

*“We want a City in which all citizens have a right, to the best of their ability, to participate in and contribute to its social, economic and cultural life.”*

Galway City Community Forum

Spring 2001

# Galway City Beginning the 21st Century





## 5. WHAT THE STATISTICS SAY

To present a comprehensive statistical picture of Galway City, every effort was made to obtain the most up-to-date data and information. However, in some cases data specific to Galway City was unavailable, dated, incomparable or produced on a once-off basis.

### Galway City is...

- One of the fastest growing cities in Europe
- Designated Regional Gateway for the West of Ireland
- Only City in the Border, Midlands and Western region
- Third most populated Irish City

### Access

- National Primary Roads account for 5.9% of the 'County Borough' network with 75% classified as Minor Urban Roads.
- Average daily bus services include:
  - (i) 37 departures to Dublin provided by 3 Companies
  - (ii) 5 services to Donegal operated by 2 companies
  - (iii) 1 company providing 7 Galway-Limerick-Cork departures.
- Iarnród Éireann, on average, provides 5 daily rail departures to and from Dublin.
- Weekdays, Galway Airport operates 5 flights to Dublin, with Shannon airport providing a further 20 flights.
- Between 1990 and 1997, passenger throughput at Galway Airport decreased by 51%; in contrast Knock Airport experienced an 18% increase.
- In 1999, Galway Harbour handled 657,000 tonnes of the 42,928,000 national goods tonnage.

### Population - Past, Present and Future

Population projection based on 1996 census

Year	1996	1998	2001	2004
<b>Population</b>	57,241	60,527	65,457	68,075

In 1996:

- The population of Galway City represented 1.6% of the national total.
- 47% of the population were male with females accounting for 53%.

- 31% of the City population was aged 19 years and under, somewhat mirroring the national figure of 33%.
- In Galway City 9% of the population was aged 65 years plus, which was relatively lower than the national figure of 11%.
- In national terms, Galway City had the highest population growth rate (12.8%) over the period 1991-1996.
- Population density was 1,132 persons per km<sup>2</sup> compared to 4,098 for Dublin County Borough.
- In January 2001, 3,521 non-EU nationals resided in Galway City.

### Means of Travel

- In 1996, the means of travel to work and full-time education in the city was as follows:

Mode of Travel	Population in full-time education or at work
<b>Foot</b>	30.8%
<b>Bicycle</b>	8.7%
<b>Bus and Train</b>	9.3%
<b>Private Motor Vehicle</b>	43.5%
<b>Other/Not Stated</b>	7.7%

- In Galway City, 48.3% of children aged 5-12 years, were driven to school in contrast to the national figure of 35.8%.
- 20.3% of students aged 19 years and over cycled to school/college, exceeding the national figure of 12.5%.
- The distance to work and education for the majority of people (62.8%) was less than 2 miles.
- 23.3% of the population had to travel 3 to 9 miles to work and education with 2.7% travelling 15 miles plus.
- At national level, approximately 60% of all workers including van/lorry drivers and passengers used private vehicles to travel to work, while 11.5% walked to work.



## Housing Trends

Housing 1996	Household Numbers	Average Household Size
<b>Galway City</b>	17,168	3.33
<b>National Figure</b>	1,160,100	3.07

- In 2004, it is estimated that household numbers in Galway City will increase to 23,666 with average household size falling to 2.88 persons and that household density per km<sup>2</sup> will be 467.94.
- Over the period 1995 - 2000 average house prices increased by 106%, in contrast, average disposable income increased by 79%.
- Over the period 2001-2004, an estimated 20.2% of new household formations will be unable to purchase housing on the open market.
- In 2001, 3,758 people resided in 1,417 Local Authority rented housing units.
- In June 2001, the total number of households on the Local Authority waiting list was 1,303.
- There are 4 permanent halting sites in Galway City and 1 transient halting site in Carrowbrowne situated on the outskirts of the City, comprising a total of 64 bays.
- Of the 250 Traveller families living in Galway City (December 2001), 80% resided in accommodation provided by Galway City Council.

## Enterprise and Research & Development (R&D)

Employment in Indigenous Industry	1997	2001
<b>Galway</b>	4,865	6,572
<b>Mayo</b>	3,196	3,103
<b>Roscommon</b>	1,850	2,128
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,911</b>	<b>11,800</b>

- In Co. Galway strong indigenous clusters are evident in the fields of biomedical engineering, electronics and software development.
- In 2000:
  - 38 companies were assisted by Enterprise Ireland
  - there were 15 industrial estates/business parks in Galway City
  - 52 information technology companies operated in the City.

- In 2001, 3 Community Enterprise Centres operated in both Galway City and Galway County, in contrast there were 9 in Co. Mayo.
- In 2001, 22 indigenous IT companies were based in the Galway Technology Centre.
- The value of research conducted by NUI, Galway exceeds €11.4m per annum.
- In 1999, 18 campus companies were located at NUI, Galway, employing an estimated 300 people.
- At NUI, Galway, Centres of Excellence operate in the following fields:
  - medical diagnostics
  - laser applications
  - computer integrated manufacturing
  - electronics
- NUI, Galway is a member of the two networks established to promote and strengthen third level linkages with the Small and Medium Sized Enterprise sector.
- Over the period 1997-1998, 40% of all research and development undertaken at Galway Mayo Institute of Technology focussed on manufacturing and engineering design.
- Over the period 1991 - 1997, it is estimated that gross value added for Co. Galway fell by 7.6 points.
- In 2002, the 'Galway Metropolitan Ring' proposal was underway to improve the City's broadband capacity in terms of service range and price.

## The Multinational Sector

- In 2000, IDA-Ireland assisted 29 City based companies.
- Over the period 2000 - 2001, the number of first time jobs fell from 1,440 to 438.

Employment data (2001) by County

	Galway	Dublin	Limerick	Cork
<b>No. of Companies</b>	51	664	39	132
<b>Permanent Employment</b>	9,156	50,990	10,093	18,461
<b>New Jobs</b>	553	5,845	389	2,273
<b>Job Losses</b>	-719	-8,309	-1,114	-1,773
<b>Net Change</b>	-166	-2,464	-725	500
<b>First Time Jobs 2001</b>	438	5,006	272	2,084
<b>Other Jobs</b>	722	3,350	656	1,860



### Tourism

- In 2000, the number of overseas visitors to Co. Galway was 1,119,000, representing 85% of the regional total and 17% of the national figure.
- Revenue generated from overseas tourism in 2000 amounted to €283m.
- In 2000, 947,750 domestic visitors spent €121m.
- In 2000, some 68,850 visitors from Northern Ireland spent €13.6m.
- On average, Galway City and County attracts 70% of total West Regional expenditure.
- Galway City Atlas (2001) identified more than 40 City based tourist attractions.
- In 2001, there were 161 Bord Fáilte approved B&B's, with an estimated 480 B&B's in the City not listed with Bord Fáilte.
- In 2001, there were 47 registered hotels/ guesthouses, 9 hostels and 19 traditional music public houses.
- Subject to seasonal variations, three companies provide on average 7 daily ferry services to the Aran Islands.
- On average, 17 daily flights serve the Aran Islands route in Summer reducing to 7 flights per day in Winter.

### Tax Revenue

County 1999	PAYE (€m)	Corp. Tax (€m)	All Taxes (€m)
Galway	334.49	57.37	599.56
Cork	550.11	187.90	1,306.40
Dublin	3,482.16	2,416.98	10,195.50

### Energy

- Energy Consumption for Galway City and County in 2000 was equivalent to €254m.
- Since 1990, energy consumption has increased by 40% causing increases in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Galway imported 94% of its energy (including electricity) from outside the region.
- Peat and a 2.8MV wind farm at Inverin contribute the remaining 6%.
- Since 1990, consumption of energy in the transport sector has increased by 90%.
- By 2010, Ireland is legally bound under the Kyoto protocol to limit its growth of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 13% above 1990 levels.

- Galway is almost 40% above this requirement and with a 'business as usual' approach will exceed the Kyoto target by 660,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- It is expected that natural gas will have reached Galway by 2003.

### Energy Consumption (2000)

Fuel Type	Sector Type
Oil	Transport 40%
Electricity	Residential 28%
Turf Peat	Commercial 9%
Coal	Industrial 9%
Wind	Public 7%
Briquettes	Agriculture 7%

### Education and Training

- In 1998 - 1999, 27 primary schools taught 3,432 boys and 3,194 girls.
- For the period 1999-2000, 11 second level schools and colleges taught 3,165 girls and 2,782 boys.
- In 1996, Galway City had the highest percentage of persons with a degree (15%) compared to 11% for Dublin.
- In 1999/2000, 7,901 students attended the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, which included 2,539 students enrolled in adult education courses.
- Total number of students attending NUI, Galway for the academic year 2000 - 2001 was 10,067; 824 of whom were foreign students.

In 2001

- The City of Galway Vocational Education Committee provided for 934 Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) students, 200 Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) students 252 music pupils and an estimated 1,415 adult learners who participated in part-time courses.
- Of the above students: 230 music students, 738 PLC pupils and a further 1,100 adult education students (approx.) attended their respective modules at the Galway Technical Institute.
- FÁS expenditure in Galway City was €12m (approx.), 90% of which was paid to clients.
- An estimated 526 city based people availed of a variety of certified FÁS training programmes.
- 120 FÁS staff were based in Galway City.



## Employment and Workforce

Employment by Industrial Sector

Industrial Sector	1996 Figures
<b>Agriculture &amp; Mining</b>	309
<b>Manufacturing</b>	3,860
<b>Building &amp; Construction</b>	966
<b>Electricity, Gas &amp; Water Supply</b>	87
<b>Commerce</b>	4,756
<b>Transport &amp; Comm. &amp; Storage</b>	1,017
<b>Public Admin. &amp; Defence</b>	1,328
<b>Professional Services</b>	5,396
<b>Personal Services</b>	2,890
<b>Other</b>	954
<b>Total</b>	<b>21, 563</b>

- Of the City population at work outside the home 53.6% were male with females accounting for 46.4%.
- 24.5% of those employed were categorised as Managerial/Technical.
- 34.1% of the working population were engaged in semi-skilled, unskilled or gainful employment.
- Galway City recorded the highest national figure (22.6%) of workers involved in the professional, technical and health sector in comparison, the figure for Dublin was 16.8%.
- 14.1% of Galway City workers were involved in services, again the highest recorded figure from a national perspective.
- 15.7% of workers operated within the sales & commerce sector (highest in Ireland) compared to 13.4% in Dublin.

## Unemployment

- In October 2001, the number of long term unemployed in the City was 631 representing 20% of the total live register figure.

In December 2001:

- There were 3,296 people on the live register in Galway City with records indicating a national total of 152,406.
- Of those registered 1,976 were male, with 453 under 25 years and 1,523 over 25 years.
- 1,320 females were registered as unemployed, 361 were under 25 years with 958 over 25 years.

## Social Inclusion Issues

- In 2000, 14,125 people held medical cards.
- In 2000, the total number of people in receipt of Family Income Supplement was 176, representing 1.3% of the national figure.
- In 2000, 2.8% of the population of Galway City received a one-parent family payment, which was marginally higher than the national figure of 2%.
- In 2001, the City of Galway Vocational Education Committee provided for an estimated 420 adult literacy learners.
- In September 2001, 447 people presented as homeless, with single males accounting for 57.7% of the total figure.
- In 2001, 576 individuals received a back to work allowance.
- In 2001, there were 2,576 claims for rent supplement in the City.
- As of October 2001, Galway City Partnership had progressed 585 clients to self-employment.
- In 2000, 1,488 individuals received a disability payment.
- In 1999, domestic violence resulted in the admittance of 108 women and 211 children to the Waterside Refuge.
- In 2001, 34 FÁS Community Employment Schemes operated in Galway City involving 545 participants.
- In 2000, 123 individuals were awarded a back to education payment.

## Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- In October 2001, 1,124 individuals seeking asylum were based in Galway City.
- In February 2001, asylum seekers residing in state-provided City accommodation originated from 38 different countries.
- In December 2001, the estimated number of individuals with refugee status was 12.



## Health

Facilities 2001	Number	Total Bed No.
Public Hospitals	2	874
Private Hospitals	1	60
Public Nursing Homes	2	144
Private Nursing Homes	4	92
Psychiatric Day Facilities	3	64 per day

Figures for the Western Health Board region (1999) indicate that:

- Circulatory disease accounted for 41% of all deaths.
- 359 men per 100,000 population died from circulatory disease in contrast to 242 women per 100,000.
- 13% of those who died from coronary heart disease were under 65 years of age.
- A decrease in deaths from stroke is evident in people aged under 65 years.
- In 1999, survey findings for the Western Health Board region concluded that 26% of adults smoked, 10% of adults were obese and one in five adults took no physical exercise at all.
- In 1996, more than 2,000 new cases of cancer were diagnosed in the Western Health Board area, with cancer identified overall as the second most common cause of death in the region.
- In 2001, an estimated 3,800 people worked for the Western Health Board in Galway City, incorporating 2,485 staff who were employed in Galway Regional Hospitals.
- The Western Health Board ambulance service transports approximately 14,000 patients per annum.

In 2000:

- 224,738 patients received treatment in Galway Regional Hospitals, with 48% attended to on an out-patient basis.
- 32 Community Health Care groups operated in Galway City.
- The Western Health Board employed 7,305 people, ranking 4th in terms of the total employed across all Health Boards.
- There were approximately 133 General Practitioners and 25 pharmacies in Galway City.

## Community

- In November 2001, there were 192 Community and Voluntary Organisations affiliated to the Galway City Community Forum.

## Voter Participation

- 61.7% of Galway West registered electors returned a valid poll in the 1997 general election.
- The turnout for local elections fell from 49.02% in 1991 to 44.2% in 1999.

## Crime

In 2000:

- In Galway West there were 42 robbery and aggravated burglaries; in contrast 531 were reported in Dublin South Central with records indicating 130 incidences in Limerick.
- There were 3.9 burglaries per 1000 population; in contrast the rate for Dublin North Central was 16.7 and 5.4 for Cork City.
- The number of burglaries decreased by 16% vis-à-vis figures for 1999.
- 2 robbery and aggravated burglaries where firearms were used took place in Galway West, with 30 occurring in North Dublin.
- 1,903 'headline' offences were reported in Galway West with Cork City reporting 4,169, Limerick recording 2,779 and figures for Dublin South Central indicating that 9,527 such offences took place.

## Fire Services

- From the fire station, a fire engine can, on average:
  - (a) access the City Centre within 5 minutes
  - (b) reach the rest of the City within 10 minutes
- In 2001, the average length of time from receipt of emergency call to fire engine 'mobilisation' was 3 minutes.
- In January 2002, proposals were underway to construct a new fire station on the eastern side of Galway City.



### Amenities

- In Galway City, there are 2 public and 4 private swimming pools.
- The total number of beach/coastal amenities in the City is 5, with 5 riverside/canal amenities also readily accessible to City dwellers.
- Galway City hosts:
  - (a) 4 public parks greater than 50 hectares, one of which borders the City boundary
  - (b) 18 neighbourhood parks
  - (c) 7 City centre parks
  - (d) 72 playing pitches
  - (e) 12 playgrounds

### Library Service

- Galway City Library attracts 200,000 visits annually. Each year almost 9,000 adults and children register as members.
- New library branches are planned for Westside and Ballybane
- Activities include Book lending, Reading Clubs, Story times, Lectures. Poetry readings, Exhibitions and Information Weeks.

### Childcare

- In 2001, the number of children aged under 15 years was 11,694, in comparison the number of childcare places available was 1,495 provided by 80 services.
- By 2006, it is estimated that 19% of the City population will be under 15 years of age with 3,289 children aged 3 years and under.
- A lack of full day care facilities is evident in Galway City however, of 27 childcare services at 'pre-development' phase in 2001, 14 intend to provide 361 places on a full day care basis.
- In 1999, the total number of workers engaged in childcare was 112.

### Employment Status of Childcare Staff, 1999

Full-time	Part-time	FÁS CE Workers	Total Employed
53	45	14	112

### Arts and Culture

- In 2000, Galway City Council spent more than €1.5m on the Arts and Culture encompassing grants, venues, arts programming, heritage, libraries and other cultural events.
- The number of grant recipients under the Millennium Events Awards Scheme was 30.
- For several years, the City has allowed cultural organisations a rates write-off.
- In 2001, City based cultural organisations were awarded €3.7m in capital grants from the Department of Arts, Gaeltacht, Heritage and the Islands surpassed only by awards to Dublin and Clare.
- In 2001, Galway City Council's expenditure on Municipal Arts Venues was €66,026.
- In 2001, Galway City ranked 4th nationally receiving 3.9% of Arts Council expenditure. In contrast Dublin City attracted 39.4%.
- Four members of the Irish Academy of Arts (Aosdana) live in Galway.
- In 2001, Galway City Council established a dedicated City Arts office, which was heretofore shared with Galway County Council.

In 2001, there were a total of 99 cultural facilities in Galway City comprising:

- Theatres (7)
- Annual Festivals (7)
- Performance Companies/Groups (12)
- Film Resource Organisations (1)
- Art Galleries/Exhibition Spaces (19)
- Music Venues (other than Bars/Hotels) (7)
- Music Resource Organisations (11)
- Artists Resource Organisations (4)
- Other Venues Used Occasionally (18)
- Arts Centres (1)
- Irish Language Organisations (2)
- Writers Groups (4)
- Museums (6)





### Built Heritage - the City has:

- More than 560 protected structures.
- The largest number of canals and other industrial, archaeological waterway features in Ireland.
- Three megalithic structures.
- Over 600 medieval and late medieval stone carvings.
- The largest number of late medieval sculptures and buildings, relative to any other Irish City or town.
- 7 rural and 3 urban late medieval towerhouses.
- 12 cemeteries of environmental and ecclesiastical value.
- 22 habitable thatched houses within the City Borough Boundaries.
- A high number of heritage sites, with clustering evident around the Corrib River.
- Medieval inner City streetscapes.

### Usage of the Irish Language

- Of the total number of people in Co. Galway registered to vote in the Údarás na Gaeltachta elections (1999), 33% resided in Galway City.
- In 1996, the number of Irish speakers in Galway City represented just under 2% of the national figure.
- Figures for 1996 indicated that 10.6% (6,082) people aged three years plus, spoke Irish daily.
- Business bilingual signage has increased from 46 in 1992 to 160 in 2000.
- 39 City based businesses employed bilingual stationery.
- The number of restaurants using bilingual menus was 18.
- In 2000, the number of Irish named housing estates was 118 in contrast to 11 in 1992.

### Environment

- All of Galway Bay and Lough Atalia are proposed Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.
- Lough and River Corrib are designated as National Heritage Areas.

- Galway City hosts several significant bird sanctuaries including an important colony of terns on Mutton Island.
- There are many areas of burren type landscape in the City, known as 'karstic'.
- It is estimated that in total the City has 1,500 acres of green space.
- In 2000, periodic Environmental Protection Agency biological water quality ratings for the River Corrib were satisfactory. However, the Terryland tributary was found to be moderately polluted.
- Seven companies hold Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licenses.
- There are 14 recycling 'Bring Banks' operated by the Local Authority in the City.
- On average each household produces one tonne of waste each year.
- Of total waste collected by Galway City Council in November 2001, 15% was recycled/recovered with 27% composted.



## 6. OUR STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

From March to May 2001, the City Development Board set about, through a process of consultation with its stakeholders, to identify Galway City's strengths and weaknesses and to look forward to the opportunities and threats that might face it in the future. These are set out below. To an extent, this is a snapshot taken at a particular time and, over time, other issues and concerns may arise which differ from those raised in the Spring of 2001.

### ECONOMIC



#### Strengths

Galway has many strengths from an economic standpoint. The current economic momentum is characterised by a high level of employment, foreign direct

investment, a strong indigenous sector, an established tourist trade and a mixed local economy. These strengths are further augmented by Galway's position as a port and access to the mainline rail network combined with local and regional airports. In addition, the strong skills base and educational sector are added strengths.

#### Weaknesses

Galway's current infrastructure is seen as weak with pressure on energy, telecommunications utilities and a need for balanced distribution of serviced land across the City. The availability and cost of housing and accommodation combined with the absence of an integrated transport strategy have economic as well as social implications in conjunction with the continuing presence of areas of deprivation. Research and data on all aspects of economic activity is needed not least in terms of countering the impact of skill shortages and rising wage costs in the City. The management of waste is also seen as a challenge for all.

#### Opportunities

Opportunities for Galway's economic development exist through the implementation of the National Development Plan and in strengthening linkages at county, regional and Border, Midlands and Western (BMW) Regional Assembly level. Inter-agency co-operation at regional and more specifically at local level allows for the opportunity to create partnerships for economic development, for the

integration of transport strategies and for the co-ordination of waste management strategies. Through the creation of stronger research and development linkages between industry and education, the City's economy has the opportunity to develop its position with respect to high value industries and develop the skills needed in the economy. Focussing on the development of an enterprise culture will also enhance the attractiveness of Galway City as a location for continued inward investment.



#### Threats

The strengths and opportunities that exist should not, however, lead to complacency. There is a need to counter social exclusion and protect the quality of life that exists in Galway. Economic development needs to take place within a context of sustainability. Other issues which need to be addressed include infrastructural concerns over energy supply, land use and availability, the capacity of the construction industry to keep pace with development and the impact which increasing house prices, traffic and transport times may have on the attractiveness of Galway City. There is also the possibility that concentrating on particular types of economic activity may lead to a narrow skills base which may cause difficulties. Outside threats include the at times conflicting City/county objectives and the developments on the East coast which could impact negatively on the City's economy. An over-dependence on foreign direct investment in the local economy is also perceived as a potential threat.

# SOCIAL



## Strengths

Galway's position as the regional centre for third-level education combined with other additional educational assets is a

significant strength. The City also has a range of quality medical facilities. It is a 'people-friendly', vibrant and cosmopolitan City with a strong indigenous economic sector and an active community and voluntary sector. There are high levels of employment across the City.

## Weaknesses

Availability and access to the health services is seen to be a weakness. Despite the more general economic good fortune of the City, there are still areas of deprivation within the City and examples of discrimination against marginalised groups. The range of housing and accommodation is limited and the rising costs associated with it have a negative impact, as does the shortage of serviced land available for development. The lack of an integrated transport strategy has social consequences, as does the perceived weak infrastructural base. Childcare, play, recreation, sports and arts plans for the City are needed not least to counter a rise in anti-social behaviour. In addition, there is a need for more research to generate more meaningful data about the socio-economic life of the City.

## Opportunities

Under various plans and strategies, including the National Development Plan and through the development of regional and City/County linkages, a range of opportunities for the social development of Galway City exist. Galway can become a 'Knowledge Society', developing the skills of its workforce. It is felt that inter-agency co-operation to devise a transport strategy, co-ordinate development planning and the resolution of the waste issue will impact positively on the City. Increased numbers of supported housing units and the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Plan will counter many of the weaknesses in the area of housing and accommodation. Actions to establish Galway as a 'Disability-friendly' and 'Child-friendly' City and the increased engagement of youth will also have a positive impact.



## Threats

The quality of life of the people of Galway could be diminished if actions are not progressed on a number of issues. This includes the need to develop the physical infrastructure, protect the environment and address attitudes around land use. The continued rise in house prices will have a negative impact socially. Social exclusion will continue and incidents of street violence, crime, drug and alcohol abuse will increase if the opportunities above are not grasped. In addition, the City needs to be conscious of the significant number of long term unemployed who have a disability or literacy difficulties. Galway cannot afford to become smug or complacent about itself.

# CULTURAL



## Strengths

Galway has a deserved reputation as a cultural, vibrant, cosmopolitan City. It is “people-friendly” for both residents and visitors with

well-established and highly professional arts organisations. Its natural environment combined with its medieval inner-city fabric add to its strengths. The City is in a unique geographical and linguistic position vis-à-vis its relationship with the Irish language and the Gaeltacht. The artistic and cultural landscape is enhanced by the level of inter-agency co-operation on the ground and by the support the cultural life of the City receives from indigenous and other businesses and industries.

## Weaknesses

The City’s cultural infrastructure exhibits significant deficiencies, highlighting the need for greater planning, funding and resources for the arts. Similarly, a more targeted approach is required to offset the social exclusion of marginalised groups from many aspects of the City’s cultural life. There is also a need to increase the number and range of recreational facilities and develop a City-wide sports strategy. While different agencies and enterprises may have common objectives towards the cultural development of the City, the outcomes of these objectives can, at times, conflict. It is felt that through the development of Galway over the last number of years, some of the City’s unique heritage has been eroded. On an issue such as waste there is a need for a paradigm shift individually and collectively as a community.

## Opportunities

Opportunities are evident, however, to counter these weaknesses. The momentum exists for Galway City to pursue excellence in relation to all aspects of culture allowing access and participation for all. The impetus to develop and implement a sports strategy is clear as is the chance to increase the involvement of children and youth, fully adhering to the vision and values underpinning the National Children’s Strategy, 2000, in the development of the City. With the help of the National Development Plan and through county, regional and BMW inter-linkages, the strategies mentioned above and others dealing with environmental and waste issues can be successfully put in place. Ultimately, Galway has the opportunity to benefit from the creation of a ‘Knowledge Society’ within the City.



## Threats

The cultural life of Galway is inextricably linked with the quality of life experienced by the people of the City. That culture must be nurtured and developed and cannot be expected to continue without supportive interventions. There is a fear, for example, that the unique Irish-language and Gaelic culture of the City could be further eroded. Similarly, environmental quality could also be threatened without the preservation of sufficient green space in the City. Continued social exclusion and marginalisation will also impact on quality of life with the possibility of increased street violence, together with drug and alcohol misuse.