

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2014.

PRESENT	An t-Ardmhéara Comhairleoir M. Shields
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí S. Cunningham, T. Tynan, T. Brosnan, J. Kavanagh.
NORTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí T. Gould, M. Barry, K O'Flynn, L. O'Donnell, J. Sheehan.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí M. Nugent, T. Fitzgerald, K. Collins, M. O'Sullivan.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí K. McCarthy, C. O'Leary, D. Cahill, L. McGonigle, T. Shannon, N. O'Keeffe.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, F. Kerins, T. O'Driscoll, S. Martin.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí J. Buttimer, H. Cremin, F. Dennehy, P.J. Hourican, T. Moloney.
ALSO PRESENT	Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive. Ms. V. O'Sullivan, Director of Services, Corporate & External Affairs. Mr. T. Healy, Head of Finance. Mr. J. O'Donovan, Director of Services, Environment & Recreation. Mr. T. Duggan, City Architect, Architects. Mr. P. Ledwidge, Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development & Enterprise. Mr. D. O'Mahony, Director of Services, H.R. Mgmt & Organisation Reform Mr. T. Keating, Meetings Administrator, Corporate & External Affairs. Ms. J. Gazely, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate & External Affairs. Mr. S. Coughlan, T/ Director of Services, Housing & Community. Mr. G. Goodwin, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation.

An tArd-Mhéara recited the opening prayer.

LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS

An tÁrd-Mhéara welcomed the newly appointed Chief Executive of Cork City Council Ms. Ann Doherty, to her first meeting of Council, and wished her well in her new post. Members of An Chomhairle wished to be associated with these sentiments.

An tÁrd-Mhéara thanked Mr. Dan Buggy, for his assistance during his period as Chief Executive.

1.1 **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

A vote of sympathy was passed unanimously with An Chomhairle standing in silence to

- The Creedon Family on the death of Tom Creedon.
- The Larkin Family on the death of John Larkin.
- The O'Donoghue Family on the death of Jack O'Donoghue.
- The Gibbons Family on the death of Jeremiah (Jerry) Gibbons.
- Brother Séan Beausang c/o CBS Community, Ard Mhuire, Fair Hill.
- The Waters Family on the death of Tony Waters.
- The Falvey Family on the death of Derry Falvey.
- The Sullivan Family on the death of John Sullivan.
- The Shanahan Family on the death of Sheila Shanahan.
- The Callanan Family on the death of Kathleen Callanan.
- The Delaney Family on the death of Dick Delaney.
- The Coleman Family on the death of Donal Coleman.
- The McElroy Family on the death of James McElroy.
- The Ambrose Family on the death of Mary Ambrose.
- The Walshe Family on the death of Tom Walshe.
- The Buttimer Family on the death of Margaret Buttimer.
- The Hill Family on the death of Marie Hill.
- The Warner Family on the death of Breda Warner.
- The Carroll Family on the death of Patricia Carroll.

1.2 **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

An Chomhairle extended a vote of congratulations to the following:-

- Cork Ladies Footballers on reaching the All Ireland Final.
- Cork Senior Camogie Team on reaching the All Ireland Final.
- Kieran Burke, Tom McCarthy and Kitty Buckley for their years in Cork City Library Services.
- Liz Meaney on her work in art and culture.
- Birthday wishes on the 101st birthday of Fr. Joseph Malin, Wah Yan College, 281 Queens's Road, East, Hong Kong China, the last surviving son of the leaders of the 1916 Rising.
- Middle Parish Community Association on the Coal Quay Festival.
- Tony Fitzgerald on becoming the president of the F.A.I.
- The Irish UN troops for their work in the Golan Heights.
- Liz Meaney on her appointment to the Arts Council.

1.3.1 **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

- 1.3.2 An tÁrd-Mhéara advised An Chomhairle that an invite had been received from Sean Morris, UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group Secretary, c/o Manchester City Council, City Policy Team, Floor 5, Town Hall Extension, Albert Square, Manchester M60 2LA inviting An tÁrd-Mhéara to attend the 'Launch of UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter', as An tÁrd-Mhéara is unable to attend, An Chomhairle approved the attendance of the Deputy Lord Mayor, Comhairleoir Kenneth O'Flynn.

1.4 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

The Chief Executive had no issues to raise.

2. **MINUTES**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the minutes of the following:-

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held on 14th July 2014.

3. **QUESTIONS**

3.1 **QUESTIONS DEFERRED FROM THE 14TH JULY 2014**

3.1.1 **ROUNDAABOUT IN SHEARS PARK, GLASHEEN ROAD**

In response to the following question submitted by An t-Ardmhéara Comhairleoir M. Shields, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

The condition of the above turning point is dreadful. There is no road surface left and it is full of pot holes and dangerous for pedestrian and vehicle use. Could it be mended as a matter of urgency?

REPLY

The location has been assessed by roads and has been placed on works programme for action by City Council repair crews in the coming weeks.

3.1.2 **WORKS TO CORK CITY COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir S. Martin, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

What was the allocation for disabled works to our existing housing stock in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013?

What was the allocation for energy efficiency – retrofitting voids/energy upgrades in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013?

Can the Manager confirm that the terms of the allocation have forced the contribution towards the normal repair and refurbishment costs of long term vacant properties has been reduced from 20,000 per property in 2011 to 3000 per property in 2012?

REPLY

Disabled Tenant Adaptation Works:

	Source	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	DECLG	0.00	0.00	507,419.60	530,095.37	370,645.85	212,079.75
	CCC / ICR	800,000.00	800,000.00	55,000.00	61,446.00	237,700.00	0.00
Grand Total		800,000.00	800,000.00	562,419.60	591,541.37	608,345.85	212,079.75

Energy Efficiency / Retrofitting Voids:

Grants Received from DOECLG	2010	2011	2012	2013
Voids: Repair & Energy Upgrades	5,020,816	1,170,000	1,198,370	0
Occupied Houses: Energy Upgrades	468,038	0	0	1,091,105
Totals:	5,488,854	1,170,000	1,198,370	1,091,105

DECLG grant for repairs and energy upgrade works to void properties :

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Maximum grant claimable:	20,000	3,000	3,000

3.1.3 HOUSE NUMBER SIGNS IN CURRAHEEN DRIVE, BISHOPSTOWN

In response to the following question submitted by An t-Ardmhéara Comhairleoir M. Shields, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Could house number signs 65 – 78 be erected in Curraheen Drive, Bishopstown?

This is a Cul de Sac and it is very confusing for strangers trying to find residents houses in this area.

REPLY

The Transportation Division advises that the request, for house signs 65 – 78 to be erected in Curraheen Drive, Bishopstown, will be assessed.

If deemed appropriate the signage will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available.

3.1.4 WORK ON DOUGLAS STREET

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir S. Martin, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

When will work begin on making Douglas Street one-way, including essential traffic calming and social inclusion measures in relation to footpaths and roads?

REPLY

Douglas Street is very narrow for most of its length from Abbey Street to the junction with Rutland Street and the introduction of a one-way system should be accompanied with traffic calming measures to ensure that excessive traffic speed associated with one-way systems does not occur. The volume of traffic moving in the eastbound (out of town) direction is far higher than the westbound traffic which can only travel as far as the junction with Dunbar Street, and making in one-way eastbound to tie in with the direction of Abbey Street is appropriate. It would also be an opportunity to improve footpaths and general pedestrian facilities in this inner city area and to this end, funding will be sought from the NTA.

The Transportation Division advises that the upgrade of Douglas Street and its public realm is highly desirable. However, there are no specific funds available at the moment. If a source of funding is identified in the near future, the situation will be reviewed.

3.1.5 **LOCAL AUTHORITY POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES ARE CARER-PROOF AND DISABILITY-PROOF**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir T. Moloney, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the City Manager ensure all Local Authority policies and programmes are carer-proof and disability-proof to consider the potential impact on family carers and the people they care for?

Government can play a positive role in making work done within the home the centre of care and we can help prioritize funding for the operation of the housing adaptation grant scheme and ensure housing grant schemes are available (including mobility aids grants).

We can also make provisions for larger disabled parking spaces, and provide for the building of accessible play grounds for all children. To show we are serious about this and to show our willingness to be an all inclusive Council to families and young people, we could start with a MUGA park in Bishopstown/Murphy's Farm making this a centre of excellence.

REPLY

Housing Loans and Grants section continues to operate the following Grant Schemes for people with a Disability:

- 1 Adaptation Grant Scheme
- 2 Mobility Aids Grant Scheme

Cork City Council has operated these schemes over the past number of years. All valid applications are accepted and are progressed to include site visits by an Occupational Therapist and Building Inspectors ensuring that the relevant properties are suitable to

accommodate the necessary works while providing guidelines with regard to the estimated costs involved. All applications are processed and held on file until funding becomes available.

The Council is presently in the process of engaging specialised consultants to design and supervise the installation of an all inclusive playground at Fitzgearld's Park to cater for the play needs and abilities of all children. The playground is scheduled to be completed in May 2015.

There is no provision in the 2014 Capital programme for the provision of a MUGA at Bishopstown Park/Murphy's Farm, estimated cost of the MUGA unit is €80,000 plus an additional €20,000 for civil works.

The Transportation Division advises that the size of disabled parking spaces in the Cork City administrative area, are in line with the statutory minimum dimensions and prescribed markings for disabled parking bays, as set out in the national Road Traffic Regulations.

3.1.6 **RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME**

The following question submitted by Comhairleoir C. O'Leary was deferred to the next meeting of An Chomhairle.

Would the Manager outline the following under the Rental Accommodation Scheme

1. The addresses of all properties in which contracts were entered into under the Rental Accommodation Scheme broken down by the nature of the contract (landlord/tenancy by tenancy/ PPP (Part V) and the date and length of the lease since the scheme commenced.
2. A list of all landlords who have provided properties under the RAS including the number of properties since the scheme commenced.
3. The details of all commission payments or fees made to auctioneers for work done under the RAS since the scheme commenced.

3.1.7 **NUMBER OF APPLICANTS ON OUR SOCIAL HOUSING WAITING LISTS THAT ARE RECIPIENTS OF RENT SUPPLEMENT**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir M. Barry, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Manager please inform Council as to the number of applicants on our social housing waiting lists that are recipients of rent supplement?

REPLY

Social Housing Applicants are categorised according to their basis of housing need. These categories form part of the monthly report. One of these categories is housing applicants whose basis of need is described as 'Dependent on Rent Supplement'. This is an indicative figure only as other applicants in a different category of housing need may also be on rent supplement. It is the Department of Social Protection that keeps the up to date lists of those on Rent Supplement and these numbers can change from week

to week due to recipients moving between private rented accommodation and reviews of their claims.

Following an enquiry to the Department of Social Protection, the number in receipt of rent supplement for the Cork Central Division which includes part of the county area is 6,336.

3.1.8 **CORK CITY COUNCIL PROPERTY**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir M. O'Sullivan, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

What is the average rent for Council property plus the number of vacant houses in Council possession?

REPLY

The average rent is 46.18. The number of vacant houses at 30th June, 2014 is 511.

3.1.9 **RE-DESIGNATION OF THE HOUSING STATUS OF KILBRACK GROVE ON SKEHARD ROAD**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

To ask the Manager to outline to City Council the circumstances surrounding to re-designation of the housing status of Kilbrack Grove on Skehard Road.

Why were all the houses in this much sought after development not sold?

Can the 9 remaining unsold houses be now sold on the open market?

If they cannot for legal reasons, will the Manager lay before Council a copy of this legal advice?

What allocations or proposed allocations have taken place regarding any of these houses?

Will a housing agency be offered these houses for allocation?

I understand City Council have purchased 6 of these houses, what is the status of the remaining 3 unsold houses?

Will City Council Housing Department staff agree to meet with the residents of Kilbrack Grove to brief them on the present situation and include them in any decisions on the future of the remaining houses in the park?

REPLY

Kilbrack Grove was developed by Cork City Council as a Housing Scheme under the Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI) promoted by the DECLG. Abode, who are a specialist care providers to disability groups, were also accommodated in the development. The development was on Council owned land and was progressed under a Part 8 Planning process. CCC procured the development of the housing units directly by contract.

The majority of the 41 No. houses were sold by CCC under the AHI Scheme. However, 9 No. houses were not sold following the banking and resultant property crisis as were a number of AHI developments around the city. The DECLG stood down the AHI Scheme in 2011 as property prices crashed and the rationale for the scheme was no longer valid.

Given the large demand for social housing in the city, currently 8,000+, it was considered necessary, and supported by policy, to tenant unsold properties. CCC have been, leasing unsold affordables with a large portion being managed by an Approved Housing Bodies and occupied by social housing tenants.

The housing units in Kilbrack have been vacant for some time and CCC has been progressing arrangements to have them tenanted, following approval by the DECLG to purchase 6 No. for this purpose. The remaining 3 No. properties remain as unsold affordable and are likely to be progressed via a social leasing arrangement with an AHB.

CCC does not consider the inclusion of 9 No. social housing units within this development as excessive. If this scheme was developed as a private development there would be a requirement under Part V to provide social housing on the site.

The City Council is moving to allocate 6 of the properties and as set out above to have them managed by an AHB through a service level agreement.

3.1.10 **HORSE TROUGH AT PARNELL PLACE HAS GONE**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir T.Brosnan, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Manager please advise where the Horse Trough at Parnell Place has gone? Can he further confirm that it will be replaced, intact in the same location that it was at prior to the road works at Parnell Place? The Manager should note that I had received prior assurances that the five remaining horse troughs in Cork City would be protected as heritage artefacts of bygone days.

REPLY

The Horse Trough at Parnell Place has been removed to storage during construction of the Parnell Place Renewal Scheme. At completion of the scheme it will be replaced intact at the original location. We anticipate that this will happen in August 2014.

3.1.11 **STAFFING IN HOUSING ALLOCATIONS**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir M. Finn, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Acting Chief Executive outline how many staff operate the Housing Allocation section of City Council and their level, and how many senior and operational staff are in the Housing Maintenance section, and what proportion of the overall staff both groups represent?

REPLY

Housing Allocations:

Allocations Section – report to Administrative Officer

- 1 Staff Officer (Allocations Officer)
- 1 Housing Welfare Officer
- 2 Housing Assessment Officers (FTE 1.6)
- 3 Clerical Officers (FTE 2.6)

Housing Maintenance:

(Numbers are Full Time Equivalent)

<u>Grade :</u>	<u>F. T. E.</u>
Senior Engineer	0.8
Senior Executive Engineer	2
Executive Engineer	1.8
Administrative Officer	1
Clerical Officer	4.8
General Foreman	5
Asst General Foreman	7
Tradesperson	73
General Operative	<u>49</u>
Total :	<u>144.4</u>

Total Staff

Housing & Community Directorate: 243

Cork City Council: 1427

3.1.12 **UNSOLD AFFORDABLE HOUSES**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

To ask the City Manager, what is the future plan for the 9 unsold affordable houses in Kilbrack Grove, Skehard Road? Residents were given assurances at the time of purchase in the estate by the Council that they would be only Affordable housing and that this would not change. Planning was sought for affordable housing - not social- can this suddenly change? Assurances were given to the residents and local councillors that these would only ever be an Affordable estate- can the council go back on their word? Nine Social houses in an estate of 41 is almost a 25% split- this seems large? This will affect people's home value significantly- will they be compensated by Cork City Council?

REPLY

Kilbrack Grove was developed by Cork City Council as a Housing Scheme under the Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI) promoted by the DECLG. Abode, who are a specialist care providers to disability groups, were also accommodated in the development. The development was on Council owned land and was progressed under a Part 8 Planning process. CCC procured the development of the housing units directly by contract.

The majority of the 41 No. houses were sold by CCC under the AHI Scheme. However, 9 No. houses were not sold following the banking and resultant property crisis as were a number of AHI developments around the city. The DECLG stood down the AHI Scheme in 2011 as property prices crashed and the rationale for the scheme was no longer valid.

Given the large demand for social housing in the city, currently 8,000+, it was considered necessary, and supported by policy, to tenant unsold properties. CCC have been, leasing unsold affordables with a large portion being managed by an Approved Housing Bodies and occupied by social housing tenants.

The housing units in Kilbrack have been vacant for some time and CCC has been progressing arrangements to have them tenanted, following approval by the DECLG to purchase 6 No. for this purpose. The remaining 3 No. properties remain as unsold affordable and are likely to be progressed via a social leasing arrangement with an AHB.

CCC does not consider the inclusion of 9 No. social housing units within this development as excessive. If this scheme was developed as a private development there would be a requirement under Part V to provide social housing on the site.

The City Council is moving to allocate 6 of the properties and as set out above to have them managed by an AHB through a service level agreement.

3.1.13 LAND OWNED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, KNOWN AS THE 'GYM' LOCATED NEAR CORK CITY GAOL

The following question submitted by Comhairleoir M. Nugent was deferred to the next meeting of An Chomhairle.

Can the Manager determine if it is possible that land owned by the City Council, known as the 'Gym' located near Cork City Gaol and adjacent to the site of the former Good Shepard Convent, Laundry & Orphanage in Sunday's Well be opened up to the public particularly so that Magdalene Women's grave be accessible for visitors? A potential use for the land would be for a memorial garden & park, local stakeholders such as Blarney st & Surrounding areas Community Association & Sunday's Well BNS may also have an interest in using some of the land.

3.1.14 PLANNING PERMISSION BY COUNTRY CLEAN LTD

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir K. Collins, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Manager tell me if Country Clean Ltd, have had any recent planning applications in relation to their site at John F Connolly rd, Churchfield or have applications awaiting adjudication?

Does he know if Country Clean have had a change in operations at their site? Who is responsible for ensuring the company complies with all licensing regulations?

REPLY

The most recent planning application from Country Clean Ltd. is planning ref. No. 14/35932 for an ESB MV Substation building with attached meter room at the existing waste materials recycling facility at John F. Connolly Road, Churchfield, Cork.

Permission was granted for this proposal on 24th February, 2014.

I am unaware of any change in operations at the site. The Country Clean Site is operated under Licence from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Agency is responsible for ensuring compliance with all licence conditions

3.1.15 **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HORSE PROJECT IN CORK CITY**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir S. Cunningham, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Manager provide Council with a progress report on efforts by all the relevant stakeholders to establish a Horse Project in Cork City.

REPLY

The question of a horse project was considered by the Traveller Interagency Steering Group.

Subsequently the matter has been considered in a review of Traveller Services in the City undertaken by the former South Dublin County Manager Mr. Joe Horan. This report will be submitted to the Minister with responsibility for Disability, Older People, Equality & Mental Health. It is intended to progress the Horse Project following any recommendations in this report.

3.1.16 **N.A.M.A PROPERTIES**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir H. Cremin, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the C. E. O. /Manager inform the council of the following.

- A. Has Cork City Council been offered any properties from N.A.M.A. to reduce our housing waiting list.
- B. Has Cork City Council refused any offers of properties from N.A.M.A
- C. Has there ever been any talks/communications between City Council and N.A.M.A. in relation to releasing some of these properties , and was there any constructive

decisions taken to benefit/reduce the City Council housing waiting list at the conclusion of these talks.

REPLY

- A. Cork City Council through the Housing Agency was made aware of developments in the control of NAMA that maybe suitable for Social Housing.
- B. Cork City Council considered a number of these developments and most were found unsuitable or Contracts of Sale had been entered into at the time of investigation
- C. All communications in relation to these developments was through the Housing Agency and no direct contact was made by Cork City Council with NAMA as in A above.

3.2 **QUESTIONS FROM MEETING OF THE 8TH SEPTEMBER 2014**

3.2.1 **RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir C. O'Leary, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Would the Manager outline the following under the Rental Accommodation Scheme

1. The addresses of all properties in which contracts were entered into under the Rental Accommodation Scheme broken down by the nature of the contract (landlord/tenancy by tenancy/ PPP (Part V) and the date and length of the lease since the scheme commenced.
2. A list of all landlords who have provided properties under the RAS including the number of properties since the scheme commenced.
3. The details of all commission payments or fees made to auctioneers for work done under the RAS since the scheme commenced.

REPLY

1. The addresses of all properties in which contracts were entered into under the Rental Accommodation Scheme broken down by the nature of the contract (landlord/tenancy by tenancy/ PPP (Part V) and the date and length of the lease since the scheme commenced.

Firstly to clarify agreements under the rental accommodation scheme are Tri-Party agreements between the landlord, tenant and Cork City Council. Cork City Councils involvement is to support the financial aspect of the tenancy all other matters are managed between the landlord and tenant as governed by the Residential Tenancies Act 2004.

The agreements between Cork City Council and the landlord come in two forms in relation to provision of the property

- *Tenancy only – This expires once the current tenant vacates the property.*

- *Availability – This makes the property available for a fixed period to Cork City Council under RAS with the council having tenant nomination rights.*

Part V has no bearing on the rental accommodation scheme however Part 4 tenancies under the act are those that continue beyond 4 years and increase the notice periods etc. to be served by landlords on the tenant. This is governed by the tenancy agreement between landlord and tenant under the act. It should also be noted that landlords are required to furnish Cork City Council with a copy of any notice issued to the tenant under the terms of our agreement with them.

In the context of the data provided in the attached sheet ‘Lease Analysis since commencement’ the following should be noted

- *We are unable to publish the precise address of properties in a public forum as it could be viewed as releasing personal information of the tenant in residence and may subject Cork City Council to an investigation by the Data Protection Commissioner and subsequently lead to prosecution. We have however provided details with a reference number attached which can be used to subsequently raise queries/concerns if deemed necessary.*
- *It should also be noted that an appropriate I.T. System was not in place when RAS commenced in 2005 so any lease agreements in the attached beginning on 01/07/2008 should be interpreted as being in existence at that time but may have been in place for a period prior to this date.*
- *The data provided is based on when a tenancy existed in a property ‘T’ denotes a terminated lease and ‘A’ denotes an active lease. The nature of the tenancy agreement at a point in time is determined by the act. Where an availability agreement has been entered into this is referenced when there is a change in tenancy to establish nomination rights.*
- *Accommodation is also provided through voluntary bodies under RAS however the financial support model is different and the framework does not require a signed agreement with Cork City Council so these have not been included in the data in ‘Lease analysis since commencement’.*
- *Report Columns are as follows*
 - *Building Ref – Refers to the building e.g. 21 Patrick St.*
 - *Unit No. – Refers to the unit within the building e.g. Flat 1*
 - *Lease Ref – Refers to a tenancy lease within the unit*
 - *Lease Start – Start Date for lease ref*
 - *Lease End – End date of lease. No date means lease is still active.*
 - *Years – Number of years lease is in existence.*

2. A list of all landlords who have provided properties under the RAS including the number of properties since the scheme commenced.

- *As with the property address data in no. 1 above we are unable to release the names of landlords providing properties in a public forum without seeking their permission to do so. This could be viewed as releasing the landlords personal*

information and may subject Cork City Council to an investigation by the Data Protection Commissioner and subsequently lead to prosecution. We have however provided details with a reference number attached which can be used to subsequently raise queries/concerns if deemed necessary.

In the context of the data provided in the attached sheet 'No. of properties by landlord' the following should be noted

- *The data provided also includes voluntary bodies as landlord even though no agreement is required payments are still made to them under RAS to provide social housing units.*
 - *Report Columns are as follows*
 - *Landlord Ref – Landlord reference number*
 - *No. of Units. – Number of separate units provided since the scheme started.*
3. The details of all commission payments or fees made to auctioneers for work done under the RAS since the scheme commenced.

The only fees paid in relation to RAS are to agents when a dispute arises with a landlord during rent review negotiations. When disputes arise regarding rent values the landlord and Cork City Council share the cost of a rent valuation to form the basis of negotiation.

The details of these payments are attached in list 'payments for valuations' attached.

3.2.2 **LAND OWNED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, KNOWN AS THE 'GYM' LOCATED NEAR CORK CITY GAOL**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir M. Nugent, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Manager determine if it is possible that land owned by the City Council, know as the 'Gym' located near Cork City Gaol and adjacent to the site of the former Good Shepard Convent, Laundry & Orphanage in Sunday's Well be opened up to the public particularly so that Magdalene Women's grave be accessible for visitors? A potential use for the land would be for a memorial garden & park, local stakeholders such as Blarney st & Surrounding areas Community Association & Sunday's Well BNS may also have an interest in using some of the land.

REPLY

The site in question is located to the rear of Cork City Gaol, Sunday's Well, Cork. Cork City Gaol (former Women's Gaol, Sunday's Well) was acquired by Cork City Council from the Minister for Justice by way of two Transfer Orders dated the 2nd October 1989. It was subsequently then agreed by Council in 1992 that a lease for a term of 200 years was to be granted to Cork City Gaol and Trust Company Ltd.

The City Council has responded to the parties referred to by Cllr. Nugent who have expressed an interest in using the site and confirmed that the proposed lands fall within

the area of ground leased to the Cork City Gaol and Trust Company Ltd. Given the term of the lease granted any consent/permission to use the site is one which rests in the first instance with the Cork City Gaol and Trust Company Ltd, who now trade as Cork Tourism and Leisure Ltd.

The interested parties have been advised to engage with the manager and Board of Trustees of the Gaol to agree how the proposals can be accommodated so that the relevant formal agreements can be put in place. Once concluded the Council will review the agreed proposal with regards to providing written consent to any sub let as appropriate.

3.2.3 **NAMING OF FERRY WALK TO ‘NOEL CANTWELL’**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir S. Martin, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

When will Ferry Walk be renamed after Noel Cantwell the iconic Cork Sporting Legend?

REPLY

It is a matter for An Chomhairle to approve renaming of this roadway.

3.2.4 **SOUND BARRIERS AT CAPWELL AVENUE, TURNERS CROSS**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir F. Kerins, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Manager update Council on the situation at Capwell Avenue, Turners Cross where residents have previously requested for sound barriers to be erected due to level of noise coming from the South Link Road which runs behind their back gardens? Is there currently funding available for this work?

REPLY

Cork City Council advises that residential areas adjacent to the South City Link Road (N27) were highlighted in the 2008 Cork City Council Noise Action Plan (NAP) as one of the ‘priority’ areas needing noise mitigation.

Two key reports followed on from the recommendation of the 2008 NAP namely:

- A noise survey to validate the results of the noise mapping/modelling in the 2008 NAP to identify the extent of the noise problem in the residential areas adjacent to the South City Link Road (N27) and to propose and identify appropriate mitigation measures;
- A feasibility report for the implementation of noise mitigation measures for residential areas adjacent to the N27 (South City Link Road) This report outlines the feasibility of installing 4 metre high absorptive type noise barriers, for the residential area adjacent to the South City Link Road (N27). It also sets out the geotechnical constraints as well as preliminary cost estimates.

The results of the pilot noise survey for a residential area to the west of the South City Link Road (N27) confirmed that there is a problem with existing levels of noise from traffic using the South City Link Road (N27) at certain times. . It was also identified that the installation of 3m and 4m high, permanent, absorptive noise barriers would significantly reduce the impact of noise from the South City Link Road (N27) on those properties along the 800m length under consideration. Optimum barrier type and configuration would be subject to the undertaking of a detailed acoustic design along the route, however.

Preliminary cost estimates (2013) for the works are **€1.4M ex VAT**.

Cork City Council does not have a budget to carry out the remedial works required.

National Primary Roads are the responsibility of the National Roads Authority (NRA), and as the source of the noise is traffic using the N27 Cork City Council wrote to the requesting them to:

- a) consider the contents of the findings;
- b) input the provision of noise mitigations measures along the N27 South City Link Road into their work programme.

National Roads Authority (NRA) responded that they don't have funding in place to carry out the works at this time.

The Noise Action Plan 2013-2018 for the Cork Agglomeration Area continues to list Capwell/ South City Link as an area requiring 'further assessment'.

3.2.5 **DERELICTION ORDERS SINCE 2008**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir K. O'Flynn, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Chief Executive please inform the Council how many dereliction orders have been placed before Cork City Council since 2008?

REPLY

16 No. Derelict Sites have been placed on the Derelict Sites Register since 1st January 2008.

Of these, 16 No. Sites:

1. 4 no. Sites were subsequently compulsorily acquired by the Council, with two properties subsequently sold on the open market and which are now redeveloped and no longer derelict. The remaining two properties are to be redeveloped by the Council subject to funding
2. 2 no. Sites were removed from the Derelict Sites Register.
3. 10 no. Sites of that number remain on the Derelict Sites Register. There are in total 27 no. Sites on the Derelict Sites Register.

3.2.6 **EMPTY TROUGH AT BISHOP LUCY PARK**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

To ask the Manager what is the plan to improve the aesthetics of the trough on either side of the displayed town wall in Bishop Lucey Park, the empty troughs look terrible.

REPLY

The floral planting either side of the historic city walls were damaged on a number of occasions during the summer months due to wanton vandalism, the beds are scheduled to be replanted with spring bedding in the coming weeks.

3.2.7 NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON ADJUSTING THE LOCAL PROPERTY TAX IN THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir M. Nugent, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Manager tell me how many submissions were received in the public consultation process on adjusting the Local Property Tax (LPT)? Will the Manager consider writing to the Department of Environment requesting an additional 2 weeks for the consultation process? Is the Manager satisfied that Cork City Council made every effort to alert the public and elected members to the process which concluded on August 23rd?

REPLY

The Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended), makes provision for elected members of a local authority to set a local adjustment factor to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax for their administrative area by + or – 15%. Statutory Instruments S.I. No. 296 of 2014 Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2014 sets out the matters to which the local authority must have regard in making their decisions:

1. The local authority's estimation of the income it will receive and the expenditure it will incur in the period for which the varied rate is to have effect.
2. The financial position of the local authority.
3. The financial effect of the varied rate.
4. Feedback from public consultation.

The regulations also sets out the format of notice for seeking written submissions from the public.

The City Council were advised of the process in reports to the Finance Functional and Estimates Committee and the full Council dated 7th July and 14th July. Public advertisements were placed in the press on Friday 25th July 2014 inviting submissions. Details of the Public Consultation process are also contained on the Cork City website. In total 21 submissions (20 electronic, 1 written) were received from the public in relation to the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor.

Cork City Council is satisfied that appropriate arrangements were made to inform and facilitate both elected members and the public in making submissions regarding the setting of a local adjustment factor.

3.2.8 **ROLLOUT OF HAP TO ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir M. Barry, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

A report prepared for the Housing Functional Committee dated Aug 28 stated that “the rollout of HAP to all local authorities is due in 2015”. Can the Manager provide more precise information? Do we have a date or an approximate date for the commencement of this scheme in our local authority area?

REPLY

Circular: Housing 36 of 2014 – Housing Assistance payment (HAP) – Differential Rents Framework update, RAS and Transfers to other forms of Social Housing Support issued on 14th August 2014 states “the phasing out of the scheme” (Rental Accommodation Scheme) will be done in co-ordination with the phased implementation of HAP in respect of wave 1 in 2014, and more generally during 2015.

Therefore, there is no date available yet with regard to the implementation of HAP in Cork City Council

3.2.9 **CIRCULATE COPY OF REPORT INTO THE WORKINGS OF THE HOUSING DIRECTORATE**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir T. Brosnan, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Manager please circulate a copy of the recently received report into the workings of the Housing Directorate as it is directly relevant to Councillors and their policy making role?

REPLY

A report issued from consultants engaged to carry out a walkthrough audit of Housing Maintenance operations in October 2013. The report has not been published as it is a report for internal management purposes only. It is not a policy issue.

Initiatives as to how internal processes and service delivery might be improved are being considered and implemented on an ongoing basis commensurate with current resources.

Any changes to policy relevant to Council are brought before Housing Functional or Strategic Policy Committee, as appropriate, in the normal course in any event.

3.2.10 **DEANROCK SITE**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir J. Buttimer, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

To ask the CEO for a full and comprehensive report on the current status of the Deanrock site and plans to develop a Primary Care Centre at that location. The report

to include details of all meetings and contacts; minutes, records and recommendations of meetings; telephone conversations; internal and external reports, memos and other communications related to the site since January 2014 to the present date. The report should also include full details of and responses to any legal issues arising from the proposed disposal of the site earlier this year and a detailed plan for progressing plans for the future of the site in conjunction with the local community and Public representatives.

REPLY

The current position in relation to the proposed sale of the Deanrock Site the subject of the Disposal Notice dated the 27th February 2014 is as set out in a report of Dan Buggy, Chief Executive, dated the 29th August 2014 which was considered by the Housing Functional Committee at its meeting on the 1st September 2014.

The Minutes of this Meeting record inter alia that Dan Buggy confirmed that the site at Deanrock would not be disposed of to either of the parties mentioned in his report and that the remedial work on the site would be likely to have an impact on its market value.

The Committee decided to recommend the said report to An Chomhairle for approval.

Having regard to the threats of legal proceedings made by the parties mentioned in the said report which have not been withdrawn, I am advised that it would not be appropriate to provide any details other than those contained in the said report dated the 29th August 2014, the concluding paragraph of which states as follows:-

“Having regard to the foregoing, the City Council may now consider its position as to how it will implement any continuing desire of the Elected Members that a Primary Health Care Centre be provided on this Site”.

3.2.11 TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir L. O'Donnell, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Manager please inform Council as to whether tenants from addresses including Ballymachthomas, Wolfe Tone Street, Grattan Street, Farranclarey Place, Boyces Street will be able to purchase their apartments/flats from the Council in the next Tenant Purchase Scheme, under the terms of the Tenant Purchase of Apartment Scheme provided for in the 2009 Housing Act?

REPLY

The new Tenant Purchase Scheme is envisaged as an Incremental Purchase Scheme. The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government have signalled their intention that the new Incremental Purchase Scheme will also apply to Tenant Purchase of Apartments. However, there has been no official documentation issued thus far.

In previous reports to Council on the Purchase of Apartments (or “Sale of Flats”), the members were informed that this scheme is not particularly suitable for a number of

reasons relating to the provisions and details of the Act and the implementation of the scheme. Of the total of 1800 apartments in the city 1186 only qualify to be assessed.

In order for an apartment complex to be eligible for designation for tenant purchase the complex must:

- (i) Comprise of at least 5 apartments
- (ii) Not contain apartments designed for occupation by elderly persons or retail units
- (iii) Satisfy criteria set out in Section 51 of the 2009 Act and at least 65% of the tenants must support designation of the complex

Following compliance with the above a number of actions s follows:

- establish an annual maintenance cost for the apartment complex
- As-built drawings of the services and maintenance of the apartment complex have to be prepared for use by the new management company.
- Prepare a statutory proposal to designate the apartment complex.

Only at this point can a tenant plebiscite be carried out (65% required) on the designation of the proposal.

This assessment requires significant resources and with such restrictions may well result in a negative outcome and such assessments have not been pursued for that reason.

3.2.12 **LICENCE/PLANNING PERMISSION AT THE COUNTRY CLEAN FACILITY**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir M. O'Sullivan, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Manager please inform Council:

What type of licence/planning permission does the Country Clean facility in Churchfield hold? What are the main salient points of this licence and for how long is it valid?

REPLY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Waste Licence No. S0257-01 was issued to Country Clean Recycling Limited at Churchfield Industrial Estate on 30th January 2014. This licence is valid until surrendered by the licensee or revoked by EPA.. The licence itself is a detailed document of 35 pages dealing with 12 conditions and 6 schedules.

The licenced activities are outlined under section 'Licenced Waste Activities' in respect of:

- (1) Licenced waste disposal activities, and
- (2) Licenced waste recovery activities.

The Introduction Section to the licence sets out the framework for the licence itself:

“This licence sets out the conditions for the operation of a waste transfer station and material recovery facility for non-hazardous waste by Country Clean Recycling Limited at the Churchfield Industrial Estate, County Cork.

The facility was previously operated under the waste facility permit from Cork City Council. This licence authorises the expansion of the facility to accommodate the acceptance and processing of up to 100,000 tonnes of waste per annum. The waste will consist of municipal solid waste, dry recyclable waste, construction and demolition waste, commercial and industrial waste and separately collect bio-waste.

All waste off-loading, handling and processing will be carried out inside the building. Waste processing will involve uploading, separation, sorting, crushing, trammelling, shredding, screening, baling and storage pending consignment off-site for re-use or further processing. Residual waste from the facility will be sent off-site for disposal at appropriately authorised facilities.

Storm water run-off from the facility roofs will be discharged to Cork City Council’s storm water network without treatment. Storm water run-off from the hard standing areas around the site, wash down water from the waste transfer building and wash water from the wheel cleaning area will be directed through an oil separator (Class 1- full retention), via an attenuation tank, into Cork City Council’s foul water sewer network.

Mitigation measures will be employed to manage odour, dust and noise emissions from the waste activities. This includes the sealing of the waste transfer building structure and the installation of a negative air pressure system with the ventilated gases being subject to treatment by a bio-filter or a suitable alternative as agreed by the Agency.

The licence sets out in detail the conditions under which Country Clean Recycling Limited will operate and manage this facility.”

Full details of the licence are available on the EPA website –www.epa.ie.

3.2.13 **N.P.P.R. SCHEME**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

To ask the Manager in relation to the N.P.P.R. Scheme:

1. How many units does this scheme apply to in the city?
2. What income has the City Council received from this scheme to date?
3. What arrears are there to date (state amount)?
4. What negotiations are ongoing with property owners?
5. In terms of this income, where is it proposed to be spent

REPLY

1. 13,046 properties are registered for NPPR in the City.

2. Total payment (including penalties) for the period 2009 – 2014 amount to €14,756,740.
3. As the NPPR is on a self declaration basis no arrears figures are available.
4. Property owners who are actively engaged with Local Authorities can have their penalties “frozen” and there has been significant increase in such activity over the past weeks.
5. Income from the NPPR has been recognised as part of the Revenue Budget since 2009. The tax has since been replaced by the LPT and income in 2014 and beyond will be limited to the collection of arrears.

3.2.14 **ODOURS AND VERMIN EMANATING FROM THE WASTE RECYCLING COMPANIES IN CHURCHFIELD**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir K. Collins, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Has Cork City Council been contacted by the residents and members of the community of Farranree and Fairhill about the prevention of the sickening odours and vermin emanating from the waste recycling companies in Churchfield?

Are the 3 waste recycling companies at John F. Connolly Road compliant with the planning that was granted?

Could the Manager give an update on the Bottlehill Waste Facility?

REPLY

Has Cork City Council been contacted by the residents and members of the community of Farranree and Fairhill about the prevention of the sickening odours and vermin emanating from the waste recycling companies in Churchfield?

A number of complaints regarding odour have been received from residents in the area over the past number of months. Any caller has been advised that as the facilities that may be causing the odour are authorised by the Environment Protection Agency any complaints should be made to the authority’s office in Inniscarra at 4875540

Are the 3 waste recycling companies at John F. Connolly Road compliant with the planning that was granted?

These companies are compliant with planning permission conditions.

Could the Manager give an update on the Bottlehill Waste Facility?

The Bottlehill Landfill Facility is administered by Cork County Council as Executive Authority. It has been constructed in accordance with EPA and planning requirements but is unused to date as a licenced landfill facility.

3.2.15 **WHAT POSITIONS ARE CURRENTLY VACANT IN THE HOUSING & COMMUNITY DIRECTORATE**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir S. O'Shea, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the Manager outline what positions are currently vacant in the Housing & Community Directorate?

Will these positions be filled in the short term?

REPLY

A public service staffing moratorium has been in place since March 2009. Cork City Council was subject to an independent review following the recommendation contained in the Local Government Efficiency Review Group's Report, published in July, 2010 that the staffing complement and number of senior managers in Cork and Dublin City Council should be independently reviewed.

In March 2013 the then Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr. Phil Hogan, T.D., published the independent Review Group Report on Staffing Levels in Cork City Council. The Workforce Plan sets out to achieve a reduction, from 1 January 2010, in overall staffing figures of just over 13% by the 31st December 2014. The Council is on target to achieve the reduction by year end.

The only vacancies the Council had scope to fill since March 2009 were ones that were identified as critical to the overall functioning of the organisation. The Council had to submit business cases to the Department of the Environment for approval before filling of these vacancies could be proceeded with. The Council has no authorisation to fill any other positions prior to the reduction being achieved.

The effects of the moratorium have been felt throughout all sections of the City Council.

ITEMS DEFERRED FROM MEETING OF THE 14th JULY 2014

4. **PARTY WHIPS – 7th JULY 2014**

An Chomhairle considered the following items which were referred from the Party Whips Meeting held on 7th July 2014.

4.1 **JOINT HOMELESSNESS CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

An Chomhairle considered the nomination to the Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir C. O'Leary, An Chomhairle approved the nomination of Comhairleoir S. Martin to the Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum.

4.2 **MEMORIAL ON MARDYKE WALK IN MEMORY OF NOEL CANTWELL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the recommendation of the Party Whips from its meeting held on 7th July 2014.

‘That a suitable memorial be placed on Mardyke Walk in memory of former Soccer International Noel Cantwell give his close association with that part of the City.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll 14/232)

Decision of Party Whips

It was noted that this motion was similar to a previous motion from Comhairleoir M. Finn which was with the Commemorative Committee and had been discussed by the Party Whips.

It was agreed to recommend to Council that the pedestrian walkway opposite the main gate of Fitzgerald’s Park would be named “Noel Cantwell Walk” and that the proposal be referred to the Roads Directorate for processing.

4.3 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the recommendation of the Party Whips from its meeting held on 7th July 2014.

Following a request from Comhairleoir M. Barry to Tadhg Keating, it was agreed to recommend to An Chomhairle for approval that Comhairleoir M. O’Sullivan be replaced on the Roads & Transportation Functional Committee by Comhairleoir L. O’Donnell.

CIRCULATION OF PARTY WHIPS MINUTES

Following discussion by An Chomhairle, in relation to the Minutes of Party Whips, on the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the future circulation of Party Whips Minutes to Members of An Chomhairle.

5. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 30th June 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group, from its meeting held on the 30th June 2014.

5.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31st MAY 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the Financial Statement to 31st May 2014.

5.2 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following proposal.

5.2.1 It was proposed by An tArd-Mhéara and agreed to recommend to An Chomhairle that the Government be requested to notify 2015 grant levels as soon as possible.

6. **HOUSING & COMMUNITY FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 30th JUNE 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Housing & Community Functional Committee, from its meeting held on the 30th June 2014.

6.1 **MONTHLY REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Senior Engineer, Housing & Community Services on Housing for the month of May, 2014.

6.2 **VOIDS RECOVERY SCHEME 2014**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Senior Engineer, Housing & Community Services dated 30th June, 2014 in relation to the Voids Recovery Scheme 2014.

6.3 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME (CAS) PROGRAMME 2014 – 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Senior Engineer, Housing & Community Services in relation to the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Programme 2014-2016.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Buttimer, it was agreed to Suspend Standing Orders and continue the meeting to 9.00 p.m.

6.4 **GATES OUTSIDE 136 – 148 COMERAGH PARK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Senior Engineer, Housing & Community Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘For gates to be erected outside 136 – 148 Comeragh Park, to ensure security for tenants.’

(Proposer: K. O’Flynn 14/142)

The report of the Senior Engineer stated that the units in question were refurbished in recent years under the Glen Regeneration Scheme. There are extensive railings around these units already, and it is unclear what additional gates might be considered to enhance existing security, other than closure of existing rights of way between adjacent areas. In addition, Housing Maintenance resources, both labour and financial, are currently prioritised in favour of Emergency and Urgent response repairs, along with repairs to vacant units, so there are little or no resources available for issues of this nature. Any incidences of anti-social behaviour should be reported to An Garda Síochána.

6.5 **ELECTRIC GATES AT DISTILLERY COURT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Senior Engineer, Housing & Community Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council would erect electric gates operational by remote control at Distillery Court and that each resident in Distillery Court be issued 2 remote controls to operate gates.’

(Proposer: K. O’Flynn 14/144)

The report of the Senior Engineer stated that repairs to the key pad operated pedestrian gate have recently been carried out. Automation of the vehicular gates would be a significant initial and ongoing expense as such facilities are often subject to recurring abuse and vandalism. Parking in Distillery Court other than by residents, and control thereof, should be referred to Roads and Transportation for resolution.

6.6 **CHAPEL FIELD ESTATE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Senior Engineer, Housing & Community Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council Housing Department present a report on the Chapel Field Estate outlining what work has been done recently in relation to the drainage system in the estate including what issues have been identified & any necessary work required, a copy of the drainage plans to be made available to the Residents Committee.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 14/191)

The report of the Senior Engineer stated that Cork City Council’s Strategic Planning & Economic Development Directorate had requested as-built drawings and CCTV surveys from the developers of the Chapel Field Estate. Any queries on the matter should be addressed to the Strategic Planning & Economic Development Directorate.

6.7 **WALL TO REAR OF HOUSES IN ILEN GARDENS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Senior Engineer, Housing & Community Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That City Council would investigate the wall at the rear of all the houses in Ilen Gardens Deanrock Togher. There is a large crack in this wall from which water is leaking and leaving huge stains of moss and mildew. Residents in Ilen Court are not a bit happy with this as this is what they are looking at when they open the front door of their houses.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/160)

The report of the Senior Engineer stated that the wall referred to is a retaining wall as the ground levels at Ilen Gardens are higher than the adjacent levels at Ilen Court.

There is a horizontal joint through which some groundwater seepage appears to be occurring giving rise to some staining. Drainage systems at Ilen Gardens have been checked and are in good condition. Housing Maintenance resources, both labour and financial, are currently prioritised in favour of Emergency and Urgent response repairs, along with repairs to vacant units. In the current circumstances, it is not feasible to devote scarce resources to addressing issues of this nature.

6.8 **AUDIT OF HOUSING UNITS IN MAYFIELD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Senior Engineer, Housing & Community Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council undertake an Audit on all of our Housing Units in The Mayfield area as a matter of urgency in the interest of public safety. We need to identify works that need to be done and in particular issues that need to be addressed as a matter of urgency and as a matter of priority. We have a duty of care to our tenants.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 14/060)

The report of the Senior Engineer stated that Essential Emergency, Urgent and Routine response repairs are being carried out to all Housing stock within the current resource and budgetary constraints. Any public safety issues can currently be addressed via this mechanism. Members will be aware that in recent years provision for planned, preventative maintenance within the Housing Maintenance annual budget has been minimal. There are no staff or financial resources currently available to conduct such an overall stock survey in the North East or any other area of the city.

7. **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 30th JUNE 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Roads & Transportation Functional Committee, from its meeting held on the 30th June 2014.

7.1 **ROADWORKS PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated 26th June, 2014 on the progress of the ongoing Roadworks Programme for the month ended May, 2014.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir C. O’Leary, it was agreed to Suspend Standing Orders and continue the meeting to beyond 9pm to complete the Agenda.

7.2 **TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS WHICH WERE REFERRED BY COUNCIL TO THE COMMITTEE.**

7.2.1 **UPGRADE TRAFFIC ISLANDS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would take immediate action to upgrade the traffic islands at the following locations where they are quite dilapidated and a danger to motorists particularly at night.’

1. Skehard Road by Skehard Lawn.
2. Boreenmanna Road at Rockboro

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Shannon 14/121)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that the traffic islands at Skehard Road by Skehard Lawn and Boreenmanna Road at Rockboro will be assessed to determine the extent of the problems that exist, in order to identify the most appropriate mitigation measure that can be provided.

Any identified measure will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available.

7.2.2 **SPEED RAMP AT IONA GREEN**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council put in place a speed ramp at the lower entrance to Iona Green in the interest of public safety.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 14/139)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that Iona Green will be added to the list of areas where a request for traffic calming has been received. The area will be assessed to determine the extent of the problems that exist there, in order to identify the most appropriate mitigation measure that can be provided.

Any identified measure will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available.

7.2.3 **REINSTATE THE WHITE LINE AT THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT THE WESTERN END OF CLASHDUV ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That City Council would reinstate the white line at the traffic lights at the western end of Clashdub Road which was resurfaced in the past twelve months.

Traffic is now stopping at the end of the resurfaced section approx 20 feet from the traffic lights because there is no white line there and if the first car is turning right onto Glasheen Road there is not enough room for traffic to turn left if the green arrow is showing. This is causing damage to the kerb and traffic is also backed up the Clashdub Road regularly.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/163)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that the request to reinstate the ‘white line’ on Clashdub Road, at its intersection with Glasheen Road, will be assessed.

If appropriate, the work will be inputted into the road painting programme and will be done as soon as is practical, subject to funding being available.

7.2.4 **YELLOW HATCH BOX WOULD BE PUT IN PLACE ON THE SKEHARD ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That a yellow hatch box would be put in place on the Skehard Road at the entrance to Clover Lawn to allow the residents to exit and enter in safety as this entrance is continuously blocked by traffic.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. O’Flynn 14/165)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that the junction of Skehard Road and Clover Lawn will be assessed for the appropriateness of a yellow hatch box.

If deemed suitable, it will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available

7.2.5 **RESURFACE FAIRHILL DRIVE AND UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATE REPAIRS TO FAIRFIELD ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘I would appreciate if Cork City Council would resurface Fairhill Drive and undertake immediate repairs to Fairfield Road from the entrance from Na Piarasigh GAA pavilion as there are many potholes and the road is in need of repair.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 14/167)

The Report stated that Fairhill Drive was not selected for resurfacing in 2014. However it will be considered again for resurfacing in 2015. The area near the Na Piarasigh

GAA Pavilion will also be inspected and any necessary repairs will be carried out in the coming months.

7.2.6 **ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council include Rathpeacon Road in the road resurfacing programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 14/168)

The Report stated that Rathpeacon Road was not selected for inclusion in the 2014 Road Resurfacing Programme and there are currently no funds available for additional roads to be added to the programme. The road will be considered again for inclusion in the 2015 Roads Programme subject to funding being available.

7.2.7 **YELLOW BOX AT THE EXIT OF KNIGHTS COURT, OLD YOUGHAL ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council put in place a Yellow Box at the exit of Knights Court housing estate on Old Youghal Road in order to enhance the safety of residential traffic to and from the estate on to the very busy Old Youghal Road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 14/170)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that the junction of Old Youghal Road and Knights Court is not considered a suitable location for a yellow box junction.

7.2.8 **RESURFACING WORKS AT BONAVENTURE PLACE, GREENMOUNT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That necessary resurfacing works be carried out on Bonaventure Place, Greenmount.’

(Proposer: Cllr. E. O’Halloran 14/185)

The Report stated that Bonaventure Place was not selected for inclusion in the 2014 Estate Road Resurfacing Programme and there are currently no funds available for additional roads to be added to the programme. The estate will be considered again for inclusion in the 2015 Roads Programme subject to funding being available.

7.2.9 **ADD MCCURTAIN VILLAS TO THE RESURFACING PROGRAMME FOR 2014**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That City Council would investigate the condition of the road surface in McCurtains Villas and include this area in the resurfacing programme for 2014.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/188)

The Report stated that McCurtains Villas was not selected for inclusion in the 2014 Estate Road Resurfacing Programme and there are currently no funds available for additional roads to be added to the programme. The estate will be considered again for inclusion in the 2015 Roads Programme subject to funding being available.

7.2.10 **BANTRY PARK ROAD, FAIRHILL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘In relation to Bantry Park Road, Fairhill, Cork City Council will:

- Install traffic-calming measures
- Install a footpath around the perimeter of O’Leary’s Field to ensure the safety of local residents, particularly children.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 14/189).

The Report stated that there is currently no funding available for new footpath works. However the request for a footpath around O’Leary’s field will be reviewed should funding become available in future years.

The Transportation Division advises that Bantry Park Road, Fairhill is on the list of areas where a request for traffic calming has been received. The area will be assessed to determine the extent of the problems that exist there, in order to identify the most appropriate mitigation measure that can be provided.

Any identified measure will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available.

7.2.11 **PLACE DOUBLE YELLOW LINES AT THE ENTRANCE/EXIT OF BELMONT TERRACE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council put in place double yellow lines at the entrance/exit of Belmont Terrace (outside No. 147) in order to prevent cars parking at this point which blocks cars coming and going from Belmont Terrace. Also, can the existing double yellow lines on the opposite side of the road which have faded significantly be re-painted.

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 14/171)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that the request to place double yellow lines at the entrance/exit of Belmont Terrace will be investigated.

If deemed appropriate it will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available

In addition, the repainting of the existing double yellow lines, on the opposite side of the road, will be inputted into the road painting programme and will be done as soon as is practical.

7.2.12 **SIGN BE PUT IN PLACE AT THE END OF BEAUMONT LAWN**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That a stop Sign be put in place at the end of Beaumont Lawn so as the residents can exit in safety.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. O’Flynn 14/179)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that the appropriateness of a ‘STOP’ sign at the end of Beaumont Lawn will be investigated.

If deemed appropriate it will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available

7.2.13 **ROADS RESURFACING PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council include the roundabout for painting, and upgrade the pedestrian crossing at the Farranree Credit Union at the junction of Knockpogue Avenue and Fairfield Avenue given the high usage of pedestrian traffic at this junction.

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 14/184)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that the pedestrian crossing facilities at Farranree Credit Union, which is located at the intersection of Knockpogue Avenue and Fairfield Avenue, will be assessed and any identified measure will be put

forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available.

In addition, the repainting of the roundabout at the intersection of Knockpogue Avenue and Fairfield Avenue, will be inputted into the road painting programme and will be done as soon as is practical.

7.2.14 **ROADS RESURFACING PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘Cork City Council include Churchfield square in the roads resurfacing programme’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 14/187)

The Report stated that Churchfield Square was not selected for inclusion in the 2014 Estate Road Resurfacing Programme and there are currently no funds available for additional roads to be added to the programme. The estate will be considered again for inclusion in the 2015 Roads Programme subject to funding being available.

7.2.15 **RESURFACING PROGRAMME FOR 2014**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

That City Council would take action on the condition of the road surface at Birch Place Togher and carry out remedial work in this area and also that it be included in the resurfacing programme for 2014.

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/190)

The Report stated that Birch Place was not selected for inclusion in the 2014 Estate Road Resurfacing Programme and there are currently no funds available for additional roads to be added to the programme. The estate will be considered again for inclusion in the 2015 Roads Programme subject to funding being available. The estate will however be inspected to determine if localised patching is necessary in the interim.

7.2.16 **RESURFACING PROGRAMME FOR 2014**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Croaghtamore Square and the laneway leading from Loughview Terrace to the Lough be prioritised for resurfacing/repair work.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 14/194)

The Report stated that that Croaghtamore Square and the laneway leading from Loughview Terrace to the Lough were not selected for inclusion in the 2014 Estate Road Resurfacing Programme and there are currently no funds available for additional roads to be added to the programme. The estate will be considered again for inclusion in the 2015 Roads Programme subject to funding being available. The area will however be inspected to determine if localised patching is necessary in the interim.

7.2.17 **RESURFACING PROGRAMME FOR 2014**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That the footpaths on Evergreen Road (from junction with Quaker Road/Tower St) be included on the schedule of works’

(Proposer: Cllr. E. O’Halloran 14/198)

The Report stated that there is currently no funding available for large scale footpath works. However the area will be inspected with a view to carrying out essential localised repairs to the footpath.

7.2.18 **REVIEW THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council review the traffic management plan in the western side of the City in conjunction with the Cork City Development plan in order to tackle the serious issue of traffic congestion which effects so much of the area.’

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Gibbons 14/211)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that traffic in the western side of the City will be assessed as part of the 2014 NTA funded South West Strategic Travel Corridor study.

Any identified traffic management measures will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available. NTA funding may also be possible, where appropriate.

7.2.19 **REMOVE PART OF GREEN AREA IN ROCKWOOD ESTATE MAHON**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That part of the green area in Rockwood Estate Mahon would be removed so as the residents in this estate can park in safety.’

(Proposer: D. O’Flynn 14/178)

The Report stated that there is currently no funding available for the conversion of green areas to parking. However if funding becomes available in 2015 this estate will be considered for inclusion. A general consensus from the residents of the estate will also be required.

7.2.20 **DRAINS IN BALTIMORE LAWN**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That the drains in Baltimore Lawn be checked and drained as appropriate; one in particular outside house no’s 8-12 needs to be drained/ cleaned out’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 14/212)

The Report stated that the gullies/drains in Baltimore Lawn will be checked and cleaned if required during the current gully maintenance programme.

7.2.21 **DRAINS AT LINDEN AVENUE/ BEAUMONT DRIVE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That the drains where Linden Avenue meets Beaumont Drive be checked and drained / cleaned as appropriate.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 14/213)

The Report stated that the gullies/drains in this location will be checked and cleaned if required during the current gully maintenance programme.

7.2.22 **REVERSE DECISION NOT TO PROVIDE ANY FUNDING FOR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN CORK CITY FOR 2014.**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 26th June, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would reverse its decision not to provide any funding for traffic calming measures in Cork City for 2014. Following a serious accident on Innishannon Road, Fairhill highlights again the urgent need for the provision of traffic calming measures where the residents and the community require.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Gould 14/192)

The Report stated that Innishannon Road, Fairhill is on the list of areas where a request for traffic calming has been received. The Transportation Division advises that no funds were provided in the 2014 Budget, as adopted by Council, on 13th January 2014.

A request for funds for traffic calming will need to be submitted during the 2015 Budget preparation, for the consideration of the Members.

7.3 **TO RECONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS WHICH WERE HELD IN COMMITTEE.**

An Chomhairle considered the following Motions which were held in Committee.

7.3.1 **YELLOW HATCH BOX OUTSIDE HILARION ON THE WELL ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 27th February, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would install a yellow hatch box outside Hilarion on the Well Road, to allow the householders to exit and enter in safety and avoid the present situation that they delay traffic while attempting to enter their residences, which is continuously blocked by traffic.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Shannon 13/071)

The Report stated that the Department of Transport design manual details appropriate locations for considering the installation of yellow box markings as road junctions (including roundabouts), junctions with tram tracks, railway level crossings, the exits to bus lanes or other locations deemed appropriate by the road authority, where blocking back affecting a cross flow is a significant problem. The manual emphasises that not all locations are suitable for such treatment and that yellow boxes should only be installed where it is clearly established to be necessary. The legislation underpinning yellow boxes further clarifies that they only have legal standing where they are provided at a road junction.

The request for a yellow box outside ‘Hilarion’ on the Well Road, has been re-examined in detail. Site visits confirm that there are actually two private entrances on the south side of the Well Road that are adjacent to each other and in close proximity to the junction of Well Road with Douglas Road. In considering whether the intervention could be supported, regard has been had to the vehicular capacity and traffic volumes on the Well Rd, the frequency and overall level of disruption arising at present when vehicles seek to enter the two private properties on a right turning movement, the negative impact on queuing capacity arising from the proposed intervention for traffic on the Well Rd going towards Douglas and the continuous/ongoing impact on throughput levels at the nearby junction for such traffic, the availability or otherwise of alternatives, the general lack of appropriateness of locating yellow boxes outside private residences and the establishment of precedent for similar boxes outside private entrances close to other junctions across the City.

Having taken all these various issues into account, it is not considered appropriate for a yellow box to be installed at this location.

7.3.2 **PUBLIC GREEN AT TIFFANY DOWNS, BRAMPTON COURT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 27th February, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would initiate meaningful discussion and dialogue with the residents of Tiffany Downs, Brampton Court and local councillors to identify and implement effective strategies and remedies to secure a permanent boundary wall and fencing of the public green, ensure adequate visual and sound screening to the adjacent flyover and Ring Road, and develop an appropriate planting scheme for the estate. It is also recognised that any response requires inter-Directorate working and cooperation as well as possible engagement with the NRA.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 14/076)

The Report stated that under the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the South Ring Road scheme, noise mitigation measures consisting of a 2.4m high block wall were identified for Brampton Court/Tiffany Downs. In subsequent discussions in 2012 the residents opted to retain the existing mature trees rather than have a new block wall which would have required their removal.

This motion has also been referred to the Environmental Functional Committee for reply.

8. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 7th JULY 2014**

An Chomhairle noted minutes of the Finance & Estimates Functional Committee, from its meeting held on the 7th July 2014.

8.1 **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of Tim Healy, Head of Finance, dated the 3rd July 2014 on following motion referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

8.1.1 **SCHEME WHERE BY DERELICT OR EMPTY PROPERTIES ACROSS THE CITY ARE CHARGED RATES**

‘That Cork City Council look at introducing a scheme whereby derelict or empty properties across the City are charged rates. Many properties are in a derelict and dangerous state and have a huge negative impact on residents.’

(Proposer: G. Gibbons 14/146)

The report stated that I confirm that rates are charged on all vacant commercial property. Depending on the reason and term of vacancy the rate payer may qualify for rates refund to a maximum of 50% of rates paid.

In relation to derelict property it should be noted that a property must be capable of beneficial occupation to attract a commercial rates charge. Depending on the state of repair of such property, it may not be possible to levy rates on them. These properties may then be in line for entry onto the Derelict Sites Register.

9. **TOURISM ARTS & CULTURE FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 7th JULY 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Tourism Arts & Culture Functional Committee from its meeting held on the 7th July 2014.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted the following correspondence:-

- Email from Dermot O’Driscoll dated the 7th July 2014 regarding the Cork Opera House AGM to be held on the 3rd September 2014.
- Letter from Tadhg Keating dated the 10th July 2014 regarding a demonstration on the Public Representatives System for Members to take place on Monday 14th July at 3.30pm.
- Letter from Tadhg Keating dated the 10th July with attached Circular LG20/2014.

11. **CONFERENCE/ SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

An Chomhairle noted there were no Summaries by Members of Conferences/Seminars attended.

12. **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motions, due notice of which has been given:-

12.1 **UPGRADE THE FOOTPATH ON SHANAKIEL ROAD**

‘That Cork City Council

- a. Repair and upgrade the footpath on Shanakiel Road from the end of Strawberry Hill to the T junction at Shanakiel Road as its condition is of concern to residents with mobility issues and is on the main tourist route from Fitzgerald’s Park to the City Gaol.
2. Replace the street furniture with new poles to assist pedestrians crossing the road.

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 14/205)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.2 **TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAMME**

That Cork City Council includes Farranferris Close, Farranree in the Traffic Calming Programme.

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 14/215)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.3 **HOUSING REGENERATION AND REFURBISHMENT**

That mindful of the huge investment in northside regeneration, future funding for council housing regeneration and refurbishment be invested on the southside, to include Noonan's Road.

(Proposer: Cllr. M Finn 14/220)

Housing & Community Functional Committee

12.4 **WARMER HOUSE SCHEME**

‘That Cork City Council include the flats in Desmond Square in the S.E.A.I. Warmer House Scheme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 14/228)

Housing & Community Functional Committee

12.5 **WARMER HOUSE SCHEME**

‘That Cork City Council seek Government funding and include the following flats in the S.E.A.I Warmer House Scheme. These buildings are over 40 years old and require a maintenance programme to improve the quality of life.

137 to 157 Pearse Road
175 to 191 Pearse Road
156 to 178 Pearse Road
110 to 132 Pearse Road
205 to 221 Pearse Road
11 to 19 Perase Place
257 to 279 Connolly Road
15 to 29 Connolly Place
241 to 246 Pouladuff Road
62 to 78 Killeenreendowney
50 to 74 Father Dominic Road
14 to 24 Edward Walsh Road
25 to 41 Edward Walsh Road

This work has been carried out in Sarahville Place and Michael Fitzgerald and it enhances the quality of life and the appearance of the structure.

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 14/229)

Housing & Community Functional Committee

12.6 **RATE FREEZE**

‘That Cork City Council introduce a rate freeze across the city to owners to allow community social groups, short term activity in vacant sites or short term lets in the Arts, Crafts and Artisan Food Sector.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 14/242)

Finance Functional Committee

12.7 **PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY BETWEEN SILVERSPRINGS LAWN AND ASHMOUNT**

‘That Cork City Council would install a pedestrian pathway between Silversprings Lawn and Ashmount as a matter of urgency.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 14/256)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.8 **CARERS & THE HOUSEHOLD PROPERTY TAX**

‘That Cork City Council give a commitment that we will extend local property tax exemptions to include household where a high level of care is provided. Local Authorities will have power to control local property rates after 2015, make a household where a high level of care is provided exempt from property tax and at the very minimum commit to maintaining the local property tax at current rates for all other houses where care is provided.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 14/258)

Finance & Estimates Functional Committee

12.9 **EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION PRINCIPLES**

‘That City Council officials and specifically Engineers would fully comply with the standards identified by the Councils own working group on Consultation and in particular that Engineers would note sections of the Council’s Toolkit pertaining to Important elements of Effective Participation and Consultation Principles and pay particular attention to " Clarity of Purpose " and " Provide all relevant information". Council has failed the standard dismally in relation to some public consultations in recent years.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 14/260)

Corporate Policy Group

12.10 **RAILING AND SCREENINGS MAINTAINED TO A HIGH LEVEL**

That private and public companies, as well as schools and colleges, be asked to ensure that railings and screenings associated with their properties that are in the public view be kept and maintained to a high level.

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn. 14/263)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

12.11 **LAMP ON ST PATRICK'S BRIDGE**

'That the north west lamp on St Patrick's Bridge, closest one to Camden Quay, be fixed.'

(Proposer: Cllr K. McCarthy 14/266)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.12 **TOUR BUS PARKING BAY BE RE-INSTATED**

That in light of numerous tour buses parking by St Finbarr's Cathedral, that a tour bus parking bay be re-instated

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 14/267)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.13 **RELAX LITTER BYE-LAWS INFAVOR OF BUSINESSES**

'That Cork City Council would in these difficult times for business relax the littering bye-laws, which pre-vent business sign on a sandwich board or poles/lamp-posts outside or near or at near the business. The guidelines are set up with the business community and their representative organisations are part of the process in formalising the guidelines with Cork City Council.

Special conditions for such signs could be put in place with the agreement of both Business and Cork City Council'

(Proposer: Cllr. C. O'Leary 14/269)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

12.14 **2015 ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAMME**

That the western part of Fr Dominic Road be included in the 2015 resurfacing programme as it is in very poor condition.

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O'Driscoll 14/271)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.15 **PROTOCOL FOR HOLDING OF CONCERTS AND OTHER MAJOR OUTDOOR EVENTS IN THE CITY**

That Cork City Council establish an unambiguous protocol for the holding of concerts and other major outdoor events in the City.

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O'Driscoll 14/272)

Strategic Planning & Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee

12.16 **FOOTPATHS IN COURTOWN PARK, KNOCKNAHEENY**

'That Cork City Council will survey footpaths in Courtown Park, Knocknaheeny & carry out repairs where required.'

(Proposer: M. Nugent 14/275)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.17 **ASSESS THE TREES ON THE PUBLIC GREEN IN HALLDENE GROVE**

'That Cork City Council would assess the trees on the public green in Halldene Grove and would trim branches that are overhanging the public footpaths.'

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 14/276)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

12.18 **MUGA IN MURPHY'S FARM**

'That Cork City Council would prioritise the development and delivery of a MUGA in Murphy's Farm as previously agreed with Councillors and local residents.'

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 14/277)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

12.19 **TREES AT HARLEY WOOD COMPLEX, TOGHER**

'That City Council would make contact with the owner of Harley Wood Complex Togher to insist that he/she cut down/trim back the trees that are overhanging into Residents properties in Argideen Lawn and Togher Road as these residents are experiencing huge issues in their back gardens, due to lack of sunlight, ensuring constant dampness, and slippy conditions etc, becoming a huge health and safety hazard.'

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/278)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

12.20 **REFUSE BIN ON THE LEE FIELDS WALKWAY**

‘That City Council would put in place a refuse bin on the Lee Fields Walkway near the seats on the western side of the Kinsley Hotel to avoid the constant littering and increase the amount of bins from the Magazine Road through to the end of Barracks Street. (It only contains 2 at present, which is subsequently low considering the amount of potential litter opportunities with the high volume of pedestrians that use this road).’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/279)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

12.21 **HOUSING STOCK**

‘That Cork City Council will return No's 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 & 35 Harbour View rd Knocknaheeny to its housing stock whose householders were previously decanted to allow the houses to be used as offices for the City North West Regeneration team, as the houses have not been used as offices & are currently partially shuttered Council should avail of recently announced Government funding to make these houses available to social housing applicants.’

(Proposer: Cllr Kenneth Collins 14/280)

Housing & Community Functional Committee

13. **PARTY WHIPS – 1st SEPTEMBER 2014**

An Chomhairle considered the following items which were referred from the Party Whips Meeting held on 1st September 2014.

13.1 **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS JULY – DECEMBER 2014**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Draft Schedule of Meetings July – December 2014 with the following changes:-

1. **Special Meeting of Council to discuss and set LPT**

Monday 29th September 2014: 6.00pm.

2. **Special Meeting in Committee on the draft City Development Plan**

Monday 20th October 2014: 6.30pm.

13.2 **CASP COMMITTEE**

An Chomhairle considered the nomination of two Members to the CASP Committee.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. O’Leary, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Gould, An Chomhairle approved the nomination of Comhairleoir S. Cunningham to the CASP Committee.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the nomination of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald to the CASP Committee.

14. **HOUSING & COMMUNITY FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 1st SEPTEMBER 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Housing & Community Functional Committee, from its meeting held on the 1st September 2014.

14.1 **PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND AT DEANROCK**

An Chomhairle considered the report of the Chief Executive dated 29th August, 2014 in relation to the proposed disposal of land at Deanrock, Togher, Cork.

At the request of the Chief Executive, An Chomhairle referred this item to the Housing & Community Functional Committee for further consideration.

The objection of Comhairleoir F. Dennehy to the referral of this item to the Housing & Community Functional Committee was noted.

14.2 **MEMBERS CONSIDERED THE REPORTS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE DATED 28TH AUGUST, 2014 IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY DISPOSALS:**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the City Manager dated the 29th August 2014 in relation to the following property disposals:

- b. Disposal of freehold interest in property known as Nos. 226-228, Connolly Road, Ballyphehane, Cork to Barbers Prams and Cycles Limited, c/o Ronan Daly Jermyn Solicitors, No. 2, Park Place, Citygate Park, Mahon Point, Cork for the sum of €15,000.00 (plus VAT if applicable), together with costs in the sum of €1,500.00 plus VAT. On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, the disposal was approved.
- c. Disposal of freehold interest in property known as "Windy Brae", Site C7, Iona Park, Mayfield, Cork, to Noel McCarthy, c/o M/S John Henchion & Co., Solicitors, The Bakehouse, Waterloo Road, Blarney, Co. Cork, for the sum of €60.00 together with costs in the sum of €460.00 plus VAT. On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, the disposal was approved
- d. Disposal of leasehold interest in property situated adjacent to No. 11, Silversprings Road, North Ring Road, Cork to Our Lady Crowned Credit Union Limited, c/o O'Donnell Breen-Walsh O'Donoghue, Solicitors, Trinity House, No. 8, George's Quay, Cork for the sum of €6,000.00 (plus VAT if applicable), together with costs of €1,500.00 plus VAT. On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, the disposal was approved.
- e. Disposal of an area of ground adjacent to No. 17, Silver Manor, Ballinlough, Cork to James and Norma McSweeney, c/o J.F. Goold & Co., Solicitors, South Square, Macroom, Co. Cork for the sum of €500.00 (plus VAT if applicable). On the

proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir N. O’Keeffe, the disposal was approved.

14.3 **MONTHLY REPORT**

An Chomhairle noted the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services on Housing for July/August 2014.

14.4 **QUARTERLY REPORT**

An Chomhairle noted the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services on Housing for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2014.

14.5 **VOIDS RECOVERY PROGRAMME 2014**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 in relation to the Voids Recovery Scheme 2014.

14.6 **ENERGY EFFICIENCY FABRIC UPGRADE SCHEME 2014**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 in relation to the Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Scheme 2014.

14.7 **MINOR ADAPTATIONS FOR TENANTS WITH A DISABILITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 in relation to the Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Scheme 2014.

14.8 **RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 in relation to the Rental Accommodation Scheme.

14.9 **HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT – (HAP)**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 in relation to the Housing Assistance Payment – (HAP).

14.10 **CONGREGATED SETTINGS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 in relation to Congregated Settings.

14.11 **CITY NORTHWEST QUARTER REGENERATION SCHEME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 in relation to the City Northwest Quarter Regeneration Scheme.

14.12 **LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING DIFFERENTIAL RENTS SCHEME**

At the request of An Chomhairle, it was agreed that the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 in relation to the Local Authority Housing Differential Rents Scheme be noted.

14.13 **HOMELESS SERVICES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 in relation to the activities of Cork City Council's Homeless Section.

14.14 **TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 in relation to Traveller Accommodation.

14.15 **NEW BUILD PROJECTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 which set out progress on New Build Projects.

14.16 **CLOSURE OF HOLLYHILL LANE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 in relation to the closure of Hollyhill Lane.

14.17 **AUDIT OF HOUSING DIRECTORATE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motions referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That because of the isolation of elected members from any decision making - and conscious of a complete lack of transparency and accountability in terms of allocations and maintenance - Cork City Council agrees to a complete audit of the Housing Directorate and insists on a scheduled update by the Allocations Officer at every Housing Functional Meeting.

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 14/152)

‘That because of the isolation of elected members from the decision making process - and conscious of a complete lack of transparency and accountability in terms of current allocations and maintenance procedures (and the consequent problems that ensue) - an external audit of the Housing & Community Directorate be conducted to result in a scheduled update by the Allocations Officer at every Housing Functional Meeting as well as a complete review of housing maintenance procedures and plans of work be done, including how initial responses to problems are logged and followed up on; resolution of the ongoing lack of disclosure in terms of Cork City allocations specifically to be included in this course of action via written legal advice from the Environment Minister and/or Data Commissioner.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 14/202)

The report of the Temporary Director of Services stated that the applicable Allocation Scheme is that dated 12th November 2012. The Allocations procedure that is written in accordance with the Allocation Scheme is as outlined and presented at the Housing and Community Functional Committee meeting of 4th June 2013. The making of the Allocation Scheme is a Reserved Function of Council and the decision making process of the making of an Allocation is an Executive Function. Updated monthly reports on the making of allocations are issued to the Housing and Community Functional Committee outlining the address of the allocated property, the composition of the household to which the property is allocated e.g. 2A+2C (two adults and two children) the date the applicants applied and the house type being allocated. The category of assessment under which the allocation takes place is provided in aggregate format e.g. ‘Overcrowding’, ‘Disability Requirement’ or ‘Dependent on Rent Supplement’ The name and address of the applicant is not included to comply with Data Protection requirements. This process is subject to Internal Audit, Local Government Audit and Ombudsman Investigations on an ongoing basis and has been proven to be robust. The report further stated that all repair requests received from tenants or elected representatives are logged and categorised as either Emergency, Urgent or Routine by clerical staff. Thereafter, repair requests received and their categorisation are reviewed on a daily basis by the Depot General Foreperson and resources available assigned in order of priority.

14.18

ROOF REPAIRS

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

That reports of leaks from roofs in the Council's Housing stock are dealt with as a matter of urgency as the cost of repairing these will increase significantly if left unattended.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll 14/233)

The report of the Temporary Director of Services stated that every effort is made to deal with all repair requests in accordance with the assigned priority based on the seriousness and impact of the defect to be repaired. In relation to urgent roof repairs, recent changes in “Working at Height” safety requirements dictate that scaffolding is required in practically all roof repair situations.

Unfortunately, this increased scaffolding demand has coincided with a loss of direct labour scaffolding capability resulting in a build of roof repairs. Efforts are continuing to address this skills shortfall within the existing Housing Maintenance staff complement.

However, in July 2014 in response to the increasing backlog, it was decided that the only short term option was to contract out repairs for twenty of the most serious roof repairs and quotations are currently being obtained for same. If additional funding can be assigned from within the approved Housing Maintenance Budget further roof repairs will be contracted before the end of the year.

14.19 **CHUTES IN FLATS AT DESMOND SQUARE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council immediately take action to remove the grass from the chutes in the flats in Desmond Square.

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 14/227)

The report of the Temporary Director of Services stated that in general, where responsibility of clearing gutters rests with Cork City Council (e.g. where the guttering serves more than one residential unit), clearing of vegetation and debris from gutters is categorised as a routine repair. Resources are necessarily prioritised in favour of Emergency and Urgent repairs. However, Depot staff will assess the seriousness of the reported build up in the guttering at Desmond Square with a view to responding to this request as soon as possible taking account of other pressing repair requests and available resources.

14.20 **AUDIT OF SITES SUITABLE/ZONED FOR HOUSING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Temporary Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council do an audit of what sites Cork City Council own that are suitable / zoned for housing (Deanrock, Togher for example), with a view to seeing how many different housing units could possibly be built on the site - taking into consideration the different needs of people on the housing lists, e.g. people with disabilities, families with careers needs, single people & families homes.

This would have a range of different types of housing needs being met. This, in turn, will increase employment. As the interest rates from the EU is at an all time low (marginal lending facility @ 0.40 % & main refinancing operations @ a fixed rate of 0.15 %) and with our government owning AIB Bank, I suggest we look at getting very cheap loans through this format.

With the rise in taxes being taken from the extra people working, taxes on the materials (VAT), people being taking off the dole, savings on rent allowance scheme etc., this

would make a great start in paying back the loans received to start the building programme. The Council will have the increased rents received on the homes to go back into paying the rest of the debt but also having assets going into the future.

If it's a large scale building programme, have one main buyer negotiating the price for all materials thus keeping the price down on all the work materials. Agree prices & do not let spending get out of hand, avoiding the risk of increases week on week / year on year. Agree fair prices at the start. We know how much roughly it should cost per unit. Tender the job out, or directly employ people on a fixed contract for the jobs, which ever works best.

A rising tide lifts all boats.'

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 14/244)

The report of the Temporary Director of Services stated that there are 5 No. significant plots of land available for social housing as follows:

- Old Whitechurch Road
- Boherboy Road, Lotamore Mayfield
- Thomas Davis Street, Blackpool

- Nash's Boreen
- Gerald Griffin Street

The report also stated that these lands would accommodate approximately 1,300 housing units. The cost estimate for these units would be approximately €200million. The current Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government policy for the provision of social housing is through A Social Leasing Model and not by direct funding provision to Cork City Council through grant aided construction. Additional resources will be required in the Housing & Community Directorate to pursue a Social Leasing Model with Approved Housing Bodies and this would allow discussions to take place on the effectiveness of such a model and the instruments underpinning the provision of social housing in this manner. A successful model would greatly reduce the number of individuals and families on the Housing List and provide employment in the construction sector. The desired stimulus in the local economy would be achieved.

The report further stated that it is unlikely that the City Council will receive sanction for borrowing to construct social housing as policy supports the leasing arrangements.

15. **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE 1st SEPTEMBER 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Roads & Transportation Functional Committee, from its meeting held on the 1st September 2014.

15.1 **ROADWORKS PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle noted the Report of the Director of Services, dated 28th August, 2014 on the progress of the ongoing Roadworks Programme for the month ended June, 2014.

'PART 8 REPORT FOR N22 VICTORIA CROSS JUNCTION - 2014 NATIONAL ROAD LOW COST SAFETY SCHEME'

An Chomhairle considered the Report of the Director of Services, dated 28th August, 2014 regarding 'Part 8 report for N22 Victoria Cross Junction - 2014 National Road Low Cost Safety Scheme'.

Following discussion and at the request of Comhairleoir J. Buttimer, An Chomhairle agreed to insert the following:-

“That the issue of parking bays, would be reviewed outside the Crows Nest in the final scheme of Works, and that signage for non local traffic would also be reviewed as part of the scheme.’

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Buttimer, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the Part 8 Report.

The Report stated that:

Background

Victoria Cross is a key junction in the Cork City road network, comprising the junction of the N22 Carrigrohane Road, the R641 Wilton Road and the Western Road. The junction has a 50kph speed limit and experiences significant traffic flow as well as pedestrian activity due to its urban location adjacent to key trip attractors such as Cork County Council headquarters in County Hall, University College Cork, adjacent residential and commercial properties, student accommodation buildings and the popular Lee Fields amenity walk.

The existing Victoria Cross junction arrangement is vehicle centric and there is a distinct absence of pedestrian facilities at the western side of the junction across Carrigrohane Road and Wilton Road. In addition, all pedestrian movement across Victoria Cross junction is forced to utilise the existing central refuge island. The staging of the traffic signals dictates that the progression through the junction for pedestrians requires a double-movement/two stage crossing through this island.

The need to improve safety for vulnerable road users at Victoria Cross junction was identified by the National Roads Authority (NRA) in 2008 during their assessment of the Risk Rating of Ireland's Major Roads for the Euro RAP Program. The R641, from Victoria Cross to the N40 South Ring Road was identified as having a medium-high risk rating in the review of 2006 to 2008 collision data. On analysis of the collision data by, the NRA's Regional Road Safety Engineer and Cork City Council's Transportation Division, it was noted that there have been a high proportion of collisions between Victoria Cross and Orchard Road. Further analysis of the collision data confirmed that a number of the collisions involved pedestrians crossing the road on the route between Victoria Cross and Orchard Road.

Having regard to the above, in 2013 Cork City Council commissioned a study to assess Victoria Cross junction both in its existing scenario and under a number of alternative scenarios whereby agreed junction improvements to improve pedestrian and vulnerable road user facilities are implemented.

The final recommendation for Victoria Cross junction consists of comprehensive junction improvement works as follows:

- The upgrade of traffic signals at Victoria Cross, Cork.
It is proposed to upgrade traffic signals at Victoria Cross to improve facilities for pedestrians using the junction. This will result in the provision of signalled crossings along pedestrian desire line i.e., at the end of the N22 Carrigrohane Straight and across the R641 at the Crow's Nest.
- Improved road markings at the Orchard Road Junction in the form of a staggered yellow box. This is proposed to aid vehicular traffic turning right out of Orchard Road towards Victoria Cross while crossing 2 lanes of traffic.

The National Roads Authority (NRA) has assigned 2014 Low Cost Safety funding to Cork City Council for the implementation of the proposed junction improvement works at Victoria Cross. These enhancements will reduce the risk of occurrence of pedestrian as well as cycling collisions in the area. They will also enhance the urban fabric and public realm of the area, creating a stronger sense of place and one that is not wholly vehicle centric.

As the budget costing for the project are in excess of €126,000, a Part 8 planning procedure in accordance with Article 81(2)(d) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended in 2006, was initiated. This process also provides an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposals.

Proposed Scope of Work

The proposed scope of work is set out on the accompanying site layout and includes:

- New traffic signal heads and controllers;
- New pedestrian crossings facilities;
- Removal of small triangular island;
- New road signs and road markings;
- Upgrade of existing footpaths to provide dropped kerbs and tactile paving;
- Ducting to signals;
- Resurfacing works where required;
- Other necessary associated works.

In addition it is proposed to put yellow box arrangement at the intersection of Wilton Road with Orchard Road, to facilitate right turners from Orchard Road.

Part 8 Planning

The Part 8 Planning process was initiated by the placement of an advertisement in The Irish Examiner on 4th April 2014. The advertisement informed members of the public of the proposed scheme.

Particulars of the proposal were available for inspection at the Reception Desk, City Hall and also in County Hall, Cork from the 4th April 2014 until the 16th May 2014. Site

notices were also erected at the proposed site giving details of the scheme as per the published advertisement.

Following the exhibition period, all interested parties were requested to submit their views and comments on or before 30th of May 2014.

Other Related Issues

In accordance with the Habitats Directive, an Appropriate Assessment Screening report, with regard to any potential impacts upon the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area [Site No. 004030] and the Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation [Site No. 001058], as a result of the proposed N22 Victoria Cross Junction - 2014 National Road Low Cost Safety Scheme, was undertaken. The screening report concluded that Appropriate Assessment was not necessary in this instance.

A sub threshold EIS screening report was also carried out for the project. Having regard to the contents of Article 120 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No.3) regulations 2011 and Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended by article 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2008 (SI 235/2008), it is considered that the proposed N22 Victoria Cross Junction - 2014 National Road Low Cost Safety Scheme, by reason of its nature, scale and location would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Accordingly, it was considered that Environmental Impact Assessment was not required.

Submissions Received and Analysis

Five (5) external submissions were received in relation to the development. None of the submissions objected to the scheme. All submissions were acknowledged and a response to the issues raised is detailed below. No internal objections to the scheme were received.

Submission No. 1 – Email from John O’Connor, Victoria Cross Cycles

The provision of improved pedestrian crossings was broadly welcomed. However, concerns were raised regarding the removal of 2 no. on street parking spaces outside the Crow’s Nest Pub. John O’ Connor was hoping that these spaces would be retained for residents and customers of his bicycle shop.

Response:

It is intended to widen the footpath in front of the Crow’s Nest Pub to enhance pedestrian facilities in the area. This will required the removal of the ‘free’ space that is currently used for parking outside the Crow’s Nest pub. It is proposed however, to change the nearby car park on the N22 Carrigrohane Road to disc parking. This car park is currently free to all and was intended to facilitate those accessing the Mardyke/ Lee Fields walk and local businesses. However, observation would suggest that the car park is predominantly used by commuters who Park (for free) & Ride or walk to work.

Submission No. 2 – Letter from Chief Superintendent of An Garda Síochána

The Chief Superintendent reported that An Garda Síochána have no objection to the current proposals for the junction.

Response:

The letter from An Garda Síochána was acknowledged.

Submission No. 3 – Letter from Martin Walsh, Regional Manager of Bus Eireann

The letter from Bus Eireann welcomed the proposals and noted the number of bus movements through the junction on a daily basis. Cork City Council was asked to consider bus priority through the junction when the new signals are being designed and also for the existing Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) digital signage at the stops to be taken into consideration when changes are being implemented.

Response:

Cork City Council responded to Mr. Walsh to note that Cork City Council, with funding from the NTA, is currently examining the South Western Strategic Travel Corridor (SWSTC) into the City Centre, which includes the N22 Victoria Cross junction, in order to identify potential improvements for all modes along the travel corridor. The suggestions regarding bus priority through the Victoria Cross junction/ RTPI are more appropriate to be considered as part of the SWSTC study.

Submission No. 4 – Letter from the National Roads Authority (NRA)

The NRA noted that they have no objection to the proposals for the N22 Victoria Cross Junction but drew attention to the requirements to adhere to the Design Manual for Roads & Bridges (DMRB) and in particular that of the requirement for Road Safety Audits.

Response:

Cork City Council acknowledged the submission of the NRA and will ensure that safety audits are carried out on the scheme in accordance with the DMRB.

Submission No. 5 – Email & Letter from Wilton Residents' Association

An email and letter were received from the Wilton Residents' Association, on behalf of a number of residents from Wilton Road and Wilton Gardens. Whilst the Wilton Residents' Association welcomed the proposed improvements, they asked whether appropriate road design and signage could be incorporated into the scheme, such that westbound traffic approaching the N22 Victoria Cross junction from the City would be directed onto the N22 Carrigrohane Road, thereby reducing traffic flows on the R641 Wilton Road.

Wilton Residents' Association also asked if existing conflicting directional signage (to Killarney) and located on Magazine Road near to its intersection with Dennehy's Cross could be rationalised.

Response:

Correspondence to the Wilton Residents was acknowledged and it was noted that their requests would be considered in the overall design process.

Summary

Overall there was broad acceptance and no objection of the proposals presented for the N22 Victoria Cross Junction.

When complete the proposed junction improvement works at Victoria Cross will reduce the risk of occurrence of pedestrian as well as cycling collisions in the area. They will also enhance the urban fabric and public realm of the area, creating a stronger sense of place and one that is not wholly vehicle centric.

The proposed development is consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, having regard to the provisions of the City Development Plan. Accordingly, it is recommended that the proposed development proceed without modification.

15.3 EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY FROM KILKIERAN CLOSE TO ARDCULLEN GROVE

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated 28th August, 2014 regarding proposed Extinguishment of Public Right of Way from Kilkieran Close to ArdculLEN Grove, Hollyhill, Knocknaheeny and further agreed to adopt the following Resolutions:-

“Now Council hereby **RESOLVES THAT**

Having considered all submissions and objections received within the prescribed statutory period setout in section 73 (1) (a) of the Roads Act 1993, it is now hereby Ordered that the Public Right of Way from Kilkieran Close to ArdculLEN Grove Hollyhill, Knocknaheeny, Cork, be extinguished forthwith”.

The Report stated that, it is proposed to extinguish the public right of way at the existing pedestrian laneway from Kilkieran Close to ArdculLEN Grove, Knocknaheeny, Cork. In accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993, notice of intention to extinguish this public right of way was published on 27th June 2014.

The notice confirmed that a map showing the public right of way to be extinguished was available for public inspection at the Main Reception, City Hall, Cork from 09.00-17.00 Monday to Friday & The Public Counter, North Area Housing Office, Harbour View Road Knocknaheeny, from 10.00-12.30 & 14.00-16.00, Monday to Friday excluding Wednesday, up to the 28th July 2014 (said period being not less than one month as required by section 73 (1) (a) of the Roads Act 1993).

The notice provided for objections or submissions to be made in writing to the Chief Executive Cork City Council, not later than 4.00 p.m. on 11th August 2014 (being not less than two weeks after the end of the period for inspection of the map as required by section 73 (1) (a) of the Roads Act, 1993).

In accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993, a copy of such notice was affixed in prominent positions at each end of the public right of way proposed to be

extinguished, from the 27th June and left in place for a period or periods which were in aggregate not less than fourteen days.

Discussions took place with Utilities and internal City Council Directorates. No objections were raised. Submission from Gurrabraher Garda Sergeant supporting the extinguishment has reported numerous public complaints with regard to drug activity and difficulty policing the area due to it being used as an escape route for criminality. In policing terms extinguishing this laneway would be beneficial.

One Petition and three individual submissions, who also form part of the petition, have objected to the extinguishment on the grounds of the inconvenience it would cause. It would take longer to walk to local amenities, family members living elsewhere, schools. These submissions are attached.

Having considered and taken into account all submissions received during the statutory period and the reasons why this laneway closure was requested, it is the Housing Directorate's recommendation that the Public Right of way from Kilkieran Close to Ardculen Grove, Hollyhill, Knocknaheeny, Cork be extinguished.

I now request that this Committee consider the proposed Extinguishment and this report and refer it to Council for approval. I also request that the Committee recommend the following resolution to Council for adoption:

“Now Council hereby RESOLVES THAT

Having considered all submissions and objections received within the prescribed statutory period setout in section 73 (1) (a) of the Roads Act 1993, it is now hereby Ordered that the Public Right of Way from Kilkieran Close to Ardculen Grove Hollyhill, Knocknaheeny, Cork, be extinguished forthwith”.

It was also agreed, on the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh to recommend the adoption of the following resolution to Council.

“Now Council hereby RESOLVES THAT

Having considered all submissions and objections received within the prescribed statutory period setout in section 73 (1) (a) of the Roads Act 1993, it is now hereby Ordered that the Public Right of Way from Kilkieran Close to Ardculen Grove Hollyhill, Knocknaheeny, Cork, be extinguished forthwith”.

15.4

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS WHICH WERE REFERRED BY COUNCIL TO THE COMMITTEE

An Chomhairle considered the following Motions which were referred by An Chomhairle to the Committee.

15.4.1 **DOUBLE YELLOW LINES ON PATRICKS HILL OUTSIDE BRUCE COLLEGE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘‘That Cork City Council put in place double yellow lines on Patricks Hill outside Bruce College on the City side approximately the length of two car spaces. This will alleviate the traffic congestion at this bottle-neck on Patricks Hill.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 14/173)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that the area to south west of entrance to Bruce College on Patrick’s Hill will be assessed to determine the extent of the problems that exist there, in order to identify the most appropriate mitigation measure that can be provided.

Any identified measure will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available.

15.4.2 **DOUBLE YELLOW LINES AT HERBERT LAWN, GARDINERS HILL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council put in place double yellow lines at a length of approximately two car spaces on both sides of the entrance to Herbert Lawn on Gardiners Hill in order to enable residents see oncoming traffic coming from either direction when exiting this cul-de-sac residential park. This safety measure currently does not exist and is extremely dangerous. This can be an extremely busy road with two primary schools on the road and it is a densely populated area also.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 14/175)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that there are double yellow lines on both sides of the entrance to Herbert Lawn on Gardiners Hill. However, the area will be assessed to determine whether there is a need for the double yellow lines to be extended.

If deemed appropriate the extension of the double yellow lines will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available.

15.4.3 **RESURFACE AND REINSTATE ROAD ON KILBARRY COTTAGES, DUBLIN HILL, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘‘That the road on Kilbarry Cottages, Dublin Hill, Cork, be entirely resurfaced and reinstated.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 14/177)

The Report stated that Kilbarry Cottages was not selected for resurfacing in 2014 but it will be considered again for resurfacing in 2015. The road will however be inspected and any essential localised repairs will be carried out in the coming months.

15.4.4 **RESURFACE PARKING AREA IN BANTRY ROAD AND INCLUDE THE AREA FOR TRAFFIC CALMING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘Further to previous requests that Cork City Council

1. Resurface the parking area in the estate.
2. Repair the railing surrounding the green area to avoid quad biking.
3. Provide adequate footpaths where necessary.
4. Include the estate in the traffic calming programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 14/193)

- 1 The Report stated that there is currently no funding available for additional resurfacing works this year. This location will be considered again for resurfacing in 2015.
- 2 Remedial repairs will be carried out to the railings around Bantry Park Green in the coming weeks.
- 3 There is currently no funding available for additional footpath works this year. This location will be considered again for works in 2015.
- 4 The Transportation Division advises that Bantry Road is on the list of areas where a request for traffic calming has been received. The area will be assessed to determine the extent of the problems that exist there, in order to identify the most appropriate mitigation measure that can be provided.

Any identified measure will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available.

15.4.5 **REPAIR THE ROAD SURFACE AND PRUNE THE LARGE TREE ON FAIRFIELD AVENUE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council repair the road surface and prune the large tree on Fairfield Avenue above Farranree Credit Union at the junction of Closes Green.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 14/196)

The Report stated that the road will be inspected and any essential localised repairs will be carried out in the coming months.

The tree will be added to the schedule of tree works for appropriate remedial pruning.

15.4.6 **IMPROVE THE PARKING SITUATION ON CLASHDUV ROAD TOGHER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That City Council would take some action to improve the parking situation on Clashduv Road Togher, particularly around the Playground Gate on the Clashduv road as the parking of cars here is causing problems. There is two car parks close by that should be brought to the attention of drivers parking on this road, one is at the Bring Site Recycling area where there is an entrance gate to the park and the other is near the tennis/basketball courts at Ilen Court which would be much safer to both pedestrians and drivers.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/217)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that there is no provision for parking on Clashduv Road adjacent to Clashduv Park. Any parking adjacent to Clashduv Park will be in the cycle lane and is therefore illegal.

Therefore, the Traffic Warden Service will be requested to pay additional attention to area in order to deter illegal parking incidents referred to in the Motion.

In addition the matter will be referred to the Parks/ Recreation Division as they manage Clashduv Park and the adjacent car parks to confirm the opening times of the car parks with direct gate access to Clashduv Park, as well as to determine any possibilities to improve the awareness of the location of the car parks.

15.4.7 **PUT A RAILING IN PLACE BETWEEN CROSSES GREEN AND FORT STREET**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council put a railing in place between Crosses Green and Fort Street’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 14/224).

The Report stated that there is currently no funding available for this proposal.

15.4.8 **EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR ROADS AND FOOTPATHS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council calls on the Minister to give emergency funding to Cork City Council so that it tackles the appalling condition of the City roads and footpath.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 14/225)

The Report stated that the Roads and Transportation Directorate will welcome any additional funding if it is made available.

15.4.9 **SAFETY MEASURES AT THE JUNCTION OF BUXTON’S HILL & SUNDAY’S WELL ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

An Chomhairle agreed to refer this item back to the Roads and Transportation Functional Committee for further consideration.

That Cork City Council in an effort to ensure the safety of the junction of Buxton's Hill & Sunday's Well Road introduce the following measures:

- a) Install a convex mirror on the lamppost opposite the bottom of Buxton Hill, as used in other locations both in and outside the city, to enable drivers to be fully aware of traffic and to be able to exit and enter Buxton Hill with safety, and
- b) Erect clear signs and paint road markings on the Sunday’s Well Road to warn road users of a hidden junction when approaching Buxton Hill both from the east and the west.
- c) Council to survey the junction to determine if any other measures are needed to ensure the safety of the junction for pedestrians & motorists alike.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 14/234)

15.4.10 **TRAFFIC-CALMING MEASURES AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE STONERIDGE ESTATE**

An Chomhairle considered the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

An Chomhairle agreed to refer this item back to the Roads and Transportation Functional Committee for further consideration.

‘That Cork City Council will install traffic-calming measures at the entrance to the Stoneridge Estate that will ensure the safety of residents, particularly children, from traffic entering the estate from the very busy Blarney rd, such measures could complement the proposed pedestrian crossing near the estate, that Council will give a date for the installation of this much needed pedestrian crossing.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 14/235)

15.4.11 **DOUBLE YELLOW LINES NEAR THE JUNCTION OF DEANROCK ESTATE, CLASHDUV ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That City Council would reinstate the double yellow lines near the junction of Deanrock estate and Clashduv Road and also to continue these double lines on both sides of the road outside the entrance to the Vet's Surgery that has opened there recently.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/238)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that the repainting of the double yellow lines near the junction of Deanrock Estate and Clashduv will be inputted into the road painting programme and will be done as soon as is practical.

In addition, the Transportation Division will assess the area on both sides of the road outside the entrance to the recently opened vet's surgery to determine whether there is a need for the double yellow lines to be extended.

15.4.12 **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN ORRERY ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council introduces traffic calming measures in Orrery Road, in the interests of health and safety of the pedestrian and children that live in the area.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 14/199)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that Orrery Road is on the list of areas where a request for traffic calming has been received. The area will be assessed to determine the extent of the problems that exist there, in order to identify the most appropriate mitigation measure that can be provided.

Any identified measure will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available.

15.4.13 **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN MOUNT EDEN ROAD, GURRANABRAHER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council put in place speed ramps and traffic calming measures in Mount Eden Road, Gurrabraher, Cork.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 14/200)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that Mount Eden Road, Gurranabraher, Cork will be added to the list of areas where a request for traffic calming has been received. The area will be assessed to determine the extent of the problems that exist there, in order to identify the most appropriate mitigation measure that can be provided.

Any identified measure will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available.

15.4.14 **TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council prioritise Monastery Avenue and Monastery Terrace in the traffic calming programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 14/203)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that Monastery Avenue and Monastery Terrace will be added to the list of areas where a request for traffic calming has been received. The area will be assessed to determine the extent of the problems that exist there, in order to identify the most appropriate mitigation measure that can be provided.

Any identified measure will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available.

15.4.15 **UPGRADE THE FOOTPATH ON SHANAKIEL ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council repair and upgrade the footpath on Shanakiel Road from the end of Strawberry Hill to the T junction at Shanakiel Road as its condition is of concern to residents with mobility issues and is on the main tourist route from Fitzgerald’s Park to the City Gaol.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 14/204)

The Report stated that there is currently no funding available for additional footpath renewal works this year but these areas will be inspected to identify any localised repairs required.

15.4.16 **ROAD RESURFACING AT PLUNKETT ROAD, BALLYPHEHANE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Plunkett Road, Ballyphehane, be prioritised for resurfacing or extensive patching due to the age profile of residents and the terrible state of the road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 14/214)

The Report stated that Plunkett Road was not selected for resurfacing in 2014 but it will be considered again for resurfacing in 2015. The road will however be inspected to identify any essential localised repairs that are required.

15.4.17 **SURVEYS OF FOOTPATHS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That surveys of footpaths be conducted at O'Connor Ville (off Tower St), Lower Friar Street and at Croaghtamore Gardens (off Pouladuff Rd) with a view to repair and the removal of dangerous trip hazards.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M Finn 14/218)

The Report stated that the footpaths will be inspected to identify any essential localised repairs that are required.

15.4.18 **FRIARS WALK TO PEARSE ROAD BE INCLUDED IN A SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKS PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council included the roads and foothpath from Friars Walk to Pearse Road be included in a social inclusion works programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 14/226)

The Report stated that there is currently no Social Inclusion Works Programme for this type of work. However, the footpaths will be inspected to identify any essential localised repairs that are required.

15.4.19 **UPGRADE ALL THE SIGNAGE IN DEANROCK ESTATE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That City Council would upgrade all the Signage in Deanrock Estate, as some of these area signs are in place since the 70's and are long overdue a replacement.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/239)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that Cork City Council has a small annual allocation to fund the erection of road and street nameplate signs within the city administrative area. This fund covers the costs for replacing old, damaged or stolen signs as well as the erection of new signs.

Deanrock Estate will be added to the list of requests for nameplates and will be put forward for consideration, subject to funding being available.

15.4.20 **PAINT A YELLOW BOX AT THE ENTRANCE TO MELBOURNE COURT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council paint a yellow box at the entrance to Melbourne Court, Model Farm Road as many residents are finding it difficult to enter and exit the estate due to the large volumes of traffic. (Close to the motor tax office)’

(Proposer: Cllr T Moloney 14/243)

The Report stated that the Transportation Division advises that the request to, paint a yellow box at the entrance to Melbourne Court, Model Farm Road, will be assessed.

If appropriate, the work will be inputted into the road painting programme and will be done as soon as is practical, subject to funding being available.

15.4.21 **RESTORE THE COLLAPSED FOUNDATIONS UNDERNEATH THE FENCE BETWEEN KEMPTON PARK AND CHAPEL GATE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 28th August, 2014 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

“That Cork Council as a matter of urgency restores the collapsed foundations underneath the fence between Kempton Park and Chapel Gate in the interests of health and safety”

(Proposer Cllr. K. O’Flynn 14/158)

The Report stated that this location will be inspected and works will be carried to improve the safety of the general public in the coming months.

INVITATION TO BUS EIREANN TO ATTEND ROADS & TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

At the request of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle agreed that Bus Eireann should be invited to the next Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

16. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter from Tadhg Keating dated the 10th July with attached Circular LG22/2014.
- Letter from Rosemary O’Rahilly, Technical Services, Revenue dated the 11th July 2014 regarding Taxation of allowances paid to Cathaoirligh and Leas Cathaoirligh of Local Authorities.
- Letter from Kerry County Council dated the 19th August 2014 regarding the adoption of a Resolution.
- Letter from Kerry County Council dated the 19th August 2014, regarding the adoption of a Resolution.
- Letter from Kerry County Council dated the 19th August 2014 regarding the adoption of a Resolution.
- Letter from Charles Flanagan T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade dated the 12th August 2014 regarding the passing of a Suspensory Motion (SM2/0714)
- Letter from Donegal County Council dated the 5th August 2014 regarding the passing of a Motion at its meeting held on Thursday 31st July 2014.
- Letter from the Department of Health dated the 30th June 2014 in response to a letter from Cork City Council calling for the cessation of water fluoridation.

17. **CONFERENCE/ SEMINAR/ TRAINING**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance at the following Conferences/ Seminars/Training:-

- Comhairleoir S. Martin at the La Touche Legacy Seminar to be held in Greystones Wicklow from the 26th – 28th September 2014.

17.1 **TRAINING FOR ELECTED MEMBERS**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Elected Members to a series of training events programme over the course of the rest of this year which are being organised by the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) as outlined in Circular LG 21/2014.

An Chomhairle requested that correspondence be issued to the organisers of the above conference, expressing the dissatisfaction of An Chomhairle to the holding of these training events during the weekdays.

18. **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motions, due notice of which has been given:-

18.1 **BUDGET FOR SPORTING ORGANISATIONS**

An Chomhairle considered the following Motion:-

‘That Cork City Council identify and put in place a budget on an annual basis during the present five year lifetime of this Council to sustain and finance capital programmes for the various sporting organisations through-out this city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 14/246)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Gould, An Chomhairle agreed to consider and approve this Motion and not refer to the Environment & Recreation Functional Committee.

18.2 **BUDGET FOR ANNUAL ONGOING PLANNED TREE CUTTING MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That Cork City Council put a proper budget in place to allow for an annual ongoing planned tree cutting maintenance programme. The present situation is not sustainable going forward. No properly planned organised programmes due entirely to lack of funding.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 14/247)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

18.3 **MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That Cork City Council seeks a memorandum of cooperation between the following Cities.

- · Amsterdam
- · Malaga
- · Faro
- · Geneva
- · Liverpool
- · Bordeaux
- · Brussels

Considering that we have a regular flight service to these cities and we also share a number of Business, Cultural Sporting and Tourism connections with the above Cities. This memorandum of cooperation would be to deal with Education, Cultural and Business exchanges between our Cities.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 14/257)

Strategic Planning & Economic Development & Enterprise Functional Committee

18.4 **ERECT A FENCE BETWEEN HAWTHORN MEWS AND GLENTHORN, DUBLIN HILL**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That Cork City Council erects a fence between Hawthorn Mews and Glenthorn, Dublin Hill.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 14/262)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

18.5 **PROGRAMME OF REPLACEMENT FOR OLDER COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That because of the perilous state of a large proportion of iron (asbestos) chutes and drainpipes in older council housing stock, a complete programme of replacement is rolled out, starting in the southside of the city’.

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 14/283)

Housing & Community Functional Committee

18.6 **THAT NO 1 PARKGATE VILLAS, BISHOPSTOWN ROAD BE DECLARED DERELICT AS IT IS NOW A DANGEROUS STRUCTURE**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘The above old unoccupied dwelling is a complete "eye-sore" and in a dangerous state with holes in the roof and loose slates. Slates have already fallen onto the main Bishopstown Road and footpath. Structurally there are large open cracks in the main walls of the house. There is large amounts of rubbish piled up in the back yard which is a health hazard and a habitat for rats and other vermin. It is also used by drinking parties at night time and is constantly used as a toilet.

I am requesting The Manager to have this structure assessed without delay and because of this house being situated so close to the busy main road there is a huge danger to the public, vehicles etc by slates falling or a further deterioration to the structure.’

(Proposer: Ard-Mhéara Cllr. M. Shields 14/285)

Strategic Planning & Economic Development & Enterprise Functional Committee

18.7 **ACCESS TO INCHEGAGGIN LANE, MODEL FARM ROAD ON MARATHON DAY**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘The residents of Incheaggin Lane, Model Farm Road are concerned because on Cork City Marathon Day little or no provision is made for them to egress or access their properties. They maintain that if they are away from home when the road is closed they are unable to return from 9.30-17.00 hours. I am requesting that this problem is taken on board by the organizers in conjunction with The Gardai and dealt with taking into account the residents concerns.’

(Proposer: Ard-Mhéara Cllr M. Shields 14/286)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

18.8 **15% CUT IN PROPERTY TAX**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That Cork City Council introduce a 15% cut in property tax for homeowners across the city & calls on the Fine Gael/Labour administration not to penalise Cork City on the introduction of the relief for homeowners.’

(Proposer: Cllr K. O’Flynn, Cllr M. Shields, Cllr T. Brosnan, Cllr T. Fitzgerald’
Cllr F. Dennehy, Cllr N. O’Keeffe 14/287)

Finance & Estimates Functional Committee

18.9 **ROADS RESURFACING PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That Mahony's Avenue, St Luke’s, be included in the Roads resurfacing programme for 2014/15.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 14/291)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.10 **REPAIR THE PERIMETER PALISADE RAILINGS BETWEEN ASHMOUNT AND SILVERSPRINGS LAWN**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That the Perimeter Palisade Railings between Ashmount and Silversprings Lawn which were recently knocked down be repaired and replaced.’

(Proposer: Cllr J. Kavanagh 14/292)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

18.11 **2015 FOOTPATH RENEWAL PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That the footpaths at McDonagh Road in Ballyphehane be included in the 2015 Footpath Renewal Programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll 14/293)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.12 **HOUSING ASSISTANT PAYMENTS SCHEME**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That housing applicants who participate in the proposed Housing Assistance Payment scheme will continue to be considered for suitable vacancies that occur from the Council's Housing Stock.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll 14/294)

Housing & Community Functional Committee

18.13 **RESURFACE RESIDENT’S CARPARK IN GREENHILLS ESTATE**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That Cork City Council carry out the agreement to resurface the rest of the resident’s carparks in Greenhills Estate, as agreed with residents.’

(Proposer: Cllr K. McCarthy 14/295)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.14 **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURE ON BOREENMANNA ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That Cork City Council carry out the agreement to provide adequate traffic calming measures on Boreenmanna Road (as part of recent works) and a safe crossing near the Willow Lawn junction, as agreed with residents.’

(Proposer: Cllr K. McCarthy 14/296)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.15 **CYCLE LANES ON LOWER GLANMIRE ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered the following Motion:-

‘That this Council has no confidence in Senior Management should it proceed with the installation of cycle lanes on Lower Glanmire Road in direct contravention of the expressed wish of this Council. The consultation process was flawed in that the Public Notice did not inform stakeholders in the area of the massive reduction in parking adjacent to local ratepayers and St Patricks Church. Nor did it refer to work to move a cobbled section of heritage value.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 14/297)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Brosnan, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the amended Motion to read as follows:-

‘That this Council admonishes the Senior Management for proceeding with the installation of cycle lanes on Lower Glanmire Road in direct contravention of the expressed wish of this Council. The consultation process was flawed in that the Public Notice did not inform stakeholders in the area of the massive reduction in parking adjacent to local ratepayers and St. Patricks Church. Nor did it refer to work to move a cobbled section of heritage value.’

At the request of Comhairleoir T.Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Brosnan, a request was made by An Chomhairle that the Roads & Transportation Directorate would arrange to meet the four stakeholders this week. The Chief Executive acceded to this request.

18.16 **COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘It was stated in the Housing Functional Committee meeting of 30th June 2014 that Cork City Council have 309 void homes and it would cost approximately €5.4 million to complete the necessary repairs to get these homes ready to be handed out to people.

It was stated / written in the report to the Housing Functional Committee meeting of 1st September 2014 that;

"In Summary, 170 no. voids (121 no. by depot staff and 49 no. by contract) will be repaired and returned for allocation to tenants in 2014. Of the total estimated cost of €1,803,000, it is estimated that Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government grant aid will amount to approx €1,200,000 with the balance of approx €600,000 being provided from Cork City Council's own resources."

If 170 homes have been / or will be completed in 2014 @ a cost of €1,803,000 then there is only a balance of 139 homes left to be done. Is it therefore highly unlikely that the overall cost to be €5.4 million for the completion of all 309 houses if 170 of the houses are going to be done for €1,803,000?

Can we get an approx cost on the repair of the remaining 139 homes, to get them ready to returned for allocation to tenants?

Can we then as a council divert monies sitting in an account approx €4 million to €6 million for the event centre (that looks like its being pushed back again), for the refurbishment of the remainder of the stock of housing? That money can be put back in from the extra rents collected from the 170 homes being completed until all monies have being repaid, & there might also be more grants come available from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government grant aid scheme next year.'

(Proposer: Cllr. Thomas Moloney 14/301)

Housing & Community Functional Committee

18.17 **PROVIDE COUNCILLORS WITH REPORTS, AUDITS, SCOPING STUDIES AND STUDIES UNDERTAKEN ON CORK CITY COUNCIL PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED FROM 2012, 2013 AND 2014**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That Cork City Council would provide each member of council with copies of all Reports, Audits, Scoping Studies and Studies undertaken on Cork City Council published and unpublished from 2012,2013 and 2014. All of those undertaken which included, Services, Departments, Restructuring of Management System, Asset Management, Process Savings, Zone Budgeting of all Departments with Cork City Council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. O’Leary 14/303)

Corporate Policy Group

18.18 **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN BLACKPOOL VILLAGE**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That Cork City Council would install traffic calming measures in Blackpool Village to help to reduce the speed of vehicles going through Blackpool because there have been a number of serious accidents involving cars travelling through Blackpool in the past twelve months.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Gould 14/304)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.19 **PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT THE BOTTOM OF SHANDON STREET**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘In the interest of safety it is necessary to put a pedestrian crossing between Irwin’s Chemist and the Post Office at the bottom of Shandon Street as a matter of urgency.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. O’Donnell 14/305)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.20 **HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (HAP)**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That Cork City Council will hold a number of information seminars for the public on the introduction of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and possible implications for the Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS).’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 14/306)

Housing & Community Functional Committee

18.21 **REINSTATE MOBILE LIBRARY AT MAHON AND BLACKROCK**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘I propose the motion that Cork City Council reinstates the mobile library service for Mahon and Blackrock.’

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O’Keefe 14/308)

Tourism, Arts & Culture Functional Committee

18.22 **BARRIERS ON THE FOOTPATHS BEYOND 56 MARKET GARDENS, TOGHER ROAD, CORK**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That City Council would put in place some barriers on the footpaths to prevent motorists from parking on these footpaths on both sides of the road just beyond No. 56 Market Gardens Togher Road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/309)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.23 **TREES ON WALKWAY THAT LEADS TO MODEL FARM ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That City Council would cut down / cut back some of the trees on the pedestrian walkway that leads to model farm road at the carrigrohane road entrance thus making it more pedestrian friendly.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/310)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

18.24 **ISSUE OF GRAFFITI**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motion.

‘That Cork City Council would refer the issue of graffiti to the Environment SPC and to the JPC to quantify the extent of the problem, identify black spots and identify strategies to address the factors leading to graffiti and strategies to reduce and manage it.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 14/312)

Environment & Recreation Strategic Policy Committee

19. **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered the following motions, due notice of which has been given:-

19.1 **CHANGE FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE FUNCTION ASSOCIATED WITH HOUSING MATTERS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following Motion:-

‘That Cork City Council seeks a change from central government of the executive function associated with housing matters in favour of a more scrupulous and transparent shared system involving elected members, in a bid to address the chronic social housing crisis manifesting currently in huge waiting lists and multiple refusals which suggests existing practice is not working.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 14/265)

19.2 **CLOSURE OF CORK LIFE CENTRE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following Motion:-

‘It is a shame that the Cork Life Centre, 6, Winters Hill is being threatened with closure because of lack of funding’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. O’Donnell 14/282)

19.3 **STAFF TO BE DEPLOYED TO MAYFIELD LIBRARY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following Motions:-

‘That surplus senior staff in City Hall be deployed to Mayfield Library in order to ensure the restoration of full opening hours.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 14/298)

“That the cutbacks to the Frank O’Connor Library in Mayfield are a socially regressive measure which will be particularly felt by children in the area and should therefore be reversed forthwith. Because of the embargo on recruitment in the public sector, the library will be closed on Thursday and Wednesday evenings. Most importantly, the Wednesday afternoon chess club for primary school children is being discontinued.

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan)

19.4 **END TO DIRECT PROVISION SYSTEM FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS**

An Chomhairle considered the following Motion.

‘Council calls for an end to the inhumane Direct Provision system for asylum seekers and for changes in the law to grant asylum seekers the right to work.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Barry 14/299)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Barry, An Chomhairle approved the Motion with the following amendment.

‘Council calls for an end to the inhumane Direct Provision System for asylum seekers and for changes in the law to grant asylum seekers the right to work, and further calls on the Department of Justice to speed up the approval process’

19.5 **VOTE ON REPEALING THE 8TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**

An Chomhairle considered the following Motion:-

‘Cork City Council notes the recent case of a migrant woman who became pregnant arising from a rape and who despite suicidal ideation felt the need to undertake a hunger and thirst strike to demand an abortion in this state. This Council calls on the Government to hold a referendum during the remainder of its term so that the people of Ireland can vote on repealing the 8th Amendment to the Constitution.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Barry 14/300)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Barry, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Tynan, a vote was called for, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí S. Cunningham, T. Tynan, T. Gould, M. Barry, L. O'Donnell, M. Nugent, M. O'Sullivan, C. O'Leary, M. Finn, F. Kerins. H. Cremin, T. Moloney. (12)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, J. Sheehan, T. Fitzgerald, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, N. O'Keeffe, T. O'Driscoll, S. Martin, J. Buttimer, M. Shields, F. Dennehy. (11)

As the numbers voting in favour of the motion were greater than those voting against the motion, An tÁrd-Mhéara declared the vote carried and the motion approved.

19.6 **RECTIFY LOOPHOLE FOR THE PRACTICE OF INFORMAL INSOLVENCY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following Motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Social Protection calling on the Minister to urgently rectify the legal loophole that allows for the reckless practice of informal insolvency by rogue employers leaving workers unable to access their statutory entitlements.’

(Proposer Cllr C. O'Leary 14/302)

19.7 **CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCEMENT IN GAZA, PALESTINE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following Motion:-

‘Cork City Council welcomes the recent ceasefire announcement in Gaza, Palestine, Council calls on the Irish Government to use its influence to secure European Union support for practical measures aimed at a long-term solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Council believes the Government should work with the international community to obtain a resolution at the United Nations Security Council requesting the resumption of peace negotiations, which are substantial and inclusive, within a defined period of time. These should be aimed at securing a two-State solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 14/307)

19.8 **CORK AIRPORT**

An Chomhairle considered the following Motion:-

‘That Cork City Council calls on the Government to afford Cork Airport equal status as Shannon and Dublin airports, that it would support an independent authority and restructuring of the debt and the maintenance of existing routes and development of new routes.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 14/311)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle approved the following amendment:-

‘That Cork City Council calls on the Government to afford Cork Airport equal status as Shannon and Dublin airports, that it would support an independent authority and write off the debt and the maintenance of existing routes and development of new routes.’

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle agreed to write to the Airport Development Authority and copy Cork County Council.

20. **MOTIONS DEFERRED FROM MEETING OF THE 14TH JULY 2014**

An Chomhairle considered the following motions, due notice of which has been given:-

20.1 **PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following Motion:-

‘That Cork City Council engages with the departments of the Environment, Community and Local Government to ensure the 80% raised from all property tax is ring fenced for local spending as originally promised.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 14/241)

20.2 **TRADE UNION FEES**

An Chomhairle deferred this Motion to the next meeting of An Chomhairle.

‘That the large Trade Unions cut their affiliation fees by at least 50% for a period of 5 years for employees on salaries less than the average industrial wage and by 25% for employees on salaries above that level in order to help those employees from an economic perspective.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 14/261)

20.3 **WATER CHARGES TO CARERS & THEIR FAMILIES**

An Chomhairle considered the following Motion:-

‘With the impending water chargers, can Cork City Council ensure that carers & their families are going to be assured of water affordability strategies being put in place to support family carers with high essential water needs due to dialysis, peg feeding , ventilators, showers, washing sheets blankets etc...? Carers cannot be worried about the cost of water bills when they are caring for a family member.

The volume of water a carer will use when caring within the home is needs-based & considering how much carers save the government every year by the work they do, the very least we can do as a society & as a council is make sure they have one less stress in their already over stressed lives as carers.

Make sure that they get an exception in their water bill. This should be a must for this council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 14/259)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Moloney, seconded by T. Tynan, An Chomhairle approved the following amendment:-

‘That Cork City Council calls on the Minister ‘With the impending water chargers, can the Minister ensure that carers & their families are going to be assured of water affordability strategies being put in place to support family carers with high essential water needs due to dialysis, peg feeding , ventilators, showers, washing sheets blankets etc...? Carers cannot be worried about the cost of water bills when they are caring for a family member.

The volume of water a carer will use when caring within the home is needs-based & considering how much carers save the government every year by the work they do, the very least we can do as a society & as a council is make sure they have one less stress in their already over stressed lives as carers.

Make sure that they get an exception in their water bill. This should be a must for this council.’

20.4 **ADJUSTMENT TO LOCAL PROPERTY TAX ACT**

An Chomhairle considered the following Motion:-

‘That Cork City Council calls upon the Minister for the Environment to publish immediately the regulations regarding the local adjustment factor as per the Local Property Tax Act and, notwithstanding those regulations and the restrictions in the Act, declares its intention to begin the process of reducing ,by the maximum possible level, the rate of LPT payable by householders.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Shea, Cllr. S. Cunningham, Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. K. Collins, Cllr. C. O’Leary Cllr. F. Kerins, Cllr. H. Cremin 14/270)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Barry, seconded by Comhairleoir L. O’Donnell, An Chomhairle considered and approved the following amendment:-

‘That Cork City Council calls upon the Minister for the Environment to publish immediately the regulations regarding the local adjustment factor as per the Local Property Tax Act and, notwithstanding those regulations and the restrictions in the Act, declares its intention to begin the process of reducing ,by the maximum possible level, the rate of LPT payable by householders.’ This should be seen as merely a first step for the total abolition of property tax.’

20.5 **NOTES THE SCANDAL THAT OCCURRED AT THE BON SECOURS SISTERS INSTITUTION THAT CORK CITY COUNCIL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following Motion:-

‘Notes:

The scandal that occurred at the Bon Secours Sisters institution in Tuam, County Galway, where almost 800 children died while in the ‘care’ of a religious order, in a

State-regulated institution, and were placed in a mass unmarked grave over a period of five decades, from the 1920s to the 1960s

Recognises:

That the abusive practices which occurred at the Bon Secours Sisters mother and baby 'care' home were not unique to that one institution and were replicated in similar institutions across the State

Welcomes:

The establishment of a commission of investigation with full statutory powers to investigate both the Tuam case and the wider issues surrounding mother and baby homes

Calls for:

- The terms of reference for the investigation to be comprehensive
- For the scope of the investigation to be inclusive taking into account related issues regarding forced adoption and vaccine trials; and institutions including the Magdalene Laundries and Protestant mother and baby homes
- That consultation take place with survivors and their advocates
- That supports for survivors such as counselling services be put in place
- That appropriate memorials to the dead buried in unmarked graves be erected
- That the report of the investigation be published in a timely manner befitting the gravity and depth of hurt felt on this issue.'

(Proposer: Cllr M. Nugent 14/274)

20.6 **UNFAIR STUDENT SERVICE CHARGE TAX LEVIED ON APPRENTICES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following Motion:-

'That Cork City Council calls upon the Government to scrap the unfair Student Service Charge tax levied on apprentices.'

(Proposer: Cllr S. Cunningham 14/281)

20.7 **FAIRER AND EQUITABLE COMMERCIAL RATES SYSTEM BASED ON TURN OVER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following Motion:-

'That Cork City Council calls on the Government to introduce a more fairer and equitable commercial rates system based on turn over, one which is reflective of the size and scale of the business and should be affordable.'

(Proposer: Cllr C. O'Leary 14/268)

This concluded the business of the meeting

AN tARD-MHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH