

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir C. Kelleher.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, F. Ryan, D. Boylan.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, D. Forde.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Ryng.
ALSO PRESENT	Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive. Mr. B. Geaney, Assistant Chief Executive. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Mr. F. Reidy, Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations. Ms. A. Rodgers, Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking. Mr. G. O’Beirne, Director of Services, Infrastructure Development. Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. T. Duggan, City Architect. Mr. N. O’Donnabain, Director of Housing. Mr. D. Roche, Senior Executive Officer, Housing. Ms. E. Kidney, Senior Executive Officer, Operations Ms. A. Murnane, Meetings Administrator. Mr. N. Carroll, Administrative Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS

- 1.1 An tArdmhéara called on Chairperson Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond, Cork City Council’s Women’s Caucus to address the meeting. Cllr. Desmond highlighted the book “Women in politics – Be the She Change” and the Webinar “Women in politics – Be the She Change” to take place online on Wednesday 17th November, 2021.

1.2 **CONDOLENCE**

An tArdmhéara informed members of the passing of Ms. Kay McHugh and offered the condolences to the family of former City Manager Mr. Joe McHugh.

1.3 **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE – GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL SCIENCE**

An tArdmhéara acknowledged the online attendance of Dr. Aodh Quinlivan, University College Cork, Director of the BSc Government degree programme and the MSc Government programme and students from University College Cork's First Year BA in Government and Political Science.

1.4 **CORKMAN'S ASSOCIATION DINNER IN LONDON**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of An tArdmhéara at the Corkman's Association Dinner in London on the 19th November, 2021.

1.5 **MOVEMBER**

An tArdmhéara informed members of the Movember Initiative and requested support of members in his raising of funds.

1.6 **NIALL DONNABHAIN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, HOUSING.**

An tArdmhéara congratulated and welcomed Niall O' Donnabhain to his post as Director of Services, Housing.

2. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

No items raised.

3. **MINUTES**

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

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 26th October 2021.

4. **QUESTION TIME**

4.1 **GLEN IRIS ESTATE**

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

Could the CE please inform Council as to when Glen Iris Estate, Killeens, Cork City will be taken in charge?

REPLY

The Developer has received the final snag list following an inspection of the estate from various Cork City Council (CCC) Infrastructure Departments. As of last week, the Developer has yet to revert that the snags, notably aspects of the Foul Sewer Network have been completed. Once CCC Development Management Section receive confirmation that the outstanding snags have been completed the Council will request a final inspection and hopefully, sign off of works to the satisfaction of the relevant CCC Department.

Once the Community, Culture & Placemaking Directorate receive sign off from the various CCC Infrastructure Departments that all works in the estate have been satisfactorily constructed, a recommendation for the estate to be taken in charge (TIC), with accompanying documentation, will be made to CCC Road Operations to consider and proceed with the public consultation process, which usually takes 8-10 weeks. Provided there is no objection, a report is prepared for the relevant Local Area Committee and following this, the estate is recommended to be TIC by a vote at a Full Council Meeting, that is usually a 10-12 week process.

In summary, subject to confirmation of completion of all snags to the Council's satisfaction, the timeline for the Glen Iris Estate to be taken in charge is c.6months.

Adrienne Rodgers
Director of Services
Community, Culture & Placemaking

4.2 **VACANT HOMES OFFICER**

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

To ask the Chief Executive why Cork City Council has not used central government funding to appoint a Vacant Homes Officer?

REPLY

A Vacant Homes Officer is in place and the annual drawdown of central funding €50,000 per annum has been claimed by Cork City Council since the funding was made available.

Vacant homes can be reported through the portal www.vacanthomes.ie or directly with the to the City Council. This is a central database that relies on members of the public to notify of a vacant property through its online form. Those reports are then filtered through to Cork City Council, where the Vacant Homes Officer will seek to identify the owners, engage at an early stage with them, and provide them with information on the supports available to bring the property back into use.

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

4.3 **SIGNAL MASTS**

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

What proposals are in place for the erection of Signal Masts in the Cork City Council areas?

Does Council receive a monetary payment for the installations?

Are the Local Area Committees informed of the requirements within each ward?

REPLY

Local Authorities, in their capacity as planning authorities, are the responsible regulator for the placement of electronic communications infrastructure on or over or along Public Roads by telecommunications providers.

The Government's National Broadband Plan is a framework for the provision of high-speed broadband through a combination of commercial and state investment. A number of registered providers for the communications industry are authorised by ComReg to provide electronic communications networks and services. Amongst the providers are Cignal Infrastructure, National Broadband Ireland and Vantage Towers (Vodafone). The authorisation from ComReg allows these providers to apply for licences for over ground electronic communications infrastructure

The registered providers deliver tower, mast, rooftop and **streetwork solutions** for the expanding requirements of operators including EIR, Vodafone and Three. They work closely with mobile operators to identify locations known as 'blackspots' for mobile and wireless broadband. It is on this basis that licence applications for streetwork solutions are made. These proposed sites/locations are areas where coverage for mobile phones and data devices is required.

As such, the location of streetwork solutions are proposed by the applicant/registered provider. These locations are then considered by the Planning Authority.

The licensing process for this overground electronic communications infrastructure and any associated physical infrastructure i.e., a streetwork solution is set out in Section 254 (1) (ee) of the Planning and Development Act. In considering a licence under Section 254 for such infrastructure the Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Operations Division of the Council must have regard to four considerations as prescribed by the Act:

- a) the proper planning and sustainable development of the area,
- b) any relevant provisions of the development plan, or a local area plan,
- c) the number and location of existing appliances, apparatuses or structures on, under, over or along the public road, and,
- d) the convenience and safety of road users including pedestrians.

Once the application has been made to the local authority, the Development Management section & Roads Operations section review the application. The Development Management section reviews the application in the context of its validity to proceed as a development exempt from planning in line with the requirements of Section 254 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 or whether the application (or part of it) requires consent under another part of the Act. The Section 254 application is determined by the Development Management section following consideration of recommendations made by the Roads Operations section.

The Roads Operations section reviews the application and considers road safety and planning considerations having regard to the nature of road. They can make recommendations in relation to conditions that should apply to the licence if granted.

Where appropriate, a referral report is also received from the Housing Capital and Regeneration Section of the Council.

Unlike a planning application, there is no requirement for the applicant to put up a site notice or to place an advert in the newspaper. Moreover, the Section 254 licensing process does not provide for the consideration of third-party submissions as part of the decision-making process.

A licence may be granted by the Planning Authority for such period and upon such conditions as the authority may specify, including conditions in relation to location and design. **Developments which are carried out in accordance with a licence are exempted development** in accordance with Section 254(7) of the Planning and Development Act. This provision exempts this type of development, meaning that planning permission is not required.

The application fee for a Section 254 Telecommunications Licence is €125. This covers the cost of a one-year licence, if granted. Licences are generally granted for three years, so the applicant would pay a further €250 to cover the period for which the licence has been granted.

Further to the initial licence, Section 101D of the Road Traffic Act relates to carrying out roadworks or works on the road inclusive of reinstatements and road opening licenses applies where necessary to the works when the poles are being installed.

To date in 2021, 12 no. applications have been made to this planning authority for a licence. A complete list of these applications is included below (see Appendix A).

- 8 no. have been approved, which include repeat applications for revised locations and/or design.
- 1 no. application has been refused, and
- 3 no. applications remain pending decision.

Guidance on the process has been published by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, and is available for review at the following link: <http://www.rmo.ie/uploads/8/2/1/0/821068/dttas-guidelines-on-potential-locations-cover-hrv2.pdf>*

*It should be noted that there is a discrepancy in the Guidelines which states that Class 31 of the Planning and Development Regulations allows for exempted development

outside of public roads for poles or support structures up to 10 meters in height. Class 31 in fact allows for a height of up to 12 meters.

Local Area Committees are not informed of Telecommunications licence applications received under Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

APPENDIX A – REGISTER OF SECTION 254 STREETWORK SOLUTION APPLICATIONS 2021

Applicant	Address	Application Number	Decision	Number of years granted	Licence issued
NBI	9 poles in Rochestown Area	T21.001	Granted	5 Years	26/02/2021
Cignal Infrastructure	Mahon Cork	T21.002	Granted	3 Years	17/06/2021
Cignal Infrastructure	Errigal Heights, The Glen, Cork	T21.003	Granted	3 Years	23/06/2021
Cignal Infrastructure	Friars Walk, Ballyphehane, Cork	T21.004	Granted	3 Years	02/06/2021
NBI	Burkes Hill, Glanmire, Cork	T21.005	Granted	5 Years	25/05/2021
Cignal Infrastructure	Mount Oval, Cork	T21.006	Granted	3 Years	30/07/2021
Cignal Infrastructure	Bandon Road, Cork	T21.007	Refused	N/A	N/A
NBI	Carrigaline/Rochestown area	T21.008	Granted	5 Years	30/07/2021
Vantage Towers (Vodafone)	Delford Drive, Rochestown Rd, Cork	T21.009	Refused	N/A	N/A
Vantage Towers (Vodafone)	Boreenmanna Road/Victoria Avenue	T21.010	Granted	3 Years	5/10/2021
NBI	Midleton	T21.011	Granted	5 Years	13/08/2021
Cignal Infrastructure	Ballinlough	T21.012			

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

4.4 **TAKING IN CHARGE OF ESTATES**

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

Can the CE tell me is there a charge/cost to the builders/developer when an estate is taken into ownership/in charge by the Council?

Is so, what is that cost, when is it paid and where is it allocated afterwards?

REPLY

No charge/cost is imposed on the builder/developer for the Local Authority to process an estate with the intention to take it in charge.

Adrienne Rodgers
Director of Services
Community, Culture & Placemaking

4.5 **REAL TIME RTPI DISPLAYS**

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

Can the CE invite Bus Eireann and the NTA to outline the improvements that have occurred to the Real Time RTPI displays since Cllr. Deirdre Forde posed the question in December 2019?

REPLY

Bus Eireann and the NTA will be invited to respond outlining any improvements that have occurred to the Real Time Passenger Information Signs since December 2019.

David Joyce
Director of Services
Roads & Environment Directorate

4.6 **NO OF VACANT PROPERTIES OUTSIDE OF HOUSING STOCK**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the number of vacant properties, outside of its housing stock, in the ownership of this Council?

REPLY

The Property Section has identified 13 no. properties within the Council's ownership and possession, which are currently vacant but do not form a part of the Council's Housing Directorate stock.

Paul Moynihan,
Director of Services,
Corporate Affairs & International Relations.

4.7 **CORONER'S COURT**

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

If Cork City Council has any role in the funding of Cork's Coroner's Court and if so, their plans to reduce growing waiting times given the devastating impact this is having of families?

REPLY

The Department of Justice has responsibility for the policy and governing legislation of the State's Coroner Service and Coroners are independent public officials.

The payment of fees and expenses associated with the service provided by the Coroner in Cork City is supported and managed by Cork City Council, however the operations of the Coroners Office is managed by the appointed Coroner.

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

4.8 **SKEHARD ROAD WORKS**

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 on the Skehard Road works?

REPLY

The approved upgrade works under the Skehard Rd Improvement Scheme (Ph 3) between CSO Junction and Church Road Junction are proceeding as planned. Realignment of footways is currently underway and will be followed by resurfacing and lining of the realigned carriageway.

The project is expected to be substantially complete by mid-December, with any weather dependent surface finishes to be completed as temperatures allow early in the new year.

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

4.9 **RE-NAMING ANGLESEA STREET**

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

To ask the CE to update on the process to re-name Anglesea Street MacSwineys Street Sráid Mac Suibhne?

REPLY

Further to Council's decision in April 2021 to commence the process of renaming Anglesea Street, Cork, the Operations Directorate sought advice on the specific legal provisions under which to proceed. We were advised that while Part 18 of the Local Government Act 2001 did allow for the changing of names of streets, that Part 18 of the 2001 Act was substituted in its entirety by Section 48 of the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011.

The Regulations that applied to historic legislation was the Statutory Instrument SI 31/1956 Local Government (Changing of Place Names) Regulations 1956. Given the uncertainty caused by the above described legislative changes the provisions of the legislation were examined to obtain clarity. Following this examination there didn't appear to be any amendment made to these Regulations nor did there appear to have been any revocation of such Regulations by any new Regulations.

Given this ambiguity and in order to clarify matters, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage was consulted to query under which specific statute Cork City Council could proceed to rename a street and what was the relevant procedure that is in force at present i.e. SI 31/1956 or regulations made by the Minister under s.189 of the 2001 Act.

The Department replied that provisions relating to placename changes in Part 18 of the amended Local Government Act 2001 were commenced in early 2019 by the Local Government Act 2001 (Commencement) Order 2019 (SI 24 of 2019). Previous provisions under the Local Government Act 1946, as amended, were repealed. In addition, provisions in the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011, amending Part 18 of the 2001 Act, were commenced by the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 (Commencement) Order 2019 (SI 23 of 2019).

The newly commenced provisions under the amended Part 18 of the 2001 Act require updated Regulations to be made for the holding of plebiscites to change placenames. However, during the process of finalising new Regulations an issue was identified. The Department confirmed that they are urgently engaging in trying to resolve the issue identified. Once draft legislative amendments have been agreed, they would hope to include them in an appropriate Bill at the earliest available opportunity. Unfortunately, they were not able to provide a more precise timeline at this stage.

In the meantime, they informed us that, until new Regulations have been made, there is currently no legal basis for the holding of a plebiscite in relation to the changing of a placename. They went on to assure us that the Department will bear in mind Cork City Council's interest in this matter, and will keep us updated on progress.

Further to the above clarification, the process to rename Anglesea Street, or any other street/bridge, will have to wait until the new Regulations are made because there is at present no regulations in place which provide for the holding of a plebiscite which is required as part of the process to rename a street/road.

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

4.10 **LOSS OF INCOME AND COVID RELATED COSTS**

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

To ask the CE what funds were refunded to Cork City Council by the Government to make up for the loss of income and Covid related costs in 2020?

What is estimated for the loss of income and Covid related costs in 2021 and is a rebate expected again?

REPLY

For 2020, Cork City Council received €7.9m by way of compensation from the Government which made up for the loss in local incomes, excluding Rates, of €5.4m as a result of COVID19 and the cost of COVID19 related expenditure of €2.5m.

The loss in local incomes, excluding Rates, to the end of September 2021 is €3.1m and the cost of COVID19 related expenditure is €977k. We are currently in negotiations with the Department in relation to the reimbursement for the 2021 shortfall.

John Hallahan
Chief Financial Officer

4.11 **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS OF CITY**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if there is a method for calculating the greenhouse gas emissions of the city and to track these reducing over time?

REPLY

Cork City Council currently measures CO² equivalent emissions from our own facilities and fleet as part of the SEAI Monitoring & Reporting system. There is

however no clarity at a national level how emissions from other sources e.g. from other public sector bodies (e.g. public transport) or private sector activities (agriculture, private housing, business etc) will be measured, collected and merged into a single coherent dataset.

National agencies such as the EPA, SEAI, CSO etc. do carry out some measurements, but mainly at a national level. There are very few measurements at a regional or local level at present. However, with the coming into law of the new legislation (Climate Action & Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021) and the recent development of two 5-year national carbon budgets by the Climate Change Advisory Council, it is hoped that the appropriate Government Departments will progress the development of such emission measurement systems and provide the necessary support to local government to gather the data on a regular basis and at an appropriate level of granularity.

In this regards guidance is awaited from the Department on the implementation of the Decarbonising Zones initiative by Local Authorities. There is no nationally agreed methodology, process or standards for calculating CO² and/or Green House Gas (GHC) emissions in cities and it is important that same would be put in place so that data captured is comparable and thus can properly inform policy making decisions.

The City Council is liaising with other stakeholders e.g. the Local Authority based shared services Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) to keep abreast of developments in this area and will send any updates to the Climate Action Committee.

David Joyce
Director of Services
Roads & Environment Directorate

5 **STATUTORY ITEMS**

5.1 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the Chief Executive, dated 28th October 2021 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of interest in property known as No. 11, Gartan Park, Douglas, Cork to Cork County Council, County Hall, Carrigrohane Road, Cork for the sum of €1.00.
On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.
2. Disposal of the freehold interest in a plot of ground, measuring approximately 234m² situated adjacent to “Araglin House”, Brookhill, Glanmire, Cork to Michelle and Patrick Considine, c/o Barry C. Galvin & Son Solicitors, 91 South Mall, Cork for the sum of €1,000.00 together with costs in the sum of €1,500 plus V.A.T.
On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Forde, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

3. Disposal of the freehold interest in Nos. 1-7, Gillabbeey Court, off Gillabbeey Street, Cork, to Threshold, c/o O'Sullivan, O'Dowd Solicitors, No. 1, Blackhall View, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7, D07 FR59, for the sum of €6.35 together with costs in the sum of €550.00 plus VAT.
On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.
4. Disposal by way of exchange of an area of land (approximately 526m²) situated over part of land known as "The Donkey Field" Grange Road, Frankfield, Cork to Bruce and June Matthews, c/o Breen Walsh Solicitors LLP, NO. 80, South Mall, Cork and, by way of exchange, Bruce and June Matthews will transfer an adjacent area of land (measuring approximately 2924m²) to Cork City Council.

An Chomhairle considered this disposal, on the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin a vote was called for where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, D. Forde, D. Boyle S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, F. Kerins, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, E. Ryng. (23)

AGAINST: Comhairleoir P. Dineen. (1)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, F. Ryan. (2)

As those voting for the disposal was greater than those voting against, On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. O'Callaghan, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

5. Disposal of interest in area of land approximately 148m² situated at Thomas Street, Cork to Mercy University Hospital, Cork CLG, c/o Doyle Solicitors, 31, South Bank, Crosses Green, Cork for the sum of €1.00.
On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.
6. Disposal of interest in property known as No. 50, Fort Hill, Moneygurney, Douglas, Cork to Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork for the sum of €1.00.
On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.
7. Disposal of interest in property known as No. 26, Ros Ard, Upper Glanmire, Whites Cross, Cork to Cork County Council for the sum of €1.00.
On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Dineen, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.
8. Disposal of interest in property known as No. 123, Ros Ard, Upper Glanmire, Whites Cross, Cork to Cork County Council for the sum of €1.00.
On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Nugent, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

6. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 1st NOVEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 1st November 2021.

6.1 **REPORT ON MOTION**

6.1.1 **FUTURE CONTRACTS RELATING TO THE ENGLISH MARKET**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 28th October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council moves to exclude Aramark from future contracts relating to the English Market due to conditions, they have presided over within institutions such as Direct Provisions and internationally such as the US prison system.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Ryan 21/380)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Aramark is contracted by Cork City Council as the private managing agent for the English Market. In this role they are responsible for overseeing the day-to-day onsite market operations as well as assisting and collaborating with Cork City Council and traders to strategically develop and promote the English Market's unique offering. Aramark has made a significant contribution to the efficient and effective operation of the English Market to date.

The company was successful in securing the contract following tendering processes undertaken by the Council in 2012 and 2017. These were open procurement processes, guided and governed by national and European procurement rules. This contract is still in place but is due to expire and will be issued again for competitive procurement in 2022. Under Cork City Council's normal procedures when the contract is next retendered every effort will be made to evaluate competing returns on a wide variety of criteria. The process will need to be conducted within the boundaries of public procurement rules.

6.1.2 **FORMS ON THE WEBSITE IN PLAIN ENGLISH**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 28th October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council, following on from very successful work of Cork City Library as recognised by the National Adult Literacy Agency, will provide forms and information on the website in plain English, especially forms for services such as housing. If it is not possible for Cork City Council to change forms (for example HAP) that Cork City Council will write to the Minister for Housing to ask that the department provides that all forms are available in plan English for all local authorities.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 21/402)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council recognises the importance of providing key information and associated forms in plain English for the key services which it provides to the public. We continue as we have done over the past three years to offer a multiplicity of opportunities to all City Council employees and at frequent periods throughout the course of the year to obtain writing for the web training, adapted from the DPER's Public Sector Communications toolkit. This is to provide staff with the know-how and skills to write in plain English. This Toolkit has also been adapted for our Content Management System Manuals which offers clear and common sense advice to our "inhouse" web contributors when uploading visual imagery, making our communications clearer and more direct.

An urgent need over the past 18 months, presented as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in over 80 forms being made available on-line. Throughout this evolving digitisation process, individual business sections reviewed the form structure, language, content and underlying business process as part of the implementation and underlying objective of communicating in plain English as adapted from DPER's Public Sector Communications toolkit. This is an iterative process.

In order to provide the best possible customer experience, Cork City Council strives to and commits to delivering continual improvements to online forms and to information on the website through the use of plain English, as part of a persistent and collective effort across the organisation. This will be coupled with the continuation of upskilling staff to communicate in plain English to meet the diverse needs of our customer base.

7. **PARTY WHIPS – 26th OCTOBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 26th October 2021.

7.1 **LORD MAYORS' ITEMS**

7.1.1 **NOVEMBER MEETINGS OF AN CHOMHAIRLE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Ordinary and Budget Meetings of An Chomhairle scheduled for the 8th and 15th November 2021 respectively, will be held via Microsoft Teams and live-streamed.

8. **STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 28th OCTOBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Strategic, Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 28th October 2021.

8.1 **DRAFT CORK CITY HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2021-2026**

An Chomhairle considered the report of the Heritage Officer dated 28th October 2021 on the Draft Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2021-2026 and agreed to discuss it at the next meeting of An Chomhairle held 13th December 2021.

8.2 **HERITAGE PUBLICATION GRANTS – COPY EDITOR GRANTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic and Economic Development dated 28th October on the Heritage Publication Grants – Copy Editor Grants.

8.3 **CORRESPONDENCE FROM OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARINE**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine. It was agreed to send this item back to the Strategic, Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

8.4 **MOTIONS**

8.4.1 **CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 6th October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That the City Development Plan include policies and objectives, which will regenerate, re-develop and increase footfall in and around the City Centre by encouraging the development of more student accommodation complexes closer to the City Centre.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 21/319)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 seeks student accommodation to be provided in locations that are accessible to higher-level education campuses by walking, cycling or public transport, and ideally in the City Centre, City Docks, urban centres and mixed-use redevelopment schemes of brownfield sites. The objective also requires and that such schemes would contribute to a mixed and inclusive neighbourhood. Criteria for assessing proposals for purpose-built student accommodation are also set out in the draft plan. In addition to objectives set out in the plan we will recommend to any developers of student accommodation that they engage with the residents and community of the local area.

8.4.2 **INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development dated 6th October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will investigate including an objective in the development plan that relates to the issue of inclusive public space and encouraging inclusivity in retail space for autistic people, or people who have other sensory requirements. A specific initiative that could be explored is the encouragement of quiet spaces in the design and operation of retail outlets and public spaces in Cork City.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 21/359)

The report of the Director of Services stated that inclusivity is threaded throughout the Draft City Development Plan 2022-2028. It is specifically referenced in the ‘Strategic Vision’ for the Plan and in several of the nine ‘Strategic Objectives’ and is one of the keystones of the ‘15-minute city’ concept which is integrated across the Draft Plan. In particular, Objective 3.31 ‘Inclusive Design’ seeks to promote and implement inclusive design in all new development and in works to existing buildings and facilities, including open space and public realm areas, to optimise the facilities for all age groups and abilities. This includes embracing the National Disability Authority’s Universal Design Guidelines (which include consideration of persons with varying sensory abilities), age-friendly principles and international best practice.

9. **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 18th OCTOBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held 18th October 2021.

9.1 **UPDATES/REPORTS**

9.1.1 **CORK BUS CONNECTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, dated 5th October 2021 regarding Cork Bus Connects. It was further agreed that the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development to write to the NTA to arrange a briefing with Members.

9.1.2 **PARKING PERMITS IN CORK CITY**

An Chomhairle considered the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 7th October 2021 regarding the Parking Permits in Cork City. It was agreed to send this item back to the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

9.2 **MOTIONS**

9.2.1 **AUDIT OF FOOTPATHS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 1st October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘When estates are built it is often the case that footpaths are laid on the public road as part of the development process. In areas all over the city there are sections of footpath that begin and end without connection. Often there are small sections left that would link these paths to others creating cohesive walkways. I am calling on Cork City Council to perform an audit of footpaths to identify these sections and to formulate a strategy that would address these shortcomings. While funding for this project may not be available within council budget this is surely a project that would provide untold benefits to communities and as such be considered for national funding with a dedicated team formed to deliver across the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boylan 21/232)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council Roads Operations Division will carry out a preliminary survey of gaps in footpaths in due course to identify deficiencies and will cross reference this with planned infrastructural works such as Active Travel, Bus Connects and other projects. A priority list can be developed from this to address the issue raised.

9.2.2 **INSTALL AIR COMPRESSORS AT WALKWAYS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, dated 1st October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would install air compressors for bikes, buggies, wheelchairs etc. installed at the different walkways across the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 21/274)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council is presently installing repair stations across a number of greenways and cycle lanes including the Curraheen Greenway, Passage Railway Greenway, Glasheen Road to Magazine Road link and the South Mall Cycle Lanes. These repair stations include pumps with universal connections.

The installation of air compressors would create a significant maintenance burden and safety risk whereas the repair stations being installed provide a highly efficient low maintenance solution to repair needs.

9.2.3 **RELOCATION OF DISABLED PARKING BAYS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 1st October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That a review be undertaken on the relocation of disabled parking bays on the city centre island to ensure that access is similar if not improved from their previous locations.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 21/278)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the pedestrianisation of City Centre streets was initially a temporary measure in response to the global pandemic and required the relocation of some disabled parking bays on the city centre island. All disabled bays affected were relocated as close as possible to the original space. As the pedestrianisation became a permanent measure, the relocated disabled bays were revisited and in some cases, where necessary, relocated, relined, dropped kerbs provided and obstacles removed to enhance access. A review was carried out in collaboration with Cork City Council and the Cork Access Group and while substantially all spaces were in order, a number of further issues were identified such as additional lining additional dropped kerbs and renewal of lines on existing spaces that would enhance the spaces. These issues will be addressed where appropriate and subject to priorities and resources.

9.2.4 **CCMA EV CHARGING WORKING GROUP**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 1st October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will report on progress of the CCMA EV Charging Working Group and consequently the process of putting in place local guidelines for EV charging infrastructure, and how this is affecting the roll-out of EV charging infrastructure in the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 21/332)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the CCMA EV Charging Working Group published a draft of the Local Authority Electrification of Fleet and EV Charging Guidance Document in July 2021. The document outlines that as a first step, each LA should consider the development of an Electric Vehicle (EV) and an Electrical Vehicle Charge Point (EVCP) strategy for the deployment of EV’s as part of their fleet and to assess the optimum locations of public EVCPs within their city and county boundaries. Cork City Council are in the process of reviewing the guidance document and are preparing a strategy in line with same for Cork City.

It was agreed to circulate this document to Members of An Chomhairle and it was agreed to hold a briefing regarding same.

9.2.5 **OUTDOOR BICYCLE REPAIR STANDS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, dated 1st October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council install outdoor bicycle pump repair stands at various locations throughout the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 21/296)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council is presently installing repair stations across a number of greenways and cycle lanes including the Curraheen Greenway, Passage Railway Greenway, Glasheen Road to Magazine Road link and the South Mall Cycle Lanes. These repair stations include pumps with universal connections.

9.2.6 **VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS ON PATRICK STREET**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, dated 1st October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That the hours of operation of restrictions on private motor vehicles using Patrick’s Street will be extended to begin mid-morning and that rising bollards or bus lane cameras will be installed to ensure compliance.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 21/354)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the need for additional bus priority across the City road network, including St Patrick St, will be examined as part of the Cork Bus Connects Programme. In this regard, Members will be aware, that the National Transport Authority has appointed specialist designers (Jarrett Walker Associates) to undertake a review of bus services in Cork. This review will consider where busses will run, the times and frequencies of services, the location of passenger interchanges etc. The related issues were documented and published in a Choices Report which was issued for public consultation in July 2021. It is expected that the emerging draft network proposals will be subject to further consultation in Q4 2021 and that the revised network layout will be published in Q1 2022. In parallel with the foregoing the National Transport Authority has appointed a number of design teams to develop improvement proposals for the core bus corridors so as to better support the efficient running of bus services. It is anticipated that the emerging proposals will similarly be the subject of public consultation in Q1/2 2022 before the completion and publication of an overall plan of improvement measures. It is to be noted that in addition to bus priority measures, it is expected that the network improvement proposals will also include proposals for public realm, walking and cycling improvements.

10. **HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 19th OCTOBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 19th October 2021.

10.1 **HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report on Housing for August 2021.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir C. Kelleher, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to allow the meeting to continue past 8pm.

10.2 **MOTIONS**

10.2.1 **SUPPORT FOR ELDERLY TENANTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Housing, dated 15th October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘Conscious of the age profile of some of our longest standing housing tenants who may not be able to carry out work such as painting or garden maintenance in their properties, that Cork City Council examines possibility of providing or sourcing such supports either from its own resources or in co-operation with outside agencies (e.g. Age Action Ireland, CE schemes, schools, Gaisce, Scouts/Guides etc).’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 21/194)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out the terms and understanding between Cork City Council and Age Action Ireland for the funding of maintenance activities directly related to City Council Properties. This MOU is to ensure a partnership approach is achieved, with direct impact on City Council property maintenance through the assistance and interventions of Age Action Ireland, be that the day to day upkeep that maintains the property or support around tenant responsibilities that can have a positive long-term impact on the property if not maintained.

Cork City Council has financially supported Age Action annual to undertake the necessary activities required to support the older people in need. Age Action Ireland provides an annual report to Cork City Council defining the activities undertaken and the cost of same. Cork City Council has funded Age Action Ireland to the total sum of €20,000 annually up to 2021.

10.2.2 **RETROFITTING OF PUBLICLY OWNED DOMESTIC PROPERTIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Housing, dated 15th October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will report on progress to date and the strategy going forward for the energy-saving retrofitting of publicly-owned domestic properties in the city, including the current BER rating of publicly-owned domestic property in the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 21/209)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that Phase 1 of the Fabric Upgrade Programme included 6,500 City Council properties. In addition, almost 200 occupied properties received deep energy retrofit measures through Fabric Upgrade Phase 2, regeneration funding and the better energy home scheme. Apartment Deep Retrofit Programme 2021 has currently delivered 42 apartments out of 54 currently being worked on. This is on the back of 156 apartment deep retrofits being delivered since 2018. We are currently seeking funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) for 60 apartments on Noonan Road to complement the Energy Efficiency Measuring Report (EEMMR) system installed in 60 houses via the EMPOWER project. There is no current programme for apartment deep retrofitting.

Under the 2021 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, Cork City Council was allocated, as of April, €3.3m to retrofit 123 houses. Contracts are ready for signing for the first batches with clarity being sought from the Department in relation to tendered costs being in excess of the funding allocations.

Cork City Council will look at the reporting on progress of the energy-retrofitting of publicly owned domestic properties in the city, including the current BER rating of public owned domestic properties, via the Chief Executive’s monthly report, in the first instance and through the City Council dashboard. We will look at reporting commencing in January 2022 to include the following information: No. of properties retrofitted at the cost optimal standard; Monthly No. of properties retrofitted; and Total No. of properties retrofitted. No. of Apartments retrofitted.

The strategy adopted by the Council in achieving the necessary energy efficiency standard for publicly owned domestic properties will be based on the Annual Service Delivery Plan set by the DHLGH. This includes achieving 25% cost optimal energy rating for all social housing by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir M. R. Desmond, An Chomhairle agreed that Cork City Council write to Central Government in relation to Cork City Council’s Housing Grants System, that it should include retrofitting and additional funding should be applied for.

11. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th OCTOBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th October 2021.

11.1 **STABILISATION WORKS TO VERNON MOUNT HOUSE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development Directorate, dated 21st October 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council carry out the necessary stabilisation works to Vernon Mount House as a matter of great urgency, so as to ensure that the remaining structure is secured for eventual re-use in a manner that is compatible with the historic and architectural significance of the building. According to the report prepared by the Conservation Engineer, Mr. David Kelly for Cork County Council in October 2017, the necessary stabilisation works would cost approximately €43,200. These works urgently need to be carried out both from a public safety point of view and to ensure that this unique and historic architectural site is preserved for future generations as an integral part of the enlarged Tramore Valley Park.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 21/144)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Conservation Officer visited the site on 17th February last and observed that the owners had installed greatly improved new security fencing around the perimeter of the house and had provided steel structural supports to the most unstable sections of the masonry walls, in particular the northern elevation. He also confirmed that prevention of unauthorised access to the ruins has been greatly improved.

The Assistant Conservation Officer will re-visit the site in the coming days to ensure that there has been no change in the integrity of the perimeter fence.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. O’Callaghan, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Forde, An Chomhairle further agreed to call on the OPW to provide necessary funding.

12. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th OCTOBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th October 2021.

13. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th OCTOBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th October 2021.

14. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th OCTOBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th October 2021.

15. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th OCTOBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th October 2021.

16. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 1st NOVEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 1st November 2021.

16.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

16.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Financial Statements to end of September 2021.

17. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

18. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

None Received.

19. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

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

Comhairleoirí T. Shannon, S. Martin and D. Boyle to the IPI Annual Planning Conference 2021 – Delivering Plan Led Development on the 17th November, 2021.

20. **TRAINING**

None Received.

20.1 **LAMA AUTUMN TRAINING SEMINAR**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the retrospective attendance of Comhairleoirí T. Shannon and K. O’Flynn at the LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, Planning and Mental Health, held at the Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo from the 3rd to 5th November 2021.

20.2 **AILG TRAINING PROGRAMME MODULE 2**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the retrospective attendance of Comhairleoir D. Forde at the AILG Training Programme Module 2, Elected Members Mental Healthy & Well-Being and Briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention held at the Clayton Hotel, Monivea Road, Ballybrit, Galway on the 6th November 2021.

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

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive's Monthly Management reports for September 2021.

22. **MOTIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

An Chomhairle 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. An Chomhairle agreed for motion 21/334 to be referred to the North West Local Area Committee and motion 21/442 to the Environment Water and Amenity Strategic Policy Committee.

23. **MOTIONS**

23.1 **GAMBLING LEGISLATION PROVISION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion noting Comhairleoirí T. Shannon, S. Martin and M. Nugent's objection to it:-

'That legislation discouraging the harmful effects of gambling include a provision that under 18 year olds not be admitted to race meets where on track betting exists.'

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 21/446)

23.2 **SITE OF THE OLD CORK PRISON, RATHMORE ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council will directly request the Minister for Justice to dispose to Cork City Council the site of the old Cork Prison on Rathmore Road at the value of €1 with the specific direction that Cork City Council will develop the site to provide social and affordable houses and a community centre where social enterprises and start up companies could set up and develop.'

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 21/453)

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH