



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

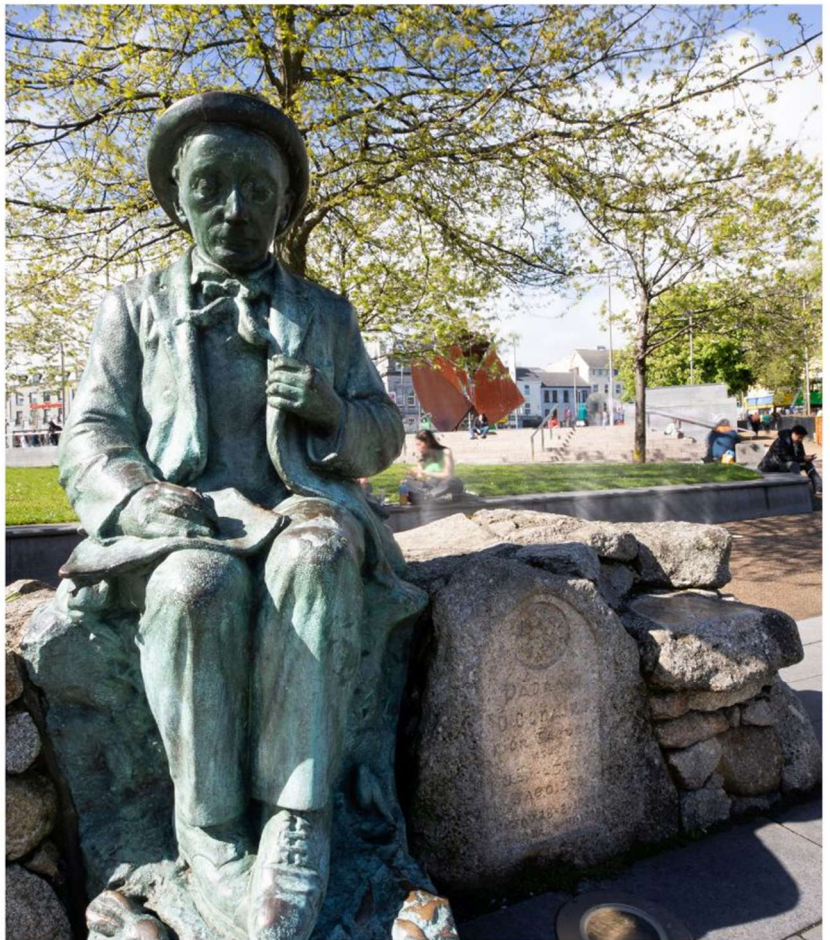


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Foreword from the Mayor of the City of Galway, Councillor Clodagh Higgins and Chief Executive, Mr. Brendan McGrath



It is our pleasure to present the Annual Report for Galway City Council for 2022.

This report is a summary of the extent and breadth of work undertaken by the staff and Elected Members of the local authority, over the past year.

Local authorities in Ireland deliver over 1,105 services, according to the national inventory. These services range from climate action, to heritage, servicing council meetings and councillors, strategic planning, housing supply, dog pounds, beach maintenance, environmental investigations, arts and cultural services, swimming pools, playgrounds, and economic development, to name just a few.

Galway City Council works closely with our sister local authority, Galway County Council, in delivery of shared services such as fire services, library services, Local Enterprise Offices towards which Galway City Council allocated €9.4 million in 2022.

Our staff remain committed to the effective delivery of the wealth of services, projects, events, grants, initiatives and supports outlined in this report.

Galway City Council continues to work with, and for, our communities to support them to thrive – and to deliver on the ambition of the local authority to continue to make Galway an attractive, vibrant, and proud city in which to live, work and visit.

2022 saw many significant milestones in the city – milestones that support our city to grow and operate in a sustainable manner. These include:

- The launch of an ambitious Housing Delivery Action Plan in July 2022, which will see 2,440 social and affordable homes delivered across the city over the next five years.

- Publication, consultation, and adoption of the City Development Plan 2023-29.
- Commencement of construction of a new intake and water transfer main for Terryland Water Treatment Plan, in partnership with Irish Water.
- Commencement of construction of the iconic new Salmon Weir pedestrian and cycle bridge.
- Submission of BusConnects Galway: Cross-City Link (University Road to Dublin Road) to An Bord Pleanála for planning consent.
- Progress in relation to Active Travel.
- Recognition of our Blue Flag beaches and parks with excellent progress in relation to biodiversity.

These significant projects are dwarfed in number by the sheer breadth of smaller - but no less important - projects, initiatives and services delivered by Galway City Council staff working together with the public and the Elected Members. From homeless services to environmental initiatives, culture and the arts, or management of our green and blue spaces - this mix of large scale strategic and capital projects, and smaller scale, but none the less impactful, operations contribute to the daily management and vibrancy of our city.

Galway City Council staff and elected members remain committed to the effective delivery of services for the people of Galway. We welcome continued engagement and collaboration to support our city to flourish.

Galway City

Galway City's reputation precedes it as a culturally diverse, vibrant, youthful city, surrounded by the breath-taking vistas of Connemara to the west, Lough Corrib to the north and the wildness of the Atlantic Ocean rearing at the south of the city. Many factors contribute to make Galway City a unique place to live, work and visit, not least the relics of its medieval commercial heritage, its traditional close ties to the Irish language and the multicultural, bohemian diversity of its inhabitants.

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Nestled on the shores of the Atlantic at the very edge of Europe, Galway is an area of unparalleled natural beauty, with a ripe land and rich marine environment. Our region stretches from the small green fields and stone walls at the north of the county, east to the rich farmlands of the Shannon River basin, south to the unique karst landscape of the Burren and into the west to the vibrant Galway City, the trout fishing capital of Europe, Lough Corrib, and the hills of Connemara, and along 689 kilometres of wild, rugged Atlantic coast to our renowned offshore islands. Culturally diverse with a young population, the county is also home to the largest Gaeltacht community in the country. Galwegians are proud of our reputation as a place that people fall in love with.

The population of the city has continued to grow. 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. Throughout recent years, from the 1990s through to the last number of years, employment in the city has increased with areas such as biotechnology, medical devices, information technology and peripherals combining with strong commercial, retail, health, education, and public service sectors bolstering employment figures. Galway is a young, vibrant, learning city with pupils and students in primary, secondary, further, and third-level schools and colleges across the city.

Galway is a vibrant, diverse, multicultural city and the opportunity exists to integrate people from various ethnic and national origins in a sustainable intercultural way into the life of the city. The challenge is to build communities, acknowledge diversity and at the same time work together in a peaceful, effective, and cohesive manner. These challenges impact on many aspects of the work of Galway City Council, including the areas of housing, community development and social inclusion.

Over the years, our city's reputation in Ireland and overseas has been enhanced by the presence of our locally based visual artists, writers, musicians, film makers, actors, producers, and directors. They all contribute to the collective gaiety, creative atmosphere, economic mix, and cultural identity of the city.

The City Council recognises that Galway is a city that is constantly changing and evolving to meet the needs of the current generation, while also respecting the historical legacy of the past. Working in close association with business, tourism, cultural and community interests, Galway City Council has led the way in infrastructure development, urban regeneration, service provision enhancements, development of amenities and in creating an environment from which the City can plan into the future. The role of the local authority continues to change and develop. The centrality and leadership that City Council brings to all aspects of life in Galway City is growing even stronger. The historic commitment of Galway City Council to infrastructural and service provision is not diminished, however, the lead roles that we now take in sustainable economic development, social inclusion and community development will be further enhanced by a more cohesive, integrated, and co-ordinated approach to economic, social, cultural, political, and environmental development that Galway City Council will drive with the stakeholders in Galway's future. At the same time, we will work to preserve and conserve the city's unique identity, its heritage, and its ecology.

Galway City Council Elected Members

Galway City East	Galway City Central	Galway City West
Cllr. Alan Cheevers (FF)	Cllr. Eddie Hoare (FG)	Cllr. Peter Keane (FF)
Cllr. Michael Crowe (FF)	Cllr. Martina O'Connor (GP)	Cllr. Donal Lyons (NP)
Cllr. Owen Hanley (SD)	Cllr. Imelda Byrne (FF)	Cllr. Niall McNelis (Lab)
Cllr. Declan McDonnell (NP)	Cllr. Mike Cubbard (NP)	Cllr. Clodagh Higgins (FG)
Cllr. Noel Larkin (NP)	Cllr. Frank Fahy (FG)	Cllr. John Connolly (FF)
Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty (NP)	Cllr. Colette Connolly (NP)	Cllr. Niall Murphy (GP)



1. Housing and Social Inclusion

The objective of the Housing and Social Inclusion Department is to accelerate the delivery of good quality social and affordable housing in an equitable manner and in appropriate locations in order to develop sustainable balanced communities.

1.1 Social Housing Support Programme

A range of accommodation options for housing applicants include standard Local Authority housing, the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Long Term Leasing (LTL), Approved Housing Body housing and Traveller specific accommodation.

1.2 Social Housing Needs Assessment 2022

The purpose of the annual Social Housing Needs Assessment is to capture the total number of households qualified for social housing support, whose need for support was not being met, at a particular date in the calendar year.

Basis of Need	Galway City
Requires Rent Supplement to Provide for Accommodation Needs	287
Homeless, Institution, Emergency Accommodation or Hostel	102
Disability Requirement - Physical	50
Disability Requirement - Sensory	10
Disability Requirement - Mental Health	53
Disability Requirement - Intellectual	38
Disability Requirement – Unspecified	1
Exceptional Medical or Compassionate Grounds	1

Overcrowded Accommodation	13
Involuntary Sharing	177
Concluded that Mortgage is Unsustainable	3
	735

The annual Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) was scheduled for 1st November 2022 with submission to the Department in December 2022. Those already in receipt of social housing support, e.g., households in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) or accommodated under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)/Long Term Leasing Scheme (LTL) and transfer applicants were excluded from the SSHA. 933 applications were re-assessed with 198 applications closed in total. 130 were closed due to non-response to various forms of contact made by Galway City Council. Other reasons for closure included closure requested by applicant due to changed circumstances, ineligibility, or applicant no longer living in administrative area. The table above shows the outcome of those assessed as part of the 2022 Assessment.

425 additional households qualified for housing support in 2022 and were placed on the housing waiting list.

1.3 Social Housing Allocations

258 social housing allocations were made to applicants on the waiting list in 2022 comprising 180 Approved Housing Body tenancies, 73 Local Authority Tenancies 4 Long term leasing and 1 Mortgage to rent. There were 34 refusals of offers in 2022.

Choice Based Letting

Choice Based Letting (CBL) is a method of allocation whereby approved housing applicants can 'register an interest' in available social housing stock in their preferred area of preference in accordance with their housing needs. CBL allows households qualified for social housing supports to exercise greater choice and involvement in selecting a new home. It is also a means of reducing refusals of tenancy offers. The Choice Based Letting Scheme went live in April 2021. In 2022, 122 properties were advertised on CBL with a total of 6957 Expressions of Interest received. There were 7 refusals of CBL offers in 2022.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

The HAP Scheme commenced in Galway City Council in 2016 and is part of the social housing options offered to those seeking accommodation. HAP enables Galway City Council to provide immediate housing assistance for households who live in the private rented sector who qualify for social housing support. There are four main cohorts of households eligible for HAP as follows: new social housing applicants who require social housing support; existing households on the housing waiting list who wish to avail of HAP; long term rent supplement recipients – these are being transferred to HAP on a phased and agreed basis with the Department of Social Protection and Rent Supplement recipients changing tenancies.

272 HAP tenancies were established in 2022 including the transfer of 20 households on long term rent supplement over to HAP. Overall, 3,165 households have been accommodated under HAP since its inception in Galway City Council in 2016. The HAP Unit set up approximately 5/6 HAP tenancies on a weekly basis in 2022.

Following a review, the Government signed new regulations in July 2022 increasing the HAP discretionary rate to a maximum of 35% for all new and existing HAP tenancies. Additional flexibility was also introduced which permits the couple rate to be applied to a single person household for new tenancies only. The HAP Unit assisted over 200 HAP tenants by applying increased discretionary rental payments to them of up to 35% over the HAP maximum rental limits in 2022.

RAS and Leasing

The number of properties in the private rented sector under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) was 147 at the end of 2022 and a further 235 tenancies were supported under RAS in the Voluntary Housing Sector. The number of properties on RAS type Availability Agreements (Short Term Leasing) was 75 at year end.

The problems of rental inflation and affordability challenges coupled with severe shortages of supply in the private rented market in Galway city persisted in 2022. Despite record high rents, the exodus of private landlords from the rented sector continued apace in 2022 and this exodus was mirrored in the social rented sector with an increase in the number of landlords exiting RAS/Leasing and HAP. The majority of Notices of Termination issued by landlords generally are for the purposes of sale and this factor is driving many tenants into homelessness.

1.4 Homeless Services and Supports

Galway City Council Housing Department continued to work closely with various agencies in the city in the provision of homeless services throughout 2022. Families continued to present for homeless services which resulted in service providers having to source alternative temporary private emergency homeless accommodation throughout the city. Presentations were as a result of notices to quit in the private rented market; landlords retaining properties for their own use, selling up and leaving the private rented market; increases in rents pushing affordable homes beyond the reach of many; rent caps not matching current market rates; the unavailability of private rented accommodation within the city and landlords not availing of for RAS/LTL schemes. Other factors are family breakdown and complex issues which lead families into homelessness.

Section 10 Homeless Expenditure in 2022 for the West Region amounted to circa €11.1m. At the end of 2022 there were 219 persons availing of homeless services provided for and on behalf of Galway City Council.

Cold Weather Response

The Cold Weather Response (CWR) service for the winter of 2022-23 became operational from 1st November 2022 until 31st March 2023. The target cohort for the CWR core service is people who sleep rough. This service was provided for Galway City Council by COPE Galway and weekly interagency meetings were established in order to facilitate case management and resource allocation.

Night to night emergency accommodation in the Short-Term Accommodation (STA) hostels at Fairgreen Hostel (8 beds) and Osterley Lodge (3 beds) operated on all nights for the period with beds allocated/assigned on a night-to-night rotational bed basis.

Community Based shared housing was established for clients of Osterley Lodge and Fairgreen Hostel with low to medium support needs to move to. This made beds available with the existing facilities to accommodation clients as part of the Cold Weather Response.

Street Outreach and Day Centre Services for rough sleepers operated daily throughout the course of the winter period. Severe Weather event provision resulted in the mobilisation of night-time accommodation in Westside Community Centre for the duration of extreme weather warnings such as extended freezing conditions.

Homeless Emergency Accommodation

Osterley Lodge which has provision for up to 13 bedrooms (including 2 family rooms) was consistently full throughout 2022. The Fairgreen Hostel which has a total of 26 bed spaces was also at full capacity during 2022.

Corrib Haven Family Hub commenced operations in 2019 and is operated for Galway City Council by COPE Galway providing up to 12 family units. The service continued throughout 2022 with a number of families accommodated at the facility during the year.

The modular homes at Westside were completed in May 2020. The Peter McVerry Trust (PMcVT) were appointed to manage and operate the service on behalf of Galway City Council. 15 units of accommodation for homeless families are provided with supports to assist families to move-on to social housing supported tenancies. 33 families have been accommodated to date. 19 families have progressed from the Modular Hub into more secure housing solutions including HAP and to properties acquired by PMcVT under CAS/leasing, while a number of other families have returned to extended family accommodation. PMcVT acquired 4 properties in the city in 2021.

Seamus Quirke Road Day Centre and Temporary Homeless Accommodation

The proposed development aims to provide a much-needed upgrade in the existing day centre facilities, along with additional resources. It will also accommodate temporary homeless accommodation year-round, with the focus on identifying and progressing routes out of rough sleeping and homelessness on a regular basis while also adapting during the winter months to increase the intake of vulnerable rough sleepers. The Stage 2 Application for the above was submitted to the Department on Friday 22nd July 2022. Stage 2 approval with a recommended budget of €4,215,073 was received in October 2022.8 Part 8 planning notification was published on the 8th December 2022.

1.5 Housing First

Galway City Housing First commenced in June 2019. Housing supports are provided by Galway Simon Community and COPE Galway with a target of 30 individuals housed and supported over a three year period. The aim of the project is to work with the single cohort who are deemed long term homeless with often complex mental health needs.

In addition, Galway City Council continues to work with single homeless people on a housing led approach, who have a requirement for wraparound supports, but are not identified as having the complex mental health needs as opposed to those targeted under Housing First. 32 Housing First tenancies were created by the end of 2022. The Implementation Plan for Housing First 2022 – 2026 was launched in late December. The targets set over that period for Galway City is 30.

HAP Homeless Placefinder

HAP Homeless Placefinder Service was established in 2018. 410 Homeless HAP tenancies have been created since the service was introduced. 58 Homeless HAP tenancies were created in 2022. 26 of these households were families and the remaining 32 were singles.

Tenancy Sustainment Service

The Galway City Council Tenancy Sustainment service has been operating for over two years since it was launched in November 2020.

Over much of 2020 and 2021 there were periods where evictions were suspended due to Covid 19. Further restrictions were introduced due to the supply issues within the private rental sector and the anticipated increase in homeless presentations, therefore the Winter Emergency Period from 30th October 2022 to 31st March 23 was introduced to defer termination dates.

The Tenancy Sustainment Service has to date dealt with 435 Notices of Termination - of those, 26 pending validation, 30 invalid notices and 379 valid notices.

Of the 379 valid Notices of Termination, the table below shows the outcomes achieved for 290 households to date. The table below indicates the running totals of outcomes following intervention from Tenancy Sustainment and the Housing Department.

290 outcomes are as follows:

- Social housing nomination and allocation / AHBs 115
- HAP 77
- LTL / Leasing 11
- Private rented 8
- Emergency accommodation 48
- Family / Friends 15
- GCC Acquisition 4
- NTQ rescinded 7
- Closed applications 7

There are 89 Valid Notices of Termination on file and a further 14 pending validation. 58 NTQs are from landlords who have indicated they are selling their properties and exiting the private rented market.

	December 2021	April 2022	September 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Outcomes	Running totals				
Housed by LA or AHB	43	75	94	103	115
HAP	39	54	69	72	77
LTL/RAS	8	9	11	11	11
Private rented	2	4	5	7	8
Property acquisition	0	2	2	2	4
Emergency accommodation	15	29	43	46	48
Family & Friends	8	12	15	15	15

1.6 Covid 19 Response

Covid 19 posed a unique threat and challenge to homeless people, and in response, a significant range of necessary and appropriate measures were put in place from March 2020 as part of the Housing Department's response.

During Quarter 1 2022, Covid Responses stayed in place similar to previous years but after a relaxing of measures during Quarter 2 a wind down of the Covid Response measures began. The Cold Weather response which came into effect on 1st November was a blended approach between existing emergency accommodation hostels and community-based housing and is in place until March 2023.

1.7 Traveller Accommodation Programme and Supports

Allocations continued to Traveller families throughout 2022 comprising local authority, AHB, and Traveller specific accommodation including halting sites. In addition, 4 families secured accommodation through Homeless HAP. The Annual Count of Traveller Families and their Accommodation position was submitted to the Department through eReturns. This Annual Traveller census is a snapshot of the number of Traveller families in the local authority area on that date. The number of Traveller families returned was 606, the most notable increase was in the area of families sharing and those in emergency homeless services.

The current Traveller Accommodation Programme was adopted by Galway City Council in July 2019, covering the period from 2019 to 2024. A year 2 progress report was presented to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee in September highlighting progress to date since its adoption, in line with the requirements of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998. This report also included the Covid-19 Response, as it constituted a significant piece of work from all stakeholders from March 2020. The mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan was carried out in as per Circular 28/2022 and returned by requested date 16th September 2022.

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

The LTACC held four meetings in 2022. Two subgroups, an Estate Management Subgroup, and an Operational Subgroup, continued to meet in 2022. Both groups comprise of elected members, officials, and Traveller Reps.

TAP Annual Target Analysis

Year 3: The targets below refer to the period from July 2021 to June 2022

Accommodation Type	2022 Target	Total Achieved
Standard Local Authority (incl. Transfers)	10	11
AHB standard housing	5	15
Extensions to Standard Local Authority	1	0
Group Housing Scheme (LA and AHB)	0	0
Culturally Specific Traveller Accommodation	0	0
Permanent Residential Halting Site	1	0
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)*	1	0
Long-Term Leasing Scheme	1	1
Housing Assistance Payment	20	1
Total	39	28

The target for year one of 50 units of accommodation were exceeded as 61 supports were provided however the Target of 74 units of accommodation was not achieved in Year two with 44 units of accommodation provided. While Year three targets were not achieved, in all categories, it is notable targets for allocation of social housing units were exceeded.

1.8 TAP Capital Programme

The table below provides an overview of progress in relation to the capital schemes noted in TAP 2019 – 2024:

Scheme	Location	Update	Housing Body
8 Culturally Specific Traveller Units	Keeraun	Part 10 REFUSAL by ABP in January 2023.	GCC €3,794,980 approved at Stage 1
4 Culturally Specific Traveller Units	<u>Doughiska</u>	CAS/CALF Funding approved. Part 8 publication delayed pending clarity on timeframes for knotweed removal.	Respond €1,278,376 approved at Stage 1
5 Culturally Specific Traveller Units**	<u>Doughiska</u> (redesign of St. Nicholas Halting Site)	No Progress. Preliminary proposals to be considered for the redevelopment of the existing halting site and replacement with group / Traveller specific homes. Potential for 5 units (similar to Circular Road) to be included in next TAP for delivery.	GCC

5 Culturally Specific Traveller Units	Circular Road (redesign of existing halting site)	Part 8 approval in June 2022 and Stage 3 approval in December 2022, project to advance to stage 3 and 4 in 2023. Decanting of site will be required.	GCC / CENA €1,340,000 approved at Stage 1
3 Culturally Specific Traveller Units	Headford Road	Part 10 planning REFUSAL in November 2022.	GCC
8 Culturally Specific Traveller Units	Merlin Lands	Prelim design stage. Stage 1 application pending. Agreement to acquire additional adjacent lands approved subject to legal due diligence	GCC
8 Unit Group Scheme	Fána Glas, Ballybane	No progress. Wider housing proposal for the area being considered.	GCC

Initial scoping to prepare a programme of works to upgrade the existing stock of Traveller group housing schemes across the city continued in 2022. Funding provision was secured in the 2022 budget to commence a cycle of such planned works over the next 3 years. Work was prioritised based on need identified following of review the units.

Works to upgrade heating and hot water systems Gas Boilers in the Carrowbrowne Halting site was completed in 2022. This work is part of an overall programme of works that is intended to improve the system efficiency while assisting in reducing operational costs. The existing site in Carrowbrowne consists of a main community building and 20 welfare units (10 semi-detached blocks of 2). Heating is generated in the main plant room in the community building by gas fired boilers and is then distributed to plant rooms in the Welfare Units. €64,810.79 was approved by the Department of Housing.

Contractors was appointed in 2022 to carry out a review of all lifesaving equipment i.e., smoke, heat and carbon alarms, fire blankets installed in Traveller specific accommodation including halting sites and Traveller group housing schemes. Works commenced in Q2 2022 and completed by year end.

One additional property was acquired for Traveller families in 2022. At the end of 2022, 2 more properties were in being progress of being acquired in a 3-bed property in West Side of the City and Renmore and 4-bed property in Clybaun Road.

In addition to funding allocated in the revenue budget for general maintenance and management of Traveller accommodation in the city, €1,923,520.57 was approved and / or recouped from the Department of Housing Traveller Accommodation Unit for expenditure incurred in 2022.

1.9 Housing Capital Construction and Supply Programme

Galway Social Housing Taskforce

The Galway Social Housing Taskforce met on four occasions in 2022 with the primary focus at all meetings on Galway City and County Council's social housing delivery programmes, with particular emphasis on new build housing schemes. At each meeting of the Taskforce, both Galway local authorities provided updates on the status of their build, acquisition and leasing programmes, delivery pipelines and targets set under Housing for All.

Addressing homelessness in Galway is a key component of the Taskforce’s Terms of Reference and this was discussed at each meeting of the Taskforce during the year. The Task Force also considered the planned delivery of Affordable Housing over the coming years. The Taskforce also received presentations from the Land Development Agency and the Housing Agency in addition to detailed updates on Housing for All.

1.10 Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022 – 2026

Galway City Council launched an ambitious Housing Delivery Action Plan in July 2022, which will see 2,440 social and affordable homes delivered across the city over the next five years. A copy of the plan is displayed on the Galway City Council website.

The Action Plan sets out how Galway City Council and Approved Housing Bodies will provide new social and affordable housing through direct build as well as through turnkey and Part V arrangements.

The action plan outlines a commitment to deliver:

- 1435 new social housing homes
- 1005 new affordable homes, including for purchase and cost rental.

The Housing Delivery Action Plan details how Galway City Council will achieve the targets set in the national *Housing for All* policy in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Approved Housing Bodies.

The plans set out the proposed details of social and affordable housing delivery over the period 2022-2026, in line with the targets set out under Housing for All. The overall target for delivery across the ‘build’ categories of LA build, Part V, AHB – CALF and CAS build is 1,235 homes. Delivery will cover a range of housing including mixed-tenure schemes, increase social housing stock and address important issues such as affordability and vacancy.

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Build	305	219	224	241	246	1,235

The proposals contained in the action plan provide for potential delivery of 1,435 social homes up to 2026. Galway City Council propose to build 477 homes for affordable purchase with a potential additional 204 homes under Local Authority turnkey affordable purchase to be acquired. The total affordable build and purchase delivery anticipated over the period to 2026 is 681 homes.

There is potential for the delivery of 324 cost rental homes by AHB's under the Cost Rental Equity Loan Scheme with the majority of cost rental homes coming on stream from 2024. The combined planned and anticipated delivery by Galway City Council and AHB's under the various affordability measures, including cost rental, is 1,005 homes from 2022 – 2026.

Garraí Beag, Ballybane: This scheme will provide 58 social housing units. The procurement process commenced in September 2022 to procure a replacement contractor to complete the development. It is estimated that a replacement contractor could be appointed by early 2023 followed by a 12–14 month construction period, which will be dependent on the outcome of the procurement process.

Keeraun, Ballymoneen Road: A Part 10 planning publication was submitted in September 2021 with An Bord Pleanála refusal received in January 2023.

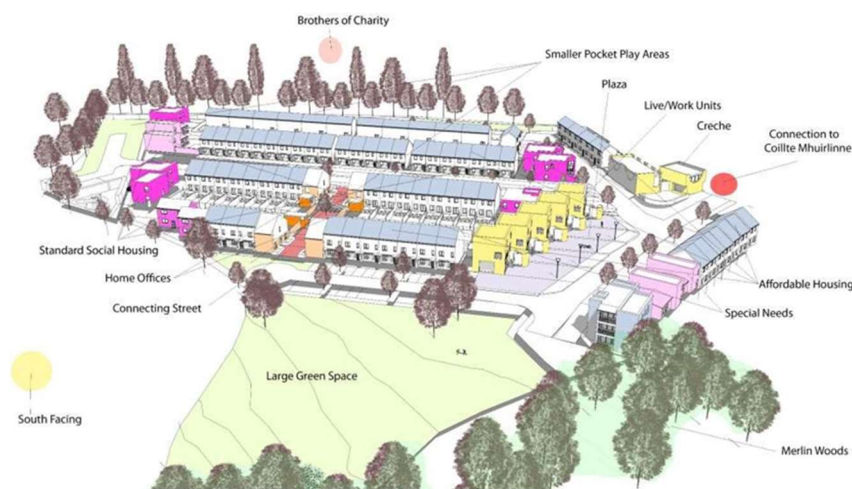
Headford Road Lands: A Part 10 planning publication was submitted in September 2021 with An Bord Pleanála refusal received in November 2022.

An Cliathán, Monivea Road: A scheme to provide 15 units for older people and families with disability needs has been designed for this site. Works on site commenced early in 2022 with completion expected in Q2 2023.



Figure 1 An Cliathán Scheme, 3D image

Merlin Woods Scheme: Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) approval has been secured for a combined affordable/social housing scheme at lands adjacent to Coillte Mhuirlinne estate. Service Sites Funding approval has been secured in respect of this site which will provide sufficient funding to facilitate affordable sale. Part 8 planning was approved in late 2021. The Merlin Woods Project is a mixed social and affordable housing project of 103 residential units, 5 commercial units and a Crèche. SH Stage 2 approval for the 18 social housing units was received in October 2022 and an application for funding the 85 Affordable Houses was submitted to the DHLGH in December 2022.



Merchant's Road Development: The Merchant's Road proposal comprises a mix of cultural space on the ground floor and residential accommodation on three floors above. Above the ground floor level cultural space, 11 no. social housing units are proposed, to be accessed by stairs and a lift. These units are 3 no. one bedroom and 8 no. two bedroom. This would be considered an appropriate type of development in the city centre location. A combined Stage 1 and 2 proposals for the social housing units was submitted to the Department of Housing in August 2021. Part X planning notices were published in February 2022. At the end of 2022 a decision by An Bord Pleanála was still be made.



Bóthar na Cóiste: In order to progress a housing development, it will be a requirement to upgrade the access to the lands by carrying out significant improvement works to the L-5041 Bóthar na Cóiste. A detailed design of the road improvement was carried out identifying the extent of additional land required to facilitate the required works. Acquisition through a Compulsory Purchase Order process was advanced in 2022, to gain control over some of the additional lands needed. Pending conclusion of the CPO process, it is proposed to bring forward a scheme on lands in 2023.



Clybaun Road: The proposal is for a 65-unit housing project comprising of 28 Social and 37 Affordable units. Stage 1 Approval for the 28 social housing units was received in January 2022. The site is currently being designed and assessed in order to lodge a stage 2 application in Q4 2022 with a Part 8 planning notification publication when the Stage 2 approval is received.

Ballyburke: Site investigations have concluded on the northern section of the 'McHale Lands' in Ballyburke and pre-planning assessment is currently under review for 85 social houses. Stage 1 application to be submitted in Q1 2023.



Seamus Quirke Road Day Centre and Temporary Homeless Accommodation:

The proposed development aims to provide a much-needed upgrade in the existing day centre facilities, along with additional resources. It will also accommodate temporary homeless accommodation year-round, with the focus on identifying and progressing routes out of rough sleeping and homelessness on a regular basis while

also adapting during the winter months to increase the intake of vulnerable rough sleepers. The Stage 2 Application for the above was submitted to the Department on Friday 22nd July 2022. Stage 2 approval with a recommended budget of €4,215,073 was received in October 2022. Part 8 planning notification was published on the 8th of December 2022.



Munster Ave: This project looks at a high-quality urban infill housing in central locations. It will provide passive surveillance to entrance to Fr. Burke Park and Improve/ rationalize immediate edge conditions. The existing house will be renovated with 3 No: new urban 1 Bed units.



Circular Road:



Turnkey Schemes: Approval was received to acquire a development of 53 units on the Merlin/Coast Road with delivery of these units to complete in 2 separate phases projected for 2022 and 2023. Works on this scheme, Garraí Caol, commenced in July 2021 and progressed well during 2022 with delivery of Phase 1, 27 duplexes in December 2022. Phase 2 delivery of 26 apartments is expected in Q1 2023.



Figure 2 Garraí Caol

Acquisitions and Part V: In 2022, acquisitions by local authorities under SHIP or by AHBs under CALF have been limited. SHIP and CALF acquisitions will be focussed on a number of priority areas, including one-bedroom units to deliver on Housing First and meet the short supply in this category; other properties that allow persons/families to exit homelessness; and specific housing required for/suitable for individuals with a disability or other particular priority needs. One acquisition was completed in Quarter 4. Two acquisitions are currently being progressed for completion in Q1, 2023, with a number of inspections being carried out regularly on suitability of other potential acquisitions.

Part V activity further increased, and Housing entered discussions regarding a number of Part V's for various proposed sites and schemes. Negotiations with Developers and the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 indicate another 90 Part V units scheduled for delivery 2022-2026. Formal agreements were signed for 25 units in 2022.

Land Acquisition: A parcel of land at Merlin Lane, Doughiska was acquired. The area of the plot is 2.79 Ha (6.9 acres). In 2018, the Council also acquired 5.2 acres of lands at Merlin Lane, and this was supplemented with the acquisition of the 'Quarry House' lands comprising an area of 0.56 Ha. (1.38 acres). A parcel of land in Castlegar was also acquired. The area of the plot is 2.31 Ha (5.71 acres). Total expenditure on land acquisition was €5,200,000 in 2022 and HFA loans were secured. Additional land acquisition will be explored in 2023, subject to due diligence.

Unsold Affordable Housing: 76 homes acquired in the period to 2009 and intended for sale under previous Affordable Housing Schemes remain unsold. The Schemes under which they were acquired were discontinued in 2011. These homes have been managed by Clúid and Tuath Housing Associations with all units occupied by tenants from the Council's housing waiting list. Council was notified in December 2022 that approval was received from the Department of Housing to transfer suitable Unsold Affordable Properties (USAs) to permanent social housing stock.

Each local authority with remaining USA units was assigned a proportion of available funding to fund this transfer and 9 units were identified for transfer in Galway City Council including 4 units in Tornóg, 4 units in An Leargán and 1 unit in Woodview to the value of €1,775,003.00. This funding was used to redeem HFA loans associated with the acquisition of the homes and the units will transfer to social stock.

Arrangements with Clúid and Tuath Housing for the transfer of tenancies has commenced. A working group established by the Department of Housing will continue to work towards a long-term solution for the remainder of the unsold affordable units.

1.11 Delivery of Homes by Approved Housing Bodies (AHB)

New homes were delivered by AHB's in partnership with Galway City Council in 2022 at a variety of locations across the city. The main streams of funding available are the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) and Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF).

1.12 Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

CAS project proposals were received from a number of AHBs for the housing needs of applicants under the specific categories (homeless, older people and people with disability).

Peter Triest Housing Association progressed their application for 6 units in Ragoon. Retendering and expiration of the planning permission has delayed progress; however, it is anticipated that CAS construction will commence in 2023.

12 single unit acquisition applications were completed in 2022 with Approved Housing Bodies Galway Simon, COPE, Peter McVerry Trust and Carraig Dubh Housing Association Limited and a further 4 units are in the process of being acquired with completion in early 2023.

Stage 3 approval has been received by Galway Simon for construction of 10 1-bed units in Newcastle Road. Stage 1 CAS approval has been received for 7 units with Respond on a site located in Doughiska. The table below shows CAS Projects initiated, in progress or completed in 2022.

AHB	Location	Category of Tenant	Construction or Acquisition	No. of Units	Status
Peter Triest Housing Association	Cúl Gharrai, Rahoon	Disability	Construction	6	Stage 4 Approval <i>(to commence in 2023)</i>
Galway Simon Community	Upper Newcastle	Homeless	Construction	10	Stage 3 Approval
Peter McVerry Trust	Laurel Park	Homeless	Acquisition	1	Completed
Galway Simon Community	Coill Tire	Homeless	Acquisition	1	Completed
Galway Simon Community	Newcastle Court	Homeless	Acquisition	1	Completed
Carraig Dubh Housing Association Limited	Ballybane More	Disability	Acquisition	4	Completed
COPE Galway	An Sailín	Homeless	Acquisition	1	Completed
COPE Galway	Ballybrit	Homeless	Acquisition	4	Completed
COPE Galway	Rosán Glas	Homeless	Acquisition	4	Completed
Galway Simon Community	Manor Court	Care Leaver	Acquisition	1	Completed
Galway Simon Community	Lios an Uisce	Homeless	Acquisition	1	Completed

Galway Simon Community	An Crumpan	Homeless	Acquisition	1	Completed
Galway Simon Community	Carraig Palmer	Homeless	Acquisition	1	Completed
Galway Simon Community	Sliabh Ríoga	Homeless	Acquisition	1	Completed

1.13 Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

The Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) involves an AHB securing a minimum of 70% private funding for the acquisition of units for the provision of social housing, with the Department providing up to 30% of the remaining funding requirement as a Capital Advance through the local authority. Expressions of interest have been identified by Approved Housing Bodies for potential acquisition and/or construction. The Housing Delivery Action Plan for 2022-2026 proposes up to 881 units will be delivered under CALF which will substantially assist the Council in meeting its overall targets under Housing for All. Galway City Council currently have 498 units on Capital Advance Leasing Facility Payment and Availability Arrangements with the Approved Housing Bodies around the city. The table below shows CALF agreements completed in 2022.

Location	Unit No's	AHB	Total Cost of Units	Capital Advanced (%)	Payment and Availability Period	Status of Project
Galway City East	7	Co-Operative Housing Ireland	€2,117,500.00	€476,438	25 Years	Completed 26 th April 2022

Galway City West	10	Tuath Housing Association	€2,434,818.20	€400,892	25 Years	4 units delivered Q4, 2021 with remainder delivered on 31 st July 2022
Galway City West	16	Clúid Housing Association	€4,917,551.00	€1,180,212	30 Years	Completed 14 th December 2022
Galway City East	12	Clúid Housing Association	€3,323,969.00	€867,556	30 Years	Completed 9 th November 2022
Galway City West	83	Respond Housing Association	€24,831,804.00	€6,853,168	30 Years	Completed 20 th December 2022

1.14 Housing Maintenance and Upgrade Programme

Returning Vacant Properties

74 vacant units were returned to use in 2022 including a number of long-term voids, c.47 vacant units of overall stock (excluding long-term voids) were not returned representing a vacancy rate of just over 1.8%. There remain a further c.32 long term voids for which specific work programmes are planned in 2023. It is the aim that the vacancy rate will be maintained at or below 1.5% on an ongoing basis. Combined funding of approximately €594,000.00 was approved in 2022 under the Void Programme, a total of €330,00.00 was drawn down by year end 2022. This additional funding was beneficial in accelerating the reduction of void numbers to the long-term target of 1.5%.

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP)

The EERP continued in 2022. A preliminary allocation of €1,302,050.00 was determined by the Department of Housing for Galway City Council to retrofit properties to a B2/Cost Optimal standard. A programme of works was submitted by Galway City Council to the Department of Housing under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. Galway City Council received approval to carry out EERP works on 36 properties, 32 no properties received full retrofit upgrades. Funding of €942,151.00 was received in 2022.

Planned Maintenance Programme

A Windows and Door Replacement programme continued in 2022 and properties were selected for replacement following a review of historical maintenance requests. Works were carried out on a need's basis following a forensic survey of the properties external windows and doors. Due to the long lead-in time for manufacturing, C. 20 properties received full replacements and c.90 properties received select replacements. This replacement programme is planned to continue over the next 2 years, subject to provision of budget.

The Boiler Replacement programme carried out works in various locations across the city in 2022 on 140 properties. A-rated Gas Boilers were installed at a cost of €400,000.00. This programme is planned to continue over the next 2 years, with an approximate budget of €350k/year. Under Housing Maintenance, works were completed in various locations across the city where c. 50 no. highly efficient oil boilers installed, and replacement of stoves/back boiler.

A Damp Remediation Programme was piloted in 2022 targeting a number of properties following maintenance requests relating to damp and mould issues. Throughout 2022, a number of properties underwent remediation works with completion in early 2023. Galway City Council will review the effectiveness of these works under the pilot programme. If the pilot programme is proven to be successful, the Damp Remediation programme will be continued in future years, however the delivery of further Damp Remediation interventions is subject to the availability of technical resources and funding.

The Department issued correspondence in December 2022 requesting Local Authorities to make a submission with a view to recouping an element of planned maintenance works under the terms of the 2022 Planned Maintenance/Voids programme. Galway City Council received €835,678 following its submission in December 2022.

1.15 Response Housing Maintenance

In parallel with the above programmes, response maintenance and emergency works continued during 2022 in the Council's housing stock of c. 2,650 units and housing community units and facilities.

Sliabh Bhán Remedial Scheme

The remedial works scheme to deal with defects which have manifested in the Sliabh Bhán estate in Ballybane progressed and the tender process to engage a contractor to carry out the works was completed. Works on site commenced in October on Block 4 which is currently vacant and will take approximately 12 weeks to complete. There has been significant engagement with tenants which will continue through to the completion of the project. Bulletins providing an update on all matters relating to the scheme were provided to residents at regular intervals and a liaison officer appointed. The project will involve decanting of existing tenants for a period of approximately 10 to 12 weeks while works to each block are completed in sequence.

1.16 Post-Tenancy Support Programme and Housing Loans/Rents

Estate Management

Galway City Council owns 2654 properties. The Council is responsible for the management of these properties and over 2,500 tenancies located throughout 170+ estates the city. Proper management of these tenancies and their associated housing estates is a key aim of the Housing Department.

Three Housing Estate Liaison Officers (HELOs) are employed by the Council and provide a high-profile presence on the estates. They are engaged with estate management, anti-social behaviour and tenancy enforcement and work towards ensuring that local authority estates are better places to live.

Specific functions include tenancy advice and training, support to resident's associations and investigation of complaints relating to breach of tenancy and/or anti-social behaviour.

Throughout 2022, the Estate Management Team worked in partnership with other departments in Galway City Council and with other groups and agencies in the city, including An Garda Síochána. In addition, a Senior Housing Liaison Officer was appointed in May 2022.



Estate Management staff engaged with the Sliabh Rua residents in forming a Residents Association which was funded Galway City Council. Assistance was provided to the Residents Association with preparing the application for a start-up grant for the purchase of tools to begin a project to rejuvenate their green space by planting a wildflower patch on the green area and eventually adding seating. The Recreation and Amenity Unit provided assistance supplying shrubbery for new flower beds on the green. A mural on the estate wall was funded under the Greening the Laneways project and has further enhanced the estate.

Further funding was provided by public representative from the local improvement scheme and from the Joint Policing Subcommittee towards provision of trees, with further funding from Recreation and Amenity for tarmacking works surrounding the trees on foot of a request from the residents to replace older trees.

A play area and seating are proposed for 2023, subject to funding to complete out the works commenced in 2022.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour and breaches of tenancy are dealt with as per Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. The Anti -Social Behaviour Strategy was updated and proposed amendments were agreed at the September Council meeting. In most instances, tenancy issues are resolved through verbal warnings, multi-agency co-operation and/or mediation. In cases of serious tenancy breaches, statutory tenancy warnings are issued, followed by legal proceedings for a possession order.

Set out hereunder are the figures relating to ASB complaints received and actioned by Galway City Council's Estate Management Unit in 2022:

Number of complaints received	561
Number of complaints resolved	529
Number of formal letters	200
Number of Tenancy Notifications Issued	9
Number of tenancy warnings issued under section 7, or 9 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014	23
Number of tenancy warning reviews requested under section 10 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014	3
Number of possession applications sought in the District Court under sections 12, 13 or 17 of Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014	6
Number of illegal occupiers removed from local authority housing under section 20 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997	4
No of repossessions for anti-social behaviour	nil

Over 75% of the complaints reported in 2022 were resolved through mediation, meetings, and verbal warnings. These types of complaints include one off complaint such as dogs barking, nuisance parking, ball playing, poorly maintained property (overgrowth/accumulation of rubbish), littering, minor disputes with neighbours etc.

Over 25% of the reported complaints in 2022 warranted warning letters being issued to the alleged offenders. These warning letters were for more serious incidents such as partying and loud music, family arguments affecting neighbours, intimidation/harassment of neighbours, damage to neighbours' property etc. A small percentage of all complaints received in 2022 warranted a Tenancy Notification.

The Tenancy Notification is a formal notice issued to the alleged offender in advance of any Statutory Warning under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 being served. Galway City Council is committed to tackling anti-social behaviour and nuisance to create safer and better communities for tenants. Galway City Council recognises that the vast majority of its tenants live in, and wish to enjoy, the peaceful occupation of their dwellings and that only a very small number of tenants are involved in anti-social behaviour.

Legal Action

Legal action has been taken against 9 separate illegal occupiers of City Council properties; this figure includes 3 halting site injunctions in 2022. Four properties have been returned to housing stock in 2022, the Sherriff will be engaged in 2023 to gain Possession of 2 properties which have not been surrendered. Three injunction orders were sought and have been granted against 3 separate illegal occupations of a Halting Site, the occupiers have since vacated the site. Repossession Notices issued to 2 further illegal occupiers in late 2022. These Court cases are going ahead in 2023.

Policy and Procedures

An Estate Management Strategy for Traveller Specific Accommodation is being drafted and the Consultant has met with the LTACC subgroup and LTACC in 2022. This Strategy will be finalised in Q2 2023. A revision to Galway City Council's Tenancy Handbook to incorporate information provided by CARO on climate action has been finalised, and the handbook has been printed. The CARO information has been translated and is available on the website under Publications- Housing – Tenant Handbook.

Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

317 applications have been received under the scheme from its inception to date. Of these, 159 were deemed eligible to proceed to letter of offer. 55 properties have been sold by Galway City Council under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 from 2017 to 31/12/2022. 10 properties were sold in 2022 with a total of €908,250.00 being received in respect of these sales in 2022; 1 application is currently at the final stage of the process with Galway City Council's solicitor; 4 Letters of Offer issued in Q4 2022.

Housing Loans

The Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan (RIHL) and Local Authority Home Loan [LAHL] schemes are Government backed mortgage schemes available nationwide from all local authorities. Galway City Council offer first-time buyers' mortgages of 90% LTV up to a maximum property value of €320,000 in Galway.

€5,500,000 was allocated for new lending approvals in 2022. The actual loan drawdown may take place in either 2022 or 2023. Loans approved in 2022 remain valid for six months post-approval. 297 applications have been received by Galway City Council under Loans Scheme. 136 loan applications have been approved to a total value of €24,380,339. 25 of these relate to the Tenant Purchase Scheme, where tenants were approved funding to buy the property, they were renting from Galway City Council. 55 approved loans have been drawn down by the applicants, to a total value of €8,412,681 and 19 loan offers are still valid and may be drawn down.

Housing Rents and Transfers

Galway City Council continued to manage and maintain the rent accounts of over 2,500 tenancies in the city. Rents were recalculated to reflect changes in household composition or household income, as per the Council's Differential Rent Scheme 2019.

Housing Grants: Adaptation, Mobility Aid and Housing Aid for Older People

190 housing adaptation grants were completed under the Housing Adaptation, Mobility Aids and Housing Aid for Older People grant schemes in 2022. The total expenditure on grant schemes was €1,172,629, this equates to €935,069 exchequer funding (representing 80%), and €233,767 matching local authority funding.

Private Housing Grant Type	Total Completed 2022	Total Payments 2022
Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG) Private	62	€448,029.38
Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP)	123	€704,719.05
Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)	5	€19,880.00
TOTAL	190	€1,172,628.43

In addition to Private Grants, adaptation works were completed to a further 19 local authority properties at a total spend of €346,287.

LA Housing Grant Type	Total Completed 2022	Total Payments 2022
Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG) LA	19	€346,287.08

The DPG scheme provides funding for adaptations for a range of works depending on requirements including installation of wet rooms, ground floor bathrooms, sensory rooms, ramps and railings, stair lifts, kitchen, and bathroom modifications in line with Occupational Therapist reports.

1.17 Building Control and Minimum Standards

The Building Control programme includes for the review and examination of new and existing buildings having regard to the appropriate Building Regulations. The review and examination include Fire Safety Certificate Applications, Commencement Notices, Disability Access Certificate applications and Certificate of Compliance on Completion applications issued under the Building Control Management System.

Total numbers of notices, certificates, and inspections for 2022 are summarised in the table below:

Number of valid Commencement Notices	125
Number of valid Fire Safety Certificate applications	56
Number of valid Disability Access Certificates	52
Number of Valid Certificate of Compliance on Completion applications	88
Number of Building Control inspections	31

1.18 Private Rented Minimum Standards Inspections

The focus of minimum standards inspections in 2022 was almost entirely on properties receiving payments under the HAP scheme. It is a requirement that all such properties are inspected for compliance within a prescribed time period from the commencement of the tenancy. Inspections of properties in the wider private rented sector are carried out in response to specific complaints. Inspectors were reassigned to other housing functions during this time.

Number of Inspections conducted	135
Number of properties fully compliant with standards	39
Number of Improvement Letters issued	90
Number of Improvement Notices issued	5

1.19 Social Inclusion Programme

The Social Inclusion Officer role encompasses that of Access Officer for Galway City Council. The promotion of access issues across the city is a key function of the role and the co-ordination of the Access for All Group is central. Access for All Galway is a group comprising of representatives and advocates from across the disability sector in Galway. Monthly meetings are attended by the Social Inclusion Officer who liaises with relevant department within Galway City Council on actions to be progressed.

In 2022 Access for All Galway secured funding through the Disability and Awareness Fund to develop a 'Gold Star Disability Project' for Galway. This Initiative aims to make Galway City more accessible to disabled people through engagement with the business sector to promote disability access and awareness initiatives within their business. The initiative sees businesses assessed across a number of categories and based on the results, they are rewarded with Bronze, Silver or Gold Star awards for the services they provide for people with disabilities. By the end of 2022 13 business had registered to take part in this pilot initiative. A funding proposal will be submitted to continue this project into 2022.

The Galway City Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021 – 2026 was approved in November by the Housing and Disability Steering Group and Housing SPC. In tandem with same, the new National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (2022 – 2027) was being developed under the auspices of the Housing Agency. The Galway City Council Plan was devised and agreed by the Housing and Disability Steering Group (HDSG) chaired by Galway City Council. Membership of the HDSG includes GCC, HSE, DFI, IWA, Brothers of Charity, Rehab Care, Peter Triest Housing Association, Co-operative Housing Ireland, COPE Galway, Galway Simon Community, Respond and Tuath, and Lived Experience membership from Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) and the Independent Living Movement Ireland.

Under the Social Inclusion Grants scheme, Galway City Council supported 16 applications from voluntary groups. In excess of €22,000 grant funding was provided to community groups and organisations. Social Inclusion Week took place from 17th – 23rd October 2022. The theme was ‘Reconnecting Post Covid’ and was launched by Mayor Clodagh Higgins at ‘*The Big Picnic*’ hosted by the Dominican College, Taylors Hill, Galway. In all 13 events took place across the city during this week.

1.20 Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The Housing Department continued its support of the Housing and Social Inclusion Strategic Policy Committee during 2022 and matters discussed and considered by the committee during the year included both internal and external briefings and presentations on:

- Housing Delivery Action Plan and Capital Programme
- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Housing for All / Housing Delivery Action Plan
- Anti-Social Behaviour policy and procedures update
- Local Authority Housing Loan Scheme / Tenant Purchase Scheme amendments AOB
- Traveller Accommodation Programme Mid-term review
- Homeless and Housing First updates
- Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2021 – 2026 updates
- Affordable Housing Scheme / Land Acquisition Programme
- Summary of Social Housing Assessment 2022

2. Transport

To provide, manage and maintain, a safe and effective, roads and transportation network and work in partnership with public transport providers and other agencies in developing integrated and sustainable transport policies.

2.1 Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School – Galway City Council Selected Locations

Prior to the announcement of the national programme, Galway City Council, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority committed to the progression of front of school interventions at three school locations across the city, these include:

- Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla Road, Galway,
- Radharc Na Mara, Mervue, Galway, and
- Scoil Chaitríona Junior and Senior, Renmore Avenue, Renmore, Galway.

During 2022, background studies including, parents' surveys, traffic counts, conflict analysis, walkability audits, cyclability audits and Quality Audits were undertaken at each school location.

Front of school designs were developed for each school location, and a non-statutory public consultation for each school location was undertaken in May 2022. During the consultation process, Galway City Council's Transportation Staff met with residents, businesses, and the school community at several the schools' locations to discuss the proposals.

Following the consultation process, a non-statutory public consultation outcome report for each school location was prepared and a list of proposed amendments were included for consideration during the preliminary design phase of each scheme. Following the new academic year in September 2022, Galway City Council met with the school representatives to outline the findings of the consultation process.

Applications for funding for the continued development of the Safe Routes to School Programme for each school location was also made to the National Transport Authority in November 2022, with preliminary designs for each school being contingent on receipt of funding for 2023.

Safe Routes to School – Round 1

In 2021, the Department of Transport and the Department of Education and Skills invited all schools in the country to apply for the 'Safe Routes to School' programme, which is managed by An Taisce Green-Schools. Four Galway City schools, across three locations were selected to participate in Call 1. These are:

- Galway Educate Together NS and St. Josephs Special School, Thomas Hynes Road, Newcastle, Galway
- Scoil Chaitríona Junior, Renmore Avenue, Renmore, Galway
- Scoil Iognáid, Bóithrín na Sliogán, Gaillimh

The investigation and development of delivery plans for these schools were progressed by An Taisce's Green School team, with delivery plans for each location received by Galway City Council in May 2022. The plans were agreed by the school prior to receipt by Galway City Council's transportation department.

Immediately following receipt of the reports, the appointed consultants developed the delivery plan recommendations into a set of design proposals and a non-statutory public consultation on the proposals were undertaken in May 2022.

During the consultation process, Galway City Council's transportation staff met with residents, businesses and the school community at several of the schools' locations to discuss the proposals. Following the consultation process, a non statutory Public consultation outcome report for each school location was prepared and a list of proposed amendments were included for consideration during the preliminary design phase of each scheme.

Following the new academic year in September 2022, Galway City Council met with the school representatives to outline the findings of the consultation process.

Applications for funding for the continued development of the Safe Routes to School Programme for each school location was also made to the National Transport Authority in November 2022, with preliminary designs for each school being contingent on receipt of funding for 2023.

Safe Routes to School – Round 2

In December 2022, The Department of Transport and the Department of Education and Skills, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority and An Taisce's Green School Team announced the Round 2 schools to be progressed under the Safe Routes to School Programme in 2023. These are:

- Gaelscoil Dara, Ballyloughane Road, Galway
- Scoil Chaitríona Senior, Renmore Avenue, Renmore, Galway
- Scoil Fhursa, Nile Lodge, Galway

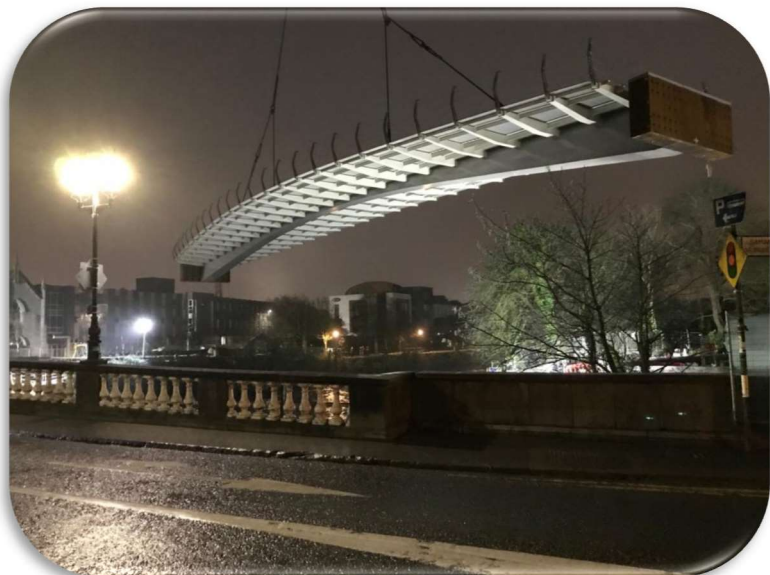
Galway City Council's transportation department undertook a meeting with An Taisce's Green School Team in December 2022 to discuss the progression of the round 2 schools, which will be led by An Taisce's Green School team up to completion of the Delivery plan for each school location. Following this, the reports will be issued to Galway City Council's transportation department for progression through the remaining design phases.

2.2 Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge

Planning consent was received from An Bord Pleanála in August 2021 for the iconic new Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge.

The new bridge will draw pedestrians and cyclists and facilitate a seamless and natural flow from either side of the river, while creating an iconic focal point for locals and tourists alike to take in the views of the River Corrib, the Salmon Weir, the Cathedral, wildlife, natural

and built heritage in the area – providing not only a piece of transport infrastructure, but an architectural and urban amenity space.



Construction of the bridge commenced in March 2022. Excavation and construction of the foundations were completed throughout the summer period. The fabrication of the steel elements continued in parallel with the on-site works. Delivery to site of the prefabricated bridge deck elements commenced in October 2022 and concluded with the main span being lifted into place on the morning of 12th December 2022. The bridge is scheduled for completion in summer 2023.

2.3 Martin Junction Upgrade

The objective of the Martin Junction Upgrade is to provide an enhanced and safer pedestrian and cycling friendly environment, connecting Roscam and Doughiska to Galway Clinic and Ardaun; to support the future development of the Ardaun Local Area Plan area; and to provide enhanced public transport facilities at the junction.

The construction phase of the upgrade of Martin Junction commenced on site in February 2022 by the appointed contractor Fox Building and Engineering Ltd.

Significant works were carried out in 2022 including:

- Site clearance
- Significant drainage works
- Retaining wall and boundary treatments
- Kerbing
- Service diversions
- Surface preparation works
- Traffic signalling works
- Footpath and cycle lane works

Galway City Council also carried out surfacing works in Durabhán in September 2022.

The Project Programme has been delayed because of a number of factors. This contract was tendered for prior to the war in Ukraine and the resulting international industry wide supply chain issues and inflation in materials costs has had a significant effect on the project. There has also been further delays due to extent and geological properties of rock being encountered on site.



2.4 BusConnects Galway: Cross-City Link (University Road to Dublin Road)

Following completion of the preliminary design for the Cross-City Link, (University Road to Dublin Road), pre-consultation with An Bord Pleanála took place in Q1 of 2022. The preparation and completion of the consent application documentation took place throughout Q2 and Q3. This included the CPO (Compulsory Purchase Order) application documentation. The full application for consent and CPO was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (APB) on 16th of September 2022. Submissions to ABP on the application were received by Galway City Council in December 2022 for assessment and reporting back to ABP in Q1 of 2023.

BusConnects Galway: Dublin Road

A tender for NTA Project Management Phases 1 and 2 (Concept Development and Options Selection) to 4 (Statutory Processes) was published on e-tenders on 22nd December 2021 and tenders were returned on 18th February 2022. Following a tender assessment Barry Transportation were appointed in April 2022.

Significant progress was made on the project in 2022. The Strategic Assessment Report was finalised and approved by the NTA in November 2022. The options assessment was carried out incorporating revised BusConnects Design guidance and updates to the Public Spending Code and National Transport Authority Project Approval Guidelines. Background surveys including environmental surveys and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys were carried out to inform the design.

The Emerging Preferred Option was finalised in November 2022 and preparation for a 2nd non-statutory public consultation was undertaken. A dedicated project website www.bcgdublinoad.ie was set up for the project together with a virtual room.

The virtual room includes the background to the scheme, brochure, scheme objectives, emerging preferred route drawings and next steps. An online feedback form is available as well as a book a meeting facility. The second non-statutory public consultation will be held in January 2023.



Virtual Representation of Skerrit Junction.

2.5 Galway City Cycle Networks

Ballyloughane Active Travel Scheme

In October 2021, a non-statutory Public Consultation was held in respect of the proposals along Ballyloughane Road and Renmore Avenue which was being progressed under Section 38 of the Roads Act 1994.

Following completion of the non-statutory public consultation, the design consultants for the scheme undertook a review of the feedback received and a report was brought to council at the June council meeting in 2022.

The report outlined that the strategic objectives of the Galway Transport Strategy were achieved through the scheme design. The scheme also aligned to national, regional and local policies and national design standards. Submissions received during the non-statutory public consultation were considered, and amendments made where feasible and where they were in line with policy and standards. Approval of the design by the National Transport Authority, in line with the Gateway approval requirements of the Public Spending Code was received for the scheme design.

At the June council meeting, elected members requested that a discussion be undertaken with the members of the East Ward Committee, with the item remaining on the agenda for discussion.

The proposed Ballyloughane Active Travel Scheme remains on the agenda of the council meeting for consideration by members. Galway City Council's transportation department have undertaken discussions with the East Ward Committee and the National Transport Authority with respect to the potential phasing of the scheme. An update is proposed to be brought to the East Ward Committee prior to consideration at the council meetings in 2023.

Doughiska Road South Cycle Network Scheme

Following completion of the non-statutory public consultation in December 2021, detailed design, and the preparation of tender documentation for the Doughiska Road South Cycle Network Scheme was completed and a tender for the construction of the scheme was published to eTenders in September 2022.



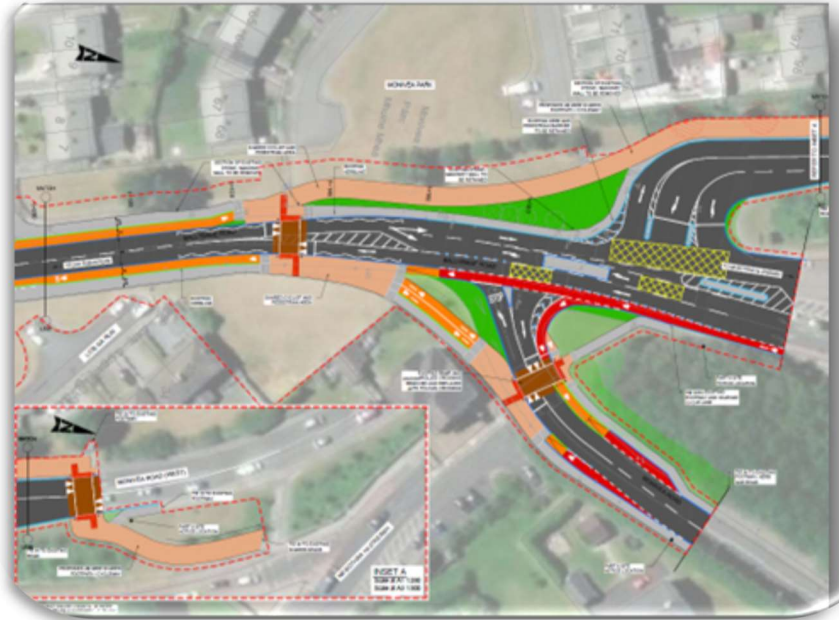
Construction of the Doughiska South Cycle Network Scheme commenced in late December 2022. The construction programme for the scheme is nine months. The scheme will see the introduction of raised cycle lanes both sides of the road, with improvements to footways along the length of the route. Junction tightening and raised pedestrian crossings are also included as part of the scheme.

Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme

Following on from the completion of the public consultation, detailed design and development of the tender documentation for the Doughiska South Cycle Network Scheme, the preliminary design of the Ballybane Road and Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme was completed in 2022 to facilitate a Part 8 Process in 2023.

During the preliminary design of the route, changes to design guidance in respect of junction layouts and measures to promote safe cycling resulted in a requirement to redesign the junctions of Castlepark Road/ Ballybane Road and the Castlepark Road/Monivea Road.

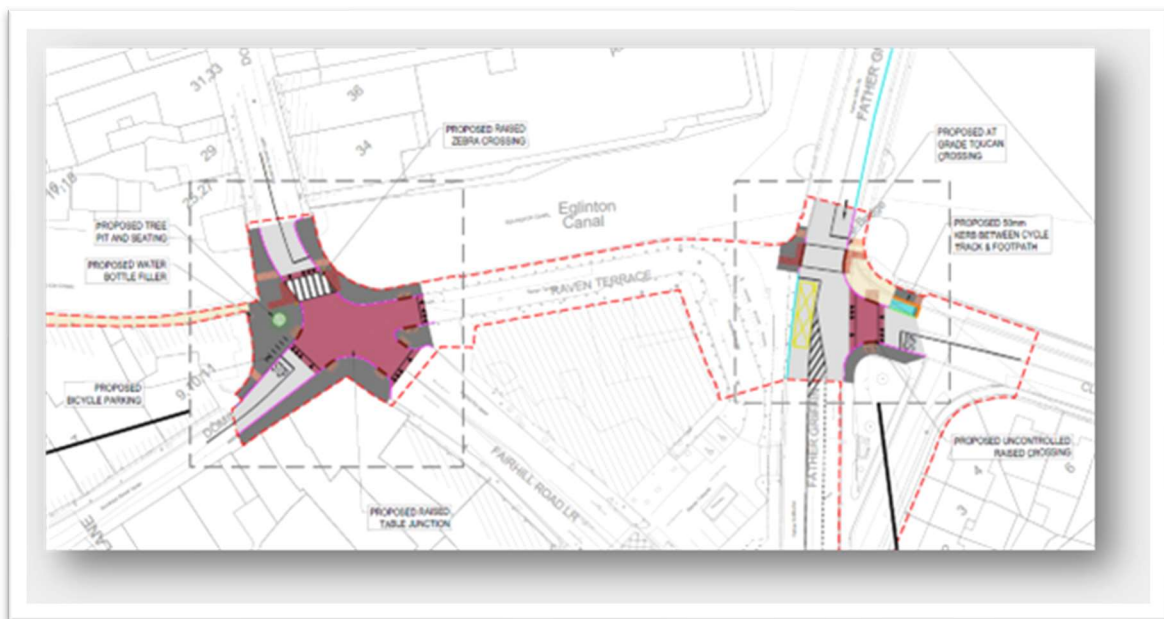
NTA Gateway applications for the Preliminary Design was approved by the National Transport Authority which facilitates the progression to a Part 8 process for the scheme in 2023.



Design extract - Ballybane Road junction with Monivea Road

Eglinton Canal Active Travel Scheme

Following completion of the non-statutory public consultation in December 2021, detailed design, and the preparation of tender documentation for the Eglinton Canal were completed to facilitate the publication of a tender for the main works in Q1 of 2023.



Bóthar Stiofáin Cycle Network Scheme

Following the completion of the detailed design and preparation of the tender documentation of the Eglinton Canal Active Travel Scheme, development of the preliminary design of the Bóthar Stiofáin Cycle Network Scheme recommenced in Q4 of 2022 to facilitate an application to the National Transport Authority in 2023 for the preliminary design of the scheme.

Pedestrian and Cycle Interventions

The construction phase for the delivery of two pedestrian crossings at Blackrock, Salthill and on the Tuam Road south of the Joyce Road Junction was completed in 2022. We are awaiting the energisation of the Tuam Road, but the Blackrock crossing is now fully operational.

The detailed design phase for a pedestrian crossing within Liosbán Industrial estate to provide access for Ability West resource users to the Terryland Forest Park was developed throughout 2022 with construction to commence in early 2023.

The detailed design development for an additional pedestrian crossing on the Ragoon Road to compliment the Millers Lane Permeability project was also completed in 2022. It is envisaged this crossing will be delivered in early 2023.

The Active Travel upgrades completed since 2022 have the potential to reinforce the character of Galway. The improvement upgrade will increase pedestrian usage of laneways and will enhance and help to support local businesses by providing safe well-maintained routes within the city. The upgrade works can contribute to pedestrian permeability and a higher quality of public realm. Investment in the public spaces for Active travel can boost footfall by providing an attractive, more inclusive, and safer pedestrian environment. The laneway upgrades will also compliment the future NTA funded projects.

Active Travel projects completed in 2022:

- Cnoc An Óir
- Dún na Coiribe
- Lakeshore Drive
- Coole Park
- Rusheen Woods

- Carraig Ard
- Lenaboy Park
- Riverside to the Plots

Figure 3 Cnóc an Óir before and after



Figure 4 Lenaboy Park before and after



Figure 5 Waterside Woodquay before and after



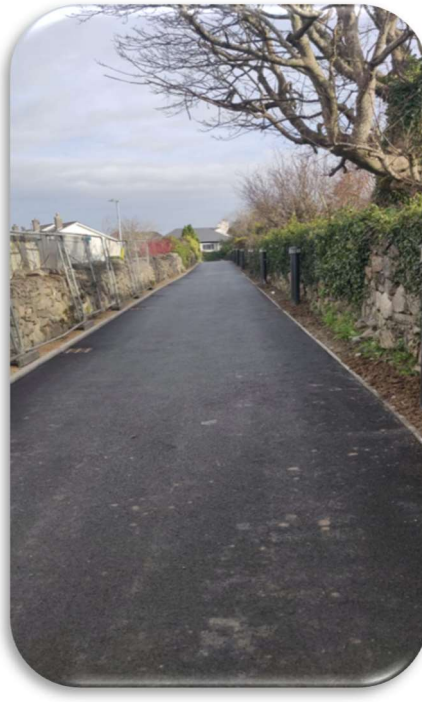
Figure 6 Rusheen Woods before and after



2.6 Miller's Lane Upgrade

The Miller's Lane project entails upgrading of the existing pathway, to provide an urban permeability route in the Knocknacarra area, linking Ragoon Road and Kingston Road. The lane is approximately 950m long, and runs by estates including Garraí de Brún, An Logán, The Orchard, Manor Close, Gort na Bró, Grangemore, Gort Gréine, Cruachán Park, and Ros Geal.

Detailed design was developed with a tender process published and subsequent appointment of a contractor in August 2022. The northern leg of lane was substantially completed in December. The project is nearing completion of the construction phase with the laneway due to be open to the public in May 2023.



Construction progress photos of Miller's Lane

2.7 Parkmore Road Bus Priority Scheme

The preferred option for the Parkmore Road Bus Priority Scheme was completed in May 2022. The scheme provides a dedicated bus lane from the Parkmore Roundabout to Briarhill Business Park and includes upgraded side road junctions, upgraded footpaths, additional signalised pedestrian crossing, drainage works, landscape works. The scheme is confined to the existing road reserve and public lands, there is no acquisition of private land required for the scheme.

The Section 38 Notice for the Parkmore Road Bus Priority Scheme was advertised in the Galway Advertiser and on the Galway City Council website on 2nd June 2022 with a deadline for submissions of 7th July. A leaflet outlining the scheme was delivered to local residents and businesses in the area on the same day.



During the consultation period 33 submissions were received, including 24 online questionnaires submissions and 9 email submissions. A number of meetings were held with stakeholders along the scheme. Overall, there is a positive attitude towards the Parkmore Road Bus Priority Scheme. Some issues regarding cycle provision and traffic delays were raised, and these have been responded to in the public consultation report. The design stage will seek to address concerns raised during public consultation where appropriate.

The tender for Engineering Led Multi-Disciplinary Design Consultancy Services for NTA Phase 5: Detailed Design and Procurement, Phase 6: Construction and Implementation and Phase 7 Close out and Review was published on eTenders on 22nd July with a return date of 29th August 2022. Following a tender assessment process DBFL Consulting Engineers were appointed in September 2022.

Background surveys including GPR and Traffic surveys have been undertaken to inform the scheme design. Detailed design of the scheme is ongoing with a view to publish the tender for construction of the scheme in early 2023.

2.8 Roads Operations and Maintenance

Roads Programme

Galway City Council continued a programme of maintenance and upkeep of the city road network. Over 13km of local and regional roads have been resurfaced in 2022. By using the Map Road PMS system and carrying out inspections, Galway City Council identified roads which required resurfacing.



These roads included:

Coolough Road	Salthill Road Lower	Claddagh Place
Colmcille Road	Barna Road	Claddagh Avenue
Costello Road	St. Nicholas Road	Fairhill Road Upper
St. Mary's Road	South Park Place	Eyre Street
Monument Road	Barry Avenue	Monksfield
Rahoon Road	McBride Avenue	Parkavara
Devon Park	Shantalla Place	

Footpaths

Footpaths were renewed in multiple locations also in 2022. Locations such as Forster Street, Moyola Park, Pearse Avenue, Barry Avenue, Rockbarton Road, St Nicolas Rd, South Park Place, Shantalla Place, Claddagh Place, Dr Mannix Rd, Riverside, Rockbarton Rd, and Emerson Avenue. Repairs were also carried out in many other locations.



Proactive Drainage Maintenance

The Transport Operations team also had a dedicated drainage and gully maintenance crew working across the city to ensure that water ponding and flooding during heavy rainfall events was limited. In addition to maintenance, a number of locations were identified that need further works to clear drain blockages such as tree roots, pipe failure and blocked soak pits. The transportation crews had a very busy year as they carried out works in multiple locations across the city while also being available for out of hours calls and severe weather storm events in 2022.

Winter Maintenance and Storm preparedness

The Transport Operations and Maintenance team were prepared for any storm forecast over the winter/ storm season with flood barriers in place and sandbags at the ready. Galway City Council continually monitored any potential flooding risks across the city and carried out clean-ups of all locations affected.





Gritting was carried out across the city's priority national, regional, and local routes. This was continuously monitored during the winter season with salt stocks monitored and crews prepared in the event of predicted low temperatures.

School Wardens

The School Warden service is provided to a total of 14 Primary Schools in the City, at a number of designated locations. The service provided assists with the safety of school children while they cross busy thoroughfares, on their route to school. In order to carry out their duties effectively, they require the co-operation of all road users. Galway City Council employed 22 full time School Wardens and 1 standby school warden in 2022.

Bridge Maintenance

Vegetation clearance was undertaken at Mill Street Bridge, Nun's Island Bridge, Newtownsmith Bridge and University Canal Bridge. Masonry repairs and repointing works were undertaken at Nun's Island Bridge and Mill Street Bridge. Parapet wall repairs were undertaken at the Salmon Weir Bridge and the Dyke Road Bridge.



3. Water Services

The objective of the Water Services section is to collaborate with Irish Water in providing and maintaining, in a sustainable manner, a water treatment and supply system and a drainage collection system, capable of meeting the needs of all domestic, commercial, and industrial consumers in Galway City and environs.

Galway City Council is operating under a 12-year Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water and working in partnership with Irish Water to continue to provide water services in the city. The Annual Service Plan between Irish Water and Galway City Council commits both parties to deliver specific objectives and standards of performance against a budget covering headcount, goods, and services plus future investment.

The Service Plan outlines the specific objectives and standards of performance that take into account the Overall Performance Assessment (OPA) proposed by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the objectives of the Irish Water Business Plan. The Service Plan sets out the Performance Targets for the year to reflect the standards required in the delivery of the service by Galway City Council in the context of the available funding, customer service and regulatory requirements and anticipated Local Authority activities in the year.

The Local Authority's performance is measured against performance targets relating to the areas of Customer, Compliance, Financial and Learning and Growth. Actual performance is presented and compared against the relevant target in monthly and quarterly reports. This management tool is intended to track the progress of each performance area and ensure that targets are achieved.

3.1 Operations and Maintenance of Water Supply

The principal service is to provide and maintain in a sustainable manner the Water Supply Network capable of meeting the needs of the domestic, commercial, and industrial consumers in Galway City and Environs. This involves the management and operations of the Water Network and adherence to all statutory and regulatory requirements as set out by Irish Water, EPA, CRU and other relevant statutory bodies. Terryland Waterworks continues to produce drinking water to the highest standard. The quality of drinking water is monitored and analysed to ensure compliance with all the requirements of the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No.2) Regulations 2014. All drinking water monitoring results are uploaded to the EPA Eden website.

3.2 Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Services

The principal service is to provide and maintain in a sustainable manner the drainage network capable of meeting the needs of the domestic, commercial, and industrial consumers in Galway City and environs and to ensure adequate treatment capacity for the future needs of the city in partnership with Irish Water. Mutton Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is currently operated by a third-party contractor on behalf of Irish Water. The treated sewage is returned to the environment in accordance with the EPA Discharge Licence D0050-01.

Galway City Council Drainage staff maintain operation of foul pump stations and mains to deliver the flows to Mutton Island for treatment. The Operation and Maintenance staff continue to respond 24/7 to all blockages on the network.

Upgrade works continued on sites including the licensed Long Walk combined sewer overflow chamber. An event monitor was commissioned at this chamber in June 2022 which records the duration of overflow events.

3.3 Progress and Implement Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan

New Intake and Transfer Main for Terryland Water Treatment Plant

The existing raw water intake on the Terryland Channel is vulnerable to low flow conditions in the River Corrib and is sensitive to reed growth, wind strength and wind direction. The existing raw water intake is unable to supply a year-round secure abstraction rate of 55MLD and is susceptible to drought scenarios.

In order to address supply security and provide for future development Irish Water in partnership with Galway City Council appointed Coffey Construction to construct a new intake on the River Corrib south of the Quincentennial Bridge in June 2022.

Works involve the construction of a concrete intake chamber and associated delivery main to transport raw water to the existing delivery pipework feeding the Terryland Water Treatment Plant. Work on the two-year contract commenced in August 2022 with good progress being made. On completion the intake will provide a secure supply of 55 Mega Litres per day. Provision for pumping is incorporated as part of the intake construction. This will allow for an extraction in excess of 55MLD to serve future development should an abstraction license be acquired.

Terryland to Clifton Hill Rising Main

A large population of the west of the city is served via an aged 450mm concrete rising main which transports water from the Terryland Water Treatment Plant to the Clifton Hill reservoirs located off Circular Road. There has been a high burst frequency on this rising main in recent years which has compromised the security of supply to the west of the city.

In order to address this issue and provide for future development Irish water in partnership with Galway City Council appointed the contractor Ward and Burke to undertake the construction of a new 600mm ductile iron rising main between the Plant and the Reservoirs. 1500 metres of this main was laid in 2022 which has had the result of significantly reducing the risk to supply on the West side of the city. Works are to continue on further sections of the new main in 2023.

National Water Resources Plan (NWRP)

The Irish Water National Water Resource Plan (NWRP) is a 25-year strategy to ensure a sustainable, secure and reliable drinking water supply for all. The NWRP will outline how Irish Water intends to maintain the balance between our supply from water sources around the country and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long-term. This will allow preparation for the future and ensure the provision of sufficient safe, clean drinking water to facilitate the social and economic growth of our country.

Phase 1 of the NWRP Framework Plan is complete, and comprises an initial scoping and screening consultation, followed by statutory consultation on the draft Framework Plan, which was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. Irish Water have now published the NWRP Framework Plan, SEA Statement and AA Determination. These reports demonstrate how environmental considerations have shaped and helped in the development of the NWRP Framework Plan.

Phase 2 NWRP – Regional Water Resources Plans comprises the development of four Regional Water Resources Plans (RWRPs) each of which will be subject to SEA and AA. The North West RWRP went on public display on 22nd November 2022 for the period up to February 21st, 2023. Stakeholder engagement is encouraged and is facilitated via email, post or freephone. A series of public webinars are also included in the stakeholder engagement process.

Leakage Reduction Programme

Irish Water is currently in the Capital Investment Period 2020 – 2025 and approximately €500 million has been provided to fund the National Leakage Reduction Programme over this 5-year period. There has been excellent work undertaken by all Water Services staff involved in driving down leakage across the city.

In 2022, as with previous years, leakage reduction has continued to be a key focus for both Irish Water and Galway City Council. There are still significant challenges to be overcome during the year to meet our customer's expectations and achieve our leakage targets.

Galway City Council staff work in partnership with Irish Water and its Regional Contractor (Farrans) in identifying leaks and carrying out fixes. The replacement of old cast iron mains and lead services under this programme. There is constant monitoring and management of water pressures in the network in order to minimise leakage. The programme is also bolstered by carrying out rehabilitation works on mains that are uneconomical to repair.

Two such schemes carried out in 2022 were:

- 1500m of mains rehabilitated on Kingston Road
- 327m of mains were rehabilitated on Munster Avenue

Our dedicated leak detection crew and direct labour repair crews together with our regional contractor will continue with leakage reduction activities throughout the city to achieve leakage reduction targets as set out in the Leakage Reduction Programme.

Galway Drainage Area Plan (DAP)

A consultant was appointed by Irish Water to this project in Q4 2016. The Irish Water DAP covers hydraulic, environmental, structural, service, and operational performance and risk within the Galway City and environs drainage area. Irish Water's DAP Stages are listed and explained below:

Stage 1: Desktop Data Collection and Review, Survey and Study Scoping was completed June 2017.

Stage 2: Surveys and Hydraulic Model Build.

Stage 3: Risk Assessment and Needs Identification for the current, short term and long term.

Stage 4: Strategy, Optioneering and Future Solutions Design.

Stage 1 was completed in 2017 and the Stage 2 network surveys and model build and verification completed in 2022. The work in Stage 2 has highlighted the current weaknesses in the network that are causing issues with regular surcharging and frequent discharges in the City primarily as a result of capacity issues in the network.

Works are being identified on an ongoing basis from the information being gained from the Galway DAP project and this information is continuously feeding into the Asset Management of the wastewater network to best guide investment decisions. Stage 3 of the project commenced in 2022 which involves a risk assessment and needs identification of the drainage network. This stage is forecast to be completed in mid-2023 and will feed into Stage 4 which will consider options for solutions to existing problems in the network and to cater for future demands.

Galway Strategic Drainage Study

A Strategic Drainage Study has been included in the Irish Water Investment Plan 2020-24. This Study commenced in late 2021 assessing wastewater treatment needs against growth, development, and environmental pressures for the greater Galway area including some conurbations outside of the city.

A Terms of Reference has been developed to appoint a consultant to carry out the study. It is scheduled for a consultant to be appointed in 2023 with the study to take place in 2023/24. The Study will define capital investment needs to meet demands in the greater Galway area- as well a strategy for their delivery. The final output will be a Strategic Drainage Study (SDS) Report as well as a Strategic Environmental Assessment Report, this will involve environmental assessment on the strategy and public consultation and integration of feedback into the final SDS Report. It is expected that several projects both above and below ground will emerge from the study.

In tandem with the above, Irish Water and Galway City Council are investigating short term solutions to ensure adequate capacity is available at Mutton Island. These are being pursued through the Galway Drainage Area Plan (DAP) and other Irish Water Programmes that are currently ongoing.

Ardaun MUHDS Site

The draft RSES includes the draft Galway (Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan) identifies Ardaun as a significant site of scale that has the opportunity and capacity to deliver the quantum of housing envisioned in the NPF, subject to the adequate provision of services. It is further noted that Ardaun will accommodate up to 25% of the residential growth anticipated for the city (RSES pg. 71).

In 2022 a design/build contractor was appointed to carry out the detailed design stage for the wastewater infrastructure that will be required to service the site This process is ongoing. Survey and investigation works are also being undertaken. Following on from this and after securing all necessary land, wayleaves and planning consent, the works will proceed to construction stage.

Also, in 2022 the Irish Water Regional Contractor Farrans commenced the detailed design for the water infrastructure required to serve the Ardaun Phase 1 site. It will be carried out in 4 phases with a total length of c.2400m of new watermain.

Construction is estimated to commence in Q3 2023 with a finish date in 2024.

Galway City Council will have to provide the surface water drainage infrastructure to service the MUHDS site. Atkins Ireland has carried out a Preliminary Design Report, based on all available information to-date, which has identified the options for Surface Water discharge points at the MUHDS site. The estimated cost of providing surface water discharge points to service the MUHDS site is circa €1.9M, subject to tender prices. Galway City Council intends to fund this critical infrastructure through development contribution levies.

Works to Progress Housing Provision in the City

The upgrading of the pumping system was carried out in the Briarhill area to cater for existing and increased future water demand and provide extra capacity for housing provision.

Galway City Council are working in partnership with Irish Water to identify demands and upgrade requirements in the City network in order that there is sufficient capacity to meet the demands of housing development in the City under the Housing For All program.

Implementation of Irish Water's Transformation Plan under the SLA

The Water Services section of Galway City Council supports the strategic planning for Irish Waters transformation initiatives in line with the Water Industry Operation Framework (WIOF). Agreement was reached at the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) in June 2022 on a "Framework for Future Delivery of Water Services". Irish Water is now known by the Irish version, Uisce Éireann (UÉ) following the separating from Ervia.

UÉ organised roadshows in late 2022 with a view to progressing the transition to a Single Public Utility (SPU) by the end of 2026. One of the aims of the roadshows was to provide information to Local Authority staff on future work options and opportunities if they decide to move to the SPU.

4. Planning and Development

The objective to have in place a system of physical planning capable of meeting sustainable economic, environmental and social development objectives for Galway City.

4.1 Development Plan and Policy Draft City Development Plan 2023-29

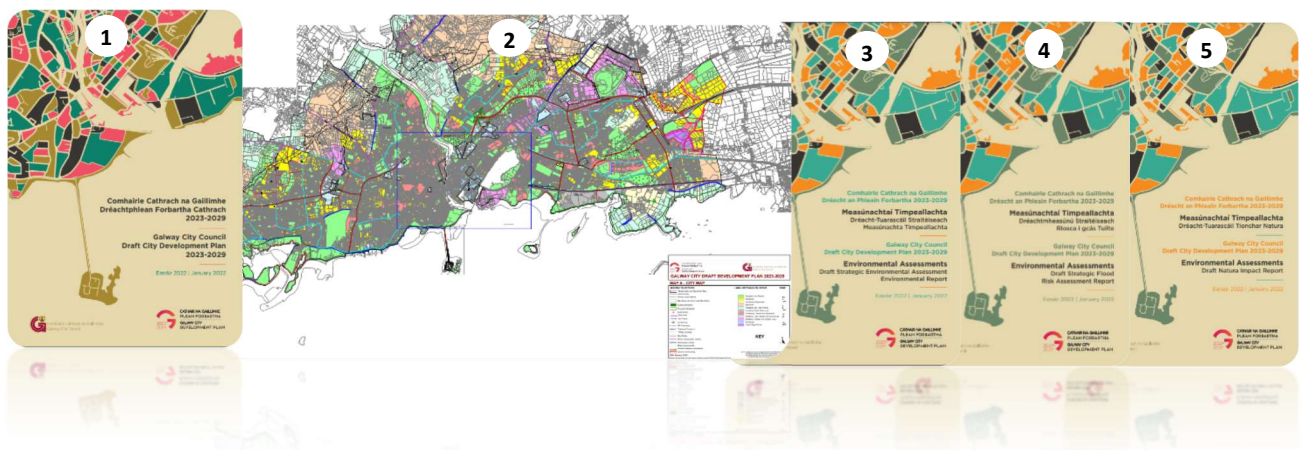
The preparation of the draft plan is prescribed by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). It sets out the mandatory requirements that must be included in the Development Plan. These include, inter alia, objectives for the zoning of land, the provision of infrastructure, the conservation and protection of the environment, and the integration of planning and sustainable development with the social, community and cultural requirements of the city and its population. The preparation of a Core Strategy is also required. It sets out the requirements for land and resource dedication required for enterprise, commercial, housing and the supporting transport strategy for the city. This ensures that the development plan is robust and evidence-based which is substantiated by empirical research to ensure sufficient lands and resources are planned for to enable proper development of the City and to justify land use decisions. It must be consistent with the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

In tandem with the preparation of the draft development plan and in accordance with European and national legislation, a Strategic Environmental Assessment, an Appropriate Assessment and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken. In addition, a Housing Strategy, Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA) and a Building Height and Density Study was prepared. These inform the Draft Plan and ensure full integration and consideration of environmental and housing issues throughout each stage of the Development Plan process.

The Draft Development Plan was approved by the Elected Members on January 17th, 2022 and this was followed by a period of public display and consultation. Public consultation included drop-in days at venues across the city where the draft plan was exhibited and where the public could discuss the plan with planning staff in person. Weekly appointments were also held in City Hall during the consultation period. A subsequent Chief Executives Report on the consultation process and the draft plan was considered by the Elected Members at a number of meetings in July 2022 and it was resolved to amend the draft plan.

184 no. material alterations were agreed to advance to the next stage in the making of the plan. The relevant proposed amendments were then subject to environmental assessment and were put on public display from Thursday 8th September until Thursday 6th October 2022.

Following on from the public consultation, a Chief Executives (CE) Report on submissions received was prepared and forwarded to the Elected Members for their consideration. A number of council meetings were held in November to discuss the amendments to the draft plan and the plan was finally adopted on the 24th of November. It will come into effect in January 2023.



Draft Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 (1) Volume 1: Written Statement (2) Volume 2: Maps (3) Volume 3: Draft SEA (4) Volume 3: Draft SFRA (5) Draft NIR

4.2 Development Management

Planning Applications

In 2022, a total of 310 valid planning applications were lodged with Galway City Council. 9 applications were received for the purposes of extending the duration of planning permissions as provided for under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Planning Applications Breakdown

Domestic Extensions	68
Other Buildings	43
Dwellings	98
Developments not included in the above	76
Applications exempted from Fees	6
Outline Permission	1
Advertisement Structures	5
Plant, Machinery, Storage Tanks	1
Agricultural buildings	2
Caravans Parking Open storage	1
Extension of duration of Planning Permission	9

Outdoor Events Licences

In 2022, the following events requiring a licence proceeded as planned.

- **St. Patricks Day Celebrations:** This outdoor event involved performers, floats, and entertainment passing through the streets of Galway. Traditional family entertainment also took place in Eyre Square on the 17th – 20th March 2022.

- **Galway Community Circus:** Claddagh Basin and River Corrib – Spanish Arch, Saturday, 16th July 2022. This was a high wire crossing event comprising of a wire crossing the River Corrib near the Spanish Arch, Galway. It was proclaimed “Europe’s largest High Wire Spectacle”.

- **Rise Live:** This event was a family festival which took place at Pearse Stadium, Salthill on the June bank holiday weekend. There were 2 nights for the event with performances from The Black Eyed Peas and followed on the 2nd night with music from a selection of Irish Country and Irish Folk Artists.

- **Galway Christmas Market:** The Christmas Market ran from Friday 11th November to Thursday 22nd December 2022, consisting of a mix of international and local vendors and offer a range of food and crafts. In addition to the traders, onsite entertainment was provided as well as the Bier Keller. This year saw the return of such favourites as the giant observation wheel, the Mulled wine units and Santa's train, by now stalwarts of the market and generating repeat visits each year. The Santa Sleigh, post box and the elves' light gardens were also big draws and provided numerous photo opportunities for families. The market was held at Kennedy Park, incorporating the Plaza, Eyre Square north, Eyre Square.

Local Authority Development – Part VIII

The following Part 8 Developments were approved by the City Council in 2022.

- Traveller Group Housing development on lands at Circular Road.

- A cantilever pedestrian walkway, signalised pedestrian crossing and footpath widening at R336 (Wolfe Tone Bridge).

Planning Appeals to An Bord Pleanála

There were 10 decisions/determinations received from An Bord Pleanála in 2022. Of the decisions, 5 were upheld, 3 reversed and 2 applications withdrawn.

Strategic Housing Developments /Large Scale developments

Following legislation introduced as part of Rebuilding Ireland with a view to speeding up the Planning Application Process and accelerate the delivery of larger housing and student accommodation, the SHD process continued during 2021. Since the process began, eleven applications have been granted in Galway city by An Bord Pleanála.

All applications under the SHD process ceased in mid-2022 and was replaced by a new planning process for Large-Scale Residential developments with decision making for Large-Scale Residential Developments (LRD) type applications returning to the local planning authority in the first instance, with the subsequent right of appeal to An Bord Pleanála.

This process applies to all large scale developments received from the 17th of December 2021 that had not commenced the SHD process.

Galway City Council still had three applications progressing through the SHD Process. These are:

- **SHD 19/3** – Letteragh Road – Cairn Homes –Rec Refusal 07-06-2022
- **SHD 20/04** – Bóthar na Chóiste - Lock House Developments Ltd – Rec Refusal 03/10/2022
- **SHD 21/1** –Westside Shopping Centre –Westside SC –Rec Ref 07-06-2022

The definition of large-scale residential development (LRD) remains broadly similar to strategic housing development (SHD), i.e., developments of 100 housing units or more, or student accommodation developments comprising 200 bed spaces or more, or a combination of same. The two systems (LRD and SHD) will operate concurrently for a period of time.

Once the final SHD planning applications have worked their way through the system, the LRD arrangements will be the sole planning consent system for large scale housing developments. During 2022 Galway City Council received 5 LRD applications.

Declarations of Exemption

During 2022, a total of 34 Applications for Declarations of Exempted Development were lodged with Galway City Council. Under Section 96 (Housing Strategy) a total of 19 Applications were received in 2022.

Planning Enforcement

Galway City Council continues to adopt a proactive approach to ensure compliance with planning controls and the prevention of unauthorised development. In this regard, the planning authority received 326 complaints that required investigation and inspections by the Planning Enforcement Officers. A total of 120 cases warranted Warning/Enforcement Notices and 10 cases subsequently required referral to the City Councils' Law Agent for legal proceedings.

Development Contributions

A review of the existing contribution scheme was completed during the course of 2021 and the 'Development Contribution Scheme 2021-2027' was adopted by the council and became effective on 1st May 2021. Under the scheme the contributions to be paid (except where an exemption or a reduced contribution applies) in respect of the different classes of public infrastructure and €90 per sq. m. for residential and a rate of €50 per sq. m. for non-residential. During 2022, the collection of development levies continued to be a priority for the Planning Section. The monies collected will be used to assist in the provision of necessary public infrastructure and community facilities prioritised for the city. A total of c. €3.2m was collected during the course of 2022.

Heritage

The Heritage Plan 2016 – 2022 sets out the framework for actions on Heritage for a 5-year period. Galway City Council Heritage Office, in conjunction with the Heritage Council's Grant Scheme, carried out the following projects in 2022:

- Galway's Heritage in Stone Catalogue No. 8: The Medieval and Late Medieval Fonts and Stoups of Galway City.
- Galway City Annual Heritage Conference.
- Conserving Three Castles Galway Exhibition.
- Galway's Cemeteries and Graveyards Guide.

Galway City Council, in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, awarded eleven heritage grants under 'The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022':

- St. Ignatius Church, Sea Road, Galway

- St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, Lombard Street, Galway
- 3 Montpelier Terrace, Sea Road, Galway
- 2 Montpelier Terrace, Sea Road, Galway
- 31-33 Dominick Street, Galway (Pl. Ref. 21/119)
- 3 Ely Place, Sea Road, Galway
- 5 St Nicholas St, The Docks, Galway
- 43 Dominick St, Galway
- St. Jude's, 110 Lower Salthill, Galway
- 23A William St West, Galway
- Thatch Cottage, Menlo Village, Galway

Two grants were awarded under 'The Historic Structures Fund 2022':

- Poor Clare Convent.
- Francis Cottage, Coolough, Menlo.

The Annual Heritage Magazine "Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe – Galway's Heritage 2022" was also published. Following on from the preparation of the *Castle Conservation and Management Plan* prepared in Planning, the Architect's Section with support from the Planning and Heritage Section, commissioned the associated conservation enabling and repair works for the three castles at Menlo, Terryland and Doughiska (Merlin). The conservation works continued in 2022 with extensive work being carried out to make safe and conserve the spine wall and tower house walls, belvedere turret etc. at Menlo Castle and Galway City Council were successful in receiving Community Monument Fund grants for this work. Works on the conservation of Menlo, Terryland and Doughiska Castles will continue in 2023 as will the implementation of the public realm plan for two of the castles.

In 2023 work will advance also on the preparation of the next Heritage Plan cycle which will include for the setting up of a heritage forum and public consultation and the establishment of a series of actions appropriate for the next five-year cycle 2022-2027.

Building Control

The City Council has a role in relation to the enforcement of the Building Control Acts and the Building Regulation.

Details of Commencement Notices, Fire Safety Application and Disability Access Certs submitted during 2022 are listed hereunder:

Fire Safety Certificates	107
Disability Access Certificates	60
Commencement Notices	109

Living Cities Initiative

Parts of Galway City Centre have been designated as a Special Regeneration Area under the Living City Initiative. The Living City initiative focuses on the regeneration of retail and commercial districts and encouraging people to live in the historic urban centres. It offers tax relief for qualifying expenditure incurred on the refurbishment or conversion of certain buildings for residential and commercial use. The deadline for applying the scheme was extended from 4th May 2020 to the 31st December 2022. While the tax relief for residential works is dealt with by the City Council, commercial relief is dealt with directly by the Revenue Commissioners.

Vacant Site Levy

The Galway City Vacant Site Register was established in accordance with the Urban Housing and Regeneration Act 2015 in Q1 2019. Based on detailed analysis of residentially zoned lands throughout the city, a number of potential vacant sites were identified and assessed in accordance with the legislation and prioritised against a range of criteria consistent with proper planning and sustainable development principles set out in the core strategy and development policies and objectives of the City Development Plan. In total six sites were entered onto the register. The new Residential Zoned Land Tax will in time replace Vacant Site Levy.

Residential Zoned Land Tax.

As set out in Housing Policy Objective 15.2 of Housing for All, a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes, and which will in time replace the Vacant Site Levy, was enacted as a part of the Finance Act 2021, as referred to in Circular NRUP 06/2021 of 22 December 2021. The aim of the tax is to activate and bring forward the development of housing on lands which are suitably zoned and serviced, as indicated on maps to be prepared and published by local authorities for their respective functional areas. The legislation also sets out certain lands which are to be excluded from the scope of the tax. The tax measure is intended to encourage activation of existing planning permissions on lands which are identified as being in scope and to incentivise owners of suitable lands without planning permission to commence the process of engagement with Planning Authorities.

New ministerial planning guidelines were issued in June 2022 to assist planning authorities in meeting the statutory requirement to undertake and publish a draft, supplemental and final map(s) identifying lands zoned for residential purposes and mixed use purposes including residential uses, which are connected or able to be connected to the necessary services to support housing development.

The Guidelines include details in relation to the various actions to be taken and identification of lands in scope. While residential zonings which include existing dwellings are to be included on the map(s), where connected or able to be connected to services, permanently occupied residential premises which are liable for Local Property Tax will not be liable for the tax.

A key action in facilitating the introduction of the Residential Zoned Land Tax, as set out in the Finance Act 2021 is the publication of draft maps by planning authorities, **by the 1st of November 2022**, showing lands in scope.

Funding was secured from the DHLGH in 2022 for all 31 local authorities as this required additional resources and the DHLGH is also seeking additional funding in 2023 to assist with the implementation of this measure. This funding will be apportioned to individual local authorities as agreed with the County and City Managers Association. Galway City Council received €21,000 towards this project.

The draft maps were put on display on 1st November and submissions were invited from landowners and third parties, with a closing date of January 2023. 13 no submission were received by Galway City Council. Determinations will issue on these submissions in 2023 with a right to appeal to An Bord Pleanála.

A supplemental map must be published on 1st May 2023 with the final map published on 1st January 2024.

4.3 ePlanning Portal

The ePlanning portal is a new online system through which planning applications can be made and through which applicants/agents will be kept updated on the progress of their application. This system caters for further information and submissions to be made via the portal with additional functionality to be added in further phases.

Tipperary and Galway Co Council were the pilot sites, and both are gone live with the system. A wider rollout of the e-Planning system has now commenced, and Galway City Council is included in Wave 3 of the national rollout plan in Q2 of 2023 together with the following sites: Longford, Roscommon, Cavan, Carlow, Offaly, Kerry, Leitrim and Donegal.

In order to initiate the rollout of the ePlanning, an inhouse Project Team is now established with representatives from Planning, ICT and Finance and a new Document Management System IDOCS will be installed by the LGMA in January 2023. It is recognised that the current viewer systems, both internal and external, will be greatly improved by the move to IDocs which displays the planning documentation by category, thus allowing for easier identification of relevant planning files and improved navigability of the planning file, including the use of the labelling for submissions and reports. The IDOCs system also caters for the new standardisation of planning document categorisation.

A full review of the IT requirements is currently being undertaken including the purchase of licences, improved software, dual screens and additional scanners and suitable tablets / laptops for the relevant planning staff.

It is anticipated that moving to an ePlanning system will greatly improve the user experience, (both customer and staff) and prove beneficial from an efficiency and environmental perspective.

4.4 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC)

The Planning Department continued its support of the Planning Strategic Policy Committee during 2022 and matters discussed and considered by the committee during the year included both internal and external briefings and presentations on:

- Draft Development Plan 2023-2029
- Headford Road and Murrough Local Area Plans
- Short-Term Letting
- Three Castles Project
- Preparation for New Heritage Plan
- Large Scale Residential Developments
- New Legislation Updates
- Residential Zoned Land Tax

In addition, Joint SPC meetings were held with Galway County Council Planning SPC and the following matters discussed.

- RSES and MASP Governance
- Irish Water
- Galway Airport Site

4.5 Ardaun Local Area Plan (LAP)

The implementation of the Ardaun Local Area Plan (LAP) 2018-2024 is ongoing. Ardaun has been identified as the key area for the extension of the city with the ability to meet a significant amount of the future housing need for Galway and is key to the success of the city realising regional city status as designated under the NPF.

It can also provide opportunities for mixed use development, structured and co-ordinated with supporting facilities and services and can develop good employment opportunities having close physical links with Ballybrit /Parkmore technology parks and IDA sites in the county. It is described in the National Planning Framework (NPF) as a significant enabler to realise the targeted growth of Galway as one of the designated five cities in the country. Ardaun is a designated Major Urban Housing Delivery Site (MUDHS) by Housing Delivery Office of DHPLG.

Active land management with stakeholders in particular Irish water is being pursued and actively promoted by the Development Plan and Policy Section in order to realise the development strategy of the LAP and the designation of the site as a MUDHS site and in accordance with the core strategy of the draft plan. Key infrastructural projects are currently being advanced in order to support the phased delivery of the LAP, including transport and water/wastewater services. Work is progressing by Irish Water on the design and implementation of the Ardaun Wastewater Network Extension. This infrastructure will enable development for Ardaun Phase 1 with a target of 500 completed units within the development plan period to 2028.

The URDF funded Martin Roundabout Upgrade to multi-modal signalised junction commenced in 2022 will provide primary access to Ardaun (southern section). The progression of the Dublin Road Bus Corridor, a 4 kilometre scheme from the Martin Roundabout to Moneenageisha Junction providing a high-quality pedestrian, cycle and public transport corridor serving the entire of the Dublin Road will also facilitate these lands. URDF funding has also been awarded to further enhance access to the lands and the design feasibility studies will advance in 2023. Preparatory work on the review of the Ardaun LAP will commence in 2023.

4.6 Headford Road Local Area Plan (LAP)

The City Development Plan 2017-2023 and the draft development plan for 2023-2029 has an objective to prepare a Local Area Plan for the Headford Road area south of the Bodkin Junction. This has capacity to dovetail with the ambitions for the publicly owned lands at the Dyke Road that forms part of this area. A preliminary assessment of potential options for a combination of uses on Council owned lands was examined by the LDA (Land Development Agency).

Adjoining the site, funding for a pedestrian and cycle bridge crossing on the old Clifden railway abutments has been successful under the URDF 2021 funding stream and will further embellish the attractiveness of the lands for development and further work on the design will advance in 2023.

4.7 Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM)

The Western Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study has been completed and concluded that a flood relief scheme would be viable and effective for the city. Subsequently, Galway City Council appointed Arup to deliver the Coirib go Cósta - Galway City Flood Relief Scheme. This is being led out by the Environment Section. This is supported by the Planning Section who are on the project steering committee to ensure appropriate design measures for flood defences are part of the ultimate design particularly in view of the sensitivities of the location that have been identified under the CFRAM for Galway.

4.8 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

The RSES for the NWRA area was adopted in January 2020. In view of this as, with each local authority, there was an obligation to vary the plan to ensure it is aligned with the RSES for the NWRA. This has been completed and now the implementation of the strategy particularly with respect to the MASP element will require additional work resources. The Draft Development Plan include for integration of both the RSES and the MASP and the advancement of the objectives relating to same.

Galway Transport Strategy

Planning resources will be required to support the consent process for all major measures in the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) in particular any remaining work associated with the N6.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

In view of the success in the 2021 round of URDF funding, the Planning Department will as on the previous occasion, work with other departments in the Council in the first stages of implementation of the associated projects. This will require dedicated resources to advance projects that are advantageous to the sustainable development of the city, in particular the Public Realm Projects associated with the grant funding. It is also anticipated that an additional round of funding will be made available for the next stage in the URDF and will require input from the Planning Department with such applications.

Public Realm Strategy

The Galway Public Realm Strategy provides a vision of place, design guidance and outlines project proposals to improve Galway's streets and public spaces. It is accompanied by three manuals (Design Manual, Activity Manual and Delivery Manual) to support its implementation. The strategy has been incorporated into the Draft Plan with a key policy to progress its implementation. The Strategy complements measures in the Galway Transport Strategy 2016-2035 – in particular the cross- city link project which is designed to be flanked by good quality public spaces. The timeframe for the Strategy's delivery is 2019-2040 and the Strategy aims to support Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework.

The next stage is to take forward projects, in consultation with local communities and key stakeholders on a project- by- project basis, in accordance with budgetary provision. The Strategy's Delivery Manual sets out priorities and opportunities for funding, it also highlights that the strategy is a corporate initiative cutting across several Council service areas including transport, environment, planning, finance, recreation, arts and culture. Cross- departmental working and coordination of budgets will be critical to the delivery of projects, in liaison with external agencies delivering public realm works. The strategy will also be advantageous in guiding external investments from the private sector and other state bodies.

Under Project Ireland 2040, projects eligible for URDF funding include public realm improvements that enhance the attractiveness and vibrancy of urban areas. The City Council has been successful in attracting grant funding which will need to be attributed to design and project work in 2022. An allocation of €8.64 million funding under the URDF was awarded for five specific projects. These projects will provide significant new and improved public realm in the city centre. The projects comprise new public spaces at Woodquay and the Galway Cathedral, rejuvenated space at Fishmarket and Eyre Square (North) and new public realm to support sustainable transport use and pedestrianisation of specific city centre streets.

5. Economic Development and Culture

The objective of the Economic Development and Culture section is to ensure that Galway has a strong economic base which will support a good quality of life for its citizens.

5.1 Enterprise Space

Galway City Council manages 21 enterprise units at Sandy Road and 13 enterprise units at Westside Enterprise Centre, varying in size from 220 sq. ft. to 2500 sq. ft. Galway City Council are also represented on the Board of An Fhiontarlann Teo, who manage a further 17 enterprise units in Westside, varying in size from 400-1000 sq. ft. The criterion used in allocating tenancy for all of the enterprise units is the creation of sustainable employment and the support of Social Enterprise in the City. During 2022, An Mheitheal Rothar, a social sustainable enterprise was allocated space in the Westside Enterprise Centre for their bike repair and DIY workshops, in addition to their award-winning circular economy initiative called ReCycle Your Cycle. This provision of the space by Galway City Council was an essential contribution to the project in securing national funding of €800,000.

5.2 Social Enterprise and Circular Economy

During 2022 a City Council / stakeholder group continued to work collaboratively on issues and needs, focussing on suitable enterprise space options, funding and supports through training and mentoring to help social enterprises strengthen their operations and improve their services. Small scale capital grants totalling €20,000 were awarded to 8 social enterprises in the city under the Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme for repairs and renovations, new equipment and safety upgrades.

Galway City Partnership delivered a “Choose Galway Social Enterprise” campaign, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and supported by Galway City Council, which featured



a series of fortnightly full-page spreads in the Galway Advertiser to raise awareness about the importance of discovering and choosing social enterprises. A video showcasing the Galway Social Enterprise Collective is available to view on <http://ow.ly/HkPk50JnkGR>. The Galway social enterprises involved in the campaign were An Mheitheal Rothar, BounceBack Recycling, Galway City Partnership, Galway Community Circus, GOCOM Radio and Westside Resource Centre.

During November 2022 as part of a collaborative project, funded under the Awareness Raising Initiative for Social Enterprise scheme (ARISE) the Western Development Commission delivered a social enterprise focused event at PorterShed a Dó, aimed at social enterprise networks and support organisations to deliver more sectoral messages on what social enterprises are, as well as their potential to deliver sustainable and inclusive development and recovery. The social enterprise sector in Ireland provides between 25,000 and 35,000 jobs, generating up to €1.4bn in economic activity and addressing many challenges faced by Irish society. Furthermore, according to the European Commission, the social entrepreneurship sector currently employs 40 million people and engages over 200 million volunteers globally, indicating the sector’s potential.

5.3 FDI Intelligence European and Regions of the Future 2022/2023

Following on from previous success, Galway City surged up the micro-cities table in recent years, now sitting in 3rd place. In the five years to December 2022, Galway City attracted 53 FDI project announcements, the highest of any micro-city in this year's top 10. The software and IT sectors accounted for 40% of these projects, with the likes of US-based Genesys's expansion of its Centre of Excellence for Customer Experience AI and fresh investment from Hewlett Packard. It was noted that Galway City is a hub for the pharmaceutical and biotech industries thanks to the long standing presence of industry leaders such as Boston Scientific, Medtronic and Abbott. In 2022, the city also welcomed US-based Biomerics's new centre of excellence and gained fresh investment from Switzerland's TE Connectivity.

FDI Intelligence, which is part of the Financial Times portfolio assessed 370 European cities and grouped them by population size into five categories: major, large, mid-sized, small and micro. 148 European regions were also assessed based on small, mid-sized and large categories. The report, European Cities and Regions of the Future 2022/23 looked at the most promising investment destinations across Europe in a number of categories - economic potential, business friendliness, connectivity, human capital and lifestyle, and cost effectiveness.

5.4 West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

The West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 was officially launched in March 2022, one of nine enterprise plans covering every part of the country. The plan includes projects and initiatives across the three West counties (Galway, Mayo, Roscommon), under the auspices of four Local Authorities – Galway City Council and County Councils



Mayo, Galway and Roscommon. Up to €180 million in funding is being provided to invest in new projects which create new jobs and help companies grow in each region. The plan centres around seven strategic objectives, building on the extensive work and successes that have been achieved under the previous plan to 2020, as well as being reflective of the future and the new opportunities and challenges presented by the changing social, economic, policy, environmental and technological trends. Galway City Council will continue to support the delivery of actions within this plan.

5.5 AEC (Atlantic Economic Corridor)

Galway City Council is a partner in the Atlantic Economic Corridor initiative and in 2022 the following initiatives were delivered through this multiagency partnership approach.

Westernjobs.ie

[Westernjobs.ie – Your doorway to the West of Ireland](https://www.westernjobs.ie), the free online jobs promotion platform for employers based in the West of Ireland launched at the Jobs Expo in Croke Park, Dublin in March 2022, showcasing the varied and unique career opportunities in the West of Ireland. The platform is a space for employers to create a profile so jobseekers can learn more about the company and their ethos. It's also a space for jobseekers to keep up to date on career opportunities and get matched with companies and jobs. Hundreds of job opportunities were promoted on the platform throughout 2022 in roles across all sectors including ecommerce, MedTech, IT, finance, education and engineering.

Why Work West

Galway City Council worked with Galway Chamber's Tourism Committee on a new campaign that highlighted the jobs available in the Tourism Sector to support local businesses and highlight employment opportunities in the city. With nearly 40,000 vacancies in the tourism sector across the country, the new campaign called 'Why Work West' gave employment in the local sector a much-needed boost. The campaign was launched on the back of a report which found a third of tourism businesses who are experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff may have to close if the shortages in the market are not resolved. 79% of such firms also said they may have to reduce their capacity or trading hours, if they are unable to find the right skills, according to the research conducted by Fáilte Ireland.

Connected Hubs

During 2022, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD announced a number of major new initiatives to support remote working across the country. A new mobile app called 'Connected Hubs' was launched, allowing users find their nearest hub facility and easily book a desk space using their mobile device. Funding was announced of €5 million through the Connected Hubs 2022 call, which was used to build capacity and enhance existing remote working facilities. These initiatives were also underpinned by a major new national awareness campaign, designed to promote the many benefits of choosing your local hub for your working day. The campaign was supported by the Western Development Commission and the Atlantic Economic Corridor Officers. The new partnership between the national Connected Hubs network and Zoom, announced during 2022 enabled hubs on the network to expand their offering to their members and further enhance the facilities to remote and hybrid workers. There were over 300 Connected Hubs across the country at the end of 2022, with 16 hubs operating across Galway City offering remote working opportunities. Further information is available on [Connected Hubs | Home Page](#). A new Connected Hubs Voucher scheme ran from July to the end of December 2022, offering at least 10,000 hot desk working days free of charge aimed at both existing hub users as well as those accessing hub facilities for the first time.

National Remote Working Survey 2022

The third annual National Remote Working Survey 2022 was completed, led by the University of Galway and the Western Development Commission. The survey which launched in late April 2022 gained huge interest with more than 8,400 responses on their current experience of remote working. The survey showed 95% of respondents believe working remotely makes life easier. Of those who could work remotely, 52% were currently working hybrid, 40% fully remotely, and only 8% were fully on-site. The survey also showed that 30% of respondents will change jobs - even if it means a pay cut if their remote working preferences are not facilitated. Summary findings of the survey and full report are available to view on <https://bit.ly/3mFwgZg>.

Region of Innovation - Regional Living Lab Launches Across the Atlantic Economic Corridor

During 2022, the Western Development Commission released a new report identifying the West of Ireland as a Region of Innovation, proposing a new project-based approach to advance innovation across the West of Ireland. This will see an integration of research and new technologies with local communities to create a Living Lab that stretches across the Atlantic Economic Corridor. This testbed for new initiatives has potential to become a global leader in new and emerging sectors, creating a competitive advantage and boosting both employment and investment. The report lays the foundations for an Atlantic Innovation Region (AIRe) where industry, academic, government and the public can work together in an internationally recognised living lab to exploit the opportunities presented by our global leadership in MedTech and Sensors as well as our unlimited resources for renewable energy.

Smarter Cities Forum

Galway City Council is a member of the “All Ireland Smart Cities Forum” focused on the advancement of cities in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland through the deployment of, and value creation generated by, smart city programmes. The Smarter Cities primary objective is that this will be a cooperative Forum for the advancement of smart city agendas across all partner cities. Focusing on areas such as Providing Better Services, Promoting Innovative Solutions, Improving Economic Activity and Increased Collaboration and Engagement, Galway City will continue to work in partnership with forum members on the rollout of smart city projects.

5.6 Local Enterprise Office Galway

2022 proved an exceptionally busy and challenging year for the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Galway, with the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on small and medium enterprises in Galway City. The annual results of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) for 2022 showed LEO Galway supported companies created 221 jobs. LEO Galway continued to provide business support services, organised and hosted training and development courses, workshops and webinars with over 2,280 participants. Over 700 individuals also availed of LEO's mentoring programme. In addition, client businesses received continued help with Brexit through a range of regional and national events and a focus on competitiveness with the LEAN for micro initiative. Galway food and drink producers were invited, through LEO Galway to join Food Academy, a unique food business development programme between the 31 Local Enterprise Offices, SuperValu and Bord Bia. Further information is available at www.LocalEnterprise.ie/FoodSupports. All secondary schools in Galway City continued to participate in the largest and most successful student enterprise programme with over 25,000 students taking part each year. Students get to set up their own business and do everything a real life entrepreneur would do, from coming up with the business idea to marketing and writing a business plan. The Local Food and Craft Fair, now in its 10th year returned to the Black Box Theatre in December 2022 with over 50 stands featuring the best in local artisan food, drinks, art, jewellery, and more.

5.7 Ireland West Airport

After two of the most challenging years, following the impact of Covid-19 Ireland West Airport (IWA) had a strong year of recovery in 2022, with passenger numbers recovering to over 720,000. The return to growth in passenger numbers is positive news from a tourism, business and economic development perspective. IWA saw the return of Aer Lingus's daily service to London Gatwick, new services to Birmingham, Edinburgh and Manchester with Ryanair, as well as flights to Bristol, Liverpool, East Midlands, London (Luton and Stansted) also with Ryanair. The Airport was approved capital funding of €4,760,485 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to support critical safety and security projects under the Regional Airports Programme 2021-2025. Key safety and security related projects to be supported by this funding include a major upgrade of the airport's electrical infrastructure across the entire airport campus, construction of a new Fire Training Centre in addition to safety upgrades to the runway. Ireland West Airport also became one of the first airports in the world to be recognised as Age Friendly airports by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

5.8 Tourism Strategy

The Galway City Tourism Strategy 2020 – 2025 continued to be delivered. The key goal of working closer with the industry was crucial to the many of the successes, including the continued delivery of an ambitious Outdoor Dining programme, delivery of collaborative marketing campaigns for the City and the delivery of key funding schemes such as the Marketing Fund. A number of key projects, such as the Galway Brand Development, Blueway Feasibility study, establishment of new water activity tourism hub, construction of the new Galway City Museum and destination town's infrastructure were all advanced during 2022 and will help attract additional visitors, increased dwell time and spend of visitors and ultimately increase jobs in the sector in the coming years.

Tourism Taskforce

The Tourism Taskforce, with representatives from across the industry, continued to help inform and guide tourism actions and aid the recovery of the sector. Galway City Council, in partnership with the tourism partners, Galway Chamber and Fáilte Ireland, delivered a national campaign with social influencers to support the local retail sector in the lead up to Christmas.

Public Spaces Scheme

With support from the department, Galway City Council delivered festival power into Eyre Square. This will eliminate the need for generators for events such as the Christmas Market, St. Patricks Day, and the Galway International Arts Festival. The scheme also saw the purchase of 2 mobile stages that will be made available to festivals and events around the city as well as festival flooring that will be used to protect the grass in high footfall areas.

Capital Projects

A number of capital projects advanced in 2022. Both the Urban Animation Project (€1,030,834) in Woodquay Park and Watersports Hub (€850,000) on the Dyke Road saw design teams appointed towards the end of Q4. The Destination Towns project for the Outdoor Museum (€615,000) saw the museum advance through various stages and will be completed by September 2023. The feasibility Study for the Blueway on the Corrib is almost complete and a report is due in April 2023.

St Patrick's Day 2022

St Patrick's Day returned to the streets of Galway in 2022 with a bang. Over 1,400 participants took place in the parade and approximately 35,000 people lined the streets of the city. The festival was expanded to include 3 days of music in Eyre Square and a family fun day in Salthill.

Leisureland

Following the covid closedown periods Leisureland fully reopened activities at the start of 2022 despite the challenge of securing a full complement of staff, a situation faced by much of the leisure and hospitality industry. Due to constraints on the ability to deliver training during the covid closedown period there were a smaller pool of certified staff available. The staff shortages also impacted on the number of children that could be admitted to the Swim Academy and schools. It took until end of Q2 to reached previous Staffing levels.

Amusement site

Currys Amusements moved into the site and opened on 12th March. They opened on weekends up until June. Then opened daily for the summer season until the end of September. Fossetts Circus followed the Amusements for a week from 3rd to 9th October.

Event Hall

The Event Hall bookings have never been as busy from the start and throughout 2022. Initially limits had to be kept on bookings at the start of the year until appropriate levels of staff could be recruited.

Pool Bookings

Initial a limit of 60 percent capacity on school bookings (compared to pre Covid) was in place in the swimming pools in the January to Easter term, but this came back up to 100 percent in the next term Easter to Summer 2022. The schools pool user numbers had to be reduced at the start of the year due to Swimming instructor constraints, but this was restored to pre covid levels by the autumn. By then the Swimming Clubs had fully booked up all their traditional sessions.

Leisureland pools were closed for essential maintenance for three weeks over the Easter period but reopened on Saturday 23rd April 2022. The pools were shut down for three weeks in order to do essential maintenance on damaged pipework. A new valve and main supply pipe were repaired. To carry out these repairs, the pools had to be emptied.

While the closedown was in place, the balcony and waterslide interiors were painted. Tilers carried out repairs. Thirteen 900 watt light fittings were replaced by eight 100 watt led lights. All the lights in the pool hall are now energy saving LEDs. Cleaning and repairs were carried out on the moveable floor and fixed boom. The lane markings were repainted on the moveable floor.

Events held included a Graded Swimming graded gala on 14th May and a National water polo competition on 20th May. In July swimming Camps for children were provided, as the Swim Academy closes for the September. The Swimming Clubs took some reduced session time during the summer holiday period, as their top swimmers tapered and prepared for the National Finals. Leisureland had two days booked for the Special Olympics in October, sponsored by Leisureland. The first B/C swimming Gala was hosted in November. Leisureland also hosted two Junior Clubs squad time trials, which incorporate very successful mini kids' galas, between local Swimming Clubs

The Leisureland Swimming Academy has gone from strength to strength with 1,022 kids learning to swim per week from January to Easter raising to 1,553 by the end of the final term. This is the highest number of kids booked into the Swim Academy since the Swim Academy began in 2014.

Coffee Dock

Brazco coffee academy were successful in the Coffee Dock tender process and opened a refurbished coffee dock space on Friday 11th March in the main foyer. Open every day, Brazco Coffee Academy are now also catering for hall events as well as serving Leisureland customers. The seating area this serves was also increased.

Leisure suite room

The Leisure suite room was occupied with daily baby sensory classes that are very popular. The Captain's Deck room had a steady occupancy. The Captain's Deck room was used as an Interagency Information Contact Centre by Tusla.

Works Completed

The front and back door steel canopies were removed in January 2022 for health and safety reasons. Repair work took place on the event hall pillars. The new car barrier system was installed and began operation on Wednesday 7th December.

Tipperary Energy Consultants completed a Leisureland site survey and submitted their Energy report. The Tipperary energy agency has released a register of improvement opportunities for Leisureland.

Leisureland applied for the National Quality Award and was allocated the outstanding level award under this scheme.

Leisureland completed waterslide repairs/service and the waterslide was open for the summer season.

A new dished disabled access point at the entrance for wheelchair access was completed from the outside footpath.

A transfer to Led lights in the Leisure suite room was finished.

Brand new Sheffield Bicycle rakes were installed at the front and side entrances.

Leisureland was rebranded along with social media upgrades, in order to amplify the constant support and funding to Leisureland, from Galway City Council. All external signage was changed to the new logo.

A new wall mural on the Amusement site wall, was also completed.

Fencing along the Amusement site and Leisureland car park was upgraded.

Leisureland bookings for the entire Facility for 2022, were the highest recorded to date. These post covid bookings have excelled previous bookings prior to Covid.

Leisureland will be 50 years old in 2023.

6. Galway City Museum

2022 was a busy year for Galway City Museum with a return to full service post the Covid 19 pandemic.

In relation to the €10m+ capital development programme, ongoing meetings continued throughout the year with the Museum Extension Design Team working towards the completion of the design phase, and towards the tendering of the construction contract for the significant expansion of museum at Spanish Parade and Fishmarket Square. This included continued engagement with Fáilte Ireland to agree steps and milestones for tendering process, programme and detailed design of building, exhibition, and interpretive plan.

Group visits started to return to the museum in April after a long absence and a noticeable upsurge in visitor numbers was evident from March on.

6.1 New Outdoor Exhibition Space

A new temporary outdoor exhibition space, to add an additional access and engagement dimension to the work of the museum, was installed in early July. Funding for this has come from Creative Ireland and the work displayed will be primarily photographic.

The exhibition space opened with an exhibition titled *The Children of Carrowbrowne*, during the Galway International Arts Festival in July. This photographic portrait exhibition of Traveller children from the halting site in Carrowbrowne was created by the young, gifted German photographer Tamara Eckhardt.

6.2 New Education Room

Galway City Museum began works on the construction of a new Education Room on the top floor of the museum in July 2022 and work was completed in late October. This replaces the former education room on the first floor which now has been converted to a store. The museum received a lot of enquiries about the use of the space by outside groups and agencies and the programme to year end was filled with a great variety of events, meetings and workshops.

6.3 Traveller Engagement Project

The project continued with partners, Galway Traveller Movement, Mincéir Whiden Society and West Travellers and models reflecting Traveller Culture. The children who featured in *The Children of Carrowbrowne* exhibition were invited to attend a mid-term Photographic Workshop, given by Tamara Eckhardt. The three days of workshops were a great success with the children learning various photographic techniques and skills. Facilitated by Galway Traveller Movement and supported by PJ Mongan who documented the events, each child received a certificate of completion and a goodies bag.



6.4 Climate Change - Linte na Farraige exhibition @ the Spanish Arch

Linte na Farraige is a series of light installations from Finnish artists Timo Aho and Pekka Niittyvirta across Irish coastal sites. The art installation designed by the artists and launched in late September wraps around the Spanish Arch and the adjacent Nimmo/Ard Bia building. A symbiosis of art and science, the installations reveal the risks of rising seas and storm surges and demonstrate the need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, to lower the line and adapt together to protect our coastlines, our communities and our infrastructure. This is a Creative Ireland Project under its Climate Change Strand and is supported by two CAROs (Dublin Metropolitan and Atlantic Region; four LAs; Trinity College and Maynooth University and a number of related agencies). Galway City Council and Galway City Museum are key partners for the development of the artwork at the Spanish Arch site. Preparatory works are underway, The Mayor officially launched the project in September 2022.



6.5 CURAM MedTech Exhibition

Galway City Museum In partnership with CÚRAM, the SFI Research Centre for Medical Devices, began developing an exhibition to profile the impact of medical device research and technology in Ireland and tell the story of how the west of Ireland has become one of the top 5 hubs for 'MedTech' research and development worldwide. The project budget of €350,000 is funded through a Science Foundation Ireland grant. The exhibition is scheduled to open in June 2023.

6.6 Galway City Museum New Website

With funding from the Heritage Council, under the Community Heritage Fund 2022, Galway City Museum worked on rebuilding and redesigning of a new website and digital platform for the museum. This allowed the museum to redevelop and enhance the website and to host the increased content which has been developed over the years. The content includes written, photographic and filmed content. The new website was launched in Autumn 2022.

6.7 Galway Science and Technology Festival at Galway City Museum

Working with award-winning science facilitator Jane McLoughlin, Galway City Museum provided guided tours and workshops for 425 primary schools children – plus their teachers, SNA's, etc. – from across Galway city and county during the Galway Science and Technology Festival, 13 to 25 November. The tours and workshops focussed on traditional boats and buoyancy and sea-level rise and flood defences. The feedback from school was very positive.

6.8 Decade of Commemorations @ the City Museum

The museum, in conjunction, with other members of Galway City Council's Creative Ireland Team, continued to deliver Decade of Centenaries commemorations involving a broad range of projects, publications and events marking the centenary of 1921 in Galway. The City Museum published its commemorative book, War of Independence in Galway, 1920-21. The highly illustrated, bilingual book, details some of the stories behind the key local incidents during the struggle for independence and is part of Galway City Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme 2021, supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Garda Síochana Galway/Gaillimh 1922 – 2022 The Garda Síochana Galway/Gaillimh 1922 – 2022 exhibition which was a collaboration between Galway City Museum, the Galway County Council Heritage Office and An Garda Síochana and funded through the Decade of Commemorations Fund, opened in the museum on June 15th. Present on the day were the Galway City Mayor Cllr. Colette Connolly, the Cathaoirleach of the County Council Cllr Peter Keaveney, Assistant Commissioner Michael McElgunn, Superintendent Damien Flanagan and many other collaborators and interested parties. The exhibition remains open until July 2nd.

6.9 TREATY/CONRADH 100

TREATY/CONRADH 100 is a project and resulting exhibition that explores the Anglo-Irish Treaty through the stances taken by ten prominent individuals with connections to Galway. The exhibition is extremely popular and all visitors are invited to vote on the Treaty in the new exhibition. They are also invited to



reflect on and write down what they would go to war for, in a section that looks at democratic processes (and the lack of them, which is significant) and conflict globally – one hundred years after the eruption of Civil War in Ireland. This is funded by Decade of Centenaries Programme 2021, supported by the Department of *Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media*

6.10 War of Friends, 1922–23 – launch and talks event

On 3 December, Clodagh Higgins, Mayor of the City of Galway, officially launched the civil war exhibition, *War of Friends, 1922–23: the civil war story of Pádraic Ó Máille and Liam Mellows*, at Galway City Museum. Among the attendees were many of the extended Ó Máille family. Afterwards, more than 100 people attended a talks event on the same topic at the Druid Theatre. The speakers included John Cunningham on the civil war, Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh on Pádraic Ó Máille, and Cormac Ó Comhraí on Liam Mellows; afterwards John Cunningham chaired a QandA session with members of the audience. The talks event was filmed and is now available on the Museum's YouTube channel. The launch, the talks event and film are all part of Galway City Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2022, and have been funded by the Department of *Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media*.

6.11 Town Hall and Black Box Theatres

In 2022, Town Hall Theatre (incorporating the 400-seat main auditorium and 52-seat Studio Space at Courthouse Square, and the multi-purpose Black Box at Dyke Road with capacity for up to 550 seated and 750 standing) encountered another challenging year as it emerged from the shadow of Covid-19 and endeavoured to rebuild its programme and encourage its audiences to return. Throughout the Covid-19 crisis, the Town Hall Theatre had maintained a pivotal presence in the cultural and artistic life of the city through an innovative combination of streaming, in-person and outdoor events in 2022, it continued to do so whilst playing a significant and leadership role in the phased reopening of the sector and the gradual return to previous levels of activity.

In January, restrictions on capacity for indoor events were removed, closing time restrictions were lifted and Digital Covid Certificates were no longer required. From the end of February, the use of face masks in theatres and cinemas was no longer mandatory. A number of low-key Covid-19 mitigation measures remained in place in all our theatre spaces and patrons who opted to continue to wear face masks here were made feel welcome. From March, the Town Hall carefully escalated its return to pre-Covid levels of activity and assembled a wide-ranging programme which featured many leading names in local, national and international theatre, music, dance, comedy, film and family events which attracted increasing audience numbers. Our Studio space continued to be in constant use by local and visiting artists developing and rehearsing work.

Town Hall Theatre was delighted to host many in-person and online events for Cúirt. Galway Film Fleadh returned for its first in-person programme here since 2019 and Galway International Arts Festival presented work by Steppenwolf and The Gate Theatre. Other theatre highlights included welcome return of the Abbey and Lyric Theatres, Galway favourites Footsbarn Travelling Theatre with Glen Hansard and Breannan O Beaglaoich, inspirational theatre from NoRopes with the world premiere of Luke, written by Mairead Folan and directed by Diarmuid de Faoite and a drive-in theatre show from Galway company Fíbin. Its Autumn theatre programme featured three world premieres by Galway theatre companies Decadent Theatre Company's production of The Chief by Jimmy Murphy, the Blue Teapot and Abbey Theatre co-production of Into The Dark Woods by Charlene Kelly and No Magic Pill, by Christian O'Reilly, about the life of disability activist Martin Naughton and which cast physically disabled actors.

Dance highlights included the world premiere of 'The Village' by Ériu, the latest initiative between Town Hall Theatre and the company headed up by former lead dancer with Riverdance Breandán de Gallaí and in August, Town Hall Theatre, with the support of the Galway City Arts Office, was particularly proud to present a series of free, outdoor performances by dance artist Rob Heaslip in early August in communities and locations across the city, from Doughiska to Ballinfoile and from Knocknacarra to Woodquay. Music highlights included the very special visit by former Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant, performances by Irish Memory Orchestra and the finale of WhistleBlast's Composition Programme 2022 - a musical creation by multiple mainstream and special needs students nationwide, supported and facilitated by Town Hall Theatre.

Special events in 2022 included the visit by Lajee Cultural Centre from Aida Refugee Camp, Bethlehem, the extraordinary interactive Persona visual art exhibition/installation at the Black Box in November and the Annual Lecture by the Laureate for Irish Fiction Colm Tóibín. And the year ended with the long-awaited return of Renmore Pantomime after a two-year absence arising from the Covid pandemic.

7. Arts Office

7.1 Arts Grants 2022 – Organisations

65 applications were received for the 2022 Arts Grants. The Arts Office disseminated €400,000 in funding to 56 arts organisations across Galway City.

7.2 Band Grants

The Arts Office received 6 applicants for the 2022 Brand Grant and awarded a total of €16,250 to 4 successful candidates. The Awards were made to Saint Patrick's Brass Band, Saint Nicolas National School, Scoil Bhríde Shantalla and Scoil Phroinsias Tirellan, with the successful applicants receiving €9,500, €2,250, €2,250 and €2,250 respectively.

7.3 Individual Artist's Bursary

The Arts Office disseminated funding to successful applicants of the Individual Artist's Bursary. We received 39 applicants, the highest ever received for this fund, and awarded a total of €14,500 to 22 artists working across several art forms.

Applications came primarily from artists working in Visual arts.

7.4 Galway City Theatre Artist in Residence

James Riordan's Theatre Artist Residency in the Town Hall, was funded partnership with the Arts Office.

To date James Riordan has delivered two Brú Schools with facilitators Phillipa Hambly (Berlin) and Julianna Bloodgood (Poland). And presented a cross cultural choir piece titled Birds of No Feathers Community Choir at St Nicholas Church on September 16th at and Remote Control (an artist development programme) in early September with emerging Galway based artists.

7.5 Galway City / National Mentoring Programme for Literature

The National Mentoring Programme is run by Words Ireland, a grouping of seven national literature resource organisations aimed at supporting writers and developing new audiences for literature.

Galway writer Michelle Coyne mentoring programme was selected to participate in the National Mentoring Programme run by the Irish Writers Centre. The mentorship was supported by the Galway City Arts Office. Michelle has had a number of short stories published, most recently in *The Stinging Fly*. Michelle used the mentorship to progress her novel in progress with the acclaimed author Sarah Maria Griffin, whose books includes *Spare* and *Found Parts and Other Words for Smoke*.

7.6 Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) - Life Long Learning

VAI works in partnership with Local Authorities, visual arts venues and others, combining resources to support the professional development of visual artists at regional level. Galway City Arts Office was delighted to partner with Galway County Arts Office and the Galway Culture Company on a series of professional development training for artists based in the city and county. The programme included a needs analysis, and several seminars rolling into 2023.

7.7 Platform 31

Galway City Arts Office was delighted to continue supports for a second term to a Galway City based artist to participate in Platform 31.2, a nationwide artist development scheme by the 31 Local Authority Arts Offices, in collaboration with the Arts Council. This is a significant national opportunity for an artist to reflect on and investigate how they might significantly develop their practice or make work in a new way, while being connected with and supported by peer practitioners, advisors and mentors. Information on how to apply will be publicised in later October/November.

7.8 Arts and Disability Research

Galway City Council Arts Office along with Mayo County Council Arts Service and Clare Arts Office engaged a researcher/consultant, Mary Brady, to undertake an arts and disability consultancy to map the provision of arts and disability activity throughout the partner operational areas, capture information on potential barriers to sustainable arts practices for people with disabilities and resource organisations and to suggest a framework for the development of future work in the area of arts and disability. The project was awarded funding under the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration Scheme 2021 but is only now being advanced because of Covid – related delays.

The aims of the “See Change” Research Project were to map arts and disability activity across the three areas; to identify barriers to sustainable arts and disability practice encountered by people with disabilities and disability resource organisations; to identify national and international models of best practice in the area of arts and disability and to suggest a framework for future work in this area that responds to the common needs of each of the local authority areas. The project undertook significant research and consultation with artists and arts organisations working specifically in the area of disability and with artists who have a disability as well as with disability-support organisations.

8. Creative Ireland

8.1 Creative Ireland Galway City Council Strategy 2023-2027

The Galway City Council Culture and Creativity Team produced the Creative Ireland Galway City Strategy 2023 – 2027. The Strategy was informed by the data and ideas generated by the consultation associated with “New Directions” and “Everybody Matters”.

Galway City Council’s Cultural Implementation Team, which is drawn from a wide range of units and directorates within Galway City Council including some of its key cultural institutions and the Galway Culture Company, has reviewed how well they felt the Creative Ireland Strategy 2018 -2022 had worked. Reflecting on the strengths of the programme, members of the team felt that the strategy had been required to address delivery in a time of a national crisis, particularly through 2020 and 2021 and the COVID-19 pandemic and of course the effect that had on the delivery of the European Capital of Culture designation. A particular strength of the programme was its adaptability and flexibility in approach. Having the interdisciplinary team in place overseeing the strategy, ensured that the collective inputs of the members – each of whom also linked to external networks in communities, arts, culture, heritage and language, as well as specific target groups, made it easier to adapt programme delivery and added to its success.

8.2 Creative Youth Plan 2023 – 2027

Creative Ireland launched their [Creative Youth Plan 2023 – 2027](#) which aims to enable the creative potential of every child and young person.

The strategy champions the voice of the young person as a core driver in the development of creative and cultural programmes and highlights 4 strategies necessary to the fruition of this work.

Strategy 1: Supporting collaboration between Formal and Non-Formal approaches to Creativity in Education

Strategy 2: Extending the Range of Creative Activities for our Young People

Strategy 3: Embedding the Creative Process

Strategy 4: Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

8.3 Cruinniú na nÓg 2022

Saturday 11th June was the annual National Day of Creative Activity for Young People funded by Creative Ireland and programmed locally by Galway City Council. The focus for the year was inclusion and many of the local events and activities included children and young people from diverse backgrounds. Galway City Council, with the support of Youth Work Ireland Galway, worked with many local organisations, community groups and youth projects to deliver an exciting free programme for Cruinniú na nÓg 2022 in the city.

Galway City Council sought to offer something for all ages to enjoy for Cruinniú na nÓg. Most events happened on the 11th of June with a number happening in the lead up to the day itself. Galway City Libraries worked with 3 local primary schools on 'The Sea, Oh the Sea' a project facilitated by talented author Patricia Forde taking inspiration from our close relationship with the sea in Galway leading to exhibitions in local libraries. Tulca Arts engaged with another primary school creatively examining sci-fi 'Myths of the Near Future'. Galway Community Circus offered classes for 4 weeks to young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds and the participants became peer educators for the Circus Open Day on Sat 11th June for Cruinniú na nÓg. ShOUT! LGBT+ Youth Project ran 'Visible Creatives' over the June Bank Holiday weekend where teens learned about the development of LGBT+ symbols and images and the contribution of the community to fashion trends over the years and then the group decorated denim jackets to reflect their individual identity and style. Finally, Westside Youth Project held an open creative writing session for teens on Thursday 9th June.

8.4 Culture Night Galway City / Oíche Chultúir Chathair na Gaillimhe 2022

Galway City Council supported over 50 events across the city on the seventeenth edition of Culture Night, Friday 23 September 2022.

Culture Night Galway City / Oíche Chultúir Chathair na Gaillimhe, a national moment, celebrating culture, creativity and the arts and seeks to actively promote the belief that this rich and varied culture is alive, treasured and nurtured in people's lives, today and every day. Doors remained opened late with a series of special and unique events specifically programmed, thanks to the continued support of Galway City Council and the Arts Council all activities are made available to the public free of charge.

8.5 Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Phase 4

Minister Catherine Martin announced a fourth strand of the LLPPS to assist local authorities to further support artists, performers, and crew, and to help underpin the recovery of the live performance sector through the provision of live performances to the end of October 2022.

Galway City Council invited proposals from Galway based individuals, organisations, groups, promoters, producers, venues.

14 organisations and groups were awarded funding through this scheme. Events will take place from September 23 to October 31.

8.6 Creative Youth Partnership and Music Generation

Preliminary meetings held with colleagues in the Arts Offices of Galway County and Roscommon under the leadership of GRET B towards the establishment of a Local Creative Youth Partnership in Galway and Roscommon. The aim of the LCYP will be to gain insights and understanding into what is required for creative service development for children and young people in our region. Further progress will be advanced on this in the coming months.

Music Generation in Galway City, under the chairmanship of Cllr. Noel Larkin has been meeting and work is underway on a comprehensive and far-sighted system of music education which engages and involves children and young people from preschool age to 18 years. Under the stewardship of the GRET B, Galway City Council Arts Office is a leading partner along with the City and County Childcare Services, Galway City Partnership, Youth Work Ireland Galway and Foróige. Music Generation coordinator Jen Hesnan is working to bring together music educators and their target learners in an ambitious and transformative programme. Though the month of February, valuable work on issues around the governance of the Local Music Education Partnership has been completed as well as very solid, visible work on an instrument library and studio space at Galway Community College in Moneenageisha.

9. Community Services

The objective of the Community Services Department is to enable all our communities to achieve their potential and to promote and facilitate equality of access and equality of opportunity across all communities.

9.1 Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Galway City LCDC was established to develop, coordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. The LCDC comprises 15 members drawn from the public and private sectors and brings together the skills of people actively working in local and community development with local



authority members, officials and state agencies to implement a joined up, cross sectional approach to local and community development in Galway City.

There were some changes in the membership of the LCDC during the year following the resignation of some members, in addition to the appointment of new members. Galway City LCDC held 6 meetings in 2022. A copy of the Galway City LCDC Annual Report 2022 is available at [GalwayCity - Local Community Development Committee \(LCDC\)](#)

Membership of Galway City LCDC 2022

Statutory Interests (7)		
Sector	Name	Organisation
Local Authority Elected Members	Cllr. Martina O'Connor	Galway City Council
	Cllr. Owen Hanley	Galway City Council
Local Authority Officials	Brendan McGrath C.E	Galway City Council
	Breda Fox	Local Enterprise Office
State Agencies	Regina Higgins	Department of Social Protection
	Anne O'Neill	Health Service Executive

	Sinead Morgan	Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board
Non-Statutory Interests (8)		
Sector	Name	Organisation
Community and Voluntary	Joanne Laffey; Lorraine Lally James Coyne Anne Marie Stokes Fiona McDonagh-Delaney	Galway City Community Network (GCCN)
Trade Union	Elaine Harvey (Chairperson)	Galway Council of Trade Unions
Employers/ Business	Oliver Daniels	Galway Chamber
Local Development	Declan Brassil	Galway City Partnership

9.2 Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Work commenced on the preparation of the new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for Galway city. The LECP sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support economic and community development over a six-year period from 2024. The newly formed LECP Advisory Steering Group met in February 2022 and were advised that the LECP will be adopted by Galway City Council based on recommendations of the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). A LECP workshop took place at the LCDC meeting held in February where an LECP briefing, and discussion document was presented. The members were advised that the existing high-level goals were still considered relevant, noting that it had been agreed to retain these in the next LECP by the Advisory Group.

An Issues Paper on LECP 2024 - 2029 was presented to the Advisory Group, LCDC and the SPC for feedback and went on public consultation from Monday 20th June until Friday 26th August and an online consultation portal was developed for this purpose. During this process the public and stakeholders were invited to engage with the process to inform the preparation of a draft LECP that will see our city develop and grow. A total of 106 submissions / observations were received, 69 were from individuals and 37 were from organisations spread across the five goals.

9.3 Dormant Accounts Fund – Engagement Project (DAFEP)

The DRCD secured funding through the Dormant Accounts Fund and engaged Pobal to develop a pilot project on participation and engagement by marginalised and disadvantaged communities in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) process. The project aimed to identify and share methodologies and tools to support the inclusion of those most marginalised in decision making processes at all levels. Galway City LCDC were successful with their application with the initiative being led out by Galway City Community Network (PPN Structure).

9.4 Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018 - 2022 (as extended to 2023) was an important programme for 2022 and key focus for the LCDC with regular reports and consideration of progress at LCDC meetings. In Galway city, the LCDC is the contracting authority, and its role is to manage and administer the programme, which is delivered at a local level by Galway City Partnership. In addition to the target groups to be supported under SICAP as set out in the programme requirements, Galway City LCDC agreed on the inclusion of older people under the emerging needs target group for 2022.



SICAP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development with co-funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.

The SICAP Annual Plan 2022 was approved at the LCDC meeting in February along with the SICAP 2021 Annual Performance Review. The SICAP Subgroup of the LCDC met four times in 2022 to conduct reviews of mid-year and end of year processes. The allocated budget for 2022 was €702,389. Galway City Partnership once again exceeded the targets set for the programme in 2022. The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 1 target was exceeded by 9% with 47 local community groups assisted under SICAP, the target set was 43. In addition, KPI 2 target for 2022 was also exceeded by 19%, with a total number of disadvantaged individuals engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis being 528, the target set was 442. 52% of individuals were newly registered and 22.4% were from disadvantaged areas in Galway City which exceeded the target set and agreed of 22% for KPI 2 living in disadvantaged areas. This targeted focus of support is further demonstrated by 82% of individuals identifying with one or more social inclusion barriers.



GCP continued to attend Age Friendly meetings and SICAP continued to focus on older people as a designed and agreed local emerging need. A part-time worker was employed to support the role employed by GCP and funded by Galway City Council. In collaboration with Age Friendly Galway, an open meeting was held in September to highlight the work of Older People's Councils and to recruit members to the new OPC for Galway city. Author Michael Harding attended as guest speaker for the event and a host of stalls featuring services available to older people in Galway city were on display. An AGM was held to elect the new Older People's Executive and the first meeting was held in October. Age Friendly Ireland Training took place in November and a schedule of meetings arranged for 2023.

9.5 Mayor's Awards

The Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Colette Connolly presented and announced the winners of the Galway City Mayors Awards at a gala awards ceremony on the 24th May 2022 at the Galmont Hotel. Almost 100 individuals and groups, who were nominated across the categories, received a certificate from the Mayor in recognition of their voluntary activity in community life in the city. 9 award winners across a range of categories were presented with a beautifully handcrafted wooden plaque, made by local Galway wood turners Ambrose and Brid O' Halloran. The recipients in each of the categories were:

- Arts, Culture, Heritage and Cúrsaí Gaeilge Award: St. Patrick's Primary School
- Residents and Local Areas Award: The John Coogan Park Residents' Association
- Community Service and Social Inclusion (Individual) Award: Ms. Saibh Egan
- Community Service and Social Inclusion (Group) Award: Access for All
- Older Person Volunteer of the Year Award: Ms. Evelyn Moran
- Sports Volunteer of the Year Award: Merlin Woods Football and Sports Club
- Children and Youth Support Award: Accompaniment Support Services for Children (A.S.S.C) Volunteers
- Young Volunteer of the Year Award: Galway City Comhairle na nÓg
- Environmental Sustainability Award: Westside Community Organic Garden



The Galway City Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Ms. Catherine Moore Temple for her volunteering spirit, recognition of her generosity of time, energy, devotion and infectious enthusiasm for St. Nicholas's Church and all it offers to the people of Galway and across the world. Catherine has an abundant energy in promoting and sharing her love of St. Nicholas's Church, which continues to be both a citadel and a

sanctuary at the heart of Galway City's spiritual, historical, community and artistic life over 700 years.

9.6 Community Volunteers Programme

Galway Volunteer Centre provided a full volunteer management service to recruit, interview, train and manage the Galway Community Volunteers directly at events. The Community Volunteers programme offers a new opportunity for people to connect with and support their neighbours and their wider community in times of challenge and in times of celebration. Galway Volunteer Centre is one of 10 Volunteer Centres developing the pilot programme that has the aim of having a national team of volunteers ready to help in any future or local emergencies, where appropriate.

9.7 Community Activities Fund

The Community Activities Fund was announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development in December 2021 and administered by Galway City LCDC in 2022. €264,910 was awarded to 83 local community and voluntary groups / organisations from across Galway city. The funding approved by Galway City LCDC provided groups with much needed support with non-paying costs such as utility bills, operational costs, the carry out of necessary repairs, purchase of equipment, safety upgrades concerned by Covid 19 and improvements to their facilities.

9.8 Community Support Fund

A new national scheme called The Community Support Fund was launched in November 2022 to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with their non-pay running costs, non-pay operating costs for example, energy costs, rental/lease costs, insurance bills etc. In addition, the funding will support the carrying out of necessary repairs and minor improvements to facilities. The allocation approved for Galway City was €274,070 and Galway City LCDC will administer this funding in early 2023.

9.9 Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis

Galway City Partnership through SICAP received €113,643 to support their work with the Ukrainian community. This allowed for the employment of a project leader and two part-time workers and an increase in the offering of English classes as well as a host of other initiatives to meet the needs of this new community. With the arrival of the first groups of Ukrainian refugees it was immediately obvious that urgent and targeted supports would be needed by parents seeking to navigate an unfamiliar school system. GCP developed a suite of videos for parents advising them how to navigate the process of preparing children for school and securing secondary transfer places. These resources were translated into Ukrainian.

During the summer several places were secured in GAA Cúl Camps for newly arrived Ukrainian children, these were provided in collaboration with the Eastside Schools Completion Programme. A one-day multi- sports and arts camp was organised with the Galway Sports Partnership and Music Generation Galway. In collaboration with Youth Work Ireland Galway Art classes were organised across the summer during the school holidays.

Galway City Partnership provided English Language Tuition and Supports to members of the Ukrainian community from March. This required a doubling of the usual provision of classes and a nimble and flexible response to what has been an extremely high demand for classes. This work has been very significantly enhanced by the specialised support offered by the Employment Supports officer who helped students with CV preparation, advice on local labour-market trends, job-searching, and job applications. Tuition and additional supports were provided to almost 200 individuals.



9.10 Ukraine Community Response Forum

In April 2022, local community and voluntary groups around the country were mobilised to welcome people fleeing Ukraine into their communities. As the new arrivals begin to settle in a Ukraine Community Response Forum was established to provide a co-ordination point for the community and voluntary response in the city. The Forum led the co-ordination of community supports enabling all the voluntary and statutory agencies to collaborate in support of Ukrainian refugees in the city. Building on structures and relationships which were highly effective during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine Response Forum enabled all those involved to work together under the coordination and leadership of the Council.

9.11 Offer A Home Scheme

The Offer a Home Scheme was launched nationally in November 2022 and focuses on vacant properties suitable for non-shared accommodation for displaced Ukrainians. A tax-free recognition payment of €800 per month is available for such properties offered through the scheme.

Interested parties registered their interest on the offer-a-home website, and the Local Authority coordinates the process with the property owner from there. Further details are available on www.offerahome.ie.



10 properties were registered of which 9 qualified as non-shared options. With the assistance of Galway City Partnership, 16 displaced Ukrainians were accommodated in 4 properties. The remaining 5 properties will be allocated in 2023 as they become available.

9.12 Galway City Community Network / Public Participation Network

With over 168 members drawn from the community, voluntary and environmental sectors, Galway City Community Network is the Public Participation Network in Galway City. The GCCN vision is “Galway, a creative and inclusive city that respects and values its people and communities, their wellbeing and quality of life, that will develop a vibrant, sustainable, economy and environment and participative and transparent governance”.



GCCN facilitates representation on a wide variety of policy and decision-making structures in Galway city, including the Local Community Development Committee, Strategic Policy Committees, the Joint Policing Committee, Galway City Partnership and others. GCCN supports and provides training and capacity building opportunities to GCCN representatives and the wider membership. GCCN provided three Induction Sessions for GCCN members and an Information Session for Galway City Council staff. GCCN also provided training to representatives and potential representatives in representation skills. GCCN co-hosted with Galway City Council Information Webinars on the Community Activities Fund 2022 and hosted several other training sessions including Disability Awareness Training delivered by Independent Living Movement Ireland and Support the LGBTI+ Community Workshops delivered by Amach! LGBT+. GCCN continues to work on the implementation of the LECP in collaboration with a range of partners and managed the LECP Action for Equality Project, supported by funding from Galway City Council.

9.13 Healthy Galway City (HCG)

The Healthy Galway City Coordinator and Steering Committee continued to partner with key stakeholders in the implementation of actions under Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund. The Healthy Ireland Fund 2022-2025 included an allocation of €40,000 for the period 1st June to 31st December 2022 to allow delivery of priority health and wellbeing initiatives, and to support the planning process relating to HIF Round 4 2023-2025.

Action 1 Healthy Eating in the Community: Five HFME courses were delivered; 2 in Ballybane, 1 in Westside, 1 in Ballinfoile and 1 with a Traveller Women’s group. c.50 individuals took part in the courses. To facilitate HFME courses in centres that did not have full kitchens, two portable HFME kitchen sets were purchased and have been put to great use in the community. 4 online courses were delivered. Based on the success of the delivery of HFME during Round 3, it was decided that HFME Leader Training be organised during 2022.



Healthy Galway City partnered with Galway City Partnership to deliver “Cook with your Kids”, a monthly healthy cooking event aimed at parents and guardians, delivered in Westside from August to November. HGC was also involved in the SafeFood

Community Food Initiatives (CFI) in 2022. Galway City Partnership was awarded the CFI Leader role for 2022 – 2024.

Action 2 Addressing Barriers to Physical Activity: HGC partnered with Galway Sports Partnership, local sports clubs, community organisations, youth projects and resource centres to deliver a wide variety of physical activity programmes. These included targeted initiatives for women and girls, people with disabilities, people living in direct provision, members of the Traveller community and older people. A Boys Be Well Health and Fitness Project to increase opportunities for participation in fitness, exercise and health eating for adolescent boys from disadvantaged and marginalised communities was delivered and very well attended.

HIF Round 2 funding was used to purchase equipment to increase levels of participation amongst older people and people living with disabilities. Galway Sports Partnership invested in equipment for sports and activities such as activator poles for walking, bocce, curling, scooch and more. HGC and Galway Sports Partnership coordinated a nine-week Physical Activity Leaders (PAL) course for older adults who wanted to lead exercise and physical activity programmes in their community. Age and Opportunity tutors delivered workshops to provide information, ideas and skills to people who are interested in involving older people in physical activity.

Action 3 Towards a Tobacco Free Galway City: The Not Around Us (NAU) initiative has now been successfully implemented in over 45 sites in city and county. Signage is made available free of charge to not for profit groups, schools, and early years services. Interested parties are provided with signage, stickers and the NAU charter demonstrating a commitment to protecting young people from second-hand smoke exposure and denormalising smoking. Healthy Galway city and county and CYPSC plan to coordinate further promotion and delivery of NAU initiative and signage in 2023.

Action 4 Community Sexual Health Education Programme: Sexual Health West continued to disseminate and display posters designed for target groups including people with disabilities, people seeking asylum and migrant communities and young people. The Sexual Health West and WISER Websites were updated to include resources available in 12 languages.

Action 5 Towards a Healthy LGBT+ Community: The role of Teach Solais Coordinator continued to be funded until March 2022 through the HI Fund. The Coordinator was able to successfully create, plan and deliver an engaging and diverse range of activities for the LGBT+ community. The continuation of the Teach Solais Coordinator role from Round 2 allowed AMACH! LGBT Galway to deliver a range of physical activities to meet the needs of the target group.

9.14 Mental Health and Wellbeing

A ten-week “Woodlands for Health” programme was delivered, targeting people accessing mental health services. The group consisted of 20 participants who joined weekly walks in Merlin Woods. The Oak Tree group was established as an expansion of the Acorn project promoting social connection and positive mental health amongst older adults experiencing isolation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The group met weekly in Ballinfoile between October and December 2022, and enjoyed art, photography, music and singing.

The “Reconnecting Communities” project was funded through Creative Ireland, Joint Policing Committee and the Healthy Ireland 2022. Healthy Galway City and Galway City Partnership (GCP), in partnership with Galway Contact, Cope Galway and Age Action Galway developed and delivered the project between September and December 2022 which targeted older people living in the community, specifically living in socially disadvantaged areas or those experiencing isolation. A specific effort was made to involve those who were not already engaged with existing community groups.

9.15 Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support

In October, the Department of Health issued an SLA for the Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support Fund to Galway City Council €28,575. Galway Sports Partnership, Healthy Galway City, the Galway City Council Arts Office, in partnership with Galway City Partnership Ukrainian Emergency Response Project Leader and Ukrainian Refugee Support Worker and Volunteer Galway Ukraine Support Worker completed the template for proposed activations in Galway City.

9.16 Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme is an initiative to enable older people to continue living in their homes or in a home more suited to their needs, to live with a sense of independence and autonomy, to be a part of their community, and to avoid early or premature admission to long term residential care. In 2021, a Local Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator was appointed to carry out a needs assessment to establish what supports are required to enable an older person to live in their own home for longer, with a person-centred support plan being developed post assessment. Following recommendations in the June 2022 Healthy Age Friendly Homes Interim Report, and a successful bid for funding in Budget 2023, the Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme was allocated funding for national rollout. The programme will be scaled up nationally, to ensure all older people in Ireland will have the opportunity to age in place and have access to the supports provided by the programme. The programme is currently preparing for this national rollout.

9.17 Galway City Comhairle na nÓg

Galway City Comhairle na nÓg is a Youth Council for young people 12-17 years living or in education in Galway city. The committee continued to meet weekly on Monday evenings using the SIPTU Board room with regular attendance of 16-18 young people at each meeting. The topic for 2022 was Invisible Disabilities and Accessibility with a focus on accessible youth spaces for young people, looking at it from the viewpoint of physical as well as sensory accessibility. The committee agreed to continue to work on mental health alongside our main topic. In line with guidance, the Galway City Comhairle na nÓg AGM took place in the Galway Bay Hotel on the 18th of October 2022 with 71 young people attending from all schools in Galway City.

9.18 Africa Day 2022



Africa Day saw the return of in-person events for the first time since 2019. Africa Day is a wonderful opportunity to showcase such creative contributions from the local community groups that we have engaged with over the years as part of the Africa Day celebrations. Given the community-based nature of the celebration, Galway City Council supported a number of local community groups with

their events aimed at promoting a positive image of Africa; celebrating the vibrant cultural heritage of Africa and the contribution made to society by African communities and people of African descent.

9.19 Galway City Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

Galway City Joint Policing Committee (JPC) aims to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Galway City Council, community representatives and elected local representatives. The JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work in addressing local issues collectively and strategically in what continued to be a challenging year due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and the uncertainties this caused. The Galway City JPC convened on four occasions during 2022, with additional meetings of the JPC sub-committees taking place online. In addition, a public meeting was held in November. A number and range of collaborative initiatives were delivered focussing on the safety of all road users; enhancing community safety responses with a view to crime prevention; anti-social behaviour and supporting community engagement models of best practice. A copy of the JPC Annual Report 2022 is available on www.galwaycity.ie

9.20 Galway Sports Partnership



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) had a very busy year with a combination of online programmes and face-to-face delivery of activities. In 2021 and 2022 many of the training courses provided were delivered online, which led to increased attendances. 519 people attended Safeguarding 1 training over 34 courses. 158 people attended Club Children's Officer training (Safeguarding 2) training over 13 courses. 101 people attended Designated Liaison Person (Safeguarding 3) training over 9 courses. Of the 56 courses delivered 50 were on-line. This trend to on-line training extended across some of the activity programmes including BuggyBuddies, Autism In Sport and more. 15 First Aid courses were also provided covering the basics of sports first aid, basics of CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use.

9.21 Funding Supports for Clubs and Groups

GSP supports Galway City Council with their Sports Club Grant Scheme. The 2022 fund was €140,000 allocated to 53 clubs with 22 clubs receiving the maximum grant amount of €3,500 and another 12 receiving €2,500 or over. A wide range of sports were represented from mainstream to minority sports. The funding allocated to the successful clubs went towards the costs of equipment, coaching, travel as well as a significant level going towards up-skilling volunteers. GSP allocated €45,000 to 34 clubs to deliver a range of programmes aimed at increasing participation under the Galway Sports Partnership Club Development fund. Amounts ranged from €540 to €2,400 with programmes targeting older adults, teenage girls, setting up new clubs to the purchase of equipment that would support new players.

The third and final Covid-19 Supplementary fund was allocated to 38 clubs and community groups. Sport Ireland provided funding directly to the National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) to cater for the majority of clubs. GSP announced the third and final Covid-19 Supplementary Fund targeted at minority sports and groups not affiliated to any NGB. €44,833 was allocated to 38 clubs, with amounts ranging from €482 up to the maximum of €1500. 27 of the clubs received between €1,000 and €1,500.

Active Cities Programme

The Active Cities programme in Ireland is developed in line with the Global Action Plan on Physical Activity (GAPPA) framework. The project is planning to become an Active City through four pillars: Active Systems, Active Environments, Active Societies. Active People. A national Coordinator for the programme has been appointed and is based with Limerick Sports Partnership. The next step will be to set up an Active Cities Forum to bring the major stakeholders both within City Council and external to the local authority to put a plan in place for Active Cities Galway.

Women In Sport (WIS)

2022 saw a large increase in participation events for WIS from the Buggy Buddies programme (aimed at all parents but attracting a large proportion of female participants) to Women In Sport Week (March) and Her Outdoors Week (August). GSP ran multiple programmes and promotions over the weeks including water sports (windsurfing, kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding), trail running, mountain skills, gravel biking and open water swimming. These programmes were delivered with the support and



collaboration of National Governing Bodies (Canoeing Ireland Swim Ireland, Cycling Ireland), service providers and sports clubs. Approximately 100 participants involved in 'introductory' classes and activity programmes during the week.

St. Patrick's Festival Family Fun Events

GSP hosted a family fun day as part of the St. Patrick's Festival weekend. There were two main events as part of the weekend. A rackets event held in Galway Lawn Tennis Club where people were invited to try badminton, squash and tennis. This resulted in a number of new players in the clubs involved. An array of activities took place in Salthill Park with face- painting, Olympic handball, beach volleyball, rugby, tai chi, hip hop and Latin dance. The centre piece of the day was a tag rugby tournament with over 80 participants.

European Week of Sport Event (EWOS)

Westside Playing Fields played host to a unique event and activities included junior parkrun, tennis, football with St. Michael's GAA club, soccer with Galway United and martial arts. The event was part of the wider European Week of Sport with a



special invite to the children from Ukraine living in Galway. A great addition to the day was An Gardaí Siochana, who interacted with the children at each of the activities and presented some items to them as a memento of the day. Another event place in Galwegians RFC for the EWOS was a glow sports event. Where the senior women's team took on some of the under-age players. The event was focused on fun and showing the fun side of sport.

Sports and Inclusion

A programme for people with a disability in line with the mainstream Operation Transformation Programme took place in 2022. Within disability services walking leaders were identified as responsible for keeping everyone motivated and to compile the step count for the service to submit to GSP. Prizes were awarded each week to participants in a raffle-style draw. This programme ran for 6 weeks and over 300 participants took part in the disability element across Galway city and county. There was increased interest in Equestrian Programmes for people with disabilities and with funding secured from HSE and the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund programmes were provided at a reduced cost to participants.



Boccia sets were purchased to loan out to groups and GSP and Healthy Galway created booklets with instructions on how to referee and play the game. 7 groups were involved who came together in Ballinfolle Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre to play a tournament and to have a Christmas celebration. The Learn to Swim programme took place in Ballinasloe and was attended by 16 participants over 8 programmes.

Autism and Fundamental Movement Skills Series was delivered in partnership with Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership, Galway Education Centre and Education Centre Tralee. 4 weeks of webinars were delivered by an expert in the area of Autism and fundamental movements. After the 4 weeks, participants took part in a practical session delivered in Oranmore Community Centre where they put into practice their learnings. This series was aimed at teachers, SNA's, parents, sports club volunteers, coaches and third level students.



GSP also supported Football for All groups across Galway city and county with coaches, training and equipment as part of Football for All Blitz. During the summer there was a blitz for all teams to come together in Eamonn Deacy Park. Each participant received a medal of achievement for taking part along with spot prizes.

GSP partnered with NUIG, Swim Ireland and Galway Autism Partnership to work on an Autism Swim Project. The aim was to train swim assistants to teach a child with Autism in the water with a swim instructor leading the group. GSP secured funding through the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund for this project. Swim assistants completed an Autism in Sport Online Workshop, Safeguarding 1, IPEPAS Online Swim Training and Irish Water Safety Level 1 before entering the pool with the children. Trainings was provided at a reduced rate for swim assistants.



Older adults are a target group in GSP. A number of come 'n' try events online and in person were held including Activator Poles, Go For Life Games and Boccia. GSP partnered with Healthy Galway City to deliver PALs (Physical Activity Leader Training) in Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre. PALS training

was held over a 9-week period with a variety of activities suitable for older adults.

Walking Football in partnership with FAI and Croí Walking Football began in Westside Community Centre. Croí provided health checks to all participants and the team have been invited to play against a walking football team in Athlone.

Ballybane Doughiska Community Sports Hub (CSH)

GSP's Community Sports Hub covering Ballybane and Doughiska is funded under the Dormant Accounts fund through Sport Ireland. The Hub has had notable impacts on the community both physically, in the provision of the changing rooms in Doughiska and in the role out of programmes across a very wide range of sports to the community. Programmes and initiatives delivered in 2022 included Activity/Sports Camps, Girls Sports initiatives, Social Badminton Club, After School Projects and Physical Activity programme for parents/mothers.

Eastside Urban Walking Group

Weekly guided walks, supporting people of all ages to actively participate in physical activity by walking the mapped routes as part of a community group. The project is supported by the Ballybane Taskforce and funded through Healthy Galway City with 15 adults currently signed up.



National Governing Bodies Development Officers

Galway City Council continue to support two NGB Development officers in Football (FAI) and Rugby (Connacht Rugby). They continue to develop participation with our targeted groups throughout the city. Their role includes delivery of training courses, establishment of club – school links and developing programmes for those target groups to get involved in sport.

The Galway Sports Partnership Annual Report 2022 is available on

www.galwayactive.ie

10. Environment

The objective of the Environment Department is to protect, enhance and conserve the natural environment of our city, to provide leadership in climate action and to develop and promote high quality recreational, leisure and amenity facilities to improve quality of life.

10.1 Provision of Waste Management Services and Supports

Landfill Operation and Aftercare

Restoration works and monitoring of the Carrowbrowne landfill site continued in accordance with the conditions of the EPA licence with ongoing infrastructure upgrading and renewal as required.

Recovery and Recycling Facilities

The Civic Amenity Facility in Liosbaun Industrial Estate continued to operate free of charge to domestic householders.

Composting Facility

The use of the composting facility at Carrowbrowne ceased in 2014. The facility is currently being leased.

Bulky Goods Collection

Funding of €7,000 was provided through the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2022. 23,945 kg of household bulky waste was collected from Galway City householders.

Hazardous Waste Collection

Galway City Council ran a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday 10th September 2022. On the day, households in Galway City could bring their hazardous waste along to a collection vehicle at Galway Racecourse for safe and proper disposal. A specialised, online booking system was used and householders booked a time slot in advance. A total of 19,926 Kgs of hazardous waste was collected on the day, with 415 households using the service.



10.2 Monitoring and Managing Waste Enforcement

Waste Enforcement

Galway City Council continued to monitor compliance with and enforce waste regulations under the waste management legislation, in line with the National Waste Enforcement Priorities which include Construction and Demolition Waste, End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) and Waste Metal, Household and Commercial Waste and Tackling Significant Illegal Waste Activity.

Work included:

Licensing and data validation: In 2022, Galway City Council monitored and enforced the conditions of waste facility permits, certificates of registration and waste collection permits to ensure compliance. The annual returns of 15 waste collectors and 4 waste facilities based in the city were validated. In 2022, new Waste Facility Permits were issued to two waste facilities who wished to renew their five-year permit.

Producer Responsibility Initiatives (PRI): Throughout the year, Galway City Council liaised with PRI schemes on all aspects of compliance obligations and reviewed lists of registered operators against local records. Revoked lists and anomaly data issued from CUWERLA assisted in choosing which retailers and operators to prioritise for inspection, as did previous experience with the retailers. In 2022, Galway City Council exceeded its planned inspections in this area and carried out 142 inspections rather than the planned 46. 3 retailers in Galway City were self-compliant for packaging in 2022 and 3 Certificates of Renewal were issued. From 2023, retailers will not be permitted to register as self-compliant and they must register with the compliance scheme, REPAK.

Construction and Demolition Waste: The construction industry is active in Galway City and the Council aims to monitor and track the generation and movement of construction and demolition waste. Planning files are reviewed at application stage and recommendations are made to the Planning Department based on the EPA's Best Practice Guidelines for the preparation of resource and waste management plans for construction and demolition projects. In 2022, 23 inspections were carried out at construction sites. There is one authorised CandD waste facility in Galway City and this was monitored and inspected by Galway City Council in 2022. The Council also inspected sites of origin and sites of destination for all notified Article 27 applications. 6 inspections were carried out and reports submitted to the EPA.

Household Waste: Galway City Council maintains a Section 34C Register which is a list of all households in the city availing of a waste collection service. Throughout 2022, this information was provided to the Council on a quarterly basis by the 4 licenced waste collectors operating in the city. At the end of 2022, there were 22,353 households on the Section 34C Register.

It is recognised that a register containing the addresses of households not availing of a waste collection service would be more useful for targeted waste enforcement. In 2022, Galway City Council participated in a working group established by CUWERLA to progress the development of this 'reverse' register. A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) was drafted, and Galway City Council submitted the DPIA to the Data Protection Commissioner on behalf of the local government sector in 2022.

Multi-agency enforcement work: Galway City Council liaise with the Connacht Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (CUWERLA), the EPA, the Gardai and other local authorities in relation to waste enforcement. In June 2022, an enforcement campaign tackling illegal waste activity was launched by Galway City Council, Galway County Council and An Garda Síochána. A media campaign ran alongside roadside checkpoints and inspections that targeted the unauthorised collection and movement of waste. In addition, Galway City Council, Galway County Council, Roscommon County Council, CUWERLA and EPA carried out joint audits and inspections relating to waste metal in 2023.

10.3 Community Warden Service to the Environment Department

The Community Wardens assist in investigating complaints made by the public. 4 Section 14 Directions under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, were issued by the Community Warden team in in 2022. In addition, the Community Wardens carried out inspections of 39 garages in the city, with a focus on waste metal, tyres, batteries and hazardous waste. The EPA's Smart Garage Guide was distributed to garages during the inspections.

10.4 RMCEI - Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections

Galway City Council submitted its Inspection and Compliance Plan under RMCEI 2022 to the EPA in February 2022. The document sets out the plan for environmental inspections in Galway City for the year across the areas of waste, water, noise and air. In total, 3,133 routine environmental inspections and 1,400 non-routine environmental inspections were carried out in 2022, representing an increase of 13% on completed environmental inspections in 2021.

10.5 Environmental Awareness Programme and Initiatives

Green-Schools Programme

All schools in Galway City are registered for the Green-Schools programme resulting in a number of educational facilities achieving Green Flag status. In 2022, 28 School visits were completed by the Environmental Awareness Officer. 6 schools in total received Green Flags.

Greening the Laneways

Galway City Council have completed 4 Greening the laneways since starting the inaugural project in the Autumn of 2021:

- The Red Lane, Shantalla, Summer2022
- Rockfield Park, Summer 2022
- Sliabh Rua, Ballybane Summer2022



- Cabbage Lane, Bohermore, Winter 2022



Greening the laneways has been shortlisted for Best Green Sustainable Initiative at the 2023 LAMA awards. A short film was also created of the initiative:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TLipWPb5B0>

Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI)

In 2022, Galway City Council received funding of €108,450 through the Anti-Dumping Initiative and carried out 6 projects. Galway City Council collaborated with Galway County Council and Barna Recycling on a bulky goods collection event, to supplement the bulky goods collection service offered by the Council. A Hazardous Waste Collection event took place in September. A city-wide clean-up campaign known as Love Galway City was organised, comprising of community clean-ups and the Council-led clean-ups of illegal dump sites, including a clean-up of the Eglinton Canal. The very successful 'Greening the Laneways' project, involving community-based enhancement works in laneways, was expanded in 2022 (see above). Awareness campaigns were also carried out on end-of-life vehicles, unauthorised waste collectors and illegal dumping.

Co-Operation Ireland (IPB) Pride of Place Competition

This annual all-island initiative, which is hosted by Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance is run in conjunction with local authorities. In 2022, Friends of Merlin Woods were runners up in the Creative place category at the IPB Pride of Place awards 2022 on the 21st January 2023.

Scoil Iognáid, School Streets initiative were nominated in the Community Wellbeing category and John Coogan Park Residents Association were nominated in the Urban Neighbourhood/Village under 3000 category.

Community Clean Ups

Galway City Council supported 117 community clean ups in 2022. This included giving out litter pickers, bags and gloves to groups and collecting the bags by the GCC litter crews.

Love your Beach Day 2022

Galway City Council and Clean Coasts Ireland teamed up again for Galway's first Love your Beach Day on Saturday 17th September 2022. All the events happened simultaneously at 4 iconic beaches in Galway City to celebrate International Coastal Clean Up Day. Due to high winds and rain we had to cancel Love your Beach Week 2022 in June. In its place we decided to organise Love your Beach Day for this year only and revert back to a full week of activities in 2023. More details can be found here: <https://www.galwaycity.ie/love-your-beach-week>

10.6 Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN)

Galway City Council recognise the importance of waste prevention and reuse as waste management strategies and actively promote these over other waste treatment options. 2 successful applications in 2021 which were carried out in 2022 - "The Use your Mug" Coffee cup campaign and the Galway's Westend Sustainable Business Initiative.

10.7 Amenity Grants

98 grants were awarded in 2022 to the value of €23,000.

10.8 Anti-Litter Awareness Fund 2022

The Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti grant funded the Clean it up you Dirty Pup! campaign; a new MADRA responsible dog ownership schools pilot; Love your Beach Week/Day 2022; Picker Pals; the 2022 Schools Calendar competition with 8000 calendars sent out to over 25 National schools; the cinema advert; and the Spring Clean.

Tidy Towns National Competition and Galway City Tidy Towns and Garden

Competition 2022: A total of 77 applications were received for the Tidy Towns and Garden Competition 2022.

10.9 Litter Management Services

Operation of Street Cleaning

Street cleaning and litter management services continued to operate over a 7 days a week schedule.

Litter Management Plan 2018 – 2022

Under Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, a local authority is obliged to make a Litter Management Plan. The plan sets out the objectives to prevent and control litter, enforcement, along with measures to encourage public awareness of litter in Galway City. Implementation of the Plan continued in 2022.

Litter Fines

Litter fines are issued under the Litter Management Act 1997. In 2022 a total of 112 fines were issued. Total income received in 2022 was €7,315.00

Derelict Sites

The Council continued to actively engage with the owners of sites listed on the Derelict Sites Register as well as other sites being monitored. At year end, a total of 9 properties were on the Register.

10.10 Dangerous Structures

Galway City Council continue to engage with relevant property owners to actively encourage the resolution such structures.

10.11 Water Quality and Safety, Air and Noise Pollution

Water Quality

Annual water quality ratings are generally calculated using monitoring results over a four-year period and are assessed against stringent bacterial limits to protect bather health. Following a review of the 2018 - 2021 dataset records of water quality at Ballyloughane beach, the EPA classified the quality of bathing water at this location for 2022 as Good. This was an improvement on previous year's classifications with Ballyloughane Beach achieving a Sufficient Water Quality rating in 2020 and 2018, and a Poor Water Quality rating in 2019 which resulted in bathing being prohibited for the season. The improvement in results can be accredited to corrective works carried out to cross connections in the sewer network catchment.

Waterways and Canals

Ongoing liaison with statutory stakeholders (National Parks and Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, OPW,) with regard to maintenance works on the waterways and canals continued in 2022. A tender process for specialist works to carry out preliminary repairs and water ingress prevention to the Distillery Channel siphon beneath the Eglinton Canal was completed. All works are subject to appropriate environmental assessment and screening.

Air Quality Monitoring

The deployment of NO₂ Diffusion Tubes commenced in the first week of January 2022 and the monitoring of these are ongoing. The results of the diffuser tube study for 2018-2022 are available on the EPA website at <https://www.epa.ie/air/quality/diffusiontuberresults>. A new Air monitoring unit was installed in Eyre square with a further unit installed in Briarhill in 2022.

The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, announced a public awareness campaign on the 'ABC' of Cleaner Air this Winter. Thereafter, Galway City Council promoted the campaign via newspaper adverts and social media platforms.

10.12 Noise Action Plan

Noise pollution incidents were investigated on a case-by-case basis during 2021 and complainants advised as to the procedures to be followed under the Environmental Protection Agency Act. Galway City Council being the designated Action Planning Authority under Article 7 of the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018, SI No 549 of 2018 (the Regulations), made a Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 for sections of major roads in Galway City that experience a volume of traffic greater than 3 million vehicle passages per year. The plan excludes noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours and noise at work places.

10.13 Casual Trading

2022 saw the return of the summer trading season at St. Nicholas Market. Given the success of the initiative, it has been introduced as a permanent 4th trading period for the year. The Saturday market at St. Nicholas' offered 76 stalls and the Sunday market offered 60 stalls to visitors. The Summer market which runs Wednesday – Friday over July and August hosted 41 traders while St. Nicholas' Christmas Market facilitated 38 traders in 2022.

10.14 Automated Public Convenience's (APC's)

APC's are provided by Galway City Council at the following locations; Blackrock, Ladies' Beach, Palmer's Rock, Millennium Playground, Eyre Square, and Earl's Island. The Palmer's Rock APC was closed due to it being at end of life and replacement of same was completed in early 2022.

The APC at Earls island was temporarily removed to allow for the construction of the Salmon Weir Pedestrian Bridge and is due to be re-positioned in 2023.

Works commenced on the installation of a new changing place facility in Ladies Beach, Salthill. The facility is due to be open to those that require the use of same in 2023.

10.15 Provision of Dog Services

The Galway City Dog Pound welcomed the addition of a second Dog Warden in 2022. In this 12month period 128 stray dogs were rescued with a further 83 animals surrendered. Of these, 138 were rehomed with a further 32 dogs reunited with their owners. 39 dogs were adopted by voluntary dog organisations such as MADRA. The increased media campaign promoting the Galway City Dog Pound proved popular across social platforms such Facebook and Instagram.

10.16 Fire and Library Services

Fire and Library services are operated and managed by Galway County Council, as a shared service on behalf of the City Council.

10.17 Climate Action:

Adaptation:

The climate adaptation plan was adopted in 2019 and runs up until 2024. Galway City Council continued to implement actions in 2022 and regular meetings were held to update on progress.

Energy and Emissions:

Monitoring and Reporting of Energy Use

Galway City Council continued to work in partnership with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), to monitor and report energy use across the organisation. Work has commenced in developing a pathway to achieving 2030 targets which will be further progressed.

Energy Management and Targets

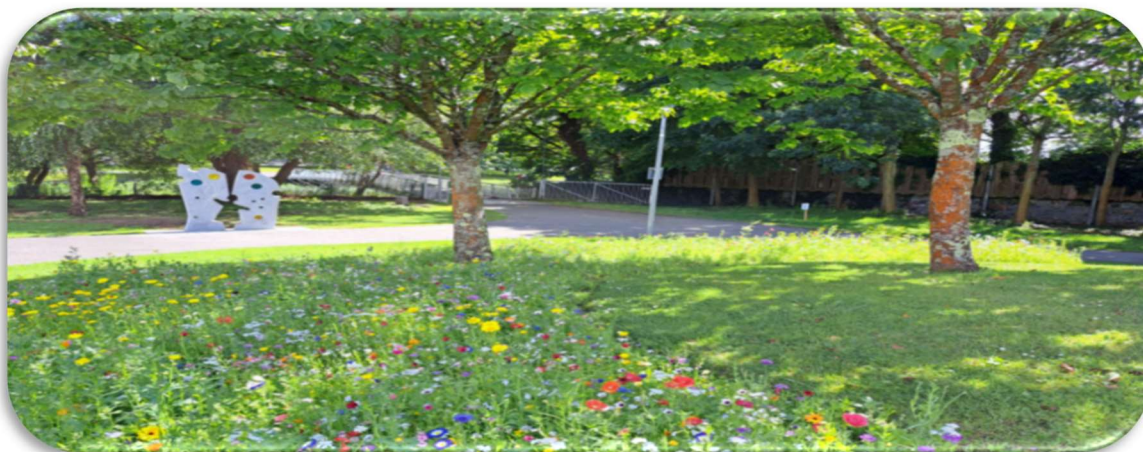
An Energy Management Team comprised of lead staff in Galway City Council responsible for significant energy users, e.g. public lighting, buildings and transport fleet was set up in 2021 and meet on a regular basis to identify a register of opportunities that provides a pathway to achieving Galway City Council 2030 emission reduction targets.

Electric Vehicles

8 No. Electric Vehicles were procured by Galway City Council in 2022 which result in an estimated reduction of 2.5 tCO₂e per year.

11. Recreation and Amenity

The objective of the Department is to protect, enhance and conserve the natural environment of our city, to provide leadership in climate action and to develop and promote high quality recreational, leisure and amenity facilities to improve quality of life.



11.1 Amenity and Community Capital Projects

St Joseph's Rahoon Cemetery Extension Project

Landscaping works to the existing lawn cemetery section were completed with headstones fitted to 14 urn plots.



Drone footage of completed lawn cemetery extension in Rahoon.

New Cemetery Site

Site investigation works were carried out and a final ground investigation report is awaited on the potential new Cemetery site in Dublin Rd.

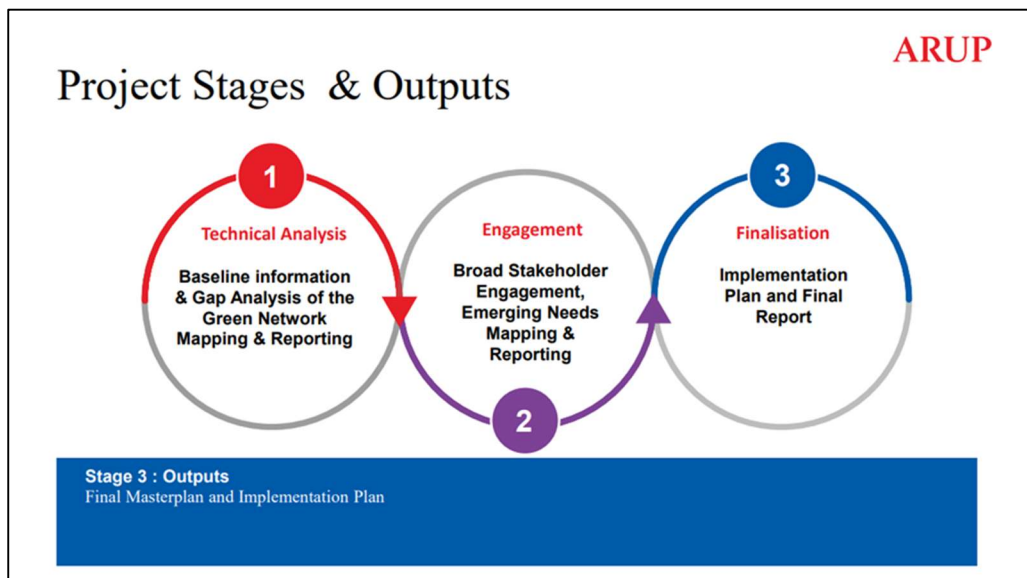
Restoration of Bohermore Chapels

Restoration works and repairs to the roof, gutters and windows were substantially completed on the old Catholic Chapel.

11.2 Green Spaces Strategy 2022-2032

A request for tender was issued in the last quarter of the year for the procurement of consultancy services to prepare the Green Spaces Strategy for Galway City. Arup Ireland were awarded the contract and were appointed just before Christmas. This enabled the work to start in January '23.

The Green Spaces Strategy is a requirement of the Development Plan 2023-2029 and will build on the Recreation and Amenity Needs Study (RANS) 2008. The Strategy will be similar to RANS as it will apply an evidence-based approach to identify *what* recreation and amenity facilities are needed and *where* they will be spatially located across the city based on expected population growth and other factors. The main elements that distinguish the Green Spaces Strategy from RANS is it will provide a baseline of the current ecological condition of the city's green and blue infrastructure, establish the natural capital value of the green network, and provide a masterplan for strengthening the ecosystem services in the city. The Strategy therefore combines the recreational needs of the city and the enhancement of its green and blue infrastructure in relation to the projected population growth of Galway City.



Woodquay Park Project

Galway City Council was awarded €1,030,834 under the Department of Tourism and Failte Ireland's **Urban Animation Capital Investment Scheme** for the Woodquay Park Project. This project will include enhancement of the park space and surrounding street network, improved pedestrian connectivity and an artwork installation in accordance with the Galway Public Realm Strategy. A request for tender of design consultancy services was advertised in December 2022 with appointment to be made Q1 2023. It is targeted to obtain planning consent in Q4 2023 with detailed design and construction phases to follow in 2024.

A Consultant was appointed to develop the Green Spaces Strategy 2022 – 2032 while an initial stakeholder engagement meeting took place in December to help inform the brief for the Terryland Forest Park Master Plan.

11.3 Sports Capital Projects

Refurbishment of Tennis Courts

Tennis court refurbishment works were completed in Roscam, Westside Amenity Park, Crestwood and McGraths Field. Various improvements works were also undertaken such as fencing, drainage, line marking and basketball hoops.



Corrib Park Grass Soccer Pitch

This project involves the development of a full-sized grass soccer pitch and ancillary works. The tender for construction was advertised in April 2022 with the contract awarded in June 2022. Due to a combination of design changes and inclement weather coupled with the seasonal nature of the works, commencement of the project was delayed until 2023. It is envisaged works shall commence in Q1 2023 and be completed in Q3 2023 with the pitch open for use in Q2 2024 following a period for grass establishment.

Glen Oaks/ Drom Chaoin MUGA Refurbishment

This project involved refurbishment of an existing MUGA facility and replacement of a derelict MUGA facility with a park space. The tender for the refurbishment works contract was advertised in September 2022 with the contract awarded in December 2022. Works are due to be completed in April 2023. The preliminary design for the park space was completed in December 2022 and it is envisaged that a public consultation event will take place in Q2 2023 outlining the design proposal.

Corrib Park MUGA Refurbishment

Design consultancy services were awarded for this in December 2022. It is envisaged that the detailed design phase and construction phase will be completed in 2023.

Millers Lane Pitches

A disabled access anti-vandal toilet block was installed next to the existing fenced storage compound and a wheelie bin storage shed located inside the fenced storage compound. The toilet block will be utilised by the Clubs licensed to use the pitches at Millers Lane and the bin store by Galway Bohemians AFC.

Spectator fencing with access gates were also installed at the lower pitch.

11.4 Event Permits

The Recreation and Amenity Department process applications for events in the parks and open spaces across the city. With the lifting of most COVID-19 restrictions earlier in the year, events that proceeded were educational walks, charity runs/walks, filming, Galway Potters Market, Galway International Arts Festival, Galway International Oyster Festival, Baboró Children's Arts Festival and the Vintage Car display. Over the summer months, exercise classes were also permitted in our parks and beaches.

11.5 Community Facilities and Projects

Galway City Allotments

Galway City Council operated two allotment sites in the city – Merlin Woods City Park (44 plots) and Shantalla Community Park (33 plots). Any vacant plots were reallocated in accordance with the Allotment Scheme 2022.

In Merlin, improvement works undertaken included the removal of overgrowth and planting of native hedging along the external perimeter, the resurfacing of pathways and the addition of two water hose reels.

In Shantalla, improvement works included the widening of pathways, the provision of edgeboards, the laying of a new gravel surface throughout and repairs to the shed roof. A pest control contractor undertook a rodent treatment program at both allotment sites during the year.

Dry Stone Walling Workshops

Following on from the success of the dry-stone walling workshops in 2021, Galway City Council supported Friends of Merlin Woods in their application to the Heritage Council for funding to continue these restoration works in 2022.

11.6 Community Centres

In our community centres, most COVID-19 restrictions were lifted by March 2022. The book-a-pitch online facility was rolled out to both Westside and Renmore Community Centres on 21st March 2022. These two centres are in addition to Knocknacarra All-Weather Pitch and Community Centre and O'Sullivan Park Athletic Facility that were already available to book online.

Westside Community Centre

Westside Community Centre closed to the public from April – June to facilitate emergency accommodation for 114 Ukrainian Refugees. Though the use of the Centre for emergency accommodation for Ukrainian Refugees ceased, a Ukrainian Hub was set up in the Practice Hall on 15th June where donations were made available to Ukrainian persons, displaced by the War.

Glenard Community Nature Park

During the pandemic, the local community at Glenard Park found that they used their local park a lot and contacted the Council around improvements they felt could help make the park more

biodiverse and accessible. In response to this request the Parks Department appointed Dave Ryan Landscape Architects to provide design and community engagement services and there followed a series of meetings to produce a Masterplan which was



cocreated by Galway City Council and the residents. A tree survey was completed, and the local residents secured funding from their local representatives to carry out some improvement works scheduled for early 2023.

Memorial Garden at Westside Community Centre

Upgrading works on a memorial garden at Westside Community Centre were carried out that involved the planting of new shrubs, the removal of existing paving slabs and the replacement with new kerbs and footpaths, the installation of new timber fence and two new stone benches. Following the death of Mr. Joey Glynn in December 2021, a former staff member of Westside Community Centre, an inscription on one of these benches was dedicated to him. A memorial service took place on the 10th of March.



Knocknacarra Community Centre

Repairs to paving bricks to the side of Knocknacarra Community Centre were completed.

Renmore Community Centre

To increase usage and facilitate both mini and senior basketball, a number of adjustable height basketball boards/nets were installed. Damaged gutters and rooflights to the centre were also repaired.

11.7 Other sports facilities

Fluorescent floodlighting at Roscam Tennis Court and Basketball Courts were upgraded to new LED floodlights.

11.8 Pitches and Dressing Rooms

51 pitches are located across the city which provide for the playing of all forms of sporting activities, most of which were licensed to various Clubs/schools/colleges for an 11mth period from 1st September – 31st July. These comprise of: Rugby 4, Soccer 23, Gaelic Games 13, All Weather 4, Training 2, Astro Turf/cages 3 and Multi Use 2. Repairs to the playing pitches with sand were carried out as well as the re-sodding of goalmouths, installation of artificial goalmouths, erection of signage and inspection of goalposts.

Under the 2020 Sports Capital and Equipment Programme, Galway City Council received funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media of €18,517.00 towards the purchase of an agrivator and €24,043.00 towards the purchase of an overseeder, sodcutter and rotavator to assist with pitch maintenance through the city. These items of machinery were purchased during 2022 and the grants recouped from the Department.

11.9 Parks, Woodlands and Estate Management

Parks

Over 9,000 students from Galway signed up for the annual Maths Week which was held in October. Maths puzzles were set up in public parks as part of the campaign.

Medtronic part-funded a project in **O'Sullivan Park** that included the cutting back of overgrown pathways, hedgerows and dense shrub areas, the upgrading of pathways, the installation of new sections of footpath, new wildflower areas, new benches and new picnic and barbeque areas.



Hedge planting day in July with Galway City Council staff and Medtronic staff

In **Woodquay Park**, tree and hedge pruning were carried out, namely the pollarding of a willow tree along with crown lifting of a lime tree that was interfering with buses.

In **Kennedy Park**, turfing areas were undertaken and two tree stumps removed. Works on a power supply upgrade for events was completed. This was to eliminate the use of diesel generators and allow supply for all store holders to be provided for by electrical connections.

In **Children's Millennium Park**, A new hawthorn hedge was planted to replace an overgrown area beside the canal. All green waste in the park is retained on site, decomposed in the compost bins and returned to planted beds as nutrient rich compost saving time, cost and fuel.

A water station was recently installed where members of the public can refill by activating the infra-red sensor on the lefthand side of the station.



11.10 Woodlands

Recycling facilities for domestic Christmas trees was provided in January at Hunters Depot and Merlin Woods Depot. In addition to the routine maintenance undertaken, path resurfacing works were completed on a northern pathway in Merlin Woods and a beech tree was removed from the Barna Woods River.

11.11 Estates and Open Spaces

The following is a summary of the main works undertaken:

- Works were completed on Western Distributor Road's trees.
- Works along Rosshill Road were completed.
- Trees were cut back along Rusheen Woods Estate.
- Tree pruning works were carried out to the front of Jury's Inn near Spanish Arch and to a birch tree at Glenard Crescent.
- Tree surround works were completed outside of Jurys Inn off Quay Street and at Spanish Arch. The new sustainable drainage system is a flexipave porous surfacing system. It is made from recycled tyres rubber, stone, aggregate and a binding agent.
- A landscaping contract for Galway City Council verges and roundabouts was awarded and completed.
- Cleaning works were carried out to River Walk pathway from Jurys to Waterside.

- A new pathway was completed through Councillor funding at Greenfields Estate, Newcastle.
- Pathway improvement works (anti-skid surface) were undertaken at Glenard Park northern entrance from Glenard Crescent estate.
- New handrails were installed in Dun Na Mara, Renmore green space to improve accessibility for people with mobility issues.
- A new memorial garden on the Rocky Road to commemorate the deceased in the area commenced through Councillor funding. Landscaping and public lighting were included.
- A Wildflower Meadow on lands near the overflow car park for Ballyloughane Beach was developed.



11.12 Playground Operations and Management

Ongoing maintenance works were carried out in all playgrounds across the city. These included deep cleaning, addition of woodchip, part repairs/replacement, painting, surface maintenance, removal of graffiti and inspections to ensure that all equipment meets the standards required for safe use.

The tender for the upgrade of four playgrounds that was awarded and completed included:

McGraths Field playground – the installation of a zip line.

Coole Park playground – complete refurbishment.

Claude Toft Park – the installation of an inclusive wheelchair friendly swing (grant funding in the sum of €8.066 was received towards the installation of this swing from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs under Capital Grant Funding for Play and Recreation 2021).

Childrens' Millennium Park – the installation of a sand pit.

An inclusive wheelchair roundabout was installed at **Mervue Public Park** playground for which grant funding in the sum of €15,162 was received from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs under Capital Grant Funding for Play and Recreation 2022).

The tender for wet pour safety surface refurbishment was awarded and completed for the following playgrounds:

- An Sean Bhaile Right
- Coillte Mhuirinne Right
- McGraths Field
- Na Blátha Creige

Barboró Sculpture Children's Millennium Park

Due to damage caused over the years to the coloured panels originally in this sculpture, it was agreed to design, fabricate and install new resin panels in consultation with Barboró. Uplighters were also installed.



The wooden skateboard structure in Children's Millennium Park was replaced with a concrete structure.



11.13 Beaches and Water Safety

Maintenance works carried out on the beaches include the removal of seaweed and sand regrading works, rock armour repairs. New information signage boards were also installed along at the City's four beaches Grattan, Silverstrand, Salthill and Ballyloughane.



Salthill Promenade
New wall top seating along the promenade was completed in consultation with Galway Age Action and local residents. New picnic bench seating was also installed.

Ladies Beach, Salthill

A new shower near Ladies Beach was installed with the assistance of Local Improvement Scheme funding.

A tender (Concession Contract) was advertised and awarded for the operation of the Kiosk. This kiosk was operational from April to the December for the serving of teas, coffee, non-alcoholic beverages and choice of healthy snacks and confectionary like previous years.

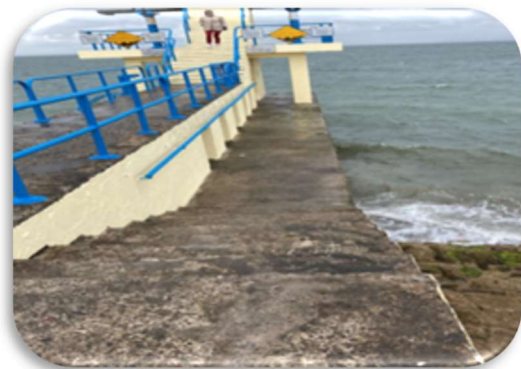
Silverstrand Beach

An existing storage room was upgraded to a disabled access toilet and repairs to the existing flat roof were completed in May. Footpath improvement works were also completed to facilitate wheelchair access.

A tender for the replacement of fencing between the beach and privately-owned lands was awarded and completed. New signage was also installed.

Blackrock Dive Tower

Works on installing a Safety System to maintain Blackrock Diving Tower as well as painting and power washing were completed.



Ballyloughane Beach

In June, the existing timber kerbs in the car park were replaced with precast concrete kerbs. Benches with new BBQ hot plates works were also installed in its picnic area and existing line markings were refreshed and new line markings provided.



Water Safety

Lifeguard services were provided at all the bathing water facilities in the City between June – September in co-operation with Galway County Council. A total of 60 ring-buoy locations along the River Corrib and canals were inspected weekly and replaced as necessary. Two additional lifebuoy locations were identified and life buoys installed at Ladies' Beach and the beach adjacent, both being secured to the changing facility structures.

The bathing season in Ireland operates from the 1st of June to the 15th of September. During the bathing season, water samples are taken from the four designated bathing areas in Galway City (Silverstrand, Salthill, Grattan and Ballyloughane) and tested for microbiological parameters indicative of water quality, namely E-Coli and Intestinal Enterococci. Silverstrand and Salthill are Blue Flag Beaches and are sampled at least fortnightly. Ballyloughane and Grattan are sampled at least weekly. The results are reported to the EPA and made available to the public at the beach notice boards and on Beaches.ie

The annual bathing water classifications for 2022 were published by the EPA. Annual water quality ratings are generally calculated using monitoring results over a four-year period and are assessed against stringent bacterial limits to protect bather health. Galway City Council's results were published on the 8th of March where our two Blue Flag beaches (Silverstrand and Salthill) retained their excellent status, Ballyloughane Beach retained its good status and Grattan Beach has been upgraded from sufficient to good.

Blue Flag/ Green Coast Awards

The Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards were announced by An Taisce at a presentation ceremony held in Wexford on 20th May. Salthill and Silverstrand beaches retained both awards for 2022 (third year), being two of only 5 beaches in the country to hold both flags. The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised eco-labels for beaches. To be granted Blue Flag status beaches must comply with a specific set of criteria relating to water quality, information provision, environmental education, safety and environmental management. The Green Coast Award is a symbol of environmental excellence and has been established to acknowledge,



promote and protect the environment of our beaches. The award is for beaches which have excellent water quality, but which are also prized for their natural, unspoilt environment.

Former Mayor Colette Connolly formally raised the Blue Flag and Green Coast flags for Salthill and Silverstrand beaches on the 1st of June, the first day of the bathing season.

11.14 Cemeteries Operations and Management

The City Council continued to manage and operate two cemeteries in the City at Ragoon and Bohermore.

Cemetery Sunday Mass was held in Bohermore on 21st August which was streamed online. Unfortunately, due to weather conditions, the Cemetery Sunday Mass scheduled in Ragoon for the 11th of September, was cancelled.

Various works were carried out on the cemeteries, namely:

Rahoon Cemetery

- New machinery shed.
- New main entrance gates.
- Works to boundary wall and new compound gates completed with hedging and trees also planted.
- New seating and planting added with a new parking area.
- Recycled plastic bollards fitted to the edges of the access roads to protect existing graves and to facilitate parking control.
- Toilet block refurbished.
- Repairs to the stone wall in old section

Bohermore Cemetery

- Ducting and base for the new storage shed installed.
- The delivery and installation of 30 headstones for urn plots.
- Winter planting in flower beds as well as planting in the tree lined avenue.

Old Rahoon Cemetery:

The Community Service Initiative Team continue to maintain the Old Rahoon Cemetery, whose works include:

- The cutting back and removal of overgrown material, litter picking and the erection of anti-dog fouling signage.
- Bag dispensers and bins installed along the paths.
- Boundary wall rebuilt and repaired.

Floral Projects

Ornamental wildflower areas in Millennium Children's Park, Quincentennial Park and O'Sullivan Park were introduced for the first time to significantly increase the area under ornamental wildflower meadow in the City parks.



Wildflower 'rooms' near Childrens' Millennium Park Skatepark



Ornamental wildflower meadow and the potager garden at Quincentennial Park, Salthill

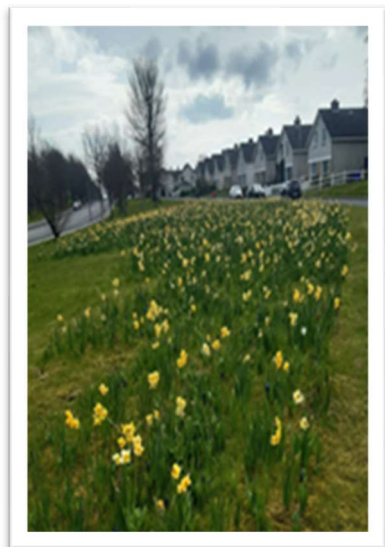


Work in progress, O'Sullivan Park, Mervue Ornamental pollinator beds (Wildflower rooms), O'Sullivan Park, Mervue



The **mechanical bulb planting** works carried out in 2021 was evident around the city in Spring 2022 with new bulb planting coming through in areas such as Doughiska (An Sean Bhaile), Headford Road (Tirellen Heights) and the Moycullen Road (Thomas Hynes Road) bringing much needed colour to the open spaces early in the season.

First flush of Spring bulbs along Thomas Hynes Road (planted 2021)



Thomas Hynes Road trial bulb mix – second flush after the daffodils and tulips in early Spring

The planter boxes for the outdoor dining were prepared, planted and installed across the city. New larger planter boxes for Eyre Square were procured, prepared and planted.

2,446 square metres of mechanical bulb planting took place in October in 12 sites in the East of the City (located in the Ballybane Road and Castlepark

Road areas) and 1 site in the West of the City (Salthill) which will give bloom from late February right through to September annually.

To mark National Tree Week (21st – 27th March), semi-mature trees and mixed native heavy standard trees and shrubs were planted in our parks and estates. This strategy was to develop ‘diversity of age’ in the city’s tree stock by planting more mature trees to give impact. 10 semi-mature pine trees were also planted (Pinus Nigra) at Westside Amenity Park.



At Highfield Park estate had a number of dangerous poplar trees removed before the bird nesting season, a new native species mix was agreed with the residents for the boundary and a community planting day took place on 26th March.

As part of Heritage Week (13th- 22nd August), in conjunction with the Friends of Merlin Woods, our Biodiversity Officer, gave a talk on the mammals and habitats of Merlin Woods and in conjunction with Seasearch Ireland and Galway Atlantaquaria, our Biodiversity co-hosted a talk on Seagrass, also known as eel grass or Zosteras. Seagrass meadows provide a wonderful habitat for a range of species including pipe fish, hermit crabs, fish, anemones and topshells.

Healthy Green Spaces Initiative and “No Mow” areas

The Healthy Green Spaces Initiative is designed to work with groups who are committed to developing a long-term approach to their green areas to encompass environmental issues, climate change and biodiversity. 15 groups have been involved since 2020 including estates, charitable organisations and an allotment group.

The areas of No Mow were mapped in 2022 and amount to 46 acres across the city. A flail collector mower was purchased to ensure native bees/wild meadows thrive. This ensures that the grass is cut and removed in order to reduce the nutrients in soil which encourages native wildflowers to thrive.



Work carried out during the year included:

- Plans submitted by the groups for assessment on how to manage their green areas and on assessment, provided feedback on their progress.
- A mapping of the areas under No Mow (reduced grass cutting regime to increase native wildflower species) which is a key measure for local authorities under the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to quantify the areas under No Mow and to enable the Department to increase the areas each season.
- The groups set out areas of their open spaces to be included under the No Mow regime to encourage wildflowers to grow in these areas. The size of the No Mow areas were increased, in line with Galway City Council's No Mow Strategy 2022.
- Signage was erected, with mown edges and pathways to indicate the extent of the No Mow areas.
- At the end of mowing season, volunteers carried out litter picks in no mow areas in estates that are part of the Healthy Green Spaces initiative. The areas were then mown and collected. The majority of the collected vegetation was received by our local allotments and community gardens for composting. This was a new initiative trialled.
- Additional works, such as tree and orchard planting, installation of bird and/or bat boxes, intentions to wildflower seeding etc. were carried out on a case-by-case basis, depending on the group's initial application plans.

- During the summer months, awareness was raised with the groups on how to manage the noxious weeds (mainly dock, thistle and ragwort) that appeared in the No Mow areas. This was done by manually cutting and removing the weeds.

The emergence of the Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) was noticeable in a number of the no mow areas across the city. This aptly named orchid resembles a bumble bee and is an adaptation the flower has developed to attract other bees for pollination purposes. The appearance of this Orchid is a direct result of our reduced mowing regime.



Bee Orchids in Clareview Estate, at City Hall and in Sruthán Mhuirlinne Estate

A presentation was given by the Parks Department at the **Tidy Garden's Competition Award** ceremony for homeowners in the city on how and why everyone should implement a No Mow area in their garden and encourage gardeners to reduce their grass cutting regime and to provide food and shelter to pollinating insects.

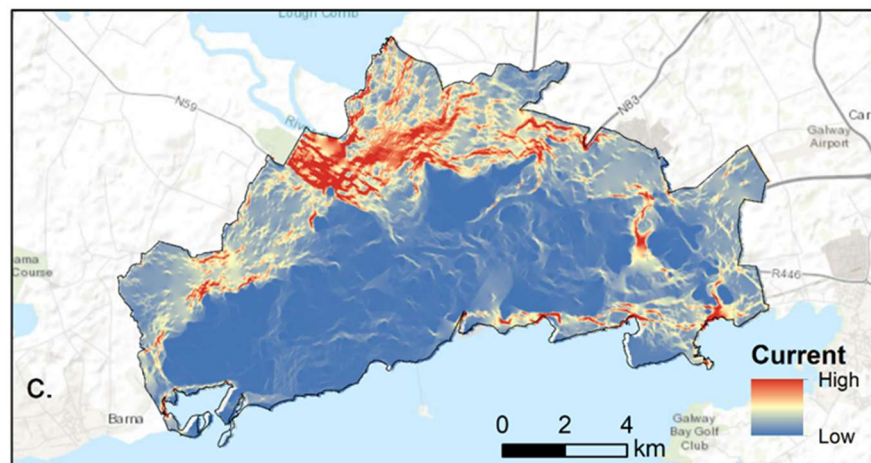
11.15 Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2022 Applications

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) made targeted funding available for local authorities regarding the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2022.

Funding was received from the NPWS 2 for the following projects:

- 1. Barna Woods - Conservation Project 2022** – to update the habitats assessment from the 2009 Barna Woods Project Biodiversity Report; and complete application to DAFM under the *NeighbourWood Woodland Scheme*.
- 2. Ballyloughane Beach Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study** – to conduct a feasibility study of potential for wetland restoration, for the purpose of providing a nature-based solution for stormwater treatment.
- 3. Invasive Alien Species Management and Education Project 2022** - to treat the IAS in 24 sites and to develop a City wide management strategy and public awareness campaign.
- 4. Ecological Corridor Mapping** - to prepare of a map of ecological corridors for the purpose of protecting and enhancing these features into the future.

Image of landscape connectivity model for wildlife movement. Red areas supporting high connectivity with blue areas showing low connectivity.



The Recreation and Amenity department, in conjunction with the Environment Section delivered the Greening of the Laneways Project. This involved consultation with local residents on locations and planning and delivering the events over a number of weekends. Three locations were selected this year: Red Lane in Shantalla, Rockfield in Westside and Sliabh Rua in Ballybane. All sites included a community clean-up, mural painting or mosaic making and planting of small fruit trees and flowering perennial plant in raised boxes. Further detail is included in the Environment Annual Report.



Mosaic making and planting - Rec and Amenity staff and local residents at Rockfield lane, Westside



2022 Green Flag Awards

Galway City Council achieved three prestigious Green Flag Awards in September by An Taisce Environmental Education. The Green Flag Awards acknowledge Ireland's best public parks and gardens, with Quincentennial Park in Salthill achieving the award for the third time, and Children's Millennium Park retaining the honour for a fourth year in a row. O'Sullivan Park in Mervue joined the honour roll this year, with the award of the Green Flag for the first time.

11.16 Lough Corrib Navigation Trust

During the year the following works took place.

- Designs finalised and tender competition ran for contractors to carry out works at Lisloughrey Pier.
- Works to slipway commenced at Lisloughrey Pier in September.
- Removal of vegetation from the walls of Parkavara lock took place in November.
- Extensive clean up works were carried out to sections of the Eglinton Canal and the Claddagh basin in May and November.
- A Facebook page for Lough Corrib Navigation Trust was set up and is updated regularly with Marine Notices.
- Upgrades to Fendering at Kilbeg Pier took place in July.
- LCNT staff continue to monitor and survey the marker network and produce works lists for specialist marine contractors to carry out necessary works.
- A Bathymetric survey of the Navigation channel was completed.

12. Corporate Services

The objective of the Corporate Services section is to provide an effective support service for Elected Members and the public, to promote and protect the corporate interests of Galway City Council and to provide a support service to the organisation generally.

12.1 Freedom of Information Requests

In 2022, a total of **153** requests were made to Galway City Council under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. When compared with the number of FOI requests received in 2021 (157), there has been a decrease of 1.03% in the number of requests received. The table below provides an analysis of the outcome of these requests. 7 requests were appealed internally.

Outcome	Number
Requests Granted	40
Requests Part-Granted	33
Requests Refused	40
Requests Withdrawn	15
Dealt with outside of Fol	21
Requests Transferred	0
Carried forward to 2022	4
Total	153

Freedom of Information requests received by section

Section	Number
Community & Culture/Enterprise/Economic Development	3
Corporate Services	34
Environment/Parks	12
Finance	4

Housing	45
HR	1
ICT	3
Planning	13
Transport & Infrastructure	36
Water Services	0
Not allocated to section due to withdrawals, etc.	2
Total	153

12.2 Conferences & Seminars 2022

Below details the conferences and seminars attended by Elected Members in 2022.

Event	No. of Attendees
Celtic Conferences - Social Media Use in Political Campaign	1
Irish Planning Institute Conference	1
AILG Autumn Seminar	2
LAMA Cost of living Crisis	3
AILG Annual Conference	1
AILG Module 1	1
AILG Module 2	2
AILG Module 3	1
AILG Module 5	1
AILG Module 6	2
Celtic Conferences (NOV)	1

LAMA Spring Training	1
The Finance act (JAN)	1

12.3 Special Events hosted by Galway City Council

Galway City Council was honoured to be able to facilitate Mayoral Receptions, a Special Meeting to confer the Freedom of the City, courtesy and other visits in 2022, including:

Ordinary Council Meetings/Special Meetings	
Ordinary Council Meetings generally held on the 2nd Monday of each month, excluding August. Special Meetings may be held from time to time by the Mayor in consultation with the Procedures Committee. 5 such Special Meetings were held in 2022. The Statutory Budget Meeting was held on the 14th of November 2022.	
Freedom of the City	
20/05/2022	Freedom of the City of Galway awarded to Patricia Burke Brogan & Ena McEntee
Mayoral Receptions	
09/05/2022	Delegation from Lorient, France
03/06/2022	Friends of Merlin Woods” & “Tuatha of Terryland Forest Park
18/07/2022	Galway Minor Football Team
12/09/2022	Galway Intermediate Camogie Team
Courtesy Visits	
21/01/2022	British Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Paul Johnston
22/03/2022	German Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Cord Meier-Klodt
26/04/2022	Belgian Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Karen Van Vlierberge
04/05/2022	Republic of Colombia Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Patricia Cortés Ortiz
16/05/2002	Kenyan Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Michael K. Mubea, EBS

09/06/2022	Palestinian Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Dr Jilan Wahba Abdalmajid
09/08/2022	U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Claire Cronin
07/10/2022	Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Nancy Smyth
25/11/2022	Nigerian Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Ijeoma C. Arimanwa Obiezu
28/11/2022	Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. He Xiangdong
Other visits to City Hall	
16/06/2022	Hession School of Irish Dance Champions
20/07/2022	Celtic Irish American Academy, USA
08/09/2022	Mary McGuire, Menlo Park USA
23/09/2022	Stirling, Scotland - 10 th Anniversary of Cultural Agreement
24/10/2022	SAUTI Project, Tanzania
30/11/2022	Caron McMahon, Irish Heritage Club, Seattle, USA

12.4 Cúrsaí Gaeilge

Corporate Services continues to work proactively with all sections in Galway City Council, directing bilingual language practices and employing support mechanisms to facilitate provision of Irish language services to the public by Galway City Council staff.

Coiste Logainmneacha chathair na Gaillimhe | Galway city Placenames Committee

Coiste Logainmneacha chathair na Gaillimhe has representatives from different organisations in the city with different backgrounds and expertise, so that names are chosen and related to the area in which they are located, as well as the physical environment of the city. In 2022, two new estates were named in Galway city:

Claí Mór, Monivea Road, Galway and Léana Thuaidh, Lenabower, Ragoon, Galway.

Baile Seirbhíse Gaeltachta | Gaeltacht Service Town

Based on a consultation process conducted in the summer of 2014, Galway City was identified as potential Gaeltacht Service Town.

Statutory status as a Gaeltacht Service Town under the Gaeltacht Act 2012 gives particular recognition to an urban area in which services are provided to a Gaeltacht area adjoining or within its operational environs. In 2018, Galway City Council and Galway le Gaeilge announced that Dr John Walsh, Department of Irish and Dr Dorothy Ní Uigín, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, National University of Ireland, Galway will lead a team of experts in language planning to prepare and deliver a seven-year (2019-2026) language plan for Galway City.

By implementing a language plan in the City, it is expected that the community, voluntary, public, and private sectors will work together in the City to support the provision of services in the Irish language. The aim of the language plan is to enhance the use of the Irish language in the City, as far as it relates to a broad range of activities, including family, community, educational, social, business, and public realms. The language plan was completed in 2019 and was approved by the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht. A dedicated Language Planning Officer was appointed on the 7th of June, 2022.

Meitheal an Phlean Teanga

Tá ionadaithe ag Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe ar ‘Meitheal an Phlean Teanga’, Gaillimh’ (dá ngairtear ‘MPT Gaillimh). Is é an ról atá ag Meitheal an Phlean Teanga ná a bheith páirteach sna céimeanna ar fad a bhaineann leis an bPlean Teanga a chur i bhfeidhm i gCathair na Gaillimhe. Bhí an chéad chruinniú de Mheitheal Plean Teanga, Gaillimh ((MPT) ar an gCéadaoin 23 Samhain 2022 ag 4.00pm i Seomra na Comhairle, Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe, Bóthar an Choláiste, Gaillimh.

Galway City Council 4th Language Scheme

Galway City Council’s 4th Language Scheme has been in place since 9th September 2022. It covers a comprehensive range of services available in Irish or bilingually throughout Galway City Council.

Irish language training

Irish language classes proceeded online, with participation from staff across all sections of the Council in 2022. Galway City Councillors also participated in classes. Classes were provided by the National University of Ireland, Galway, and feedback from classes was very positive.

12.5 Customer Service

The Customer Service Centre comprises the following:

- The Customer Service Reception Desk and Cash Office, which are both located in the main foyer of City Hall and are open to the public 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.
- The Customer Service Call Centre which handles all calls to the Galway City Council general enquiries line, traffic queries line and payments lines between the hours of 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.
- Customer Service complaints, Fix Your Street cases and all emails received via customerservice@galwayCity.ie & seirbhisdhochustaimeiri@galwayCity.ie

The Customer Service team provided the following sectional support during 2022, including the following:

- **Traffic Fixed Charge Notices:** 3,151 appeals processed. General phone queries were also handled by the Customer Service Team in relation to Traffic.
- **Parking Permits:** accepted payments, printed and posted 6,526 parking permits including resident, carer and visitor permits.
- **Pay & Display:** handled all phone queries and notifications of machine faults.
- **Environment:** processed 750 orders for Household Bulky Goods collection, supporting Spring Clean Community Groups through both the provision of bags, gloves and litter pickers and by arranging Spring Clean collections of waste. There were 70 Spring Clean Collections in 2022 (providing the community with 119 Rolls of bags, 3 24 pairs of gloves and 59 litter pickers). General recycling queries, Burial Ground and Casual Trading queries and payments.
- **Housing:** provision of application forms, general housing queries and facilitation of meetings. The Customer Service Team also handled telephone queries in relation to Choice Based Letting (CBL) and advising and assisting callers in relation to the scheme.

- **Recreation & Amenity:** queries in relation to facility updates, payments for allotments, community centres and sports facilities, provision of keys for public changing rooms.
- **Water Services:** reporting of water outages, leaks, etc.
- **Finance:** phone and email queries in relation to Rates waivers / appeals.
- **Corporate Services:** Register of Electors queries and general office support.
- **Fix your Street cases:** processed cases in relation to illegal dumping, faulty street lighting, potholes, blocked drains/gullies etc by logging these on XY Database for community wardens.

Call Centre

- 199,964 calls were received by Galway City Council's main line in 2022. Apart from the Housing and Planning Sections, the Customer Service Call Centre supports all other telephone calls received on the main telephone number for Galway City Council (091-536400), between the hours of 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, and also processes all reports received from the out-of-hours emergency call centre which operates outside normal office working hours. In 2022, the Call Centre received **69,609** telephone calls, an increase of 36.8% from 2021. Of the 69,609 calls received:
 - The average speed to answer was 20.5 seconds.
 - The average telephone call handling time was 1 minutes 58 seconds with the minimum call length lasting 38 seconds and the maximum call lasting 55 minutes.
 - The average caller abandon rate was 5.9%.

Cash Office and telephone payments

The Customer Service team operates the cash office with the support of the Finance Section. This includes the receipt of money from both the public Cash Office and also postal payments. The Customer Service team processed 13,689 receipts at the Cash Office and 16,799 telephone payments in 2022. The main receipts processed at the Cash Office and via the Call Centre were:

- Housing Rents and Loans
- Traffic Fines (Fixed Charge Notices)
- Parking Permits
- Commercial Rates
- Planning Fees
- Emergency Homeless Service payments
- Environment fees, including Bulky Goods collection, Litter Fines, Casual Trading licences.
- Recreation & Amenity fees, including Community Centre fees, allotments and Pitch Licences.
- Roads fees, including Taking in Charge, Road Opening/Closure Licences, Skip licences.

Customer Service emails

The Customer Service email address is a central point of access to information for both staff and customers. Staff submit regular updates via this email address in relation to grants, licence/permit renewals, roads closures, daily water works programmes, campaigns, events, etc., to ensure that the Customer Service team are made aware of all events and services and are therefore better informed to handle customer queries. This also included notifications in relation to service restrictions and facility updates in 2022.

12.6 Facilities

The Facilities section carries out all required maintenance, upgrading and development works at City Hall and the outdoor staff depot at Sandy Road. The section also provides assistance to other facilities in the City such as the Museum and Council-owned commercial units.

The Facilities section is responsible for the maintenance of all systems in Galway City Council Office buildings and the Sandy Road Depot. These systems include intruder alarms, fire alarms, heating, ventilation, air conditioning units, canteen equipment, emergency lighting, task lighting, office space provision, and all mechanical and electrical installations.

12.7 Protected Disclosures 2022

No Protected Disclosures were received in 2022, as defined in the Protected Disclosures Act, 2014.

12.8 Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work

The Health and Safety Unit, in conjunction with Senior Management at Galway City Council, continued to co-ordinate the Safety Management System to ensure that our arrangements discharge the requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, associated legislative requirements, and corporate obligations in the activities of the organisation. The Health and Safety Unit has continued its ongoing review of the Galway City Council Safety Statement and Safety Management Manual throughout 2022, and its annual review and update of the Ancillary Safety Statements at each of its directorates and business areas.

Proactive Safety Monitoring

The Health and Safety Unit, in conjunction with Senior Management, continued to coordinate the implementation of the Annual Programme of Inspections for 2022.

The following Safety Inspections were completed in 2022:

- Safety Inspections completed by Line Managers and Supervisors (259)
- Safety Inspections completed by the Health and Safety Officers (90)

Reactive Safety Monitoring

Galway City Council continued to provide services to the citizens of Galway City in a safe and effective manner. The accident and incident rate reflected the increased activity in our operations during 2022 and compared very favourably when examined against incident frequencies in the local sector.

Incident	Number
Reportable Accidents	6
Dangerous Occurrences	0
Covid-19 Outbreak	0
Injury – Not Reportable	1
Injury – No Absence	4

Service Strike	2
Near Miss	9
Violence & Aggression	5
Road Traffic Accident	2
Vehicle Incident (3 rd Party)	6
Vehicle Incident (1 st Party)	14

The Health and Safety Unit continued to issue regular monthly Accident and Incident Summary reports and advice to Senior Management and Heads of Departments to prevent recurrence of loss events, and to report Incident Statistics to the Local Government Management Agency.

Emergency Preparedness

The Health and Safety Unit, in conjunction with Fire Wardens and Senior Management, completed Fire and Emergency Evacuation Drills at the following workplaces:

- City Hall
- Grammar School Building (Annex to City Hall),
- Finance offices, Eyre Square
- Black Box Theatre
- Town Hall Theatre
- Galway City Museum

The Health and Safety Unit continued to carry out regular (Weekly) Inspection of First Aid Boxes and AED Defibrillators at City Hall, Grammar School, Eyre Square offices and Sandy Road Depot buildings, to ensure that it was ready and immediately available for use when needed.

The Health and Safety Unit continued to carry out regular (Weekly) Inspection of Fire Extinguisher equipment at City Hall, Eyre Square offices and Grammar School buildings.

Health and Safety Training

The Health and Safety Unit continued its efforts in delivering mandatory and desirable Health and Safety Training courses. Over 460 staff attended safety training in 2022.

1.8.5 Safety Briefings

The Health and Safety Unit continued to ensure that staff were informed of changes to the safety management system and were reminded as required of safety controls. Over 500 staff attended Staff Safety Briefings in 2022.

12.9 Safety Consultation

The Health and Safety Unit continued to meet and consult with the Covid-19 Worker Representatives and Safety Representatives to address any concerns raised in relation to our operations or the Safety Management System. Galway City Council facilitated 55 no. Meetings with the Safety Consultation Committees in 2022.

The Health and Safety Unit continued to provide health and safety updates to the Senior Management Team at the Safety Monitoring Committee (SMC) meetings, which were hosted online.

13. Human Resources

To ensure adequate staff resources to meet organisational objectives and to encourage and assist our staff in developing their full potential as valued employees of Galway City Council

13.1 Workforce 2022

Galway City Council's Management Team comprises the Chief Executive, four Directors of Service and a Head of Finance:

Chief Executive				
Director of Services	Director of Services	Head of Finance	Director of Services	A/Director of Services
Planning, NTA Capital Projects, Housing Capital, Climate Action, CFRAM Project, LDA Regeneration Projects, URDF	Roads & Transport (Operations), Water Services (Operations), Recreation & Amenity, Sports Capital, Environment	Finance	Corporate Services, Corporate Governance, Human Resources, ICT	Housing (Excluding Capital), Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis, Community, Economic Development, Tourism, Culture

The headcount in the organisation as at 31st December 2022 was 553 consisting of indoor and outdoor employees who carry out managerial, administrative, technical, craft and other roles.

13.2 Recruitment

In 2022, despite the competitive environment where there were extensive recruitment drives for talent across the public and private sectors, the Human Resources Department continued to recruit suitably qualified staff who were effectively deployed within organisational requirements. The Recruitment Section managed 59 competitions in 2022 with 107 staff taking up employment - 94 permanent staff and 13 temporary/contract/seasonal staff.

Retirement/Service Awards 2022

The Retirement & Service Awards were held on 30th November, 2022. Both the Mayor of Galway City Council, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins, and the Chief Executive, Mr. Brendan McGrath, provided a very fitting message to staff who had both retired and attained 20 years of service in 2022. This was accompanied by Galway City Council's Certificate of Award and a token of appreciation.

13.3 Retirees on the Honours List

Peter Creaven	Recreation & Amenity
John O'Donohoe	Housing & Social Amenity
Anne Ruane	Transport & Infrastructure
Helen McDonagh	Environment & Climate Change
Joe O'Sullivan	Housing & Social Inclusion
Tim Conneely	Housing & Social Inclusion
Thomas Ward	Environment & Climate Change
Christopher Beckles	Environment & Climate Change
John Joe Newell	Recreation & Amenity
Padraic Boyle	Recreation & Amenity
John Kennedy	Transportation
Mark Convey	Water Services
Thomas Heavy	Finance

13.4 Service Award Recipients for 2022

Frank Clancy	Water Services
Edward Conlon	Housing & Social Inclusion
Michael J Forde	Housing & Social Inclusion
Elaine Mahon	Transportation

Kevin Neary	Water Services
Claire Ni Fhlaithearta	Housing & Social Inclusion
Marilyn Noone	Housing & Social Inclusion
Patricia O'Grady	Housing & Social Inclusion
Paul Quinn	Transportation
Terence Redmond	Water Services
Lorraine Russell	Community & Corporate
Tom Timothy	Water Services
Joanne Callan	Human Resources
Claire Howe	Human Resources
James Molloy	Housing & Social Inclusion
John Griffin	Housing & Social Inclusion
Myra Langan	Housing & Social Inclusion
Gerry Carr	Recreation & Amenity
Colie McDonagh	Recreation & Amenity
Helen Melia	Finance
Olivia Organ	Finance
Padraig Griffin	Water Services
Martin Mortimer	Water Services
Patrick Griffin	Transportation
Stephen Walsh	Recreation & Amenity
Deirdre Headd	Economic Development & Culture

The annual Pensioners' Party took place on 3rd of December 2022. The Mayor of Galway City Council, Cllr. Collette Connolly, and the Chief Executive, Mr. Brendan McGrath, extended warm Christmas greetings to all our pensioners.

13.5 Staff Welfare

One of the aims of the Human Resources Department is to maintain and implement appropriate staff welfare policies and procedures and to work with staff and Line Managers on a case-by-case basis to deal with staff welfare issues as they arise. 2022 continued to see a high level of engagement and collaboration with staff and Line Managers alike, particularly in terms of the need for assistance, guidance and support in returning staff safely to the workplace.

During 2022 the Staff Welfare Unit continued to be central to dealing with COVID-19 related matters in the context of public health advice and Department of Public Expenditure and Reform guidance for staff. The Staff Welfare Unit has been an important point of contact for staff in assisting and supporting them through up-to-date guidance on a case by case basis and in conjunction with Line Managers. The Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), provided by Laya Healthcare, was also a resource which was enhanced to cater for issues arising from the pandemic.

There was regular engagement with all staff to advise of updated EAP supports that were available. These supports addressed such areas as remote working, arranging homework stations, dealing with stress and anxiety, and various forms of online exercise classes available on a daily basis.

Staff Welfare processed a high volume of Work/Life Balance Scheme applications such as Parental Leave and Shorter Working Year alongside the modal shift with the Cycle to Work Scheme and Commuter Tickets to assist staff in an ever-changing work environment.

13.6 Training

The Department provides a variety of training and development opportunities to assist staff in developing their potential as valued employees. As a result of the Covid19 pandemic, training and development courses provided in 2022 were prioritised around mandatory staff training and also included the following:

- Climate Action Training
- Retirement and Life Planning
- I.P.A. Certificate in Local Government Studies 2020/2021
- Advanced Diploma in Accounting & Business

Performance Management and Development System – PMDS

The Human Resources Department plays a key role in coordinating the Performance Management Development System process throughout the organisation. It also provides support, mentoring and training for Line Managers on the process.

13.7 Superannuation

The Superannuation Section in Galway City Council provided guidance and support on a continuous basis to current and retired staff and worked collaboratively with MyPay on superannuation services throughout 2022. MyPay Superannuation is Galway City Council's Shared Service Pension Provider. The Superannuation Section continues to inform all staff in relation to changes / developments in public sector pensions following notification from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

14. Information Communications Technology (ICT)

The ICT section of Galway City Council provides ICT user support and access to technology and systems, enabling Galway City Council staff to deliver high quality services to the public.

Galway City Council's IT infrastructure comprises 50 servers in 4 locations within the city. There are a total of 13 sites with connectivity to the network core at City Hall. The section provides ICT services to approximately 450 end users across four functions: Networks and Infrastructure, Enterprise Applications, Web and Digital services, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

In 2022, staffing challenges meant that some strategic projects had to be carried forward to 2023. This is the 4th year in which strategic projects were postponed because of resourcing issues.

14.1 Key ICT Achievements in 2022

The upward trend for ICT support calls continued, with an increase from 5,726 in 2021 to 6,525 in 2022 - the busiest year for the section to date.

The breakdown of support calls per team are as follows:

Category	No. of Tech Staff	No. Tickets	No. Tickets
		2021	2022
Networks and Infrastructure	5 (+ 1 vacancy)	3999	5,292
Enterprise Apps	2 (+1 vacancy)	664	652
GIS	1 (+1 vacancy)	423	295
Web	1	187	282
Cybersecurity Incident Investigation		13	4
External Network support		9	0
Unassigned		1	0

The introduction of the Blended Working Policy contributed significantly to the workload for the Web developer who built the digital application and approval process for staff and managers, in collaboration with HR and Health and Safety departments. A large number of devices were procured for this purpose and the Technical Support Officers, fielded 185 requests for ICT equipment for home office use.

Continued cybersecurity measures included a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) with SMT and Heads of Functions, to educate, highlight and inform senior staff of their responsibilities in the event of a serious cyber event. This exercise resulted in an Incident Response plan being drafted with key learnings and actions for the Cybersecurity Committee to be reformed.

A new platform for cybersecurity training and awareness for staff was procured.

The WiFi4EU initiative was launched, in collaboration with the Economic Development department, providing free and secure public WiFi access in 16 community locations across the city.

The process of consolidating users' primary workstations to a single device began in Q4 '21 and continued through 2022. Each staff member will work from a single mobile-ready device, reducing total cost of ownership (TCO), through reduced device procurement, software licensing, energy consumption and technical support time, while also increasing the mobility of the workforce to facilitate future working arrangements.

The following sections outline the key achievements for each function within ICT.

14.2 Networks and Infrastructure

The Networks and Infrastructure team provide:

1. general technical support for all devices, software, printers, telephony, network connectivity and mobile phones
2. technology specialist services such as granting access to data, maintaining network security, managing servers, storage, backups, email.

3. the management of several third parties highly supplying specialist technology services, including email filtering and security, WAN and LAN support and maintenance, backup platform configuration and server management.
4. The provision of IT resources to any digital projects

The provision of technology solutions requires a continuous effort to ensure the security of the organisation's data that begins at the network perimeter and ends with the individual end user. The resilience of the core network infrastructure is of paramount importance to the continuation of services delivered by Galway City Council. The dramatic increase in attacks against government agencies in 2022 is a constant reminder that cyberattacks are imminent and inevitable.

The continued support and bolstering of network infrastructure included measures to reinforce cybersecurity protection, to ensure threats are discovered early and mitigated against immediately. These included:

- Continued reinforcement of our cybersecurity measures by extending our port hardening on switches and implementing additional filtering features (DMARC) from our Internet Service Provider (ISP).
- The procurement of a Security Operations Centre (SOC) service (SOCaaS) from a 3rd party for remote monitoring of the security of devices on the network
- Replacing 3 firewalls with next generation models offering functionality such as lateral network protection and ISE features.
- Introduction of additional network capacity with 3 new switches.
- Upgrade of our virtual server environment to VMWare Standard which offers improved administrative options and features, including the ability to move servers between hosts without downtime, increased scalability options, etc.
- Improvements to the DR site at Sandy Road through procurement of additional storage for replication of servers, increased backup capacity, testing of DR procedures, etc.

- Installation of a new Backup and DR platform, replacing our existing platform. This will provide a faster, more robust backup solution with the ability to create immutable backups, which means they are secure from deletion – a common Ransomware tactic.
- Procurement of a subject expert to develop a project plan for implementation of O365. This culminated in the advancement of the O365 migration throughout the year with almost 75% of all staff now on the platform.
- Installed WSUS (Windows Security Update Services) for improved management and rollout of vital Windows security updates.
- Procurement of a portable Video Conferencing smart screen to facilitate hybrid meetings in rooms that have no VC facilities.
- Removal of obsolete hardware from the comms room at the front of the building and completed a re-cabling project for easier access to our switches and patch panels.
- Procurement of a Mobile Device Management platform to better manage, control and secure mobile devices.
- Continued support for Hybrid workers, through provision of equipment, collaboration tools and video conferencing solutions as required.

14.3 Web Development

The web developer is responsible for the maintenance, upkeep and support of Galway City Council websites and digital assets. 2022 saw many more applications, consultations and processes move online, including:

- a consolidated funding application system for the many strands of grants/funding available under Community and Culture; Some public-facing examples include Arts Grants, Sports Grants, Amenity Grants, Active Travel and Schools, Tidy Gardens Competition, Various Photo Competitions,
- the completion of the online booking system for Leisureland
- a Blended Working application system with complete in-built approval, ICT, and Health and Safety workflows

- the Cross-City Link Galway portal
- multiple solutions for the Mobile Workforce,
- Constant maintenance, development, extension and training around main Galway City website and myriad subsites and systems.

14.4 Enterprise Applications

The Enterprise Applications team are tasked with ensuring the stability and operational efficiency of the numerous databases and enterprise systems which underpin the day-to-day functions of the organisation, along with assisting departments with the introduction of digital solutions. Achievements in 2022 include:

- A major upgrade of Financial Management System Agresso from Milestone 4 to Milestone 7.
- SolarWinds Web Helpdesk server updated to 2019 and latest product version.
- Preparation for ePlanning rollout through installation of iDocs in conjunction with LGMA.
- Replication of iPlan to centrally hosted LGMA ePlan.
- Implementation of Template Documents and Document categories ahead of ePlanning rollout.
- iHouse system upgraded to v3.8, supported SSHA 2022 fixes and rollout of Azure pipelines for iHouse updates.
- iReg system upgraded to v5.0 and implemented replication up to the LGMA hosted site checktheregister.ie.
- Implemented new HR Staff ID Card System, ACTPro, with card printer (updated door access points).
- Added functionality in Traffic Wardens app to pick up Warden ticket signatures from their login name, as well as adding a button within the app to configure the printer wirelessly, eliminating the need for “initial” setup on a PC. Wardens can now also use the config button to try to resolve issues when out in the field and new printer setup is minimal.

- Utilised the Asset management functionality in Helpdesk to manage/organise Warden mobile printer devices.
- Data clean-up for cemeteries databases (statutory burial registers) and GIS grave mapping exercise.
- Supported the implementation of Litter Fines application and integration with the financial management system.
- Supported the implementation of the Hazardous Waste Disposal Event application and integration with financial management system.

14.5 Geographic Information Systems

The GIS function plays an important role in the Local Authority through the provision of digital mapping systems and services. Despite ongoing staffing challenges, the following was achieved in 2022:

- Ongoing management of all GIS software licenses and upgrades for ESRI, Autodesk and Mapinfo. Regular reviews were held to determine best use of licences and value for money.
- Assisted a 3rd party, IMGs, on a new Property Management System implementation. M.Mapp Enterprise replaces the old Property Interests Register (PIR) system. GIS services included ensuring the Application/Database servers met system requirements, overseeing data migration plans and sign-off from Corporate Services.
- Supported development of maps for Galway City Development Plan 2023 – 2029. GIS services included capturing all spatial data for the Plan, supporting queries from the Planning Section, and sourcing/updating underlying 3rd party datasets. These included Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi) basemaps and vector mapping, as well as ARUP's Galway City Ring Road (GCRR) dataset.
- Worked in conjunction with the Planning Department and Local Government and Heritage to produce the initial Draft maps for the Residential Zone Land Tax project.

- On a quarterly basis, provided a secure ArcGIS Spatial Mapping System to the Environment and Parks section to support the Waste Byelaws Mapping Project to Eircodes.
- Rolled out ArcGIS Software to GIS users to enable them to generate their own maps and reduced the number of MapInfo users to 2 persons in an effort to streamline our digital mapping systems.
- Created ArcGIS maps to support the Purple flag accreditation initiative.
- Ongoing support and maintenance for GIS applications, e.g. Labworks.

15. Finance

The objective of the Finance section is to maximise resources available for infrastructural and service provision and ensure, the efficient and effective use of these resources, the achievement of a balanced budget and the highest standards of accountability and financial probity.

15.1 Introduction

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) sets out the financial results of Galway City Council's activities for the year 2022 and the financial position as at 31st December 2022. The Annual Financial Statement has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements governing Local Authorities and in compliance with the Accounting Code of Practice for Local Authorities as prescribed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

15.2 Statutory and Other Audits

The AFS is subject to statutory annual audit by the Local Government Audit Service in order to provide an independent opinion on whether it reflects a fair representation of the financial position as at the year end. In addition, and in accordance with Section 120 (1)(C) of the Local Government Act 2000 a Statutory Audit Report is prepared by the appointed Local Government Auditor.

Galway City Council is also subject to audit in relation to EU Funding, Government Funding, tax compliance and Value for Money Audits.

15.3 Financial review

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) sets out the financial results of Galway City Council's activities for the year 2022 and the financial position as at 31st December 2022.

The Annual Financial Statement has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements governing Local Authorities and in compliance with the Accounting Code of Practice for Local Authorities as prescribed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Review of financial performance

Galway City Council has delivered a surplus for the year of €69,052 (2021: €67,765), an increase of 1.9% from 2021. This brings the accumulated balance on the general reserve to €2,646,045.

	2022	2021
	€	€
Total Income	105,984,747	113,812,363
Total Expenditure (incl. net transfers)	105,915,695	113,744,598
Revenue Surplus	69,052	67,765

Table 1: Revenue Expenditure for 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
	€	€
Local Property Tax	4,268,123	4,262,543
Rates	37,941,446	37,682,745
Goods and services	26,703,093	22,525,850
Grants and subsidies	37,072,084	49,341,224
Total Income	105,984,747	113,812,363

Table 2: Analysis of Income for 2022 and 2021

Principal factors impacting financial performance.

- Total expenditure decreased by 7%.
- Payments of subsidies and grants decreased by 48% as waivers on commercial rates were phased out (€17.3m paid out in 2021 versus €2.3m in 2022). There is a corresponding decrease in grants and subsidies income.
- Energy costs increased by 40% due to price increases.
- Payroll expenditure has increased by 10% due to wage increases, additional staff and an increase in retirement lump-sum payments.
- Income from recreation and amenity has increased by €2.3m and parking charges have increased by over €1m owing to the return of activities post-covid.

- €5.9m increase in expenditure on housing and building since 2021.
- €876k increase in expenditure on development management relating to social inclusion, and community and enterprise.
- €4.5m increase in expenditure under recreation and amenity owing to Leisureland activities as well as expenditure on parks, pitches, courts and play grounds.

Revenue Collection

There is an onus on the Council to collect debts owing to it and it is a delicate balancing act in ensuring local businesses pay rates whilst supporting those businesses where financial pressures are present. The rates collection has returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2022 and the positive and proactive engagement from the majority of our customers is acknowledged. Rates income in 2022 accounts for 36% of Galway City Council's funding of day-to-day services.

During 2023, we will continue to maintain and strengthen our focus on debt collection across all commercial and non-commercial customers in a proactive manner. There are instances, unfortunately, where reasonable means are not taken to pay outstanding debts or customers refuse to positively engage with us and we have no choice but to take all actions available to us including court action to pursue these debts.

Category	2022	2021	2020	2019
Rates	84%	67%	61%*	83%
Rents	80%	80%	79%	80%
Housing	88%	88%	86%	86%
Loans				

Table 3: Revenue collection performance

15.4 Capital Account and Capital Debt

Capital expenditure in 2022 amounted to €96.6 million, while capital income amounted to €89.1 million. The net expenditure including transfers to reserves resulted in a cumulative surplus of €48.9 million. This surplus allows us to fund the delivery of the significant future capital projects planned for Galway City,

Expenditure in the 2022 capital account was incurred on the construction, acquisition and refurbishment of housing stock, housing retrofits and energy upgrades, permeability works and footpath upgrades, construction of new bridge at Salmon Weir, the advancement of funding to Voluntary Housing Bodies, Housing Adaption grants, improvements to the road network and the acquisition of new civic headquarters.

The balance due by the City Council on long-term loans at 31st December 2022 is €98 million, compared to €54 million at 31st December 2021. During 2022:

- €2 million was issued in Mortgage Loans under the Rebuilding Ireland loan scheme and the Local Authority Home Loan scheme.
- €45.5 million was issued in non-mortgage asset loans and
- €3 million in bridging loans were redeemed

15.5 Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are included under the headings of Land, Parks, Housing, Buildings, Plant and Machinery, Computers and Equipment, Heritage and Roads and Infrastructure Equipment at a total value of €1,276 million. The value of fixed assets has increased by €58.6 million since 2021, primarily as a result of the construction and acquisition of housing units, the acquisition of land and acquisition of new civic headquarters.

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

Expenditure By Division	Note	Gross Expenditure ### €	Income 2022 €	Net Expenditur 2022 €	Net Expenditure 2021 €
Housing and Building		37,179,546	33,217,105	3,962,440	3,016,023
Roads, Transportation & Safety		12,639,182	8,614,065	4,025,117	5,467,436
Water Services		3,503,055	4,023,667	(520,612)	(387,089)
Development Management		8,766,071	3,485,016	5,281,055	4,473,166
Environmental Services		12,406,314	1,299,881	11,106,432	11,000,906
Recreation & Amenity		18,199,264	6,350,690	11,848,575	9,258,655
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		219,194	59,829	159,365	106,165
Miscellaneous Services		8,000,017	6,724,924	1,275,092	692,916
Total Expenditure/Income	15	<u>100,912,643</u>	<u>63,775,178</u>		
Net Cost of Division to be funded from Rates and Local Property Tax				37,137,465	33,628,177
Rates				37,941,446	37,682,745
Local Property Tax				4,268,123	4,262,543
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before				<u>5,072,104</u>	<u>8,317,111</u>
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	14			(5,003,052)	(8,249,346)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	16			<u>69,052</u>	<u>67,765</u>
General Reserve at 1st January				2,576,993	2,509,228
General Reserve at 31st December				<u>2,646,045</u>	<u>2,576,993</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
		€	€
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		747,647,831	688,967,446
Infrastructural		497,968,553	497,968,553
Community		606,353	606,353
Non-Operational		29,967,257	29,967,257
		1,276,189,993	1,217,509,609
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	15,360,950	9,904,411
Long Term Debtors	3	61,117,621	56,402,885
Current Assets			
Stock	4	420,711	323,257
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	16,283,664	19,115,394
Bank Investments		73,749,308	62,588,608
Cash at Bank		3,852,446	1,326,881
Cash in Transit		180,938	148,239
		94,487,067	83,502,380
Current Liabilities			
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Creditors & Accruals	6	40,581,072	26,061,775
Finance Leases		-	-
		40,581,072	26,061,775
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		53,905,995	57,440,605
Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	94,483,841	51,417,617
Finance Leases		-	-
Refundable Deposits	8	3,754,026	3,274,467
Other		40,778,536	36,052,003
		139,016,403	90,744,087
Net Assets / (Liabilities)		1,267,558,156	1,250,513,422
Represented By			
Capitalisation	9	1,276,189,994	1,217,509,609
Income WIP	2	(5,362,574)	8,152,031
General Revenue Reserve		2,646,045	2,576,993
Other Specific Reserves		0	0
Other Balances	10	(5,915,308)	22,274,788
Total Reserves		1,267,558,157	1,250,513,421

16. Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

16.1 Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group consists of the Mayor and Chair of each of the Strategic Policy Committees. This Group acts as a type of Cabinet and provides a forum where policy positions affecting the whole City may be agreed for submission to the full City Council. The Mayor represents the Corporate Policy Group at meetings of Galway City Council. All members sit from January to December 2022, unless specified.

Corporate Policy Group Membership		
Membership		Issues Addressed
Chair		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Draft of Corporate Plan 2019-2024 • Cappagh Park LSSIF Feasibility Options • Marketing and Promotion Fund 2020 • Budget Strategy Report • Arts Grants • Restart Business Grants • Budget 2023 Report • Standing Orders/Holding of Meetings • Sports Club Grant criteria • Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture
Cllr. Colette Connolly Mayor of the City of Galway January to June 2022		
Cllr. Clodagh Higgins Mayor of the City of Galway June to December 2022		
Strategic Policy Committee Chairs		
Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture/Economic, Community and Cultural Development	Cllr. Niall McNelis	
Planning	Cllr. Peter Keane	

Housing/Housing and Social Inclusion	Cllr. Donal Lyons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning • Housing • Transportation • Environment, Recreation and Amenity
Transportation	Cllr. Frank Fahy	
Environment, Recreation and Amenity/Climate Change, Environment, Recreation and Amenity	Cllr. Martina O'Connor	
Number of meetings held in 2022: 8		

16.2 Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

Strategic Policy Committees consider matters connected with the formulation, development, monitoring, and review of policy for Galway City Council. The membership of SPCs is made up of Galway City Council Elected Members and external representatives from local sectoral interests.

Housing and Social Inclusion		
Membership	Organisation	Issues Addressed
Cllr. D. Lyons (Chair) Cllr. D. McDonnell Cllr. T. O'Flaherty Cllr. M. Cubbard Cllr. M. O'Connor	Elected Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Delivery Action Plan and Capital Programme • Traveller Accommodation Programme • Homeless and Housing First • Affordable Housing Scheme / Land Acquisition Programme • Energy Efficiency Programme / Retrofit • Choice Based Letting

Cllr. E. Hoare		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of Horses Byelaws • Draft Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2021 - 2026
Cllr. A. Cheevers		
Ms. Amy McGee	GCCN	
Ms. Karen Golden	GCCN	
Mr. Mark Lohan	ICTU	
Mr. Walter King	Construction Sector	
Number of meetings held in 2022: 4		

Planning		
Membership	Organisation	Issues Addressed
Cllr. P. Keane (Chair)	Elected Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 • Draft Galway County Council Development Plan • Short-term letting • Three Castles Project • Preparation for new Heritage Plan • URDF • New legislation updates
Cllr. M. Crowe		
Cllr. O Hanley		
Cllr. N. McNelis		
Cllr. I. Byrne		
Cllr. F. Fahy		
Cllr. C. Higgins		
Cllr. N. Larkin		
Mr. Derrick Hambleton	GCCN	

Mr. Brendan Mulligan	GCCN	
Ms. Marian Spelman	ICTU	
Ms. Patricia Staunton	Business Sector	
Number of meetings held in 2021: 4		

Economic, Community and Cultural Development		
Membership	Organisation	Issues Addressed
Cllr. N. McNelis (Chair) Cllr. D. Lyons Cllr. E. Hoare Cllr. N. Larkin Cllr. J. Connolly Cllr. C. Higgins Cllr. M. Crowe Cllr. D. Mc Donnell Cllr. N Larkin	Elected Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee the implementation of the economic elements of the Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan 2015–2021 and ongoing monitoring with the Advisory Steering Group on action plan. Finalisation and Adoption of ‘Galway to 2025’ – Joint Tourism Strategy for Galway. Review the Economic Sustainability Strategy including work of Local Enterprise Office. Engage in the development of the Regional Spatial and Economy Strategy.
Ms. Geri Slevin	ICTU	
Mr. Dominick Whelan	GCCN	

Mr. Dave Hickey	Galway Chamber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing review of the Economic and Cultural Development Unit Annual Service Delivery Plan 2021. • Development and implementation of marketing initiatives for Galway Tourism. • Progress the Atlantic Economic Corridor initiative in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development. • Review of the Galway City Culture and Creativity Plan 2018 – 2022 and implementation of key actions for 2019 in line with ‘Everybody Matters – A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway’ and Galway City Arts Plan. • Monitoring of Galway City Museum Strategic Plan. • Review of Strategic Development of Leisureland Complex. • Supporting Social Enterprise in Galway City/Social Enterprise Development Fund. • Developing the Green Economy in Galway City.
Ms. Fiona Neary	GCCN	
Number of meetings held in 2021: 4		

Transportation		
Membership	Organisation	Issues Addressed
Cllr. F. Fahy (Chair)	Elected Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Streets, School Zones, Bike Parking and Road Markings. • Parklets – support outdoor summer recreational activities. • Fleet electrification and E-charge strategy. • Public lighting retrofit to low energy LED and asset upgrade. • Traffic management, Special speed limits and traffic calming. • Updates on GTS Projects. • Street/car parking E-charging strategy. • Speed limits. • City centre pedestrian area rehabilitation. • Improvements of Footpaths and Pedestrian Crossings in the City. • GTS and City Development Plan. • Toilet Facilities for Bus Drivers
Cllr. A. Cheevers		
Cllr. C. Higgins		
Cllr. M. Cubbard		
Cllr. C. Connolly		
Cllr. P. Keane		
Cllr. N. Larkin		
Cllr. N. Murphy		
Mr. Pat Hardiman	ICTU	
Mr. Paul O'Donnell	GCCN	
Mr. Shane Foran	GCCN	
Ms. Elaine Brick	Business Sector	
Number of meetings held in 2022: 4		

Climate Action, Environment, Recreation and Amenity		
Membership	Organisation	Issues Addressed
Cllr. M. O'Connor (Chair) Cllr. D. McDonnell Cllr. D. Lyons Cllr. T. O'Flaherty Cllr. C. Connolly Cllr. O. Hanley Cllr. J. Connolly Cllr N. Murphy	Elected Members	Recreation and Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-Ireland Pollinator Plan • Access Control to Public Spaces • RandA Capital Projects Update • Updates on Master Plans • Blueway Feasibility Study • Provision of Cemetery Services Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Waterways Governance and Hydroelectric potential
Mr. Brendan Smyth	GCCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Control of Dog Bye Laws
Ms. Caroline Stanley	GCCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) • SAUTI Galway
Ms. Eleanor Hough	GCCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Casual Trading Bye Laws 2022 • Climate Adaptation Strategy
Mr. Colm Ryan	Business Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish Climate Analysis and Research Units (ICARUS) - Presentation • Draft Work Programme for 2023 • Climate Change/Energy Bureau Update
Number of meetings held in 2022: 4		

17. Performance Indicators: 01/01/22 – 31/12/22

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing H1	A. No. of dwellings in ownership of LA at 1/1/22	2,412	
	B. No. of dwellings added to LA-owned stock during 2022 (whether constructed or acquired)	37	27 Units at Garrai Caol (Turnkey), 1 acquisition (15 Bin Sin) and 9 unsold affordable returned to GCC, previously leased. 15 Camillaun is TAU unit, Traveller Accommodation and not counted.
	C. No. of LA-owned dwellings sold in 2022	11	
	D. No. of LA-owned dwellings demolished in 2022	1	Loop Road House, Ballybrit, demolished, for An Cliathan Housing Development (15 units)
	E. No. of dwellings in ownership of LA at 31/12/22	2,437	
	F. No. of LA-owned dwellings planned for demolition under D/HLGH approved scheme at 31/12/22	2	McHale House Linden Lodge House

Housing H2	A. % of total number of LA owned dwellings vacant on 31/12/21	5.13%	
	No. of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/22	125	
Housing H4	A. Expenditure during 2022 on maintenance of LA housing compiled from 01/01/22 to 31/12/22, divided by no. of dwellings in LA stock at 31/12/21, i.e., H1E less H1F indicator figure	€2,802.87	
	Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 01/01/21 to 31/12/21, including planned maintenance & expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works but excluding expenditure on vacant properties & expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€6,824,991	Revenue Report 202113 total spend including COT & wages 6,307,947 + Capital spend C116001 – 517,044 = 6,825,991

Housing H3	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to date in 2021 when dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2022	52.09 weeks	
	B. The cost expended on getting dwellings re-tenanted in 2022, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2022	€21,438.86	
	No. of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2022 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	66	COT let in 2022
	No. of weeks from date of vacation to date dwelling is re-tenanted	3,438 weeks	Dates from COT Register 2022 – AF (Total no. of weeks to return & let all 66 COT in 2022)
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of dwellings	€1,414,965	Includes codes, R188113, from 2022 Revenue Report, + H200 wages element from R108007 to 009.

Housing H5	A. Total no. of registered tenancies in LA area at end June 2022	This data will be supplied by the RTB	
	B. No. of rented dwellings inspected in 2022	This data will be supplied by the DHLGH	
	C. % of inspected dwellings in 2022 not compliant with Standards Regulations		
	D. No. of dwellings deemed compliant in 2022 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)		
	E. No. of inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by LA in 2022		
Housing H6	A. No. of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term (i.e. 6 months or more within previous year) homeless as % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at end 2022	37.79%	

	No. of adult individuals classified as homeless & in emergency accommodation on night of 31/12/22 as recorded on PASS system	217	
	No. out of those individuals who, on 31/12/22, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	82	135 of the bookings were made between July and December 2022.
Roads R1	A. (a) % regional road kms that received PSCI rating in 24 month period prior to 31/12/22	95%	
	A. (b) % local primary road kms that received PSCI rating in 24 month period prior to 31/12/22	99%	
	A. (c) % local secondary road kms that received PSCI rating in 24 month period prior to 31/12/22	96%	
	A. (d) % local tertiary road kms that received PSCI rating in 60 month period prior to 31/12/22	98%	

	B. (a.3) % total regional road kms with PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/22	40.74%	
	B. (a.4) % total regional road kms with PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/22	35.72%	
	B. (b.1) % total local primary road kms with PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/22	17.64%	
	B. (b.2) % total local primary road kms with PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/22	38..97%	
	B. (b.3) % total local primary road kms with PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/22	22.79%	
	B. (b.4) % total local primary road kms with PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/22	20.51%	
	B. (c.1) % total local secondary road kms with PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/22	6.2%	
	B. (c.2) % total local secondary road kms with PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/22	47.15%	

	B. (c.3) % total local secondary road kms with PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/22	24.81%	
	B. (c.4) % total local secondary road kms with PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/22	21.5%	
	B. (d.1) % total local tertiary road kms with PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31/12/22	4.08%	
	B. (d.2) % total local tertiary road kms with PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31/12/22	32.07%	
	B. (d.3) % total local tertiary road kms with PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31/12/22	48.4%	
	B. (d.4) % total local tertiary road kms with PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31/12/22	14.25%	
Roads	A.1 Kms of regional road strengthened during 2022	1.2 km	
R2	A.2 Amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2022	€648,608	

	A.3 Average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€47.41	
	B.1 Kms of regional road resealed during 2022	0km	
	B.2 Amount expended on regional road resealing works during 2022	€0	
	B.3 Average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€0	
	C.1 Kms of local road strengthened during 2022	3.1 km	
	C.2 Amount expended on local road strengthening works during 2022	€1,225,157.00	
	C.3 Average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€59.28	
	D.1 Kms of local road resealed during 2022	0.0 km	
	D.2 Amount expended on local road resealing work during 2022	€0.00	

	D.3 Average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€0.00	
Motor Tax R3	A. % of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction processed & tax disc is issued) in 2022	The Motor Tax Office is operated through Galway County Council as a shared service.	
Water W1	% of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements	This data will be supplied by the EPA.	
Water W2	No. of registered schemes monitored by each LA as % of total schemes registered	0	
	No. of registered schemes monitored in 2022	0	
	Total no. of registered schemes in 2022	0	

Waste E1	A. No. of households which availed of a 3 bin service offered by a licensed operator at 31/12/22	29,266	
	B. % of households within LA that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	97.26%	
Environmental Pollution E2	A. Total no. of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2022	1297	
	A. No. of pollution cases closed from 01/01/22 to 31/12/22	1271	
	A. Total no. of pollution cases on hand at 31/12/22	54	
	Opening number of pollution cases carried forward from year end 2021	28	
Litter Pollution	A1. % of area within LA that when surveyed in 2022 was unpolluted or litter free	This data will be supplied by Tobin Consulting Engineers.	

E3	A2. % of area within LA that when surveyed in 2022 was slightly polluted		
	A3. % of area within LA that when surveyed in 2022 was moderately polluted		
	A4. % of area within LA that when surveyed in 2022 was significantly polluted		
	A5. % of area within LA that when surveyed in 2022 was grossly polluted		
Green Flag Status	A. % of schools that have been awarded/renewed Green Flag status in 2 years to 31/12/22	23.08%	
E4	Schools that attained Green Flag for the first time in 2022	1	
	Schools that renewed Green Flag in 2022	4	
	Schools that held Green Flag from 2021 & do not require renewal until 2023	4	

Energy Efficiency E5	A. Cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/22 relative to baseline year (2009)	This data will be supplied by the SEAI.	
Public Lighting E6	A. Total billable wattage of public lighting system	2,288.30MWh	
	B. Average billable wattage of public lighting system	61.68W	
	C. % of total system that LED lights represent	95.49%	
	No. of LED lights in public lighting system	9,260	
	No. of non-LED lights (e.g., SOX-SON) in public lighting system	437	
Climate Change	Does LA have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Co-ordinator	No	

E7	Does LA have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Officer?	No	
	Does LA have a climate action team?	Work in Progress	
Planning P1	A. Buildings inspected as % of new buildings notified to LA	45.73%	
	Total no. of new buildings notified to LA, i.e. buildings where valid Commencement Notice was served in period 1/1/22 to 31/12/22 by builder or developer on LA	199	
	No. of new buildings notified to LA in 2022 that were the subject of at least one onsite inspection during 2022 undertaken by LA	91	
Planning P2	A. No. of LA planning decisions which were the subject of appeal to ABP that were determined by Board on any date in 2022	19	

	B. % of determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of plan) decision made by LA	84.21%	
	No. of determinations confirming LA decision (either with or without variation)	16	
Planning P3	A. Total no. of planning cases referred to or initiated by LA in period 1/1/22 to 31/12/22 that were investigated	272	
	B. Total no. of investigated cases closed during 2022	225	
	C. % of cases at B dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or closed because statute barred or an exempted development	85.78%	
	D. % of cases at B resolved to LA satisfaction through negotiations	0%	
	E. % of cases at B closed due to enforcement proceedings	14.22%	

	F. Total no. of planning cases investigated as at 31/12/22	362	
	No. of cases at B dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or closed because statute barred or an exempted development	193	
	No. of cases at B resolved to LA satisfaction through negotiations	0	
	No. of cases at B closed due to enforcement proceedings	32	
Planning P4	A. 2022 AFS Programme D data divided by population of LA area per 2016 Census	€44.01	
	AFS Programme D data consisting of: D01: Forward Planning D02: Development Management	€3,673,159	

	D03: Enforcement (inclusive of relevant Programme D proportion of central management charge) for 2022		
Planning P5	A. % of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 decided (granted or refused) within 2 months of receipt	75.51%	
	B. % of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with applicant	24.49%	
	Total no. of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 not withdrawn by the applicant	49	
	No. of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 decided (granted or refused) within 2 months of date of receipt of application	37	
	No. of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2022 decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	12	

Fire Service F1	A. AFS Programme E expenditure data for 2022 divided by population of LA area per 2016 Census figures for population served by fire authority as per Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	The Fire Service is operated through Galway County Council as a shared service.
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of: E11 – Operation of Fire Service & E12 – Fire Prevention for 2022	
Fire Service F2	A. Average time taken, in mins, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	The Fire Service is operated through Galway County Council as a shared service.
	B. Average time taken, in mins, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	

	<p>C. Average time taken, in mins, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents</p>	
	<p>D. Average time taken, in mins, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents</p>	
<p>Fire Service F3</p>	<p>A. % of cases in respect of fire in which 1st attendance at scene is within 10 mins</p>	<p>The Fire Service is operated through Galway County Council as a shared service.</p>
<p>B. % of cases in respect of fire in which 1st attendance at scene is after 10 mins but within 20 mins</p>		
<p>C. % of cases in respect of fire in which 1st attendance at scene is after 20 mins</p>		
<p>D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which 1st attendance at scene is within 10 mins</p>		

	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which 1 st attendance at scene is after 10 mins but within 20 mins	
	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which 1 st attendance at scene is after 20 mins	
	Total no. of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/22 to 31/12/22	
	Number of these fire cases where 1 st fire tender attendance at scene is within 10 mins	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at scene is after 10 mins but within 20 mins	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at scene is after 20 mins	
	Total number of callouts in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/22 to 31/12/22	

	Number of these non-fire cases in which 1 st fire tender attendance at scene is within 10 mins	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first 1 st tender attendance at scene is after 10 mins but within 20 mins	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which 1 st fire tender attendance at scene is after 20 mins	
Library Service L1	A. No. of visits to libraries per head of population for LA area per 2016 Census	The Library Service is operated through Galway County Council as a shared service
	B. No. of items issued to library borrowers in year	
	C. Library active members per head of population	
	D. Number of registered library members in year	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/22 to 31/12/22	

Library Service L2	A. AFS Programme F data for 2022 divided by population of LA area per 2016 Census	The Library Service is operated through Galway County Council as a shared service.	
	B. Annual per capita expenditure on collections over 1/01/22 to 31/12/22 period		
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02: Operation of Library & Archival Service (inclusive of relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2022		
	B. Annual expenditure on new stock acquired by library in year		
Youth & Community Y1	A. % of local schools involved in local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	100%	
	Total no. of 2 nd level schools in LA area at 31/12/22	10	

	No. of 2 nd level schools in LA area from which representatives attended local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2022	10	
Youth & Community Y2	A. No. of organisations included in County Register at 31/12/22 & proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of Social Inclusion College within PPN	30.36	
	Total no. of organisations included in County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of LG Act 2001) for LA area as at 31/12/22	168	
	Total no. of those organisations that registered for 1 st time in 2022	10	
	No. of organisations that opted to join Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for PPN	51	

Corporate C1	A. Wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31/12/22	503.05	
Corporate C2	A. % of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2022	2.22%	
	B. % of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2022	0.14%	
	Total no. of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2022	5,045.5 days	
	Total no. of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2022	250.5 days	
	No. of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within total of self-certified sick leave days in 2022	0 days	

	No. of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within total of medically certified sick leave days in 2022	745.5 days	
	If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include text note of the no. of staff on long-term sick leave	46 staff	
Corporate C4	A. All ICT expenditure from 1/1/22 to 31/12/22, divided by WTE no.	€4,237.98	
	Total ICT expenditure in 2022	€2,912,643	
Corporate C5	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as proportion of Revenue expenditure	2.11	
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/22 to 31/12/22 before transfers to/from reserves	100,995,252	

Corporate C3	A. Per capita total page views of LA's websites in 2022	12.19	
	B. Per capita total no. of followers at end 2022 of LA's social media accounts	0.50	
	Cumulative total page views of all websites operated by LA from 1/1/22 to 31/12/22 obtained from page tagging onsite web analytics service or equivalent	1,017,246	
	Total no. of social media users who, at 31/12/22, were following LA on any social media sites	41,809	
	No. of social media accounts operated by the LA	6	
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on LA sites & date this came into effect	There was no material change to the overall policy, but the site is dynamically polled by our cookie script provider and the cookie breakdown is automatically updated in addition to sending us a complete monthly scan of cookies & permissions. Non-signed cookies are monitored and managed.	

Finance M1	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/18 in Revenue Account from Income & Expenditure Account Statement of AFS	€2,120,944	Data for 2017-2020 to be provided by the LGMA.
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/19 in Revenue Account from Income & Expenditure Account Statement of AFS	€2,343,703	
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/20 in Revenue Account from Income & Expenditure Account Statement of AFS	€2,509,288	
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/21 in Revenue Account from Income & Expenditure Account Statement of AFS	€2,576,994	
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/22 in Revenue Account from Income & Expenditure Account Statement of AFS	€2,646,046	
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/22 as % of Total Income in 2021 from Income & Expenditure Account Statement of AFS	€2.5%	

	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2022	€1902.17	
	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2022, excluding significant out of county /shared service expenditure		
	2022 Total Income figure from Income & Expenditure Account Statement of AFS	€105,984,747	
	2022 Total Expenditure figure from Income & Expenditure Account Statement of AFS	€100,912,643	
	2022 Revenue expenditure excluding county/shared service expenditure for service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE & Dublin Fire Services		
Finance M2	A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2018	81%	Data for 2017-2020 to be provided by the LGMA.
	A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2018	79%	

	A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2018	84%	
	B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2018	83%	
	B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2018	80%	
	B. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2018	86%	
	C. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2019	61%	
	C. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2020	79%	
	C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2020	86%	
	D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2021	67%	

	D. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2021	80%	
	D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2021	88%	
	E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2021	84%	
	E. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2021	80%	
	E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of AFS for 2022	88%	
Finance M3	A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2022	€10.76	Data to be provided by IPB Insurance
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2022	43	
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2022	24	
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2022	€897,923.27	

	Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2022		
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2022		
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2022		
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2022		
Finance M4	A. Overall central management charge as a % of total expenditure on revenue account	15.85%	
	B. Total payroll costs as a % of revenue expenditure	30.28%	
	Overall central management charge from LA FMS & defined in Annual Budget	€15,993,264	
	Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of AFS for 2021 (including Salaries, Wages & Pensions)	€30,558,994	
	A. No. of jobs created with assistance from the LEO during 1/1/22 to 31/12/22 per 100,000 of population		This data will be obtained from Enterprise Ireland

Economic Development J1	The no. of jobs created with assistance from the LEO during 1/1/22 to 31/12/22	43	Figures for Galway City & County
Economic Development J2	A. No. of trading online voucher applications approved by LEO in 2022 per 100,000 of population		This data will be obtained from Enterprise Ireland
	B. No. of trading online vouchers drawn down in 2022 per 100,000 of population		
	No. of trading online voucher applications approved by LEO in 2022	86	
	No. of those trading online vouchers drawn down in 2022	32	
	A. No. of participants who received mentoring during 1/1/22 to 31/12/22 per 100,000 of population		This data will be obtained from Enterprise Ireland

Economic Development J3	No. of participants who received mentoring during 1/1/22 to 31/12/22	734	
Economic Development J4	A. Does LA have a current tourism strategy?	Yes	
	B. Does LA have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes	
Economic Development J5	Spend on local economic development by LA in 2022 per head of population	€244.83	
	Spend on local economic development by LA in 2022	€20,432,626	