

galway city 
community forum
foram pobal chathair na gaillimhe

GCCF Strategy Plan 2009-2011

Plean Straitéiseach FPCG 2009-2011

**As approved by the Community Forum at the
Quarterly Meeting 24 February 2009**

Formheasta ag an bhFóram Pobail ag an
gcuinniú ráithiúil 24 Feabhra 2009

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1. Chairperson's Foreword/ Focal ón gCathaoirleach

Tá an-áthas orm mar Chathaoirleach Fhóram Pobail Chathair na Gaillimhe Plean Straitéiseach do na blianta 2009-2011 a chur os bhur gcomhair. Is é seo an tríú plean Straitéiseach atá glactha ag an bhFóram ó bunaíodh muid i 2000.

As chairperson of Galway City Community Forum, I am delighted to present our new Strategy Plan for the years 2009-2011, which is the third Strategy Plan to be adopted by the Forum since we were established in 2000.

The Community Forum was established as a platform where all community and voluntary groups can come together to promote our shared vision of how Galway City should be planned, developed and managed.

More than 200 community and voluntary groups in Galway City are currently members of the Community Forum. The Community Forum represents groups from all walks of life and with many different interests. This provides us with a wealth of knowledge, as well as a strong voice in relation to influencing local policy issues and shaping the future of Galway City.

The Community Forum's Strategy Plan is a key document in this work. It provides us with an agenda and work programme, outlining a number of priority issues and actions to be addressed and promoted. A lot of effort has been put into the development of this Plan and on behalf of the Steering Group I would like to extend our gratitude to the many people who have contributed with input and good ideas.

It's now time to put action behind our words – and show that we have the energy and ability to implement our priorities. In order to do so, all members of the Community Forum must take part in the work involved in the implementation of the actions in this Plan. I also hope that we can continue to have a positive and constructive working relationship with our key partners in the local development framework.

I strongly believe that by implementing this Strategy Plan the Community Forum can contribute to a positive social, economic and cultural development of Galway City, which will benefit everybody living in this wonderful part of Ireland.

Creidim go daingean, tríd an bPlean Straitéiseach seo a chur i bhfeidhm, go féidir le Fóram Pobail Chathair na Gaillimhe inchur dearfach a bheith acu i bhforbairt shóisialta, eacnamaíochta agus chultúrtha Chathair na Gaillimhe, a bheas ina bhuntáiste do chuile dhuine a chonaíonn sa chuid álainn seo d'Éireann.

Nuala O'Hara, Chairperson of Galway City Community Forum, April 2009

2. About Galway City Community Forum/ Faoi Fhóram Pobail Chathair na Gaillimhe

Galway City Community Forum was established in 2000 to provide a platform and support base for the large and diverse mix of community and voluntary organisations in Galway City. The core aims of Galway City Community Forum, as set out in its Constitution, are:

- To encourage greater participation in public decision-making
- To develop alternative methods and models of working together which will empower groups and individuals within the community
- To support our elected representatives to achieve the policy objectives of the Forum
- To act as a catalyst to influence the sustainable development of Galway City
- To develop the Forum as a resource for the Community and Voluntary sector

The Forum has successfully established itself as a strong and collective voice for the local community and voluntary sector and currently has over 200 member organisations. The values of and guiding principles of Galway City Community Forum are rooted in:

- Equality, Social Inclusion, and Human Rights.
- The Forum operates strictly as a non-Religious and non-party political organisation.

The Forum has a Co-ordinator who is responsible for the day-to-day management and ongoing development of the Forum.

A Steering Committee made up of 15 Forum members is elected and the role of this committee is to ensure the overall effective management of the Forum.

Forum members are nominated to represent Galway City Community Forum on various local development fora, including the Strategic Policy Committees of Galway City Council, Galway City Development Board and its co-ordinating mechanisms, Galway City Partnership and a number of other important organisations.

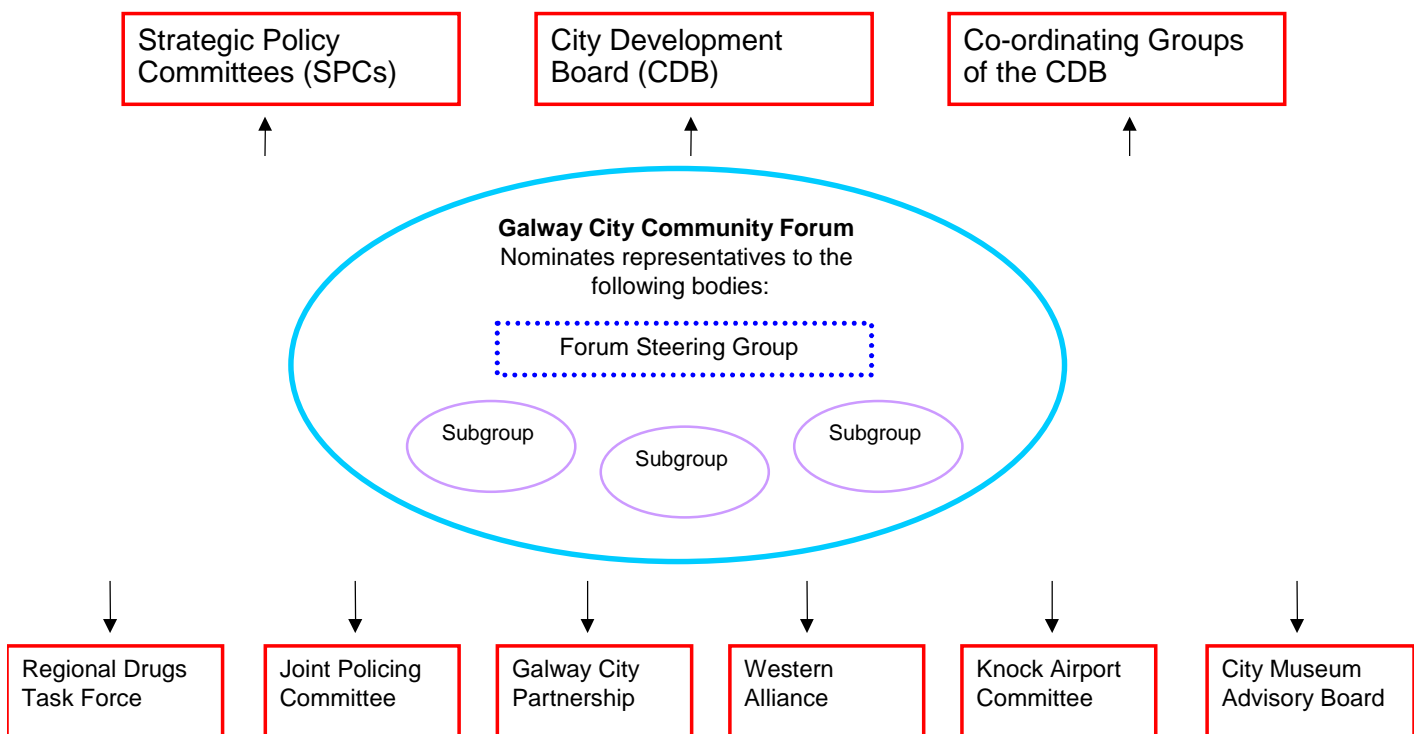
Finally, the Community Forum has set up a number of Subgroups focusing on specific Policy Areas. The aim of the Subgroups is to support the implementation of the actions in this Strategy Plan, develop the Forum's policies, support the Forum's representatives, monitor developments and raise questions and issues in the Forum when deemed relevant.

Figure 1 - Uimhir 1: Galway City Community Forum in the Local Development Framework - Fóram Pobail Chathair na Gaillimhe faoi Chuimsiú na Creatlaí Forbartha Áitiúil

Besides the City Development Board and the Strategic Policy Committees, Galway City Community Forum elects representatives to the following bodies: the Joint Policing Committee, the Western Regional Drugs Task Force, the Knock Airport Consultative Committee, the Board of Galway City Partnership, the Western Alliance and Galway City Museum Advisory Committee.

The structure of the Forum and how it operates within the local development framework is set out in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1



Contact Details:

Community Forum Co-ordinator
 City Hall, College Road, Galway
 Tel: 091 536458
communityforum@galwaycity.ie
www.galwaycityforum.ie

3. The Development of the GCCF Strategy Plan 2009-2011/ Forbairt Plean Straitéiseach FPCG 2009-2011

The Strategy Plan you have in front of you has been developed over a period of five months. The consultation process started in November 2008, when the Community Forum reviewed the previous Strategy Plan and identified eight key priority issues to be addressed in the new Strategy Plan. These were:

- Community and Youth Recreation Space
- Social Inclusion and Community Development
- Planning and Transport
- Environmental Protection
- Unique Identity and Heritage
- Housing
- Law and Order
- Arts and Culture

The next step was taken at the Community Forum's Quarterly Meeting in December 2008 where the Members were divided into eight groups, one for each of the above priority issues, with the aim of drafting the actions to be included in the Plan.

The Steering Group prepared a first draft of the Strategy Plan, based on the notes from the group discussions in December 2008, which was made available to the Forum members for comments or suggestions. A number of relevant ideas and suggestions were submitted by the members, which were incorporated into a final draft. The final draft plan was subsequently approved by the Community Forum at the quarterly meeting in February 2009.

The approved Strategy Plan builds on the previous Strategy Plan of Galway City Community Forum. It also builds on recent submissions by the Forum and the Forum's Policy Document; a detailed document which sets out the policies of Galway City Community Forum in a number of key areas including Housing, Environment, Social Inclusion, Transport and Planning. The Forum's Policy Document is available online at www.galwaycityforum.ie.

The Strategic Plan provides an agenda and work programme for Galway City Community Forum for the period 2009-2011. It is intended that the plan will be implemented from 2009 through to early 2012 after which the City Development Board's Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development will be up for review, giving the Forum's plan a very natural and strategic lifetime.

4. Priorities and Actions 2009-2011/ Tosaíochtaí agus Gníomhartha 2009-2011

The Strategy Plan is set out under 8 Priority Issues. These are the broad themes that emerged from the consultation process described on the previous page. Each Priority Issue has a number of specific actions attached to it. There are 41 actions in total. The plan provides a brief description of each action; how it is to be delivered; and what expected outcomes or change it will bring. It also states where the responsibility for each action lies within the Forum.

Priority Issue 1: Community and Youth Recreation Space

Action/Gníomhaíocht	Our Work/Ár gCuid Oibre	Outcome/Toradh	Responsibilities within Forum/Freagracht an Fórait	Key Partners/Comhpháirtí Ríthábhachtach
<p>Action 1.1 – Youth Facilities Promote the provision of modern, local and community based youth facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange yearly consultative meetings with young people, relevant community groups and youth organisations. • Develop, submit and lobby proposals for new youth facilities, based on input from the above consultative meetings. • Develop, submit and lobby proposals for extensions of existing facilities, including Community Resource Centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in range of appropriate youth facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Subgroup(s). • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Recreation Amenity and Culture. - CDB Community Development Group. - CDB Health Forum. - Galway City Sports Partnership. - Joint Policing Committee. 	<p>CDB.</p> <p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>Community and Youth Groups.</p> <p>Residents Associations.</p> <p>Schools.</p>
<p>Action 1.2 – Playgrounds Promote the provision of modern playgrounds/play facilities for children and teenagers throughout the city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to ensure that provision of playground/play facilities is an integrated part of urban planning. • Work to ensure that any new playground/play facilities are monitored and supported by local residents. • Develop, submit and lobby proposals for new playgrounds/play facilities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities for both young children and older children/teenagers. - Facilities that are accessible for children/teenagers with disabilities. - Facilities for young graffiti artists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to play facilities for children and teenagers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Subgroup(s). • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Recreation Amenity and Culture. - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - CDB Spatial Planning Group. - CDB Community Development Group. - CDB Health Forum. 	<p>CDB.</p> <p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>Schools.</p> <p>Community and Youth Groups.</p> <p>Residents Associations.</p>

<p>Action 1.3 – Community Recreation Space Promote the provision of appropriate community recreation spaces throughout the city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to ensure that provision of community recreation facilities is an integrated part of urban planning. • Develop, submit and lobby proposal calling for more industrial land to be rezoned for recreational use. • Develop, submit and promote plan for new and existing local areas such as green space, ponds etc. that can be developed for recreational use. • Include in the above plan general types of improvements needed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better lighting to discourage anti-social behaviour. - More seating in public playgrounds. - Sheltered bandstands for outdoor events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Community Recreation Facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Subgroup(s). • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CDB Spatial Planning Group. - CDB Community Development Group. - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - SPC Recreation Amenity and Culture. 	<p>CDB.</p> <p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>Community and Youth Groups.</p> <p>Residents Associations.</p>
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Priority Issue 2: Social Inclusion and Community Development

Action/Gníomhaíocht	Our Work/Ár gCuid Oibre	Outcome/Toradh	Responsibilities within Forum/Freagracht an Fhóiraim	Key Partners/Comhpháirtí Ríthábhachtach
<p>Action 2.1 – Community Meeting Space Support the development of community meeting spaces in Galway City.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform community and voluntary groups about existing community meeting facilities in Galway City through the Community Forum website and other forms of communication. Promote and support a needs analysis regarding the need for further community meeting facilities in Galway. Submit and lobby proposals for the development of new community meeting facilities, depending on the outcome of the above analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved community meeting facilities. 	<p>GCCF Sub Group(s).</p> <p>GCCF Representatives on the following committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - CDB Community Development Group. - Galway City Partnership. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>CDB.</p> <p>Rapid.</p>
<p>Action 2.2 – Supporting Community Groups Act to support capacity building within community and voluntary groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued promotion of the Community Forum and its insurance scheme for community groups. Represent the views and needs of member groups in relevant fora. Continue to develop GCCF newsletter, website and other materials. Work to improve support of GCCF Representatives and co-ordination with the rest of the Community Forum through meetings, capacity building, training etc. Conduct research into the establishment of GCCF as an independent structure. Conduct an annual review of Community Forum member database. Review role and structure of GCCF Subgroups. Work to ensure that the Community Forum's activities reflect all areas of Galway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A better informed and more united local community and voluntary sector. 	<p>GCCF Steering Group.</p> <p>GCCF Co-ordinator.</p>	<p>GCCF members.</p>

<p>Action 2.3 – Voter Participation Support and promote voter participation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to promote voter registration and participation through support of the CDB Voter Participation Strategy and Intercultural Forum initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased voter registration and participation in elections. 	<p>GCCF Sub-group(s). Intercultural Forum. GCCF Co-ordinator. GCCF Representatives on the following committees: - CDB Community Development Group. - Intercultural Forum. - Galway City Partnership.</p>	<p>Intercultural Forum. CDB. Galway City Partnership. Galway City Council.</p>
<p>Action 2.4 – Intercultural Galway Promote and celebrate the cultural diversity of Galway City.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work through the Intercultural Forum in building and maintaining strong links with the Intercultural Community in Galway. • Promote the Intercultural Forum among the Intercultural Community • Support the Intercultural Forum in organising local Intercultural Festivals. • Support the Intercultural Forum in developing input towards an Integration Strategy for Galway City. • Work for increased access and participation by the Intercultural Community in cultural activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidation of the Intercultural Forum. • Increased knowledge of the Intercultural Forum throughout the Intercultural Community. • Annual Intercultural Barbecue Competition. • Highlighting important intercultural issues to be addressed by the City's Integration Strategy. 	<p>GCCF Sub-group(s). Intercultural Forum. GCCF Co-ordinator. GCCF Representatives on the following committees: - CDB Community Development Group. - CDB Social Inclusion Group. - Galway City Partnership. - SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture.</p>	<p>Intercultural Forum. CDB. Galway City Partnership. Galway City Council.</p>

Priority Issue 3: Planning and Transport

Action/Gníomhaíocht	Our Work/Ár gCuid Oibre	Outcome/Toradh	Responsibilities within Forum/Freagracht an Fhóiraim	Key Partners/Comhpháirtí Ríthábhachtach
<p>Action 3.1 – City Architect Office Continue to promote the appointment of a dedicated “City Architect” for Galway City.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, submit and lobby proposal regarding the appointment of a City Architect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of City Architect Office in Galway City Council. Improvements in monitoring and guidance of the architectural development of the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCCF Sub Group. GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - CDB Spatial Planning Group 	<p>CDB.</p> <p>Galway City Council.</p>
<p>Action 3.2 – Universal Design Promote “Universal Design” principles and practices in the local design and construction sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the importance of “Universal design” through submissions to the CDB and SPC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General improvements in the accessibility of the local built environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCCF Sub Group. GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - CDB Spatial Planning Group - CDB Social Inclusion Group. 	<p>CDB.</p> <p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>Access for all.</p>

<p>Action 3.3 – Accessible transport services Seek to ensure that all public transport services, existing and new, are accessible to all people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange meeting with disability sector in order to map the needs of the disabled and pinpoint best practice. • Develop, submit and lobby proposal, based on input from the above meeting. • Monitor development of local transport services and identify access issues where necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local public transport services become increasingly accessible to all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - SPC Transport and Infrastructure. - CDB Integrated Transport Group. - CDB Social Inclusion Group. 	<p>CDB.</p> <p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>Access for all.</p>
<p>Action 3.4 – Informing Local Planning Policy Inform local planning policy, through highlighting the needs of local communities and putting forward best practice concepts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take active part in local planning consultation processes. • Make regular submissions in relation to development proposals, based on community needs and aspirations. • Work to ensure that planning consultations are open and transparent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better reflection of community needs and aspirations in local planning strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - CDB Spatial Planning Group. 	<p>CDB.</p> <p>Galway City Council.</p>
<p>Action 3.5 – Pedestrian and Cyclist Access Ensure that walking and cycling as forms of transport are recognised and provided for at all levels in the city infrastructure, particularly at roundabouts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with relevant authorities, agencies and representatives to highlight current problems, propose solutions and encourage good practice. • Promote Galway and the Community Forum’s policies, as the basis for a pilot project for the Government's new <i>Smarter Travel</i> Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of pedestrian/cyclist accessible City becomes embedded in local transport planning policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - SPC Transport and Infrastructure. - CDB Integrated Transport Group. 	<p>CDB.</p> <p>Galway City Council.</p>

<p>Action 3.6 – Bus Services and Timetables Ensure the provision of proper timetables at all bus stops throughout the city.</p> <p>Continue to work towards the introduction of new local bus services where none currently exist and no plans are in place to introduce new services.</p> <p>Promote the development of Park & Ride facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liase with Bus Eireann and private operators. • Monitor the completion of Bus Shelters displaying the various operators' timetables. • Arrange meeting with local communities around transport needs. • Make submissions to relevant Fora. • Support and promote the development of Park & Ride facilities as a vital part of an integrated system for Galway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Bus Shelters and timetables throughout the City. • Establishment of new bus services in areas of the city not currently serviced. • Development of Park & Ride facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - SPC Transport and Infrastructure. - CDB Integrated Transport Group. 	<p>CDB.</p> <p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>Bus Eireann.</p>
<p>Action 3.7 – Light Rail System for Galway Strengthen the campaign for the introduction of a light rail system in Galway and its hinterland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and support feasibility study for light rail in Galway. • Work to promote the establishment of a light rail system for Galway, based on the outcome of the above feasibility study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a light rail system becomes embedded in local transport planning policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - SPC Transport and Infrastructure. - CDB Integrated Transport Group. 	<p>CDB.</p> <p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>GLUAS Committee.</p>
<p>Action 3.8 - Integrated Public Transport system Ceannt Station to be developed as an integrated multi-modal Public Transport Hub for Galway City and Region.</p> <p>Promote establishment of City and County Transport Authority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby and campaign for the site at Ceannt Station to be developed primarily as a world-class Integrated Public Transport Hub. • Promote it as terminal for all long-distance buses and trains and all suburban buses and trams and all other modes of transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A transport hub that facilitates easy movement from one mode of transport to another whether train, light rail, bus, taxi, bicycle, wheelchair or pedestrian. • Facilitate setting up access to integrated ticketing system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - CDB Integrated Transport Group. - SPC Transport and Infrastructure. - CDB Social Inclusion Group. 	<p>CDB.</p> <p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>Access for all.</p>

Priority Issue 4: Environmental Protection

Action/ Gníomhaíocht	Our Work/Ár gCuid Oibre	Outcome/ Toradh	Responsibilities within Forum/ Freagracht an Fhóiraim	Key Partners/Comhpháirtí Ríthábhachtach
Action 4.1 – Landfill Improve Galway's diversion from landfill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to avoid increase in bin charges. • Develop, submit and lobby proposal for a one-stop shop for the collection of all forms of waste not collected at household level. • Develop, submit and lobby proposal of an education waste programme for homes explaining where everything (all types of waste). • Follow through with developing Resource Recovery Park for Galway region. • Address intermittent services such as the collection of toxic chemicals and paints. • Work for the implementation of a 3-bin standard for both public and private refuse collection (e.g. bylaws). • Liaise with all sectors, including schools, residents' groups and other community groups to encourage clean-up initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marked improvements in Galway's diversion from landfill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group(s). • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Environment. - CDB Natural Environment and Waterways Group. 	Galway City Council. CDB. Schools. Residents Groups. GCCF members.
Action 4.2 – Waste Reduction Annual increase of waste reduction, re-use and recycling categories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work for the implementation of a waste strategy based on the “zero waste” concept and an annual report to be published on all waste collected. • Work for compost produced from brown bin waste to be made available to the public and for use in public parks. • Work for Galway City Council to lobby Government for introduction of a refundable levy or significant proportion on all drink cans and bottles. • Promote Galway City Council's free recycling facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marked increase in waste reduction, re-use and recycling. • Secure Galway City as Ireland's leading waste reduction local authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group(s). • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Environment. - CDB Natural Environment and Waterways Group. 	Galway City Council. CDB.

<p>Action 4.3 – Parks and Wildlife Develop and promote awareness of Galway's Parks and Wildlife.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, submit and lobby proposal for Community Gardens and allotments to be created in all areas of the City. • Develop, submit and lobby proposal for a Heritage for Schools scheme, including the implementation of an outdoor classroom in the Galway National Heritage Areas. • Develop, submit and lobby proposal for the development of a Forestry Education & Interpretative Centre. • Ensure the involvement of the Community Groups and other sectors in the management and development of City Parks and Wildlife areas. • Promote the introduction of a community volunteer warden scheme for city parks to support the local authority staff. • Work for the implementation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual monitoring of the Galway City Habitats Inventory. - Appointment of a Biodiversity Officer. - Ecological wildlife corridors. - An annual Community Parks Programme, including the 2001 Terryland Forest Park Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in awareness and appreciation of local parks and wildlife habitats. • Significant increase in native Irish trees planted locally. • Increase in natural habitat sanctuaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group(s). • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Environment. - CDB Natural Environment and Waterways Group. - SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. - SPC Planning and Economic Development. 	<p>Galway City Council. CDB.</p>
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<p>Action 4.4 – Climate Change Promote awareness of climate change and CO2 reductions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, submit and lobby proposal for Galway City Council to carry out and publish an annual report on local CO2 emissions. • Develop, submit and lobby proposal for Galway Energy Agency to promote and monitor the increase of renewable and clean energy locally. • Work for the implementation of an annual Community Tree planting programme in parks, forests and community spaces in all areas of the City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local reductions in Co2 emissions. • Increased awareness of climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group(s). • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Environment. - SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>Galway Energy Agency.</p>
<p>Action 4.5 – Water Quality Improve water quality in Galway for the purposes of safe consumption and recreation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to ensure that Galway City Council monitors, maintains and improves water quality in Galway for the purposes of safe consumption and recreation. • Encourage Galway City Council to organise a seminar highlighting the issues of water quality and investments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved water quality in Galway for the purposes of consumption and recreation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group(s). • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Transportation and Infrastructure. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>Galway County Council.</p>

Priority Issue 5: Unique Cultural Identity and Heritage

Action/ Gníomhaíocht	Our Work/Ár gCuid Oibre	Outcome/ Toradh	Responsibilities within Forum/Freagracht an Fhóiraim	Key Partners/Comhpháirtí Ríthábhachtach
Action 5.1 – Galway City Museum Continue the provision of free public access to the Galway City Museum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work for continued provision of free public access to the Galway City Museum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued free access to the Galway City Museum on an ongoing basis. Accessibility to Galway City Museum for local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCCF Sub Group(s). GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. - CDB Creative City Group. - Galway City Museum Advisory Board. 	Galway City Council. CDB. Galway City Museum.
Action 5.2 – Advance Galway as a Bilingual City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the implementation of the Exploratory Study into Bilingualism in Galway City. Develop, submit and lobby proposal for an annual bilingual festival. 	Bilingual Status would; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give Galway City a unique identity found nowhere else in the world. Give the tourism trade an exclusive product that could be marketed by the industry, thereby offering the 'total experience' for the visitor. Strengthen Galway's reputation as a place in which native culture, arts, music and language are cherished and valued. Give economic social and cultural benefits. Give national and international attention to Galway as a unique place to live and visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCCF Sub Group(s). GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. - CDB Creative City Group. - CDB Tourism Forum. 	Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail. Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta. Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe. Gaillimh le Gaeilge. Pobal Cathair na Gaillimhe.

<p>Action 5.3 – Heritage Projects Support the promotion of special projects that have an historical and local heritage focus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring all GCCF affiliated Heritage groups together to establish a GCCF Heritage Subgroup. • The GCCF Subgroup to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build links with the relevant SPCs and CDB groups. - Take an active part in the on-going monitoring and implementation of the current Heritage Plan. - Develop GCCF's Heritage Policy, as input towards the next Heritage Plan. - Work for the development of Galway City Heritage Forum. - Encourage and support development of local history and heritage groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Heritage Subgroup. • Development of Galway City Heritage Forum. • Heightened awareness of the importance of local heritage. • Promotion and presentation of heritage in city and local areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Heritage Groups. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CDB Tourism Forum. - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - CDB Spatial Planning Group. - Other heritage related committees. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>CDB.</p> <p>Local history and heritage groups.</p> <p>NUIG.</p>
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Priority Issue 6: Housing

Action/Gníomhaíocht	Our Work/Ár gCuid Oibre	Outcome/Toradh	Responsibilities within Forum/Freagracht an Fhóiraim	Key Partners/Comhpháirtí Ríthábhachtach
<p>Action 6.1 – Social and Affordable Housing Ensure the provision of social housing reflects the identified need on the housing waiting lists.</p> <p>Ensure the ratio of social to affordable housing provision reflects the relative proportions of such groups on the housing waiting lists.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for Galway City Council to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase its social housing stock both through its own building programme and by purchasing newly constructed properties on the open market. - Carry out an annual review and report on the composition of the social and affordable lists. - Support Housing Associations in developing and managing social housing units in the city. • Work for the size and types of housing units developed and acquired to reflect the household sizes on the social housing waiting list with a particular emphasis on increasing the number of units suitable for single person households. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social housing provision would reflect the actual need. • Increased availability of social housing and a reduction in the numbers on the waiting lists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Subgroup. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Housing. - CDB Social Inclusion Group. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>CDB.</p>

<p>Action 6.2 – Rental Accommodation Increase the use of the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) as one of the available tenure options.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Galway City Council to develop a plan to continue and increase RAS in conjunction with increased provision of other forms of social housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater availability of other housing tenures. 	<p>GCCF Subgroup.</p> <p>GCCF Representatives on the following committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPC Housing. • CDB Social Inclusion Group. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>CDB.</p>
<p>Action 6.3 – Lifetime Adaptable Housing Adopt a policy of lifetime adaptable housing as the model in all future residential developments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for Galway City Council to adopt a policy of lifetime adaptable housing as the model in all future residential developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in stock of adaptable homes in the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Subgroup. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Housing. - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p>
<p>Action 6.4 – Transparency of waiting lists Obtain greater transparency about the number of social and affordable applicants, length of waiting time on and progress on the housing waiting lists.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for Galway City Council to publish an annual analysis of the numbers on the waiting lists and a work plan showing how the needs will be met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency and clarity of waiting time and allocations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Subgroup. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Housing. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p>

<p>Action 6.5 – Estate Management Programme Galway City Council to further develop and implement its Estate Management Programme (EMP) in line with international best practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and lobby a submission calling for further development and implementation of the EMP. • Develop support for new estates from established groups from similar estates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved quality of life for all residents in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Subgroup. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Housing. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>Residents Groups.</p>
<p>Action 6.6 – Traveller Accommodation More and better choice of accommodation for Travellers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively support the Galway Traveller Accommodation Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased provision and choice for Travellers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Subgroup. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Housing. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>Galway Traveller Movement.</p>
<p>Action 6.7 – A Socially Inclusive Housing Policy Work towards the implementation of socially inclusive, integrated housing policies that focus on meeting the accommodation needs of the most vulnerable groups in the city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a Socially Inclusive Housing Policy in all relevant fora. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved housing provision for the most vulnerable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Subgroup(s). • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Housing. - SPC Economic Development and Planning Control. - CDB Social Inclusion Group. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>Access for All.</p> <p>CDB.</p>

Priority Issue 7: Law and Order

Action/Gníomhaíocht	Our Work/Ár gCuid Oibre	Outcome/Toradh	Responsibilities within Forum/Freagracht an Fóraim	Key Partners/ Comhpháirtí Ríthábhachtach
<p>Action 7.1 – Joint Policing Committee Promote the involvement of the public with the Joint Policing Committee and increased presence of community guards in local communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, submit and lobby proposal for stronger presence of community guards in the local communities, especially during weekends. • Invite Community Guards to GCCF Quarterly Meeting. • Liaise with community groups in putting forward questions and issues to the Joint Policing Committee. • Work for Joint Policing Committee to support community based CCTV schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closer involvement of the wider public with the Joint Policing Committee. • Increase in community guards' presence. • Development of community based CCTV schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group(s). • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint Policing Committee 	<p>Joint Policing Committee.</p> <p>Relevant Community Forum groups.</p> <p>Intercultural Forum.</p> <p>Rapid.</p>
<p>Action 7.2 – Local Sexual Assault Treatment Unit Support development of the dedicated Sexual Assault Treatment Unit for Galway City.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the implementation of the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit for Galway City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a dedicated sexual assault treatment unit in Galway City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group(s). • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint Policing Committee. - CDB Health Forum. 	<p>HSE.</p>

Priority Issue 8: Arts and Culture

Development of Galway as a City of Arts and Culture where everyone can participate in and have access to artistic and cultural activities and where artists are supported and encouraged.

Action/Gníomhaíocht	Our Work/Ár gCuid Oibre	Outcome/Toradh	Responsibilities within Forum/Freagracht an Fóiraim	Key Partners/Comhpháirtí Ríthábhachtach
<p>Action 8.1 – Appointment of consultants Promote the appointment of experienced arts consultants to complete the development of the Galway City Strategic Arts Development Plan as a matter of urgency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and submit a brief outlining involvement of external consultants in other local authority areas. • Support and lobby for the appointment of consultants at SPC and CDB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant(s) appointed. • Better knowledge of Arts administration around the country. • Completed Galway City Strategic Arts Development Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. - CDB Creative Cities Group. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>CDB.</p> <p>The wider arts community in Galway City.</p>
<p>Action 8.2 – Public Consultation Look for open public consultation to complete the Galway City Strategic Arts Development Plan where all interests and partners, including GCCF and local artists and community art groups, can have input into the development of the strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and lobby for an open public consultation at SPC and CDB. • Promote open public consultation as essential part of Consultant's assignment. • Consult with Arts groups outside of Forum. • Work to get more Galway Arts groups involved in the Forum. • Circulate GCCF submission to all interested groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Arts groups in GCCF. • Increased public discussion and awareness of Galway City Strategic Arts Development Plan. • Increased openness among Arts groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. - CDB Creative Cities Group. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>CDB.</p> <p>The wider arts community in Galway City.</p>

<p>Action 8.3 – Fully Resourced Arts Office Support and promote the creation of a fully resourced Arts Office in Galway City Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby at SPC and CDB for a fully resourced Arts Office that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shows meaningful commitment to the arts in Galway. - Supports and encourages artists - Commits itself to real co-operation with the residents, artists and arts workers of Galway - Ensures access to and participation in the Arts for all. - Promotes models of best practice and high standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better support for artists in Galway. • Increased access to and participation in the Arts for communities throughout the city. • Positive and productive relationships between residents, artists and arts workers • Service delivery according to models of best practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. - CDB Creative Cities Group. 	<p>Galway City Council. CDB. The wider arts community in Galway City.</p>
<p>Action 8.4 – Community Arts Officer Work towards the appointment of an experienced, dedicated fully resourced Community Arts Officer to support community arts, including community groups, and residency programmes and to co-ordinate the development of community arts in Galway City.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and submit a proposal regarding the role and responsibilities of a Community Arts Officer, based on experiences in other local authority areas. • Lobby at SPC and CDB for support for Community Arts and appointment of Community Arts Officer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better knowledge of role and function of Community Arts Officer. • Appointment of Community Arts Officer. • Improved services and support for Community Arts in Galway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. - CDB Creative Cities Group. - CDB Community Development Group. - CDB Social Inclusion Group. - CDB Health Forum. 	<p>Galway City Council. CDB. The wider arts community in Galway City.</p>

<p>Action 8.5 – Support for Local Artists Look for the development of a new support service for local artists in Galway based on the successful Artlinks initiative in the South-East region, including a dedicated website feature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise a seminar in association with Galway County to promote discussion and information sharing on priority issues including Artlinks. Lobby at SPC and CDB to establish Artlinks in the Western Region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar would increase knowledge, raise awareness, promote discussion and support and develop links. Establishment of Artlinks in the West. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCCF Sub Group. GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. SPC Economic Development and Planning. CDB Creative Cities Group. CDB Community Development Group. 	<p>Galway City Council. CDB. The wider arts community in Galway City.</p>
<p>Action 8.6 – Transparent Grants Process Promote and support an increase in the level of transparency, openness and fairness, in line with best practice, in relation to Galway City Council Individual and Group Grants process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research, submit and lobby proposal for best practice for Local Authority grants administration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased satisfaction with administration of local funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCCF Sub Group. GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. CDB Creative Cities Group. 	<p>Galway City Council. CDB. The wider arts community in Galway City.</p>

<p>Action 8.7 – Arts Infrastructure Look for an improvement in the City’s arts infrastructure, including arts spaces outside the city centre, as well as office and storage space.</p> <p>Seek the development of a School of Music.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and lobby at SPC and CDB for an audit of all venues and arts spaces in Galway and the development of an Arts Facility Master Plan. • Work with the relevant authorities, agencies and groups to support the development of a School of Music for Galway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in Arts infrastructure in Galway. • Better facilities for locally based groups. • Increased access and participation for communities throughout the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. - CDB Creative Cities Group. - Economic Development and Planning. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>CDB.</p> <p>The wider arts community in Galway City.</p> <p>GMIT.</p> <p>VEC.</p>
<p>Action 8.8 – GCCF Representation Look for representation of GCCF on the proposed Committees regarding Mid-term Review of City Arts Strategy, Public Art and Youth Art and be fully involved in the establishment of these structures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby at SPC and CDB to ensure that GCCF is involved in and represented on future City Council Committees regarding Mid-term Review of Galway City Strategic Arts Development Plan, Public Art and Youth Art. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation and involvement in GCCF aspects of Arts Strategy. • Representation of GCCF member groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. • GCCF Representatives on the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC Recreation, Amenity and Culture. - CDB Creative Cities Group. - Economic Development and Planning. 	<p>Galway City Council.</p> <p>CDB.</p> <p>The wider arts community in Galway City.</p>
<p>Action 8.9 – Arts Directory Develop directory of artists, which are relevant to community groups with limited funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a directory/contact list of artists, storytellers etc. for the use of community groups who are organising local festivals etc. but have limited funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved support of community arts events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCF Sub Group. 	<p>GCCF members.</p>

5. Implementing the Plan/ Ag cur an phlean i bhfeidhm

As with any strategy plan or action plan the ability to implement it is crucial. Otherwise the plan simply remains words on paper. The aim of this Strategy Plan has therefore been to set out a limited number of actions, which are achievable and measurable, and with a clear indication of what the Community Forum intends to do to implement them.

At the same time, the Forum acknowledges that in order to achieve the intended outcome, support from agencies and partners in the local development framework is vital. This Strategy Plan is ambitious and the Forum is looking forward to a positive dialogue with all our partners on how we can work together to ensure successful implementation.

For the Forum there are four key elements that will determine the success of this strategic plan over the coming years. These are:

1. GCCF Co-ordinator
2. GCCF Steering Committee
3. GCCF Representatives
4. GCCF Sub Groups

The position of a full-time Forum Co-ordinator is vital to ensure the effective co-ordination of the work of the Forum.

An active and committed Steering Committee is also required to oversee the effective management, operation, and ongoing development of the Forum.

The Forum Representatives are also very important in ensuring the implementation of this Strategy Plan and getting the actions set out here onto the local development agenda. Forum Representatives must attend, participate, and report back from the various committees and groups to which they have been nominated.

Finally, the Forum's Subgroups are expected to play a key role by working together with the Forum Representatives in implementing and evaluating the actions and tasks in this Strategy Plan. As part of this Strategy Plan, the Steering Committee intends to review the role and structure of GCCF Sub Groups, in order to ensure the effective working of the structure.

Evaluation/ Measúnú

In implementing this three-year strategy plan the Forum will set itself an annual workplan containing priority actions to be implemented. This will be formally reviewed at the end of each year by the Sub Groups to assess progress on all actions and overall achievements of the Forum.