

Chapter 1: Introduction

What is Heritage?

Cork city's heritage is diverse, vibrant and can be seen all around us. It includes archaeology, built heritage, natural heritage, and cultural heritage together with our archives, museum, libraries, galleries, and other collections. Other important elements of our heritage include local history and folklore, maritime heritage, turns of phrase and accents, local customs, and traditional food as well as landscapes, geology, and parks.

Heritage is also about how we, the community, who live and work in Cork city, relate to these various elements that make up our heritage. It is what we as a community have inherited from the past and it is what defines our city, as it evolves into the future, making it unique and distinct from any other place.

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth, in all its forms and interactions. It is both extremely complex and a vital feature of our planet.

*The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defines 'biological diversity' as "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems."

Biodiversity is comprised of several levels - genetic diversity, species diversity, communities of creatures and ecosystem diversity such as woodlands or bogs, where life interacts with the physical environment.

It also refers to the interaction between all these elements and human activities and has a role to play in agriculture and food production, clean water, healthy soil, air quality, climate change and flood defence and health and wellbeing.

Put simply biodiversity is more than just nature or natural heritage, it encompasses all the elements of nature and their interaction with each other. Biodiversity is our life support system and provides us with everything we need to survive.

*Convention of Biological Diversity – a part of UN environment programme

Biodiversity and Climate Change

*The 2019 Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services found that nature across most of the globe has now been significantly altered by multiple human drivers, with the majority of indicators of ecosystems and biodiversity showing rapid decline.

The 2019 Article 17 reports on the Status of EU protected Habitats and Species in Ireland and shows 85% of habitats in Ireland are in unfavourable (inadequate or bad) status and 46% of habitats are demonstrating ongoing decline e.g. The All Ireland Pollinator Plan estimates one-third of bee species are threatened with extinction in Ireland.

**The planet is currently amid the sixth mass extinction of biodiversity. Previous extinctions were caused by massive volcanic explosions, long ice ages, meteorite impacts and clashing continents. This extinction is caused by human impact on Earth. The extinction rate is now 1,000 times higher than normal background rates. Once a species goes extinct, there is no going back.

Cork City Council published a Climate Change Adaption Plan in 2019, which contains 7 high level themes, one of which addresses Nature, Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure:

to develop approaches to protect the natural and key cultural assets in Cork City Council.

It also contains 66 actions which include actions to support native tree planting, roadside hedge maintenance programmes, identifying ecological corridors, identify locations to create new habitats, protecting wetlands, developing green infrastructure, developing local biodiversity action plans and collaborating with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and research institutions to develop biodiversity and climate action projects.

There are a wide range of adaptation options available to reduce the risks to natural and managed ecosystems (e.g., ecosystem-based adaptation, ecosystem restoration and avoiding degradation and deforestation), biodiversity management, (e.g., green infrastructure, sustainable land use and planning, and sustainable water management), which are beginning to be implemented at a national and local level.

* Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services May 2019

****Biological annihilation via the ongoing sixth mass extinction signalled by vertebrate population losses and declines**
Gerardo Ceballos, Paul R. Ehrlich, and Rodolfo Dirzo, PNAS July 25, 2017 114 (30) E6089-E6096; first published July 10, 2017

Role of Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026)

Managing our heritage in a sustainable manner is essential to the challenge of supporting the development of Cork city particularly in relation to its attractiveness and competitiveness while still improving the care of our heritage. Heritage is not solely about the past. In our rapidly changing world heritage is also continually evolving and being created. We are creating the heritage of the future while trying to understand and enhance what we have inherited from the past. It is important to balance the need for change with the desire for protection of our heritage. The development and implementation of a Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) is a key part of achieving this balance and will assist in making evidence-based decisions about the care and management of Cork city's heritage.

Rationale for a Combined Heritage and Biodiversity Plan

The Heritage and Biodiversity Plan is a combined plan as biodiversity is an integral part of the four elements of heritage i.e. natural, built, cultural heritage and archaeology. This is an ambitious plan and resources will be sought for its implementation over the next five years.

Preparation

The formulation of the new Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan presents an opportunity to build on the achievements of the two previous Heritage Plans to work with local heritage groups and organisations to protect and enhance the heritage of Cork city.

Work on Cork city's third City Heritage Plan began in 2020 with a review and evaluation of the previous heritage plan. The KPI analysis of the previous Cork City Heritage Plan 2015-2020 showed the following:

- Heritage advice provided on over 500 plans and projects.
- €500,000 approximately was spent implementing the previous Cork City Heritage Plan over its five-year lifespan. Funding sources include Cork City Council, Heritage Council, the National Biodiversity Action Plan fund and Creative Ireland.
- 61 actions were completed, 19 were biodiversity actions (including heritage grant projects)

- Cork Heritage Open Day, the annual heritage week event has an increased attendance every year. The largest being in 2019 with a total of 22,000 visits on the day. Other events included Decade of Commemorations, 2016, Criunnu na nOg.
- 3 training actions were undertaken on topics such as Japanese Knotweed and two traditional stone workshops with a total attendee number of 180.
- Schools Heritage Project reached approximately 2,500 children and 2 children's biodiversity information packs were provided. There was a reprint of the Nature in the City booklet and a new publication Gardening for Biodiversity was distributed.
- €82,367 was allocated to 104 community projects and €48,900 was allocated to 15 publications.

Phase 1 of the public consultation on the new Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) took place between the 6th of March and the 30th of April 2020. The public was asked to comment on what their priorities were in relation to heritage in the city, what were the challenges and successes of the plan and to make suggestions for inclusion in the new Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026). 90 submissions were received.

A series of draft objectives and actions were identified. These draft actions form the core of this Plan and will be implemented over the life of this Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026). A draft Plan was devised and presented to Council for approval to go to public consultation. The comments from the second round of public consultation will be reviewed and summarised and will form part of the final version of the Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026).

Cork City Heritage

Cork is a city of contrasts and is a mixture of many varied cultural traditions. Its history spans from being a centre of learning and piety in the seventh century to being a prosperous port in later years. The heritage of Cork city maps and mirrors this diverse and continuous change in Cork and its citizens, from the Vikings through to the Victorians and into the modern era. It is this heritage, which helps make Cork city the vibrant and interesting place it is today.

Archaeology

Cork city is one of the oldest cities in Ireland and has a rich archaeological record. The city's unique character derives from the combination of its topography, built fabric and its location on the River Lee at a point where it forms a number of waterways. Cork was built on estuarine

islands in the marshy valley of the River Lee and gradually developed up the steep hills rising to the north and south. Even the name Cork is derived from the word marsh (Corcach) in Irish.

There are few surviving ancient monuments above ground in the city; however, the buried archaeology of Cork embraces every era of Cork's development. Archaeological excavation provides information on the origin, development, and growth of the city as well as the daily lives of its past inhabitants.

The earliest settlement in Cork was a monastery founded by Saint Fin Barre in the seventh century. Recent archaeological excavations on the South Main Street have contributed greatly to our knowledge of the late Viking period in Cork (11th century), known as the Hiberno-Norse period. The Hiberno-Norse city, consisting of a series of raised clay platforms, surrounded by wooden fences on which houses were subsequently built, was subsequently fortified with stone walls by the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th century.

Above ground there are only a few surviving medieval and early post-medieval structures such as Red Abbey Tower and Elizabeth Fort. The survival of the medieval street pattern is evident within the modern streetscape of Cork in areas such as the North and South Main Streets, which together formed the central spine of the medieval city with laneways and plots running off at right angles leading to the city wall.

Cork's pre-eminence as a trading centre and maritime merchant port in the eighteenth and nineteenth century has created industrial archaeology and historic remains, which still survive in the contemporary city e.g. Butter Market in Shandon and the Bonded Warehouses in the Port of Cork. The nearby riverside villages of Douglas and Glanmire also have a range of mill complexes. The gunpowder mills in Ballincollig with its combination of size (53 hectares), range of surviving buildings and canal system make it a unique industrial heritage site.

Cork city has 60 archaeological sites ranging from a prehistoric standing stone to the medieval city wall. The nearby towns, villages and hinterland have c.400 sites (as listed in the Recorded Monuments and Places RMP). These sites range from prehistoric fulachth fiadh cooking sites to large castle sites, such as Blarney Castle.

Within the city's area there are also a number of church and graveyard sites many of which are important in that they are active cemetery sites, but also contain important archaeological features and structures.

The Cork City Development Plan contains a number of policies for the protection, recording and promotion of our archaeological heritage. These cover areas such as the protection of known archaeological sites, but also newly discovered sites, development on burial grounds and industrial archaeology.

Architecture and the Built Heritage

The architecture and built environment of Cork city tells the story of its commercial and social development over time, documenting the progress of the city and reflecting the lifestyle of the people of Cork throughout the ages. The built heritage of the city also demonstrates the different building techniques and materials employed and the designs and styles of past times.

Much of the attraction of the central parts of Cork city lies in its eighteenth to twentieth century buildings. These range from villas and country houses on the hills to the north and south of the city, the blocks of terraced Georgian style houses associated with the military, the churches and the cathedrals as well as the more modest single and two storey homes provided for the industrial workers. The mills, warehouses, distilleries and breweries and other industrial and maritime buildings in the city bear witness to the great economic expansion from this time.

Cork's built heritage owes a lot to its fascinating ecclesiastical buildings. Of particular interest are the early eighteenth-century churches e.g., St Peter's and Christchurch, which were part of an extensive re-building programme after the Siege of Cork (1690) giving the city a unique legacy from this period. Some fine examples of classical domestic architecture survive from this period too, e.g., red-brick Queen Ann style e.g., 50 Pope's Quay or 11 Emmet Place.

The distinctive character of the city owes much to the groups of vernacular buildings of the historic area of the centre, and of the older suburbs such as Shandon Street and Barrack Street. These buildings, sometimes of brick, but more commonly of plastered stone, with great high pitch slated roofs clearly visible from street level, have unique yet subtle features e.g., bow fronts, dormer windows, cambered arches over windows, suggesting closer trading and cultural links with the south of England, the Netherlands and Belgium and America than with Dublin.

The nineteenth century has left a wealth of civic and institutional buildings, the two Cathedrals, the Port of Cork building and Bonded Warehouse, the striking Waterworks on the Lee Road, the churches, schools, convents, and monasteries, epitomized perhaps by St Mary's on Pope's Quay or St Vincent's overlooking the river from its precipice in Sunday's Well.

The internationally renowned Christ the King Church in Turner's Cross is a high point of twentieth century architecture in Cork. Following on from this in the mid twentieth century, the churches and the associated and well-designed schools, convents and chapels represent a hugely important contribution to the built heritage of Cork city demonstrating that Cork city has always evolved and embraced innovation in architecture and there are opportunities with new developments in the city in areas, such as the docklands, to continue this imaginative and original approach to architectural design into the twenty first century.

The city has grown outwards to include nearby towns and villages, broadening the range of heritage to include, for example, the industrial settlements at Blarney and Donnybrook, the riverside villages at Douglas and Glanmire or the great gunpowder mills complex at Ballincollig.

The historic built environment is a key element in giving each local area a certain character and is a physical representation of our local history. It may not just be the buildings, but can include features such as bridges or stepped lanes, windows or doorways, stone walls or railings, an old trough or post box and even a plaque or a nameplate. All of these things can give a place a special character, which sets it apart, and links us to the past and people, who shaped our city.

Though the everyday buildings in the city and its suburbs may not at first glance appear to be of individual importance, collectively they contribute to the distinctive character of an area. Areas such as Wellington Road/ St Luke's Cross, The North Main St and Grattan Hill/ Mahony's Ave are designated Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA), there are 38 (ACA) in total in the Cork city area.

There are over 1,100 buildings and structures in Cork city designated as Protected Structures. This is where Cork City Council considers a structure or building to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical point of view. These buildings are listed on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). A study undertaken in the city centre by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) recommended over 1,500 further structures to be included in the RPS.

A number of schemes are also currently in operation to enhance the built heritage of the city. These include conservation grants schemes for ACAs, and the waiving of development fees for works carried out on Protected Structures, which require planning permission.

The Development Plan for Cork city contains policies for the protection of Cork's architectural and built heritage. These include a policy to encourage the refurbishment of historic built environment and a series of measures to protect and preserve buildings on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and Areas of Special Character (ACAs).

Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

Surprisingly for an urban environment, Natural Heritage has always thrived in Cork, no doubt due to its estuarine and wetland origins.

The city of Cork, built on a geology consisting of red sandstone and white limestone, has an attractive physical setting formed by the River Lee Valley and Estuary nestled amongst the ridges rising to the north at Shanakiel, Montenotte and Tivoli and to the south at Maryborough and Grange.

The River Lee, which is 65 kilometres long, runs from its source in Gougane Barra, from west to east through the heart of the city, splitting into the North and South Channels, before discharging into the sea at Cork's deep natural harbour. The rivers and waterways play an important role in the layout and structure of the city and are an integral element of the city's landscape character.

The Geology of Cork city is an often overlooked, but integral part of our natural heritage and defines the landscape and layout of the city. It is often said that the red and white colours of the Cork flag reflect the red sandstone and white limestone that predominates the cities geology. This stone has been quarried and used for generations in the building of landmark buildings and churches throughout the city.

Cork city has two unaudited County Geological sites (CGSs):

- Blackrock diamond quarry, Ballintemple, (GR 169400, 071400), under IGH Theme IGH 6 Mineralogy.
- St. Joseph's section on Lee Road, (GR 164000, 071400), under IGH Theme IGH 10 Devonian

Many mammals, birds, invertebrates, and wild plants have adapted to life alongside humans in our urban landscape. Areas, such as public open spaces and parks, walkways, golf courses, playing pitches, graveyards and the gardens of suburban houses, all provide urban habitats and sanctuary for wildlife in the city.

Habitats and wildlife exist in the most unusual of places. The red, pink and white flowered Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), as well as the purple and white flowers of the Ivy Leaved Toadflax (*Cymbalaria muralis*), occur in various parts of the city, including urban walls, waste ground and bridges.

The Swift (*Apus apus*) can be found nesting in the eaves of houses on the north side of the city, while the vulnerable Blacktailed Godwit (*Limosa*) spend their winters under the protective bastion of Blackrock Castle. It is reported that over 30 types of birds visit typical city centre gardens, whilst the city is over flown by many other types of migratory birds and the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) has been spotted hunting for prey along the River Lee.

Otters (*Lutra*) are seen frolicking along the riverbanks, while Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) have been seen slinking furtively in suburban back gardens and a number of species of bat, e.g. Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and Leisler (*Nyctalus leisleri*), hunt for insects around the Lough.

The River Lee is home to fish species such as Salmon (*Salmo Salar*) and Grey Mullet (*Crenimugil labrosus*) with the occasional Harbour Seal (*Phoco vitulina*), Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) and Orca Whale (*Orcinus orca*) making an appearance, much to the amusement and amazement of the human Cork city dwellers.

Areas like Blarney, Ballincollig, Douglas and Glanmire bring a more diverse and rural natural heritage with extensive woodlands, lakes and bogs, which has the potential to create very valuable ecological corridors between the city centre and the outer regions of the city.

A range of sites within the Cork city area are protected under National and EU legislation. These include the proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) at the Lough, the western part of Lough Mahon, Douglas Estuary and Cork Harbour. The Lough also has an existing status under the Wildlife Act as a Wildfowl Sanctuary. The western part of Lough Mahon is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for wild birds due to the presence of the significant salt marshes and intertidal mudflats. Under the EU Freshwater Fish Directive, the River Lee is designated as a Salmonid river from its source to the Cork City Waterworks, near the Lee Fields.

The Development Plan for Cork city contains a number of policies for the protection of our Natural heritage. These include policies to protect river corridors, trees and designated and non-designated areas of natural importance.

Cultural Heritage

Anyone who has ever visited Cork city will know that the people of Cork city maintain a very strong sense of their own cultural identity and that there is a great pride in our cultural heritage.

Cultural heritage is difficult to define. The term cultural heritage often refers only to museums, archives, and libraries. However, it can also include aspects of our heritage such as local history, genealogy, oral history and folklore, and even traditional food. Cultural heritage can also be found in the subtle, less tangible aspects of our heritage including accents, turns of phrase, local customs, and collective memories. Put simply, our cultural heritage links us to where we come from, gives our everyday lives a clearer focus and shapes an understanding of our city as a unique and special place.

Cork city is fortunate to have a cultural heritage that is rich and diverse. It is home to museums, archives, libraries and third level education facilities, which are a repository for fascinating and valuable collections of heritage items of local, national, and international interest.

Cultural heritage includes our maritime traditions and our links with the River Lee and the sea. The city's relationship with the river is significant in shaping the development of the city by providing a medium for transport, communication, defence, commerce, biodiversity, and recreation. Cork's maritime heritage is also reflected in the city's coat of arms "Statio Bene Fida Carinis" - A safe harbour for ships.

Cork's long military history is reflected in the number of fortifications throughout the city e.g., Elizabeth Fort, Blackrock Castle and Collin's Barracks and in the names of the streets such as Wellington Road, McCurtain Street, Military Hill. Ballincollig Gunpowder Mills has a long and fascinating military history. Traditional food such as tripe, drisheen and spice beef is a legacy of Cork's past as a trading port when the provisions industry to the British colonies made Cork rich and while not a bilingual city, Cork has a strong Irish language heritage with links to the Gaeltachtaí outside the city.

There is a great interest by the residents of the city in all aspects of this rich heritage. This is reflected in the number of local history groups and organisations, who are actively promoting the heritage of the city, most of whom do it on an entirely voluntary basis.

Cork City Council provides a focal point for cultural heritage activities through the work of the Cork City and County Archives, Cork Public Museum and Cork City Libraries as well as the Arts, Sports and Irish Officers.

Heritage in the New Areas of the Boundary of Cork City

In 2019 several new areas were welcomed into Cork city. The nature, scale and characteristics of these towns differ greatly. These areas are a new and exciting addition to the heritage of the city. Some of the special features of a selection of these areas written by local historians from Glanmire, Douglas, Blarney and Ballincollig are highlighted in Appendix 1.

Value of Heritage

Communities and Quality of Life

Heritage is of great value at a local level to communities within the Cork City Council area. Whether in Blackpool or Ballincollig, Mayfield or Mahon, Glasheen or Glanmire a place's local heritage helps to tell the story of its past, but also gives clues to how it evolved into what it is now. In a rapidly changing world this gives a community a sense of identity and place, security and greatly improves quality of life.

There are numerous reports showing the importance of biodiversity to our mental and physical health and wellbeing. Mental health groups like AWARE have always encouraged getting into nature for those who suffer from depression and anxiety. Never before has it become more evident than during the Covid 19 lockdown of 2020/2021. The benefits of simply appreciating our surroundings, whether it is watching the wild birds in the garden or walking in nature during those times, greatly benefited people's mental health and wellbeing. One of the lessons we need to take from this experience is the importance of being able to access something green and wild, whether it is an open space in a housing estate or a pocket park in the city.

Economy and Tourism

Heritage has an economic value to the city. It has an important role in improving quality of life for its citizens and contributes to making Cork a great place to live, work and study and in turn contributes to encouraging inward investment and indigenous enterprise as well as sustaining existing industries, entrepreneurs, and workforce. It is known that there is an economic value to heritage, for example a recent study carried out by UCC Business School showed that for every €1 spent on the heritage event, Cork Heritage Open Day generated €30 for the economy of Cork.

*Heritage is also a vital element of the tourism industry. This is reflected in the recently produced Failte Ireland Tourism Recovery Plan 2020-2023, which states that “Ireland’s built and natural heritage is the bedrock upon which Irish tourism has been developed”.

Surveys of tourists repeatedly show that heritage is one of the key attractions to visiting Ireland and two in every three visitors go to a heritage site or visitor attraction. In a recent study on why holiday makers choose Ireland, 93% of people cite beautiful scenery and 88% stated natural attractions were the reason for choosing Ireland as their holiday destination. Heritage and cultural tourism are growing worldwide and Failte Ireland estimates in 2018, Cork welcomed 17% of the 9.609 million overseas tourists, who came to Ireland, spending 11% of the €5,217bn overseas tourism expenditure in Ireland. Irish residents took 1.3 million trips to Cork (12% of 10,918 million domestic trips in 2018) spending €226 mn (11% of domestic tourist spend).

*Failte Ireland Tourism Recovery Plan 2020-2023

Chapter 2 The Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan

Policy and Legislative background

Heritage is defined under the Heritage Act 1995 as items such as monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks and inland waterways.

The importance of heritage is also recognised in the Cork City Corporate Plan (2020-2024) and the Cork City Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2019-2024). The Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan will inform the City Development Plan (in preparation).

The preparation of the new Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) also responds to the requirements of the various national policies and plans including the National Biodiversity Plan (2017-2021), Heritage Ireland 2030 (in preparation), National Climate Action Plan 2019, RSES RPO 126 "Biodiversity", Heritage at the Heart Heritage Council Strategy (2018-2020), and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan .

Content of the Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan

The Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) is an action plan and sets out a series of realistic and practical actions to protect conserve and manage our heritage over the next five years and a methodology on the implementation of these actions. The Cork City Heritage and

Biodiversity Plan includes actions on Archaeology, Built, Cultural and Natural Heritage, so is a combination Heritage and Biodiversity Plan.

A number of key challenges emerged from the evaluation of the previous Heritage Plan and the public consultation process. These include tackling dereliction and vacant sites, appropriate development of older parts of the city like North and South Main St and protecting biodiversity and trees. A need was identified to work efficiently and effectively with key stakeholders to achieve the aims of the Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026).

In practical terms this means that the new Plan contains a realistic number of actions, which are strategic and focussed. The Plan also aims to enable the whole community to take part in the work of caring for and managing our local heritage. It will facilitate relevant stakeholders and others to work together to achieve results in a mutually beneficial way, and the expertise of all parties is valued and rewarded.

The Plan will also contribute to Cork city's economy by supporting the tourism and recreation sectors and the health and wellbeing of our communities, all of which are underpinned by our natural, built, and cultural heritage. The actions of the Plan have been framed with a view to balancing the interests of all parties and stakeholders including building owners and businesses, within our local communities.

2.4 Aim, Objectives, and Actions of the Plan

The overall aim of the Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) is;

To protect, enhance and promote the heritage and biodiversity of Cork city and to place the care of our heritage at the heart of the community.

The Heritage and Biodiversity Plan sets out four objectives, which will be undertaken during the lifetime of the Plan.

1. Promote best practice and encourage heritage conservation and management.

Caring and managing our heritage is at the core of what the Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) sets out to do. This is achieved through promoting good practice and encouraging the care, conservation, and protection of our heritage.

2. Support heritage related education, research, and training

It is important to add to our knowledge of heritage by collaborating with academic and research institutions and bodies, commissioning research, and providing training opportunities for those interested in managing their local heritage.

3. Raise awareness, appreciation, engagement with and enjoyment of heritage and communicate message to a wider audience.

Good communication is required to raise awareness of heritage issues and garner public support for the protection and care of our heritage, while also facilitating greater engagement with and enjoyment of Cork city's rich heritage for everyone. Heritage events will play a key role in attracting more people to explore and enjoy their heritage.

4. Increase level of community activity for heritage and support economy and local tourism.

Heritage groups and organisations, dedicated individuals and local communities play a key role in caring for and raising awareness and knowledge of our heritage. Their work must be supported and we must meet the challenge of engaging more people across the city in this work in a mutually beneficial way. Heritage also underpins the tourism industry and is an important element in outdoor recreational activities.

Each objective meets the overall aim of the plan. A number of actions are attached to each objective and outline how the objective is to be met. Wherever possible; actions are clear with key performance indicators (KPI) identified for each action. However, it is important that the Plan is flexible to respond to changing circumstances and resources at implementation stage.

Chapter 3 Heritage and Biodiversity Plan Actions

Objective 1: Promote best practice and encourage heritage conservation and management.

	ACTION	KPI
1.1	Liaise with all departments within Cork City Council to ensure that the care and management of heritage is incorporated into new plans, policies, and projects as appropriate.	No. of plans commented upon or engaged with, submissions made.
1.2	Seek resources local, national and EU to implement Biodiversity Actions and other biodiversity activities of Cork City Council.	What resources were allocated? How many actions were implemented
1.3	Support and encourage the planting of native trees, pollinator friendly planting, re-wilding projects and the management of invasive species on public land.	Number of projects completed
1.4	Develop Conservation and Management Plans for priority historic areas such as Shandon and North and South Main Streets and priority buildings e.g., Butter Exchange.	Number of plans developed
1.5	Identify a dedicated budget for small scale works for repair and restoration of historic fabric e.g., historic ironwork, plaques, street furniture and some small-scale consolidation works and buildings repairs.	Number of repair and restoration projects have been undertaken
1.6	Participate in the Walled Towns Network and implement actions from the City Walls management Plan.	What projects undertaken under Walled Town Network Number of actions implemented

Objective 2: Support Heritage related Education, Research and Training

	ACTION	KPI
2.1	Liaise with education bodies and 3 rd level institutions to identify research gaps and priority areas for study and carry out heritage related research in these areas.	What Research gaps were identified. No. of actions implemented.
2.2	Carry out habitat mapping of the city identifying existing and new ecological corridors that can be developed and add value to the Green and Blue infrastructure Plan.	Did mapping take place?
2.3	Investigate mechanisms to protect trees on land in private ownership.	What was outcome of investigation?
2.4	Carry out audit of geological assets in the city.	Did audit take place?
2.5	Produce new and promote existing Cork City Council and other relevant heritage publications and guidelines.	Number of publications and guidelines produced.
2.6	Promote heritage in schools by supporting Discover Cork's School Heritage Project and Heritage in Schools programme.	No of projects promoted and supported
2.7	Carry out research and survey work on heritage related topics .	How many surveys and research projects carried out?
2.8	Continue archaeological research at Elizabeth Fort to include a Community Archaeology Dig.	What research took place? Did community dig take place? How many attendees?
2.9	Explore the use of technology to create Nature based solutions to challenges facing the city.	What research was undertaken?

Objective 3: Raise awareness, appreciation, engagement with and enjoyment of heritage and communicate heritage message to a wider audience.

	ACTION	KPI
3.1	Develop and implement a heritage Communications Strategy to include Website, social media, calendar of events, links to archaeological, built heritage and biodiversity social media activities and to heritage groups and use of technology such as apps, podcasts to promote heritage.	Was strategy developed? How many actions implemented? What was the reach of the strategy?
3.2	Support a programme of heritage events e.g. Cork Heritage Open Day, Heritage Week, Biodiversity Week, Cork Past and Present Exhibition etc.	How many heritage events took place? Number of attendees.
3.3	Continue support of Annual Archaeology Lecture Series.	How many lectures took place? Audience numbers
3.4	Promote the work and collections of the Cork City Public Museums, Cork City and County Archives and Cork City Libraries and investigate options to create a resourced outreach programme to raise awareness of these collections particularly amongst young people.	Was outreach programme created?
3.5	Support groups involved in collecting and promoting Oral History and Folklore projects, the Irish Language, Traveller culture and Genealogy in the city.	How many projects supported?
3.6	Raise awareness and support the work of heritage groups and organisations in the new areas of Cork city.	What support provided for these groups?

3.7	Raise awareness of Cork city's multicultural diversity heritage and culture of new communities and groups such as the LGBTQ and Traveller community by supporting initiatives with these communities to celebrate and share this heritage and tradition.	Number of communities engaged with Number of projects supported
3.7	Support and promote the work of national heritage organisations e.g., Heritage Council, Bird watch Ireland, NPWS, Pollinator Plan, Irish Georgian Society etc	What liaison happened with these groups?
3.8	Promote role of biodiversity and local ecosystems in climate change mitigation.	Number of projects/ plans supported

Objective 4: Increase level of community activity for heritage and support economy and local tourism.

	ACTION	KPI
4.1	Run a series of Training/ workshops/ lectures/ fieldtrips on topics relating to Biodiversity e.g., species identification and recording, built heritage e.g., solutions to dereliction and vacant sites, reusing old buildings, traditional building skills, Cultural heritage e.g., Folklore, Genealogy and Archaeology e.g., graveyard surveys and maintenance.	No. of training events Number of attendees
4.2	Develop a volunteer programme to carry out heritage related work in the city to include Citizen Science and community	Was volunteer programme researched? Was volunteer programme developed?

	training and in conjunction with heritage institutions and societies.	How many volunteers were recruited? What range of work was carried out?
4.3	Promote the "Adopt a monument "scheme in the City.	Was scheme promoted?
4.4	Work with Tourism and business organisations to promote and develop heritage resources in the city particularly in relation to accessibility and signage.	How many projects / plans supported/ commented on?
4.5	Support the Cork City Heritage Community and Publication Grant Scheme.	How much money was allocated? How many projects were supported? How many publications supported

Chapter 4 Implementation of the Plan

Cork City Council Heritage Services

Cork City Council provides a wide range of heritage services on an ongoing basis. These services are delivered by a number of professional staff working in different directorates across Cork City Council. These include the Heritage Officer, City Archaeologist, Conservation Officer, Cork City Libraries Local History Section, Cork Public Museum, Cork City and County Archives, the Environment Directorate, and the Parks Department. The Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) seeks to support the work carried out by those already working and making a positive contribution to the heritage of the city within Cork City Council.

Delivery

The Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) is a five-year action-based plan. Each year a detailed work programme will be drawn up setting out proposed actions for the year, identifying a timeframe and partners. In addition, each action will include key performance indicators, a delivery, implementation, dissemination, and review element. The Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) is envisaged to be a partnership plan with many stakeholders sharing responsibility for its implementation in a mutually beneficial manner. The Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) is very much for all the people of the city and is underpinned by the principle of shared responsibility for our heritage.

Role of Cork City Council

Cork City Council initiated the Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) process and facilitated its development. While Cork City Council is a key partner and will in many cases act as coordinator for projects, all of the actions cannot be implemented without practical support from relevant stakeholders. While Cork City Council will play a strategic role in the implementation of the Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026), it will be vital to secure practical support from all relevant partners and stakeholders for the Plan to succeed.

Role of the Heritage Council

The support of the Heritage Council through their funding programme for Local Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026), is vital to the ongoing work of heritage in Cork city. This includes continued financial support for the Heritage Officer Network and the Training and Development Programme and the advice of its professional officers on good practice.

Supporting those Involved in Ongoing Work that Benefits Heritage in the City

The Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) acknowledges the huge amount of ongoing work that is being carried out by heritage groups and organisations, local communities, individuals, voluntary organisations, the local authority, and educational institutions to promote protect and better understand the heritage of Cork city. It is hoped that the Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) will add value, support, and encourage this valuable work already being carried out throughout the city.

Liaison with Cork County Council, Other Local Authorities and National Bodies

The Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) acknowledges the close link between adjacent local authorities through the work of the Heritage Officers Network. Where appropriate Cork City Council will work with other Local Authorities on relevant projects and adopt a common approach to relevant issues. In addition, Cork City Council will also work with national bodies such as the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and National Parks and Wildlife as appropriate.

Finance

Cork City Council is committed, in partnership with others, to the delivery of the Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) over the next five years and as resources permit.

An overall budget of €500,000 is estimated for the delivery of the actions over the lifetime of the Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026). This is an ambitious plan so the need for additional funding and staffing will be reviewed throughout the lifetime of the plan.

The ongoing support of the Heritage Council is a key factor in ensuring that the actions in the Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) are achieved. Cork City Council will work closely

with the Heritage Council in the implementation of the Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026).

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Cork City Heritage and Biodiversity Plan (2021-2026) will be monitored on an annual basis as part of devising the annual work programme. Each action will also have a key performance indicator to evaluate its effectiveness. An annual progress report will be prepared for review by Cork City Council and relevant stakeholders.

Appendix 1: Heritage in the New Areas of the Boundary of Cork City

Ballincollig

(Adapted from Ballincollig – Our Town Muskerry Local History Society)

Ballincollig “Baile an Chollaig” or Coll’s Town derives its name from Robert Coll, knight and one-time owner of Ballincollig Castle. The castle is the oldest building around the town, but after the middle of the seventeenth century the building fell into disuse. Ballincollig village was founded later than this. It owes its origins, not to the castle, but to the growth of the Gunpowder Mills and the Army Barracks. In 1794 Charles Henry Leslie began the small production of gunpowder on his own land along the south bank of the River Lee. His success and the advent of the wars between Britain and France led to the purchase of the Mills by the British Board of Ordnance in 1805. The Board enlarged the Mills considerably and built houses for workers nearby. An army barracks was built to guard the Mills. However, with the defeat of Napoleen in 1815, the Mills were closed and the buildings fell into ruin, though the barracks remained.

Twenty years later, a Liverpool merchant family, the Tobins, bought the disused Mills and renovated and enlarged them further. The eldest son of one of the partners, Thomas Tobin, was sent to manage the Mills and for most of his life here he lived in Oriel House. Within a few years of reopening the Mills, 200 men were employed and this rose to over 500 by the middle of the nineteenth century.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Ballincollig declined as the powder mills declined. The black gunpowder produced in the Mills could not compete with other newly invented explosives, such as dynamite. The Mills changed owners and eventually, in 1903, they were closed and the last 100 workers were laid off. Ballincollig saw further decline as the British army left the barracks in 1922 after the Anglo-Irish Treaty. The barracks was taken over by the anti-Treaty forces and it was burned along with part of Oriel House, when those forces retreated out of Ballincollig during the Civil War. During World War II the barracks was reopened when it was used for exercises by the Irish Army and the Local Defence Forces.

From the mid-1960s onwards Ballincollig became one of the fastest growing towns in the country with the population doubling during the 1970s and the village centre changed character as residents moved out and businesses took their place. In 1998, the army barracks was closed as the last soldiers left. In the early twenty-first century, the barracks land was developed for a shopping centre, housing and offices. By 2016, Ballincollig had a population of over 18,000 people.

Glanmire

(Provided by the Glanmire Heritage Society)

The Glanmire region is situated in a valley approximately 5 miles east of Cork City. It is made up of four villages: Brooklodge, Glanmire, Riverstown and Sallybrook, and their surrounding townlands. The Glashaboy and Butlerstown rivers flow through the valley, joining at Riverstown and emptying into the estuary of the River Lee at Dunkettle. Glanmire is probably the most picturesque of the four villages. It is situated on the estuary of the Glashaboy , surrounded by beautiful woodlands, with pretty alms houses marking its entrance.

Glanmire dates back to early Christian Ireland. An ecclesiastical record shows that a church existed in Rathcooney in 1291, on the site of the old graveyard. The stone bridge at Riverstown is one of the oldest constructions in Cork, and Cromwell is reputed to have crossed it during the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland. In the 16th and 17th centuries Riverstown was known as the Belfast of the South because of the many industries that sprung up along the banks of the Glashaboy river. When Dunkettle Bridge was swing-opening, ships sailed up the estuary and discharged goods on Sand Quay in Glanmire village. Industry continued to flourish along the river during the 18th and 19th centuries and even into the 20th century.

Cork merchant princes built large houses in the Glanmire area in the 18th century, as its sylvan valley was a desirable place to live – Riverstown House, Dunkettle House, Poulacurra House, Lota House and Lota Lodge to name but a few. *Historic Houses of Glanmire* published in 2011 by Glanmire Heritage Society documents 29 of these.

The Church of Ireland relocated from Rathcooney Church (now in ruins) to Glanmire Village in 1786.

Glanmire grew rapidly as a residential area from the 1970 and housing is still increasing to this day.

Douglas

(adapted from Dr. Kieran McCarthy's book, *The Little Book of Cork Harbour* (2019, History Press).

The district of Douglas takes its names from the river or rivulet bearing the Gaelic word *dubhghlas* or dark stream. With an old village feel, one has the historic fabric of the village but also the backdrop of Douglas estuary filled with its biodiversity and the views of Cork from the hilly southern suburbs of Rochestown, Donnybrook and Grange.

In 1372, in an inspection of the dower of Johanna, widow of John de Rocheford, there is a reference to allotments of land to her in Douglas which probably gave rise to the townland name Rochestown. The ridges overlooking the industrious and growing village were home to 40 or so seats or mansions and demesnes where the city's merchants made their home. Those landscapes that were created still linger in the environs of Douglas village.

On 1 June 1726, one of Ireland's largest sailcloth factories Douglas Factory was built and Huguenot members Samuel Perry and Francis Carleton were the first proprietors. The surviving multi-storey flax-spinning mill at Donnybrook was designed and built by the Cork architect and antiquarian, Richard Bolt Brash, for Hugh and James Wheeler Pollock in 1866. In 1883, the O'Brien Brothers built St Patrick's Mills in Douglas Village and by 1903 it operated with some 80 looms and employed 300 workers, many of whom lived in company-owned houses in Douglas village.

The famous original Douglas Finger Post was a stoutly built wooden road sign. It stood at the junction of the Maryborough and Rochestown Road. Embedded in a beehive shaped pile of stone, it was about fifteen feet high, including the base. Apart from its value as a road sign, it was of local historical significance. A local man, Phil Carty of Donnybrook, is said to have been hanged on the original Finger Post for his part in the 1798 Rebellion and his corpse left dangling in chains there. In days gone by, men passing by would raise their caps and bless themselves.

Blarney

(provided by John Mulcahy Blarney Heritage Society)

Blarney castle towers over the village and the surrounding countryside, a reminder that it once was considered an impregnable fortress that defied Queen Elizabeth and Cromwell, though it eventually succumbed to both. Built in the fourteenth century and expanded in the sixteenth, it became the seat of the McCarthy clan of Muskerry, from whence they could threaten the merchants and citizens of Cork, forcing them to pay a black rent (protection money) of £40 a year. Captured in rebellion against King William of Orange, the family lost everything and the castle passed to Sir James Jeffreys, and by descent, to the Colthursts who retain it to this day.

Today, the castle welcomes thousands of visitors to the picturesque ruins, the legendary Blarney Stone which confers the gift of the gab to whoever kisses it, and to the beautiful gardens and landscaped grounds that offer shade and tranquillity amidst the exotic plants and flowers.

Blarney village owes its existence to the linen industry which thrived in the surrounding area. Established in 1766, it was once the centre of a complex of factories, bleaching greens and domestic looms, whose workers were housed in the cottages forming three sides of the Square. The peaceful scene today belies a more violent history; the attack on the parson's house and subsequent execution by hanging of a local United Irishman; and the storming and blowing up of the Constabulary Barracks during the War of Independence. Nearby, the mills have exchanged the clamour of the looms and knitting machines for the ringing of the tills and the wrapping of gifts in the shopping complex. Next to the Square can still be identified the relics of the terminus of the Cork and Muskerry Light Railway whose steam engines and carriages connected Blarney to the city of Cork.

The roads and pathways radiating from Blarney lead through green valleys and riverside vistas into a countryside rich with historic monuments and a varied wildlife habitat. North along the Martin Valley a pathway winds past the millpond, which powered the mills, to Waterloo where Fr. Matthew Horgan, parish priest of the famine times and a noted if somewhat eccentric antiquarian, built a belfry next to his church in imitation of the ancient Irish round towers. On the road west to Tower, little can be seen today of Dr Richard Barter's Hydropathic Establishment at St Ann's, which once attracted the rich and famous to its Hiberno-Roman steam baths. Eastwards to Cork city the road and pathway follows the Commons Bog, once a wilderness offering one of the last refuges for wolves in Ireland, now an area of fenland offering a haven for wildlife.

The lords of Muskerry once supported a bardic school in the castle. Following conquest and confiscation they were dispersed to write their poems in humble cottages while eking out an existence from farming and copying manuscripts. Through their efforts over the following three hundred years up to the time of the itinerant Gaelic League teachers a hundred years ago, the Irish language was preserved in oral and written form; another facet of the amazing heritage of Blarney and its surroundings.