



**Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe**
Galway City Council



DRAFT

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN

FRAMEWORK PLAN 2024 – 2029

Galway City – A Changing Place

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an innovative city

an equal and inclusive city

a sustainable and resilient city

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Section 1: Introduction Galway City – a changing place

Galway City is in the west of Ireland, on the shores of Galway Bay and within sight of the Atlantic Ocean. The city is surrounded by the phenomenal landscape of Connemara to the west and Lough Corrib to the north. It is bisected by the river Corrib, whose stony bed (Gaill Aimh) is said to have given the city its name. The city centre is interwoven with canals and mill races which have their origins in the commercial heritage of earlier centuries. Known the world over for its friendly people, charming streets, arts, culture and heritage, Galway is a city like no other.

Galway is a growing city where the population has grown from 47,000 in 1986 to over 85,000 in 2023 with projections for a planned population of 120,000 by 2040. This growth not only reflects a national and international trend of increased urbanisation but more specifically reflects the attractiveness of Galway as a city in which to study, work, visit and live. A further c.70,000 people live within a 30 minutes' drive of the city centre.

Galway is a young and vibrant city with over 40,000 pupils and students in primary, secondary, and third level institutions - including over 30,000 students in the University of Galway, Atlantic Technological University Galway, and the Galway Technical Institute. Galway's population of 20 to 24 year olds is more than twice the national average. Education and learning are part of the past, present, and future of the city.

Galway is a cultural and creative city where the arts flourish with a bohemian and European twist that engages the community and encourages creativity. The city has long been considered a centre of culture and its reputation in Ireland and overseas has been enhanced by the presence of world leaders in the arts, like Druid Theatre Company, Macnas and Galway International Arts Festival. The economic importance of the creative sector to Galway City is significant and this is further strengthened by the city's designation as a UNESCO City of Film and the European Capital of Culture 2020 and demonstrates the commitment to the arts and culture in the city.

Galway is a multi-cultural city recognised as a city which celebrates diversity. Galway City is the most multi-cultural location in Ireland with c.20% of its residents recorded as non-Irish born, compared to a national average of 12%. It is also Ireland's only bilingual city with a strong history and tradition of the Irish language.

Galway is a historic city originally a small O'Flaherty village in the middle ages, the city is famously known as the "City of the Tribes" after the fourteen "Tribes" (merchant families) who led the city in its hiberno-norman period. Galway City is a living exhibition of history and has maintained many relics from its medieval past, including cobbled streets, laneways, hidden archways and the medieval city walls.

Galway City is a key driver of economic development in the region and makes a significant contribution to the national economy. The city is home to an internationally noted MedTech business cluster and has a strong, emerging ICT cluster. The city thrives on its entrepreneurial spirit and diversity of culture. It is a centre of knowledge and a source of growth and innovation. The city also engenders a huge sense of pride of place in its inhabitants.

Galway is a city of achievement and has previously been named the Best Overall MicroCity in Europe by fDi magazine in recognition of its economic potential and business friendliness and the city was also awarded the Great Town of the Year Award by the Academy of Urbanism in the UK. Since 2015, Galway City has continually received a Purple Flag for its safe and vibrant night-time economy and in 2015 Galway was named the 'Friendliest City in the World' by US magazine Travel and Leisure and was chosen as one of the pilot cities for the EU's Culture21 project.

Galway is a designated UNESCO City of Film, one of a network of 22 cities worldwide to hold this prestigious title and is a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. More recent accolades and accreditations include European Green Leaf designation in 2017, European Region of Gastronomy in 2018 and the European Capital of Culture 2020.

Galway City is a changing place and this change must be planned and managed. To continue to grow and evolve Galway City must respond to a rapidly changing world. The existing and emerging strengths of Galway must be capitalised upon to secure the city's competitiveness. Digital and green technologies must be embraced as international and EU emphasis increasingly relies on smart, sustainable cities.

Engagement with the people of Galway City through collaboration, dialogue and participation in local government must be encouraged and all aspects of diversity, cultural identity and expression must be valued. The threats faced by all urban areas, of unemployment, poverty, energy, climate action, access to housing and services must be addressed as urgent challenges as Galway takes its place as a driver of economic, social and community development as the only city in the Western region.

A clear, succinct and ambitious vision for Galway City is required and this vision must be based on the concepts of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through the development and delivery of coherent policy frameworks, aligned with regional, national and European policy. A suite of plans and strategies have been prepared, or are in preparation, to complement this vision for Galway City over the next few years, consistent with the Galway City Development Plan 2023 - 2029. These Galway City Council plans and strategies, when combined with other national, regional and local policy documents, present an ambitious, yet achievable, vision for Galway City.

Section 2: Background and Context

What is a Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)?

The primary aim of the LECP is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of Galway City both by Galway City Council directly, and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

The LECP will support the sustainable development Galway City as it forms the local element of national development frameworks and support collaboration to enhance the quality of life in our communities.

The LECP is an important way to set out how stakeholders can work together to ensure that their initiatives, programmes and projects support an improved quality of life for people living and working in the city. The LECP will facilitate collaboration between partner agencies, business and the community and voluntary sector, to drive synergies and align with regional, national and European policy to secure funding.

As the framework for the economic development and local / community development of Galway City, the LECP will be the primary mechanism at local level to bring forward relevant actions arising from national and regional strategies and policies that have a local remit. It is important that the LECP provide an enabling framework that supports collaborative working both in the structures that support the LECP and in the interventions that the LECP seeks to support.

As the framework for economic, local and community development for Galway City, the LECP will be a mechanism to bring forward local actions in national, or regional, strategies and policies.

Local authorities are key drivers for stimulating and enabling enterprise and innovation in their regions. Recent and ongoing reform and alignment processes have resulted in an expanded role for local authorities, beyond their traditional functions, to include driving economic development and promotion and acting as a focal point for local development, in collaboration with other agencies. As part of the leadership role assigned to local authorities, Galway City Council now has the primary responsibility for leading economic, social and community development in the city. This LECP for Galway City was developed to reflect this responsibility under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The **community element** of the LECP was agreed by the Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the **economic element** was agreed by Galway City Council, through the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). Both elements were integrated into this final Local Economic and Community Plan guided by an Advisory Steering Group. The LECP identifies gaps and delivers positive 'step changes' that will progress the economic and social consolidation and enhancement of Galway City. The focus of the plan is on collaboration and inter-agency work, with an emphasis on clear and measurable

actions that add value to the city. Implementation Plans will be developed every two years, based on the 'High-Level Objectives' outlined in the LECP Framework.

LECP 2015 – 2021

Galway City Council published its first Local Economic and Community Plan in 2015 covering the period 2015 – 2021 (extended to 2022) and the process to develop LECP 2024 – 2029 provided the opportunity to reflect on the experiences of all stakeholders in the intervening period. The first LECP for Galway City contained the following High-Level Goals to be pursued using a programme of actions contained within the plan.

1. A world-class, creative city region
2. An innovative city
3. An equal and inclusive city
4. A sustainable, resilient urban environment that is the regional capital of the West
5. A city that promotes the health and well-being of all its people

Over the period from 2015 a significant number of positive outcomes under these Goals was delivered.

Guiding Principles of the LECP

The LECP is informed and underpinned by a set of guiding principles and values, including:

- Equality, human rights and respect
- Sustainable development and a resource efficient and inclusive society and economy
- Maximising outcomes through collaboration
- Active participation and meaningful community engagement
- Empowering communities to achieve social inclusion
- Accessibility and ownership to ensure the plan is easy to read and understand

The Galway City LECP 2024 - 2029 undertakes to address social exclusion, as defined in the Irish Government's Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025. The LECP is also influenced by the Equality and Human Rights Statement of the Local Community Development Committee which states that *"the LCDC promotes an environment which is fair, transparent and welcoming for all individuals and organisations employees, service users and elected members. The LCDC undertakes to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; foster good relations when making decisions; developing and implementing policies"*.

LECP 2024 – 2029 A New Approach

Guidelines issued to local authorities provided an outline of the process to be carried out to develop a fully integrated LECP at local level. The guidelines were issued under S.66b of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 and are therefore statutory

in nature and provided to support all aspects of the LECP process including ongoing implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

LECP 2024 – 2029 will form the basis for interventions at local level that are complementary to and consistent with the Northern and Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), the City Development Plan and relevant national strategies and policies. This LECP will provide a broader, strategic framework that guides the preparation and delivery of a series of 2-year implementation plans. This will provide the agility and flexibility required to react to emerging needs and opportunities on an ongoing basis over the 6-year period of the plan.

The LECP represents a shared plan for Galway City and it will play an important role in shaping Galway as a city of creativity, investment and opportunity, a city that offers the best conditions to its people and a better quality of life. There is a commitment from all partners that this plan will be an organic document that will allow for ongoing reflection, review and monitoring, recognising the paramount need for ongoing meaningful consultation at community level. In addition, the plan considers the resources available to deliver on identified actions and ensures that prioritisation of actions is realistic and achievable within available resources.

The **LECP Framework Plan** details the High-Level Goals and Sustainable Community and Economic Objectives as well as consideration of outcomes and high-level indicators for the 6-year LECP period.

These High-Level Goals recognise the wider social and economic challenges the city has faced over recent years and will continue to face over the lifetime of the LECP. In developing these goals Galway City Council reflected on the goals set out in the previous LECP. Through an evaluation process it was apparent that whilst demonstrable progress has been made in working towards those goals, their aspirations continue to represent our ambition. This is reflected by adapting, where appropriate, previous goals whilst also ensuring LECP 2024 - 2029 looks to the future on changes of priority, new opportunities and challenges.

These goals and objectives will be achieved by a series of actions delivered in collaboration with stakeholders over the lifetime of the plan. The benefit of having shared goals and objectives is that they help to bring stakeholders together to strategically align and join forces to make effective and real change in our city.

The LECP Framework represents the strategic part of the LECP development process over the full six-year period. The Framework includes a series of Sustainable Objectives (both economic and community) to be achieved over the period through inputs, actions and outputs outlined in the Implementation plan.

The **Implementation Plan** details the inputs, actions and resources required for that Implementation Plan period (two years) as well as relevant key outcomes to facilitate evaluation. This format facilitates a more agile and flexible approach to the delivery of initiatives to support the achievement of the High-Level Goals and Sustainable Development Objectives outlined in the LECP Framework and will allow newly emerging programmes and policies to be considered in an ongoing way.

Section 3: Consistency of LECP, Cross Cutting Priorities & Proofing

The LECP is influenced by a hierarchy of international, national, regional and local level plans, strategies and legislation. Consideration was given to these during the preparation of the LECP. The LECP is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020 – 2032 (RSES) prepared by the Northern & Western Regional Assembly and the National Planning Framework – Project Ireland 2040.

The Galway City Development Plan 2023 - 2029 is underpinned by a strategic vision intended to guide the sustainable future growth of the city expanded on across ten Strategic Goals.

The City Development Plan sets the vision for Galway City... ‘to be a successful, sustainable, competitive, regional city 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, mobilised to combat climate change and resilient to challenge. A city that can attract and retain talent and skills and fosters innovation and creativity. An inclusive, diverse city where civic engagement is valued, and a shared vision is pursued through good governance and leadership. A city that offers sustainable and quality choices in housing, work, transport and lifestyle opportunities’.

Strategic Goals of the City Development Plan (2023-2029)

1. Achieve a high quality of life for all citizens through the provision of a good quality, attractive, built environment, through the protection of the unique natural environment and through facilitation of key economic, cultural and social supports.
2. Enable Galway to become a city of scale as envisaged in the NPF and a regional driver of development that can contribute to economic growth through the provision of balanced and sustainable economic opportunities for development, innovation and investment across all employment sectors and allow the role of the city and metropolitan area to harness the strengths and maximise the economic development for the whole Northern and Western Region.
3. Commit to climate action and the national targeted reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through proactive measures in line with EU and national commitments to enable a just transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and climate neutral economy and society, in particular through specific promotion, adaptation and mitigation measures.
4. Apply the principle of sustainability and alignment with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development particularly where they relate to the uses of land, buildings, water, energy, waste and through the encouragement of sustainable modes of transport and the integration of transportation with land use.

5. Aspire to make Galway an equal and inclusive city, particularly through facilitating all forms of social inclusion in the built environment, including in the public realm, housing, and community facilities and in the ability to access services, amenities, employment opportunities and public transportation.
6. Protect and enhance the distinctive and diverse natural environment in the city and strengthen the green network and linkages, recognising the biodiversity value of the amenity, the range of recreational benefits this provides, the potential for facilitating active and healthy lifestyles, the effect it can have on the quality of general health and well-being and the value it has for providing good place making and an attractive city setting.
7. Encourage a sense of collective identity and a shared vision through civic engagement on plans and projects such as the development of a Local Economic and Community Plan for Galway and also on the promotion of specifically focused projects that will achieve community benefit, promote the unique form and character of the city, give opportunities for the development of cultural, community and other beneficial infrastructure and enhance and diversify the city economy.
8. Integrate land use and transport planning to maximise opportunities for active travel and public transport usage and enable key transport projects included in the Galway Transport Strategy which will deliver multi modal usage, smart mobility and accessibility for all.
9. Ensure efficient and sustainable use of all water services environmental resources and infrastructure.
10. Develop a more urban compact form in the city that provides for attractive, integrated, and easily accessible neighbourhoods that are supported by appropriate levels of services and amenities.

The Galway City LECP Framework and Implementation Plan is consistent with the core strategies and objectives of the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029.

Strategic Environmental Assessment / Habitats Directive Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental implications of proposed policies, plans or programmes. The process provides for the examination of cumulative effects and facilitates addressing these effects at the earliest possible stage of decision making alongside economic and social considerations. The objectives of SEA are to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to promote sustainable development. Due consideration has been given to SEA in the preparation of LECP 2024 – 2029 and the SEA Screening Statement should be read in conjunction with this plan. [\(link\)](#)

The EU Habitats Directive was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 as amended. Under this Directive, the local authority is obliged to carry out an appropriate assessment (AA)

of the ecological implications of the LECP on the Natura 2000 sites within Galway City as part of the plan process. Natura 2000 sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and provide for the protection of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. An AA screening has been carried out on the LECP. [\(link\)](#) It is the responsibility of the Local Authority preparing the LECP to take account of the SEA Directive and Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and ensure compliance as appropriate.

Cross Cutting Priorities

In addition to ensuring consistency with the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020 – 2032 (RSES) and the National Planning Framework – Project Ireland 2040, the LECP has considered the potential impact of the plan across several cross cutting / horizontal priorities namely, sustainability, climate change, equality, poverty, age and disability.

Climate Change / Action

The need to address the climate crisis is one of the defining challenges to be addressed at all levels. Government is supporting action to adapt to the worst effects of climate change and secure a safer future for generations to come through the process to develop a statutory basis for climate change intervention - including through the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, and subsequent requirement for each Local Authority to develop Climate Action Plans. The 2021 Act's key provision requires Government to "pursue and achieve the transition to a climate resilient and climate-neutral economy by the end of 2050".

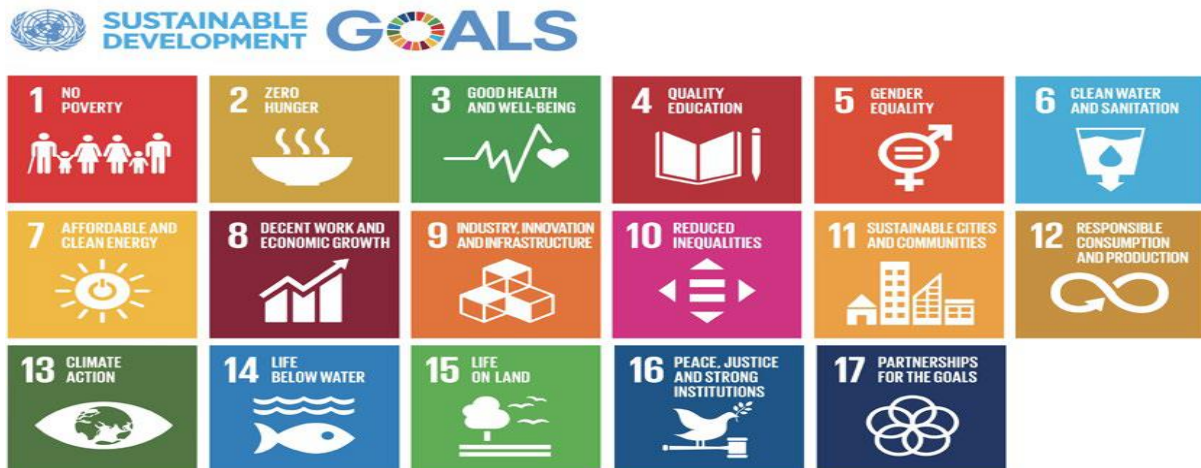
There is now a legally binding framework with clear targets and commitments set in law to ensure Ireland achieves its national, EU and international climate goals and complies with its obligations in the near and long term. The LECP is one of the mechanisms through which climate action interventions will be delivered at local level. The LECP will support the delivery of actions in the Galway City Climate Action Plan and national Climate Action Plans, with specific actions included in LECP Implementation Plans as appropriate.

The European Green Deal is the European Commission's plan to make the EU's economy sustainable through a just and inclusive transition to a low-carbon future. It provides an action plan to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, to restore biodiversity and cut pollution. Its overall aim is for the EU to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gas by 55% in 2030 and to achieve a net-zero reduction by 2050. It proposes actions across all sectors, including investing in environmentally friendly technologies; supporting industry to innovate; rolling out cleaner, cheaper and healthier forms of private and public transport; decarbonising the energy sector; ensuring buildings are more energy efficient; working with international partners to improve global environmental standards.

Involvement and commitment of the public and all stakeholders is crucial to its success. Above all, the European Green Deal sets a path for a transition that is just and socially fair. It is designed in such a way as to leave no individual or region behind in the great transformation ahead.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

As specified in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the LECP has been developed in the context of the principles of sustainable development. The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice and tackle climate change, by 2030. The SDGs are a call for action to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.



They recognise that ending poverty must go hand in-hand with strategies that lead to sustained, sustainable and inclusive economic growth and address a range of social needs, including education, health, social protection and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. The final SDG, Goal 17, calls for strengthened partnerships and collaboration to implement the goals and achieve their targets.

The SDGs provide a critical framework for community development as they reflect the social justice, economic justice and environmental justice concerns of community work and community workers and designate the processes of participation, empowerment and collective action required to achieve change. The goals are supported by a global indicator framework and a national indicator framework that is used to inform decisions regarding the choice of KPIs for the LECP. Ireland has made commitments in both the Programme for Government – Our Shared Future 2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018 to ensure that the SDGs are fully considered in all Government policies and planning processes.

Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty ('the Duty') is a statutory obligation for public bodies including Local Authorities. Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 requires public bodies, in the performance of their functions, to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and protect human rights of staff and people availing of their services. Section 42(2) requires public bodies to assess, address and report on progress in relation to equality and human rights in their strategic plan and annual reports in a

manner that is accessible to the public. Local Authorities and other relevant stakeholders engaged with the LECP process must fully consider their responsibilities regarding Public Sector Duty and ensure that the objectives and actions detailed in the LECP are designed to support these responsibilities where appropriate.

Galway City Council's commitment to equality and human rights is motivated by a set of shared values. These values reflect the ambition to work towards the achievement of equality and fulfilment of human rights and include Dignity, Autonomy, Participation, Inclusion, Social Justice and Environmental Justice. The preparation of the LECP has been informed by an Assessment of Equality and Human Rights Issues and an associated evidence book presented to the LCDC in November 2022.

Public Consultation

The LECP was developed using a collaborative, consultative and participative approach, affording key stakeholders the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way. A comprehensive public consultation process underpinned the development of the LECP as required by the Local Government Act.

The LECP Framework and Implementation Plan will support and enable the work of Galway City Council including Climate Action, Planning, Tourism and Recreation and ensure that objectives of stakeholders are informed by the objectives set out in the LECP. The LECP identifies linkages between the objectives set out in the Annual Service Plan for Galway City Council and other relevant stakeholders, and the Sustainable Objectives set out in the LECP were informed by public consultation.

Participative planning through meaningful community participation and consultation is one of the guiding principles that underpins the LECP. This approach will be developed further during the lifetime of the LECP and preparation of 2-year Implementation Plans and progress will be measured as part of the monitoring and implementation phase of the LECP process. Involvement of marginalised groups and individuals in the development and delivery of solutions to challenges is the fundamental methodology of the delivery of the actions in the Implementation Plans.

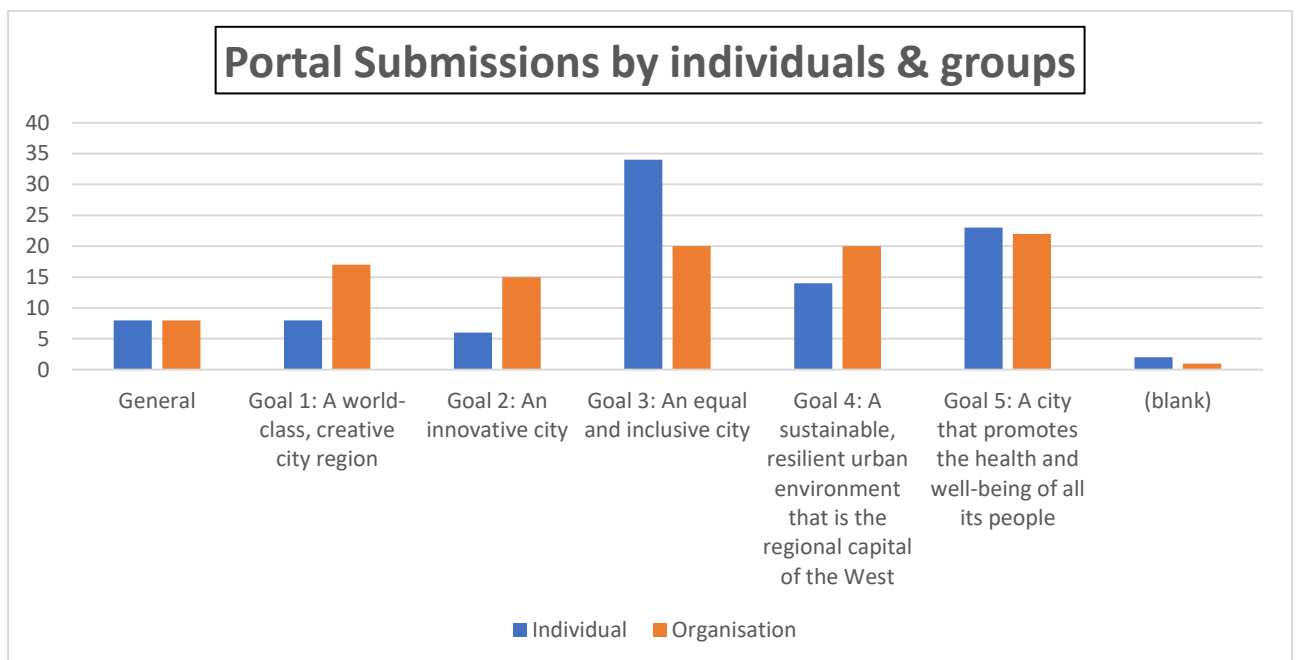
There has always been evidence of strong collaboration across agencies, social partners and the local development and community development sectors in Galway City. This LECP represents a further strengthening of these collaborations and will allow for shared ownership, policy consistency and, importantly, the achievement of common goals for the good of the city.

The consultation process commenced in 2022 and included several steps as follows:

- Consultation meetings with members of the LCDC and SPC
- An LECP Advisory Group was established and met to review progress in the plan's preparation
- An Issues Paper ([link](#)) was prepared for public consultation in 2022 and a comprehensive report prepared on the issues arising from the process. A directory of all 78 individual submissions received through the public

consultation phase was compiled and uploaded to a Consultation Portal. These submissions, which include general commentary as well as proposed defined actions, will be used throughout the lifetime of the LECP to influence the Implementation Plan process based on the High-Level Goals, Objectives and Actions outlined in the Framework document.

198 individual responses, suggestions or proposals were received of which 71% were primarily focused on community / social themes with 4% primarily focused on economic themes. 25% of submissions referred to both community / social and economic themes. 103 submissions were from individuals and 95 were from organisations / stakeholder / community groups.



- Individual meetings and discussions with representatives of key stakeholder groups
- Consultation documents circulated to agencies and community groups seeking feedback
- A Community Engagement Project was facilitated by the Galway City Community Network over a 12-month period to work with particular target groups to identify issues and propose actions for inclusion in the Plan

The consultation process was guided by the Department of Rural and Community Development - A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making issued in 2022 and a workshop was held for LCDC members on best use of the guide.

Links were made with other parallel past and current consultation processes ongoing in the city, including the City Development Plan, Galway City Climate Action Plan, Green Spaces Strategy, Galway Arts Strategy etc to ensure that all information relevant to the LECP, from whatever source, was considered.

Section 4: Socio-Economic Summary and SWOT Analysis

Population Growth and Housing

With an area of 54km², Galway City is the fourth biggest city in Ireland and the only city in Connacht. Galway City experienced most of its population growth between 1996 and 2006, stabilising thereafter and maintaining a rate slightly higher than the state average. Census 2022 states that the population of Galway city was 84,414 in April 2022, representing an increase of 7.3% since 2016. Galway's 2023 population is estimated at 85,258 based on growth patterns. Galway has been the fastest growing city in Ireland over the past 50 years and the future population is projected to increase to at least 120,000 by 2040.

The city's population is predominantly younger, with 40% of the population between the age of 20 and 40, and older people over 65 comprising 11% of the population. Galway City has the lowest average age in the Western Region (37.4 years).

There are 35,436 private households in Galway City and the average number of persons per household is 2.62. Nearly three-quarters (73.4%) of households live in houses or bungalows equating to 26,010 households, a decrease of 1.9% since 2016. 26.4% of households live in flats or apartments. 47% of households live in owner occupied housing, 35.3% live in private rented accommodation and 11.4% of households rent from either the Local Authority or an Approved Housing Body. In 2016, 1 and 2 person households comprised 56% of the city's total households.

While owner-occupied households are the dominant tenure type with 47% of households being owner-occupied with or without a mortgage or loan, this is significantly lower than the national average of 66% owner-occupancy. Galway City is changing towards increased numbers of 1 and 2 person households and is moving towards a rental based market. Galway City's person-household composition is changing and by 2026, it is estimated that 60% of households will comprise of 1 and 2 persons. There is a strong preference towards apartment-living in Galway City (twice the national rate) and the provision of housing needs to be significantly increased to keep pace with these changing trends.

The city has sufficient land capacity to meet both the built-up demand and the projected demand to fulfil population targets. At present there are approximately 155 hectares of residential zoned land within the city. Census data on residential vacancy (including those classed as holiday homes, and temporarily vacant) in Galway City is lower at just 8.4% compared to 9.1% for the state overall. The recent exodus of private landlords from the rental sector is being mirrored in Galway City and 37% of Notices of Termination issued in 2022 were for the purposes of sale with the consequent further depletion of private rented stock.

Between 2016 and 2022, overall housing stock in Galway City and County increased by 5% from 112,154 to 117,773. The overall housing stock in Galway City grew by 5% from 33,847 to 35,436 while the number of vacant dwellings decreased by 4% from 2,841 to 2,738. The number of holiday homes grew by 21% from 4,119 to 5,000. The number of homes owned with a mortgage or loan fell by 1% from since

2016 while the number of homes owned outright (without a loan or mortgage) increased by 11%. Homes rented from private landlords showed a 6% increase.

There has been a significant increase of 83% in the number of over 65's renting from a private landlord in the state. In Galway, the number of homes rented by the 65 and over age group was 955 (95% increase over 5 years). In the 60 to 64 age group, it was up 61% compared with 69% nationally. Renters have continued to face large increases in the amount of rent they pay. Between 2016 and 2022, the average weekly rent for a home paid to a private landlord in Galway in 2022 was €241, which was a 41% increase on 2016.

Community, Culture and Education

Galway is the most multi-cultural city in Ireland with over 20% of the population identifying as of non-Irish origin. Census 2022 indicates that 30% of families are headed by lone parents compared to a state average of 25%. The Traveller community account for 2.1% of the population compared to 0.7% nationally.

The city has a higher proportion of professional workers than the national average (10.2% vs. 8.1%). 55% of the population have a third level qualification while only 8.6% have no formal education. Galway City has the highest per capita student population in the state. Galway has the second highest education attainment levels of 45% (national rate 30.6%). The proportion of those with primary education only is 9.3% well below the national rate of 15.2%.

Fewer than half of the people in Galway City were born in County Galway, while one in five residents were born outside the state. Galway is a bilingual city and is a service centre for the Connemara Gaeltacht. Galway City and its suburbs have the highest rate of Irish speakers in a city area (44.2%).

In 2016, Galway City was the third most affluent area in the country. In parallel, a number of small areas in the city were classified as very disadvantaged.

Galway City has world-class, well-recognised universities, the University of Galway and the Atlantic Technological University (ATU). Galway Technical Institute also provides further and higher education courses in the city. There are approximately 8,000 full time students in the ATU campuses in the city, while the University of Galway has a student population of more than 21,000. This contributes to the vibrant and youthful profile within the city, and many of these students come in from the region and on completion of their studies stay on to work in the city.

Social cohesion is a strong point for the region with over 85% of people satisfied with opportunities to meet people and make friends. Indicators that capture participation in social activities can be utilised to measure the stock and evolution of regional social capital. These indicators tend to illustrate an important relationship between higher levels of social well-being and regional economic growth which makes a strong case for investments in policy areas that foster social cohesion.

Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise

Galway City is the economic driver of the west region and has experienced strong economic growth in recent years resulting in increases in household income and GDP which in turn has generally improved the standard of living across the city and the west region.

Galway is a prosperous city that offers a broad range of highly skilled and low-skilled employment opportunities across a diversity of industries due to a strong local economy driven by large multinational and SME sectors. Being a regional centre for public services and a significant tourism destination contributes further employment within the city.

Galway City is the largest urban centre in the west and is the primary growth centre in the western region. In 2020, there were 44,376 jobs in Galway City, accounting for 18.3% of all jobs in the region. The overall labour force participation rate in Galway city is 61.1% on a par with the state average.

In terms of small businesses and entrepreneurs, the most recent annual results of the Local Enterprise Office (LEOs) for 2022 showed that the LEO Galway supported companies created 221 jobs in 2022. The net jobs created by LEO supported clients in 2022 was 43, which considers companies that amalgamated, ceased trading and those that transferred on to Enterprise Ireland. The new figures show that the LEO Galway financially supported 268 small businesses in their portfolio across the city and county, and these companies in turn employ 1,192 people.

The city's commuter population of c.25,000 indicates that the city draws on an extensive catchment area to support this economy. Galway City is a centre to world renowned clusters in medical devices and information communication technology which has led to a growth in indigenous firms. Inward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rebounded in 2021 following two years of downturn compared to 2018 levels. With IDA's sights set on over one-hundred foreign direct investments in the Northern and Western region through to 2024, this is on track to grow, even in the backdrop of a global FDI downturn in 2022.

The west of Ireland is home to 20% of Ireland's audio-visual studios and leading animation studios. Commercial immersive tech studios and music enterprises are also planned in the region. Immersive technology in creative industries is on the rise with companies in the west. Over 40% of Ireland's postgraduate software engineering courses underpins this growing ecosystem in the west offering opportunities for RD&I in creative tech and cross-sectoral innovation. The potential for economic development of Ireland's coastline is significant with western region providing a wealth of opportunities and according to the New European Wind Atlas, it is one of the most suitable areas for offshore wind (measured by wind power density) in Europe.

Social enterprises are an important part of the enterprise / entrepreneurship ecosystem in Galway, creating jobs and generating meaningful social and environmental impact. Their focus is particularly important in the context of the green

transition and in realising Ireland's objectives related to job creation, inclusiveness, regional development and sustainability.

Transport and Mobility

Having effective transport and sustainable mobility infrastructure is vital to a well-functioning community and economy and will be crucial to our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. The Galway Transport Strategy proposes an approach which places walking, cycling and public transport at the forefront of mobility around the city. The move towards more sustainable mobility and electric vehicles will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.

60% of the population of the city commute by car or van, 23% commute to work on foot, 5% by bicycle, 8% by bus/coach and less than 1% commute by train. The city's connectivity has improved since the construction of the M6 motorway, but it is still the most isolated city in the state from an airport.

Galway harbour can accommodate vessels with up to 10,000 tonnes while the inner dock can accommodate up to nine vessels at any time. The city's harbour company has applied for permits to expand which are pending approval.

Census 2022 results indicate that in the Western Region 11% of households do not have a car. The proportion of households without a car is highest in Galway City (18.5%). In County Galway 52% of households have more than one car, compared to 29% in Galway City.

At a national level, transport accounted for approximately 19% of Ireland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2019 (11 Metric tonne Carbon Dioxide equivalent (MtCo2e), with road transport responsible for 94% of those GHG emissions. Addressing transport emissions is an essential element of our transition to a low carbon city. At a local level, emissions from transport in Galway City have been calculated to be 94 ktCO₂e, which equates to 26% of the total greenhouse gas emissions.

The dominance of private cars as the primary mode of transport in Galway City is reflected in the results, accounting for 67% of all transport emissions, while light duty/heavy duty vehicles and buses accounted for 18% and 15% respectively.

Built Environment and Sustainable Neighbourhoods

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 supports economic success, the attraction of Galway as a place to live and work and the popularity of the city as a tourist destination.

While most of the significant built heritage is in the city centre, there is a diversity of buildings of heritage value throughout the city, including village settlements, such as Menlough and Coolagh. The City Development Plan notes that 619 structures are

included in the Record of Protected Structures and 105 other sites of archaeological significance located throughout the city.

Sustainable city living, strong vibrant places, enhanced quality of life and reduced carbon footprint are key aims to enhance the experience of the city as a place to live and work or as a destination for visitors. Galway City Council has objectives to facilitate climate adaptation and mitigation measures, to provide high quality open spaces, to protect and enhance areas of natural and built heritage and facilitate the provision of high-quality community services and amenities as set out in the City Development Plan.

Galway City has a low level of households without internet (5.6%) compared to the state average of 8.7%. The city has a high level of broadband as a proportion of internet connections at 81% - slightly higher than the state average of 79.4%. Nationally, 53.6% of those who work from home do so between three and five days a week. Galway City is above this rate at 56.4%. The proportion working from home in Galway City is 31.1% compared to 32.2% for the State (2022 Census).

Green Network and Biodiversity

A fifth of the total land area of Galway City includes areas designated as protected habitats, recreational and amenity lands and lands in agricultural use. Galway has an unparalleled water environment with an extensive coastline, Lough Corrib, river Corrib, waterways and canals. The city also has a range of Natural Heritage Areas which are of national ecological importance and are protected under the Wildlife Acts and other relevant legislation.

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. The green network provides important social, ecological and leisure functions and has an important role in climate action and mitigation including carbon capture and managing flood risk.

Biodiversity is a measure of the variety of all plants, animals and micro-organisms including their ecosystems, habitats and their interactions. Good biodiversity can enhance quality of life and help shape the city's heritage. Accommodating the future development needs of the city while at the same time conserving and enhancing biodiversity is crucial. It is also important to preserve these natural assets to ensure their protection and enhancement for future generations.

Galway City has a large and diverse range of habitats and wildlife in relation to its size, due to its varying geology, the extent of urban woodland and its proximity to the river Corrib, Galway Bay and Lough Corrib. These habitats and wildlife are under constant pressure from human activity and the development and implementation of a revised Galway City Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2024 aims to provide a framework for their protection. The Green Space Strategy to be adopted in 2024 will take a long-term strategic view with an aim to deliver net positive outcomes for community, economy and the environment.

Climate Change

Galway City Council adopted a Climate Adaption Strategy in 2019 and is preparing a city-wide Climate Action Plan 2024 to achieve a climate neutral status. The Council prepared an Energy Master Plan in 2023 which establishes an emissions baseline for the city. This plan will provide a baseline of energy use and sources and estimate the increase in demand for energy in line with the projected growth of the city's population.

At a national level, the residential sector accounts for about 10% of total energy related emissions, with the average dwelling emitting 5 tCO₂ (tonnes Carbon Dioxide) per annum. The energy and emissions from the residential sector in Galway City have been calculated to be 142 ktCO₂e, which equates to 40% of the total greenhouse gas emissions for Galway City. Heating accounted for 40% (66 ktCO₂) of these emissions, while electricity consumption accounted for 60% (94 ktCO₂). Residential heating in Galway City comes primarily from fossil fuels such as oil (63%) and peat (20%).

At a national level, the non-residential sector (commercial, manufacturing and industrial) accounts for about 20% (13,622ktCO₂e) of national energy and emissions. At a local level, the energy and emissions from the non-residential sector in Galway City has been calculated to be 119 ktCO₂e, which equates to 33% of the total greenhouse gas emissions. In 2022, 28% of households in the Western Region had a renewable energy source compared to 25% in the rest of state. The lowest rate in the region is Galway City at 17%.

Galway City was awarded the designation of Net Zero Pilot City in 2022 which aims to accelerate retrofits of Housing in the city and the expertise and learning's from other European cities will be essential in identify appropriate energy efficiency measures and behavioural change opportunities to support decarbonisation in this sector.

The 2020 target for public bodies was for the Energy Performance Indicator to be 33% lower than the 2009 baseline. In 2021, the SEAI published the results on the reduction of the energy performance indicators for public bodies. Galway City Council's energy performance exceeded this target by having a 2021 level that was 36.9% lower than the 2009 baseline.

Safety, Health and Wellbeing

In Census 2016, 86% of the population of the city self-declared their health status as either "Good" or "Very Good" falling however to 78.4% in 2022, lower than the state average of 82.9%.

Galway has above average rates of the main causes of mortality (cancer and heart-related disease) and a higher rate of suicide than the national average. It has the highest incidence of male malignant melanoma, and slightly above average for male prostate and colorectal cancers (City and County data). Primary health care (represented by GPs per 100,000) is the third highest in the country.

Using the Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) indicator as a mortality measure, Galway recorded the lowest (best) rate of all Gateways at 48.38 per 1000, as opposed to the national Gateway average of 66.63. People with a disability (total including great extent and some extent) represent 22.1% of the population in Galway city, slightly higher than the state average of 21.5%.

The crime rates in Galway City are lower than the national average. For example, in 2015, Galway was the only area in Ireland with a major urban centre in the bottom half of the country's crime rankings at 13th on the list. Galway City consistently records below average levels for most categories of offences.

The overall number of recorded crimes in Galway has fallen by 28% since 2008, one of the largest reductions in the country. Specific crime rates and trends are monitored quarterly and presented to the Joint Policing Committee for consideration.

Energy and Infrastructure

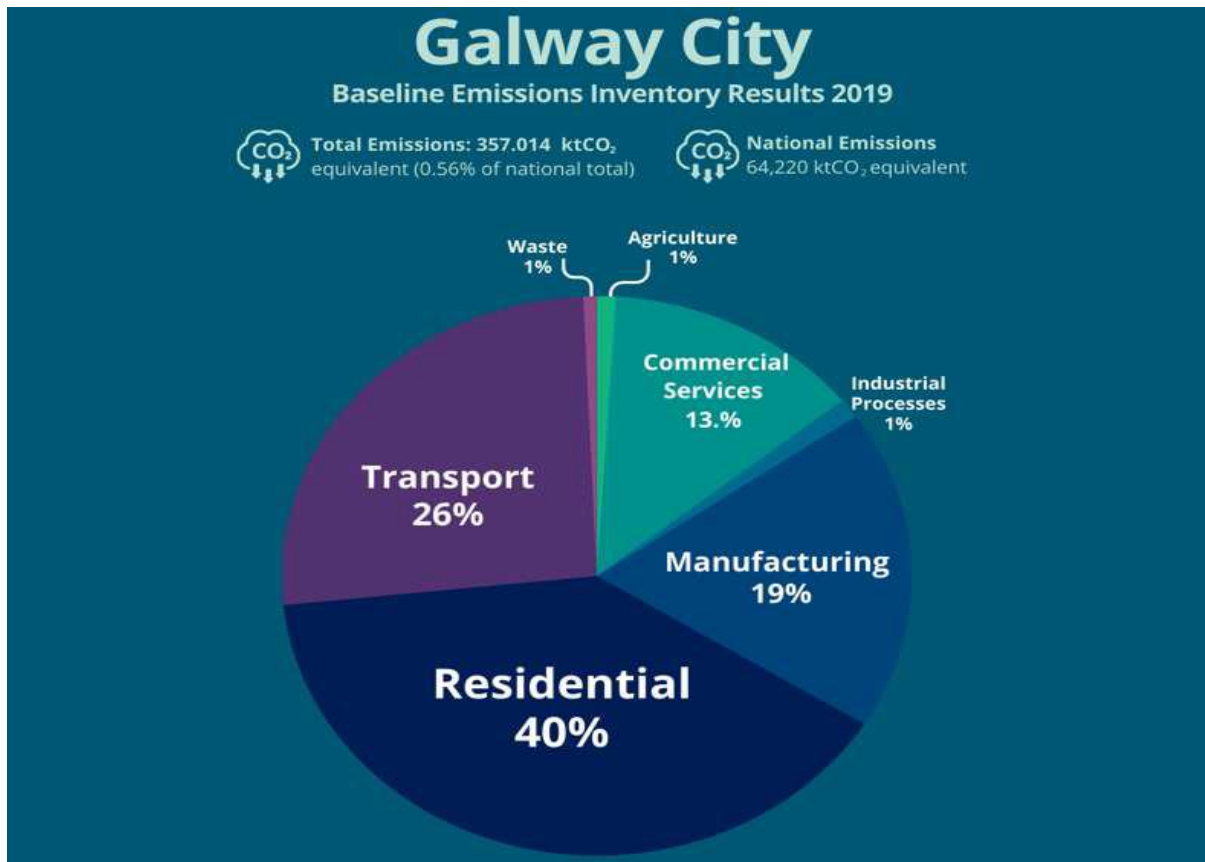
The provision of secure, reliable and efficient energy transmission supply and infrastructure is of critical importance to the continuing economic, social and cultural development of the city and its ability to attract investment and sustain existing enterprise. It is also critical to facilitating the decarbonisation of our energy systems and the transition to a low carbon economy. The Council will facilitate the development of emerging energy technologies such as green hydrogen and the development of a green hydrogen hub at Galway Port.

As an indication of energy trends in the domestic market, the number of EVs licensed in Galway was 339 in 2021. Between January and May 2022, EVs in Galway accounted for 9.5% of all new and second-hand private cars licensed for the first time - which was below the corresponding state average of 10.2%. Between 2009 and 2022, 16% of the residential dwellings audited in the Galway City Council area registered a BER between "A" and "B".

The Atlantic is a key natural asset in the region and an integral part of the coastal economy. The marine and blue economy encompasses fishing and aquaculture; export and important transportation; coastal tourism; marine renewable energy and the blue bioeconomy. The Marine Ireland Industry Network, based in Galway, is an active player in the region supporting a community of over 400 stakeholders to showcase Irish marine capabilities.

With the international push to net-zero well underway, Ireland is slightly behind the curve with the national average share of renewables in electricity production well below the OECD average. The share of renewables in electricity production is highest in the Northern and Western Region compared to other Irish Regions and is one of the 'greenest' regions in the OECD by this measure, with 74% of electricity production in the region credited to renewables. The opportunity to become an entirely green-powered region is achievable and further increases the value proposition for investments in renewable energy production and the blue economy – in addition to being heralded as a 'green' destination for talent and visitors.

Galway City Council prepared a Baseline Emission Inventory Report based on local and national data from 2019, on energy production and consumption and other GHG emissions in Galway City, including insights into Galway City Council’s own emissions.



The Visitor Experience

With its beautiful natural landscape, and reputation for culture, heritage and creative sectors, Galway City’s tourism sector is a major economic activity within the local economy of the city which continues to grow year on year. In 2019, Galway had 1.7 million overseas visitors generating €589 million in revenue. It was the most visited place in Ireland outside of Dublin. In addition, 1 million domestic visitors generated €247 million for the local economy. It is estimated that 12-14% of businesses in Galway City are involved in tourism.

Galway is known for its vibrant cultural and hospitality sectors which form the basis of the city’s nighttime economy offering. The food sector makes a significant contribution to the overall tourist experience. Galway was voted Europe’s friendliest city in the Condé Nast Traveller Reader Travel Awards 2020 and has been awarded the “Purple Flag” as a safe and family friendly city by night every year since 2015 with Salthill designated in 2023.

The GDSI is a Global Index of a destination’s sustainability credentials. It sets out to benchmark, improve, and recognise destinations’ sustainability strategy. Galway has been consistently ranking in the top 30 destinations worldwide.

While the share of overnight stays by foreign visitors fell over the pandemic years, as for the great majority of tourism regions and destinations around the world, it has shown a progressive rebound since. Moreover, a new experimental data source from Eurostat shows that the share of stays by foreign visitors via collaborative economy platforms (e.g. Airbnb, Booking, etc.) remains well below 2019 levels in the region but the importance of this type of accommodation is growing. The Northern & Western region observes consistency with national trends where pre-Covid nearly 80% of stays using these platforms were foreign visitors.

Key Statistics for Galway City – 2022 census

| Statistic | Galway City | State |
|---|-------------|-----------|
| Demography | | |
| Population 2022 | 84,414 | 5,149,139 |
| Population increase since 2016 | 5,746 | 387,274 |
| Population growth 2016-2022 (%) | 7.3% | 8.1% |
| Population growth 2002-2022 (%) | 28.2% | 31.4% |
| Components of growth (natural) | 53.3% | 43.2% |
| Components of growth (migration) | 46.7% | 56.8% |
| Males as % of population | 47.88% | 49.42% |
| Females as % of population | 52.12% | 50.58% |
| Age | | |
| Average age (years) | 37.4 | 38.8 |
| Age dependency ratio | 39.2 | 53.2 |
| Young dependency ratio | 21.5 | 30.1 |
| Old age dependency ratio | 17.7 | 23.1 |
| Health Disability and Caring | | |
| General health 2011 | 90.8% | 90.2% |
| General health 2016 | 90.3% | 90.0% |
| General health 2022 | 88.4% | 88.9% |
| Disability level- % with a disability to a GREAT extent | 7.7% | 7.9% |
| Disability level-% with a disability to SOME extent | 14.4% | 13.6% |
| Carers as % population | 5.0% | 5.8% |
| Economic Status and Labour Force | | |
| Principal Economic Status - at work | 55.5% | 56.1% |
| Principal Economic Status - retired | 13.3% | 15.9% |
| Principal Economic Status - student | 16.0% | 11.1% |
| Principal Economic Status - looking after home/family | 4.7% | 6.6% |
| Principal Economic Status - unable to work | 4.2% | 4.6% |
| Unemployed by county | 9.3% | 8.3% |
| % of unemployment that is long term | 56.6% | 60.2% |
| Labour force participation rate | 61.2 | 61.2 |
| Male labour force participation rate | 66.5 | 67.0 |
| Female labour force participation rate | 56.4 | 55.6 |
| Connectivity and working from home | | |
| % with Broadband Internet connection | 81.1% | 79.4% |
| % with No Internet connection | 5.6% | 8.7% |
| % Working from home (3-5 days per week) | 56.4% | 53.6% |
| Motor Car Availability | | |
| Motor car availability- % household with no car | 18.5% | 13.4% |
| Motor car availability- % household with one car | 40.9% | 37.9% |

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| Motor car availability- % household with more than one car | 29.0% | 41.5% |
| Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment | | |
| Type of water supply % households on public mains | 94.7% | 80.1% |
| Type of water supply % households on Group Scheme | 1.6% | 7.7% |
| Type of water supply % households on other private source | 0.2% | 9.9% |
| Wastewater treatment type - % households on public scheme | 92.2% | 68.2% |
| Wastewater treatment type - % households on individual septic tank | 3.2% | 25.4% |
| Central Heating Fuel & Renewable Energy | | |
| Central Heating Fuel- % households using oil | 47.5% | 38.9% |
| Central Heating Fuel- % households using natural gas | 14.8% | 32.7% |
| Central Heating Fuel- % households using electricity | 22.8% | 11.8% |
| Central Heating Fuel- % households using coal | 3.6% | 3.5% |
| Central Heating Fuel- % households using peat (incl. turf) | 0.8% | 3.7% |
| Central Heating Fuel- % households using LPG | 0.9% | 0.6% |
| Central Heating Fuel- % households using wood (incl. pellets) | 0.5% | 1.7% |
| Central Heating Fuel- % households fuel not stated | 7.3% | 5.0% |
| Central Heating Fuel- % households using other fuel | 0.6% | 0.9% |
| Central Heating Fuel- % households no central heating | 1.3% | 1.2% |
| Availability of a renewable energy source of heating | 16.8% | 25.7% |
| Highest level of education | | |
| No Formal/Primary | 6.8% | 10.5% |
| Secondary | 33.1% | 41.5% |
| Third Level | 60.1% | 48.0% |
| High Level Sectors (employment) | | |
| Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing | 0.4% | 3.8% |
| Industry & Construction | 20.2% | 18.8% |
| Services | 79.4% | 77.4% |
| Fertility Rate (2022) | 8.8 | 11.3 |
| Domestic Building Energy Ratings (BER) % Grade B2 and above | 12.6% | 16.8% |

Economic and Community SWOT Analysis

The SWOT analysis identifies the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to Galway City from an economic and community perspective. This analysis provides guidance as to the key areas where the LECP should focus and the additional services, facilities and resources required.

Strengths:

- Very strong local economy with employment opportunities across various sectors
- MedTech cluster employing one third of the country's 25,000 medical device employees
- Four of the top ten ICT companies globally employing 17.1% of the city's workforce
- Strong record in attracting and retaining Foreign Direct Investment
- Excellent business networks/organisations which support new business ventures and inward investing companies
- Extensive innovation support infrastructure in place

- Excellent educational infrastructure with opportunities for life-long learning, employee education and upskilling of the workforce, and well-developed innovation and research resources
- Home to two major universities which cater to more than 29,000 full time students
- High levels of educational attainment and skills. Almost half of the labour force is educated to third level leading to an economic competitive edge
- Excellent primary and secondary level education provision
- A growing creative sector contributing to the visibility of Galway globally
- Significant natural resources and habitats including marine and coastal sites, many of which are integrated into local economic development and tourism services
- An intercultural city benefitting from the presence of diverse communities
- Purple Flag award for excellence in managing evening and night-time economy
- Strong community and voluntary sector / spirit
- Ireland's only bilingual city with a strong history and tradition of nurturing the Irish language
- Good quality of life and below average crime rates
- Nationally designated gateway Infrastructure – road, rail, harbour
- Wild Atlantic Way and strong tourism brand
- High quality outdoor environment with parks, beaches, rivers and coastal surroundings with good water and air quality
- Established international destination for arts and film
- Base for regional level provision of public services in healthcare, education and training, sports, transport and commerce

Weaknesses:

- Traffic congestion and car dependency, underdeveloped public transport infrastructure
- Pockets of area-based disadvantage, despite the city as a whole being ranked as affluent
- Growing housing list and overall shortage of housing supply in all categories
- Differences in social class composition within the city reflecting educational attainment
- Links between third level institutes, industry and the public sector not fully developed
- Skills shortages in certain sectors
- Lack of investment in public, community, cultural and recreational infrastructure to match population growth
- Pressure on public services due to sustained population growth
- Underrepresentation of minority groups and new communities within civil society structures
- Under resourcing of public and community services
- Slow pace of development of the circular economy
- Improvements needed to enhance existing sports and recreation infrastructure

- Slow transition to a low carbon society

Opportunities:

- Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 focusses on achieving a resilient and sustainable 'green' city
- Climate Action Plan being developed with opportunities for businesses, communities and households
- National and Regional Planning Frameworks in place and significant national funding available for regeneration and development
- Presence and range of multinational and national employers creating a diversified and resilient base and significant job expansion potential
- Potential benefits as a support centre for off-shore renewable energy
- Existing base in ICT, Med Tech offering stronger clustering and expansion
- Strong university presence with R&D Innovation profile, links to industry and enterprise with potential
- Increasing life expectancy, older population in good health with potential to contribute to family, community life and volunteering and the economy
- Significant investment in active travel and public transport started and expected to increase considerably including new / extended Greenways into the urban and sub-urban areas
- Tourism assets being further developed and marketed and culture and the night time economy expanding
- Potential of young, highly education population
- Potential for building on / growth in festivals and events
- Retrofitting and improving energy efficiency of buildings offers opportunities for up-skilling and re-skilling, new job opportunities for unemployed people and for social enterprise
- Continued inward migration and the associated skillsets
- Opportunities to develop biodiversity corridors along walkways and cycleways
- Significant inter-cultural population, with non-Irish nationals accounting for 20% of the population
- Value of the social economy to deliver both social and economic benefits
- Potential to become a leading example for the use of smart technology and developing partnerships
- 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
- Opportunities to advance enterprise and innovation facilities on identified regeneration sites in collaboration with the Land Development Agency
- Continued support for innovation centres and hubs which provide co-working and collaborative space for technology focused companies

Threats:

- The Deprivation Score ranks the city as affluent, however, smaller area statistics show pockets of area-based deprivation across the city
- Lack of housing supply to meet existing need and challenges in meeting future demand act as a barrier to growth

- Failure to develop the resilience to deal with negative effects of climate change and associated extreme weather events
- Continued dependence on fossil fuel exposes city to future energy crisis costs
- Cost of living increases and war in Ukraine will disproportionality impact vulnerable communities
- NWRA is now a Region in Transition
- Continued increases in certain types of crime (e.g. drug crime and drug related crime) that impact negatively on community and personal safety and fear
- Societal and community awareness of climate change, adaptation and mitigation measures remains insufficient and the necessary changes in behaviours are not achieved
- Conflict arising from failure to support integration of communities within an evolving diverse society within the city
- High risk of energy poverty for households on low incomes including older people, people from ethnic minority backgrounds
- Population does not adopt the lifestyle changes required to improve health and wellbeing and reverses the historic gains achieved in increased life expectancy
- Projected ageing of the population
- Availability of workforce in certain sectors
- Failure to nurture Irish Language will result in the loss of cultural heritage

Section 5: LECP Framework 2024 – 2029

Vision Statement

Galway City will be a sustainable, inclusive, safe, innovative and creative city region

High Level Goals for Galway City

Five High Level Goals have been selected to help achieve the Vision. These Goals are representative of a collective and inclusive vision for Galway City by all stakeholders.

- 1. a world class creative city region**
- 2. an innovative city**
- 3. an equal and inclusive city**
- 4. a sustainable and resilient city**
- 5. a city that promotes health and wellbeing**

LECP Framework

The LECP Framework details the High-Level Goals and Sustainable Community and Economic Objectives as well as consideration of high-level indicators for the 6-year LECP period.

The LECP Framework represents the strategic part of this plan over the full six-year period. Determined through analysis and consultation, five High-Level Goals are included in the LECP for Galway City. The Framework includes a series of Sustainable Development Objectives (both economic and community) to be achieved over the period through inputs, actions and outputs outlined in the subsequent Implementation Plan.

Galway City Council will continually seek the financial resources required to undertake initiatives in the city in partnership with relevant stakeholders to achieve the Sustainable Development Objectives in the plan.

High Level Goal 1 a world class creative city region

Culture and creativity are a fundamental part of Galway's identity both nationally and internationally. The city has a strong cultural tradition and vibrant arts scene with a well-established arts community contributing to the vitality of the city and a significant component of the city's tourism offering. Arts and creativity also contribute to the creative economy, a rapidly growing sector in the city with positive impacts on education, health and wellbeing. Galway is a creative city where everybody matters.

Galway is at the cultural heart of the region and of the West of Ireland. Culture is pivotal to our future and to our development as a city and a region. The strength of Galway's arts and cultural scene has evolved over time, reflecting the rich cultural heritage and creative exuberance, powered by a community driven by innovation and loyal patronage. Designations such as UNESCO City of Film and European Capital of Culture 2020 are recognition of the strength of cultural and creative activity.

Galway City Council recognises the intrinsic role of culture and creativity and the value it adds to life and experience. The benefits contribute to the cohesion of communities through the potential opportunities offered for participatory activities which enhances community engagement and social inclusion.

This high-level goal builds on the vision in 'Everybody Matters: A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework for Galway 2016-2025' for a sustainable approach to promoting culture and creativity in Galway, which aligns with the vision of the 'Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027' for Galway city where creativity and cultural rights of everyone matters. This is further supplemented by the Council's Arts Plan 'New Directions Galway City Council's Strategic Plan for the Arts 2021-2026'. In this plan the Council has made a commitment to support the ongoing development of cultural infrastructure and opportunities and to support participation for everyone in the cultural and creative life of the city.

The "Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027" vision for Galway is of a city where creativity and cultural rights matter for everyone. Imagination and innovation are supported through creative and cultural expression fostered in a sustainable manner.

Galway City Council will take the lead to build on the relationships already developed and identify how best to ensure that the key aims and strategic objectives within this vision embracing sustainability, imagination, inclusion, creativity and innovation continue to be reflected in actions on the ground, and in the processes which accompany those actions.

The Irish language is an integral part of the culture, heritage and identity of the city. The Council recognises that the Irish language is a cultural heritage asset and will continue to support initiatives to strengthen the bi-lingual status of the city.

It is proposed that a world-class creative city region can be achieved through the LECP Framework Objectives below and reflects the Galway City Council Corporate Plan 2019 – 2014 objective:

To deliver a transformative strategy which makes Galway a working model of cultural sustainability, community participation, best practice and world class cultural and creative experiences.

LECP Framework - Sustainable Economic and Community Objectives

- Continue to support the development of the cultural sector, to further enhance Galway City's role as an innovative, inclusive and collaborative world-class city of renown
- Embed and support our status as a bi-lingual city and continue to recognise the importance of the Irish language as a cultural, community and economic resource
- Strengthen and harness the cultural, creative and educational sectors to attract new investment, commercialisation and collaboration opportunities

Monitoring and Evaluation

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) reflected are:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| SDG 4 | Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning |
| SDG 8 | Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all |

The indicators used to track progress on the Framework Objectives are listed below. These indicators will be reviewed by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Economic, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on a six monthly basis to assess the impact of the programmes operated by Galway City Council and its partners during the lifetime of the LECP.

The Key Indicators to be monitored to determine if we are making progress are:

- Failte Ireland / Galway City Council - Visitor Satisfaction Reports (Annual)
- STR Hotel Occupancy Reports (Monthly)
- Numbers of individuals participating in Creative Communities events
- Audience numbers at performance events
- Number of artists in receipt of funding support by local and national agencies
- Arts Council and Creative Ireland project funding received in Galway City by organisations, groups and individuals
- Levels of funding spent by Galway City Council on:
 - o Artists Residencies Programme
 - o Arts Grant – Strand I & II
 - o Band Grants
 - o Individual Creative Practitioner Bursaries
- Numbers of Cultural Infrastructure projects completed by phase (Design/Planning/Tendering/Commencement/Open)

High Level Goal 2 an innovative city

Galway is an ambitious city with a strong indigenous business sector. It is a global centre of activity for medical technology and ICT companies. It is a centre of education and knowledge. The quality of the city's labour force is a factor in its success in attracting innovative new companies. The city has achieved economic success based on a high education attainment rate amongst the labour force, a supply of a young workforce, supplemented by inward migration, the development of key sector clusters, a low corporate taxation regime, a stable pro-business political environment and an attractive living environment and quality of life.

Galway has shown economic resilience, even after the economic recession and the more recent impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and proven to be a very dynamic city and a good place to continue to produce talent, attract investment and do business.

This success is reflected in the capacity of the city in collaboration with state agencies, to grow and consolidate its core workforce and continue to attract multinational and indigenous companies. It is currently a base location for some of the most successful global ICT companies, has one third of the country's medical device employees and has an emerging international digital gaming and media sector. This clustering has emerged due to the third level education environment providing a source of talent and a partner through collaborative arrangements with the private sector in research and innovation.

The economic performance of the city is also sustained by employment provided in other economic sectors such as the commercial, healthcare, tourism and public sector services. These sectors have an array of assets, skillsets and capabilities which are instrumental to supporting the city. Start-ups also play an important role in economic recovery and Galway City has a well-developed business start-up ecosystem. Enterprise, innovation and investment will be the engine of growth for Galway City, incorporating start-ups, innovating SME's alongside world leading multi-nationals.

The Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) is a national initiative to rebalance economic activity and promote regional development in the western and Atlantic regions of Ireland. The development of the AEC will promote and support the maximisation of regional assets in a collaborative way and combine the economic centres, clusters and catchments to generate a value proposition for investment, job creation and population growth with a strong emphasis on quality of life. The overarching objective of the AEC is to maximise the infrastructure, talent and enterprise assets along the western seaboard, and to combine the economic hubs, clusters, and catchments of the area to attract investment, improve competitiveness, support job creation and contribute to an improved quality of life for the people who live there.

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2020-2032 for the West identified major potential for future growth. The Regional Enterprise Plans (REPs) represent a unique tool to coordinate investment at the local level and to identify priorities that can support local business while attracting and retaining foreign investment.

The previous Galway City LECP set out to ‘develop and promote Galway as an innovative city’. This involved creating an environment to foster innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurship, promotion of business and investment across the city while developing a smart city. While this remains the ambition for this LECP, the desire to be environmentally sustainable, accessible and inclusive are added.

It is proposed that an innovative city can be achieved through the Framework Objectives below and reflects the Galway City Council Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024 objective:





To facilitate a strong sustainable economic ecosystem in Galway which will support a good quality of life for its residents and will ensure the sustainable (carbon neutral) development of the region.

LECP Framework - Sustainable Economic and Community Objectives

- Develop, encourage and create an ecosystem for innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurship, including community/social enterprise that is environmentally sustainable
- Foster a spirit of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in our city
- Advance the digital and green transformation by promoting environmentally sustainable and inclusive enterprise and investment in our smart city

Monitoring and Evaluation

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) reflected are:

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| <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>  | <p>Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all</p> |
| <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>  | <p>Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation</p> |
| <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>  | <p>Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p> |
| <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>  | <p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p> |

The indicators used to track progress on the Framework Objectives are listed below. These indicators will be reviewed by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Economic, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on a six monthly basis to assess the impact of the programmes operated by Galway City Council and its partners during the lifetime of the LECP.

The Key Indicators to be monitored to determine if we are making progress are:

- Improvement in the scoring for Galway City in Sustainable Destination Index
- Ensure the Employment to Population Ratio in Galway City continues to progress towards the national target of 77.8 (UNSDG 8 Index)
- Ensure the Times Higher Education Universities Ranking of University of Galway and the Atlantic Technological University continue to improve (UNSDG 9 Index)
- Improvement in non-recycled municipal solid waste to achieve the national target of 0.6 (UNSDG 12 Index)
- Improvement in the electronic waste collection rates to achieve the long-term national target of 0.2 (UNSDG 12 Index)
- No. of Jobs created with assistance from the Galway Local Enterprise Office (GLEO) (annually)
- No. of Trading Online Vouchers approved by GLEO (annually)
- No. of participants who receive mentoring from the GLEO (annually)
- Disposable income per capita for Galway City
- Commercial vacancy rates for Galway City
- Employment supported by Enterprise Agencies – IDA client companies and Enterprise Ireland
- Employment Indicators – Labour Force Participation Rate / Unemployment Rate / Numbers on Live Register / Numbers on Live Register Under 25
- Increase visitor numbers by 20% by 2025

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| High Level Goal 3 an equal and inclusive city |
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The previous Galway City LECP aimed to support ‘an equal and inclusive city’ and this goal remains the ambition for this LECP with added emphasis on promoting inclusivity and integration for refugees and asylum seekers, international and temporary protection beneficiaries living and arriving in the city.

Since the last LECP progress has been made to achieve an equal and inclusive city but more work is required. The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.

SICAP addresses high and persistent levels of deprivation through targeted and innovative, locally led approaches. It supports disadvantaged communities and individuals including unemployed people, people living in deprived areas, people with disabilities, single parent families, people on a low income, members of the Traveller

and Roma community and other disadvantaged groups. SICAP has been successful in addressing high and persistent levels of deprivation by supporting disadvantaged communities and individuals across the city.

Initiatives to support and embed equality and human rights in Galway City in conjunction with the Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission (IHREC) have commenced.

Funding has been provided to support communities and community infrastructure across a range of target groups and areas of disadvantage. Inter-agency forums and working groups are active across the areas of children; youth; older people; the Traveller community; LGBTI+; people with a disability; and accessibility. A new Local Authority Integration Team is to be established to support the needs of those arriving to our city seeking protection and asylum.

In 2020, the LCDC specified priority target groups to be supported through SICAP including Travellers/Roma, long term unemployed, people suffering poor mental health (including youth) and older people. Refugees and asylum seekers are added as an additional priority group for LECP 2024 – 2029.

A tool to support the implementation of the Public Sector Duty to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect human rights was prepared for the LCDC during the last LECP. The tool includes a set of shared values to reflect the ambition of dignity, autonomy, participation, inclusion, social justice and environmental justice.

A more equal and inclusive city can be achieved through the Framework Objectives below and reflects the overall Galway City Council Corporate Plan 2029 - 2024 objective:

To ensure all our communities can achieve their full potential and take an active formal role in policy making and oversight through targeted engagement and collaboration

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| LECP Framework - Sustainable Economic and Community Objectives |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce poverty and alleviate disadvantage through appropriate and targeted social inclusion, community development programmes and initiatives |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address educational disadvantage and prioritise the needs of communities experiencing exclusion |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote partnership approaches to accessibility and services and recognise and enhance the value that diversity brings to the city |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate a commitment to human rights, equality, integration and anti-discrimination, aligned to our responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty |

Monitoring and Evaluation

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) reflected are:

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The indicators used to track progress on the Framework Objectives are listed below. These indicators will be reviewed by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Economic, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on a six monthly basis to assess the impact of the programmes operated by Galway City Council and its partners during the lifetime of the LECF.

The Key Indicators to be monitored to determine if we are making progress are:

- NOAC indicators of participation by community groups in the PPN and Comhairle na nÓg
- Ensure the Youth not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) percentage in Galway city continues to a) stay above the national UNSDG Target, and b) improve (UNSDG 8 Index)
- The percentage of young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) to reach a rate of 8.1 (UNSDG 8 Index)
- The Gini coefficient to reach a rate of 27.5 (UNSDG 10 Index)
- The percentage of people of 66 years of age or more whose income falls below half the median household income of the total population to reach a rate of 3.2 (UNSDG 10 Index)
- Percentage of the population living in households where the total housing costs represent more than 40 % of disposable income to reach the national target of 4.6. (UNSDG 10 Index)
- SICAP Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – KPI 1: Total number of Local Community Groups supported / KPI 2: Total number of individuals (15 years upwards) engaged on a one-to one basis and % of KPI 2 living in a disadvantaged area
- New jobs created in social enterprises supported by SICAP
- Educational attainment levels including Affluence and Deprivation Index
- National Wellbeing Framework

High Level Goal 4 a sustainable and resilient city

Climate change is an unprecedented crisis for our natural environment, our economy and society. There are significant challenges ahead to translate climate policy into action and work with local communities to transition to a carbon neutral future. The relationship between climate, protection of the natural environment, energy security and economic stability has never been as connected. Galway City Council will play a significant role in promoting and supporting new and existing enterprise and business to capitalise on the opportunities that exist in the transition to a net-zero economy.

Climate action is a combination of mitigation and adaptation measures to tackle climate change and Galway City must continue to build climate resilience through increased focus on mitigation and adaptation. Ireland has committed to a reduction in national greenhouse gas emissions of 51% by 2030 across all sectors of the economy and becoming carbon neutral by 2050 in line with international commitments and all stakeholders in Galway City must play a role in achieving this ambition. A cross sectoral approach will be required to achieve these targets as well as the support and cooperation of a wide range of stakeholders.

Innovation will be central to climate action response efforts through new and emerging solutions, evolving business models, and elevated sustainable practices across all policy areas, sectors and business. Local authorities have been charged with a significant role in promoting and supporting new and existing enterprise and business, to capitalise on the opportunities that exist in the transition to a net-zero economy.

In 2023, Galway City was selected onto the Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC), which is part of a wider EU support recognising the importance of delivering promises made by the European Green Deal, the digital strategy and other EU policies. The ICC aims to move towards a more digital, service-oriented and low-carbon economy, supported by a knowledge-based society that enable circular economy through evidence based reskilling and sustainable investment.

The national Circular Economy Strategy 2022 notes that climate action measures that focus on a transition away from fossil fuels towards renewables and energy efficiency measures can only address 55% of emissions. The remaining 45% will have to come from how we make things. The strategy highlights the need for production and consumption to achieve a systemically circular economy, where waste and resource use are minimised by default and where good design preserves product value for as long as possible. Retailing and general business have an important role in championing the circular economy and encouraging and investing in the making of products in ways that are more circular and less resource intensive.

The priority focus of this LECP will be to become more climate resilient with an emphasis on building resilience through mitigation and adaptation measures that include nature-based solutions, flood risk and water management, renewable energy, transport and built environment solutions. The transition from dependence on fossil fuels to a more sustainable and carbon neutral economy will provide new

opportunities for the economy, and the need for new services will emerge for existing and new businesses. There will be a need to embrace newer forms of enterprise that responds to the challenge of resource reuse and reducing carbon in manufacturing and consumption.

LECP actions will focus on achieving climate goals through implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2024, Green Spaces Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy, Galway Transportation Strategy, Housing for All and further delivery of the Public Realm Strategy while maintaining a high-quality environment in the city. Actions must support the transition to a low carbon economy. Improving universal accessibility through the built environment and maintaining the high level of community activity and engagement is also critical to the successful development of a sustainable and resilient city.

A sustainable and resilient city can be achieved through the Framework Objectives below and reflects the Galway City Council Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024 objectives:

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.

To have in place a system of effective proper planning capable of meeting the sustainable economic, environmental and social development objectives of the city.

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.

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| LECP Framework - Sustainable Economic and Community Objectives |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure our city and infrastructure is resilient and adaptive to a changing climate |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase investment in the circular and green economy and support new and existing business and enterprise in the transition to a net zero economy and to take advantage of emerging green business opportunities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide, maintain and enhance our green spaces, biodiversity and public realm |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable sustainable development that improves the natural environment, reduces resource consumption, encourages modal shift to sustainable travel and provides for all housing needs |

Monitoring and Evaluation

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) reflected are:

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| SDG 7 | Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy |
| SDG 11 | Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable |

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| SDG 13 | Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts |
| SDG 14 | Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources |
| SDG 15 | Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss |

The indicators used to track progress on the Framework Objectives are listed below. These indicators will be reviewed by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Economic, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on a six monthly basis to assess the impact of the programmes operated by Galway City Council and its partners during the lifetime of the LECP.

The Key Indicators to be monitored to determine if we are making progress are:

- The share of renewable energy in the total primary energy supply to reach a value of 51 (UNSDG 7 Index)
- Emissions from the combustion and oxidation of fossil fuels and from cement production to reach a value of 0. (UNSDG 13 Index)
- CO₂ emissions embodied in imported goods and services to reach a value of 0. (UNSDG 13 Index)
- CO₂ emissions embodied in the exports of coal, gas, and oil to reach a value of 0. (UNSDG 13 Index)
- Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity to reach a value of 100. (UNSDG 14 Index)
- Ocean Health Index: Clean Waters score to reach a value of 100 (UNSDG 14 Index)
- Improvement in the rate of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production tCO₂/capita to achieve the national target of 0 (UNSDG 13 Index)
- % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from energy efficiencies achieved and % reduction in energy use and demand and cumulative percentage energy savings achieved relative to baseline year
- Number of green sector businesses supported through the Galway Local Enterprise Office initiatives
- Proportion of local authority social housing stock with a Building Energy Rating (BER) in each of the BER categories A-F
- Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance

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| High Level Goal 5 | a city that promotes health and wellbeing |
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The previous Galway City LECP set out to ‘promote the health and wellbeing of all its people’ and this ambition remains appropriate. Galway City is a member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy Cities Network since 2006. The primary goal of the WHO Healthy Cities movement is to put health and wellbeing high on the social, economic and political agenda of all agencies and to build a strong movement for public health at a local level.

Healthy Galway City supports the implementation of “Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 – 2025” at local level. Promoting health and wellbeing remains the ambition for this LECP, with the added objective to promote the health and wellbeing of those experiencing disadvantage in Galway City, working in partnership with community, voluntary and public sector bodies.

The Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 - 2025 is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in Ireland. The framework focuses on high level outcomes and is based on actual results and the outcomes are supported by indicators which work together to create an overall picture of health and wellbeing.

Active lifestyles are required at all age groups to promote health and wellbeing and this can be enhanced through local structures, development and improvement of facilities, and through co-ordinated and targeted initiatives.

The Galway Local Sports Partnership plays a central role in strengthening involvement in sports and healthy lifestyle activities and provides training and funding to local groups to enhance participation. Sport Ireland’s Active Cities project is based on the World Health Organisation’s Global Action Plan for Physical Activity, which is focused on getting those who are least active, active. The project aims to engage communities by supporting those who are educationally, socially or economically disadvantaged or those who have a disability to become more active. The Active Cities project will be delivered by the Local Sports Partnership in partnership with Sport Ireland.

Galway is a safe city, but initiatives to enhance the sense of safety and security of people living or visiting the city are required to maintain this. The LECP will look to strengthen the structures and partnerships which underpin safety Galway City in a collaborative manner, including through the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) and its sub-committees, and the subsequent proposed Local Community Safety Partnerships.

The national Report of the Night-Time Economy Taskforce (2021) highlighted the challenges and opportunities that exist for developing social, cultural and economic activity during specific evening and night-time hours in town and city centres. The report explores the opportunities that exist for having a much more diverse and welcoming night-time environment. The intent is that the range of activities supported should be inclusive, suit all ages, abilities and interests and be a safe environment supported by flexible transport options. It is recognised that Galway City is particularly well placed, with the appropriate investments, supports and regulations to benefit from further developing the night-time economy and culture.

Better health and wellbeing can be achieved through the Framework Objectives below as reflected in the Galway City Council Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024 objective:

To ensure all our communities can achieve their full potential and take an active formal role in policy making and oversight through targeted engagement and collaboration

LECP Framework - Sustainable Economic and Community Objectives

- Reduce health inequality and improve health outcomes through implementation of programmes targeting physical, mental health and wellbeing
- Develop and support the structures and partnerships which underpin safety and wellbeing of all people in Galway City
- Enhance healthy lifestyles through the development of local sport and physical activity programmes and facilities

Monitoring and Evaluation

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) reflected are:

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| SDG 3 | Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages |
| SDG 10 | Reduce inequality within and among countries |
| SDG 11 | Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable |

The indicators used to track progress on the Framework Objectives are listed below. These indicators will be reviewed by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Economic, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on a six monthly basis to assess the impact of the programmes operated by Galway City Council and its partners during the lifetime of the LECP.

The Key Indicators to be monitored to determine if we are making progress are:

- Percentage of population who are overweight or obese
- Proportion of population who smoke daily / occasionally
- Proportion of population who binge drink
- Percentage of people meeting physical activity guidelines
- Age standardised incidence per 100,000 of cancers
- Rate of acute myocardial infarction per 100,000
- Number of homes below National Reference Level for Radon Reference (200 Bq/m3)
- Percentage of persons assessing health to be very good/good
- Annual crime statistics for Galway City
- Participation rates in sports and physical activity
- National Wellbeing Framework
- Healthy Ireland Outcomes Framework
- Development of active travel infrastructure and facilities

Potential Funding Sources (Graphic)

Potential funding sources to progress the High-Level Goals are outlined below. This list is not exhaustive, and additional funding sources may arise over the lifetime of the plan.

A world class creative city region

- Arts, Tourism, Culture initiatives (GCC)
- Creative Ireland Programme
- Arts Council Funding / Programmes
- Irish Language Plan Funding / Foras na Gaeilge & An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
- Historic Structures Fund
- WDC Investment Funds (WRAP Fund)
- Galway Culture Company
- Music Generation Programme
- Galway City Museum Strategic Plan
- West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024
- European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) 2021-2027
- Horizon Europe (2021-2027)
- Failte Ireland Tourism Development Programme Funding

An innovative city

- Local Enterprise Office
- National Skills Strategy to 2025
- Social Innovation Fund Ireland, Social Enterprise Development Fund
- DAF Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme
- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)
- European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) 2021-2027
- Connected Hubs Fund (Atlantic Economic Corridor)
- Research, Development & Innovation (RD&I) Fund - Enterprise Ireland
- Built to Innovate – Enterprise Ireland
- Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) - Enterprise Ireland
- Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme (RETS) – Enterprise Ireland
- Green Transition Fund / Digital Transition Fund – Enterprise Ireland
- Commercialisation Fund & Bio-Innovate Programme – Enterprise Ireland
- WDC Investment Funds
- Public Service Innovation Fund
- Digital Innovation Programme – DRCD
- Horizon Europe (2021-2027)
- Failte Ireland Tourism Development Programme
- Climate Action Fund

An equal and inclusive city

- SICAP 2024+

- Pobal
- Age Friendly Programme
- Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Grants Scheme
- Disability Participation and Awareness Fund
- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Community Support Fund (DRCD)
- Dormant Accounts Fund
- Children and Young People's Services Committee
- Galway City Creative Ireland Programme
- Healthy Ireland Funding
- Community Recognition Fund
- Community Centres Investment Fund

A sustainable and resilient city

- Circular Economy Innovation Grant Scheme (CEIGS)
- EPA Circular Economy Programme
- Department of Transport Active Travel Funding / National Transport Authority
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland Funding schemes
- Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- NetZeroCities Pilot Cities Programme
- Horizon Europe
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Climate Action Enterprise Fund
- Green Transition Fund

A city that promotes health and wellbeing

- Healthy Ireland Fund 2023 to 2025 and GCC Healthy Ireland Fund
- SECAD Safefood Community Food Initiative
- Age Friendly Programme
- Planet Youth Programme
- Sláintecare Healthy Age Friendly Homes
- Community Enhancement Fund
- Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund
- Sport Ireland and Sports Capital Fund
- Active Cities Programme / Fast-Track Cities Programme
- Galway City Council Sports funding schemes
- Galway Sport Partnership
- HSE National Lottery Grant schemes
- Age & Opportunity Active National Grant Scheme
- Community Safety Innovation Fund

Section 6: Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring requires the process of collecting, analysing, and using information to track a programme's progress toward reaching its objectives and to guide strategic and priority decisions. Implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the LECP in relation to the objectives and actions for each high-level goal is critical. Measurement will be against key indicators identified in the previous section and an overall monitoring framework will be developed.

These indicators, including those in the Sustainable Development Goals index will be used to assess the impact of the actions outlined in the Implementation Plans of the LECP. The LCDC and SPC will review this data regularly to prioritise actions for each Implementation Plan.

Further publication of 2022 Census data will inform Galway City specific socio-economic profiles and baseline indicators to support the LECP review process. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART) indicators will be further developed. SMART indicators will be appropriate to the High-Level Goals and Sustainable Objectives detailed in the LECP Framework and will support the monitoring and evaluation of the LECP. The development of case studies will also form part of the monitoring process and will support comprehensive evaluation of LECP interventions.

While the Framework Plan will operate over a six-year period from 2024, the Implementation Plans will be developed every two years. These Implementation Plans will contain clear and measurable actions based on the High-Level Goals and Objectives in the Framework Plan and reflect the submissions received through the public consultation process and up-to-date policy positions. The Implementation Plans will be approved by the LCDC and SPC and adopted by Galway City Council as appropriate.

Responsibility for driving implementation, monitoring and reviewing the LECP rests with the members of the LCDC, the Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC and Galway City Council.

Section 7: Implementation Plans

The Implementation Plan process identifies specific actions to assist in achieving the High-Level Goals and Objectives agreed for the six years to 2029.

The first Implementation Plan is for a two-year period from 2024 – 2025 and will be closely monitored and evaluated before being reviewed and revised to assist in the preparation of the second Implementation Plan 2026 – 2027. This new more flexible approach to the implementation of the LECP will allow Galway City Council and its partners to identify actions that may be underperforming or not resulting in the expected impact and replace them with actions that may be better aligned to achieving the overall vision and goals of the plan. The review will also allow new actions to be added where policies or circumstances dictate.

The Implementation Plan covers both community and economic elements across the 5 High-Level Goals and 17 Objectives. Delivery structures and mechanisms have been identified for each action. Prioritised actions are included in the Implementation Plan.

Implementation Plans set out the agreed actions to be implemented that will contribute to the achievement of the Objectives and High-Level Goals outlined in the Framework LECP. The actions are developed through prioritisation based on the Framework LECP, context and experience and the resources both human and financial that are available to implement the actions in that given plan period.

Section 8: Appendix

Appendix 1: Acronyms

| | |
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| AA | Appropriate Assessment |
| AEC | Atlantic Economic Corridor |
| AHB | Approved Housing Body |
| ATU | Atlantic Technological University |
| CARO | Climate Action Regional Office |
| CDP | City Development Plan |
| CEP | Community Enhancement Programme |
| CSO | Central Statistics Office |
| CYPSC | Children and Young People's Services Committee |
| DECC | Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications |
| D/Children | Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth |
| DETE | Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment |
| DHLGH | Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage |
| DRCD | Department of Rural and Community Development |
| DTCAGSM | Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media |
| ED | Electoral Division |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| ERDF | European Regional Development Fund |
| EU | European Union |
| FDI | Foreign Direct Investment |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gas |
| GRETB | Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board |
| GCC | Galway City Council |
| GCCN | Galway City Community Network |
| GCP | Galway City Partnership |
| GTM | Galway Traveller Movement |
| GVC | Galway Volunteer Centre |
| HI | Healthy Ireland |
| HSE | Health Service Executive |
| ICT | Information and communications technology |
| IDA | Industrial Development Agency |
| KPI | Key Performance Indicator |
| LA | Local Authority |
| LCDC | Local Community Development Committee |
| LDA | Land Development Agency |
| LDC | Local Development Company |
| LECP | Local Economic and Community Plan |
| LEO | Local Enterprise Office |
| NDP | National Development Plan |
| NECP | National Energy and Climate Plan |
| NGO | Non Government Organisation |
| NHA | Natural Heritage Area |
| NPF | National Planning Framework |
| PPN | Public Participation Network |
| RA | Regional Assembly |
| REP | Regional Enterprise Plan |

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| RSES | Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| SALLAM | Sustainable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| SEAI | Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SFI | Science Foundation Ireland |
| SICAP | Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme |
| SME | Small-to-Medium Enterprise |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| SPC | Strategic Policy Committee |
| SWOT | Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats |
| TIG | Traveller Interagency Group |
| UN | United Nations |
| URDF | Urban Regeneration and Development Fund |
| WHO | World Health Organisation |
| WRDTF | Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force |

Appendix 2: Membership of LECP Advisory Group, Local Community Development Committee, Economic, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee

LECP Advisory Group

| Name | Representing | Organisation |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Cllr. Niall McNelis | Economic, Community & Cultural Development SPC | Galway City Council |
| Dominick Whelan | Economic, Community & Cultural Development SPC | Galway City Community Network |
| Elaine Harvey | Galway City LCDC | Trade Union |
| Caroline McDonagh | Galway Local Enterprise Office | Galway Local Enterprise Office |
| Brian Barrett | Galway City Council | Galway City Council |
| Lieze Fanning | Galway City Council | Galway City Council |
| Dermot Mahon | Chief Officer LCDC | Galway City Council |

Local Community Development Committee

| Statutory Interests (7) | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Name | Sector | Organisation |
| Cllr. Martina O'Connor | Local Authority Elected Members | Galway City Council |
| Cllr. Alan Curran | | |
| Local Authority Officials | Patricia Philbin Interim Chief Executive | Galway City Council |
| | Valerie Kelly | |

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| | | Local Enterprise Office |
| State Agencies | Regina Higgins Adrienne Lynam Sinead Morgan | Department of Social Protection Health Service Executive GRETB |
| Non-Statutory Interests (8) | | |
| Joanne Laffey Lorraine Lally James Coyne Anne Marie Stokes Fiona McDonagh-Delaney | Community & Voluntary | Galway City Community Network (GCCN) |
| Elaine Harvey (Chairperson) | Trade Union | Galway Council of Trade Unions |
| Vacant | Employers/ Business | Galway Chamber |
| Linda Sice Brogan | Local Development | Galway City Partnership |

Economic, Community and Cultural Development SPC

| Name | Sector |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cllr. Niall McNelis (Chair) | Local Government Galway City Council |
| Cllr. Donal Lyons | Local Government Galway City Council |
| Cllr. Eddie Hoare | Local Government Galway City Council |
| Cllr. Noel Larkin | Local Government Galway City Council |
| Cllr. Clodagh Higgins | Local Government Galway City Council |
| Cllr. M.J Crowe | Local Government Galway City Council |
| Cllr. Declan McDonnell | Local Government Galway City Council |
| Cllr. John Connolly | Local Government Galway City Council |
| Geri Slevin | Trade Union |
| Dominick Whelan | Galway City Community Network (GCCN) |
| Megs Morley | Galway City Community Network (GCCN) |
| Dave Hickey | Business / Galway Chamber |