



CATHAIR NA GAILLIMHE  
**PLEAN FORBARTHA**  
GALWAY CITY  
**DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**Ár gCathair,  
Ár dtodhchaí,**  
Abair do chuid!

**Our City,  
Our Future,**  
Have your say!


PLEAN FORBARTHA CHATHAIR NA GAILLIMHE  
GALWAY CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
**2023-2029**

PÁIPÉAR SAINCHEISTEANNA  
ISSUES PAPER



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council

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A coastal scene at dusk or dawn. In the foreground, a concrete wall or pier extends into the water. In the middle ground, a concrete structure with blue railings stands in the water. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and the water is calm. A large red circle is in the top right corner, containing text. The bottom right corner has abstract geometric shapes.

Galway City Council has commenced a review of the current Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023 and preparation of a new development plan for the period 2023-2029.

Galway City Council would like to thank Dr. Chaosheng Zhang for permission to use his photograph on page 28.







# Foreword

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 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. The new plan will provide a policy framework to guide this future growth in a way which aims to support a high quality of life for all, to protect the distinctive character and unique environment of the city and to address the challenges of climate change.

Public consultation is an important part of the preparation of the plan. The public and stakeholders are invited to engage with the process at this early stage. There will also be further opportunities for consultation when the draft plan is prepared. Where amendments are proposed to the draft plan, these will also be subject to consultation.

We would like to thank you for your interest and involvement in the process and we look forward to hearing what your views are.

## **Galway City Council Chief Executive**

*Mr. Brendan McGrath*

## **Galway City Mayor**

*Cllr. Mike Cubbard*

# Brollach

Tá tús curtha ag Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe le próiseas chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an bPlean Forbartha Cathrach 2017-2023 reatha, agus Plean nua a ullmhú don tréimhse 2023-2029.

Tugtar deis sa phróiseas dhá bhliain seo chun scrúdú a dhéanamh ar fhís agus beartas an phlean forbartha reatha agus chun plean nua a chur chun cinn a threoróidh fás amach anseo na Cathrach chuig 2029 agus san fhadtárma, ar bhealach a bheidh inbhuanaithe agus cuimsitheach do gach duine.

Ullmhófar an Plean i gcomhthéacs na gcreat nua pleanála náisiúnta agus réigiúnacha, eadhon, an Creat Pleanála Náisiúnta (NPF) agus an Straitéis Réigiúnach Spásúil agus Eacnamaíoch (RSES). Ainmnítear Gaillimh agus an ceantar uirbeach sna doiciméid seo mar Chaithair Réigiúnach a bhfuil sé de chumas aici fás suntasach daonra agus eacnamaíoch a dhéanamh trí infheistíocht dhíríthe. Cuirfear creat beartais ar fáil sa phlean nua chun an fás seo a threorú ar bhealach a thacóidh le hardcháilíocht saoil do gach duine, chun saintréith shainiúil agus timpeallacht uathúil na cathrach a chosaint agus le dul i ngleic le dúshláin an athraithe aeráide.

Tá comhairliúchán poiblí ina chuid tábhachtach in ullmhú an Phlean. Tugtar cuireadh don phobal agus do pháirtithe leasmhara a bheith páirteach sa phróiseas ag an gcéim luath seo. Beidh deiseanna eile freisin i gcomhair comhairliúcháin nuair a ullmhaítear an dréachtplean. I gcás go moltar leasuithe leis an dréachtplean, beidh siad seo faoi réir comhairliúcháin phoiblí freisin.

Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil libh as bhur suim agus bhur rannpháirtíocht sa phróiseas agus táimid ag súil le bhur dtuairimí a chloisteáil.

## **Príomhfheidhmeannach Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe**

*An tUasal Brendan McGrath*

## **Méara Chathair na Gaillimhe**

*An Comh. Mike Cubbard*







# What is the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029?

This is a plan that will set out a vision and strategy for the future sustainable development of Galway City up to 2029. It will focus on a wide range of issues such as housing and neighbourhoods; transport and sustainable mobility; social and community development; economic and commercial activity; open spaces, parks and recreation; environment and biodiversity; climate change and adaptation; arts, culture, heritage and tourism.

The development plan will provide a strategic framework to guide and manage the future growth of the city for a six year period and also establish the vision for the longer term. A fundamental principle in preparing the plan is

to ensure that the interests of the common good are an overriding consideration and that this is encouraged through citizen participation and active engagement.

Ultimately the adoption of the Galway 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.

## Issues Paper

The drafting of an Issues Paper is designed to increase awareness of the development plan process and to encourage engagement. The focus on topics is to stimulate expression of opinions and to encourage discussion around the key strategic policies regarding the future development of Galway City.

The Issues Paper highlights these key areas which the development plan covers and which are important to the future direction of development in Galway City. Some key background information is included and relevant questions are asked to stimulate discussion.

The city council hopes that the issues paper will be useful in this regard and welcomes 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 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.

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.

### Read More:

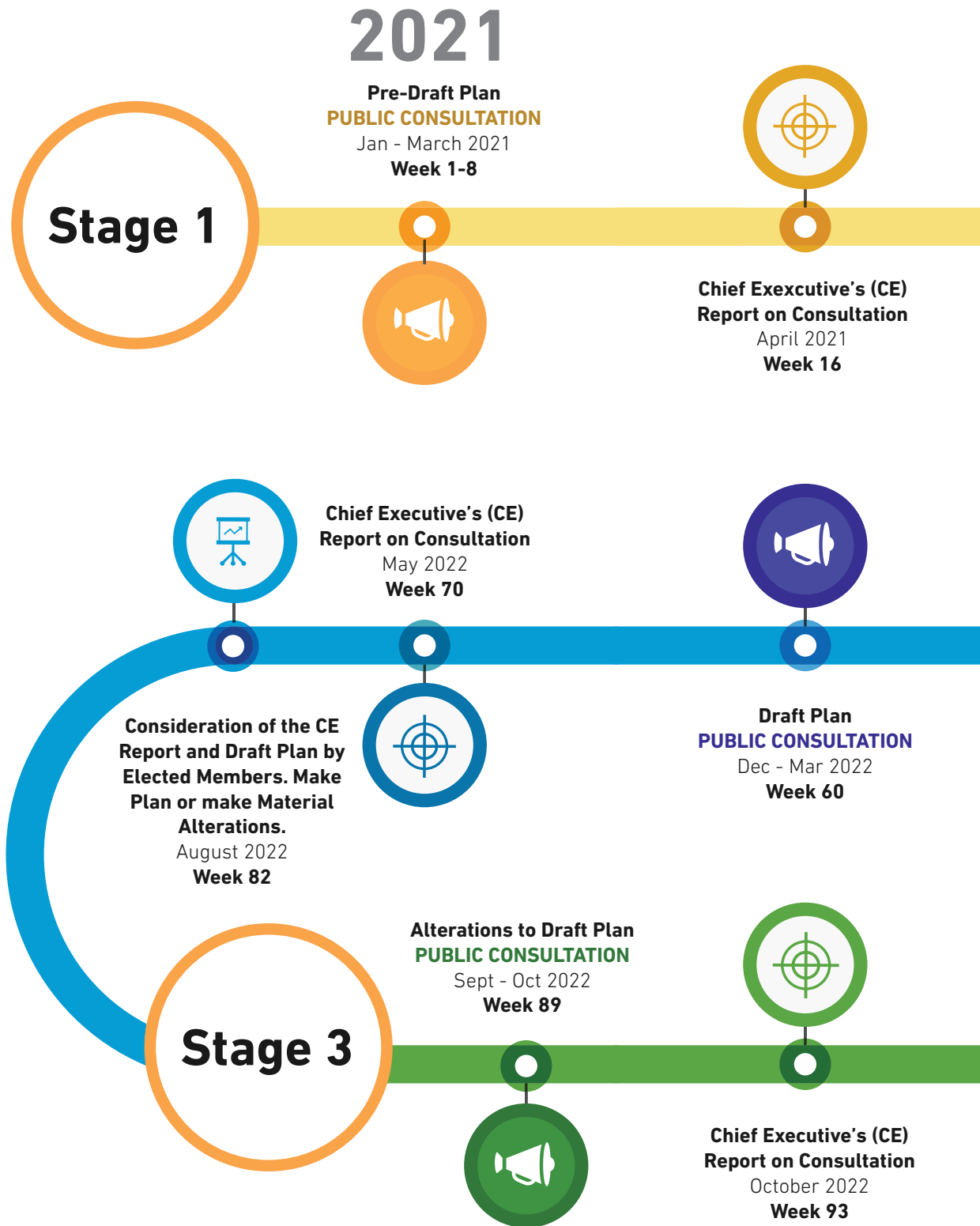
#### Elected Member list

[www.galwaycity.ie/council-mayor](http://www.galwaycity.ie/council-mayor)

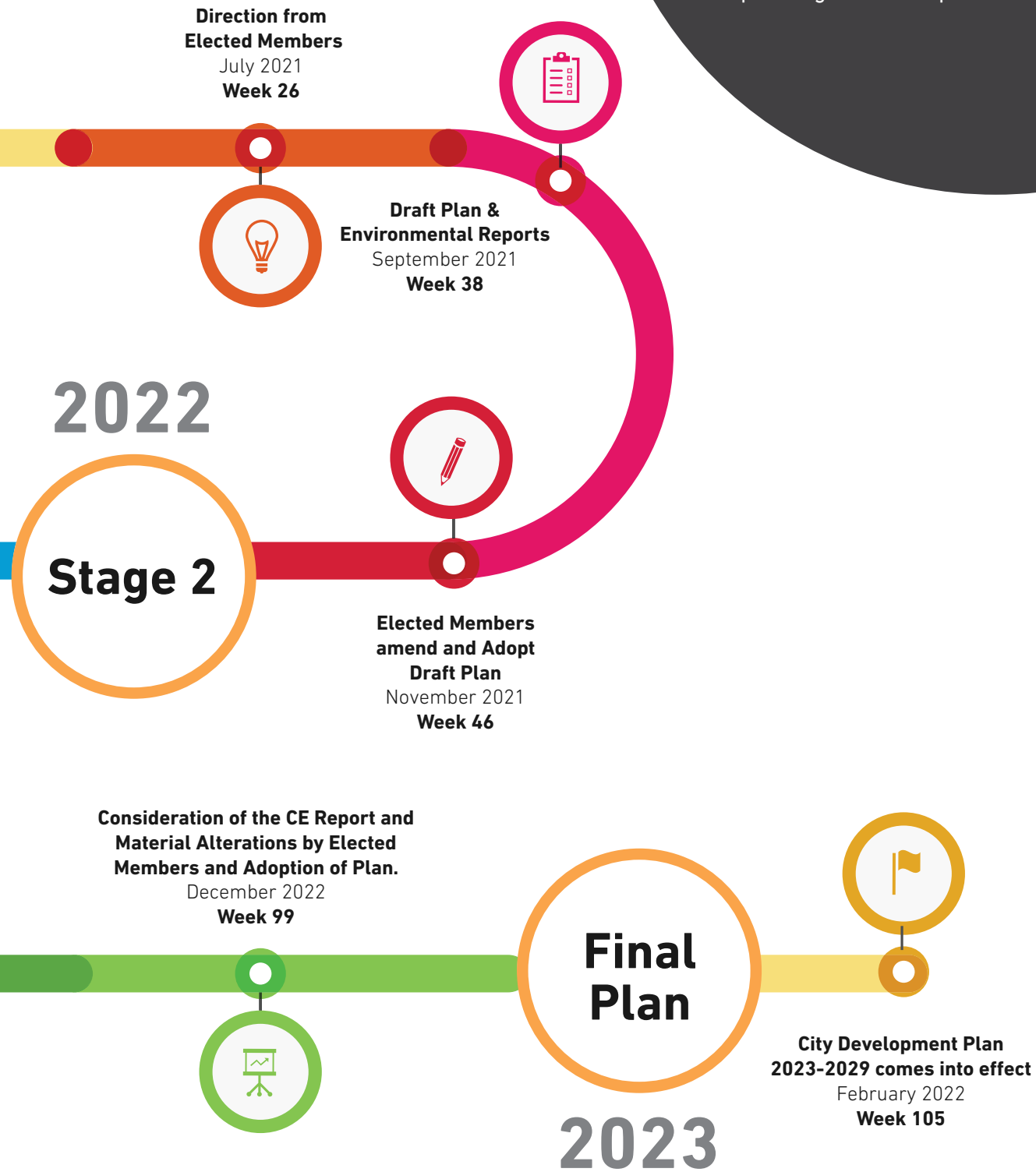
**The content of the development plan is set out in Section 10 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2020 available here** <https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2000/act/30/revised/en/html>



# Development Plan Process



There are various stages involved in the preparation of a Development Plan. This current stage is Stage 1 'Pre-Draft Public Consultation'. During this stage and at key subsequent stages, as outlined below, the city council will engage with the public to encourage and facilitate valuable public engagement that will contribute to the future planning and development of Galway City.



\* Dates are indicative and may change

# Context of Plan

The development plan for the period 2023-2029 is being prepared in a changed context from that of the current plan 2017-2023. A new spatial framework for national and regional development is in place which all local development plans must be consistent with. A more urgent national focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation with implementation of the National Climate

Action Plan will guide the drafting of policy. National guidelines on building height, apartment sizes and urban roads and streets have been introduced or revised which will also influence the plan. At local level, various plans and strategies will reflect policy for the next plan period.

## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Ireland is a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals are a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. All countries are encouraged to develop national responses to the SDGs and incorporate them into planning and policy.

### Read More:

#### United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

[www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/ff4201-17-sustainable-development-goals/](http://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/ff4201-17-sustainable-development-goals/)





## Policy Context

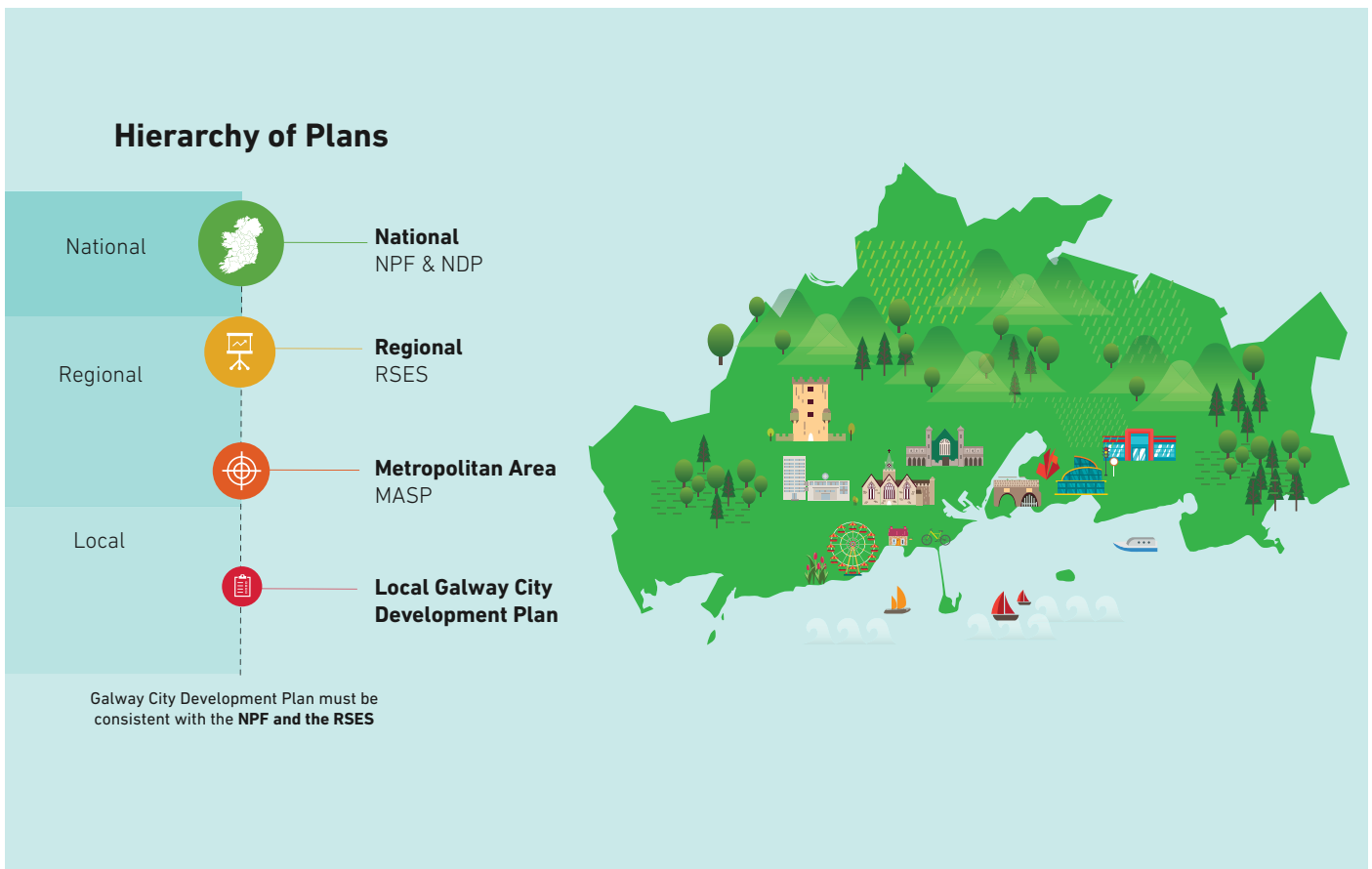
The development plan is included in the hierarchy of plans and strategies at national, regional and local level.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the Government's strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of the country to 2040. The NPF is partnered with the National Development Plan 2040, which outlines a programme of investment in infrastructure to support the NPF.

At regional level, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) developed by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly sets out a framework for implementation of the NPF at a regional level.

Included in the RSES is a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Galway and surrounding settlements, which gives greater detail of how the overall objectives and policies of the NPF and RSES will be implemented at this sub regional level.

At local level, the development plan must be consistent with both the NPF and the RSES.



# Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework 2040 (NPF)

The NPF is the strategic planning framework for the future sustainable development of the country to 2040. It proposes the focused development of the four regional cities as viable urban centres of scale which can act as alternatives and a counterbalance to the continued growth of Dublin and its surrounding region and act as drivers of growth for their respective wider regions.

Under the NPF, Galway is a designated Regional City. It recognises that the city offers a range of opportunities for social and community interaction, potential for innovation and prosperity and also gives support and opportunity to the wider western region.

The aim of the NPF for Galway City is to enhance the experience of the city as a place to live and work or as a destination for visitors. Sustainable city living, strong

vibrant places, enhanced quality of life and reduced carbon footprint are key elements of the NPF which will be reflected in the next development plan

The NPF targets the population of the city to grow by between 40,000 - 45,000 people by 2040 which is an increase of almost 55%. It also targets half of the homes to accommodate this population increase to be located within the existing built footprint on lands which include key regeneration/brownfield sites, infill sites and underutilised lands at locations that are well served by existing and planned public transport, amenity, social and community infrastructure.

## NPF Strategic Outcomes:

<p><b>1.</b> Compact Growth</p> 	<p><b>2.</b> Enhanced Regional Accessibility</p> 	<p><b>3.</b> Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</p> 	<p><b>4.</b> Sustainable Mobility</p> 	<p><b>5.</b> A Strong Economy supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</p> 
<p><b>6.</b> High-Quality International Connectivity</p> 	<p><b>7.</b> Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</p> 	<p><b>8.</b> Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society</p> 	<p><b>9.</b> Sustainable Management of Water, Waste and other Environmental Resources</p> 	<p><b>10.</b> Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</p> 

## NPF - 12 Key Future Growth Enablers for Galway

The development plan will focus on the realisation of many of these enablers. Significant investment from both public and private sector will be required for delivery.



### Other growth enablers for Galway City include the:

- Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme for the Corrib Catchment and in particular the Galway City Flood Relief Scheme
- Galway Transport Strategy
- Galway BusConnects Programme
- Greenway projects including National Galway to Dublin Cycleway, Galway to Clifden Greenway and Galway to Bearna Greenway.
- Enhanced connectivity with improvements to the inter-city and regional road and rail network.
- Enhanced hospital facilities and healthcare services

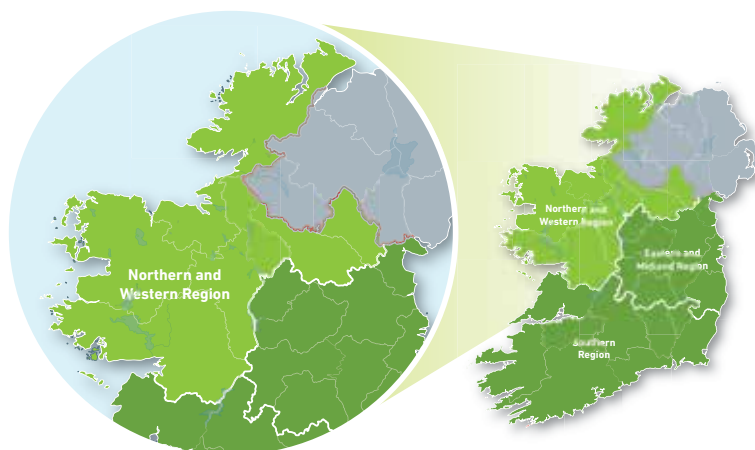


# Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES)

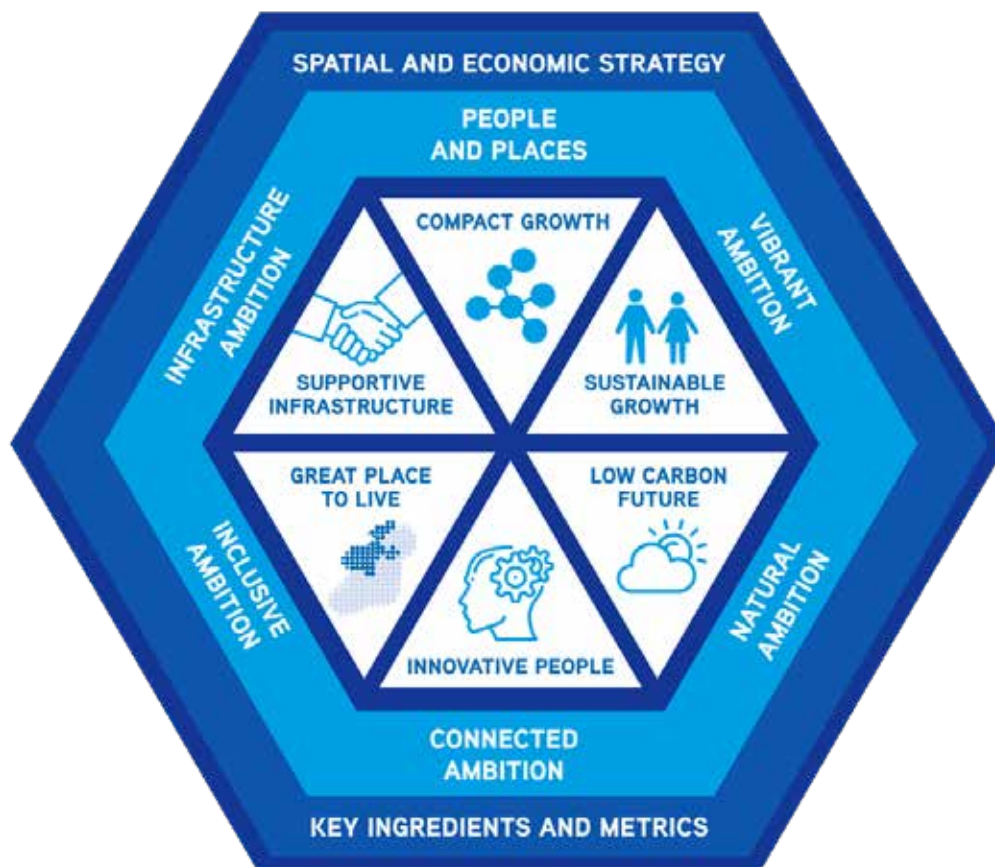
The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly area provides a high-level development framework to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the relevant economic policies and objectives of Government. It sets out a settlement hierarchy for the region, including key target locations for population and employment growth. The RSES is driven by five growth ambitions and includes a range of Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs) which supports future investment in infrastructure and services and which align with the spatial framework of the NPF.

The RSES establishes Galway as the largest regional urban centre in the settlement hierarchy of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) area. It also acknowledges the significant influence that the city exerts

on much of the western part of the region in developing the economy and in improving competitiveness. Reflecting this influence and as required by the NPF, the RSES includes a Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan for Galway.



## RSES Growth Ambitions:



# Galway Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP)

The Galway Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) is a new 12 year strategic planning framework for the city and its environs. The MASP area includes Galway City and its environs and the county settlements of Bearna, Oranmore and Baile Chláir. The requirement to have a MASP recognises the interrelationship between the city and the surrounding area and the need to co-ordinate the different plans and projects which straddle both administrative boundaries.

The MASP identifies key infrastructure, services and facilities that will be required to support sustainable city growth and regeneration. It sets out how the NPF population targets can be met in accordance with the principles of sustainable development with the aim to deliver compact growth. The population targets set out in the MASP are for the Galway MASP area to grow by 27,500 to 2026 and by a further 14,500 to 2031.

A key sustainability element of the RSES and MASP is to deliver growth in a compact form with an objective to locate at least half of all new homes that are targeted, within the city footprint of the MASP. The MASP supports the redevelopment of key regeneration/brownfield sites in the city and that these sites would support 40% of those homes within the city development envelope.

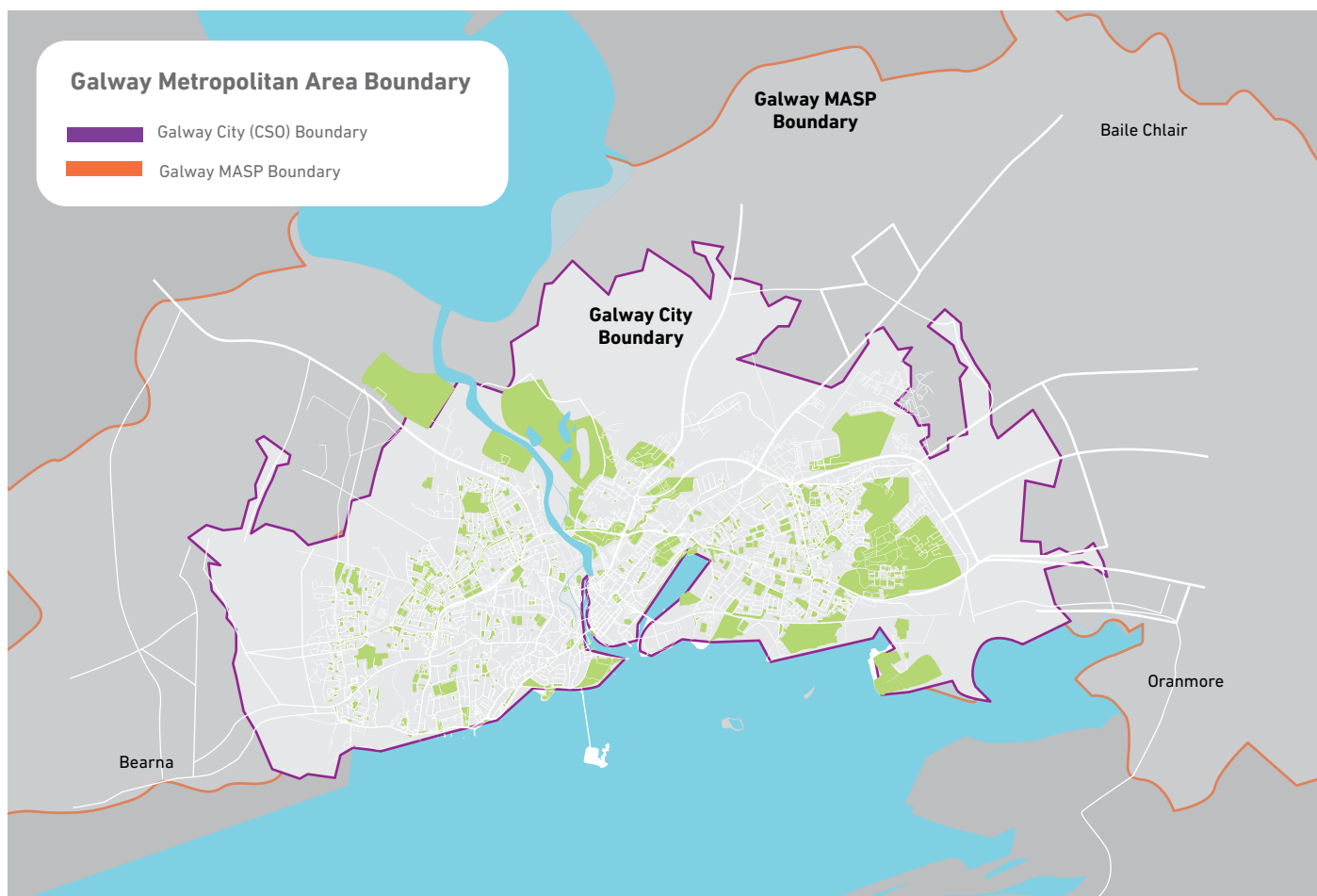
## Read More:

**National Planning Framework** - [www.npf.ie](http://www.npf.ie)

**NWRA Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (2020-2032) inc MASP** - [www.nwra.ie/rses](http://www.nwra.ie/rses)

**The European Green Deal and Ireland**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/ireland/news/key-eu-policy-areas/environment\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/ireland/news/key-eu-policy-areas/environment_en)

## Galway Metropolitan Area Boundary:



# How do you see Galway City in 2029 and Beyond?

The vision for Galway City as set out in the current development plan is:

**“to be a successful, sustainable, competitive, regional centre that creates prosperity, supports a high quality of life and maintains its distinctive identity and supports a rich cultural experience. A city that is environmentally responsible and resilient to challenge. A city that can attract and retain talent and skills and fosters innovation and creativity. An inclusive city where civic engagement is valued and a shared vision is pursued through good governance and leadership. A city that offers sustainable choices in housing, work, transport and lifestyle opportunities.”**

This strategic vision for the city reflects the aspirations of the city council and the public engagement carried out as part of the current plan.

- Is this vision still valid?
- Does this vision reflect your aspirations for Galway City?

## Key Challenges We Face

**A number of challenges for the city 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 and 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.





# Strategic Issues





# 1. Population Growth & Housing

# Population Growth and Housing

It is notable that Galway City has experienced consistent population growth in excess of the national average from 1996-2016, increasing in population by more than 23,000 or 41% (CSO).

Between the census period 2011-2016, the population of the city grew by 4.2%. This was above the national rate of 3.8%. It also compares well with other urban areas - Dublin City 5.1%, Cork 5.4% and Limerick City 2.1%. These figures indicate that the city despite the challenges of the economy in recent years has maintained a growth rate on a par with other major urban areas, reflecting the attractiveness of Galway as a city in which to live and work. Estimates based on natural increases would indicate a current population of approximately 82,000.

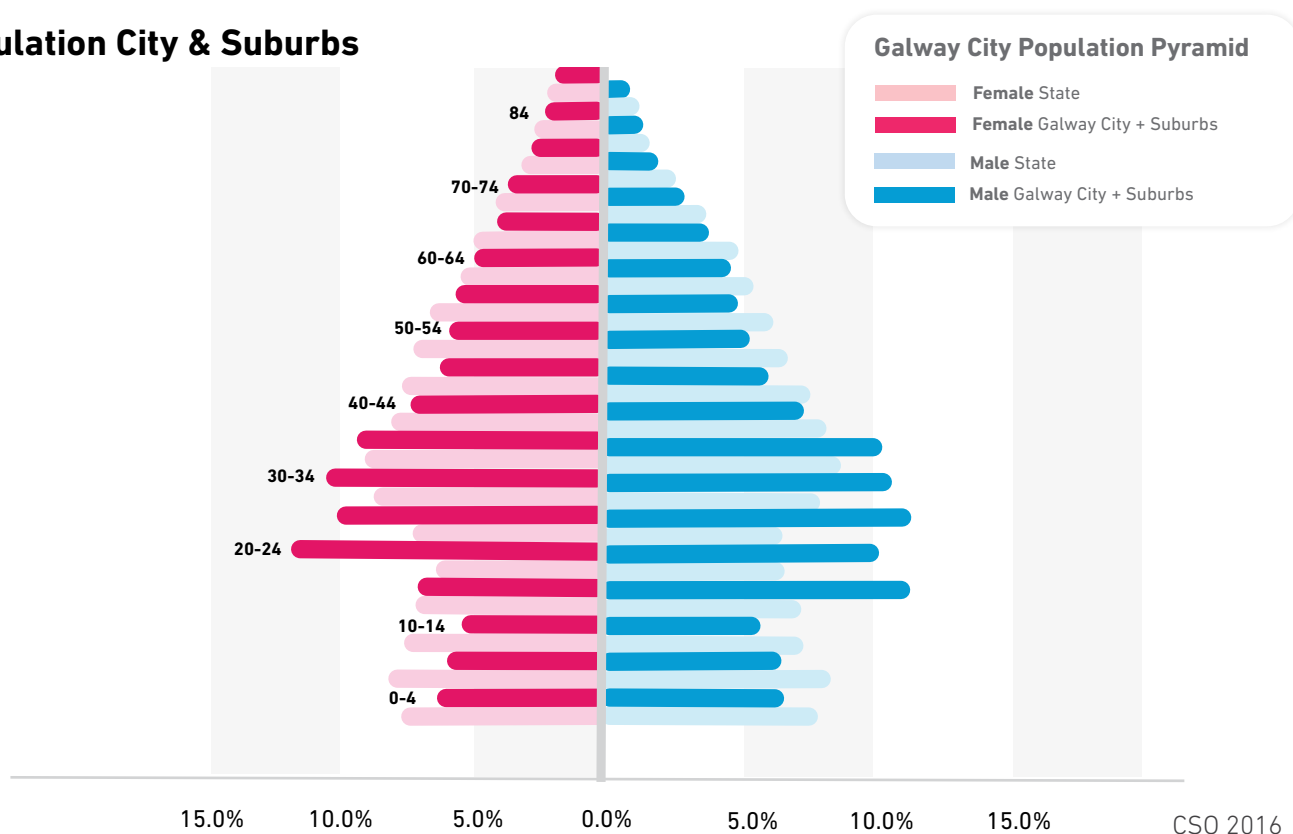
The NPF has identified Galway as one of four cities (Galway, Limerick, Cork and Waterford) that can grow

significantly and that together, these cities and their regions have potential to be viable alternatives to Dublin, supporting a more balanced approach to national growth. The NPF also recognises the value of focussed investment in these cities to enable them to act as drivers of growth in their surrounding regions.

The NPF targets Galway City to grow its population by over 50% to 2040. This means the population could reach over 120,000 people by 2040.

The Galway Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) targets this growth to be an increase of 23,000 people to 2026 and a further 12,000 to 2031.

## Population City & Suburbs



2016

Population  
Galway City &  
Suburbs

**79,934**

2026

+23,000 Population  
Galway City &  
Suburbs

**103,000**

2031

+12,000 Population  
Galway City &  
Suburbs

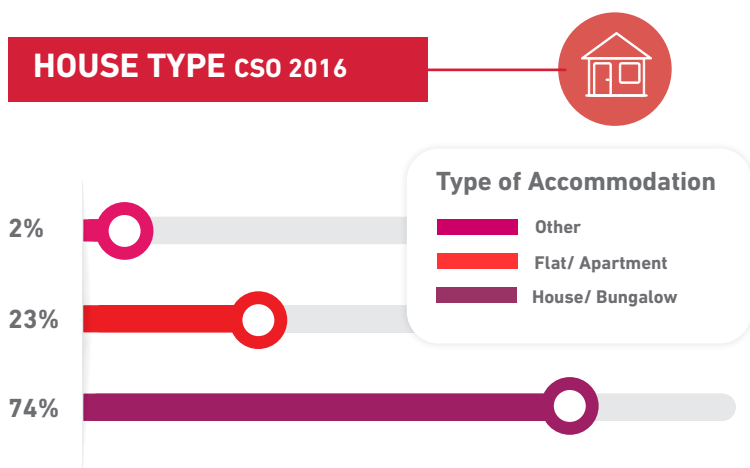
**115,000**

The Galway City Development Plan will play a crucial part in creating the conditions to accommodate these very ambitious targets. They present a significant challenge for the city in terms of delivery of housing and the requirement for investment in support infrastructure and services such as water, wastewater, public transport, open space, social and community facilities.

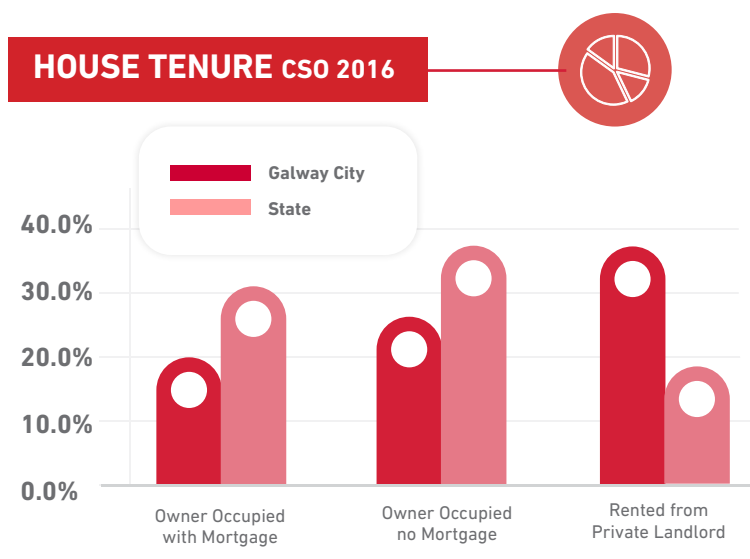
The current plan provides a strong foundation to accommodate this targeted population growth in a sustainable and integrated manner. The core strategy sets out a co-ordinated settlement strategy for the city which is to develop existing undeveloped residential zoned lands mainly located in Knocknacarra, Rahoon and Castlegar; to develop the east side of the city on zoned lands in the Ardaun LAP area which is a nationally designated Major Urban Housing Delivery Site and to focus on the growth of designated regeneration areas – Ceannt Station, Inner Harbour and the Headford Road area. These designated regeneration sites have scope for a significant quantum of residential development that can in particular, meet the needs for evolving smaller household sizes.

The new plan will build on this strategy and in line with the principles of the NPF and the RSES will promote sustainable residential densities and will identify opportunities for development of underutilised, infill and brownfield sites to consolidate development in the city. In particular, these should include sites in areas which are served by good public and sustainable transport facilities and other supporting services, which provide opportunities for reductions in carbon footprint to be achieved, and which can enhance existing communities and not detract from existing character, amenity and environmental quality.

Additional regeneration sites are likely to include lands at Sandy Road (including city council owned lands) and along the Dyke Road (city council car park). Both of these sites have potential to accommodate significant residential led mixed use schemes. The potential development of these sites is being progressed by the Galway City Council in collaboration with the Land Development Agency.



74% of households in Galway City live in a House/Bungalow compared to 86% nationally. 24% of households live in a Flat/ Apartment compared to 11.8% nationally.



47% of households live in owner occupied housing in Galway City. This is in comparison to 66% of households nationally. 35.5% of households in Galway City live in private rented accommodation, this compares to 18.2% of households nationally. 11.6% of households rent from either the Local Authority or a Voluntary body, this compares to 9.4% nationally.

# Housing Supply

The lack of housing supply and the slow rate of house construction in the city reflects the national situation. House completion rates have increased to approximately 300 in 2019 from a low of 32 houses in 2012. This is in contrast to economically buoyant years where a historical peak of 2,305 house completions was achieved in 2003. The city has sufficient land capacity to meet both the built up demand and the projected demand to fulfil the targets set out in the MASP to 2026. At present there are approximately 155 hectares of residential zoned land available within the city. It is also noted that there are currently planning permissions for 2,001 residential units (up to November 2020).

There is a significant bank of land in the Ardaun Local Area Plan area which is designated for residential development (Phase 1 lands to accommodate a potential population of 4,039-5,386) to be co-ordinated with a mix of commercial and community services and linked to the City Centre and Parkmore employment hub by planned sustainable transportation connections.

As part of the new development plan process, the city council will review land uses within the city to ensure sufficient zoned, serviced land is available to meet the projected housing demand to 2029 and into the longer term. Particular consideration will be given to the

capacity of the regeneration sites at Ceannt station, Inner Harbour and Headford road area and brownfield, infill and underutilised lands to accommodate new homes. The new plan will build on the policy in the current plan for integrating housing at sustainable densities into the city footprint, linking housing and sustainable transportation infrastructure and ensuring that housing is supported by appropriate services within strong neighbourhoods.

The plan will include a new housing strategy which will consider housing demand/supply in the city and will set out how housing needs will be met. It will consider current challenges in the city such as affordability and housing choice. It will consider the need for a range of house types, sizes and tenures suitable for households with different income levels or those who may have specific requirements. Specialist housing needs will be considered including student housing which is particularly relevant to the city owing to the high number of third level students and evidenced by the number of permissions granted for student accommodation in recent years (approximately 1,814 student bedspaces to Q1 2020). In terms of social housing, the plan will continue to be influenced by national policy including recent legislation supports for cost rental and affordable housing.



## Key Questions

- Are there particular impediments in Galway City which impact housing supply?
- How can we support social and affordable housing provision in the city?
- What changes might be required in the City Development Plan to respond to the NPF objective for Galway in relation to housing supply?
- How can we cater for different housing needs e.g. students, persons with a disability, traveller families, older persons, migrants and refugees?
- How can housing delivery be accelerated?
- How can a sustainable mix of public and private housing be provided?
- How can we support the provision of lifetime adaptable homes that can accommodate the changing needs of a household over time?
- How should the critical cultural, economic and social requirements of communities for education, childcare, recreational and community supports be planned?
- What range of house types and tenures are most appropriate to meet the need of the city's growing population?
- How do we encourage more people to live in the city close to where they work so that they can be supported by sustainable mobility?

### Read More

**Rebuilding Ireland** - <https://rebuildingireland.ie>

**Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns & Villages) Guidelines**

[www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/migrated-files/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning FileDownload%2019164%20Cen.pdf](http://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/migrated-files/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning%20FileDownload%2019164%20Cen.pdf)





# 2. Economic Development, Employment & Enterprise

# Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise

Galway, as the largest urban centre in the West, is a driver of economic development and competitiveness in the region. The city has the potential to drive growth at a national level. Galway has been Ireland's most rapidly developing urban environment for over 50 years. It is a key ambition for the NPF and the RSES that Galway will continue to grow into a globally competitive urban centre that will be a sustainable, compact, connected, vibrant and inclusive place. To this end Galway City and its environs is the primary growth centre in the Western region and is designated a Metropolitan Area by the NPF.

The current development plan contains policies and objectives to facilitate and promote economic development across all sectors to create a resilient and diverse economy to support a good quality of life and to drive the sustainable development of the region.

## EMPLOYMENT & LABOUR MARKET



In 2016 there were 44,376 jobs in Galway City, accounting for 18.3% of all jobs in the Western Region. The city's significant commuter population of 22,716 indicates that the city draws on an extensive catchment area to support this economy and reciprocally provides important regional service to this wide area. Travel to work studies have shown commuting patterns from the county areas of Galway, Clare and Mayo. This reflects the significant regional economic role of the city and demonstrates that workers are willing to travel lengthy distances to access employment in the city owing to the quality and range of job opportunities. It reflects the synergies that exist between the city and the wider region, in particular the MASP area.

## ENTERPRISE



Galway is home to world renowned clusters in medical devices and information communication technology (ICT). It has evolved into becoming a major technology hub. The city is home to some of the top ten ICT companies in the

world, including IBM, SAP, HP. The third level institutes in the city have developed collaborative research and training relationships with these industries. Tourism, services, healthcare and education also make a major contribution to the economy and prosperity of the city. It is important that the new development plan will continue to facilitate and promote these types of enterprise.

## RETAIL



Retail is an essential part of the economy of the city. The city centre is the most important shopping area. District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres and local shops support the suburban areas of the city. The development plan includes a retail strategy which sets out the level and form of retail activity appropriate in each area. The forthcoming development plan will review commercial and retail activities including the shifting pattern to on-line sales.

## TOURISM



Tourism is a major economic activity within the local economy of the city which continues to grow year on year. It generates a range of associated economic activities and expanding employment opportunities. In 2017 Galway had 1.7 million overseas visitors which generated €589 million in revenue. In addition, in this year there was 1 million domestic visitors who generated a revenue of €247 million. It is estimated that 12-14% of businesses in Galway are involved in tourism. The development plan supports tourism with policies relating to recreation and amenity natural and built heritage, development of the public realm and support for cultural infrastructure.

## CREATIVE ECONOMY



The economic importance of the creative sector to Galway City is significant and has been strengthened by the designation of Galway as European Capital of Culture in 2020 and a UNESCO City of Film in 2014. There is considerable scope for the establishment of Galway and the MASP area as a hub for the creative and cultural industries.

The MASP recognises the potential of film, media and entertainment, design and craft industries to add significant value to the overall economy and strengthen the identity of Galway and environs as a creative hub.

## EMERGING AND GROWING SECTORS



Innovation and diversification are critical to the future resilience of the city. The forthcoming development plan will continue to provide policy direction to support opportunities for growth and innovation across all sectors of the economy. In particular, policy to support decarbonisation of economic growth and policy to foster a circular economy will be a consideration for the plan.

Galway has a strong maritime culture and tradition and an established marine sector including research, fishing, aquaculture and recreation. The Galway MASP supports continued sustainable development of this sector and recognises the potential for diversification into new areas. There are also opportunities for diversification of harbour activities in particular in areas such as renewable energies. This aligns well with existing proposals for the extension/redevelopment of the harbour.

The next plan will continue to support innovation centres and hubs which provide co-working and collaborative space for technology focused companies. Initiatives such as The Portershed innovation hub, Galway Technology Centre and SCCUL enterprise have demonstrated success in this area. Opportunities to advance enterprise and innovation facilities on identified regeneration sites in collaboration with the Land Development Agency will be a consideration of the new plan.

Galway has a vibrant local food sector including restaurants, speciality and artisan food producers,

local markets and food festivals. This was recognised through the designation of Galway as European Region of Gastronomy in 2018. The food sector makes a significant contribution to the overall tourist offering in Galway. There is significant potential to further develop the sector and it is important that the policy support in the current plan is continued in the new plan.

Galway is known for its vibrant cultural and hospitality sectors which form the basis of the city's night time economy offering. The night time economy refers to social, cultural and economic activity occurring between specified night time hours, usually from 6pm. This dimension of the economy is being developed by a national taskforce established by the Department of Tourism and Culture.

Policies and standards in the current plan relate to many aspects of the night time economy in the city centre, such as a high quality, safe public realm, quality public transport facilities and pedestrian and cycle network. The new plan will explore potential for specific policies regarding the night time economy building on the Purple Flag award for excellence in managing the evening and nighttime economy.

### Read More

#### Galway City Local Community and Economic Plan 2015-2021

<https://www.galwaycity.ie/uploads/downloads/publications/communityculture/Galway%20City%20LECP.pdf>

#### Galway City LECP Implementation Plan 2020 – 2021

<https://www.galwaycity.ie/uploads/downloads/publications/communityculture/Galway%20City%20LECP%20Implementation%20Plan%202020-2021.pdf>

#### Enterprise 2025 Renewed: Building resilience in the face of global challenges

<https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/Publications/Publication-files/Enterprise-2025-Renewed.pdf>





## Key Questions



- How do we address pockets of socio-economic disadvantage in the city?
- How do we spread the benefits of economic growth across all sectors of society?
- How can planning policy support the principles of a circular economy in the city?
- How can planning policy support decarbonisation of economic growth?
- How do we sustain jobs and businesses in the City Centre with competition from online retail?
- How do we realise the economic benefit of our rich cultural, heritage assets and further support the development of the creative economy?
- What infrastructure is required in the city to support the development of enterprises of all sizes?
- What policies can we introduce through the development plan to support a vibrant, diverse and inclusive night time economy in Galway City?





# 3. Transport & Sustainable Mobility

# Transport and Sustainable Mobility



Transport and sustainable mobility networks are vital to a well-functioning community and economy. They provide equitable access to education and employment opportunities, services and amenities in the city and beyond. Sustainable mobility is crucial to our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

The current development plan has a strategic aim to integrate sustainable land use with a transportation system that is based on smarter travel principles. Current

policy seeks to ensure the most efficient and sustainable use of land and to facilitate access to a range of transport modes, accessible to all sections of the community. While the council is not a transport provider, the land use objectives and policies in the plan contribute to the development and the viability of a sustainable integrated transportation system for the city including car, bus, rail, walking and cycling.

## Galway Transport Strategy

The Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) was developed by Galway City Council, Galway County Council and the National Transport Authority in 2016 and sets out a framework for the transformation of Galway's transport network over the short, medium and long-term. It proposes an approach to transport across the city which places walking, cycling and public transport at the forefront. The GTS underpins the objectives of the current development plan and the new plan will continue to promote the achievement of a sustainable integrated transportation system, facilitate a modal shift away from the private car and promote measures to reduce traffic congestion in the city.

The **road network** caters for a range of users and a variety of journeys within the city. The approach of the GTS to traffic management is to prioritise the movement of public transport and to divert or remove non-essential traffic from the city centre core. The proposed N6 Galway City Ring Road remains a crucial part of the overall transport strategy and is currently at the planning consent stage with An Bord Pleanála.

An efficient and reliable **public transport** service is critical to providing access to employment, education, services and amenities. It also facilitates a modal shift away from the private car. In 2016, 17.8% of people used public transport to travel to work, school or college. The **Cross City Link**, currently being advanced, has been identified in the GTS as a major project for Galway which will link the east and west of the city through the city centre. Through

redesigning streets in favour of sustainable mobility, the GTS also presents opportunities to enhance public realm.

### WALKING AND CYCLING



Encouraging more people to take more journeys by either walking or cycling continues to be a priority of national and local policy. The numbers of people who walk and cycle every day continues to grow with 24.4% of people walking to work, school or college and 6% travelling by bicycle in 2016.

Significant measures have been introduced to improve facilities for pedestrian and cyclists including additional cycle parking and the expansion of the Public Bike Scheme.

A new **pedestrian and cycle bridge** proposed alongside Salmon Weir Bridge is at the planning consent stage with An Bord Pleanála. Other transport projects include a national Galway to Dublin cycleway, the Galway to Clifden Greenway and the Galway to Bearna Greenway.

### PARKING



On street parking will continue to be reduced as part of the reallocation of road space to other uses including

walking and cycling routes, cycle parking and public transport routes. There may also be changes to the parking standards for new residential and commercial developments.

## RAIL & BUS SERVICE



Ceannt Station and Fairgreen Coach Station provide regional and national connectivity to the heart of the City. Measures within the GTS aim to improve the function of these transport hubs by facilitating easy interchange between regional and local transport services. The Galway BusConnects programme being advanced in conjunction with the NTA will support the delivery of enhanced public bus services across the city.

## GALWAY PORT



Galway Port is an important transport facility. The new plan will continue to give policy support for expansion and development of port facilities. From the 1st January 2021, the shareholding of the port company will transfer to Galway City Council.

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

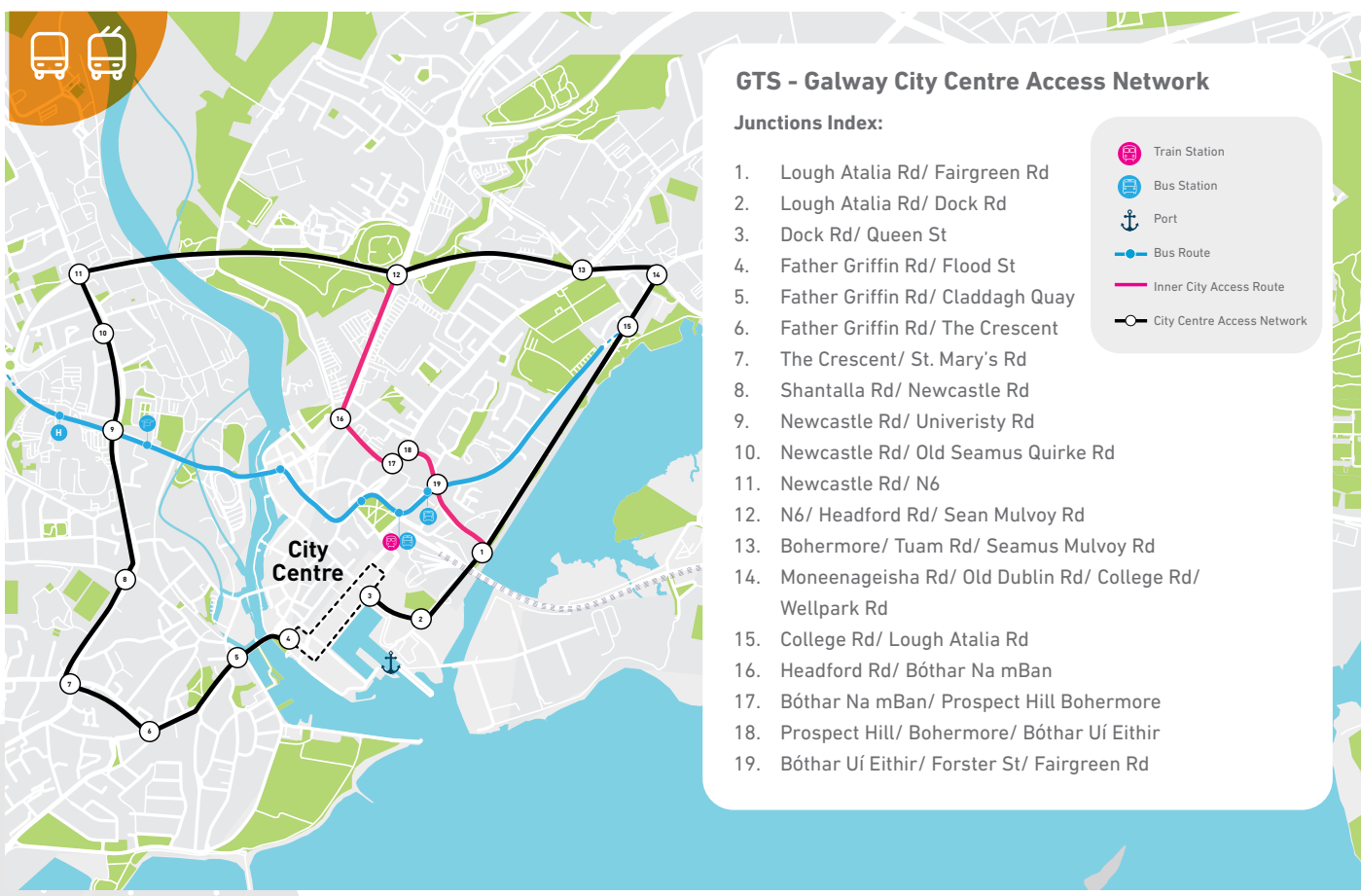


National climate policy aims to transition from petrol and diesel to electric vehicles in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has a target to have 840,000 passenger electric vehicles by 2030. This compares with just 2,718 electric vehicles in 2017. This is an ambitious target which will require a significant expansion of the charging network within the city.

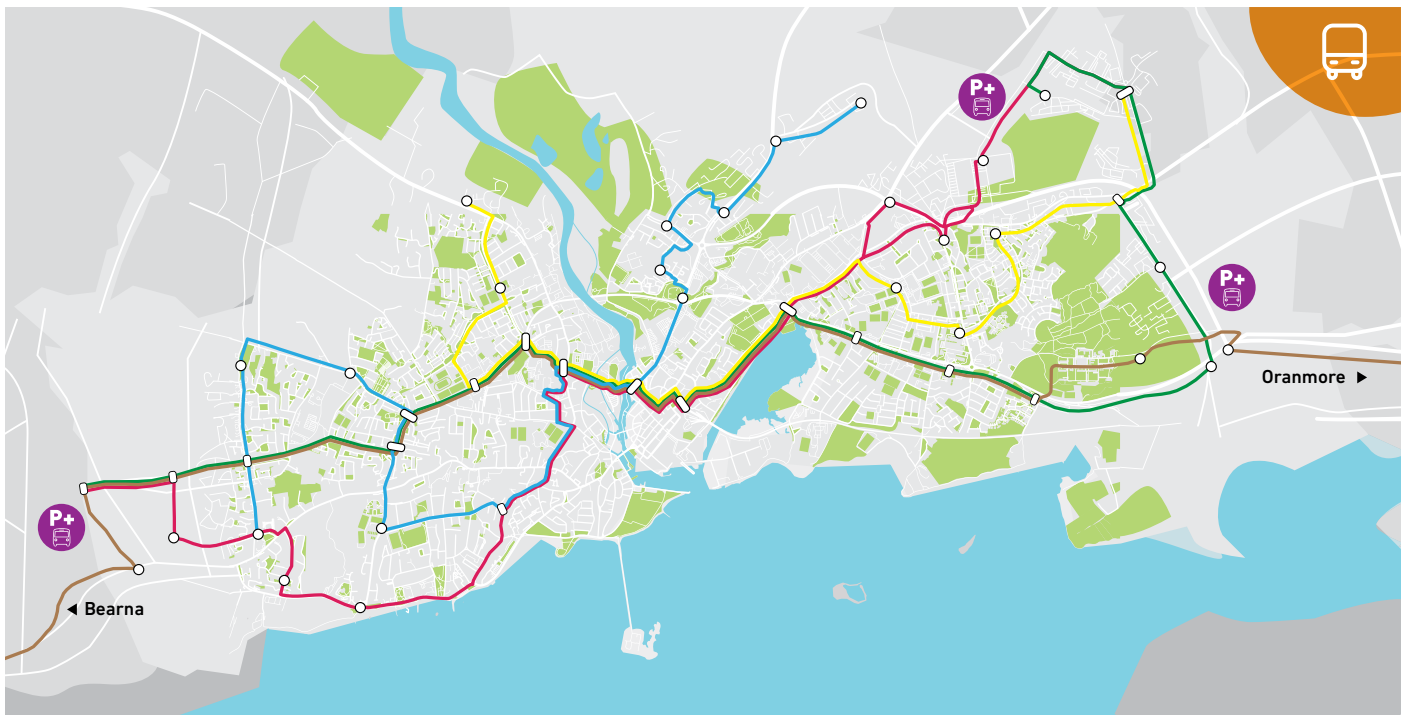
## CLIMATE ACTION



The move towards more sustainable mobility and electric vehicles will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.







### GTS - Proposed Bus Routes

- █ Knocknacarra - City Centre - Parkmore Industrial Estate (via Seamus Quirke Rd and Dublin Rd)
- █ Knocknacarra - City Centre - Parkmore Industrial Estate (via Salthill and Ballybrit Industrial Estate)
- █ Clybaun Rd - City Centre - Castlegar (via Dr. Mannix Rd and Tirellan)

- █ Dangan - City Centre - Parkmore Industrial Estate (via Westside Shopping Centre and Castlepark)
- █ Bearna - City Centre - Oranmore (via Seamus Quirke Rd and Deerpark Industrial Estate)

P+ Park + Ride
 
 Interchange
 

 Stops

## Key Questions



- What are the key transport and mobility issues affecting residents, workers, students and visitors?
- How do we continue to support the objectives of the Galway Transport Strategy to reduce car dependency and increase walking, cycling and public transport use?
- How can we ensure equitable access for those with mobility issues around the city?
- How can the use of public transport, cycling and walking be promoted?
- What additional infrastructure is required to support the transition to sustainable modes?
- How can we best support the delivery of such infrastructure through the development plan?

### Read More

#### Galway Transport Strategy

[www.galwaycity.ie/galway-transport-strategy](http://www.galwaycity.ie/galway-transport-strategy)

#### BusConnects Galway

[www.busconnectsgalway.ie](http://www.busconnectsgalway.ie)

#### N6 Galway City Transport Project

[www.n6galwaycity.ie](http://www.n6galwaycity.ie)





# 4. Built Environment & Placemaking

# Built Environment and Placemaking

Galway has a distinctive built environment, particularly in the city centre, defined by a strong medieval legacy, historical streetscapes, contrasting buildings, canals, millraces and a strong relationship with the River Corrib and Galway Bay. This environment contributes to economic success, the attraction of Galway as a place to live and work and the popularity of the city as a tourist destination.

The built environment has a strong influence on the way we live. Good design enhances our experience and connection to the environment in which we share. Development plan policy can contribute to this by reinforcing the distinctive character of Galway City and by ensuring a high quality built environment. Within the historic city core in particular, it is important to promote development that respects the city's existing built form. In the wider city, it is important to embed the principles of good urban design to create well functioning successful places.

The Galway Public Realm Strategy 2019 builds on the current development plan and is also a timely response to the recognised value of place making as identified in the NPF. The strategy explores the current condition of the city centre townscape and network of public and green spaces. It sets out a vision and strategy for improvements to guide investment and development in the future. It also looks to further the previous innovative steps which have already been taken, such as creating the pedestrianised zone, investment in Fishmarket, Eyre Square and the riverside walk.

The current development plan also advocates the use of local area plans (LAPs) and master plans/framework plans which provide urban design frameworks for new

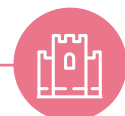
development areas with guidance in relation to layout, density, diversity of uses, access and infrastructural provision.

## BUILT HERITAGE



The development plan has a strategic aim to protect and enhance the built heritage of the city. While most of the significant built heritage is located in the city centre, there is a diversity of buildings of heritage value throughout the city, including village settlements, such as Menlough and Coolagh. There are 619 structures included in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The current development plan includes eleven designated Architectural Conservation Areas. These designations assist in protecting the strong legacy of architectural heritage of the city and preserving the defining character of the urban environment.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE



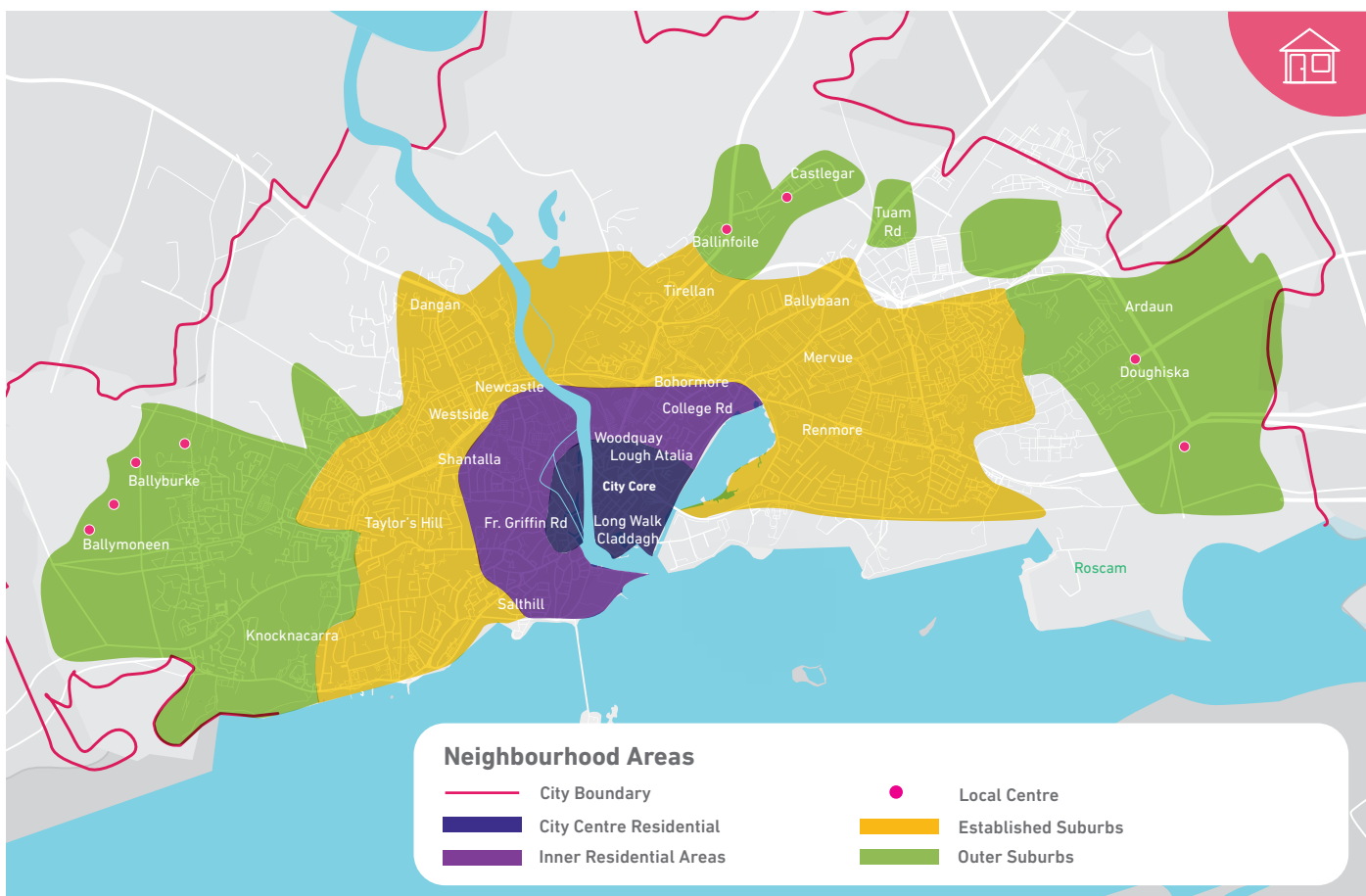
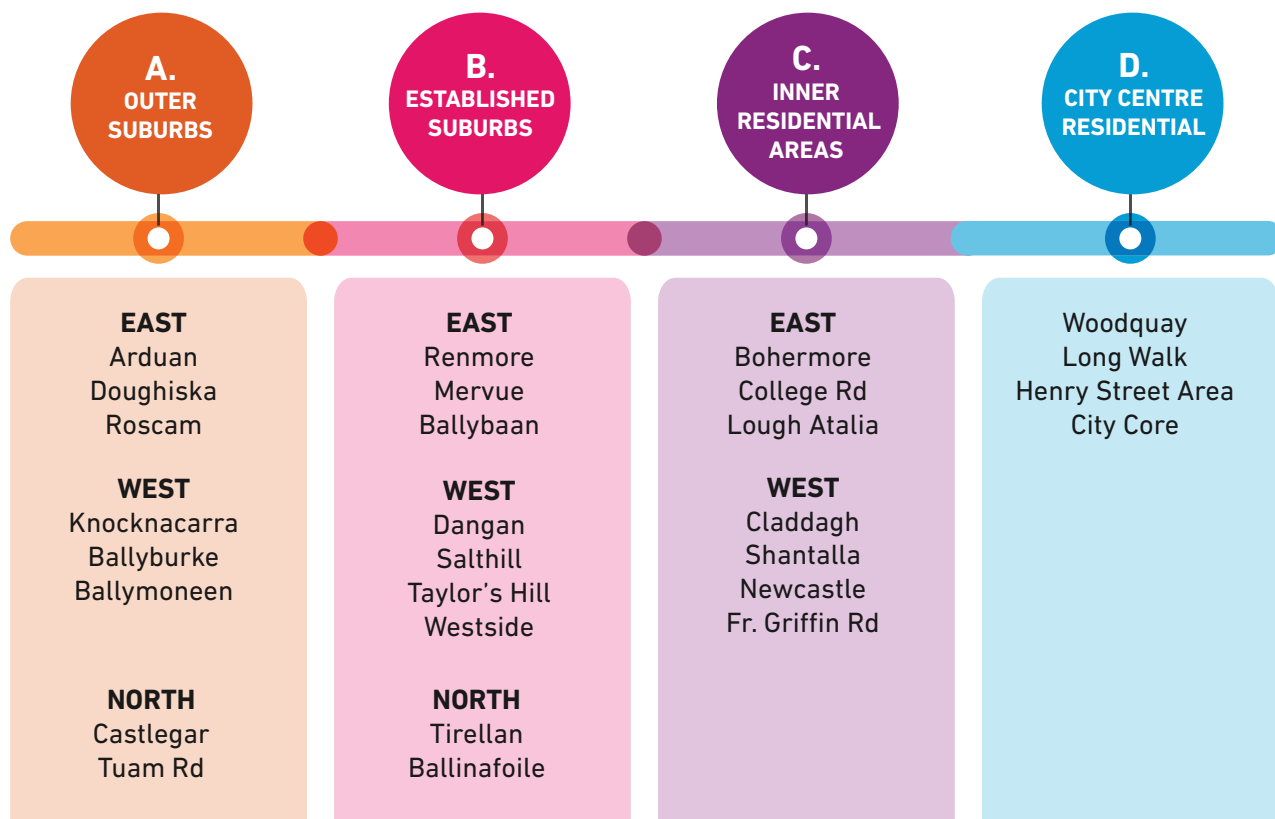
Galway has a rich archaeological heritage, which extends from the Mesolithic, to Medieval and post-Medieval periods to industrial archaeology. Given Galway's medieval heritage, most of the city centre is designated as a Zone of Archaeological Notification. There are approximately 105 other sites of archaeological significance (Record of Monuments and Places) located throughout the city. All archaeological sites are protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004). Responsibility for these sites lies primarily with the Heritage Services of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Development plans include policies to support and protect archaeological sites.

# Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Sustainable communities are those that are socially, economically and environmentally resilient. The Galway City Development Plan will continue to work to strengthen communities and neighbourhoods around the city and support the development of new communities in areas such as Ardaun and in the designated regeneration areas. The new plan will build on objectives around the provision of quality residential and commercial development and enhanced connectivity through the support of measures

put forward in the Galway Transport Strategy. Objectives to facilitate climate adaptation and mitigation measures, provide high quality open spaces, protect and enhance areas of natural and built heritage, and facilitate the provision of high quality community services and amenities will continue to be included. These aim to ensure that Galway City will be an equitable, inclusive and safe environment for all.

# Sustainable Neighbourhoods - Areas





## Key Questions

- How best can the policies of the development plan contribute to the protection and appreciation of monuments and places of archaeological importance, Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas?
- What policies are required to protect the architectural and archaeological heritage while recognising the need for reuse, and/ or sustainable development where appropriate?
- Are there additional areas within the city, which display a distinctive character that should be designated as Architectural Conservation Areas?
- How can we achieve a balance between development pressures and the protection of structures of architectural, artistic, historical, archaeological, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest?
- Thinking about where you live, what measures or policies could be introduced to contribute to the sustainability of your neighbourhood or community?
- How should sustainable neighbourhoods develop across the city to cater for new growth and development, especially in areas B - Established Suburbs, C - Inner Residential Areas and D - City Centre Residential as identified on page 30?

### Read More

#### **Galway City Public Realm Strategy**

<https://www.galwaycity.ie/public-realm-strategy>

#### **National Monuments Service**

[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)

#### **National Inventory of Architectural Heritage**

[www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)







# 5. Green Network & Biodiversity



# Green Network

The current development plan sets out the framework for an extensive green network in the city, by protecting natural heritage areas and designating areas for recreation and amenity purposes. The plan includes a wide range of policies for open spaces, parks, woodlands, greenways, and community spaces, public rights of ways, protected views, coastal areas and waterways.

The green network provides important social, ecological and leisure functions. It also has an important role in climate action and mitigation including carbon capture and managing flood risk. There is an opportunity to further develop the green network such as through the use of green roofs, sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) and through increasing tree cover throughout the city.

## GREEN SPACES



Green spaces include the various parks and woodlands in the city. The plan builds on the *Recreation and Amenity Needs Study (2008)* and significant progress has been made in developing a hierarchy of parks and civic spaces.

The Green Flag Award, an international accreditation for park excellence was recently awarded to the Children's Millennium Park and to Quincentennial Park Salthill.

## PROTECTED SPACES



The city supports a number of European designated sites and protected habitats. Galway Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Lough Corrib SAC, Inner Galway Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) and Lough Corrib SPA are part of a European wide network of ecological sites which host a range of important habitats and species. Galway also has a range of Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) which are of national ecological importance and are protected under the Wildlife Acts. At local level, there are areas which are classified as Local Biodiversity Areas and which contribute to the biodiversity and natural amenity of the city.

## OPEN SPACES



Open spaces in the city include spaces in residential, commercial, industrial, institutional lands, recreation and amenity lands and agricultural and high amenity lands.

These spaces play a vital role in defining the image of Galway, affecting the perception of an area and fostering a sense of place.

## BLUE SPACES



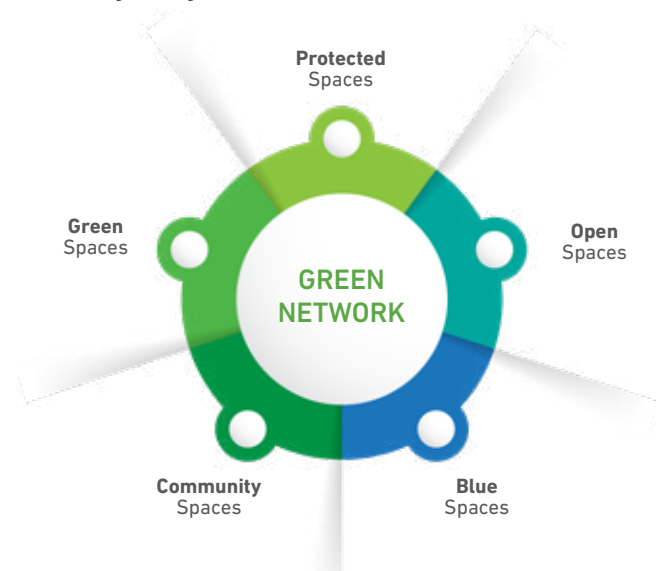
Galway has an unparalleled water environment with an extensive coastline, Lough Corrib, River Corrib, waterways and canals. These important natural resources are termed 'blue spaces' in the current plan and are a significant feature of Galway's character. Challenges for the new plan will include how to improve access and infrastructure associated with water activities. A feasibility study to advance a Corrib Blueway project is being progressed and its findings will feed into the new development plan. The upcoming National Marine Planning Framework will guide the development of policy relating to the marine environment.

## COMMUNITY SPACES AND SPORTS FACILITIES



The plan sets out a framework for developing community spaces that include greenways, places for play, rest, community gardens and cemeteries. Active recreation facilities such as playing pitches and running tracks contribute to the green network and help create sustainable neighbourhoods. Additional sports facilities will be required to cater for the increased population of the city to 2040. The new plan will give policy support for a range of sport facilities and will be guided by the findings of the upcoming review of the Recreation and Amenity Needs Study.

## Galway City's Green Network



# Biodiversity

Biodiversity is a measure of the variety of all plants, animals and micro-organisms. It includes their ecosystems, habitats and their interactions. Good biodiversity can enhance quality of life and help shape the city's heritage. One of Galway's most valued assets is its close relationship with nature. A challenge for the plan is to accommodate the future development needs of the city while at the same time conserving and enhancing biodiversity. The current plan contains a range of measures to protect natural heritage to support the aims of the Galway Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024. The Council also supports the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan which aims to help pollinators by improving biodiversity.

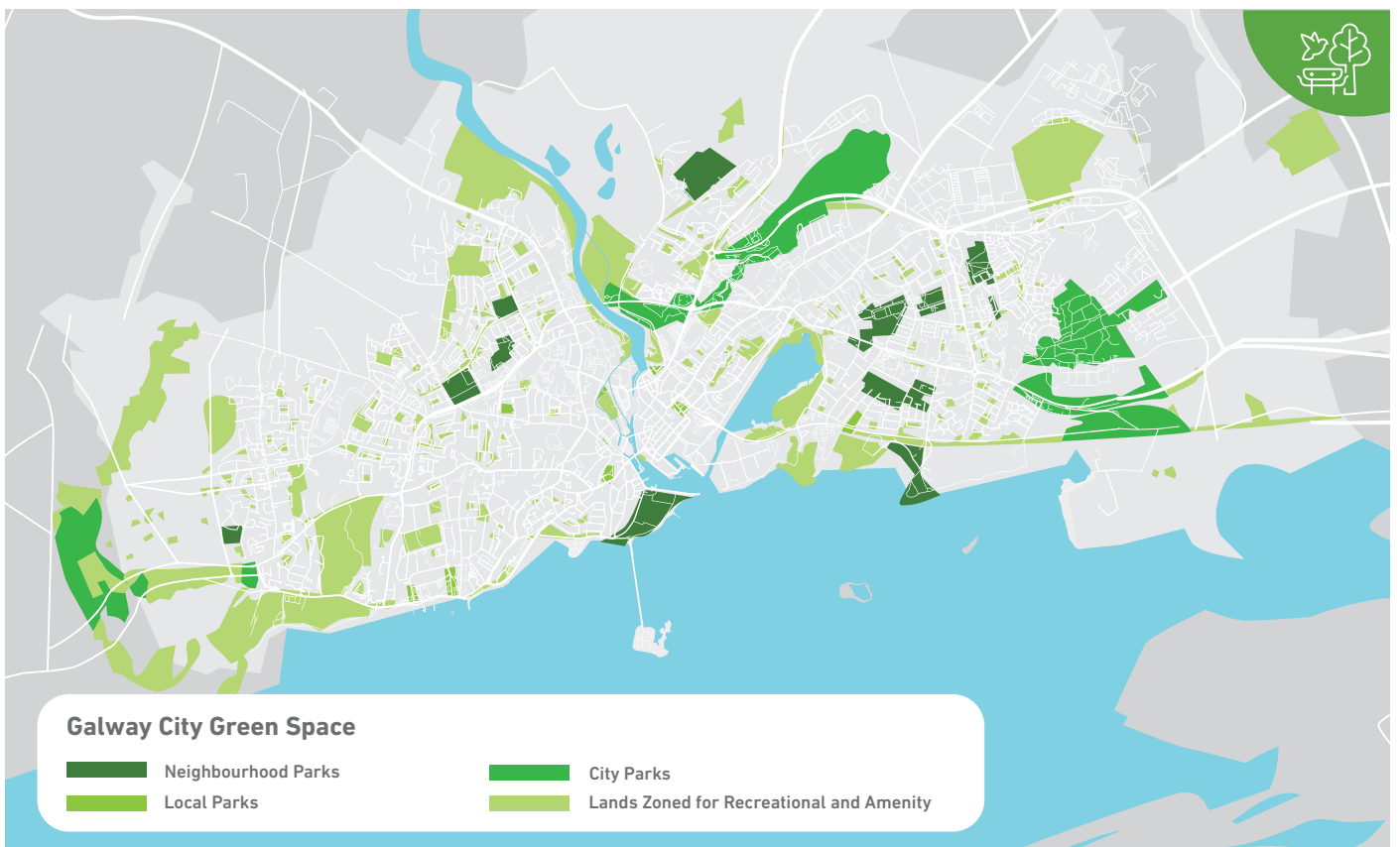
The city has a rich natural heritage with over 20% of land designated as protected habitats, recreation and amenity open space and agricultural land. The waterways

and coastline are an important part of the natural environment of the city. It is important to preserve these natural assets and the next development plan will aim to ensure their protection and enhancement for future generations.

## CLIMATE ACTION



Blue and green spaces contribute to the natural capital of the city and can play a significant role in our response to climate change. Nature-based solutions can help address issues around flood risk, increasing temperatures and help reduce noise and air pollution and make a contribution towards recreation and amenity in the city.







## Key Questions

- How can the development plan further support the development of the green network?
- How can we best conserve areas of natural heritage value while developing access for recreation?
- What additional active/passive recreation facilities are required for the city? How can play opportunities be integrated in new developments?
- How can the plan promote the benefits of the green network to our health, biodiversity and climate action?
- How can we ensure that there is a balance between the growth of the city and preservation of the natural environment?



### Read More

#### **Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024**

<http://galwaybiodiversity.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/G-City-Co-Biodiversity-Plan-2014-full.pdf>

#### **All Ireland Pollinator Plan**

<https://pollinators.ie>



# 6. Climate Action



# Climate Action

Climate change is already happening and presents many challenges for society. Galway City has experienced in recent years the damaging impacts of extreme weather events including, coastal flooding, strong winds, wave overtopping and extreme rainfall. The impact on the city of storms such as Desmond (2015), Ophelia (Oct 2017) Eleanor (Jan 2018) and Elsa (Dec 2019) indicates that the city is vulnerable when these events occur. They have demonstrated the future challenges and risks associated with climate change.

In the future, it is predicted that in Ireland we can expect to see:

- An increase in the intensity of coastal flooding and erosion; An increase in sea levels by 0.81m up to 2100; An increase in temperatures across all seasons; Reduction in rainfall in Spring and Summer and increase in extreme rainfall events in winter; An increase in the frequency of and intensity of summer heatwaves and droughts; Reductions in the frequency of frost and snowfall; An increase in the duration of the growing season.

Tackling climate change is an urgent priority and the critical nature of the challenge must be met with appropriate action. In particular, we must adapt the way that we interact with our environment and improve the resilience of our City while developing sustainably and take advantage of any opportunities that climate change

may present. We need to accelerate climate action to achieve a low carbon transition and become resilient to future climate impacts.

Action on climate change requires two complementary approaches: mitigation and adaptation.

## MITIGATION



**Mitigation** prevents future climate change from happening through actions that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (for example improving the energy efficiency of your home). Mitigation is necessary to ensure that impacts do not become too severe, but adaptation is also necessary.

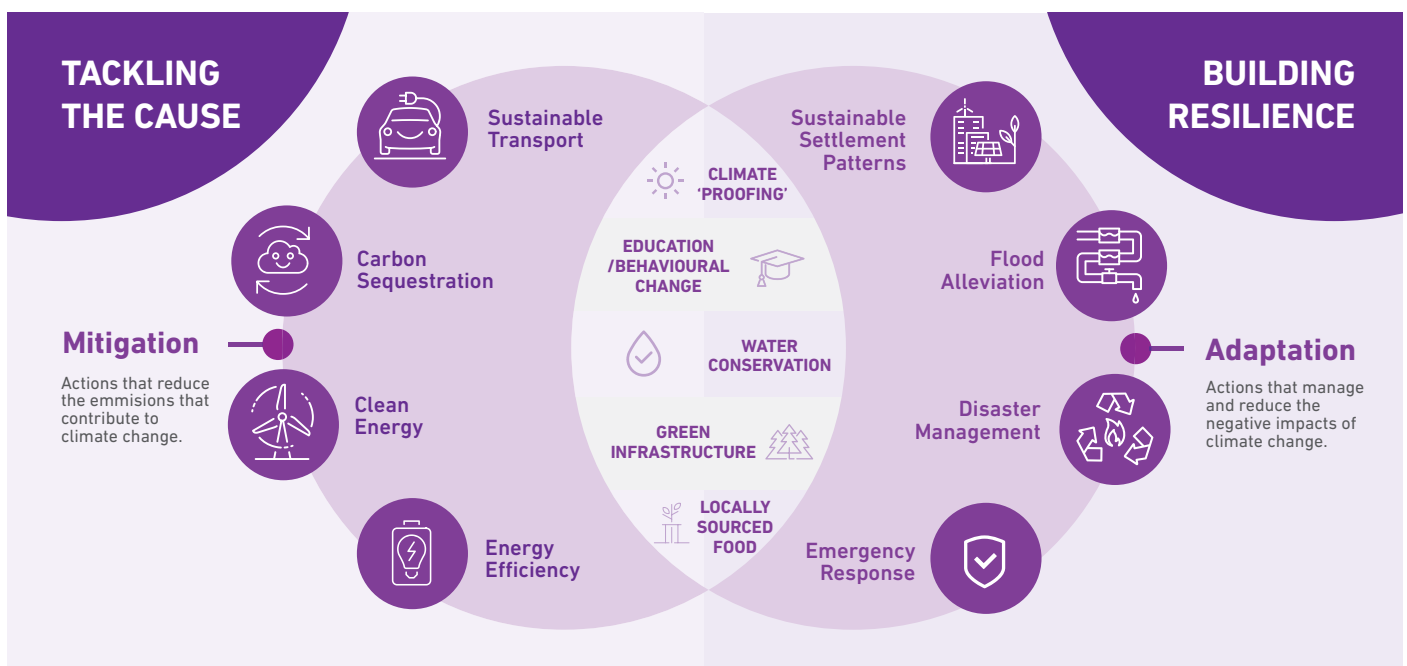
## ADAPTATION



**Adaptation manages** the consequences of climate change through actions that prepare for and respond to climate-related challenges (for example new flood defence infrastructure). No matter how focused we are on mitigation, greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere will result in climate change so adaptation is necessary to deal with the inevitable impacts.

## Mitigation and Adaption - Climate Action

Source: CARO





The current Galway City Development Plan (2017-2023) contains a number of policy measures focused on reducing and mitigating the impact of climate change on our City. Climate Action will be a significant cross cutting theme in the next Galway City Development Plan. There will be specific objectives set out in each strategic area to support adaptation to climate change and mitigation of impacts to create a more climate resilient city. Delivering on many of the actions/changes will be complementary to other policy objectives set out in the plan.

The development plan will be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) to consider its potential effects on the natural environment and on EU protected sites (Natura 2000) and their networks.

**The Galway City Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 “Climate Resilient Galway City”** was adopted in 2019. It sets out Galway City Council’s short and medium term objectives for the adaptation of Galway City Council in response to climate risks. The Strategy is based on four main themes: Critical Infrastructure and Buildings, Natural and Cultural Capital, Water Resource & Flood Risk Management and Community Services and sets out actions under each.

<https://www.galwaycity.ie/climate-adaptation>

**Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015** requires climate change principles and objectives to be considered in all our policies and programs.

**The EU aims to be climate neutral in 2050.**





# Key Questions

- What aspects of Galway City are most vulnerable to Climate Risk?
- How can development plan policy support individuals and communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote more sustainable living?
- How can development plan policy make Galway City a “Climate Resilient City”, planning for the adaptation of critical Infrastructure, buildings, natural and cultural capital, water resources and our health and wellbeing?
- Where in Galway City can green infrastructure and nature based solutions be used to adapt to and mitigate climate change?
- How can the next development plan accommodate the transition to a low carbon circular economy?
- There are some benefits to climate change? How can we make the most of these?

## Read More

**Galway City Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024** - [https://www.galwaycity.ie/uploads/downloads/application\\_forms/environment/Galway%20City%20Council%20Adaptation%20Strategy%202019-2024.pdf](https://www.galwaycity.ie/uploads/downloads/application_forms/environment/Galway%20City%20Council%20Adaptation%20Strategy%202019-2024.pdf)

**National Climate Action Strategy 2019** - <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ccb2e0-the-climate-action-plan-2019/>





7.

# Community, Culture & Education



# Community, Culture and Education

Sustainable neighbourhoods need to be supported by a range of community facilities that are accessible and adaptable into the future. Galway City has a diverse range of community, social and cultural facilities, many of which serve the wider region. The legacy of a unique culture and arts heritage is demonstrated by the number of arts groups, events and festivals in the city. This is further enhanced by Gaeltacht status, which adds to the rich cultural and linguistic heritage of the city.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES



A wide range of different community, cultural facilities and social services exist within the city ranging from those of regional importance, such as education and health facilities, to those of local and neighbourhood importance, such as places of worship, community centres and crèches.

The current Development Plan includes a range of policies and objectives relating to social inclusion, community and education facilities, childcare facilities. Social inclusion is provided for in the plan through policies on housing, community facilities, childcare, employment opportunities and universal accessibility.

Galway City Council have a Local Community and Economic Plan 2015-2021 which sets out objectives and actions to promote local and community development and economic development in Galway City.

## A CITY FOR YOUNG AND OLD



Through the Child-friendly City and Galway Age Friendly Programme, Galway City Council promotes a built and social environment which allows children and older people to actively participate in the life of the city and their local communities.

## HEALTH & WELLBEING



Health and wellbeing is influenced by many factors. These include choices and behaviours but more so by where we live, the quality of our housing, the strength of our community, our ability to influence decisions, with

enough economic and social resources to enjoy our lives. Galway City is a member of the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network which supports local authorities to implement actions to improve health and wellbeing at a local level.

## HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE



An important element of health and well being is access to a range of health care services. Galway is a centre for regional health care services for the West Region. The new plan will continue to give policy support for investment in provision of an enhanced regional health care service, developed to a modern standard to support a growing city population as well as the wider region. It will also continue to support primary health care centres in areas of the city where they can be easily accessed by communities and where they can enhance the level of local service provision.

## CULTURE AND CREATIVITY



Culture and creativity are at the heart of life in Galway and are intrinsic to the economic and social fabric of the city. Galway City Council aims to position Galway a global city of innovation and creativity. The city supports internationally acclaimed arts and cultural organisations and festivals – such as Galway International Arts Festival, Druid Theatre, Macnas, the Galway Film Fleadh and is the European Capital of Culture for 2020. Galway enjoys the title of UNESCO City Of Film and is a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

The current Galway City Development Plan supports the implementation of Everyone Matters: A Cultural Sustainability Strategy for Galway 2016-2023. The new plan will continue to focus on policy measures to support the development of culture, arts and creative industry in the city and support the provision of arts, culture and community infrastructure. It will be informed by the new City Arts Plan for Galway City Council (Q1 2021).

## IRISH LANGUAGE



A significant area of the city has Gaeltacht status and the city is a service centre for the Connemara Gaeltacht. According to the 2016 census, Galway City has the highest rate of Irish speakers and the highest proportion of population who speak Irish on a daily basis. The use of the Irish language is part of everyday life and an integral part of the cultural identity of the city. Organisations such as Gaillimh le Gaeilge play a lead role in the promotion of the language in the city and are to the forefront in delivering on the status of Galway as a bilingual city. The Irish Language Plan for Galway City (2020-2026) is currently being developed.

## EDUCATION



Education plays an important part in creating sustainable and balanced communities. The city development plan has a significant supporting role in the delivery of education facilities through the identification and safeguarding of suitable sites in existing and future communities. Galway has a range of primary and secondary schools and is home to three third level institutes. The student population of approximately 26,000 contributes to the vibrancy of the city. The presence of third level institutes are significant assets to the city through the provision of education services and the contribution of their research activities to the knowledge based economy.

Primary Schools  
**31**



**12** Secondary Schools

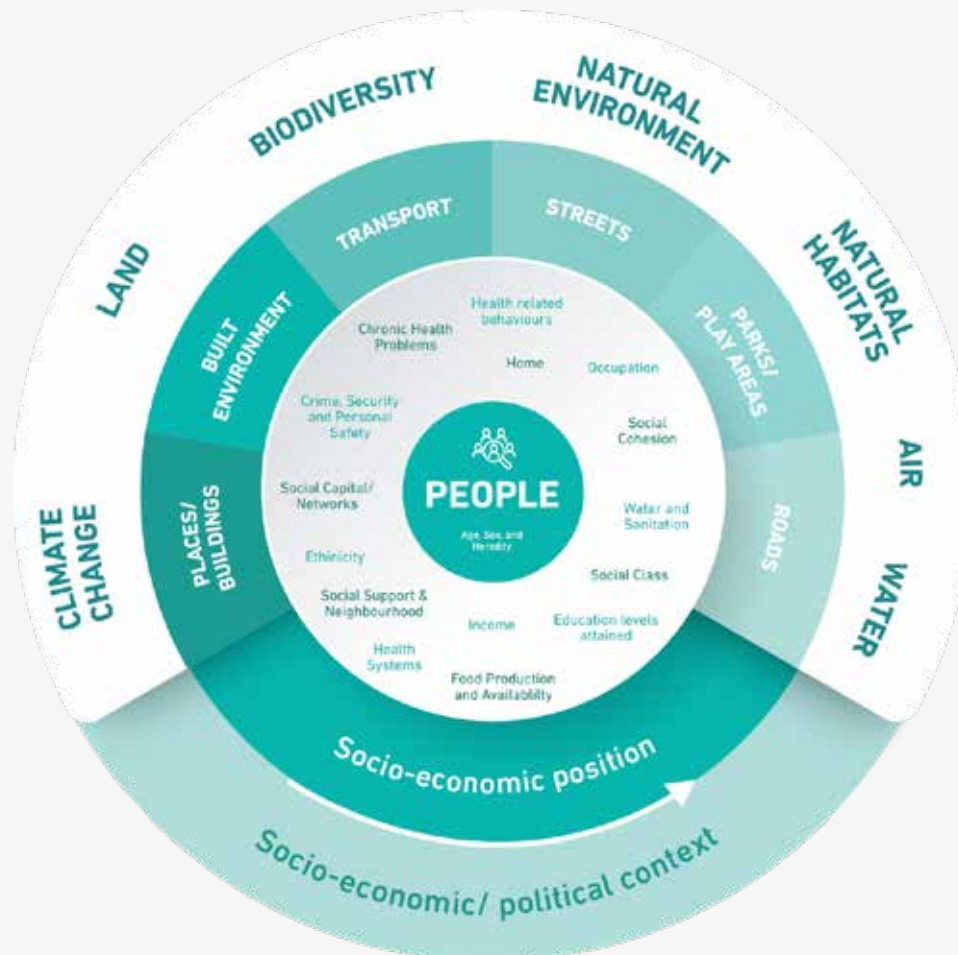
Third Level Institutions **3**



Third Level Students **26,000**

## Social Determinants of Health

Source: Adapted from Dalghren and Whitehead, 1991, Grant and Barton, 2006, and Healthy Ireland, 2013





## Key Questions

- What improved or additional community facilities would you like to see in your locality/ elsewhere in the city?
- What policies are needed in the development plan to meet the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and the social and cultural aspirations of the new Irish?
- How do we address pockets of socio-economic disadvantage in the city?
- What opportunities are there to develop a multilingual identity for Galway City with a special focus on the Irish language?
- How can the development plan continue to support arts and culture?
- What measures can we introduce to further support the age friendly and child friendly initiatives in the city?
- How can we make the most of the legacy of the 2020 European Capital of Culture designation?

### Read More

#### Local Community and Economic Plan 2015-2021

[www.galwaycity.ie/local-economic-and-community-plan/lecp](http://www.galwaycity.ie/local-economic-and-community-plan/lecp)

#### Galway City Culture & Creativity Strategy

[www.galwaycity.ie/uploads/downloads/publications/communityculture/Culture%20and%20Creativity%20Strategy%202018-2022.pdf](http://www.galwaycity.ie/uploads/downloads/publications/communityculture/Culture%20and%20Creativity%20Strategy%202018-2022.pdf)

#### Everybody Matters: A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway 2016-2025

[www.galwaycity.ie/uploads/downloads/publications/corporate\\_services/Galway\\_City\\_cultural\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.galwaycity.ie/uploads/downloads/publications/corporate_services/Galway_City_cultural_strategy.pdf)

#### Healthy Galway Strategy 2019-2021

[galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Healthy-Galway-Strategy-2019-2021.pdf](http://galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Healthy-Galway-Strategy-2019-2021.pdf)

#### Age Friendly City

[www.galwaycity.ie/uploads/downloads/publications/communityculture/AGE%20FRIENDLY%20STRATEGY%202014%20-2019.pdf](http://www.galwaycity.ie/uploads/downloads/publications/communityculture/AGE%20FRIENDLY%20STRATEGY%202014%20-2019.pdf)

#### Gaillimh le Gaeilge

[www.gleg.ie](http://www.gleg.ie)





# 8. Energy & Infrastructure

# Energy & Infrastructure

An integral part of national climate change strategy is a transition to a low carbon economy. A focus on development of renewable sources of energy and reducing energy demand is required in order to transform Ireland's economy. There is a need to move away from a reliance on imported fossil fuels to a more indigenous low carbon economy centred around energy efficiency, renewable energy and smart networks. Sustained growth in the use of renewable energy resources and improved energy efficiency has associated climate change adaptation benefits. It has the potential for energy sector job creation, and to ensure security, diversity and affordability of energy supply.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY



While there is limited capacity in the city to accommodate large scale renewables, there are opportunities to foster sustainable energy consumption utilising micro renewable energy technologies. These include solar photovoltaic panels (PV) and small wind turbines which make energy savings at a local site level. There is also potential to benefit from renewable energy sources at a district level. Suitable technologies may include small-scale wind energy plants and combined heat and power schemes. These are suitable particularly in high density developments where bioenergy fuels can provide the energy source, and in district heating, particularly if waste heat from nearby industry can be utilised.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY



There is significant potential for reductions in energy demand in the location of new development. The new plan will build on current policy to integrate land use with transportation and community services promoting reductions in travel distances and use of public transport, walking and cycling and reductions in private car usage. It will continue to have a policy focus on creating sustainable neighbourhoods with local support services within walking distance and easy accessibility to public transport facilities. The plan will also reflect national policy to support electric vehicle infrastructure, moving away from polluting and carbon intensive vehicles. The new plan will also review existing policy and standards in relation to the design and layout of new development including design of open space, reduction in car parking and smart waste management methods to support the transition to a low carbon economy.

## INFRASTRUCTURE



The development plan aims to secure a high quality, clean and healthy environment, while facilitating the sustainable development of the city, through the continued improvement and expansion of infrastructure services, including water, waste water, surface water drainage and waste management facilities. The new plan will continue to ensure that environmental protection is an integral part of the development process within the city, by avoiding potential pollution at source and reducing environmental risks to the city.

## WATER



The use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) alleviates the risk of flooding, reduces pollutants, increases biodiversity and preserves the existing capacity of the drainage network. The new plan will build on existing policy in relation to SUDS.

The plan will be prepared in consultation with Irish Water to reflect requirements for investment in the city in water, wastewater and water conservation measures for the period 2023-2029 and into the longer term.

The River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 set up under the EU Water Framework Directive recognises the need to integrate water protection measures with land use planning. It sets out the actions required to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027. The new plan will have regard to this plan and incorporate appropriate policy to support water protection.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT



The Connacht-Ulster Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and the Galway City Litter Management Plan 2018-2022 will inform the policies and objectives of the new plan in relation to waste management.



Telecommunication's infrastructure is essential for the continuing socio economic development of the city. It can expand the nature of enterprise in the city in areas such as digital media and cloud computing. It also facilitates more flexible working arrangements and social exchange. The new plan will reflect the growth ambition of the RSES in relation to creating a smart region. Galway is currently a member of the All Ireland Smart City Forum and the plan will aim to ensure that a smart city approach influences all policy areas. This approach will build on existing technologies in use in the city such as waste management sensors and in the provision of real time information to the public on transport movements.

Other policies and objectives in this section relate to air and noise quality and the management of Seveso sites. The Strategic Environmental Report prepared in tandem with the plan will provide the most up to date data in relation to air and noise quality and inform policy consequently.

## Key Questions



- What infrastructural improvements including water supply, drainage network, telecommunications, waste management are required to ensure the sustainable development of the city?
- What other measures which conserve and protect the environment can be incorporated into the development plan?
- How can the development plan encourage energy conservation and energy efficiency and the provision and development of alternative sources of renewable energy?
- How can the city council preserve the unique environment of the city while enabling sustainable development?
- What measures can be introduced to support a smart city approach?
- How can the growth in digitisation and e-commerce be used to improve the quality of life, economic competitiveness and participation in public decision making in the city?
- Is there potential to incorporate district heating systems in the city?

### Read More

**All Ireland Smart Cities Foru**  
<https://smartcitiesireland.org>

**Irish Wate**  
[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

**Connacht Ulster Waste Management Plan**  
[www.curwmo.ie](http://www.curwmo.ie)







# 9. Environmental Assessments

# Environmental Assessments

Environmental assessments of the City Development Plan will be carried out in parallel with the various stages of the plan making process. They ensure that potential environmental impacts associated with the new Plan are fully assessed and inform sustainable policy and land use scenarios throughout the city.

## STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a statutory process that will involve the systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the emerging Galway Development Plan, before a final decision has been made to adopt it. It is required by the EU SEA Directive as implemented under national legislation. There are a number of steps in the process: The first is scoping, where the range of environmental issues and the level of detail to be included in the assessment is decided in consultation with designated Environmental Authorities. An Environmental Report is then prepared in parallel with the Development Plan. This will contain baseline information on the current state of the environment in Galway City based on SEA indicators set out in the Directive. This information is collected through a review of currently available data and will also be informed by environmental assessments relating to European Sites and flood risk. Following the Plan's adoption, an SEA Statement will be provided outlining how the Environmental Report and consultation process is taken into account. Implementation is then monitored.

## APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT (AA)



Appropriate Assessment (AA) is the statutory process where the EU Habitats Directive requires an assessment of the implications of the Plan, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, on protected European sites. These conservation sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). European sites include Galway Bay Complex SAC, Lough Corrib SAC, Inner Galway Bay SPA and Lough Corrib SPA. The AA process will assess potential impacts of the Galway City Development Plan on European sites and where there are likely to be potential impacts propose mitigation measures. The Development Plan can only be adopted if it will not adversely affect the integrity of a European Site.

## SEA Process Diagram

SEA Directive Indicators
Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Population
Soil
Water
Air & Climate
Material Assets
Cultural Heritage and Landscape
SEA Environmental Report Content
Summary of the Plan and its relationship to other plans
Environmental baseline information
Strategic Environmental Objectives
Evaluation of alternative strategies
Reasons for choosing preferred strategy
Assessment of significant environmental affects and proposed mitigation strategy
Monitoring measures

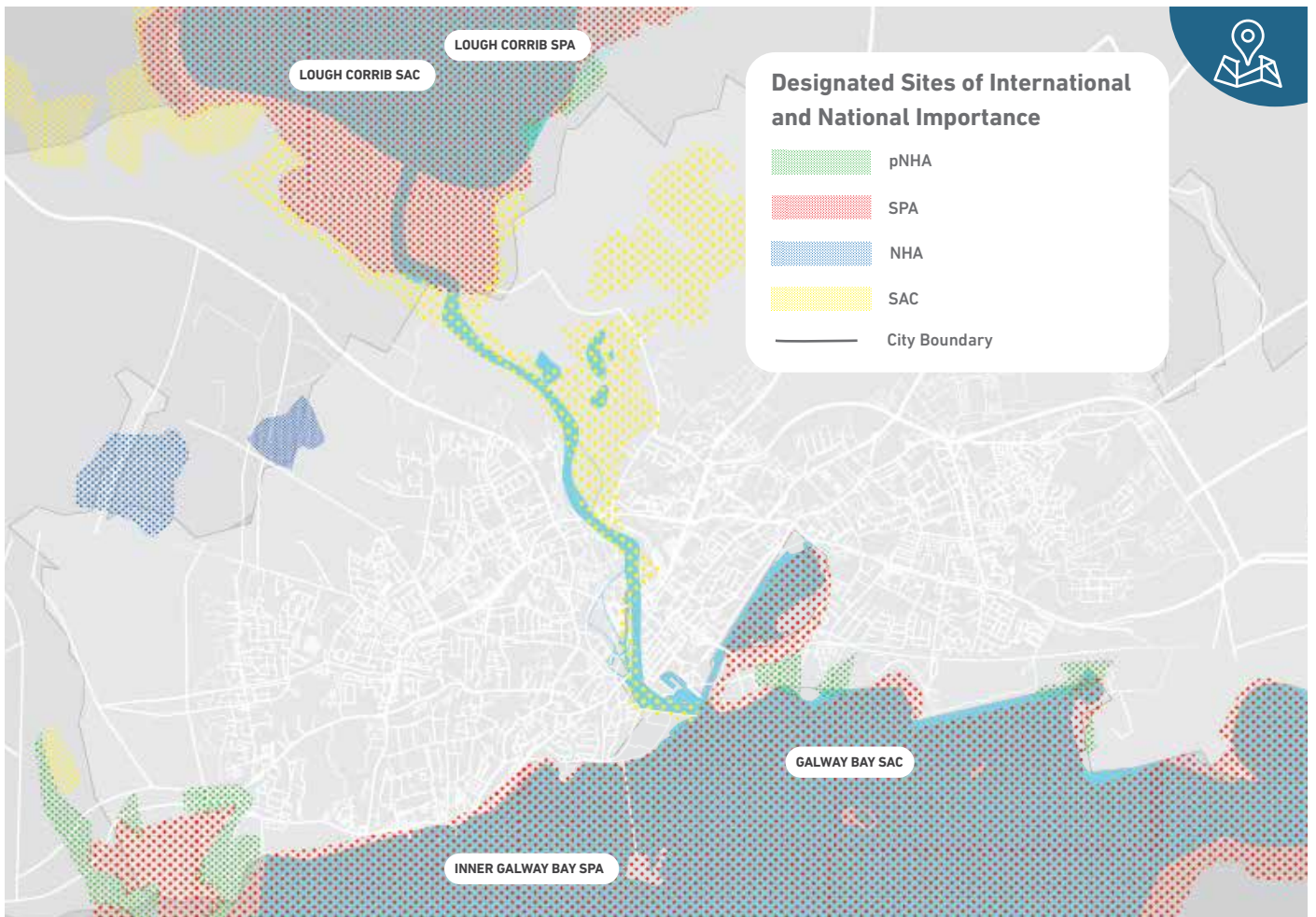
The SEA process will also be informed by assessments relating to European Sites and flood risk.

## STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT (SFRA)



Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is informed by the EU Floods Directive and Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009). It will be guided by the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management Program (CFRAM) for the Corrib catchment and the OPW who are the lead organisation for flood risk management in Ireland. It will also take cognisance of the National Climate Adaptation Framework and Galway City Council Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. The SFRA will guide how the city develops in terms of land use and recommend flood risk policy.





## Key Questions



- What are Galway City's most significant environmental assets?
- How best can we accommodate the projected population increase and also conserve and manage environmental assets?
- What are key strategic environmental issues to be considered in the Environmental Assessments of the Plan?

### Read More

View the environmental assessments of the current plan at [www.galwaycity.ie/planning](http://www.galwaycity.ie/planning)



# How can you get involved?

# How to get involved?

We welcome your views on any of the issues and questions raised in this Issues Paper, or on any other issues that you may consider important to be included in the new Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029.

We would like to hear from as many individuals, community groups, and stakeholders as possible. In particular children, or groups representing the interests of children, are encouraged to make submissions or observations.

The focus of this stage of the process is on strategic issues. Proposals or requests for zoning of particular lands will not be considered. There will be an opportunity to make submissions later in the process, including submissions in relation to zoning.

Details of events taking place during the consultation process will be available at:

**[www.galwaycity.ie/development-plan-2023-2029](http://www.galwaycity.ie/development-plan-2023-2029)**.

## How to make a Submission?

Submissions or observations are invited from all and can be made by the following means:



Using the online submission portal at:

**[www.galwaycity.ie/development-plan-2023-2029](http://www.galwaycity.ie/development-plan-2023-2029)**



By posting your submission to:

**Senior Planner, Planning Department, City Hall, College Road, Galway, H91 X4K8**



By e-mail to:

**[devplan@galwaycity.ie](mailto:devplan@galwaycity.ie)**

Please make your submissions or observations in one form only i.e. online, by email or hard copy by post. Submissions should have a title of **Development Plan Review. The public consultation runs from Thursday 7th January 2021 to Friday 5th March 2021.**

**The closing date for receipt of submissions is FRIDAY 5TH MARCH 2021.**

All submissions lodged within the above period will be taken into consideration during the preparation of the new draft city development plan.



# What should my Submission include?

Submissions should relate to planning issues that you consider important in the City. This Issues Paper includes background information and questions for consideration which may be of assistance.

Any submission or observation should state your name, address and where relevant, the body or organisation represented.

## COVID-19 Infection Control:

Due to the current pandemic and requirements to adhere to public health protocols face to face meetings maybe restricted. In the interests of the safety of the public and staff, the city council request adherence with controls in place where an appointment in person is made.

## Keep Updated!

Throughout the development plan process, we will keep you updated through:

- Dedicated Galway City Development Plan website [www.galwaycity.ie/development-plan-2023-2029](https://www.galwaycity.ie/development-plan-2023-2029)
- Newspaper advertisements
- Galway City Council social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter

## Data Protection:

Please note that all valid submissions received by the Council shall be published on the Galway City Council website and will form part of the Chief Executive's Report on submissions and observations received and will be referenced /included in the minutes of Council meetings.

Galway City Council is subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, the Data Protection Act, 2018 and to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Data will only be processed in accordance with the aforementioned legislation. The Privacy Statement for the management of submissions made during this Public Consultation Process can be found here on this Portal – <https://www.galwaycity.ie/planning-privacy-statement> Galway City Council's privacy Policy is available here - <https://www.galwaycity.ie/privacy-policy>

## Talk to Us:

If you would like to further engage in this public consultation phase, discuss strategic issues relevant to the development plan review process, or the sustainable development of the city, you can speak to a member of the Development Plan Team.

To arrange to speak to a member of the team please provide your contact details by emailing [devplan@galwaycity.ie](mailto:devplan@galwaycity.ie) or phone **091 536599**. A member of the Development Plan Team will call you back to assist you as part of this public consultation phase.

# Plean Forbartha Cathair na Gaillimhe

## Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029

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