate Delivery Planning and Implementation

Galway City Council will continue to strengthen and support a collaborative team based working environment across the organisation. This is managed by the Heads of Department and the Senior Management Team, who meet frequently to discuss cross Directorate issues affecting the city.

The Elected members engage on behalf of their electorate on a cross-Directorate basis through their participation in Area Committee meetings, Strategic Policy Committees, the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and at the Plenary Council. As neighbouring local authorities, Galway City and County Councils collaborate and engage on a regular basis – working together on strategic and capital projects or to share resources and information.

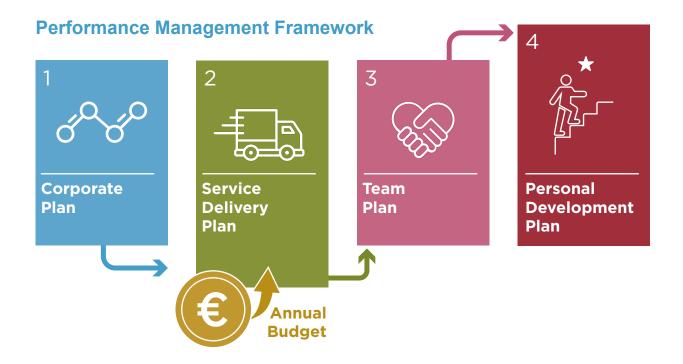
Implementation and Monitoring

Annual Service Delivery Plans (ASDP)

The Corporate Plan will serve as the framework for the developing, monitoring, and reporting on the Annual Service Delivery Plan.

Progress on the implementation of the Annual Service Delivery Plan is reported through the monthly Management Report with additional information submitted to the Council on a quarterly basis, and the Annual Report. The monthly management reports are intended to assist the elected members discharge their governance responsibilities and to oversee the executive in the delivery of the policies that the elected members have decided on, and also to have oversight of the Chief Executive's discharge of executive functions.

This allows the ASDP to be reviewed and adjusted, as needed, to reflect significant changes that may require a reassessment of the strategic priorities.



National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC)

This Corporate Plan will be submitted to NOAC to facilitate the Commission's review of the adequacy of the Plan. Any review of the Corporate Plan will have regard to any recommendations made by NOAC in respect of adequacy, either on a sector wide or individual local authority basis.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee oversees financial reporting and related matters. The work undertaken by the audit committee is ultimately to ensure financial oversight of Galway City Council.

Local Government Audit Service

The Council is subject to audit by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government's independent Audit Service. The report of the Auditor is published each year and priority is given by the Council to address any areas for attention that are highlighted within this.

Appendix 1 –

Strategies, Plans and Influences on Galway City Council

This list is not exhaustive and is subject to changes in legislation.

 Please see GalwayCity.ie for further details of Galway City Council publications and policies.

Galway City Council adhere to the list of strategies/plans/organisations influencing local government activities as outlined in the Guideline for Corporate Plans 2024 – 2029 June 2024. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Appropriate Assessment (AA) may be required in some actions contained in our Corporate Plan and that these will be carried out where required.

High Level Policy Alignment and Influences of
Galway City Council Corporate Plan

International

European Union Legislation

National

National Digital and ICT Strategy

National legislation, regulations and ministerial directions

Project Ireland 2040 Building Ireland's Future

Housing for All - A New Housing Plan for Ireland

Water Framework Directive

Environmental Protection Agency

National Enterprise 2025: Ireland's National Enterprise Policy 2015 – 2025.

20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010 – 2030

Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021

Buying Greener: The Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024 – 2027

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act

National Planning Framework

Green Procurement Policy National Sustainable Mobility Policy Making Great Art Work. Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland. Arts Council Strategy The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon 2016 – 2025. DCCAE: National Cyber Security Strategy and National Digital Strategy National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2024 – 2027 People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025 and the associated **Tourism Action Plans** National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024 – 2030 National Climate Action Plan 2024 Bathing Water Quality (Amended) Regulations 2024 National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2025 – 2027 **EU Floods Directive** National Development Plan The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 DoT Speed Limit Review 2023 Road Safety Authority / Government Road Safety Strategy 2021 – 2030 Major Emergency Management Framework National Adaptation Framework – Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 **Energy Efficiency Directive** National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 – 2030 Governance Principles and Governance Framework for the Local Government Sector National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) National Organic Strategy 2024 – 2030

Regional
Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021 – 2027
Regional Action Plan for Jobs West
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020 – 2032 (RSES)
The Connacht Ulster Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021
Flood Risk Management Plans
Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD)
Renewable Energy Directive (Directive 2023/2413)
West Regional Enterprise Plan
Local Authorities Waters Programme
Climate Action Regional Office
Regional Biodiversity Action Plans
Environmental Protection Agency
Education and Training Board (ETB's)
Údarás na Gaeltachta
WERLA
Western Regional Emergency Management Working Group and Steering Group

Local
Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 – 2029
Galway City Destination and Experience Development Plan 2025 – 2029
Galway City Council Litter Management Plan 2025 – 2028 to be completed.
Everybody Matters A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway 2016 – 2025
Galway City Arts Plan 2021 – 2025
Galway Transport Strategy
Forthcoming Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy
Galway City Council Speed Limit Byelaws No1 2023
Galway City Council Control of Parking Byelaws 2009
Galway City Development Plan
Galway Local Sports Plan 2025 – 2030
Galway City Healthy Ireland Strategy 2023 – 2025
Galway City Age Friendly Strategy 2025 – 2030
The National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM)
Galway Public Realm Strategy
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and LCDC Plan
Public Participation Network (PPN)
The Irish Language Plan for Galway City 2020 – 2026 and bilingual status
Local Community Safety Partnership
Green Spaces Strategy

Shared Services:

- Galway County Council Fire Services, Library Services, Veterinary Services and Local Enterprise Office
- Laois County Council Payroll and superannuation services
- Offaly County Council National Waste Collection Permit Office
- Donegal and Cork County Councils Road Management Office
- Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water to deliver water services
- LAWPRO Local Authority Waters Programme
- CARO Climate Action Regional Office
- WERLA Waste Enforcement Regional Authority

Digital Strategy for Galway City

Galway City Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2024 – 2030

Appendix 2 – Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty in Preparing this Corporate Plan

Galway City Council is committed to addressing the full range of issues set out in its assessment of equality and human rights issues in its ongoing implementation of the Duty under the implementation plan it has developed for this purpose. In preparing the Corporate Plan, Galway City Council identified eight priority overarching equality and human rights issues to be a focus in developing the Corporate Plan. These eight priority overarching issues, drawn from our assessment of equality and human rights issues, are:

- Discrimination, both individual and systemic, across the identified groups.
- Lack of options made available to enable real and informed choices, free from sanction, for people and communities across the identified groups.
- Lack of voice and platforms to impact on decision-making, across the identified groups.
- Lack of universal design, flexibility and adaptations to cater for diverse and specific needs across the identified groups.
- Employment inequalities and barriers to employment across the identified groups.
- Housing deprivation and disadvantage for the identified groups.
- Digital disadvantage across the identified groups.
- Lack of attention to a just transition in a context of climate disruption

Appendix 3 – Performance Indicators

You can find our performance indicators on our website at www.GalwayCity.ie

Appendix 4 – Consultation in Preparing our Plan

Under the Local Government Act, the preparation of the Corporate Plan requires an inclusive approach through consultation with stakeholders.

Pre-draft consultation took place with an online survey from 30 September to 18 October 2024, with advertising in local media, on GalwayCity.ie and on social media. Feedback was invited from staff, Elected Members, and the public, on the Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024.

Two consultation workshops were held with Elected Members and the Senior Management Team in July and September 2024 to examine their key priorities and objectives. This was followed by four feedback workshops with staff of Galway City Council in early November 2024. These workshops informed the drafting of the Council's Corporate Plan.

Input was also sought from the Audit Committee and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

Galway City Council welcomed comments and observations, which helped us to identify what is important to individuals, our communities, businesses, and our many stakeholders across the city to ensure the Plan is relevant, and to encourage ownership of the Plan.

Feedback on the strategic direction of Galway City Council over the period of the new Plan was considered during the drafting and final adoption of the Corporate Plan.

A second consultation period was held in November 2024 where we invited further feedback from staff, Elected Members, and the public. The draft Corporate Plan 2025 – 2029 was issued to various Stakeholders and Groups directly and via the Public Participation Network (PPN) in November 2024.

It was also referred to SPCs and then presented to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG).

A Public Sector Duty Assessment was conducted in relation to the new Plan.

Galway City Council wishes to thank all that took part in the process.

Galway City Council Corporate Plan Committee

Cllr Peter Keane Mayor of Galway City Council

Head of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Elaine Naughton

Brian Barrett Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development

Tourism and Culture

Administrative Officer, Community Katie Fahy

Eoghan Lynch Senior Planner, Planning

Ailish Rohan Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services (Chair)

Helena Martyn A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing

Laura Hynes Senior Executive Officer, Finance

Fiona Holland Senior Engineer, Transport and Environment

Sharon Connolly Senior Engineer, Recreation

Communications Officer Arlene Finn

Saoirse Higgins **Assistant Communications Officer**

Dermot Mahon Senior Executive Officer, Community

Micheál Cormican Senior Engineer, Housing Capital

Colm Ó Ríordáin Senior Engineer [Acting], Active Travel

Attracta Lyons Senior Executive Officer [Acting], Human Resources

External Stakeholders

The people of the City of Galway

Galway Chamber

East Village Business Association; Latin Quarter Business Association;

The Village Salthill

Galway City Community Network (PPN for Galway City)

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)





Contact

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