

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8th MAY 2023

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| PRESENT | Leas Ardmhéara Comhairleoir D. Boylan. |
| NORTH EAST | Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran. |
| NORTH WEST | Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, F. Ryan. |
| SOUTH EAST | Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon. |
| SOUTH CENTRAL | Comhairleoirí D. Boyle, S. Martin, P. Dineen, F. Kerins. |
| SOUTH WEST | Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Rying. |
| ALSO PRESENT | Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive. Mr. B. Geaney, Assistant Chief Executive. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Mr. N. Ó Donnabháin, Director of Services, Housing. Ms. A. Rodgers, Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations. Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. F. Reidy, Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development. Mr. G. O'Beirne, Director of Services, Infrastructure Development. Mr. K. O'Connor, Senior Planner, Strategic & Economic Development. Ms. C. Kelly, Meetings Administrator. Ms. C. Currid, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Ms. V. Keating, Staff Officer, Housing. |
| APOLOGIES | Ardmhéara Comhairleoir D. Forde, Comhairleoirí G. Keohane, D. Canty. |

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The Walley family on the death of Eileen Walley.
- The Flynn family on the death of Michael Flynn.
- The O'Keeffe family on the death of Joe O'Keeffe.

- The Griffin family on the death of Mary Griffin.
- The O’Driscoll family on the death of Geraldine O’Driscoll.
- The Williamson family on the death of David Williamson.
- The Bergin family on the death of Georgina Bergin.
- The Breen family on the death of Elizabeth Breen.
- The Leahy family on the death of John Leahy.
- The O’Connor family on the death of Richard O’Connor.
- The Murphy family on the death of Bert Murphy.
- The Mulcahy family on the death of Mary Mulcahy.
- The Harte family on the death of Tom Harte.
- The Morey family on the death of Kathleen Morey.
- The Hallahan family on the death of Norma Hallahan.
- The Wilkinson family on the death of Frances Wilkinson.
- The McHale family on the death of Elizabeth McHale.
- The O’Sullivan family on the death of Michael O’Sullivan.
- The Dennehy family on the death of Timothy Dennehy.
- The Dennehy family on the death of Mary Dennehy.
- The O’Donovan family on the death of Donal O’Donovan.
- The O’Connor family on the death of Tom O’Connor.
- The O’Donovan family on the death of Patrick O’Donovan.

2. **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS/BEST WISHES**

None received.

3. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**

3.1 **LORD MAYOR’S CIVIC, COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY, AND CULTURE AWARDS 2023**

An Leas Ardmhéara advised An Chomhairle that the Lord Mayor’s Civic, Community & Voluntary, and Culture Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday 1st June 2023.

3.1.1 **LORD MAYOR’S CIVIC AWARDS 2023**

An Leas Ardmhéara advised, and An Chomhairle approved, the Lord Mayor’s nominations for Civic Awards 2023 as follows:-

Maurice Gubbins, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Cork life and to journalism.

Elmarie Mawe, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Arts through her radio show The Arts House.

Daniel Nuzum, in recognition of his outstanding commitment to spiritual and pastoral care and education in perinatal bereavement and palliative care.

Doireann O'Mahony, in recognition of her outstanding commitment to raising public awareness of, and her support for those affected by sepsis, through the Irish Sepsis Foundation.

Denise O'Sullivan, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Irish soccer and her status as an ambassador to young women in sport.

Marie Piper Gregan, in recognition of her outstanding commitment to community events in Douglas.

3.1.2 **LORD MAYOR'S CULTURE AWARD 2023**

An Leas Ardmhéara advised, and An Chomhairle approved, the Lord Mayor's nomination for the Culture Award 2023 as follows:-

Emelie Fizgibbon, for her lifelong contribution to arts-in-education and theatre for young audiences.

3.2 **EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY**

An Chomhairle approved travel by Comhairleoirí D. Boylan and K. McCarthy to attend European Maritime Day in Brest, France, 23rd – 26th May 2023.

3.3 **CIVIC RECEPTION**

An Leas Ardmhéara advised, and An Chomhairle approved, the Lord Mayor's proposal to hold a Civic Reception for Gina and The Champions to mark their 50th Anniversary.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

No items raised.

5. **MINUTES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle considered and approved the minutes of:-

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 11th April 2023.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Maher, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the following motion (No.32, Appendix 1) at the end of the meeting:-

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON BUS CONNECTS

‘That Cork City Council facilitates a third round of public consultation of Bus Connects with the National Transport Authority and extends the current consultation

to such a time when traffic data and modelling are published to allow all submissions take account of real time traffic flows.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/225)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir E. Ryng, seconded by Comhairleoir K. Collins, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the following motion (No. 28, Appendix 1) at the end of the meeting:-

REOPEN BALLINCOLLIG FIRE STATION

‘That Cork City Council;

1. Recognise that as of May 2023, recruitment campaigns for retained firefighters have not been successful,

and

2. Call for the re-opening of Ballincollig Fire Station without delay, using full-time firefighters, while maintaining current crewing.’

(Proposers: Cllr. E. Ryng, Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. K. Collins, Cllr. F. Kerins 23/219)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Nugent, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Kerins, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the following motion at the end of the meeting:-

‘The Cork City Council writes to the Department of Transport to request funding for the 2 of the 8 section 38 pedestrian crossings that have not been funded, namely St. Colmcille Rd. and Bellevue, Grange with a timeline for progressing each of these schemes.’

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **ALLOCATION OF RECENTLY COMPLETED HOUSES**

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

Referring to the 1,215 houses classed as “recent completions” in the January CE report, can the CE give a breakdown of how many have been allocated to tenants?

REPLY

Referring to the 1,215 properties classified as “recent completions” in the January Chief Executive Report 1,030 units have been allocated. The remaining units are currently working through the allocation process and include for rightsizing units, housing for older persons and general needs.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

6.2 MONUMENT/STATUE TO COMMEMORATE DOCKERS

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

Can the CE please update Council on what steps have been taken to secure a monument forward/statue to commemorate the dockers of Cork City?

REPLY

Cork City Council have engaged a multi-disciplinary team to develop the framework masterplan for the Cork City Docklands. Reflecting the maritime and industrial heritage of the Docklands in the architecture and public realm is a fundamental principle of our masterplanning strategy. We recognise the dockers are an essential part of this history and are committed to identifying meaningful opportunities to integrate their story as part of the proposed public art programme. The team has met with their representatives and invited them to participate in a workshop on the history and identity of the Docklands as part of the masterplan engagement process. This will translate into meaningful interpretation as the public realm of the docklands is being developed.

Fearghal Reidy,
Director of Services,
Strategic & Economic Development.

6.3 IN-SITU HOME PURCHASES

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

How long is it taking Cork City Council to make decisions on in-situ home purchases, and can you explain the reason for the duration of time please?

When Cork City Council applies to the Government for the funding for in-situ home purchases, how long is that decision taking?

REPLY

The decision-making process for Tenant in Situ purchases is dependent on receipt of information from relevant parties such as the tenant, the landlord/landlord agent and An Garda Síochána. Once all required information is received, a decision on the purchase is made within 10 working days.

Cork City Council has delegated sanction on the acquisition of residential property up to certain thresholds depending on house size and type after which approval is to be sought from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. In the case of Tenant in Situ purchases, acquisitions are generally of a one-off nature and, as a result, fall under the delegated sanction limits. Cork City Council has not experienced any issues or impediments concerning funding of the acquisitions for the Tenant in Situ purchases. The City Council claims the costs of each acquisition on closing of the sale.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

6.4 CASEMENT CELTIC FC PITCHES

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

Is there any progress in furthering a new leasing arrangement that would accommodate Casement Celtic and Cork Ladies Soccer in the existing grounds on the Straight Road?

REPLY

There is regular contact with Cork Women & School Girls Soccer League and Casement Celtic in relation to development of detailed proposals that would accommodate the interests of both parties at the existing pitches at Carrigrohane Road. It is expected that a recommendation will be brought before Council shortly.

David Joyce,
Director of Services,
Roads & Environment Operations.

6.5 QUAY WALL AT SOUTH GATE BRIDGE

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

To ask the CE for an update and progress report on the resolution of the collapsed car park quay wall at South Gate Bridge?

REPLY

Representatives of the property owners have submitted a method statement to Cork City Council to restore the quay walls. The Council will continue to engage with the representatives, to establish a restoration timeframe.

Fearghal Reidy,
Director of Services,
Strategic & Economic Development.

6.6 **PUBLIC LIGHTING – TANK FIELD WALKWAY**

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

Can the CE please advise precisely when work will commence on the installation of the long awaited Public Lighting on the back wall of the walkway on the Eastern end of the Tank Field walkway in Montenotte. This was approved and funding allocated by the Northeast LAC well over a year ago.

REPLY

A contractor has been appointed to install the Public Lighting on the back wall of the walkway on the Eastern end of the Tank Field. Following the completion of the appointment process it was agreed that work would begin the week commencing May 15th, 2023. The project still remains on track to achieve this timeframe for commencement.

David Joyce,
Director of Services,
Roads & Environment Operations.

6.7 **PROPOSED BRIDGE - GRANGE ROAD TO OLD CARRIGLINE RD**

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

To ask the Chief Executive,

To report to City Council on the present up to date position in relation to the design and possible construction of the proposed bridge from the Grange Road to the Old Carrigline Rd to span the Ballybrack Woods,(Mangala amenity).

In particular, what stage is the design at for this project?

What are the proposed dimensions, Width, Length, number of lanes etc. (supply drawings where possible?).

What planning regulation will be used to progress this project, part 8 or part 10 or other?

Is it proposed to bring this project before the South East LAC and Council for discussion and approval?

What is the time scale for this project to bring it to finality?

What national funding has been received to date by City Council for the design of and to progress this project further?

What are the expected overall costs of this project in terms of design and final construction, and who will fund this?

REPLY

The provision of a new bridge to connect the Carrigaline Road to Donnybrook Hill/Grange was a long standing objective of Cork County Council as a means of reducing the volume of traffic passing through the centre of Douglas Village. The provision of the new bridge was subsequently included in the *Douglas Land Use and Transport Strategy 2013*. Consultants were engaged thereafter to progress the proposal and undertake the preliminary report for the scheme. Due to lack of funding, the scheme did not progress further to the detailed design, planning or construction stages.

The *Cork Metropolitan Transport Strategy 2020* (CMATS) proposed a limited number of new road-based projects to facilitate the sustainable movement of people, goods and services, and to complement public transport, walking, cycling and traffic management objectives. CMATS acknowledged the impact of congestion on Douglas village and the ongoing over reliance on the N40 for private vehicle trips. To address the significant shortfall in local connectivity CMATS identified the requirement for a more comprehensive multi modal southern distributor route. This would be delivered by upgrading the existing route and creating a new road link between Rochestown and Sarsfield Road, via the Carrigaline Road, East West Link Bridge, Grange Road and Airport Road, and a proposed new link between the N27 and Sarsfield Road with the potential to also link to the N71 via Lehanaghmore and Spur Hill. The proposed route was also provided for in the *Cork Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan* and the *Cork City Development Plan*. It is anticipated that this southern distributor route would be developed on an incremental basis over time.

The proposal for the new connection from the existing Grange Road junction on the R851 to the R609 Carrigaline Road involves the provision of a link road of approx 180m including a new bridge of approx. 80m in length to cross over the Ballybrack valley. This new connection would cater for pedestrians, cyclists and motorised traffic.

The National Transport Authority has provided grant funding of just over €100,000 to date in respect of the project. A sum of €50,000 has been allocated in the current year. This funding relates to the feasibility, survey and preliminary design processes. The project is at an early stage and the Council's consultants are undertaking surveys to inform the environmental screening and potential bridge design options with a view to minimising the visual and environmental impact on the Ballybrack Valley and the walkway below. The appropriate planning process for the proposal (Part 8 planning or a Part 10 application to an Bord Pleanála) will be guided by the information arising from this phase of work.

A scheme of this nature takes a number of years to progress through the various stages of preliminary design and planning approvals, detailed design, funding and procurement. The funding assigned to date relates to the current preliminary phase. A definitive programme/timeline for the project can be established when further grant funding approvals are secured to enable progress beyond the current phase.

In the meantime, Members will be kept updated on ongoing progress in relation to the scheme.

Gerry O'Beirne,
Director of Services,
Infrastructure Development.

6.8 **RETAINED FIRE SERVICE – BALLINCOLLIG**

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

To ask the CE why the process of recruiting a Retained Fire Service for Ballincollig Fire Station is still not completed despite initial closing date for potential applicants of 13th January 2022?

REPLY

The recruitment of retained firefighters is progressing and ongoing. This competition remains open on a rolling basis without a closing date. All information is available for interested candidates on the City Council recruitment page.

Adrienne Rodgers,
Director of Services,
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

6.9 **FAIRHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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

Can the CE report on the status of the Fairhill Community Centre, the current lead project manager within Council and the number of meetings held to progress same in the last 6 months.

REPLY

Cork City Council's Community Section Team members through the RAPID Coordinator and the Social Inclusion Unit lead, have supported the Fairhill/Fairfield Community Association in its endeavours to achieve Governance requirements, Business Planning and Project Management. To this end, Cork City Council has provided business mentoring supports through the LEO Office. Both Cork City Council and the Community Association realise the planning, building and longer term, sustainable management of such an undertaking is a long term goal which Cork City Council will endeavour to continue to support. This is a complex process requiring due diligence on behalf of the Council.

Cork City Council staff have met Fairhill/Fairfield Community Association three times over the past 6 months on this and other community development pieces we are working with them on.

Adrienne Rodgers,
Director of Services,
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

6.10 **MAGLIN, KILLUMNEY INTERSECTION, BALLINCOLLIG**

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

Can the director please let me know if and when traffic lights are been placed at this intersection. In the last number of years the increase of traffic from three estates and coming from Waterfall Ballinora has made this intersection dangerous.

REPLY

The Operations Directorate does not have any plans at present to signalise this junction. This junction has now been recorded by Traffic Operations as an area to be considered for a future intervention. Currently however, there is no City Council funding available for such works. We will nonetheless, retain the project on a list of requests for inclusion in possible future roads programmes, should funds be made available.

David Joyce,
Director of Services,
Roads & Environment Operations.

6.11 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEMES**

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

Can the CE outline the timeline for the disposal of Affordable Housing Units to successful applicants? Is there funding available, unspent as of yet at the Department of Housing, to progress the next phase of Affordable Housing Schemes & is there any detail on such schemes?

REPLY

The Housing Directorate with the assistance of the Office of Legal Affairs are progressing the sales and conveyance process in respect of all affordable homes made available for purchase across the four schemes to date. The exact timeline to complete each sale is not simply dependent on the internal processes of Cork City Council but is also reliant on submission of specific documentation on the part of the purchaser to ensure the conveyance process can conclude in as short a timeframe as possible. This is the ambition of the Housing Directorate.

The Department of Housing has a specific budget set aside for delivery of Affordable Housing Schemes nationally, 'Affordable Housing Fund' under 'Housing For All'.

Cork City Council is one of the lead local authorities availing of and utilising this fund to progress affordable housing delivery.

The Housing Directorate is considering further schemes to supplement its existing affordable housing programme to meet the targets set out in Housing For All, being 378 affordable homes up to 2026. Councillors will be kept informed of progress in relation to specific projects in due course.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

An Chomhairle noted the declaration of a conflict of interest from Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald.

6.12 **VACANT SITE LEVY**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the number of sites that have been identified by this Council as being subject to the Vacant Site Levy, also detailing the number of sites originally identified but subsequently removed outlining why removal has taken place, since the levy has come into being?

REPLY

Vacant Sites Register

The vacant sites legislation was introduced as an activation measure to encourage landowners in urban areas to develop land primarily for the purpose of housing. Following periodic inspections, sites are removed from the Vacant Sites Register when they are no longer considered vacant, largely sites are removed when

development has taken place on site. The table below sets out the changes in the number of vacant sites subject to the levy in the last 5 years.

| Year | Number of sites |
|------|-----------------|
| 2019 | 12 |
| 2020 | 18 |
| 2021 | 16 |
| 2022 | 13 |
| 2023 | 8 |

Fearghal Reidy,
Director of Services,
Strategic & Economic Development.

6.13 **NOONAN'S ROAD**

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

Can the CE update members of council on the plans for refurbishment of Noonans Road flats?

REPLY

The Housing Directorate has recently completed a detailed survey and assessment of the housing units at Noonan's Road with a view to the progression of its refurbishment. A cross directorate working group is currently reviewing the survey findings in order to consider next steps to the progression of the most sustainable and appropriate development solution for these housing units.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

6.14 **VOID PROPERTIES**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on progress to take properties out of 'void' this year?

REPLY

As advised the Council proposes to increase the number of returned 'void' properties to over 400 in 2023. This will result in an increase of approx. 150% on 2022. This concerted and focused plan will seek to tackle clustered void properties in each LEA and utilise internal and contracted staff to achieve these ambitious targets. The void programme will also drive efficiencies and reduce overall costs in the return of voids

on a more sustainable basis. The Council is currently on target to meet these programme deliverables.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

6.15 **TOGHER ROAD PUBLIC REALM SCHEME**

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

To ask the CE if there are plans to carry out further enhancement works on the Togher Road public realm scheme at the entrance to Sandown Crest?

REPLY

Under the Togher Public Realm contract, works were completed at the entrance to Sandown Crest, including planting of hedging, grass-seeding, replacement of a section of footpath, and moving of a bus stop from off-line to in-line.

The project is substantially complete. However, there are some minor outstanding works to be completed by the Main Works Contractor, including works close to the entrance to Sandown Crest. These works are expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

Gerry O’Beirne,
Director of Services,
Infrastructure Development.

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: 16 MEADOW WALK, THE MEADOWS, HOLLYHILL - PETER MCVERRY TRUST CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 20th April 2023 in relation to a loan facility for Peter McVerry Trust CLG in respect of the provision of one unit of accommodation at 16 Meadow Walk, The Meadows, Hollyhill, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Nugent, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Resolved that, pursuant to the provision of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, a loan facility not exceeding €305,100 be granted to Peter McVerry Trust CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of one unit of accommodation at 16 Meadow Walk, The Meadows, Hollyhill, Cork.”

7.2 **PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 1 (REVISED CAR PARKING STANDARDS ON A CITYWIDE BASIS) OF THE CORK CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028**

Following consideration by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting held, 2nd May 2023, An Chomhairle considered the report of the Chief Executive, dated 13th April 2023 on the Proposed Material Alterations to Variation No. 1 (Revised Car Parking Standards on a Citywide basis) of the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028.

A vote was called for on the approval of the Proposed Material Alterations to Variation No.1 where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, K. Collins, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, S. Martin, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (16)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, O. Moran, J. Sheehan, F. Ryan, L. Bogue, K. McCarthy, D. Boyle, C. Finn, G. Kelleher. (9)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, An Leas Ardmhéara declared the vote carried, and the Proposed Material Alterations to Variation No. 1 approved.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Resolve under section 13 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended to make Proposed Variation No 1 (Revised Car Parking Standards on a City-wide basis) of the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 with a material amendment as recommended in the Chief Executive’s Report.”

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 2nd MAY 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 2nd May 2023.

8.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31/03/2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 31/03/2023.

8.2 **ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

An Chomhairle considered the Annual Financial Statement for 2022 (unaudited).

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir C. Kelleher, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“That the Annual Financial Statement for 2022 and, pursuant to Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, the over expenditure as outlined in note 16 are hereby approved.”

8.3 **MOTIONS**

8.3.1 **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SERVICES DATED 26th APRIL 2023 IN RELATION TO PUBLISHING DATA TABLES**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 26th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will publish data tables from the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report in a machine-readable format and publish these to the city's open data portal.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/164)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the CE Monthly report is in tabular, graphic and text format at present and is published using Flipping Book Technology. The report is publicly available on Cork City Council’s website – www.corkcity.ie.

Publishing data tables in a machine-readable format, as sought by the motion, would require an additional body of work, which would need scoping and costing.

A review is due on the format of the CE monthly report and the suggestion can be incorporated as part of the review.

8.3.2 **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SERVICES DATED 26th APRIL 2023 IN RELATION TO CARD ONLY BUSINESS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 26th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council introduce bylaws not to allow 'card only' businesses and ensures that all legal tender is accepted in any businesses operating in the Cork City Council authority.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 23/155)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Section 199 of the Local Government Act 2001 provides that a local authority may make a bye-law/ bye-laws for or in relation to the use, operation, protection, regulation or management of any land, services, or any other matter provided by or under the control or management of the local authority, whether within or without its functional area or in relation to any connected matter. The services provided by private businesses in Cork City are not under the control or management of Cork City Council.

Cork City Council has the power to make bye-laws but only in accordance with Section 199 of the Local Government Act 2001, and this power is not exercisable in respect of what is being sought by the motion.

9. **PARTY WHIPS – 24th APRIL 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 24th April 2023.

9.1 **SETTING DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING 2023**

An Chomhairle agreed that the Annual Meeting of An Chomhairle would be held on Friday, 23rd June 2023 at 6pm.

9.2 **CLIMATE ACTION CONVERSATION WITH ELECTED MEMBERS**

An Chomhairle agreed to hold a workshop facilitated by Change by Degrees.

9.3 **MOTION**

9.3.1 **INSCRIBE ‘JOHN SWINEY’ ON THE NATIONAL MONUMENT, GRAND PARADE**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 20th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That the name John Swiney, one of the core leaders in Cork of the United Irishmen in 1798, be inscribed on the 1798 panel on the National Monument on the Grand Parade.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 23/072)

The report of the Director of Services stated that it is not best practice to add items to an existing monument except in exceptional circumstances. Often there is a reason for why things were named or created in a certain way. Viewed through the lens of modern values, this may not always be ideal but it is considered better to interpret and explain than to change or alter what is there.

In addition, the National Monument is on the Record of Protected Structures, planning permission may be required, and so consultation with the Architectural Conservation Officers is required.

I would recommend that John Swiney is acknowledged in a different way, perhaps a creative approach or by using modern technology such as QR codes to interpret both the monument itself and John Swiney.

10. **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 17th APRIL 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 17th April 2023.

10.1 **MOTIONS**

10.1.1 **MODAL SHIFT IN ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 3rd April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will use metrics to evaluate the achievement of modal shift in active travel projects.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 23/070)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council will, as proposed, expand the use of metrics for the evaluation of modal shift in active travel projects. This expansion would build upon the historic counts undertaken to establish baseline figures for new transport schemes or counts undertaken as part of localised measurements and annual surveys. Over a number of years the additional information arising could be used to better present and interrogate modal trends. In addition, as Members will be aware, some funding has been secured from the National Transport Authority in the current year to progress the installation of permanent cycle counters across the city. This will also help establish a reliable database relating to ongoing modal shift trends.

10.1.2 **CITY WIDE FOOTPATH AUDIT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 3rd April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would undertake a city-wide audit on the current condition of our footpaths. Our footpaths in many places across the city are currently in appalling condition and are in urgent need of refurbishment.

This is as a result of general neglect in terms of ongoing maintenance, various utility companies digging them up to undertake various works and, in many cases, not reinstating them to the original standard and of course, general wear and tear.

I ask Cork City Council to urgently undertake an audit in the five LEAs across the city and produce a planned and focussed footpath renewal programme across the city with the agreement of each LAC and the Full Council of Elected Members in the coming months.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 23/047)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council is responsible for the maintenance of the public footpaths in Cork City. This footpath infrastructure is comprised of footpaths of very different materials (granite blocks, paving slabs, concrete and tar paths etc.) of very different ages. As part of public realm, active travel projects and other developments, public footpaths are constantly upgraded and renewed.

Cork City Council also has a record of footpath defects gathered from numerous sources, including the public through the CRM, our own engineering assessments, public liability claims and Councillors requests for service. All funding for footpath maintenance and repairs comes from the City Council's own resources, as allocated by Members through the annual budget process. There is no funding available from the Department of Transport for footpath maintenance and any repairs must therefore be funded from very limited Council own resources.

When allocating resources for the annual footpath renewal contract, the record of footpath defects is used to identify and locate and the worst sections of footpaths for inclusion in the contract. We are confident that this results in the worst condition footpaths, at a given time, being repaired first. In addition to the annual footpath contract, the Roads Operations Division deploys our outdoors crews to carry out localised repairs on an emergency basis, where and when needed.

As well as the Council having limited financial resources, we also have limited human resources. To carry out a survey of the more than 3 million square metres in area of footpath in the City is a mammoth task that would require substantial human resources to carry out. The benefits of expending such very significant resources on such a survey is also questionable. I believe that this money would be better spent tackling the known issues that have been identified with footpaths across the City. Also the Council has neither the internal staff nor budget for substantial engineering consultancy inputs to carry out this City wide survey task. Furthermore the output of this task would not be immediately used as there is limited budget for very large-scale renewal of the footpaths. The worst sections of footpath are already known and do not require such a survey to be identified.

It is also important to note that the Council operates one of the longest running stand alone road opening licensing units in the Country and was instrumental in the development of the Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads (the Purple Book) – the national standard for reinstatement of road openings. The Council has a dedicated team of roads inspectors ensuring that permanent reinstatements are carried out in accordance with the Purple Book. I am thus satisfied that the quality of footpath reinstatement across the City is to a high standard. However if any Councillor or member of the public is aware of a reinstatement of poor quality, this should be reported to the Customer Service Unit on 021-4924000 so that same may be investigated. I would also like to advise Council that upon completion of works, in many cases, a temporary reinstatement may be put in place and this may seem of poor quality. The key point with these is that they are only temporary to allow the footpath to reopen to public use and are not the permanent finished reinstatement. Permanent reinstatement will follow in due course.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Boylan, An Chomhairle agreed to write to the Minister for Transport to determine if funding could be provided for footpath repair from Active Travel funding.

10.1.3 **CONSULTING WITH THE PUBLIC ON ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEMES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 3rd April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That the CE will examine more effective ways of consulting with the public in relation to active travel schemes. At present the process is insufficiently iterative and transparent and does not lend itself to a solutions focused approach.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 23/122)

The report of the Director of Services stated that all active travel projects progressed by the City Council, are grounded in approved plans and strategies which have been subject to extensive public consultation. This consultation includes opportunities for submission of comments and suggestions which are assessed and reported upon prior to approval or endorsement by Council. Such plans and strategies include the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS) which details the infrastructure required for the ongoing development of Cork to the year 2040 as well as the Cork Cycle Network Plan and the Cork City Development Plan.

The preparation of the preliminary designs for specific projects generally involves the engagement of multidisciplinary design teams with extensive experience in the development of active travel infrastructure. The preliminary designs are developed having regard to the up to date guidelines and standards for such projects and all proposals are subject to approval by the technical staff of the National Transport Authority.

Each individual scheme is also the subject of public consultation in accordance with the provisions of the Planning & Development Acts or the Roads Acts as appropriate. The related processes are set out in the aforementioned statutes and include for lengthy public consultation and engagement. In undertaking such consultation, the design teams engage with a broad range of stakeholders and interested parties. An expanding range of mechanisms are used to provide information and enable the submission of comments (incl newspaper adverts, website, iconsult portal, on site notices, social media, scheme drawings, photomontages, information sessions etc). Most active travel schemes involve multi modal and public realm changes and consequently attract a broad range of interested parties including residents, businesses, various road users, service providers etc The Council welcomes the receipt of submissions from any interested parties and all submissions received are assessed and reported upon to Council as part of the process. Schemes only proceed to construction having been approved by Council and supported by the relevant funding agency.

The Council will continue to examine and improve the consultation undertaken with a view to providing the best opportunities for public input with optimisation of the final proposals going forward to Members for determination.

10.1.4 **CONSIDER ANIMAL CROSSING WHEN DESIGNING ROAD SCHEMES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 3rd April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That the CE will ensure that animal crossing is considered when designing road schemes particularly where bridges are involved.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 23/123)

The report of the Director of Services stated that wildlife corridors provide habitat connectivity and assist in reducing wildlife-vehicle interactions. The Council will ensure that consideration of requirements for design and installation of wildlife corridors forms part of new bridge schemes as suggested.

10.1.5 **HGV TRAFFIC SIGNAGE ON MIDDLE GLANMIRE ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, and the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 3rd April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would put in place signage restricting any "through traffic" of HGV traffic on Middle Glanmire Road, Montenotte from Colmcille Avenue through to St. Lukes Cross. That Cork City Council would put in place similar signage restricting any "through traffic" of HGV traffic on Lover’s Walk, Montenotte from Lower Glanmire Road, Tivoli linking Middle Glanmire Road, Montenotte.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 23/046)

The report of the Directors of Services stated that the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy identified the delivery of the Cork Northern Distributor (Multi-Modal) Road to facilitate the introduction of HGV restrictions within the City Centre. The Cork Northern Distributor (Multi-Modal) Road is currently under design development and there are active discussions with the National Transport Authority with respect to the delivery of this project.

In the interim, Cork City Council will review the current routing of HGVs through and within the city (including both Middle Glanmire Road and Lover’s Walk) with the objective to identify a hierarchy of routes in the city which can support the on-going movement of HGVs. This review will also address any signage requirements focused on the provision of affirmative signage at key locations similar to that already in place within the city centre.

11. **STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 17th APRIL 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Strategic, Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 17th April 2023.

11.1 **ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION GRANTS SCHEME**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Dennehy, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Architectural Conservation Grants Scheme.

11.2 **MOTIONS**

11.2.1 **CORK CUSTOM HOUSE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 12th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘In view of their heritage, architectural and historical significance to the city of Cork, I propose that Cork City Council acquire, by compulsory purchase order, if necessary, the Cork Custom House and adjoining warehouses and develop them in an appropriate manner to reflect the role they played in the history of the Port of Cork.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 23/118)

The report of the Director of Services stated that this site was disposed of by the Port of Cork Company to Tower Group. Tower Group obtained full planning permission for a major redevelopment at the site including a 240-bedroom hotel and a range of commercial uses including retail, office, food and beverage, distillery, tourism and leisure uses. Their plans include proposals to develop a maritime museum at the site. Cork City Council continues to engage with Tower Group in relation to the site.

11.2.2 **UNUSED COMMERCIAL BUILDING SPACE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 12th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council conduct a study of unused commercial building space that can be converted into residential use.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/132)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council will conduct a survey of vacant properties in 2023 to support the City Council’s activities to tackle vacancy.

11.2.3 **NATURE IN THE CITY DAY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 13th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will include a Nature in the City Day as part of Heritage Week or Biodiversity Week activities.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/165)

The report of the Director of Services stated that several biodiversity related events will be organised for Biodiversity Week 2023 (19-28 May) to raise awareness and celebrate local biodiversity in Cork City. In addition, biodiversity events will be organised as part of the Cork City Heritage Week 2023 (12-20 August) celebrations.

A bigger event such as a Nature in the City Day can be considered and organised as part of Biodiversity Week 2024 subject to appropriate resources being made available.

11.2.4 **CONVERT DERELICT PROPERTIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 13th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That where derelict properties cannot be easily brought back in to use for residential purposes, that consideration be given to converting for important pieces of social infrastructure.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/177)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council will consider proposed re-use of vacant and derelict commercial buildings and sites that add to the quality and character of the local neighbourhood for community uses. These uses may require planning permission.

12. **HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 19th APRIL 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 19th April 2023.

12.1 **HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Housing Progress report for February 2023.

12.2 **MOTIONS**

12.2.1 **TURNAROUND IN RETURNING VACANT HOUSING TO STOCK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 18th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council ensure a programme is in place to tackle the long turnaround in returning vacant housing units to available stock.’

‘Go gcinnteoidh Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí go bhfuil clár i bhfeidhm chun dul i ngleic leis an moill in aonaid fholmha tithíochta a chur ar ais sa stoic.’

(Proposers: Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. E. Rynng 23/018)

The report of the Director of Services stated that in 2022, the Housing Directorate set up a new structure and programme to address long term vacancy and turnaround times. In order to streamline the process, a number of new innovations have been introduced in all areas of the process, from Area Management to Housing Maintenance to Allocations to improve the turnaround times. Although times have improved, it is acknowledged that it is still a long period. Based on process and system improvements

underway, the City Council is confident it will deliver an increased reduction in the turnaround time throughout 2023, with a very ambitious target to reduce the turnaround period for any new property becoming vacant to 32 weeks by the end of 2023. The national average re-letting time is 34.44 weeks.

It is important to note that the reletting time includes the time taken to both repair and upgrade vacated properties to an acceptable letting standard and to relet those properties in line with the City Council's scheme of lettings. As such, the time taken to relet a property is dependent on the condition of a property at the time of return and/or how long it takes to relet a particular property depending on uptake and acceptance by applicants on the social housing list.

The programme consists of two delivery streams. The first is dealing with existing vacant units to December 2022, categorising by locality and assessing them for repair by Contract. There are approx. 220 properties programmed for return under this stream in 2023. The second stream sees all newly vacant units being assessed for repair by a dedicated depot team, estimated at 180 properties presenting for repair in 2023. The dedicated team will be continuously monitored to ensure quick turnaround times and where necessary will be supplemented by separate Contractors when demand is high. It is expected that significant improvements in turnaround times will be achieved in newly vacant units and that the existing backlog will be cleared by early 2024, enabling a sustainable and consistent return of units thereafter. It is programmed to return 400+ vacant properties from repair, ready for allocation in 2023.

12.2.2 **LDA REPORT ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 18th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council request a copy of the recent LDA report confirming affordable housing per unit costing more than €120,000 and create a report in terms of its relevance to Cork City Council social and affordable housing plans.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Ryan 23/031)

The report of the Director of Services stated that as per the referenced Business Post Article of January 2023 it is understood that the document referred to is a “40-page research document obtained by the Business Post, which has not been shared with the Department of Housing, was labelled by the agency as “private & confidential – not to be shared outside LDA”. It is also understood from the article that a spokesperson for the LDA said “the report was marked “not to be shared outside” as it contained potential pricing information regarding a specific project which is currently in a tender process. This may be deemed confidential, market sensitive information that may result in loss to the LDA if released and could not be released by law”. Given the foregoing it would be inappropriate to request and publicly report upon any such “private and confidential document” from a state agency such as the LDA.

12.2.3 **PILOT SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE APARTMENT SCHEME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 18th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council proceed towards developing a pilot social and affordable apartment scheme to launch housing in the Docklands given the slowdown of the private sector in apartment constructions due to financial viability issues.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Ryan 23/032)

The report of the Director of Services stated that as Cork City Council does not have ownership of development lands in the docklands it is not in a position to develop such a scheme presently. Delivery of such a scheme would be dependent on partnership with other agencies such as the LDA which are currently being explored. In addition, the LDA is seeking to advance social and affordable housing projects in the Docklands through new schemes such as Croí Cónaithe and Project Tosaigh. Financial viability remains a key factor in the delivery of affordable residential developments in the area of apartment delivery particularly.

12.2.4 **PILOT DIRECT BUILDING OF SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 18th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘Within Cork City Council’s own resources, we have land, solicitors, engineers, quantity surveyors, architects etc which places the Council in a position to support the direct building of social and affordable housing.

We ask that Cork City Council puts a team in place to look at this as a viable option and put out tenders for building firms to do the building works directly for the Council with the company allowed an agreed maximum profit margin of 10-12pc. It would effectively be taking on a construction company as a state building entity, would significantly reduce the cost of housing for the Council and reap rewards for the company also. Can Cork City Council investigate the viability of this and perhaps start a pilot?’

(Proposers: Cllr. T. Moloney, Cllr. M. Finn 23/039)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council currently and effectively operates a structure such as that proposed to deliver both social and affordable housing schemes through two mechanisms, namely, Design/Build & the Competitive Dialogue Initiative.

Design/Build: On Cork City Council owned lands, design and planning is completed by in-house resources, (supported by external services providers where necessary to support the delivery programme) followed by a tender process to identify a competent builder to construct the development.

Competitive Dialogue Initiative: The Project Agreement structure provides for type of price certainty referenced in the motion.

The Housing Directorate do not see the suggested pilot as providing anything new of significant benefit to our current processes which are proving extremely effective in delivery. In addition, enhancing such an initiative would require significant additional recruitment which is a challenge at present in terms of time and available candidates.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to continue the meeting past 8pm.

12.2.5 **CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE HOUSING FOR TRAVELLERS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 18th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council, accepting the findings of the report of the Cork and Kerry Regional Traveller Accommodation Working Group, Traveller Homelessness: A Hidden Crisis advising that Traveller children are 12 times more likely to be homeless resolves to address this issue immediately.

To provide Travellers with culturally appropriate housing in line with international human rights obligations Cork City Council will explore borrowing an appropriate amount of money. This borrowing is pursuant to section 25 of the Traveller Accommodation Act 1998:

*25.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), a housing authority may make a loan for the—
(a) acquisition or repair of a caravan within the meaning of section 13 of the Act of 1988 (as amended by section 29), or
(b) acquisition of land for the purpose of providing a site and any construction works required for such purpose.
(2) The Minister shall, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, specify terms and conditions for loans made under subsection (1)
(3) Subsections (2) to (14) of section 11 of the Act of 1992 shall apply, to such extent as may be appropriate and with any necessary modifications, to a loan made under this section.*

Cork City Council would consider that under the provided definition of "caravan" that this funding can be used for modular housing or other forms of Traveller specific accommodation with the agreement of the Traveller community.

(6) In this section “caravan” means any structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is capable of being moved from one place to another, whether by towing or transport on a vehicle or trailer, and includes a motor vehicle so designed or adapted and a mobile home, but does not include a tent.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 23/083)

The report of the Director of Services stated that through the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Plan and in line with our obligations as a Housing Authority Cork City Council is fully committed to providing culturally appropriate long term housing solutions for the Traveller community. Key projects across the city are advancing and extensive engagement continues with the families concerned and Traveller Representative Groups to ensure the most appropriate and acceptable accommodation solutions are achieved. The Council is working closely with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage to secure the necessary funding to deliver capital projects as required.

In addition to the above the Council can seek funding for replacement mobile homes under Circular 46/2016 which covers emergencies should as fire/flood/storm etc. A number of mobile homes have been provided under Circular 46/2016. Funding under circular 46/2016 pays 50% towards the replacement cost of the mobile home and ancillary costs such as disposal of old mobile home, crane hire, connecting to services etc, the remaining balance comes from the Council's own resources.

Separate to the above funding was made available for additional/replacement mobile homes during 2022 under Covid 19 funding to mitigate against the risk of spread of covid 19.

A caravan loan scheme was launched by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in 2021 and Cork City Council piloted this scheme. This scheme was extended in 2022 into a national pilot Caravan Loan Scheme. This scheme has been very successful in Cork City Council and the uptake of this scheme has been very positive.

The number of loans provided under the Caravan Loan Scheme are outlined below:

| | | |
|------------|---|----------|
| 2021 Pilot | - | 15 loans |
| 2022 Pilot | - | 10 loans |

The 2022 pilot scheme closed in December 2022 and is currently being evaluated.

Cork City Council will continue to explore all available funding options for the provision of culturally appropriate accommodation for Travellers, including modular units where appropriate and will continue to engage with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to secure the necessary funding and support to progress projects as required.

12.2.6 **EVICTION NOTIFICATIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 18th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘Can Cork City Council give a report on how many evictions they’ve been notified of ahead of the lifting of the eviction ban.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 23/100)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council were notified of 143 Cork City households that received a valid Notice of Termination as of the 11th April, 2023.

A total of 67 valid Notice of Terminations issued to Cork City Council tenants in HAP/RAS (2,956) which equates to 2.26% of Cork City Council qualified Social Housing Applicants. Cork City Council has prevented 66 households from entering homeless services to date with a valid Notice of Termination. 33 no. acquisitions are being progressed with 3 sales closed via the Tenant in Situ process. A dedicated email address tenantinsitu@corkcity.ie has been set up for persons with queries on Tenant in Situ. All queries are logged for review and prompt follow up.

An internal Working Group of Housing practitioners has been established. This Group includes lead staff from the Accommodation Placement Service, Housing Allocations, RAS/HAP Section, Housing Capital & Housing Area Management. This Working Group reviews the Notices of Terminations and contacts notified to the City Council with a view to seeking suitable accommodation for the household involved whether that is as a Tenant-in Situ or through alternative CBL accommodation, or HAP or RAS or the APS Placefinder Service.

12.2.7 **REFURBISHMENT AND RETROFITTING OF FLATS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 18th April 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will outline a plan for the future refurbishment and retrofitting of the flats at Clashdub Road and all other similar complexes in the City, with an estimated timeline.’

(Proposer: Cllr. E. Ryng 23/104)

The report of the Director of Services stated that under recent Energy Efficiency Programmes, within the last 10 years, a number of properties around the City have already benefitted from:

- Fabric Upgrade Phase I funding - delivering upgrades to 6,500 properties, €12m
- Fabric Upgrade Phase II funding - in conjunction with the Better Energy Communities Programme over the last number of years (160 properties approx.). €3m
- Apartment Deep Retrofit Programme (set out under the South Eastern Assembly Operational Programme 2014 to 2020), received almost €10m funding and delivered upgrades to over 210 apartment.

The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) has put in place an investment programme, known as the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (EERP), launched in 2021 and superseding all previous investment programmes, such as above, in the area of energy efficiency for Local Government.

In general and strategic planning terms, retrofitting with deep energy efficiency improvement measures is part of the Government's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the housing stock in order to achieve targets by 2030 under the Government's Climate Action Plan (2019) where 500,000 homes in Ireland will be retrofitted. The target is for properties to have a B2 energy rating. Cork City Council has a major role to play in same, with an expected upgrade of approx. 2,500 properties by 2030. Cork City Council has a number of projects and extensive stock that we will take every opportunity to improve under same. We would estimate anything up to 9,500 of our properties would require upgrading to meet the national EERP targeted B2 standard. All properties should have an energy rating of at least B2 or higher by 2050.

Cork City Council currently has 824 properties in the EERP pipeline:

- Phase I: 127 properties completed, substantially completed, under construction.
- Phase II: At tender stage to award contracts for 79 properties.
- Phase III: Ready to publish tenders to award contracts for 318 properties.
- Phase IV: At award stage of tender for design team to assess and bring to contract award stage, 300 houses.

The EERP is a fantastic programme which affords the City Council the opportunity to improve both the Council's asset and the wellbeing/accommodation standards of our tenants. Cork City Council will continue to work with the Department to find the best way to deliver the much needed programme of works across the City.

The flats at Clashduv have not as yet been selected for the program to date.

13. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 12th APRIL 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 12th April 2023.

14. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th APRIL 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th April 2023.

15. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th APRIL 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th April 2023.

16. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th APRIL 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th April 2023.

17. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th APRIL 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th April 2023.

18. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th APRIL 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th April 2023.

19. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

An Leas Ardmhéara invited Comhairleoir F. Ryan to address the meeting.

Comhairleoir F. Ryan advised An Chomhairle of her intention to resign from Cork City Council on the 9th June 2023.

An Chomhairle noted that the nomination for co-option would be forwarded by the Sol-PBP party in due course.

Members extended their best wishes to Comhairleoir F. Ryan on her pending retirement from Cork City Council.

The Assistant Chief Executive extended best wishes to Comhairleoir F. Ryan on behalf of Cork City Council Executive.

20. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

An Chomhairle noted summaries of conferences/seminars attended as follows:-

- Comhairleoirí T. Shannon, D. Cauty, C. Finn, and D. Forde as part of the Cork City Council delegation to Rennes, France, 6th - 10th February 2023.
- Comhairleoir G. Kelleher at the AILG Module 2 training, Local Authority Climate Action Plans, Action Focused Ambition at Local and Community Level, held at the Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford, 23rd March 2023.
- Comhairleoir P. Dineen as part of the Cork City Council delegation to Washington DC and San Francisco, USA, 3rd - 13th March 2023.
- Comhairleoirí T. Shannon and G. Kelleher at the AILG Annual Training Conference 2023, held at the Hotel Kilkenny, Kilkenny, 19th - 20th April 2023.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the Suck Valley Way Conference, Inspiring Rural Creativity, held in Roscommon Town, 5th - 6th April 2023.

21. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

None received.

22. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

22.1 **ECAD CONFERENCE, MALTA**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh at the ECAD Conference to be held in Malta, 10th May 2023.

23. **TRAINING**

None received.

24. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive's monthly management report for March 2023.

25. **MOTIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the motions on Appendix 1, that have been referred to the relevant Committees as determined by the Meetings Administrator, due notice of which has been given.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle agreed that motion 14, Maintenance Programme for the National Monument, be referred to the Centenary Commemorations 2019-2023 Steering Committee instead of the South Central Local Area Committee.

An Chomhairle further noted that motions 28, Reopen Ballincollig Fire Station, and 32, Public Consultation on Bus Connects, would be discussed under suspensions of standing orders.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An Leas Ardmhéara invited Comhairleoir E. Ryng to address An Chomhairle on the following motion, after which a discussion took place, and An Chomhairle approved the motion:-

REOPEN BALLINCOLLIG FIRE STATION

‘That Cork City Council;

1. Recognise that as of May 2023, recruitment campaigns for retained firefighters have not been successful,

and

2. Call for the re-opening of Ballincollig Fire Station without delay, using full-time firefighters, while maintaining current crewing.’

(Proposers: Cllr. E. Ryng, Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. K. Collins, Cllr. F. Kerins 23/219)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An Leas Ardmhéara invited Comhairleoir J. Maher to address the meeting on the following motion, after which a discussion took place, and An Chomhairle approved the motion:-

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON BUS CONNECTS

‘That Cork City Council facilitates a third round of public consultation of Bus Connects with the National Transport Authority and extends the current consultation to such a time when traffic data and modelling are published to allow all submissions take account of real time traffic flows.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/225)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An Leas Ardmhéara invited Comhairleoir M. Nugent to address the meeting on the following motion, after which a discussion took place, and An Chomhairle approved the motion:-

‘The Cork City Council writes to the Department of Transport to request funding for the 2 of the 8 section 38 pedestrian crossings that have not been funded, namely St. Colmcille Rd. and Bellevue, Grange with a timeline for progressing each of these schemes.’

26. **MOTIONS**

26.1 **LEGISLATION ON COLOUR BLINDNESS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘I propose that this Council recognises the fact that thousands of people resident in the State are colour blind, and that there are many workers who wish to train and study for a wide range of trades and professions. However, they are then denied access to these areas of work due to the current health and safety legislation.

In the UK and Northern Ireland, spectacles are legally available which allow people with colour blindness to successfully train and work in their career of choice.

I urge this Council to call on the Ministers for Health and Labour to introduce legislation to allow these people to pursue their chosen profession.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 23/193)

26.2 **HOUSING NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘At this time, thousands of families are on the City Council housing waiting list. Amongst these families, there are well over one thousand children with autism.

Many of these children have reports from qualified professionals in this field who recommend to the housing authority at City Hall that the needs of these children are met regarding residential space and safety.

I urge this Council to call on the Minister for Housing to recognise the plight of these children and to act with urgency to provide the necessary staff and funding to Cork City Council so that the needs of these children are met.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 23/194)

26.3 **REMOVE SALE OR REFURBISHMENT AS REASONS TO END A TENANCY**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council supports removing sale or refurbishment as reasons to end a tenancy, where there is a risk of homelessness, and will write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting he immediately progresses legislation to this effect.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/195)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir O. Moran, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, a vote was called for on the approval of the motion where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, M. Nugent, F. Ryan, L. Bogue, D. Boyle, C. Finn, T. Moloney. (9)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, F. Dennehy. (6)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting in favour of the motion were greater than those voting against, An Leas Ardmhéara declared the vote carried, and the motion approved.

26.4 **DELAYS BY AN BORD PLEANÁLA**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council is very concerned that delays in An Bord Pleanála are affecting the delivery of infrastructure projects; including timely decisions on compulsory purchase orders and risks to projects such as the Cork Area Commuter Rail programme in meeting deadlines for European and other funding opportunities; and will write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Minister for Transport on the matter.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/196)

26.5 **CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY POLICY**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council shall write to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to indicate that it will not cooperate with the Consultative Forum on International Security Policy. The forum is a thinly-veiled exercise to legitimate an erosion of the State's constitutional neutrality in international affairs and is a wholly inappropriate and inadequate means by which to address a possible change in State policy on a core constitutional provision.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 23/212)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir L. Bogue, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Ryan, a vote was called for on the approval of the motion where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, M. Nugent, F. Ryan, L. Bogue. (4)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, D. Boyle, F. Dennehy, C. Finn, T. Moloney. (10)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoir O. Moran. (1)

As those voting for the motion were less than those voting against, An Leas Ard mhéara declared the vote and the motion defeated.

26.6 **FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR TRACKER MORTGAGES**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council call on the Government to introduce financial support for those who are struggling with tracker mortgages due to the significant increase of 20% since July 2022 across the nation.’

The current situation has left many families in financial hardship, and it is time for the Government to step in and provide the necessary assistance to alleviate the burden of this ever-increasing mortgage cost. We call upon the Government to take swift action and introduce policies that will provide a safety net for those affected.

And recognize that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to such a complex issue, and financial assistance alone may not be enough, given the fluctuating economic climate. However, a combination of financial aid and the introduction of long-term policies will help ease the burden for those affected.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 23/220)

An Chomhairle unanimously agreed that the motion was defeated.

26.7 **HOUSING FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION APPLICANTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Integration and the Minister for Public Works and ask them both to meet with all Councillors with Department officials to outline the programme of works for any further housing developments for international protection applicants and refugees fleeing the despicable war on Ukraine.

It's important to point out that I am in favour of housing refugees, but it would help if Councils were consulted to help us answer questions to the public and stop the spread of false news and rumour.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/224)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, An Chomhairle further agreed to also refer the motion to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH