



POST CONSULTATION REPORT

on development plans at University Hospital Galway 2025/2026



Galway UHG DCP Post Consultation Report

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Acronyms and abbreviations

[ACRONYM]	[Full Name]
DCP	Development Control Plan
ED	Emergency Department
ES	Executive Summary (used in figure labels)
EU	European Union
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
GCC	Galway City Council
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GUH	Galway University Hospitals
HSE	Health Service Executive
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
TDs	Teachta Dála (Member(s) of Dáil Éireann)
UHG	University Hospital Galway

1. Executive summary

This report presents the outcomes from the four-week public consultation on the Development Control Plan (DCP), for University Hospital Galway (UHG), delivered by UHG in agreement with the Department of Health and approved by the Health Service Executive (HSE) Board.

The plan guides the transformation of the UHG campus to meet healthcare needs through to the year 2045. The project includes a new permanent helipad and state-of-the-art clinical facilities.

The consultation ran from Monday, 24 November to Friday, 19 December 2025, and sought inclusive feedback to inform the next stages of the plan.

Participation and reach

Engagement was extensive and across multi-channels. As shown in *Figure ES1: Engagement Summary*, a total of 157 submissions were received, 94 per cent online (148) and six per cent in writing (9), including two as Gaelige. In addition, the project team engaged directly with over 247 participants across nine events and sessions, combining targeted briefings, webinars and two community drop-in events.

To raise awareness, more than 33,000 leaflets were delivered to over 9,000 properties within the consultation zone (see Appendix I for area breakdown). Information was also maintained on the hospital project website and through a dedicated email channel.



Figure ES-1: Engagement summary

Awareness and experience

Overall awareness of the DCP was strong with 63 per cent of respondents aware of the plan (22 per cent very aware; 41 per cent somewhat aware), 26 per cent having heard of it but knowing few details, and 11 per cent not aware at all.

Satisfaction with the information provided shows 40 per cent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied, 34 per cent neutral and 26 per cent dissatisfied. Majority of participants felt they were able to contribute, with 72 per cent reporting some opportunity to share views (30 per cent Yes; 42 per cent Somewhat). (See Figures 5 for details.)

Key findings

All feedback was reviewed and grouped into five key themes, as illustrated in *Figure ES2: Submission Breakdown by Key Themes*. The strongest theme was the project's importance to the local community, followed by interest in the proposed helipad, with many respondents also highlighting community use of the remaining amenity land, desired outcomes from the development plan, and overall support for the proposal.

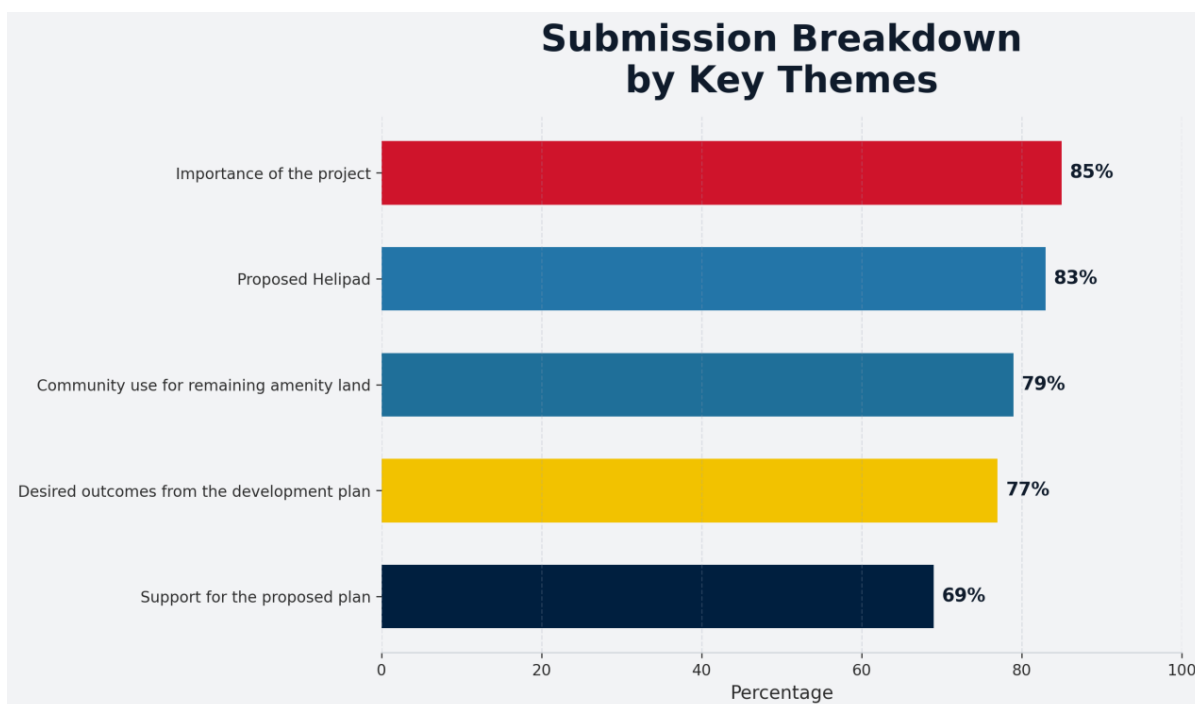


Figure ES-2: Submission breakdown by key themes

Support for the Plan

There was a high level of overall support for the proposed plan. 45 per cent of respondents were very supportive, 24 per cent somewhat supportive, 13 per cent neutral, seven per cent somewhat unsupportive, and about five per cent unsupportive (see Figure 9).

Overall, comments indicated strong overall support for hospital development, driven by a shared perception that existing facilities are outdated and inadequate for the growing population. Upgrading emergency services was a recurring theme, mentioned in about 66 per cent of responses, with overcrowding in the Emergency Department (ED) identified as a critical risk to

patient safety. Approximately 60 per cent of comments highlighted the urgent need for modernisation and increased capacity, with many describing the hospital as “not fit for purpose” and stressing the need for future-proofed facilities.

Other Key Issues

- **Parking and access:** Respondents highlighted significant concerns about parking and access, describing the current arrangements as stressful, costly, and inadequate. Common suggestions included providing free patient parking, improving drop-off facilities, and enhancing public transport links. Many also emphasised the need for increased parking capacity. These suggestions align with the DCP, which already includes plans for underground parking within the basements of new buildings, aiming for double-basement levels where feasible and anticipating around 400 spaces, with the project team seeking the maximum number of spaces permitted by the local authority through the planning process.
- **Mental health provision:** While there were repeated calls for strengthened mental health services including proposals for a dedicated Mental Health Emergency unit, a 24/7 crisis care centre, and increased capacity through additional beds and specialist staff, these suggestions are not feasible within the current model. The service model is focused on developing community-based supports that reduce the need for Emergency Department attendance, and on enhancing the existing ED infrastructure for those who do attend.
- **Helipad location:** The proposed helipad location generated concerns related to noise, traffic, and the loss of community amenities. Respondents requested clear justification for the chosen site and assurances that measures would be taken to minimise community impact. The project team’s commitment to addressing these considerations is reflected in the detailed multi-criteria evaluation undertaken in advance, involving HSE Capital & Estates, clinical staff, the National Ambulance Service and aviation specialists, to ensure that potential locations were assessed against safety, clinical need and community impacts. Through this evaluation, the preferred site was identified as the only location that meets all Clinical, Infrastructural and Aviation Safety criteria, while also providing the immediate proximity to critical care required for safe and rapid patient transfers.

In summary, while the need for modernisation and increased capacity was widely acknowledged, respondents emphasised that the plan must address several critical issues: emergency department overcrowding, mental health services, parking and access, and the helipad’s impact on the local community. Clear communication and visible commitments in these areas were considered essential to maintain trust and demonstrate that public input has shaped the outcome.

Overall, the consultation demonstrated strong engagement and broad support for the development plans, while identifying key areas for refinement to ensure the project delivers an inclusive, efficient, and community-focused hospital for the future.

2. Introduction

2.1. Project overview

Galway University Hospitals (GUH), in agreement with the Department of Health and approved by the HSE Board, have adopted a Development Control Plan (DCP) for the UHG campus. This plan is designed to meet all healthcare requirements and facilities on the medical campus up to the year 2045.

To achieve this, several major infrastructure projects will be constructed over time, including the development of a permanent, fit-for-purpose helipad. The relocation of the current helipad is necessary to make way for future developments and buildings.



Figure 1: Artist's impression of future entrance

2.2. Project Need

The UHG Development Control Plan (DCP) Project is a major redevelopment initiative at University Hospital Galway, designed to modernise and expand critical healthcare infrastructure to meet current and future patient needs.

The hospital is under increasing pressure due to rising demand, outdated facilities, and limited capacity for growth. This project will address these challenges by delivering state-of-the-art facilities that enable safe, efficient, and high-quality specialised care.

Aligned with national and regional healthcare strategies, the DCP focuses on addressing key clinical priorities to improve patient care and hospital operations. These include ensuring dedicated capacity for both emergency and elective services, improving patient flows and clinical adjacencies, enhancing clinical dependencies and coordination, and providing age-appropriate, speciality-specific facilities. The plan also aims to futureproof the campus for technological advancements, support staff with improved working environments, and strengthen infection control and patient safety measures.

To achieve these objectives, the development plan includes a comprehensive range of new infrastructure. This includes a new main entrance, an expanded emergency department and floor, inpatient wards, maternity and children's units, critical care units and operating theatres, and complex ambulatory care facilities. Additional components include an ambulatory cancer centre, mental health inpatient unit, laboratory medicine facilities, mortuary, pharmacy, radiology department, research and education centre, facilities management hub, and a central staff zone. A permanent dual-landing helipad will also be established to support growing emergency air transfers and enable further campus development.

2.3. Privacy and personal data

This document has been prepared in compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679 and the Data Protection Acts 1988–2018. All personal data collected during the consultation process has been managed responsibly and in accordance with data protection legislation.

Submissions received through both online and written channels have been used exclusively for analysing feedback and informing the development of the project. After the consultation period closed, all comments were reviewed as part of the next stage of design development, and a summary will be published.

For full details of our moderation policy, privacy policy, and other terms and conditions, please visit <https://www.saolta.ie/privacy>

3. Approach to public consultation

3.1. Public Consultation

The public consultation took place over a four-week period, from Monday, 24 November to Friday, 19 December 2025, during which more than 150 submissions were received. (See *submissions overview in Figure 2*). Its purpose was to provide an opportunity for people particularly those living, working, or travelling near the proposed site to share their views on hospital improvements, the proposed new permanent helipad and its location, the importance of the project for the local community, and suggestions for the future use of remaining lands. The overall objective was to gather inclusive feedback to inform the next stages of the development plan.

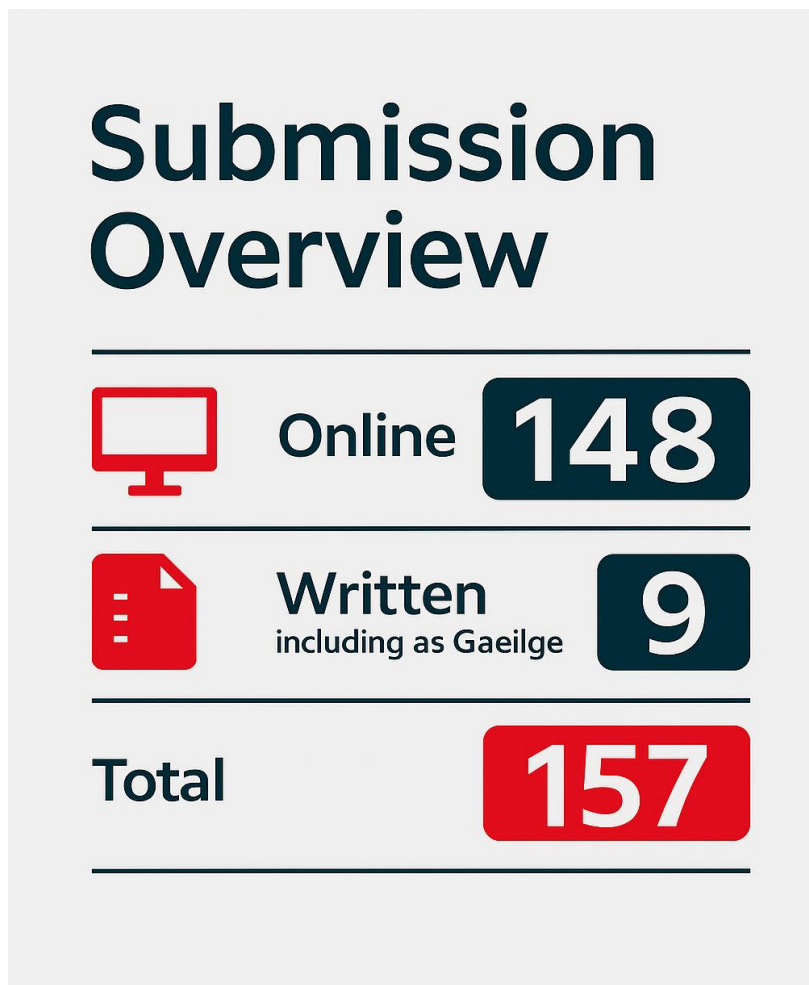


Figure 2: Submission overview

3.2. How we engaged

A comprehensive and inclusive stakeholder engagement process was implemented throughout the consultation period, using a variety of tailored methods to ensure a wide range of voices were actively included and involved. The approach combined direct outreach, public engagement, and focused discussions to encourage meaningful participation and gather valuable feedback.

Consultation materials were distributed to every property within the consultation zone, and targeted engagement was carried out with groups likely to have a specific interest in or be affected by the project. These areas included Newcastle, Westside, Shantalla, parts of Salthill, the City Centre, and East Galway suburbs, along with other locations. For a complete list of leaflet distribution areas, please refer to *Appendix I*.

In addition to written and online submissions, the project team engaged directly with over 247 people across nine events and sessions, providing opportunities for dialogue, questions, and detailed input.

The project website served as a central hub for information throughout the consultation period. Traditional outreach methods were also used, including newspaper advertisements and the distribution of more than 33,000 information leaflets to households and businesses in the surrounding area, ensuring the public was fully aware of the proposals and had the opportunity to participate.

Further engagement activities were carried out to ensure broad participation and meaningful dialogue. A detailed breakdown of these activities is provided in Figure 3, and a full description of each activity is outlined below.

- **Targeted briefings and webinars**

To facilitate dialogue, the project team hosted a series of targeted briefings and webinars with Galway City Councillors (Galway Central, Galway City East, Galway City West), Teachta Dála (TDs) and Senators, as well as two political engagement sessions. (*See Figure 3 for a full breakdown.*)

In addition, two political drop-in engagements took place on 18 and 19 December 2025, attended by three politicians. These sessions, delivered both in person and online, provided a platform for two-way communication, enabling key stakeholders to share insights, raise concerns, and contribute to shaping the proposed development plan.

- **Wider community engagement**

As part of the consultation, more than 9,000 residential and commercial properties were identified as being within the consultation zone, representing communities most likely to be interested in or affected by the proposals. To ensure broad awareness and encourage participation, over 33,000 leaflets were distributed across this zone (see Appendix I for area breakdown).

The consultation ran for a four-week period, providing ample time for stakeholders to review materials and share feedback. To complement online and written submissions, the project team hosted two in-person drop-in events at St Joseph's Community Centre, Shantalla, offering

communities the opportunity to engage directly with the team, ask questions, and provide input in an informal setting. These events were designed to make participation accessible and foster open dialogue, ensuring that feedback was inclusive and representative of local perspectives.

- **Staff engagement**

The project team also organised a well-attended and highly engaged staff engagement event. Discussions focused on the need for improved hospital infrastructure, concerns about outdated facilities, ways to enhance patient experience, and the importance of adequate car parking for both staff and patients. Staff also sought clarity on when construction work could begin. While there was an understanding of the loss of amenity land, the overwhelming view was that the need for a modern, fit-for-purpose hospital far outweighed this loss.



Figure 3: Consultation event breakdown

3.3. Publicising the consultation

To raise awareness of the project and encourage meaningful participation, the project team launched a comprehensive communications campaign. This included a mix of digital and print engagement tools designed to reach a wide and diverse audience.

Communication channels

- **Project Leaflet**

Printed brochures and leaflets were produced in both English and as Gaeilge. Over 33,000 leaflets were distributed through targeted outreach before and at events. Leaflets were available within the hospital and on request.

Digital versions were also available online. A sample leaflet is included in *Appendix A (in English)* and *Appendix B (as Gaeilge)*.

- **Project website**

A dedicated project website (www.saolta.ie/content/uhg-public-consultation) served as the central hub for all project-related content, including background information, key updates and FAQs. The site remains live throughout the lifetime of this project. A sample page is shown in *Appendix H*.

- **Project email**

A project-specific email address (UHGconsultation@jacobs.com) facilitated interactions, allowing the public to submit feedback, ask questions, and request materials. It was also used for proactive outreach, including notifying stakeholders ahead of each event and sending regular reminders. The email remains active for ongoing correspondence.

- **Display Boards**

Display banners featuring key project information such as purpose, benefits, key infrastructure components and project timeline were used at consultation events. (See *Appendix C for examples*).

- **Digital display screen**

An 80-inch display screen was provided at events, showcasing the proposed plans in greater detail.

- **Social Media Posts:** Posts were created to promote consultation events and share information across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. (See *Appendix G for examples*).

- **Newspaper advert & editorial-** A newspaper advertisement promoting the event was published in the *Galway Advertiser* on 20 November 2025. In addition to the print advert, the newspaper also published an editorial online and further promoted the event through its social media channels. (See *Appendix F*).

- **Feedback collection**

A dedicated online feedback portal, available in both English and Gaeilge, allowed users to respond to structured questions and provide feedback. Downloadable and printed versions of the form were also available. (See *Appendices D and E for samples*).

3.4. Accessibility and inclusivity

The project team prioritised accessibility and inclusivity throughout the consultation process. Multiple engagement methods were offered to ensure broad participation across all stages of the project.

To support this:

- Information was provided in plain language, available in both Gaeilge and English.
- All consultation materials were available in easy-to-read and downloadable formats.
- Stakeholders could access information through printed materials, in-person events, the project website, and a dedicated project email.

Stakeholders were able to submit feedback online or via email. The public also had the option to request materials or arrange one-to-one meetings for personalised discussions.

To further enhance engagement:

- Digital outreach included updates on LinkedIn, Facebook, and the project website, helping to reach a wide and diverse audience.
- Each event featured an 80-inch screen displaying proposed plans and maps, allowing attendees to explore the materials in greater detail.
- Models showing the proposed plans were also on display at the events



Interactive big screen at public event



Project models on display at drop-in event

4. Feedback and submissions analysis

4.1. Introduction

This section presents the summary analysis of submissions received during the public consultation period. All submissions, whether received through the online feedback form, or written format, have been reviewed and recorded by the project team.

This report does not provide a technical assessment of the submissions; instead, it outlines the consultation process, the level of participation, and the main themes, ideas, and concerns raised by participants.

4.2. Methodology

A coding framework was applied to ensure a structured and consistent review of consultation responses. This approach allowed for the systematic categorisation of feedback and the identification of recurrent themes throughout the consultation process. All submissions, whether received via the online form or in written format, were analysed using this thematic method. This ensured accuracy, transparency, and the inclusion of all perspectives to inform the next stages of project development.

The first six questions on the online feedback form collected personal details such as name, address, Eircode, and email. All personal data remains confidential and is used solely for this project. Demographic information was gathered to assess whether the consultation reached a representative sample of the community.

Responses were analysed thematically and grouped according to recurring issues and suggestions rather than by priority.

4.3. Analysis of submission findings

A total of 157 submissions were received during the consultation period. The majority, 148 respondents (94 per cent), submitted their feedback through the online survey platform. An additional 9 written submissions (six per cent), including two as Gaeilge, were received as shown in Figure 1.

All written submissions were transcribed and analysed using the same qualitative methodology. Every submission, regardless of how it was received, was included in the analysis to ensure that all contributions were fully considered.

Demographics of respondents

Of the 157 responses received, 60 per cent were from local residents in Galway, 19 per cent from family members or carers of patients, 10 per cent from patients currently receiving treatment, four per cent from hospital staff, three per cent from community representatives, three per cent from visitors to the hospital, and two per cent from others, including previous patients, individuals working in the local area, students, and representatives from local programmes and services.

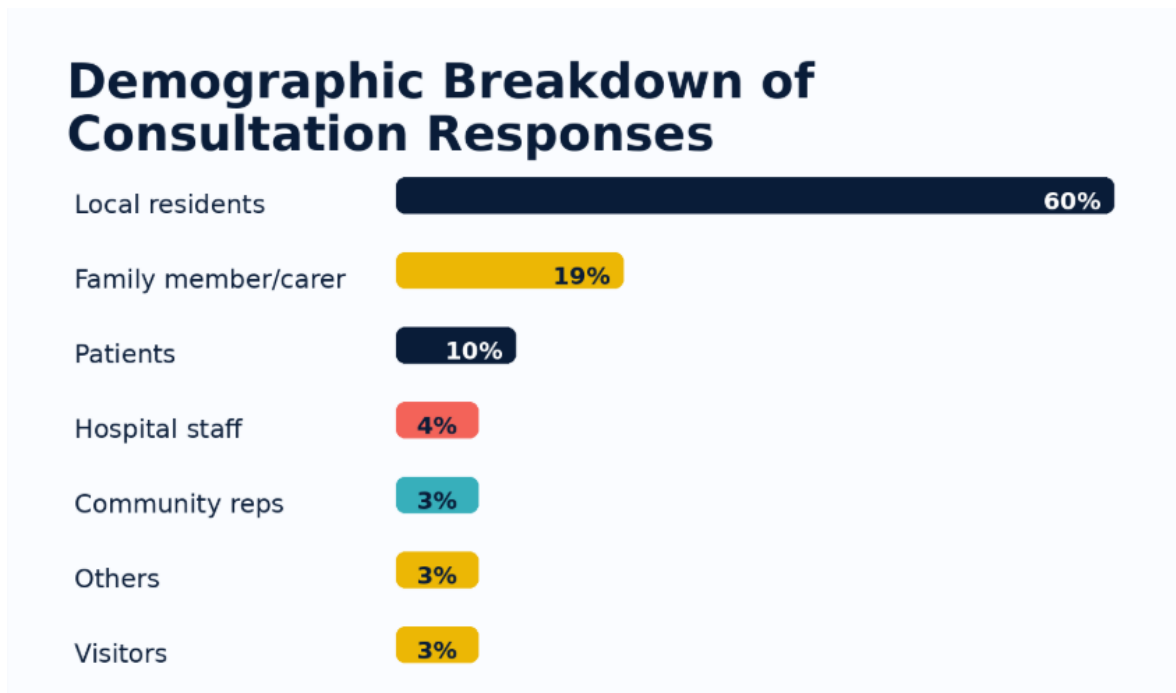


Figure 4: Demographic Breakdown of Consultation Responses

Awareness of Development Control Plan

Overall awareness of the DCP was strong with 22 per cent very aware; 41 per cent somewhat aware, 26 per cent having heard of it but knowing few details, and 11 per cent not aware at all as shown in Figure 5.

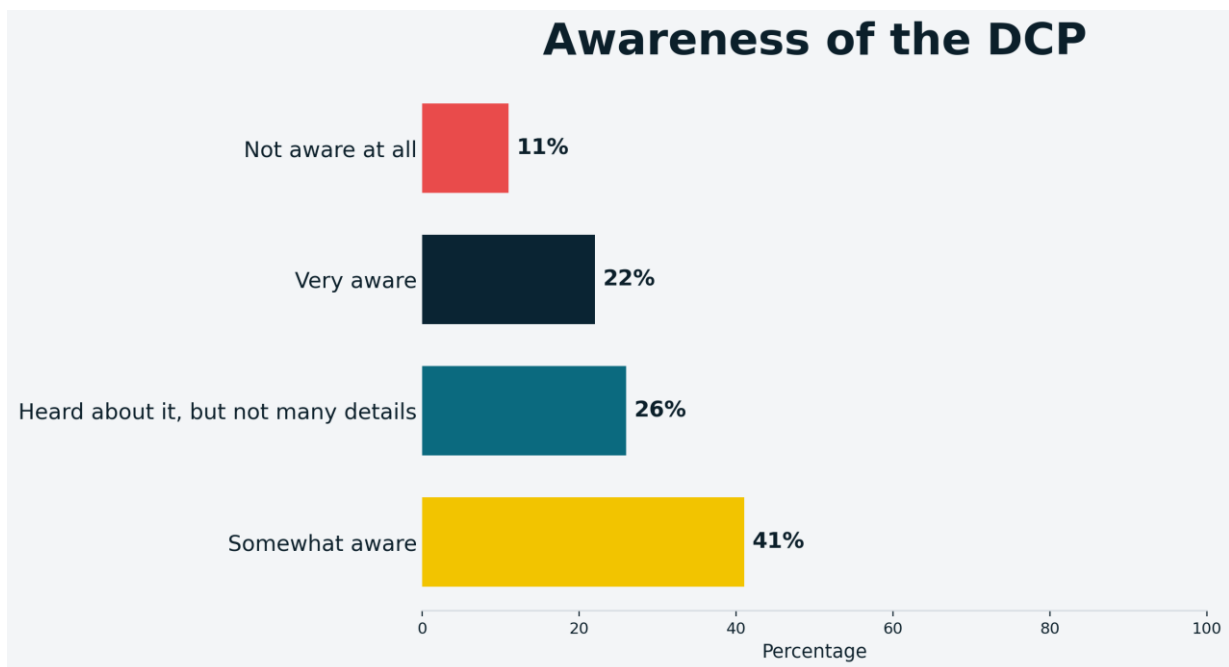


Figure 5: Awareness of the DCP

Satisfaction with project information

Overall satisfaction with the information provided showed that 40 per cent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied, 34 per cent neutral and 26 per cent were dissatisfied.

Comments suggest that satisfaction was largely driven by the clarity of the development plan's purpose and the perceived benefits of modernising hospital facilities. Respondents who were satisfied often noted that the materials were easy to access and provided a clear overview of the project's objectives and benefits.

On the other hand, dissatisfaction was linked to a perceived lack of detail on specific issues such as parking arrangements, helipad location, and timelines for delivery. Some respondents felt the consultation materials did not fully address practical concerns or provide enough information to form a clear opinion, leading to uncertainty and frustration among this group.

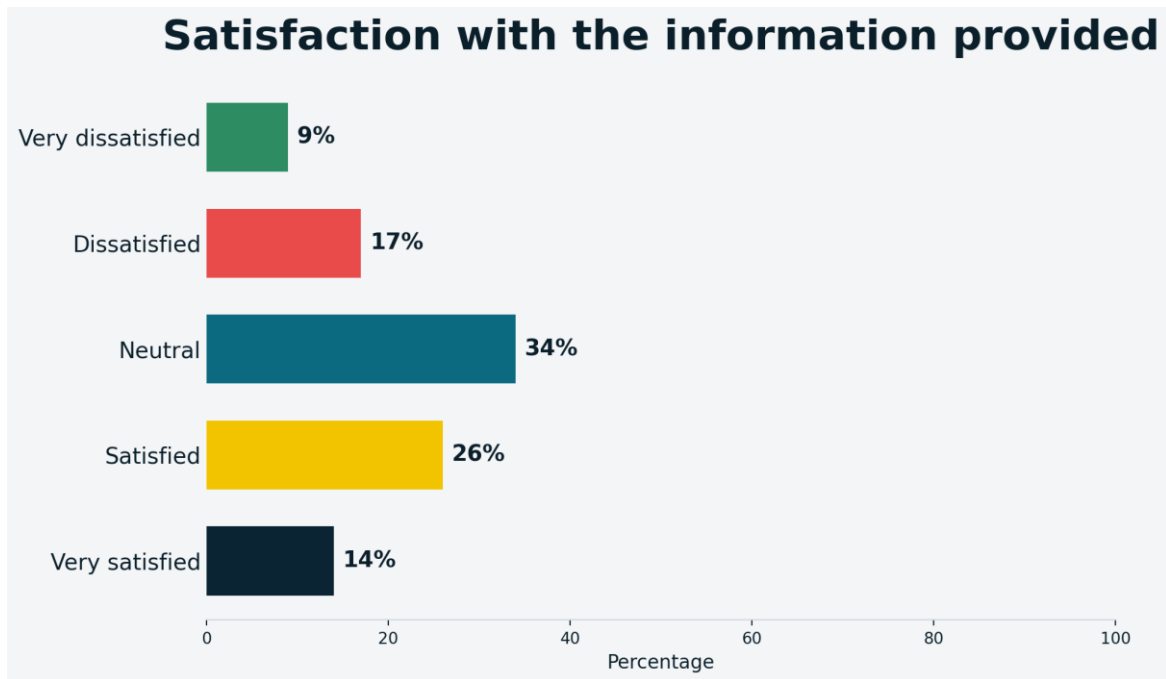


Figure 6: Satisfaction with the information provided on project

Opportunity to share views

Most respondents felt they had adequate opportunity to share their views: 30 per cent answered Yes, 42 per cent Somewhat, 25 per cent No, and four per cent selected Other.

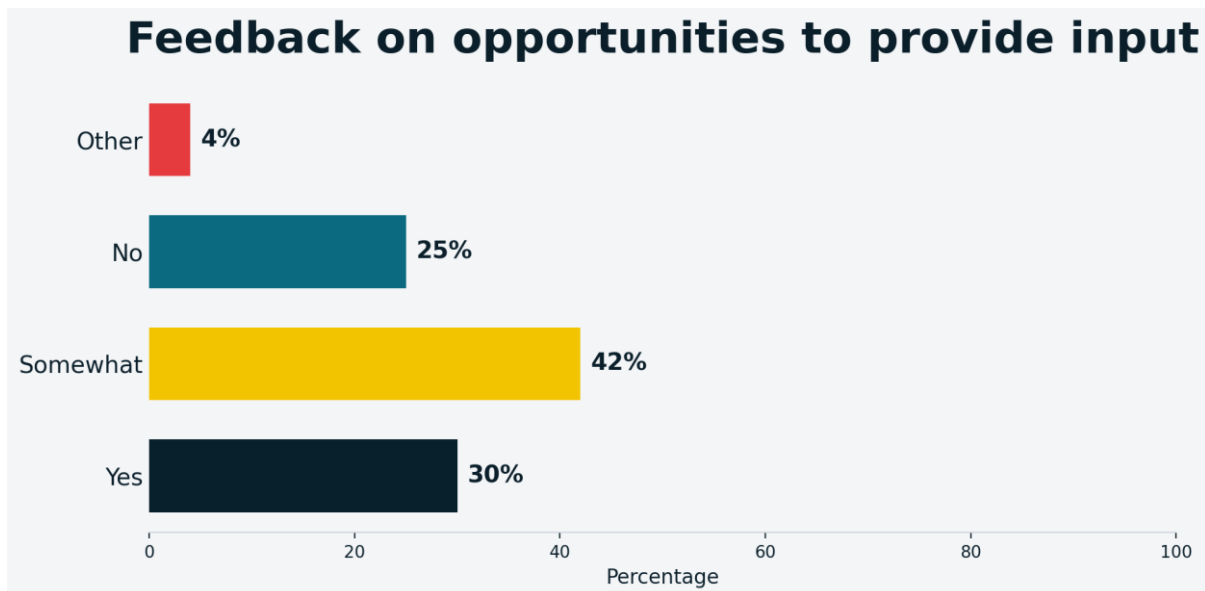


Figure 7: Feedback on opportunities to provide input

4.4. Analysis by key themes

This section presents a thematic analysis of all feedback received throughout the consultation process. The analysis revealed five overarching themes, each representing a major area of interest or concern raised during the consultation. Within each theme, key sub-themes were also identified and are discussed in detail.

The focus of the analysis was on identifying patterns and commonalities in the feedback, rather than ranking themes by importance.

Figure 8 illustrates how feedback was distributed across the five key themes identified during the consultation. These overarching themes will be examined in detail in the following section.

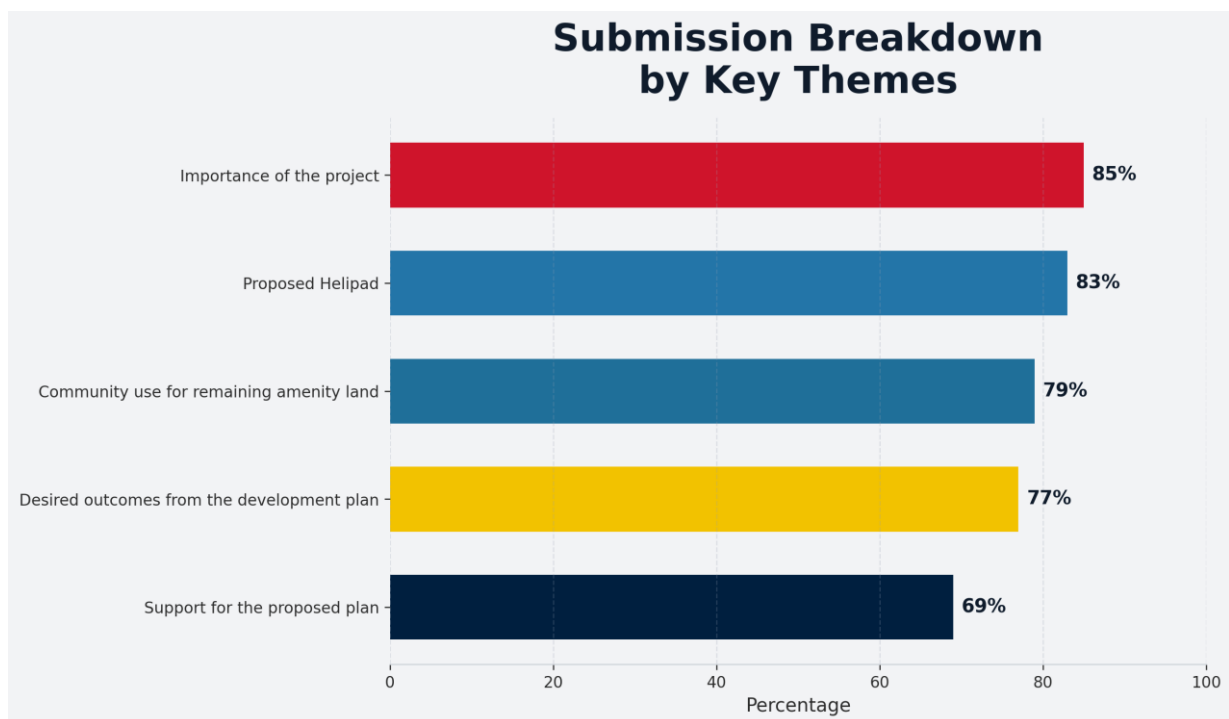


Figure 8: Submission breakdown by key themes (see also Figure ES-2).

1. Support for the proposed plan

There was a high level of overall support for the proposed plan: 45 per cent were very supportive, 24 per cent somewhat supportive, 13 per cent neutral, seven per cent somewhat unsupportive, and about five per cent unsupportive (See Figure 9).

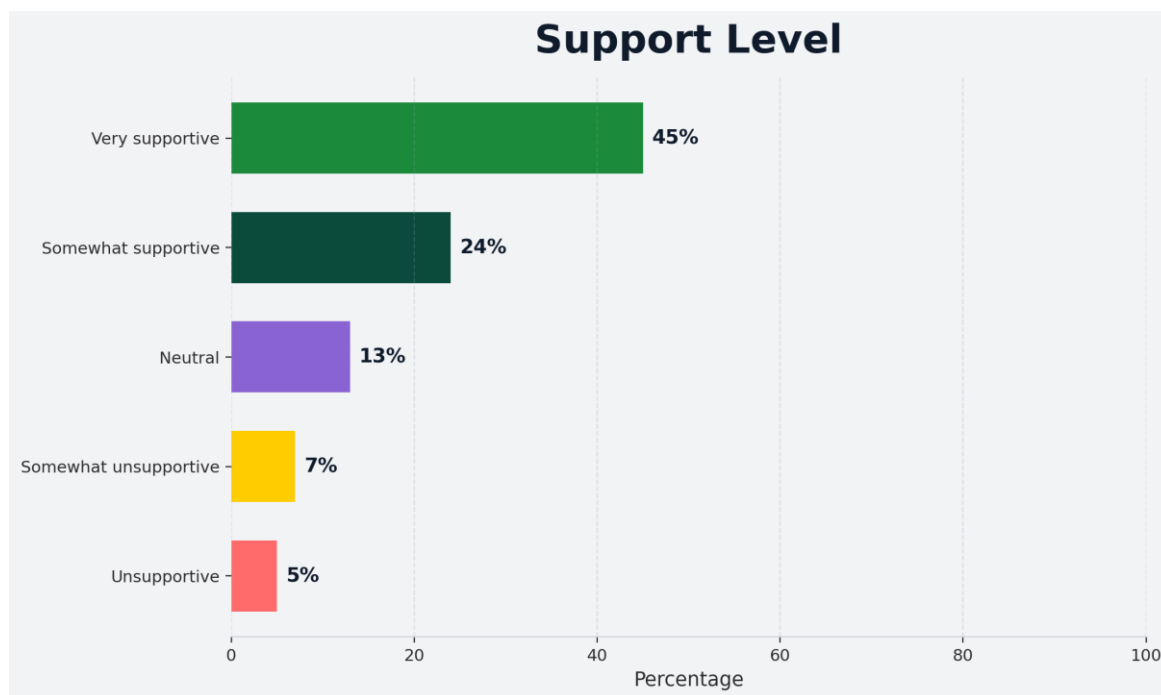


Figure 9: Support for the project

1.1 Reasons for support

Analysis of 135 comments from the consultation indicated strong overall support for hospital development, driven by a shared perception that the existing facilities were outdated and inadequate for the growing population. (See Figure 10).



Figure 10: Reasons for support

Upgrading emergency services was a recurring theme, mentioned in about 66 per cent of responses, with overcrowding in the Emergency Department identified as a critical risk to patient safety. Approximately 60 per cent of comments highlighted the urgent need for modernisation and increased capacity. Many respondents described the hospital as “not fit for purpose” and stressed that facilities needed to be future-proofed to meet the needs of a growing population.

Parking and access issues accounted for around 22 per cent of responses, with many describing the current experience as stressful, expensive, and inadequate. Suggestions included free patient parking, improved drop-off facilities, and better public transport links, although some noted that park-and-ride might not be suitable for ill patients. These practical concerns highlighted the need for a clear access and parking strategy in the development plan.

Mental health provision emerged as a distinct priority, appearing in roughly 18 per cent of responses. There were repeated calls for a dedicated Mental Health and Emergency service, or a 24/7 crisis care centre on hospital grounds, respondents cited the dangers of leaving individuals in suicidal distress to wait in the general emergency department. This concern was often linked to requests for additional mental health beds and specialist staff; however, these suggestions are not feasible within the current service model which is focused on strengthening community-based supports that reduce the need for Emergency Department attendance and on enhancing the existing ED infrastructure for those who do attend.

The proposed helipad location was mentioned in about nine per cent of responses. Respondents expressed support for the plan, recognising the helipad as a necessary element.

In summary, while the need for modernisation and capacity expansion was widely acknowledged, respondents expected the plan to address key issues: emergency department overcrowding, mental health services, parking and access, and the helipad’s impact on the local community. Clear communication and visible commitments in these areas were considered essential to maintain trust and demonstrate that public input had shaped the outcome.

1.2 Priority areas for improvement

Respondents were asked: “What aspects of the hospital most need improvement?”

The most frequently mentioned priorities were emergency department capacity, cited in 115 comments, and parking and accessibility, mentioned in 104 comments. Other areas highlighted included critical care services (68 comments), outpatient services (65 comments), and patient accommodation and comfort (60 comments). This summary reflects the categories most often mentioned by respondents. (See detailed breakdown in Figure 11).



Figure 11: Priority improvements identified by respondents

2. Proposed permanent helipad

This section summarises feedback from 130 respondents on the proposal for a permanent hospital helipad, focusing on overall sentiment, recurring concerns, and key themes.

While most respondents supported the need for a helipad, this support was often conditional on its location and design. The most significant concerns included preserving community green space and a strong preference for a rooftop installation to minimise land use and improve patient transfer times.

Overall, about 52 per cent supported the proposal, nine per cent opposed it, and 40 per cent were neutral or unsure, with many neutral comments citing a lack of clarity about the exact location or technical details. (See Figure 12).

One respondent noted that the helipad was “essential and must be secured,” while another described it as a “vital component in critical care.” In contrast, an opposing comment expressed concern that it would “reduce badly needed green space in the area”.

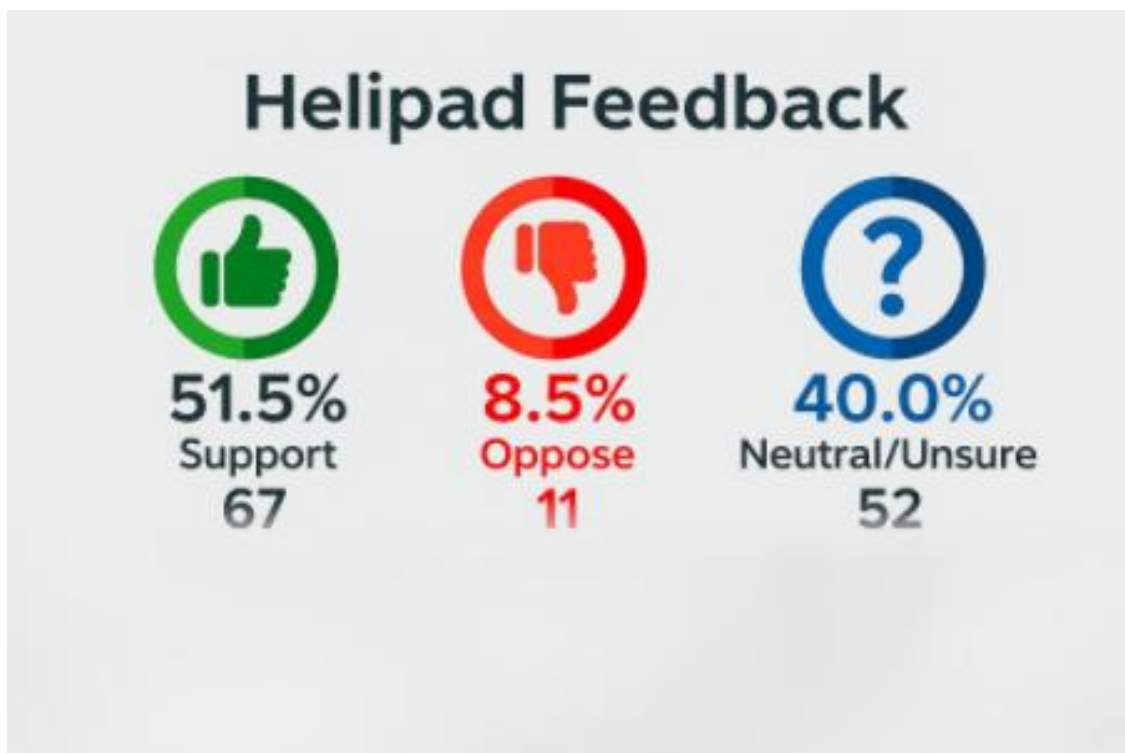


Figure 12: Feedback on proposed permanent Helipad

Key themes

Analysis of responses highlights three dominant priorities:

- Protecting green spaces and community amenities
- Preference for rooftop placement to minimise land use and improve transfer times
- Transfer logistics and adjacency affecting patient transfer efficiency

Other themes include parking, environmental impacts (*noise and pollution*), Merlin Park as an alternative site, and staffing considerations. (Figure 13 illustrates the breakdown of these themes.)

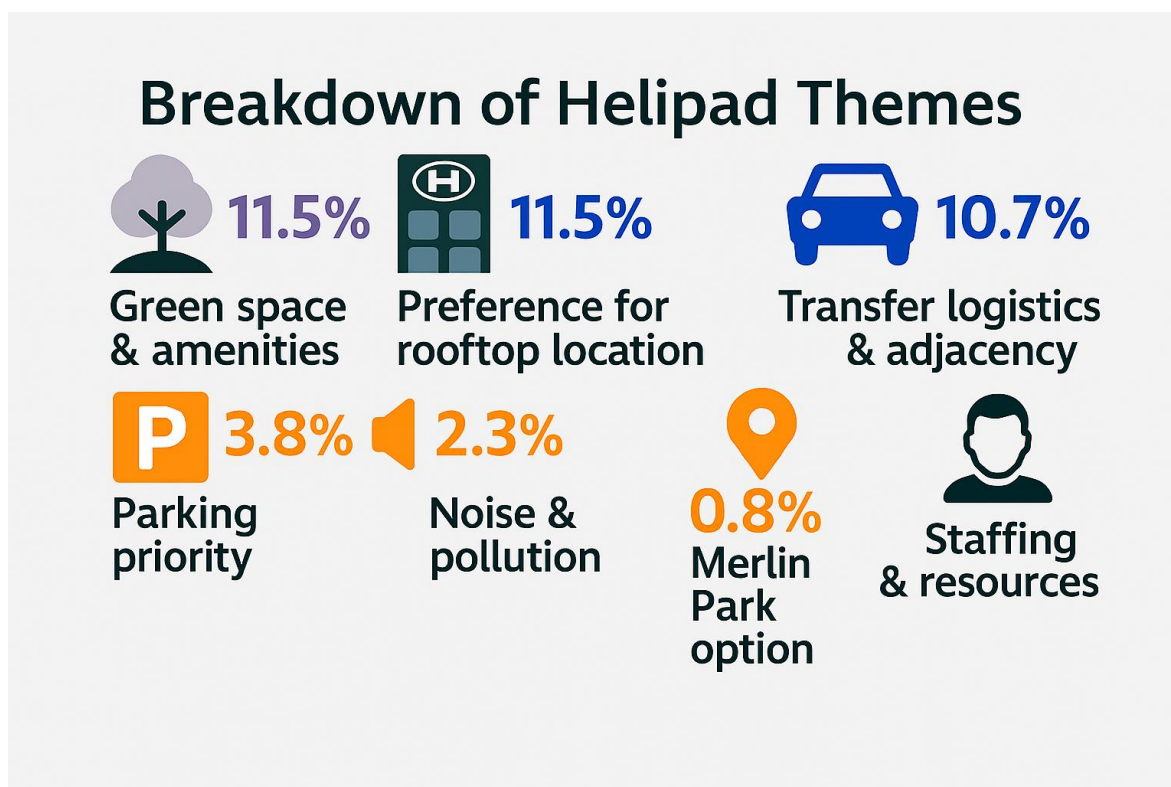


Figure 13: Breakdown of helipad themes

Summary analysis of themes

The analysis below summarises the themes raised about the proposed helipad. Percentages indicate the proportion of all comments referencing each theme, and individual comments may contribute to more than one theme.

- Green space and amenities**
 The most frequently raised concern was the potential loss of community green space and recreational facilities, mentioned in 11.5 per cent of responses. Comments highlighted the importance of preserving local amenities, warning that building on limited green areas would be “short-sighted” and could negatively impact community activities such as children’s sports. Some asked for mitigation or replacement facilities if land is re-purposed.
- Preference for rooftop location**
 A strong design preference was identified in 11.5 per cent of responses for a rooftop helipad. Respondents viewed a rooftop solution as a way to minimise land use and shorten transfer times. Several suggested direct elevators or lift access from the helipad to the emergency department to improve safety and efficiency.
- Transfer logistics and adjacency**
 Concerns about ground transfers and exposure to traffic were raised in 10.7 per cent of responses. Many called for the helipad to be as close as possible to care areas or placed on the roof, with dedicated access such as a lift or corridor to the emergency department, to reduce transfer time and improve patient safety, especially in trauma cases.
- Parking priority**
 There were calls from 3.8 per cent of responses to protect parking for patients and families.

Suggestions included building a multistorey car park to address existing capacity issues which aligns with the DCP's plan for underground parking within the basements of new buildings. Further detail on parking considerations is provided in *Section 3: Community use for remaining amenity land*.

- **Noise and pollution**

Concerns about helicopter noise and pollution affecting nearby residents were noted in 2.3 per cent of responses. Comments acknowledged potential disturbance for those living close to the hospital and highlighted local amenity impacts in general terms. While these issues were recognised, some respondents felt they were outweighed by the clinical benefits of having a helipad.

- **Merlin Park option**

A small number of responses proposed Merlin Park as an alternative location to protect Shantalla green space and parking. In total, 0.8 per cent of comments requested a transparent comparison of sites on safety, access, operational efficiency, and community impact before a final decision.

- **Staffing and resources**

Respondents noted that the helipad's effectiveness will depend on adequate resourcing. In 0.8 per cent of responses, commenters emphasised the need for trained staff, clear protocols, routine maintenance, and reliable 24/7 operations so that the infrastructure translates into improved patient outcomes.

2.1 Feedback about concern on helipad location at the preferred site

While the helipad was widely acknowledged as clinically necessary, a strong majority expressed no objection to the preferred location. The concerns raised by others largely mirrored those highlighted in the question analysed above.

Among the 113 comments received, five clear themes were identified:

- **No concerns / supportive**

A strong majority, 65.7 per cent, expressed no objection and were broadly supportive of the helipad being located close to critical care functions. These comments emphasised clinical necessity, speed of transfer, and keeping the helipad near ICU and theatres to minimise delays.

- **Green space and community amenity**

This was the most common concern among those opposed with 14.7 per cent of comments. Respondents highlighted potential loss of parks and sports pitches, impacts on local biodiversity, and the wider value of accessible open space for residents' health, recreation, and community life.

- **Access and placement**

Many respondents favoured onsite placement to enable rapid transfer within the hospital. A recurring view by 12 per cent of comment, advocated a rooftop solution or other vertical development to minimise land take, and a smaller number suggested alternative sites such

as Merlin Park where colocation with other facilities might be practical.-site placement to enable rapid transfer within the hospital. A recurring view -location with other facilities might be practical.

- **Governance and compliance**

Five per cent of comments in this theme sought clearer information on the precise location, stronger public engagement and consultation, and transparency on land ownership and purchase. Some referenced policy and regulatory expectations and asked that decisions and rationales be set out plainly.

- **Safety, noise and environment**

A small number (three per cent), raised concerns about flight safety near homes and roads, and about noise, vibration, and fumes. These comments requested reassurance on flight paths, operating hours, and mitigation measures. *Figure 14 illustrates the breakdown of these themes.*

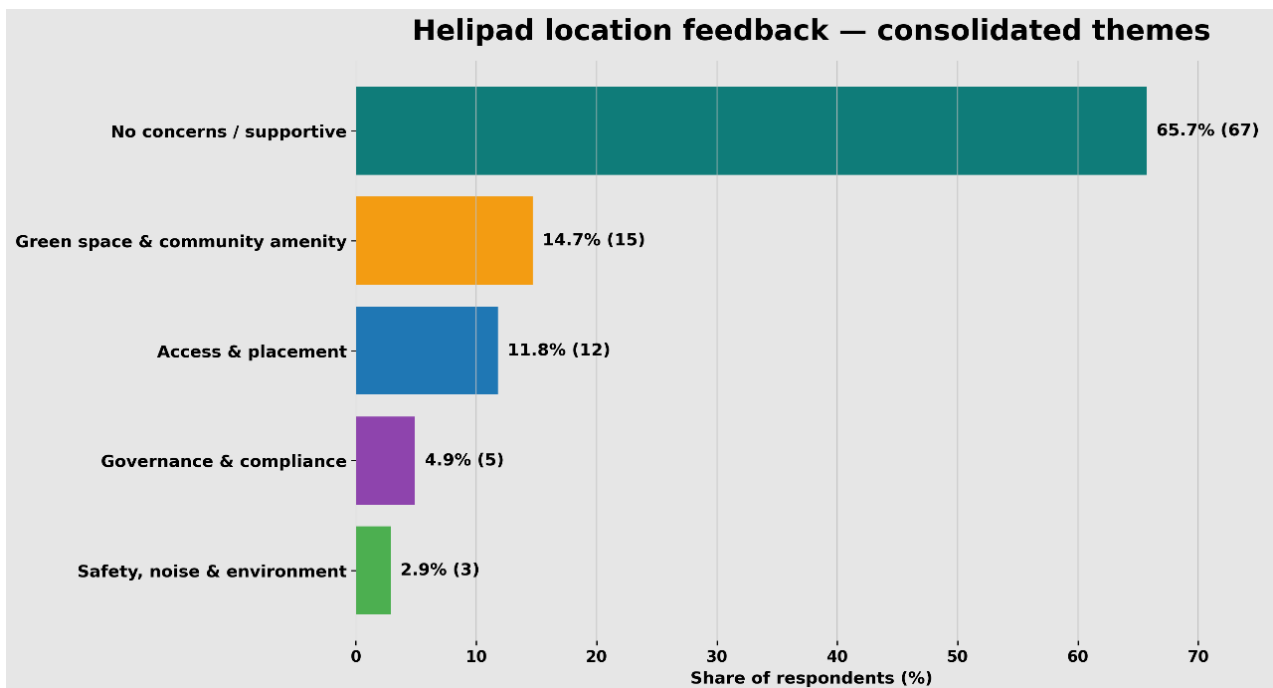


Figure 14: Feedback on helipad location

3. Community use for remaining amenity land

This section summarises feedback from 124 respondents on preferred uses for the remaining hospital amenity land. Responses indicate clear priorities for future development, with the strongest emphasis on community-focused spaces. The most common suggestion was the creation of green and recreational amenities, followed by improvements to parking, access and mobility. Healthcare needs were also highlighted, including increased hospital and clinical capacity and dedicated mental health facilities. Governance and partnership in land use, as well as inclusive amenities and social supports, were also noted. The remainder of responses were unclear or indicated “don’t know.”

Figure 15 below illustrates the breakdown of these priorities.

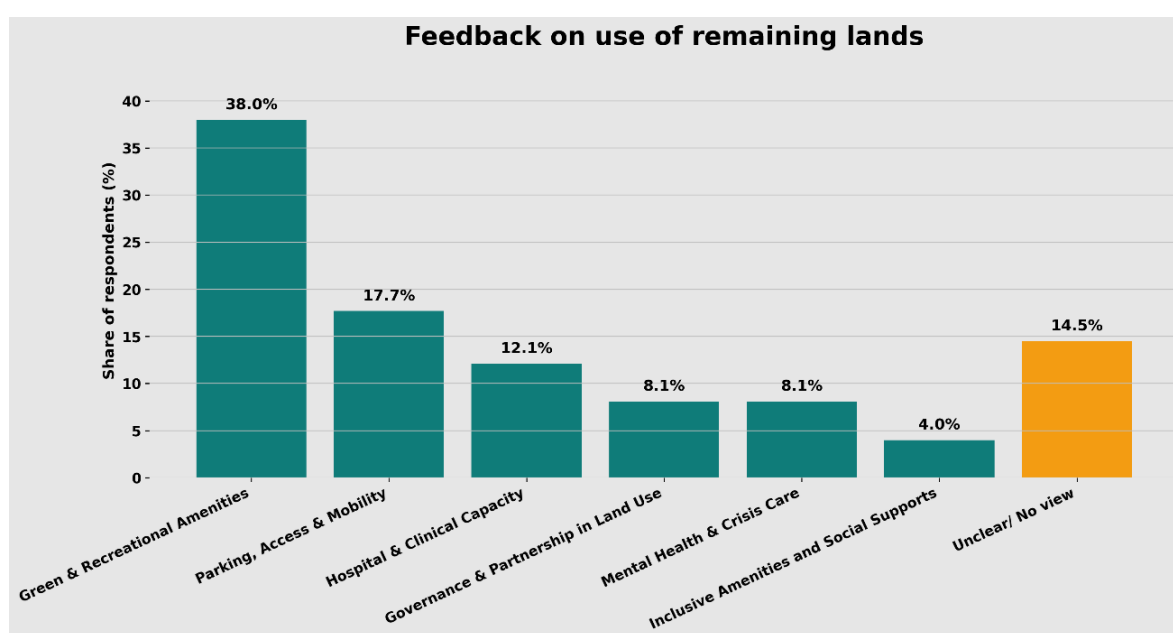


Figure 15: Feedback on use of remaining amenity land

a) Green & recreational amenities

Green and recreational space was the most frequently mentioned priority, cited by 38 per cent of respondents. Suggestions included parks, walking paths, seating areas, and play spaces to create an attractive and accessible environment for patients, staff, and the local community.

Many respondents highlighted the importance of biodiversity and sustainability, calling for features such as native planting, nature sanctuaries, botanical gardens, and rewilding initiatives. One respondent wrote, “Parkland. Make the hospital part of the community,” while another suggested “a park and walking and resting area accessible to all,” and others called for “a park with accessible walking paths, benches, trees and playground.”

Sports and recreation were also highlighted, with comments such as “a football pitch,” “a grass pitch for children,” “a new soccer pitch,” and “community centre, youth facilities sports facilities.” These proposals reflect a desire for spaces that promote physical activity and social engagement.

Several respondents focused on the idea of community gardens and allotments, suggesting “native tree forestry and nature sanctuary, allotments” as a way to enhance the site’s ecological value.

Others stressed biodiversity measures that would deliver a net gain and compensate for lost amenity space, calling for “green space amenity, edible landscaping food forest for local food production and maximum food for both human and non-human.

In addition to green space, some respondents proposed integrated hubs that combine health and fitness facilities with amenities for an aging population. Suggestions included gardens, walking routes, and play areas to promote wellbeing, as well as features such as “a conservatory to support mental health and provide a calming environment.”

b) Parking, access & mobility

Parking and access were highlighted by 18 per cent of respondents as key priorities for the remaining hospital lands. Many emphasised the need for additional parking spaces, including multi-storey or underground options, alongside safer pedestrian routes and affordable or time-limited free parking for taxpayers. One respondent noted that there should be “adequate parking facilities and adequate space to provide essential services,” while another suggested that a “multi-storey car park for the public using the hospital should be free for an hour.”

Accessibility and age-friendly features were also frequently mentioned. Respondents called for “covered walkways from the car parks” and “wheelchairs available at each car park area that can be hired.” Others stressed the need for “extra parking – accommodation for family of seriously ill patients” and proposed “underground & multi-story affordable parking” to meet growing demand.

Traffic flow and pedestrian safety were recurring concerns. Several respondents warned that “cars are coming from every direction at speed,” urging measures to make the area safer and more accessible. Suggestions included improved public transport links for staff and visitors, shuttle buses for elderly or infirm patients, and better drop-off points to ease congestion and enhance mobility across the hospital campus.

c) Hospital & clinical capacity

12 per cent of respondents highlighted hospital and clinical capacity as a key priority for the remaining lands. Suggestions focused on expanding facilities to meet growing demand, including additional wards, procedure units, and therapy and rehabilitation services.

Several respondents recommended relocating or redistributing services to ease pressure on the current site. Some proposed moving the emergency department to Merlin Park, noting that “the emergency room should be moved to Merlin Park where there is more space,” while others suggested transferring regional services there “to reduce traffic issues.”

There was also strong emphasis on building more capacity to reduce ED trolley stays and maintain high-quality clinical care. Respondents called for reserving land for future hospital expansion and questioned the value of retaining the existing sports pitch compared to purpose-built facilities nearby.

Additional ideas included staff accommodation for nurses on call and short-stay care homes for patients nearing discharge. Therapy and rehabilitation services were frequently mentioned, with proposals for physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, podiatry, and psychological assessment and therapy.

d) Governance & partnership in land use

Governance and transparency were highlighted by eight per cent of respondents, with strong calls for community involvement in decisions about how the remaining lands are used.

Respondents emphasised the need for “clear maps and details about the land” and requested clarity on boundaries between community space and new infrastructure. One respondent stated, “The lands belong to the community of Shantalla—they should decide,” while another insisted that “all land should be used for community benefit, not just leftovers.” Others urged that development align with long-term city planning and described the area’s potential to become “a vital recreational zone serving Galway’s growing neighbourhoods.”

e) Mental health facilities and crisis care

Mental health services were identified as a priority by eight per cent of respondents, with repeated calls for a dedicated Mental Health Emergency Department and a 24/7 crisis care center. Respondents stressed that individuals in acute distress cannot wait in the general emergency department, noting that “people are leaving the overcrowded ED, create a Mental Health ED” and “a 24/7 crisis care center is essential.” While these comments reflect a strong desire for specialised facilities that can respond quickly and effectively to mental health emergencies, they are not feasible within the current model. The service model is focused on developing community-based supports that reduce the need for Emergency Department attendance, and on enhancing the existing ED infrastructure for those who do attend.

f) Inclusive amenities and social supports

Inclusive amenities and social supports were mentioned by four per cent of respondents, focusing on features that make the site accessible and supportive for vulnerable groups. Suggestions included “disabled, age-friendly and invisible disability free parking with outdoor seating and rest spaces” and “adequate parking for patients and visitors with covered walkways from the car parks and wheelchairs available at each car park.” Others proposed sensory gardens to provide calming environments and accommodation for families of seriously ill patients, saying “very important to have accommodation so cancer patients could stay close to hospital.” Additional ideas included housing for older adults and homeless individuals, with one respondent noting, “We are an ageing population, build a group home for the elderly.”

4. Importance of project to local community

A strong majority of respondents view the project as important to the local community. Of the 134 responses received, approximately 78 per cent rated the project as "Very important." A further 10 per cent considered it "Somewhat important," while eight per cent were neutral. Only two per cent felt the project was "Not very important," and 1.5 per cent believed it was "Not important at all" as shown in Figure 16).

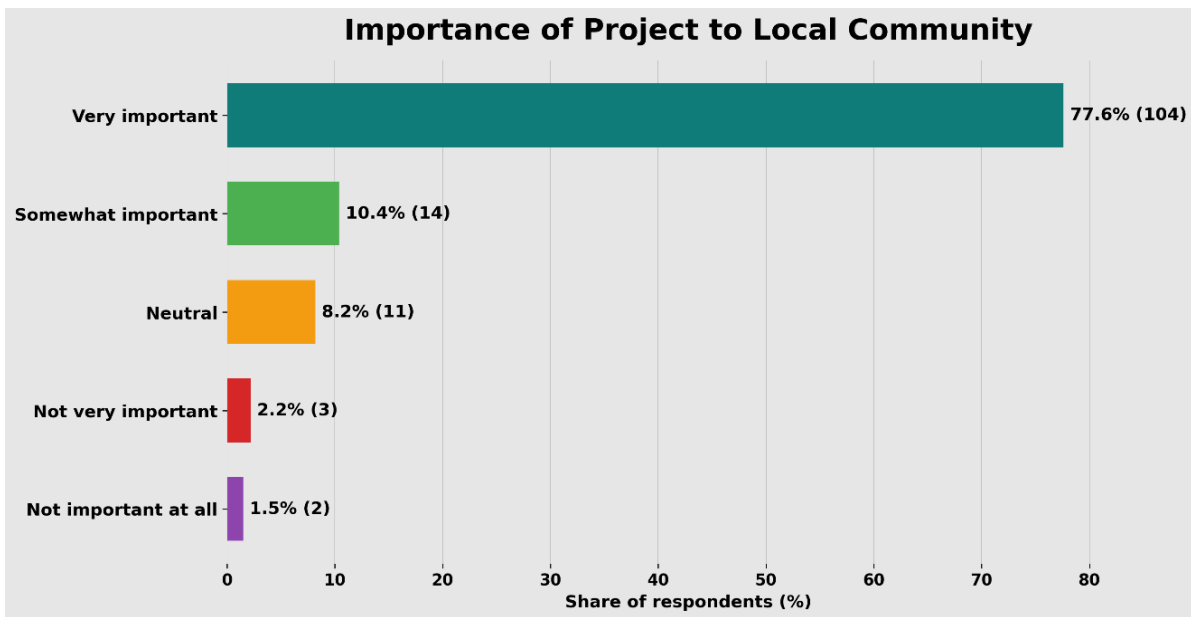


Figure 16: Importance of project to local community

Respondents also provided qualitative feedback explaining their views. Figure 17 illustrates the distribution of themes across the comments analysed. Care capacity and modernisation accounted for the largest share, followed by community impact and environmental concerns. The following section expands on each theme.

Feedback on Importance of Project to Community



Figure 17: Feedback on importance of project to community

1. Care capacity & modernisation

This theme represented 44 per cent of comments. Respondents consistently described the hospital as not fit for purpose and overcrowded, calling for more beds, modern facilities and timely access to care. Typical remarks included, *“The hospital site is not fit for purpose, given the population it serves,”* *“Outpatient department is seriously overcrowded 24/7/365,”* and *“We need a first-class hospital with proper accessibility for both patients and staff.”*

Several comments pointed to outdated structures and the need to upgrade clinical equipment and diagnostics, noting that *“technology has moved on with minimally invasive surgery and Xray technology being used more.”* Overall, contributors framed investment in capacity and modernisation as essential to meeting present and future demand.

2. Community impact & environment

Concerns about community impact and environmental issues accounted for 22 per cent of comments. Respondents balanced support for improved healthcare with concerns about traffic congestion, parking overflow and the loss of community green space.

Comments included: *“The local community have put up with people parking outside their homes because of not enough parking within the grounds,”* *“Great for healthcare but not good for quality of ordinary daily life due to traffic and loss of local spaces,”* and *“Green areas required.”* Respondents asked that proposals protect walking and cycling routes and maintain places for exercise and recreation, for example, *“Removing a space for exercise and recreation... removing a safe shortcut for families to get to school.”*

Comments on environmental considerations were also highlighted, including biodiversity, pollution and climate-resilient design. A respondent said: *"This should include due consideration of likely climate change impacts and sensible mitigation measures."* The clear expectation was that hospital development should improve access while avoiding negative impacts on neighbouring communities and local green space.

3. Regional role & coverage

This theme accounted for about 21 per cent of comments. Respondents emphasised the hospital's role as a regional hub serving Galway city, county, and the wider West of Ireland, noting its centrality for urgent and specialist care across a large catchment.

Typical remarks included *"The hospital is used by ALL of us living in Galway city & county"* and *"It's the hub of medical and critical care in the West of Ireland."* Many contributors asked for meaningful engagement and clarity on project scope, with comments such as *"Improvements are required, but the current proposal doesn't seem to care about concern of local residents,"* *"I would need to be more informed on the reasons for and against,"* and *"Unclear if 'this project' refers to the overall plan... or to the helipad."*

Respondents called for a futureproof plan that sets out how capacity and facilities will meet regional needs over time, linking investment to present pressures and modern clinical practice. As one participant put it, *"Now is the time to think big and look at the next 40 to 50 years to make the hospital viable long term."*

4. Mental health crisis care & parity of services

This theme featured in 10 per cent of comments and was strongly expressed. Respondents called for dedicated mental health facilities, crisis intervention services and parity with physical healthcare. Respondents said, for example: *"Galway needs a more appropriate setting for people in a mental health crisis,"* *"People experiencing mental health crisis need a Mental Health ED,"* and *"People are losing their lives to suicide due to a complete lack of mental health support services."* Several comments asked for a separate Emergency Department (ED) for mental health presentations and for better support for addiction and special needs, reflecting an urgent perceived gap in local provision. While these suggestions highlight real concerns, they are not feasible within the current service model, which is focused on developing community-based supports that reduce the need for ED attendance and on enhancing the existing ED infrastructure for those who do attend.

5. Economic considerations

Economic points appeared in about eight per cent of comments. Some respondents highlighted local employment and spending benefits, for example, *"Increases jobs, increases expenditure in local areas,"* and *"employment opportunities will be created."* Others expressed scepticism about necessity or profit motives. Overall, the feedback reflected both anticipated economic benefits and concerns about value for the community.

6. Unclear or Not Applicable (N/A)

About three per cent of comments were unclear or indicated insufficient information to form a view.

5. Desired outcomes from the Development Plan

This summary presents the main outcomes the public would most like to see from the hospital development plan, based on 121 comments received. The analysis consolidates recurring points into seven clear themes. Percentages indicate the share of comments that mention each theme, and many comments raise more than one point, reflecting the breadth of public priorities.

Public feedback prioritises practical access and parking improvements; modern facilities with sufficient bed capacity; and dedicated mental health services available 24/7. Stakeholders also emphasise timely delivery and engagement, a respectful approach to community amenities and green space, and a sensitive, rooftop first approach to the helipad location. (See Figure 18 for a visual overview).

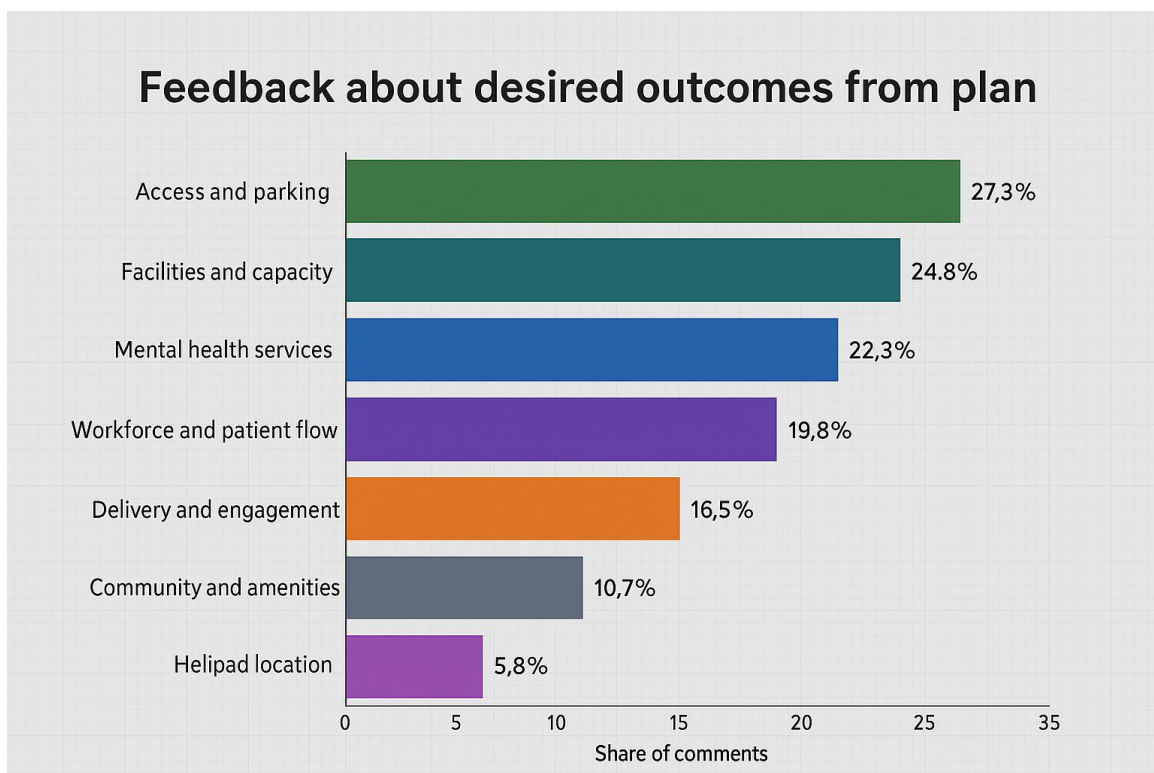


Figure 18: Feedback about desired outcomes from the plan

Further analysis of each key theme is presented in Table 1.

Thematic analysis of desired outcomes from the development plan	
Theme	Analysis
Access and parking	27.3 per cent of comments emphasised everyday access challenges for patients, families and staff, noting that “parking is a nightmare” and that “improved access and parking is vital.” Suggestions included underground or multi-storey parking which aligns with the DCP plan, clearer access routes and more reliable public transport, alongside reasonable visitor charges to reduce stress.
Facilities and capacity	Modern infrastructure accounted for 24.8 per cent of responses, reflecting strong demand for a well-equipped hospital with sufficient beds and resilient systems. Respondents emphasised the need for “state-of-the-art facilities with enough beds so nobody should be on trolleys,” alongside expanded diagnostics and emergency capability, and a campus designed to serve a growing population. Several contributors also proposed using Merlin Park for appropriate functions as part of a long-term site strategy.
Mental health services	Mental health emerged as an urgent priority in 22.3 per cent of responses. There were strong appeals for a dedicated Mental Health ED or 24/7 crisis care, with criticism that it was “totally wrong to expect people who are suicidal to have to wait in the main ED.” Clear protocols for crisis response were repeatedly requested.
Workforce and patient flow	Issues around staffing and patient flow were highlighted in 19.8 per cent of comments. Respondents stressed the need for adequate staff to deliver essential services, efficient triage, and faster assessments to reduce delays and eliminate patients waiting on trolleys. Others pointed to the importance of better working conditions, fair pay, and respect as critical factors in retaining staff and preventing burnout.
Delivery and engagement	Around 16.5 per cent of comments focused on execution discipline and meaningful involvement. Respondents want commitment to scope, budget and timelines, “speedy build, no delays,” and genuine engagement with local

	residents, patients and staff. They also ask that sustainability and climate considerations be integrated into design and delivery.
Community and amenities	Respect for local amenities and green space appeared in 10.7 per cent of comments, including protection of the football pitch for "Galway Bohemians". Requests included open walkways through the campus and removal of barriers that limited community access. Where impacts were unavoidable, compensatory amenities and clear communication were expected.
Helipad location	The helipad issue was raised in 5.8 per cent of comments. Most respondents favoured a rooftop location rather than using green space, stating that "the HSE should build a helipad on the roof of a building." Some were willing to accept a temporary, legally binding arrangement with a clear commitment to restore any affected parkland.

Conclusion and next steps

This post-consultation report provides an overview of how the public consultation was managed, the level of engagement achieved, and the key issues and concerns raised by participants. Every submission has been carefully reviewed by the project team, and selected comments have been included throughout this report.

Galway University Hospital remains committed to a transparent and inclusive process, and we sincerely thank all individuals and groups who contributed their views.

Delivering new infrastructure brings significant benefits to our cities and local communities. The design process requires balancing these benefits with potential impacts, considering alternatives, and assessing each option thoroughly. Your feedback plays a vital role in shaping these decisions.

Next Steps

The Development Control Plan (DCP) provides the overarching framework for future development at University Hospital Galway. As part of this process, the project team has shared a roadmap outlining the key phases of delivery. (See Figure 19).



Figure 19: UHG DCP project roadmap

Each individual project within the DCP will undergo detailed design and progress through the statutory planning application process.

Following consultation with stakeholders and the community, the planning design will be submitted to Galway City Council for approval. Once planning permission is granted, construction will begin in phases.

We are committed to keeping the community informed every step of the way, and regular updates will be shared through the project website and other communication channels as the project progresses.

For the latest information and updates, please visit: www.saolta.ie/content/uhg-public-consultation

Appendices

Appendix A- Leaflet English

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENT PLANS AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY





FSS an Iarthair agus an Iarthuaiscirt
HSE West and North West

Galway University Hospitals, in agreement with the Department of Health and approved by the HSE Board, have adopted a Development Control Plan (DCP) for the University Hospital Galway (UHG) campus.

This is an ambitious plan which seeks to future-proof healthcare infrastructure for the region and will guide the hospital campus development through to 2045.

GUH is the only Model 4 Hospital in HSE West North West, it serves a population of over 850,000 people and is one of the busiest hospitals in the country. The hospital is committed to providing excellent patient care but is challenged by outdated and sub-optimal facilities.

The Masterplan for the hospital includes a state-of-the-art cancer centre, 300 new inpatient beds, a new ED and enhanced maternity services all designed to improve patient experience and care delivery.



Why is the Project Needed?

We need to expand and develop UHG to meet the growing demand for healthcare services right across our region. Outdated facilities that no longer meet modern standards need to be replaced. We need to ensure the region's only Model 4 Hospital achieves the highest standards and delivers the best possible outcomes for patients.

To progress these transformative plans, a permanent helipad base is essential. It's a critical enabler for emergency access and will support the delivery of advanced healthcare services.

The helipad will allow faster emergency transfers and support future expansion of services. This essential development will benefit patients and staff, improve hospital efficiency, and ensure the facility is ready to serve future generations.

Have your say:

Our Public Engagement Process

We will be holding two drop-in sessions to meet the project team, ask questions, and share your views. These sessions are open to everyone.

This current engagement period starts on 24 November 2025. Full details, including the deadline for feedback is available on the project website www.saolta.ie/content/uhg-public-consultation from 24 November 2025 and will remain open for four weeks as part of the engagement process.

An online feedback questionnaire will be available on the project website. This survey will open on **24 November 2025**.



Clinical Priorities:

- Two new Ward Blocks, each providing 150 acute beds with shell and core floors for later fit-outs including maternity and diagnostic services
- An Ambulatory Cancer Centre
- A new Laboratory Block
- A new Emergency Department, Critical Care and Surgical block

Key Infrastructure Components:

- A new Helipad to facilitate dual landings
- Improved transport routes
- Replacement Paediatric/Maternity Unit
- Facilities for Staff, Research and Education

Project Benefits:

- State-of-the-art cancer treatment facilities
- Modern maternity services tailored to patient needs
- Improved patient flow and hospital efficiency
- Enhanced emergency response through permanent helipad access
- Future-proofed infrastructure for generations to come

Next Steps:

The Development Control Plan is designed to be programmatic in nature and, following consultation with stakeholders and the community, individual projects will be designed in greater detail and progressed through the planning application process.

Date	Location	Time
24 November 2025	St Joseph's Community Centre, Shantalla	11AM - 7PM
29 November 2025	St Joseph's Community Centre, Shantalla	11AM - 7PM

Contact Us:

Please contact us via the following means:

Website: www.saolta.ie/content/uhg-public-consultation

Email: UHGconsultation@Jacobs.com



Appendix B- Leaflet Gaeilge

COMHAIRLIÚCHÁN POIBLÍ AR PHLEANANNA FORBARTHA AG OSPIDÉAL NA HOLLSCOILE, GAILLIMH




FSS an Iarthair agus an Iarthuaiscirt HSE West and North West

Tá Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Gaillimh, i gcomhaontú leis an Roinn Sláinte agus le cead ó Bhord FSS, tar éis Plean Rialaithe Forbartha (PRF) a ghlacadh do champus Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Gaillimh (UHG).

Is plean uailmhianach é seo ina ndéantar iarracht féachaint chuige go seasfaidh an bonnagar cúram sláinte an aimsir don réigiún agus go dtreoróidh sé aon fhorbairt a dhéanfar ar champus an ospidéil go dtí an bhliain 2045.

Is é an t-aon ospidéal múnla ceathair i réigiún Iarthair agus Iarthuaiscirt FSS. Freastalaíonn sé ar dhaoine os cionn 850,000 duine agus tá sé ar cheann de na hospidéil is gnóthaí sa tír. Tá an t-ospidéal tiomanta do shár-chúram a chur ar fáil d’othair ach is dúshlán dó saoráidí atá as dáta agus ar chaighdeániseal.

Áirítear leis an Máistirphlean don ospidéal, lonad ailse úrscothach, 300 leaba nua d’othair chónaitheacha, Rannóg Éigeandála nua agus seirbhísí máithreachais feabhsaithe arna ndeartha le heispéireas an othair agus soláthar cúraim a fheabhsú.



Cén fáth a bhfuil gá leis an tionscadal?

Ní mór dúinn Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Gaillimh a leathnú agus a fhorbairt chun freastal ar an meadú atá tagtha ar an éileamh do sheirbhísí cúraim sláinte ar fud ár réigiúin. Caithfear saoráidí as dáta nach gcomhlíonann caighdeán nua-aimseartha a thuilleadh, a athsholáthar. Ní mór dúinn a chinntiú go mbainfidh an t-aon ospidéal múnla ceathair sa réigiún na caighdeán is airde amach agus go soláthraítear na torthaí is fearr a féidir a bhaint amach d’othair.

D’fhonn na pleananna bunathraitheacha sin a chur chun cinn, tá bunáit héileapad buan riachtanach. Is cumasóir rithabhachtach é maidir le rochtain éigeandála agus tacóidh sé le soláthar seirbhísí ardchúram sláinte.

Leis an héileapad, ligfear d’aistrithe éigeandála níos gasta agus tacófar le leathnú seirbhísí sa todhchái. Beidh an fhorbairt riachtanach sin ar mhaithe le hothair agus leis an bhfoireann, déanfar éifeachtúlacht an ospidéil a fheabhsú leis, agus cinnteofar go mbeidh an tsaoráid ullamh chun freastal ar na glúnta atá le teacht.

Roinn do thuairim linn: Ár bpróiseas rannpháirtíochta poiblí

Beidh dhá sheisiún ‘buail isteach’ a reáchtáil againn agus seans bualadh le foireann an tionscadail, ceisteanna a chur, agus do chuid tuairimí a thabhairt. Beidh na seisiúin sin ar oscailt do chách.

Tosóidh an tréimhe rannpháirtíochta reatha ar an 24 Samhain 2025. Beidh sonraí iomlána, lena n-áirítear an spriodháta d’aiseolas a thabhairt, ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin an tionscadail www.saolta.ie/content/uhg-public-consultation ón 24 Samhain 2025 agus beidh sé ar oscailt ar feadh ceithre seachtainí, mar chuid den phróiseas rannpháirtíochta.

Beidh ceisteoirí aiseolais ar líne ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin an tionscadail. Osclofar an suirbhé sin ar an 24 Samhain 2025.



Tosaíochtaí Cliniúla:

- Dhá Bhloc Bardaí nua, agus 150 leaba ghéarchúraim ar fáil iontu le huráir chreatlaí agus croi-urúir a féidir a fheistiú sa todhchái do sheirbhísí máithreachais agus diagnóiseacha.
- Ionad Ailse Siúlach
- Bloc Saotharlainne nua
- Bloc Éigeandála, ICU (Aonad Dianchúraim) agus
- Máinliachta nua

Príomhchomhpháirteanna an bhonneagair:

- Héileapad nua chun déthuirlíngtí a éascú
- Bainistíocht Iompair agus tráchtla
- Saoráid Máithreachais / Péidiatrach nua
- Saoráidí don Fhoireann, do Thaighde agus don Oideachas

Príomhthairbhí an tionscadail

- Saoráidí cóireála ailse den chéad scoth
- Seirbhísí máithreachais nua-aimseartha atá saincheaptha do riachtanais na n-othar
- Sreabhadh othar agus éifeachtúlacht an ospidéil feabhsaithe
- Freagairt éigeandála feabhsaithe de bharr rochtain ar héileapad buan
- Bonneagar a sheasfaidh an aimsir do na glúnta atá le teacht

Na Chéad Chéimeanna Eile:

Tá an pleanáil agus an obair dhearaidh faoi lán seoil. Tar éis dúinn dul i gcomhairle le páirtithe leasmhara agus leis an bpobal, cuirfear an dearadh pleanála faoi bhráid Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe lena fhaomhadh. Déanfar nuashonruithe a chomhroinnt go rialta le páirtithe leasmhara agus le cónaitheoirí.

Dáta	Áit	Am
24 Samhain 2025	Ionad Pobail Naomh Seosamh, Seantalamh	11r.n. – 7i.n.
29 Samhain 2025	Ionad Pobail Naomh Seosamh, Seantalamh	11r.n. – 7i.n.

Déan teagmháil linn:

Déan teagmháil linn ar na meáin a leanas:

Suíomh gréasáin: www.saolta.ie/content/uhg-public-consultation

Ríomhphost: UHGconsultation@Jacobs.com




Appendix C- Sample Display Boards

Development Control Plan (DCP)



Galway University Hospitals (GUH), in agreement with the Department of Health and approved by the HSE Board, have adopted a Development Control Plan (DCP) for the UHG campus. This plan is designed to meet all healthcare requirements on the campus up to the year 2045. To achieve this, several major infrastructure projects will be constructed over time, including the development of a permanent, fit-for-purpose helipad.

The relocation of the current helipad is necessary to make way for future developments. Successful delivery of the DCP will require close collaboration with Galway City Council and other stakeholders, particularly for planning approvals, infrastructure coordination, and community engagement.

Benefits for the Community

Better Services and Closer to Home



PROJECT BENEFITS

- 300 new inpatient beds
- Timely access to cardiac and cancer care
- Improved patient flow and hospital efficiency
- State-of-the-art cancer treatment facilities
- Enhanced emergency response through permanent helipad access
- New diagnostic suite, medical laboratory and pharmacy
- Modern maternity services tailored to patient needs
- Value to local economy by providing investment and jobs
- Emergency access to neurosurgery and major trauma services in Dublin
- Facilities for staff, research and education

HE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY (UHG)
Development Control Plan (DCP)

FSS on further advice on further advice HSE West and North West

HE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY (UHG)
Development Control Plan (DCP)

FSS on further advice on further advice HSE West and North West

What's Changing?

KEY SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENTS

The Development Control Plan includes the construction of a wide range of new facilities to support clinical and operational excellence. These components include:

- Helipad designed to EU and global aviation safety standards
- Improved transport routes
- New underground car parking
- Upgrade Utilities and MEP Services Infrastructure
- Includes provision for a BusConnects route through the Campus
- Improved Active Travel Facilities



Emergency Access

Saving Time, Saving Lives

WHY IS A NEW HELIPAD REQUIRED?

UHG is Ireland's busiest hospital for helicopter medical emergencies. Its helipad handles over 200 emergency landings annually. Allows for quicker (and critical) patient transfers to the emergency department. Relocation of the helipad unlocks construction of new modern wards and other facilities.



The current helipad is not fit for long-term use. A new EU and Global regulation compliant helipad is urgently needed to maintain aeronautical services and deliver UHG's development plans. An Orlom Approval identified the proposed site as the optimal location. Discussions around potential community benefits to accompany any land transfer continue with Galway City Council.

HE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY (UHG)
Development Control Plan (DCP)

FSS on further advice on further advice HSE West and North West

HE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY (UHG)
Development Control Plan (DCP)

FSS on further advice on further advice HSE West and North West

Project Timeline

The Development Control Plan is a broad framework. After consulting with stakeholders and the community, each individual project will be designed in detail and progressed through the planning application process.




Timeline:

- 2022: Strategy for Development of Hospital Services in Galway City
- 2023: Capital Programme Oversight Board established
- 2025: Draft Development Control Plan Completed (including Health Strategy)
- 2025: SAO and Road DCP submitted to DCP
- 2025: Public Consultation
- 2026: Design Teams appointed
- 2026: Subject planning consent resolution
- 2026: Design and Preliminary Business Case completed for Ward Blocks 1 & 2
- 2027-2028: Complete Helipad
- 2028-2031: Construction of Ward Blocks 1 & 2

University Hospital Galway

Development Control Plan



- Expanded Inpatient Bed Capacity
- Helipad designed to EU and global aviation safety standards
- Improved Patient Flow and Clinical Outcomes
- Improved Infection Control and Patient Safety
- Advanced Laboratory and Radiology Facilities
- Age-Appropriate, Speciality-Specific Facility
- Focus on Acute and Critical Care
- Increased Critical Care Beds
- Improved Clinical Efficiency
- New Emergency Department
- Ambulatory Cancer Centre
- New Operating Theatre
- Access to cardiac care services

Project Phases:

- Phase 1: Main Building
- Phase 2: Ward Block
- Phase 3: Emergency Department
- Phase 4: Radiology
- Phase 5: Helipad
- Phase 6: Car Park
- Phase 7: Bus Stop
- Phase 8: Active Travel
- Phase 9: Landscaping
- Phase 10: Final Completion

HE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY (UHG)
Development Control Plan (DCP)

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HE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY (UHG)
Development Control Plan (DCP)

FSS on further advice on further advice HSE West and North West

Appendix D- Sample Survey English



University Hospital Galway (UHG) Development Control Plan (DCP) Public Consultation

Galway University Hospitals, in agreement with the Department of Health and approved by the HSE Board, have adopted a Development Control Plan (DCP) for the University Hospital Galway (UHG) campus. This is an ambitious plan which seeks to future-proof healthcare infrastructure for the region and will guide the hospital campus development through to 2045. This current engagement period will run from 24 November until 19 December, 2025. Full details, are available on the project website www.saolta.ie/content/uhg-public-consultation

Your feedback is important and will help to shape the future-proofing of healthcare in the West and North-West region for the next 40 years.

Please complete this short questionnaire (5-10 minutes)

All data collected is limited to what is necessary for these specific purposes and will not be used for unrelated activities. We ensure that your responses are treated with confidentiality and handled in accordance with applicable data protection regulations. The HSE / hospital privacy policy is available here: <https://www.saolta.ie/privacy>
To provide your feedback in Irish please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/VFpZNA412F>

Section 1

Section

Benefits for the Community

Better Services and Closer to Home

PROJECT BENEFITS

- 300 new inpatient beds
- Timely access to cardiac and critical care
- Improved patient flow and hospital efficiency
- State-of-the-art cancer treatment facilities
- Enhanced emergency response through permanent helipad access
- New diagnostics suite, medical laboratory and pharmacy
- Modern maternity services tailored to patient needs
- Value to local economy by providing investment and jobs
- Emergency access to neurosurgery and major trauma services in Dublin
- Facilities for staff, research and education

University Hospital Galway (UHG) Development Control Plan (DCP) Public Consultation

Personal details

Please provide the following information

1
Your Name

Enter your answer

2
Email address

Enter your answer

3
Eircode

Enter your answer

4
Telephone number

Enter your answer

5
How are you connected to University Hospital Galway?

Patient at the hospital/or receiving treatment

Appendix E- Survey Gaelige



Comhairliúchán Poiblí ar Phlean Rialaithe Forbartha (PRF) Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Gaillimh

Tá Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Gaillimh, i gcomhaontú leis an Roinn Sláinte agus le cead ó Bhord FSS, tar éis Plean Rialaithe Forbartha (PRF) a ghlacadh do champas Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Gaillimh (UHG). Is plean uailmhianach é seo ina ndéantar iarracht féachaint chuige go seasfaidh an bonneagar cúram sláinte an aimsir don réigiún agus go dtreoróidh sé ton fhorbairt a dhéanfar ar champas an ospidéil go dtí an bhliain 2045. Mairfidh an tréimhse rannpháirteachais reatha seo ón 24 Samhain go dtí an 19 Nollaig, 2025. Tá sonraí iomlána ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin an [tionscadail. www.saoita.ie/content/uhg-public-consultation](https://www.saoita.ie/content/uhg-public-consultation) Tá d'aiseolais tábhachtach dúinn agus cabhróidh sé linn a chinntiú go seasfaidh an cúram sláinte an aimsir i réigiún an Iarthair agus an Iarthuaiscirt as seo go gceann 40 bliain.

Comhlánaigh an ceistneoir gairid seo (5-10 nóiméad)

Tá na sonraí uile a bhailéofar teoranta don mhéid atá riachtanach do na cuspóirí sainiúla sin agus ní bhainfeadh úsáid astu d'aon ghníomhaíocht neamhghoimhar. Cinntimid go gcaitear le do chuid freagraí go rúnda agus go bpléitear leo i gcomhréir leis na rialacháin is infheidhme maidir le cosaint sonraí. Tá beartas príobháideachais Ghrúpa Ollscoile um Chúram Sláinte ar fáil anseo: <https://www.saoita.ie/privacy>

Section 1

Section

Buntáistí don phobal Seirbhísí níos fearr agus níos gaire do bhaile

Buntáistí an tionscadail



300 leapa d'othair chonaitheacha



Freagairt éigeandála feabhsaíthe de bharr rochtain ar háléapad buan



Rochtain phras ar chúram cairdiach agus criticiúil



Svult nua diagnóiseach, seachtarlann míochaine agus cógastann



Sreathadh othar agus áifeachtúlacht ospidéal feabhsaíthe



Seirbhísí máithreachais nua-aimseartha atá saincheaptha do naictanais na n-othar



Rochtain éigeandála ar néaramhánlucht agus ar sheirbhísí mórtóimne i mBaile Átha Cliath



Saoráidí cóireála aise den chéad scoth



Ag cur leis an ngéilleagar áitiúil ag soláthar infheistíocht agus ag cruthú postanna



Saoráidí don thoirneann, teighde agus oideachas



Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Gaillimh
Pleananna Forbartha

FSS an Iarthair agus an Iarthuaiscirt
HSE West and North West

Maidir leat

Sonraí pearsanta. Cuir an fhaisnéis a leanas ar fáil.

1

Aimn

Enter your answer

2

Ríomhphost

Enter your answer

3

Eirchód

Enter your answer

4

Uimhir theileafóin

Enter your answer

Appendix F: Sample of Newspaper advert and editorial

November 20 2025

www.advertiser.ie

NEWS 19

ESB Energy for generations

Committed to communities

We're supporting organisations like Galway Simon Community through our Energy for Generations Fund. Helping to shape a better future for those at risk of homelessness.

It's just one of the ways we contribute over €2 million to community projects and initiatives across Ireland every year.

Visit [esb.ie/communities](https://www.esb.ie/communities)

University Hospital Galway

Development Plans

Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Gaillimh

Pleananna Forbartha

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Monday 24 November – Friday 19 December, 2025

We want to future-proof healthcare services for the people of Galway. We have developed an ambitious long-term plan to ensure state-of-the-art acute hospital services for our communities.

To achieve this we must find a permanent base for our helpad adjacent to the hospital. We need your input and engagement.

Feedback is invited from all stakeholders. You can share your feedback in person or online.

You are invited to drop in to the sessions below, view the plans and meet the project team.

Monday 24 Nov 2025
St Joseph's Community Centre, Shantala
11am–7pm

Saturday 29 Nov 2025
St Joseph's Community Centre, Shantala
11am–7pm

Scan the QR code to share your feedback via an online survey

COMHAIRLIÚCHÁN POIBLÍ

Dé Luain an 24 Samhain – Dé hAoine an 19 Nollaig, 2025

Ba mháth linn féachaint chuige go seastadh seirbhísi cúram sláinte do mhuintir na Gaillimhe an aimsir. D'fhorbraíomar plean uailmhianach fadtréimhseach a chinnteoidh go mbeid seirbhísi ospidéal ghéarmhíochaine ar fáil dár bpobail.

Leis seo a bhaint amach, ní mór dúinn bunáit bhuan dár héileapad a aimsiú in aice leis an ospidéal. Ba mhór againn do thuairim agus do rannpháirtíocht.

Cuirfead fáilte roimh aiseolas óna páirtithe leasmhara uile. Is féidir leat aiseolas a roinnt go pearsanta nó ar líne.

Tugtar cuireadh dúil bualadh isteach chuig na seisiún thíos, na pleananna a fheiceáil agus bualadh le foireann an tionscadail.

Dé Luain an 24 Samhain 2025
Ionad Pobail Naomh Seosamh, Seantalamh
11m–7m

Dé Sathairn an 29 Samhain 2025
Ionad Pobail Naomh Seosamh, Seantalamh
11m–7m

Scan an Cód MF thíos chun d'aiseolas a roinnt trí shuirbhé ar líne

Visit <https://www.uhg.ie/content/uhg-public-consultation> or email UHGconsultation@Jacobs.com for further information

Tábhair cuairt ar <https://www.uhg.ie/content/uhg-public-consultation> nó seol ríomhphost chuig UHGconsultation@Jacobs.com chun faianáil bhreise a thail



Shop Local **SUPPORT LOCAL**
KEEP YOUR BUSINESS IN GALWAY & KEEP GALWAY IN BUSINESS

Galway public invited to shape future of University Hospital Galway

University Hospital Galway is inviting the public to participate in a consultation on development plans for the hospital which will future-proof healthcare infrastructure in the region over the coming decades.

The next of these public drop-ins will take place this Saturday November 29 from 11am to 7pm

at St Joseph's Community Centre, Shantalla.

Chris Kane, Galway University Hospitals' Manager said they have a long-term vision to build two new bed blocks with 300 additional inpatient beds; a new Emergency Department, ICU and Surgical block, a new cancer centre, laboratory and a new Women and Children's unit on the campus.

"We need to expand and develop UHG to meet the growing demand for healthcare services right across our region. Outdated facilities that no longer meet modern standards need to be replaced. We need to ensure the region's only model four hospital achieves the highest standards and delivers the best possible outcomes for patients. "To help progress these

transformative plans, a permanent helipad base is essential. It's a critical enabler for emergency access and is necessary to deliver complex care for our population," said Chris Kane.

The helipad will allow faster emergency transfers and support service continuity during construction phases. "We are now delighted to

welcome all local residents, business members and community groups to review our plans for the hospital development and to offer feedback. We want to hear from you.

"The views of our local community are important and will help to shape the future of healthcare in the West and North West region for the next 40 years."

Galway Simon Community appeals for help to prevent the trauma of homelessness this Christmas

Galway Simon Community has launched its annual Christmas Appeal, calling on the public to help provide hope and dignity to people experiencing homelessness across Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. At the end of September this year there were 644 people in Emergency Accommodation in the West of Ireland including 214 children. It does not have to be this way. Last year Galway Simon Community supported 1,869 people, including 277 families with 579 children, to prevent them from becoming homeless. The charity reports that

the number of people seeking help is continuing to increase.

This year's appeal shines a light on the devastating isolation faced by those without a home, through the story of Patrick*, a client who woke up one Christmas morning to discover the news of his mother's death through a post on social media. Alone in a freezing tent, Patrick felt invisible to the world—a feeling all too common among those living on the streets.

"Patrick's experience reminds us how vital human connection and empathy are," said Carol Baumann, CEO at Galway Simon. "When

someone feels unseen, it chips away at their sense of self-worth. Our work is about restoring that belief—showing people they matter."

Patrick's journey from homelessness to stability was far from easy. After years trapped in addiction and sleeping rough, he was referred to Galway Simon's Housing First Service.

With intensive support—securing permanent accommodation and physical and emotional care—Patrick began to rebuild his life. Today, he is managing his bills, reconnecting with his community and overcoming addiction.

Patrick credits Galway Simon supporters with saving his life: "Without Galway Simon and the people who support them, I'd be six feet under. You gave me a second chance—and for the first time in years, I feel seen."

Sadly, Patrick's story is not unique. Demand for Galway Simon's services is growing as more people face homelessness and the trauma that comes with it. The charity is urging the public to donate this Christmas to help provide housing, essential supports and hope to those in crisis.

"Where others see a problem,

our supporters see people," added Carol. "Every act of kindness—every donation—helps someone feel visible again."

This Christmas, you can make someone feel seen.

Your gift will help provide safe housing, warm meals and vital support for people who feel forgotten. Please, don't wait—lives like Patrick's depend on it.

Donate now at www.galwaysimon.ie or phone 091 381828 and give the gift of hope this Christmas.

*Client's name has been changed to protect their identity.

Events at Ballybane Community Hub

Residents are invited to attend the Monthly Garda Clinic at the Ballybane Community Hub, located at 30 Béal Srutha, Ballybane, H91 TW27, on Sunday, November 30 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm.

Garda Kenneth Boyle will be on-site to assist with signing forms or documents; offering crime prevention advice and taking reports or discussing any concerns you may have. This drop-in clinic is an excellent opportunity for

community members to engage directly with local Gardaí in a supportive and accessible setting. Parking is available adjacent to the Ballybane Library for your convenience. Local activists are delighted

to announce the installation of a new finger-pointing sign on Castlepark Road, marking the location of its 24/7 accessible AED defibrillator. This lifesaving device is available to the public at all times, ensuring rapid access in emergency situations

where every second counts.

A special word of thanks goes to Galway Headstones and Cleaning Athenry, who generously sponsored the new sign. Their support helps improve visibility and awareness of this vital

community resource.

The Ballybane Community Hub remains committed to fostering a safe, connected, and informed community. We encourage all residents to take note of these developments and participate where possible.

NTA quizzed on GLUAS and bus networks in Oireachtas Committee

Last week the National Transport Authority met with the Oireachtas Transport Committee and answered questions about two significant Galway projects. The Galway Bus Network Redesign has recently been updated, but will not roll out until 2027 at the earliest.

Green Party leader, Roderic O'Gorman TD wanted to know what was causing the delay on this project. Hugh Creegán, the interim chief executive of the NTA, responded that "it largely comes down to funding". The capital funding will be decided in the sectoral plan, which is part of the National Development Plan (NDP).

The second Galway project discussed was the GLUAS. The last government funded a feasibility study for light rail in Galway. Roderic O'Gorman wanted to know what comes next. The NTA responded that the next steps depend on the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (GMATS), and that process is blocked waiting

on a decision on the Ring Road.

From a Galway perspective, Niall Murphy, former city councillor, said "allowing the Ring Road decision to paralyse projects like GLUAS along with all other issues in the GMATS has been a disaster for Galway."

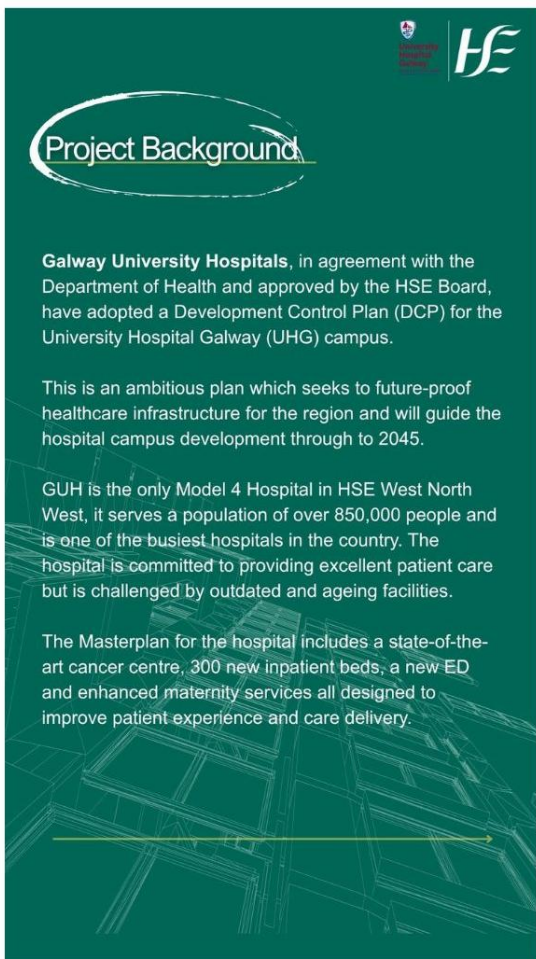
"It is also frustrating that the NTA gave no indication how the ring road decision would impact the GLUAS plans. Would permission for the ring road make GLUAS more likely or less likely? They clearly serve different purposes and one should not block the other."

Murphy commented further "Galway will be hoping the bus rollout and the GLUAS get favourable mention when the transport sectoral plan of the NDP is published in a few weeks. That document should tell us how much will be spent on public transport for capital projects over the next five years. Galway needs that certainty so it can push ahead with these projects."




Ruaidh Cuckian pictured presenting Fiona Keegan from Brain Tumour Ireland with a cheque for €5,123, raised following a recent table quiz and raffle that GHR Consulting ran in conjunction with the Galway Celtic Supporters Club in McGlenns Hophouse Bar. The money was raised and donated in memory of their friend Eamonn Nugent, who passed away in October 2024.

Appendix G- Sample of social media campaign



Appendix H- Sample of Project website



FSS an Iarthair agus an Iarthuaiscirt
HSE West and North West

About our health services

[Home](#)
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[News](#)
[Hospitals](#)
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[MCANs](#)
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[Pay a bill](#)

Home » Hospital » University Hospital Galway » UHG Public Consultation

UHG Public Consultation

Welcome to the University Hospital Galway Development Control Plan Information Hub.

This page provides an easy-to-understand overview of the long term development plans for University Hospital Galway (UHG).

It explains the vision behind the Development Control Plan (DCP), outlines the major infrastructure improvements, provides information and shares details of public engagement events. The plan guides the transformation of the UHG campus to meet healthcare needs through to the year 2045. The project includes a new, permanent helipad and state-of-the-art clinical facilities. These plans require close collaboration with Galway City Council and other stakeholders.


Frequently Asked Questions

Project Background

Galway University Hospitals, in agreement with the Department of Health and approved by the HSE Board, have adopted a Development Control Plan (DCP) for the UHG campus. This plan is designed to meet all healthcare requirements and facilities on the medical campus up to the year 2045.

To achieve this, several major infrastructure projects will be constructed over time, including the development of a permanent, fit-for-purpose helipad. The relocation of the current helipad is necessary to make way for future developments and buildings.

Successful delivery of the DCP will require close collaboration with Galway City Council and other stakeholders, particularly for planning approvals and infrastructure coordination. It will also need a wide range of community engagement to ensure local people are informed.



Why is the Project Needed?

The development of the UHG campus is essential to address several challenges and future demands in local healthcare.

Patient volumes are increasing, and the complexity of care is growing. Existing facilities are outdated and lack the space and design needed to support modern, state-of-the-art healthcare delivery.

National and regional healthcare strategies call for the expansion and modernisation of hospital infrastructure. There is also a critical need to improve infection control and patient safety standards. Additionally, the relocation and establishment of a permanent helipad is vital to support emergency air transfers and enable further development on the campus.

Clinical Priorities

The DCP is focused on addressing key clinical needs to improve patient care and hospital operations. These priorities include:


- Ensuring dedicated capacity for both emergency and elective services
- Improving patient flows and clinical adjacencies
- Enhancing clinical dependencies and coordination
- Providing age-appropriate and speciality-specific facilities
- Futureproofing the campus for technological advancements
- Supporting staff with improved facilities and working environments
- Strengthening infection control and patient safety measures

Key Infrastructure Components


The development plan includes the construction of a wide range of new facilities to support clinical and operational excellence. These components include:

- A new main entrance


Prof John O'Donnell, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, UHG.




Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, UHG - vCreate




Clara Breen, OT Department, UHG




Chris Kane, General Manager, GUH



Saolta Group CEO Tony Canavan



Cystic Fibrosis Team, Virtual Clinics, UHG



Appendix I- Leaflet distribution areas

Location
Newcastle
Westside
Doughiska / Roscam
Renmore / Murrough
Mervue / Wellpark
Headford Road / Tuam Road
Castlegar Village
City Centre / Nun's Island
Bohermore / College Road
Shantalla
Salthill
Claddagh
Rahoon
Taylor's Hill Area
Gleann Dara
Corrach Buí
Rockfield Park
Rahoon Road
Old Seamus Quirke Road
Droim Chaoin
Oakley Crescent
Saint Claires
Maunsells Park
Ardmore Road
Mount Eaton

Taylor's Hill Road
Mount Pleasant Drive
Shantalla Place
Davis Road
Reddington Road
Rockmount Road
Avondale Road
Rivendell
Beechmount Road
New Avenue
Cedarwood Close
Sycamore Drive
Ashdale Road
Beechmount Avenue
Devon Gardens
Árd Na Coille
Carn Ard
Tulach Ard
Claremont Park
Circular Road
Cluainin
Hy-Brasail Court
Carraig Liath
Greenview Heights
Belsize Court
Laurel Park
Corrib Park

John Coogan Park
Gaelcarraig Park
Inishannagh Park
Camillaun Park
Seamus Quirke Road
Garraí An Tsionnaigh
Claonadh
Fána Láir
Churchfields
Devon Park
Grattan Court
Salthill Road Lower
Cois Cuain
Whitestrاند Avenue
Whitestrاند Road
Father Griffin Road
Fairhill Road Upper
Grattan Park
Saint Dominick's Avenue
Father Burke Road
Whitestrاند Park
Saint Dominick's Road
School Avenue
Saint Nicholas Road
Claddagh Avenue
Shantalla Road

Maunsells Road
Averard East
Cul Tra
Palmyra Avenue
Saint Marys Avenue
The Nurseries
O'Conaire Road
Saint Mary's Road
Furseys Road
Averard West
Rosary Lane
Kylemore Park
The Crescent
Saint Marys Park
Sherwood Avenue
O'Flaherty Road
Mcdara Road
Carrick Road
Spire Gardens
Costello Road
Colman's Road
Colmcille Road
Lios Ealtán
Sea Road
Small Crane
Palmyra Park
Raleigh Row

Saint Pauls Road
Father Griffin Place
Father Griffin Avenue
Munster Avenue
New Street West
Saint John's Place
Saint Johns Terrace
Saint Joseph's Avenue
Henry Street
Fairhill Road Lower
Pump Lane
Dominick Street Lower
Raven Terrace
Claddagh Quay
Presentation Road
Nuns Island
Mill Street
Parkavara
Eglinton Road
New Road
Newcastle Road
Canal Road Lower
Enda's Road
University Close
Willow Park
Oakwood Close
Saint Helen's Street

Saint John's Avenue
Canal Road Upper
Gaol Road
University Road
Lower Newcastle
Snipe Avenue
Ashgrove Road
Moyola Park
Ardillaun Road
Newcastle Avenue
Ashe Road
Newcastle Park
Distillery Road
Upper Newcastle
Snipe Lawn
Inchagill Road
Carbry Road
Earls Island
University Park
Canal Court
Merchants Road Lower
Spanish Parade
The Long Walk
Flood Street
Dock Street
Priory Road
Claddagh Place

Bridge Street
Merchants Road
New Dock Street
Abbeygate Street Upper
Middle Street
Bowling Green
Cross Street Upper
Mary Street
Mainuard Street
Market Street
Kirwans Lane
Saint Augustine Street
Abbeygate Street Lower
Dock Road
Saint Nicholas Street
Saint Brendan's Avenue
Saint Anthony's Place
Eyre Street
Riverside
Saint Bridget's Place
Saint Bridget's Place Upper
Saint Bridget's Place Lower
Woodquay
Headford Road
Saint Bridget's Court
Saint Vincent's Avenue
Dalys Place

Waterside
Court Avenue
Courthouse Square
Court Lane
Saint Francis Street
Corrib Terrace
Prospect Hill
Newtownsmith
The Baily
Hazel Park
Cherry Park
Elm Park Road
Dun Na Coiribe
Lakeview Road
Greenfields Road
Dyke Road
Sylvan Grove
Sylvan Close
Sylvan Drive
Sylvan Avenue
Sylvan Heights
Sylvan Road
Ashfield Road
Clifton Avenue
Corrib Village

