



A Changing Place

HAVE YOUR SAY!



Galway Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
Socio-Economic Statement 2022



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



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

The purpose of an LECP is to set out for a six year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote the economic development and the local and community development of a local authority area, (in this case, Galway City). These objectives and actions are those delivered both by the Local Authority, (in this case Galway City Council), directly itself and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

In 2015, the first Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for Galway City was adopted by Galway City Council. This contained the following high level goals which were 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**



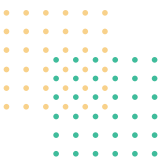
5. **A city that promotes the health and well-being of all its people**

In the intervening years a significant level of work under these goals has been delivered and now is the time to reconsider what to do in the next 6 years to continue to make progress towards the achievement of these goals. In this consultative process, we want to hear from you what you think should be the focus of our collective efforts in economic and community development.

In this consultation paper we highlight some key trends under each of the five high level goals over the period of the last LECP allied to an outline of the types of actions and measures that were delivered under the LECP to achieve progress towards the high level goals. At this stage we are interested in hearing what you think should be the focus of the LECP for the next 6 years to continue the achievement of the high level goals.

We would like to hear your ideas and priorities on economic and community issues that you believe should be taken into account under the high level goals above for the formation of this plan.

*If you wish to provide feedback on this issues paper, please email us at **candc@galwaycity.ie**. Please include in the subject line, "Feedback to LECP issues paper".*



Cross cutting priorities

In addition to ensuring consistency with the North Western Regional Authority Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy as well as the City Development Plan, the LECP must give consideration to the potential impact of the plan on a number of cross cutting/horizontal priorities, also known as proofing. These include;



Sustainability including Climate Change,



Equality,



Poverty,



Rurality,



Age,



Disability.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Each LECP will be developed within 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. We will indicate how the Galway City LECP addresses these Sustainable Development Goals.



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. In preparing the LECP, Galway City Council will ensure that the responsibilities with regard to Public Sector Duty are considered and that the objectives and actions detailed in the LECP are designed to support these responsibilities where appropriate.

Galway City at a Glance

Galway City is a changing place and the LECP needs to reflect this. Some key trends in the City are as follows:





In the following sections of this document, we outline in more detail under each of the High Level Goals, programmes that were harnessed in the last 5 years by Galway City Council and their partners in the LECP, achievements and emerging priority areas for the next 5 years. We invite you to consider this and indicate to us where you believe the focus of the LECP should be into the future and we look forward to hearing what your views are.

Goal 1.
A world-class,
creative city
region



Goal 1. A world-class, creative city region

The LECP 2015 –2021 recognised the integral part creativity and culture play in the economic and social sustainability of Galway City. Within this theme the priorities below were highlighted;



A broad range of programmes and initiatives were implemented and delivered by Galway City Council and its partners during the lifetime of the last LECP to address these priorities. These included:

- The implementation of the Galway City Creative Ireland Programme through which €665,000 in funding was allocated to a wide range of projects.
- Working with the Western Development Commission, Údarás na Gaeltachta and other local authorities along the Western seaboard, the Western Regional Audiovisual Production fund was established which now has an investment fund of €5m.
- An Irish Language Plan was developed in conjunction with Gaillimhe le Gaeilge and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and resources have been allocated to deliver a programme of work.
- Galway secured the designation as European Capital of Culture for 2020.
- Galway City Council invested Arts funding of over €2.6m between 2017 and 2021 through their Arts Strategy and supports to arts development programmes. In many cases partner organisations added to this investment.

Creativity has to be fostered, facilitated and encouraged. Education is a fundamental tool in driving creativity. Galway City has a highly educated population where education attainment levels continue to rise.

In 2016, the average age of those aged 15 or older when full time education ceased in Galway City was 22 years of age, the highest in the Country. Alongside this, Galway City has the second highest rate of population aged 15 and older with a third level degree. (55.2%).

The city has one of the lowest percentages of the population with no formal or primary education only at 8.3%.

According to the CSO, while the percentage of the population in the City who indicated that they were Irish Speakers declined, (42% in 2011 to 39% in 2016) the percentage who indicated that they used the Irish Language daily remained static at 12%.

Some of the accolades that were awarded to the City during the lifetime of the last LECP included the following;



In the next phase of the LECP, maintaining Galway City as A World-Class Creative City Region is a goal. The policies, strategies and programmes that will be harnessed by Galway City Council at present to achieve this will include;

- The Galway City Creative Ireland Programme
- Arts Council Programmes
- Irish Language Plan Funding
- The WDC Investment Fund (incorporating the WRAP fund)
- The ECOC Legacy Funding
- New Directions – Galway City Council’s Arts Strategy 2021–2025
- Galway Music Education Programme
- Everybody Matters – A Cultural Sustainability Strategy Framework For Galway 2016–2025
- Galway City Museum Strategic Plan
- Galway City Capital Programme
- Plean Teanga Chathair na Gaillimhe 2020–2026
- Measures under the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
- Education Programmes Galway City Council is involved in as a partner

The focus of these programmes will be to engage with new audiences and underrepresented communities during the lifetime of the next LECP.

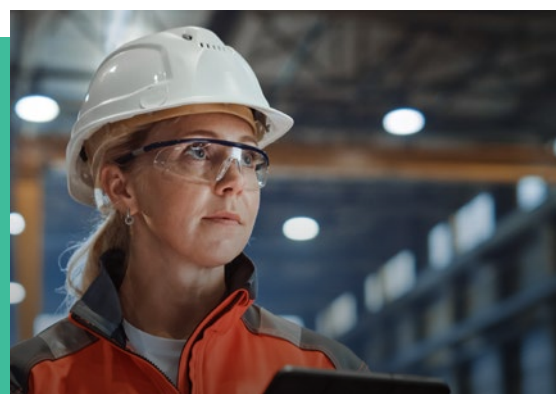
The SDGs that will be addressed by this work will be:



SDG 4

Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 8

Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Questions to consider:

1. Where or with whom in the City do you think this work should be focused?
2. How can we foster creativity in all aspects of City Life?
3. How can we encourage greater everyday use of the Irish Language in City Life?
4. How do we realise the economic benefit of our rich cultural, heritage assets and further support the development of the creative economy?
5. What opportunities are there to develop a multilingual identity for Galway City with a special focus on the Irish language?

Goal 2.

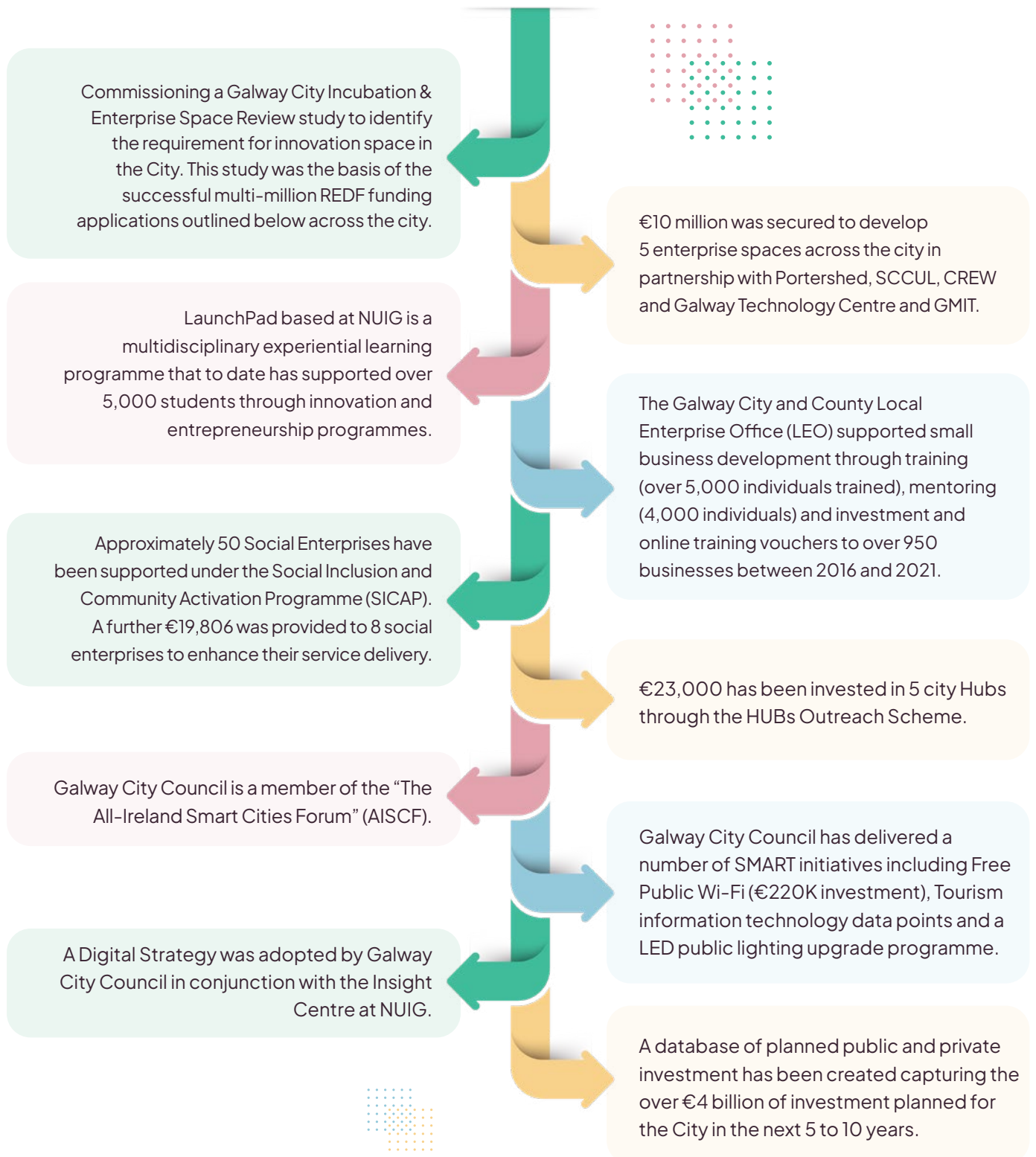
An innovative city



Photo credit Dr. Chaosheng Zhang

Goal 2. An innovative city

The first LECP set out to – “develop and promote Galway as an innovative city”. It centred on creating an environment for fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, promotion of business and investment across the city and developing a Smart City. Some of the initiatives undertaken by Galway City Council and its partners included:





Employment has grown in Galway City in line with national trends. In 2011, there were 11,968 persons on the Live Register, reducing to 7,825 by 2016 and at the end of 2021 the figure stood at 3,920 persons.



In 2016, **61.3% (40,126 persons) of the City's adults were in the labour force** mirroring the national average (61.9%) and of those adults who are outside the labour force 38.7% are in education.



Galway is a **world recognised MedTech Cluster** that employs one third of the country's 25,000 medical device employees.



Four of the top Ten ICT Companies globally have a presence in Galway and the ICT sector employs 17.1% of the city's workforce.



55% of Galway City's population have a third level education with over 40,000 students in primary, secondary, further and third level schools and colleges across the city, including over 26,000 who are enrolled in the National University of Ireland and in the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (now incorporated into the Atlantic Technological University (TU)).



Galway has become a **research leader** in areas such as biotechnology, medical technology, sustainable development, marine science and data analytics.



The National University of Galway ranks in the **top 1% of Universities in the world** and GMIT (now the Atlantic Technological University) has key areas of excellence in the Creative Arts, Digital Media, Entrepreneurship and Tourism.



Building on the Award in 2014/2015 fDi Micro City of the Year award – Galway City was designated **“Best Micro City for fDi Strategy”** in the fDi European Cities & Regions of the Future 2020/21.

To continue to progress in achieving this Goal, Galway City Council can harness a range of programmes and strategies which include;

- The Western Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024,
- Local Enterprise Office programmes such as, The Competitive Start Fund, High Potential Start Up investment, Innovation Vouchers, Feasibility funding, Priming and Expansion Grants, Mentoring and Training Supports, Green for Micro and Digital for Micro,
- Social Innovation Fund Ireland, Social Enterprise Development Fund, DAF Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme,
- Connected & National Hubs Network Funding,
- Enterprise Ireland Regional Enterprise Development Fund,
- WDC Investment Funds,
- SICAP 2018 – 2023,
- The Public Service Innovation Fund,
- Digital Innovation Programme,
- Wi-Fi 4 EU,
- Enterprise Ireland's Commercialisation Fund,
- Horizon 2020, and
- SEAI Ireland Funding.

The emerging priorities identified to sustain the City as an innovation location are;

- ✓ To ensure there is suitable innovation infrastructure to create an environment for innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurship, including social enterprise.
- ✓ To develop Galway as a Smart City.
- ✓ To make further progress to establishing Galway as a carbon neutral City.
- ✓ To advance Galway City as a sustainable destination.
- ✓ To continue to develop the Creative Economy in Galway City.

The SDGs that will be addressed by this work will be:



Questions to consider:

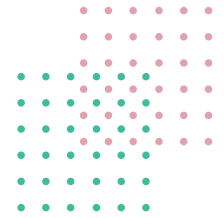
1. How can the City further develop the circular economy in the City?
2. What is needed to ensure we sustain our reputation as a City of Innovation?
3. How can we ensure economic growth in the City is environmentally sustainable?

Goal 3. An equal and inclusive city

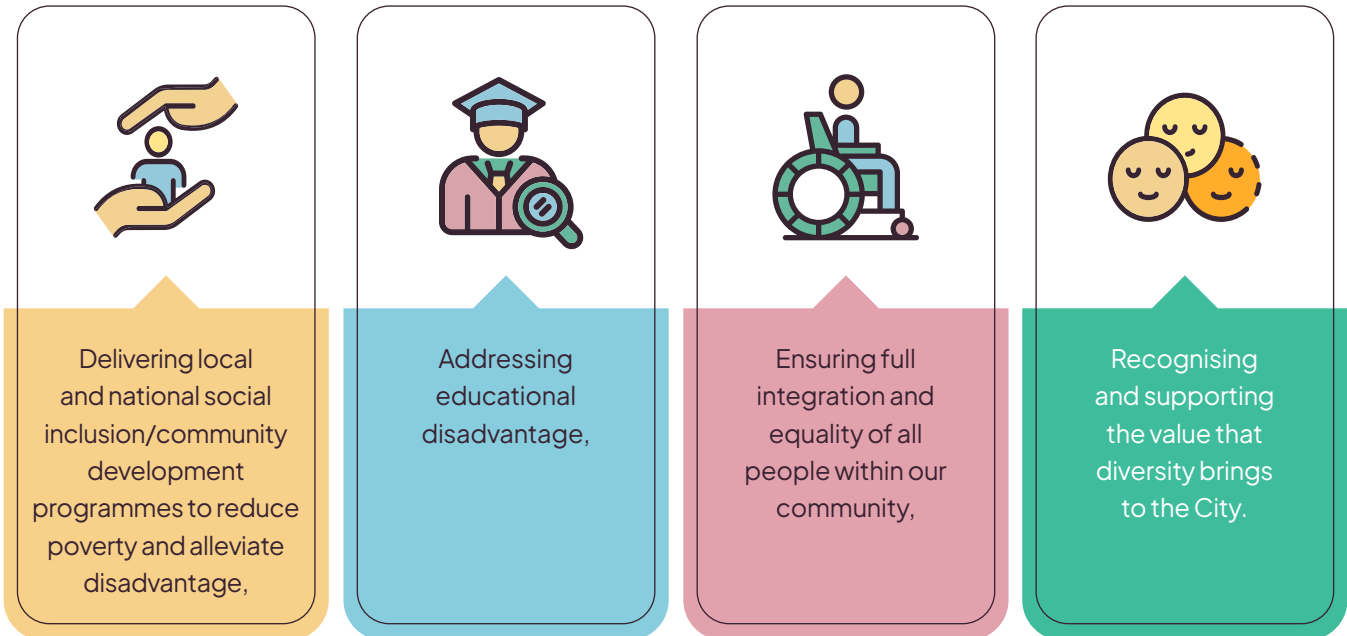


Photo credit Dr. Chaosheng Zhang

Goal 3. An equal and inclusive city



The LECP 2015–2021 set out to ensure Galway City is an equal and inclusive city by;



Since 2015, a flavour of the programmes that were successfully implemented to achieve this Included:

- ✓ The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) where **€4.6m** was spent to address high and persistent levels of deprivation by supporting disadvantaged communities and individuals.
- ✓ Initiatives to support and embed equality and **human rights** in Galway City in conjunction with the Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission (IHREC).
- ✓ Delivery of **Small Capital Grants Scheme** for Social Enterprises in across the City.
- ✓ Over **€145,000** in programmes delivered by AMACH! LGBT Galway to ensure that existing community infrastructure is inclusive and welcoming to LGBTI+ people.
- ✓ A Galway City Traveller Interagency Group are implementing an action plan in line with key policy commitments in the National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy to **enhance access and outcomes for the Traveller community** from public services.
- ✓ Since 2018, the Community Enhancement Programme provided funding of **€660,000** to a wide range of projects across Galway City to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas.
- ✓ The Community Activities Fund provided funding of **€264,910 to 83 local community** and voluntary groups / organisations for their ongoing costs, in addition to necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities or enhancing their service delivery.

Some key socio-economic figures for the City indicate positive and negative change in terms of equality and inclusion as outlined below.

- Between 2011 and 2016, the **unemployment rate in Galway City fell from 18.6% to 12.9%**, a decrease of 5.7% slightly less than the average for the State of 6.1%.
- Galway City has a **relatively low age dependency rate** in comparison to the State, with an overall rate of 39% compared to 52.7% for the State.
- The **relative affluence and deprivation score for Galway City in 2016 was 4.9**, improving from -1.9 in 2011. In total, there are 4 small areas classified as Very Disadvantaged in Galway City, an increase from 3 small areas in 2011. In 2016, there were 21 small areas classified as Disadvantaged in Galway City, down from 28 small areas in 2011. Ballybane/Mervue has 8 of these small areas; Westside/Rahoon has 9; Ballinfoile has 3 and City Centre has 1.
- Galway City is characterised by **high levels of ethnic diversity** with: 25.8% of residents born outside Ireland, 18.6% indicating their nationality as other than Irish, and 2.1% identifying as Irish Travellers, significantly higher proportion than the average for the State at 0.7%. Significant areas of concentration of these groups are identified in Galway City.
- There were **3,336 lone parent families**, predominantly headed by women, accounting for 30% of all families with children in Galway City in 2016.
- In 2016, there were **10,133 people with a disability in Galway City**, accounting for 12.9% of the population, a slightly lower proportion of the population than the State average at 13.5%.
- In 2016, **the dependency ratio for Galway City was the second lowest nationally** at 39.04%, compared to 25.9% in 2011.
- In 2015, Healthy Ireland found that probable mental health problems are considerably more likely to be detected among those living within the most deprived areas at 13% compared with 5% of those living within the least deprived areas. Research indicates that the Covid-19 pandemic, alongside the prolonged lockdown restrictions have led to an **intensification of mental health issues in Ireland**.

Some key outcomes from the LECP so far have been

- ✓ Yellow Flag Award 2017 Merlin Woods Primary School and Merlin College Secondary
- ✓ Show Racism the Red Card Initiative
- ✓ All Ireland Business Foundation Social Enterprise of the Year 2022 – SCCUL Enterprises
- ✓ IPB Ireland Pride of Place Winners
- ✓ Increase number of travellers accessing third level and training programmes
- ✓ Promoting positive mental health and suicide prevention in the Traveller community
- ✓ Reduction in Long Term Unemployed

In 2020, the Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) specified the following priority target groups in Galway City to be supported through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme:



TRAVELLERS/ROMA



LONG TERM UNEMPLOYED



PEOPLE SUFFERING POOR MENTAL HEALTH (INCLUDING YOUTH)



OLDER PEOPLE



Photo credit Dr. Chaosheng Zhang

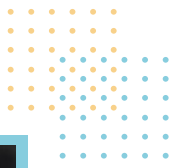
It is proposed that the priority when working with these groups should be:

- to continue to increase number of travellers accessing third level and training apprenticeship programmes
- to promote positive mental health and suicide prevention in the Traveller community
- to reduce Long Term unemployment
- to identify opportunities and new opportunities likely to arise from retrofitting the housing stock and the range of challenges in addressing climate change, and ensure that these are tailored to promote access to the long term unemployed
- to support the development of community based mental health inventions / initiatives across a spectrum from social prescribing to community based counselling and social enterprise to assist those facing mental health issues
- to maintain and promote positive mental health and wellbeing
- to increase accessibility and participation of older people in services / activities
- to improve the sense of security and safety amongst older people

In the next phase of the LECP, the programmes that will be harnessed by Galway City Council under this goal include:

- SICAP 2018 – 2023 and SICAP successor programme
- Galway Age Friendly Programme
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Grants Scheme
- Disability Participation and Awareness Fund
- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth – Supporting Children and Parents
- Dormant Accounts Funding for LGBTI organisations
- Children and Young People’s Services Committee
- Communities Integration Fund
- NUI Galway’s University of Sanctuary Initiative
- Galway City Creative Ireland Programme
- Healthy Ireland Funding to improve the sense of security and safety amongst older people

The SDGs that will be addressed by this work will be:



Questions to consider:

1. Do you agree with the proposed prioritised disadvantaged groups outlined above?
2. How do we address pockets of socioeconomic disadvantage in the city?
3. Are there any other ways we need to tackle inequality and social exclusion in our City?
4. Is there any groups that you feel should be included in the priority target groups outlined above?



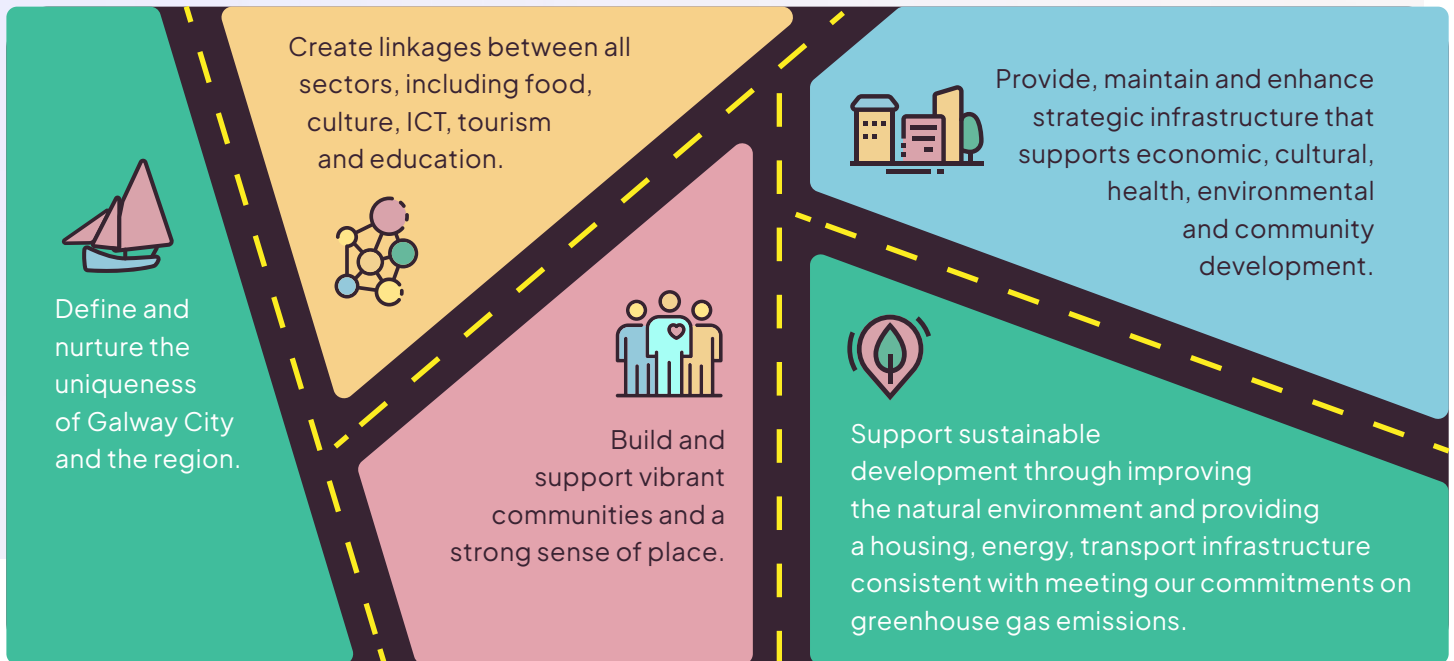
Goal 4.

**A sustainable, resilient
urban environment that
is the regional capital of
the West**



Goal 4. A sustainable, resilient urban environment that is the regional capital of the West

Through the 2015 –2021 LECP this goal was to be achieved through the key areas of work which would;

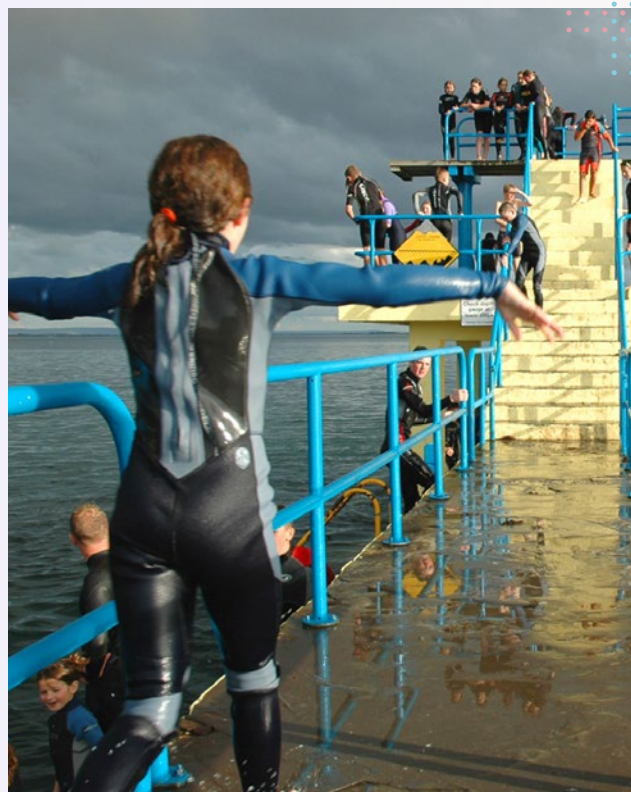


A range of funding initiatives and programmes were harnessed since 2015 to undertake action to achieve this ambition. These included;

- ✓ The Urban Regional Development Fund Phases 1 and 2, funding of approximately €60 million secured,
- ✓ The adoption of a Public Realm strategy for the City,
- ✓ Funding of over €8 million secured from Fáilte Ireland programmes to invest in Tourism and Cultural Infrastructure,
- ✓ Implementation of active transport initiatives,
- ✓ The Housing Capital and revenue schemes,
- ✓ Continuous investment in the Water and Waste Water Infrastructure,
- ✓ Measures under the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme,
- ✓ Programmes from Galway Sports Partnership,
- ✓ Adoption of a digital strategy for the City,
- ✓ Support for Galway Volunteer Centre and Galway City Community Network,
- ✓ The Galway Community Facilities Fund,
- ✓ Energy Efficiency measures in community and public facilities, and
- ✓ The Climate Adaptation Strategy of Galway City Council.

In that timeframe there was change in some key indicators relevant to this theme which show where progress has been achieved but also where challenges still exist that the next iteration of the LECP will have to focus on. Some of these are:

- The transport habits of people in Galway City began to change. Between 2011 and 2016, the numbers of people living in the city travelling to work/school increased by over 5,000 persons. There was a reduction of 4 percentage points (from 57% to 53%) in those who travelled by car between 2011 and 2016.
- In 2020, Wind provided over 86% of Ireland's renewable electricity and 36% of our total electricity demand. Ireland is one of the leading countries in its use of wind energy and 2nd place worldwide in 2020, after Denmark. In 2005, 4% of our electricity came from wind Energy, by 2018 this had increased to 28% and continues to grow.
- Participation in the Galway City Community Network increased from 131 groups in 2017 to 144 in 2020 representing a 10% increase.
- In 2022, there were 226 adults homeless in Galway City. This includes 56 families with 120 dependents.
- A tourism Task Force was established in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland which involves stakeholders from the sector working with the City Council and Fáilte Ireland to implement collaborative work.
- In 2016, 86% of People in Galway declared their health to be 'Good' or 'Very Good' which is similar to the equivalent national figure of 88%. It must be noted that 13% of the population of the city were living with a disability, a marginally lower figure than the national figure of 14%.
- Public lighting in the City has largely been converted to using LED lighting which reduces significantly the energy consumption associated with this.



Galway City has been recognised in recent years with the following designations and awards which relate to the priorities under this theme.



TWO BLUE FLAG BEACHES (SALTHILL/ SILVER STRAND) 2021



BUZZFEED.COM – 4TH IN TOP TEN PLACES TO VISIT IN 2020



CNN TRAVEL – TOP PLACES TO VISIT IN 2020



CONDE NAST TRAVELLER – TOP 15 PLACES TO VISIT 2020



EUROPEAN GREEN LEAF 2017



FODOR GUIDES – TOP PLACES TO VISIT 2020



GREEN FLAG 2019



PURPLE FLAG AWARD 2020



2020 IRISH PLANNING INSTITUTE AWARD FOR PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

The SDGs that will be addressed by this work will be:

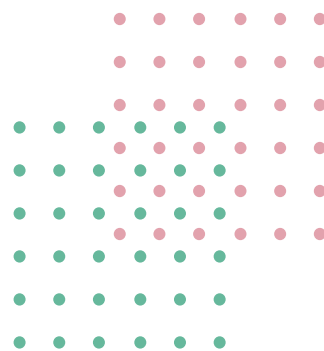
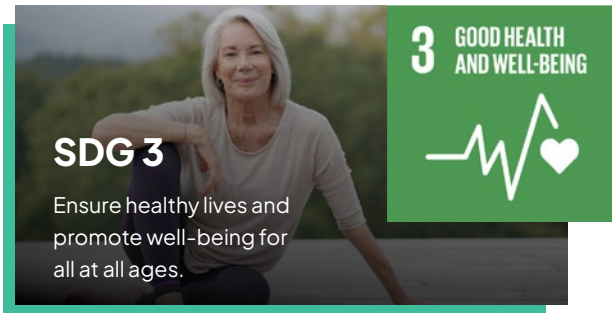
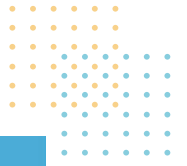




Photo credit Dr. Chaosheng Zhang

For the next LECP, the priority focus of the Galway City Council will be delivering on the decarbonisation zone within the city, further development of the public realm through the URDF investment, developing accessible green space within the city and maintain the high quality environmental designated areas around and through the city. Ensuring public safety and low crime rates within the city. Improving Universal Accessibility across our public realm and through our built infrastructure. Also maintaining the high level of community activity and engagement is critical to the successful development of the city and increasing participation by marginalised individuals in the community activity should be the focus of our efforts.

Questions to consider:

1. How can we further decrease the carbon footprint of our city life?
2. How can we increase community activity?
3. How can we motivate people to participate in more physical and sporting activity to improve their own health and wellbeing?

Goal 5.

A city that promotes the health and well-being of all its people

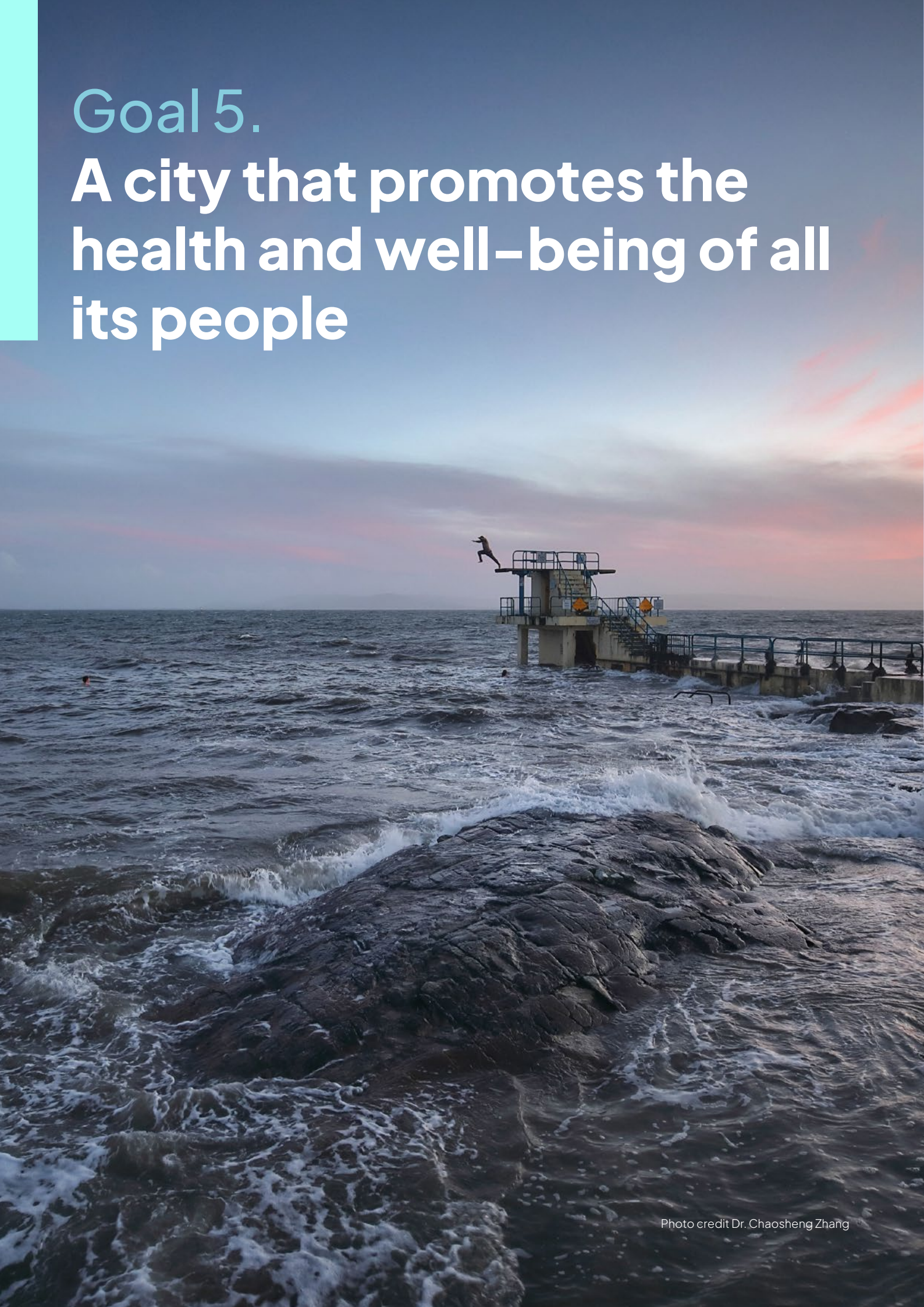


Photo credit Dr. Chaosheng Zhang

Goal 5. A city that promotes the health and well-being of all its people

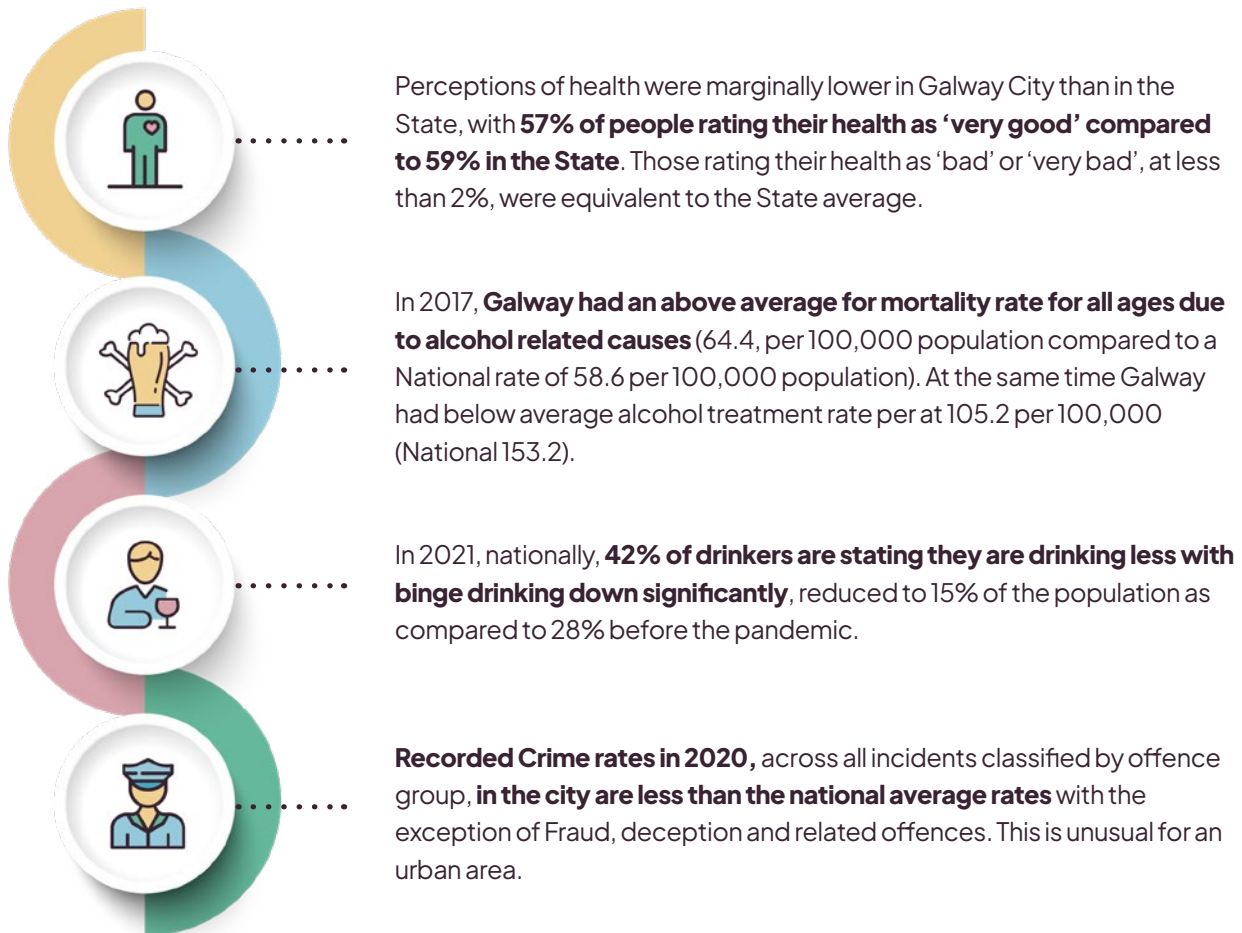
Under this goal the focus of work in the LECP was to;



A range of initiatives and programmes were harnessed by Galway City Council and its partners in the LECP to achieve this goal, these included;

- The Healthy Ireland Fund 2017 to 2022. A total of €558,629 has funded programmes in the City
- The Safe food Community Food Initiative 2019 – 2021
- The Planet Youth Programme
- Slaintecare Healthy Age Friendly Homes
- Community Enhancement Fund 2018–2021
- Community Enhancement Programme 2020 for Community Centres and Community Buildings
- Men's and Womens Shed Fund 2018 – 2019
- Community Facilities Fund 2017
- RAPID Funding 2017
- National Community Weekend 2019
- Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund 2016 – 2022
- Galway City Council Sports Club Grant Scheme
- Galway City Council Minority Sports & Activity Fund
- Galway Sport Partnership programmes

While this work was being undertaken the following trends were identified;



Some achievements that occurred during the last LECP were

- ✓ Galway City is part of the World Health Organisation's Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities
- ✓ The Healthy Galway City Initiative is part of the World Health Organization Healthy Cities Programme.
- ✓ The 2020 Volunteer Ireland Award was won by the Claddagh Watch Patrol
- ✓ The Volunteer Ireland's quality standard mark for best practice in volunteer management was achieved by COPE Galway.
- ✓ The University of Sanctuary Initiative at NUI Galway
- ✓ The Planet Youth Project won the Local Drug Demand Reduction Initiative Award 2019
- ✓ Galway signed up to global HIV initiative Fast Track Cities 2019
- ✓ Galway City Partnership awarded Community Food Initiative leader status 2019 – 2021 & 2022–2024 for CHO 2 region

However, some concerning trends that have emerged since the pandemic that may need to be addressed in the next LECP such as:

- Weight: **Almost 3 out of 10 people (29%) report that their weight has increased**, with weight increases reported most often by women over 30 and mothers.
- Health and Social Connectedness: **81% report lower levels of social connectedness and 30% report worsening mental health** since the start of the pandemic.
- For the first time, **45 to 54 year olds (24%) are the most likely age group to smoke, with an increase of 6 percentage points since 2019**. Rates of smoking among 25 to 34 year olds (20%) – the age group with the highest prevalence of smoking in each previous survey – have declined by 6 percentage points since 2019.
- Parents of children **aged under 18 are particularly likely to report an increase in their drinking** (16% report an increase), with mothers (19%) more likely than fathers (13%) to report that they are now drinking more.
- **Positive mental health is highest among those aged 25 to 34 and those aged 65 to 74** (both 64.0) and lowest among those aged 45 to 64 (60.8). Men aged 25 to 34 report significantly higher positive mental health than women of the same age (66.6 and 61.6, respectively).
- **Men (10%) are more likely than women (6%) to report drinking sugar-sweetened drinks daily**, a gender divide which holds across all age groups.

Some of the main programmes that will be used by Galway City Council and its partners in the LECP to bring about progress in achieving this goal are

- The Healthy Ireland Round 4 2022–2025
- Safe food Community Food Initiative 2022 – 2024
- The Creative Ireland Programme
- Galway Sports Partnership programmes and Galway City Council funding for sports clubs
- Slaintecare Healthy Age Friendly Homes
- Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund 2016 – 2022

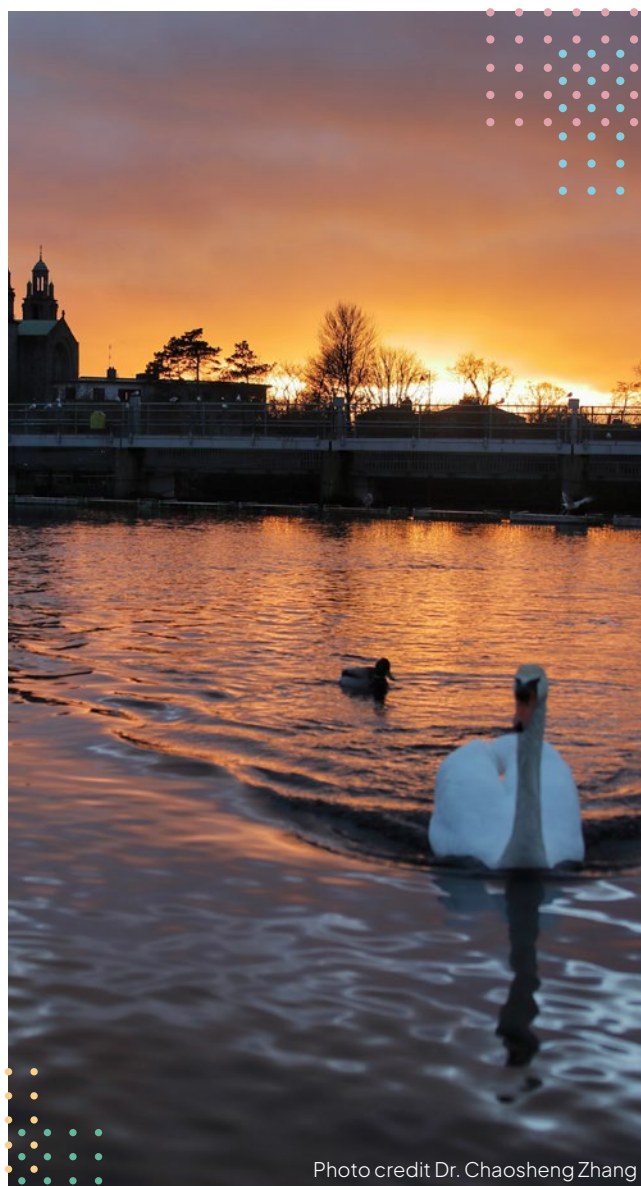
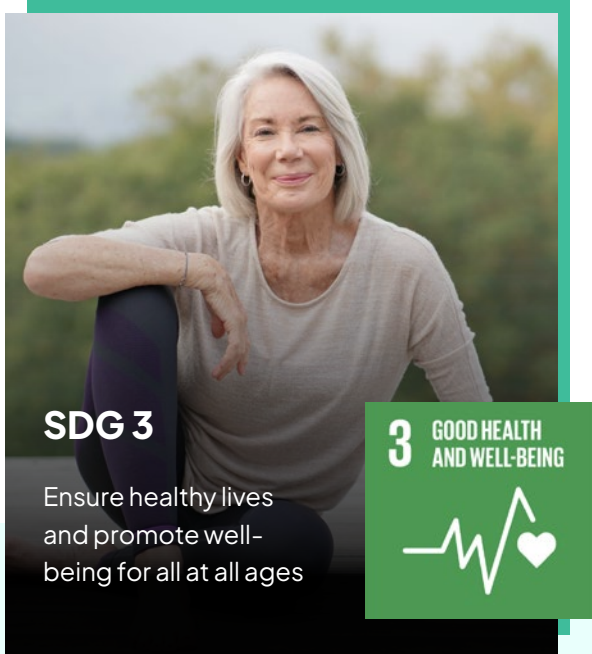
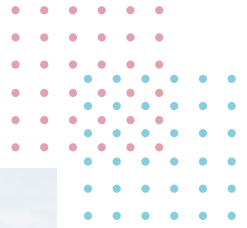


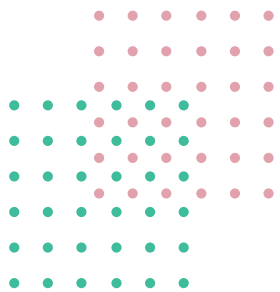
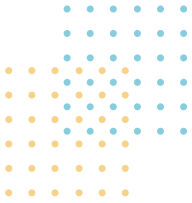
Photo credit Dr. Chaosheng Zhang

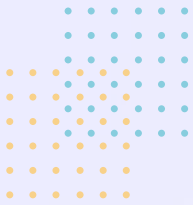
The SDGs that will be addressed by this work will be:



Questions to consider:

1. How can we encourage and support people to pay more attention to their mental health?
2. How can we motivate people to participate in more physical and sporting activity to improve their own health and wellbeing?
3. What measures can we undertake locally to tackle domestic violence and sexual violence?





A Changing Place

HAVE YOUR SAY!



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

Galway Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Socio-Economic Statement 2022

