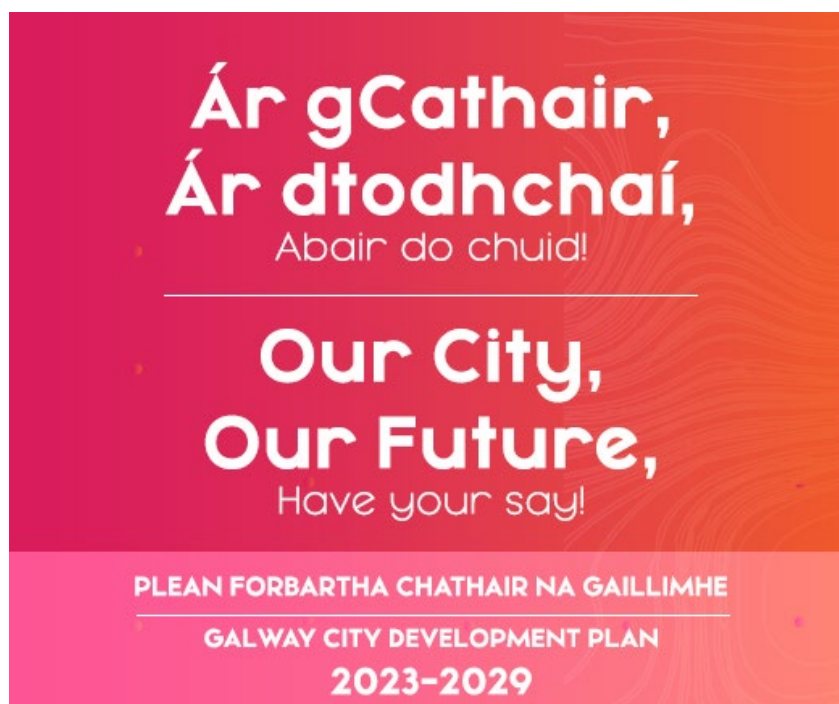


Páipéar Saincheisteanna

Achoimre Feidhmiúcháin

Issues Paper

Executive Summary



Galway City Council has commenced the process of reviewing the current City Development Plan 2017-2023 and preparing a new Plan for the period of 2023 – 2029.

This two year process offers an opportunity to examine the current development plan vision and policy and to progress a new plan which will guide the future growth of the City to 2029 and into the longer term, in a way which aims to be sustainable and inclusive for all.

The purpose of the Issues Paper is to give some background information on the development plan process and what a development plan should include. It sets out information on how the public and stakeholders can engage in the process during the public consultation phases.

The adoption of the City Development Plan is a “reserved function” which means that it is the role and responsibility of the Elected Members to make the Plan. They are required to do this having considered the draft plan, all of the issues raised in the public consultation, having regard to government policy and guidelines and the proper planning and sustainable development of the city.

The Plan will be prepared in the context of new national and regional planning frameworks namely, the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). These documents designate Galway and the metropolitan area as a Regional City which has the potential for significant population and economic growth through focused investment.

There are a number of strategic issues which the development plan will address and which are important to the future direction of development in Galway City. They are set out in sections 1-9 of the Issues Paper and relate to housing, the economy, transport and movement, the built environment, the natural environment, climate change, community & culture, energy, infrastructure and the environment. The Issues Paper gives some background information on each issue and sets out some questions for consideration.

The Issues Paper sets out a number of challenges for the city that development plan policy will consider. These include to:

- Enable the city to become resilient to the impact of climate change and reduce our carbon footprint to help achieve the national target of zero emissions by 2050.
- Enable the city to fulfil its role as a Regional City through the provision of balanced and sustainable economic opportunities.
- Enable the city to accommodate NPF growth targets supporting sustainable city living and achieving a high quality of life for everyone.
- Provide sufficient housing options across all tenures in sustainable neighbourhoods provide housing choice and affordability.
- Protect and enhance the unique culture and heritage of the city.
- Provide social and physical infrastructure to support an equitable City where everyone has the opportunity to reach their potential.
- Protect the natural environment in the city, strengthen the green network and enhance biodiversity.
- Respond to the impact of Covid-19 on our communities and our livelihoods.

Galway City Council welcomes the views of all individuals, groups and stakeholders on what might be important in the formulation of objectives and policies that can help define the strategy of the next

development plan. The aim of this Pre Draft Plan public consultation will be to achieve a broad range of engagement reflective of the city community so that the concerns as well as the aspirations of all those who have an interest in the future sustainable growth and development of the city can be taken into consideration.

This pre-draft plan public consultation stage will take place between Thursday 7th January 2021 and Friday 5th March 2021 (inclusive). As this is a stage that will be defining vision and strategy, requests or proposals for zoning of particular land for any purpose cannot be considered at this time, this restriction is specifically supported by planning legislation. There will be an opportunity to make submissions later in the process, including submissions in relation to zoning.

Details of how to make a submission/observation are set out in the Issues Paper. They can be made by using the online submission portal at www.galwaycity.ie/development-plan-2023-2029 ; By email to devplan@galwaycity.ie. or by posting your submission/observation to the **Senior Planner, Planning Department, City Hall, College Road, Galway, H91 X4K8.**

If any person would like to further engage in this public consultation, the Development Plan Team can be contacted by email- devplan@galwaycity.ie or by Phone- 091 536599. Details of further engagement occurring during the consultation process will be available on the city council website and social media.

The closing date for receipt of submissions /observations is **Friday 5th March 2021**