

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir C. Kelleher.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran.
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, 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. Ms. A. Rodgers, Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations. Mr. G. O’Beirne, Director of Services, Infrastructure Development. Mr. N. Ó Donnabháin, Director of Services, Housing. Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer. Ms. C. Kelly, Meetings Administrator. Ms. C. Currid, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.
APOLOGIES	Comhairleoir G. Keohane.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**

1.1 **LIVE STREAMING OF THE MEETING**

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle that the meeting was being live streamed to Cork City Council’s YouTube channel.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Comhairleoir N. Nugent proposed a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following motion at the end of the meeting:-

FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR THE NORTHSIDE

‘That Cork City Council address the imbalance in funding allocations for the Northside and Southside of the City in terms of the following:

Urban Regeneration & Development Fund

Sustainable Transport Funding

TII Grant Allocation for National Roads

Active Travel 2022 Scheme

Council to ensure it examines the significant opportunities on the Northside of the City for such funding schemes which can unlock the potential identified in the Draft City Development Plan.’

‘Go rachaidh Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí i ngleic leis an éagthroime maoinithe do Thuaisceart agus Deisceart na Cathrach i dtaobh;

Ciste Athnuachan agus Forbairt Uirbeach

Maoiniú d'Iompar Inbhuanaithe

Cionnroint Deontas BIÉ do Bhóithre Náisiúnta

Scéim Taisteal Gníomhach 2022

Go gciníonn an Chomhairle go scrúdóidh sí na deiseanna suntasacha i dtuaisceart na Cathrach do na scéimeanna maoinithe sin a nochtfaidh an poitéinseal a d'aithin Dréachtphlean Forbairt na Cathrach.’

(Proposers: Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. K. Collins 22/092)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Nugent, seconded by Comhairleoir K. Collins, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, F. Ryan, D. Boylan, L. Bogue, K. McCarthy, D. Boyle, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, C. Finn, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (18)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, D. Forde, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, D. Canty, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher. (9)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoir M. Finn. (1)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, and the vote was carried by a 2/3 majority as prescribed in standing orders, and An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried and the proposal to suspend standing orders approved.

2. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S ITEMS**

No items raised.

3. **MINUTES**

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

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 10th January 2022.

4. **QUESTION TIME**

4.1 **ARDFIELD ESTATE & PLAYING PITCH**

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

To ask the CE if Cork City Council have taken charge or intend to take charge of Ardfield Estate, Grange and if so, what are the future plans for the playing pitch there?

REPLY

Ardfield Estate has not yet been taken in charge but the process has commenced and engagement is ongoing with the developer in this case.

When this estate is taken in charge the matter of the playing pitch will be reviewed with regards to its status and future. However, there are no immediate plans for the playing pitch when the estate is taken in charge but this matter will be kept under review and considered again in the future, based on need, work programme and available funding.

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

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

4.2 **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY PUBLIC TO CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

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

How many of the 449 proposed amendments by the public to the City Development Plan have the executive recommended the councillors approve?

REPLY

Of the 449 submissions, there was a mix of multiple submissions on single issues or one submission on a multiple of issues. That stated, recommendations for amendments were made on the basis of 184 submissions. In the vast majority of remaining cases, the planning policy may have agreed with the objectives of the submission and formed the view that these were satisfactorily addressed in the Draft Development Plan and therefore, no amendment was needed to incorporate the views set out in the submissions.

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

4.3 **MOTION TRACKING SYSTEM**

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

Can the CE please provide an update on the progress of my recent Motion requesting that Cork City Council put in place a ***“Motion Tracking System”*** for Elected Members. This will enable Members and officials to track the progress of Motions as they progress through the system and should eliminate the ongoing issues of Motions ending up being forgotten about and discarded over time. Motions are usually genuine requests from concerned constituents on issues of real concern to them and the Local Community.

REPLY

As part of our programme to use technology to enhance the workplace based on the Microsoft 365 suite of solutions, a number of initiatives are either actively being progressed or under consideration for council members in conjunction with the ICT Councillor Working Group.

These solutions are being designed to promote engagement and participation and support the role of the councillors. As well as the use of Teams and SharePoint to provide communications and electronic documentation facilities to the councillors, additional solutions have been advanced or are in the process of being advanced in the following sequential order and include:

1. Move to Exchange On-Line providing an email environment with much richer functionality as well as significantly increased mailbox size – Completed.
2. A councillor portal to submit and review progress on service requests and representations – Pilot phase: Underway.
3. Councillor Intranet including functionality such as a comprehensive staff directory, news feed, electronic forms and social engagement solutions – To be Completed.
4. **A comprehensive meetings administration solution allowing for the electronic submission of motions and agenda items as well as meetings management. This solution would include motion tracking functionality – To be Completed.**

To support and promote the adoption of these solutions for all members. The ICT Councillor Working Group is a working group established with Elected Members, staff from ICT and Corporate and International Affairs. This group will finalise aspects of the delivery of the projects and assist in the roll-out through engagement with other members.

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

4.4 **PROVIDE BREAKDOWN OF REASONS FOR HOUSING REFUSALS IN 2021**

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

Could the Manager please provide a breakdown of reasons for housing refusals for the year 2021?

REPLY

There has been a significant increase in the number of refusals of properties in 2021 compared to previous years; of 983 offers processed, 279 were refused, representing a refusal rate of 28% for the full year. This is a marked escalation compared to a relatively static refusal rate averaging 15% over the four years from 2017 to 2020 inclusive.

The volume of properties available for letting has also increased exponentially, with the 983 offers processed last year exceeding the total of 832 offers processed in 2018 and 2019 combined. This is despite the on-going challenges posed by the Covid 19 pandemic.

The refusal rate is concerning, as a high level of refusal inevitably leads to properties which are available for letting remaining vacant for extended periods, with an increased risk of such units becoming the target of vandalism, dumping or other antisocial behaviour at a time of immense demand for social housing supports.

It should be noted that the vast majority of these offers were processed after the applicants had expressed interest in the property through the Choice Based Letting (CBL) system. The property listings on CBL include the address of the property; details of the facilities; photographs and a link on Google maps to show the exact location of the building. All of this information is provided to allow applicants to make an informed decision on the suitability of the particular property to meet their housing need prior to committing themselves to submit an expression of interest on an advertised property.

Notwithstanding this, in 2021, almost 60% of refusals processed were due to the applicant deciding the area or the property on which they had previously expressed interest was unsuitable. The top five reasons for refusal submitted in 2021 were as follows:

Applicant deemed area unsuitable	29.50%
Applicant deemed property unsuitable	28.78%
No reason given for refusal	10.07%
Applicant deemed property too small	4.32%
Applicant claimed they bid in error	2.16%

The national legislation underpinning the introduction of CBL specifies that any applicant who refuses the offer of a property on which they have previously expressed interest are deferred from being considered for a further offer for a period of one year.

While this had a significant impact following the introduction of CBL in November 2015, with the refusal rate dropping from 35% in 2015 to 13% in 2016, the deferral period no longer appears to have the same deterrent effect on applicants as was previously apparent. The rate of refusals will continue to be closely monitored in 2022.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

4.5 **TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME**

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

Under the Tenant Purchase Scheme, Cork City Council have certain housing unit they will not sell to tenants, can we have a list of these and the rational for not selling them to tenants?

Is it possible for Councillors to change this or is it an executive decision?

REPLY

The incremental tenant purchase scheme came into operation on 1st January 2016 and is open to eligible tenants of local authority houses that are available for sale under the scheme. The Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) Regulations 2015 governing the scheme provide for a number of specified classes of properties to be excluded from sale, and also provide for local authorities to exclude houses for reasons of proper management of housing stock. Each local authority administers the Scheme in line with the overarching provisions of the Regulations and in a manner appropriate to their individual housing requirements.

It is currently Cork City Council's policy to only sell 3-bedroom houses, based on the profile of our social housing stock when compared to current/future demand based on the housing need of our record of qualified households. Three-bedroom houses represent 62% of the City Council's social housing stock, but only 18% of the City Council's current demand profile based on the housing need of qualified applicants so it is considered that making such units available for purchase is appropriate.

Property Type	% of Housing Stock	% Demand
1 Bed	7.25	54
2 Bed	21.12	40
4 Bed	9.33	4
5 Bed	.21	< 1%
6 Bed	.02	< 1%

Retaining ownership of the relatively scarce supply of smaller and larger housing units also provides scope for a more 'lifecycle' based model for social housing tenants, whereby stock is available to facilitate the transfer of growing families in overcrowded properties, and opportunities for downsizing for older tenants.

While the disposal of property under the Tenant Purchase scheme gives rise to a once-off capital receipt, dwellings are sold at a discount of between 40% and 60% of market value, therefore, the proceeds of sales are never sufficient to cover the replacement costs of housing stock.

Adoption of the scheme is a reserved function. It is not recommended that the current operation of the scheme should be amended at this time due to the factors outlined above particularly in relation to the unprecedented demand for social housing support.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

4.6 **PEDESTRIAN & CYCLE LINK FROM GRANGE ROAD TO TRAMORE VALLEY PARK**

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

Now that work on the pedestrian and cycle link from the Grange Road through the Vernon Mount Valley and over the South Ring Road to Tramore Valley Park has commenced, I would ask the Chief Executive for details regarding how long the project is likely to take and when the project is likely to be completed.

REPLY

Advance works have now commenced on the new pedestrian and cycle link from Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park. The link includes a new 1km pedestrian/ cycle path and a new bridge over the N40 South Ring Road, which will provide a safe alternative travel route between Grange and Tramore Valley Park and onwards to Douglas and the city centre. The project is funded by the National Transport Authority. The advance works include site fencing, clearance, scheme signage etc and it is anticipated that the main contract works will follow in the coming weeks. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in the first half of 2023 and Members will be kept apprised of progress on the project in the period to completion.

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

4.7 **CDP BUILDING, KNOCKPOGUE AVENUE**

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

Can the CE give an update on efforts to return the former CDP building on Knockpogue Avenue, Farranree for community use?

REPLY

Knockpogue Avenue

The former Community Development Project building at 98 Knockpogue Avenue is currently the subject of an ongoing legal dispute. An agreement between the remaining members of the Board of Directors of the CDP and Cork City Council would need to be secured and approved by the High Court to permit the handover of the building for community use.

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

4.8 **HOMELESSNESS**

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

To ask the CE about the mechanisms in place to combat homelessness this winter in the city?

How many homelessness cases on the streets in the last weekend of January 2022?

Are their beds available for all homelessness at this point in time in the city (early February 2022)?

How many emergency accommodation units?

To ask for the breakdown of finance given to housing homeless agencies in the city in 2021 & for 2022?

REPLY

To ask the CE about the mechanisms in place to combat homelessness this winter in the city?

Cork City Council assumed the responsibility for the Homeless Persons Unit in January 2019 from the Department of Social Protection. The Accommodation Placement Service unit opened its own office in Lapps Quay, in March 2020. There is a team in place, that provide a holistic focus on individual solutions and supports for those who find themselves homeless.

It should be noted that the number of people sleeping rough has declined significantly in Cork City over recent years. This is due in a large part to the success of the Housing First program. This program has provided tenancies with wrap-around supports to 30 long term homeless individuals in Cork City. The primary focus of this project has been the long term entrenched rough sleepers. As part of the new Housing First National Implementation Plan, 2022-2026, a target of 45 additional tenancies has been agreed for delivery over the next 5 years. Housing First is a **housing-led**

approach that enables people with a history of rough sleeping or long-term use of emergency accommodation, and with complex needs, to obtain permanent secure accommodation, with the provision of intensive supports to help them to maintain their tenancies.

There is currently a Cold Weather Strategy in place for Cork City and our Cold Weather committee meet fortnightly, monitoring the implementation of the city's cold weather strategy. The committee also meet as an emergency response to severe weather warnings issued by Met Eireann. This group consists of the Cork Simon Outreach team, management from Cork Simon Shelter, De Paul staff from St Vincent's hostel, the Community Gardai, Cork City Council staff.

The Cold Weather strategy involves securing additional accommodation in B&B's and in the shelters during the colder winter months. In response to severe weather De Paul shelter can provide 5 additional beds, Deerpark hostel would provide 5 beds and up to 10 additional spaces in Cork Simon. There are also additional arrangements in place for extreme weather events.

The small group of individuals, that are now identified as rough sleeping in the city, consist of a few who are sporadically out of accommodation for a variety of reasons. The Cork Simon Outreach team conduct widespread outreach checks of the city on a weekly basis and engage with any rough sleeper they meet to encourage them to link in with the services provided by the APS Office, HSE and Cork Simon. If we are notified of a weather event or cold weather the Outreach Team will carry out extra checks to ensure everyone is brought into accommodation. There are clients who are reluctant to engage with services and the Outreach Team. In these cases, they are encouraged to present to the Day Centre managed by Cork Simon to avail of basic services such as meals, shower facilities as a first step to encourage them to present for placement in emergency accommodation.

How many homelessness cases on the streets in the last weekend of January 2022?

The Outreach Team reported that they met five service users rough sleeping in the last week in January. Two of these service users had alternative accommodation.

Are their beds available for all homelessness at this point in time in the city (early February 2022)?

Yes.

How many emergency accommodation units?

246 Supported Emergency Accommodation beds provided by NGOs. There are also beds available in private emergency accommodation such as B&Bs.

To ask for the breakdown of finance given to housing homeless agencies in the city in 2021 & for 2022?

Published on [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - Homelessness data (www.gov.ie)

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

4.9 **GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR PLANTING TREES**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if use is to be made by this Council of the government funding that exists to plant trees on public lands?

REPLY

The Government through the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine launched the Woodland Creation on Public Land Scheme in late 2020. The criteria to satisfy funding applications is that the sites selected must be suitable for woodland creation and develop over time into a mixed woodland with a broad woodland ecosystem.

During 2022 the Council will actively explore and identify suitable areas of council owned land for woodland creation and will apply for funding under the Woodland Creation Scheme to assist with the cost of planting these areas.

The Council's tree planting programme for 2022 has commenced and will involve planting in excess of 2500 trees in parks, open space areas, greenways and residential areas.

The Council is actively involved with the Tree Council of Ireland and will avail of trees they distribute for planting during National Tree Week, these trees will be planted with involvement from resident and community garden groups, schools, and clubs.

The Council is also actively engaged with volunteer tree planting groups and has identified suitable council land for them to plant during the current planting season.

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

4.10 **SHARED FACILITIES BY PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to report on the segregation of pedestrian and cycling facilities in the city, intended guidelines and priority for the use of shared facilities by pedestrians and cyclists, and initiatives to reduce the riding of bicycles on footpaths and pedestrian areas and to promote cycling on carriageways and other designated areas?

REPLY

Scheme design for new or upgraded pedestrian and cycle infrastructure, whether forming part of larger multi-modal projects or smaller stand-alone developments, is guided by national guidelines and standards. These guidelines include *The Design Manual for Urban Roads & Streets*, *The National Cycle Manual*, *The National Signs Manual*, etc. These documents have evolved over time and increasingly respond to the specific needs of the various categories of road user. The National Transport Authority is currently considering revisions to the National Cycle Manual and the Authority is also developing a design guidance document for Bus Connects. These and other relevant updates can be circulated for Members as and when published.

The City Council's road and public realm improvement schemes are designed having regard to the relevant guidelines, the specific characteristics of each location and the individual improvement scheme objectives. The scheme plans and drawings for proposed public realm or road improvement schemes are also the subject of public consultation in accordance with the Planning or Roads Acts. As part of this process all comments and suggestions received are assessed and reported to Council prior to a determination to proceed the works with/without modification.

In relation to user guidance, the City Council seeks to provide appropriate signage and road markings in accordance with national standards to best guide road users in the appropriate use of infrastructure provided. As Members will be aware, the City Council is also seeking to accelerate the delivery of new and upgraded pedestrian and cycle infrastructure, including on street segregated cycle facilities following user desire lines where possible. It is anticipated that the Councils programme for improving pedestrian and cycle facilities will continue to expand in line with the additional resources becoming available for such work.

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

4.11 **WOMENS' SAFETY – DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

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

To ask the CE what infrastructural measures relating to women's safety are currently included in the draft Development Plan, and whether there will be a strategy developed between Cork City Council and other stakeholders on this basis within the lifetime of the next Development Plan.

REPLY

The Draft City Development Plan contains an important objective in relation to safety and security that is:

- a. To ensure a well-integrated urban form that provides a safe environment for all users by maximising visibility and surveillance, increasing pedestrian activity and maximising, connections between areas.
- b. To encourage buildings and spaces to be designed with safety and security in mind to avoid anti-social behaviour, reduce and prevent crime and create safe places for all.

In addition, the Draft City Development Plan states that

‘New development proposals, including refurbishment, extensions or alteration, and the creation of new private and public spaces, must be designed to promote safety and security, avoid anti-social behaviour and to prevent crime in line with the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Cork City Council may consult with a Crime Prevention Design Advisor of An Garda Síochána as part of the assessment of development proposals, and will have regard to the Guidelines on Joint Policing Committees as established under the Garda Síochána Act 2005, in order to ensure safe and secure communities and long-term sustainability of the built environment.’

Cork City Council has engaged with An Garda Síochána to ensure that ‘Security by Design’ is integrated as an objective of the draft plan. This engagement, along with engagement with other stakeholders, will continue as the plan is implemented.

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

4.12 **ACTIVE TRAVEL FUNDING**

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

Can the CE outline the criteria for the ‘Active Travel’ funding?

Could for example applications be made through this funding for:

Removal of bollards on Churchfield Road/John F Connolly Road in the interests of walking/cycling infrastructural and accessibility to business parks & sports pitches?

Active travel elements of the proposed North West Regional Park?

Improvements to the Nashs Boreen & Fair Green Amenity Walks?

REPLY

The Minister for Transport in a recent press statement linked active travel funding to the acceleration of the delivery of sustainable transport modes to avoid a return to gridlock as we come out of the pandemic and the need reallocate road space to create a safer and more efficient transport system.

As agreed at the North West Local Area Committee a review of the costs of undertaking the following works at Churchfield/John F Connolly Roads is being undertaken at present:

- 1) Remove the bollards from the footpath
- 2) Resurface the road
- 3) Build new footpaths
- 4) Improve public lighting
- 5) Install traffic Calming

When this process is complete the process of identifying potential funding sources for these works will commence.

Funding for facilities withing public parks and recreation facilities would generally fall outside the scope of the active travel funding applicability however we will continue to engage with the NTA with a view to understanding if such projects could be considered going forward.

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

4.13 **PUBLIC REALM PLANS FOR DENROCHES CROSS**

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

Can I ask the CE for an update on the plans for the public realm and junction layout for Denroches Cross?

REPLY

Cork City Council have engaged with the applicant's agent to ensure that An Bord Pleanála's grant of permission for the student development at Den Roches which includes public realm and junction upgrade works for Denroches Cross are delivered.

For example, all the 'planting beds' outlined for the public realm and junction upgrade at Denroches Cross are 'in the ground' as opposed to mobile planters. As I understand from the applicant's agent, these public realm and junction upgrade works, depending on ESB design completion, are due to commence the end of February 2022.

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

4.14 **RETAINED FIREFIGHTERS IN BALLINCOLLIG**

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

To ask the CE if there is an update available regarding the recent recruitment campaign for Retained Firefighters in Ballincollig?

REPLY

The recruitment campaign for retained firefighters in Ballincollig is ongoing. An information event was held over the weekend of February 4th for candidates that had expressed an interest in the positions. Closing date for receipt of completed applications is February 18th.

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

5. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

5.1 **PART 8 PLANNING PROPOSAL – BALLYVOLANE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT CORRIDOR SCHEME – NORTH RING ROAD TO MERVUE**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 179 (4) (a) of Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed Ballyvolane Strategic Transport Corridor Scheme – North Ring Road to Mervue and the report of the Director of Infrastructure Development thereon, as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

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

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development viz. the Ballyvolane Strategic Transport Corridor Scheme– North Ring Road to Mervue and the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, Cork City Council thereon, it is hereby resolved pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that the Ballyvolane Strategic Transport Corridor Scheme– North Ring Road to Mervue be carried out as recommended in the said report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, Cork City Council, which was put before Council on the 14th February 2022.”

5.2 **SECTION 38 – CURRAHEEN ROAD PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

An Chomhairle considered the report and recommendations of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 10th February 2022, following public consultation, on the proposed Curraheen Road Pedestrian and Cycle Safety Improvement Scheme pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. Finn, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Dennehy, a vote was called for to refer the scheme back to the South West Local Area Committee, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, F. Ryan, L. Bogue, D. Forde, D. Boyle, F. Dennehy, C. Finn. (11)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. Nugent, K. Collins, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, M. Finn, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, D. Canty, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (16)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoir K. McCarthy. (1)

As those voting against were greater than those voting for, An tArdmhéara declared the vote, and the proposal to refer the scheme back to the South West Local Area Committee, defeated.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Canty, a vote was called for on options 1, 2 or 3 as outlined in the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 10th February 2022, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR OPTION 1: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, F. Ryan, L. Bogue, D. Boyle, C. Finn, G. Kelleher. (8)

FOR OPTION 2: (0)

FOR OPTION 3: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, D. Forde, M. Finn, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (19)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald. (1)

As those voting for option 3 were greater than those voting for options 1 and 2, An tArdmhéara declared option 3, and the report and recommendations of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 10th February 2022, following public consultation, on the proposed Curraheen Road Pedestrian and Cycle Safety Improvement Scheme pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009, approved.

5.3 **EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OVER THE ROAD ACCESS AT THE EXIT OF DUNMORE GARDENS ONTO KILMORE ROAD LOWER, KNOCKNAHEENEY, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 20th January 2022 on the extinguishment of the public right of way over the road access at the exit of Dunmore Gardens onto Kilmore Road Lower, Knocknaheeny, Cork.

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

“Now Council hereby RESOLVES THAT

No written objections or representations having been received within the prescribed statutory period setout in section 73 (1) (a) of the Roads Act 1993, it is now hereby Ordered that the following Public Right of Way be extinguished with effect from the date of the making of this Order:-

“From the points marked AA to BB at Kilmore Road Lower / Dunmore Gardens junction on said map. This access will be replaced by a new entrance further to the east along Kilmore road Lower between nos 54 and 56 Kilmore road Lower as indicated on the said map.”

5.4 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: APARTMENT 1, 387 BLARNEY STREET, CORK - PETER MCVERRY TRUST CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 20th January 2022 in relation to a loan facility for Peter McVerry Trust CLG in respect of the provision of one unit of accommodation at Apartment 1, 387 Blarney Street, Cork.

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

“Resolved that, pursuant to the provision of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, a loan facility not exceeding €178,296 be granted to Peter McVerry Trust CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of one unit of accommodation at Apartment 1, 387 Blarney Street, Cork.”

5.5 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: APARTMENT 2, 387 BLARNEY STREET, CORK - PETER MCVERRY TRUST CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 20th January 2022 in relation to a loan facility for Peter McVerry Trust CLG in respect of the provision of one unit of accommodation at Apartment 2, 387 Blarney Street, Cork.

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

“Resolved that, pursuant to the provision of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, a loan facility not exceeding €184,798 be granted to Peter McVerry Trust CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of one unit of accommodation at Apartment 2, 387 Blarney Street, Cork.”

6. **ARTS GRANTS 2022**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Forde, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 13th December 2021 on the Arts Grants 2022.

7. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 7th FEBRUARY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 7th February 2022.

COMPENSATION FUNDING

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle that Cork City Council has received official notification from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, that €4.69m compensation will be paid to Cork City Council for the loss in local incomes other than rates due to Covid19, and for the additional costs incurred by Cork City Council for Covid19 related expenditure.

He further advised that this is not additional funding, rather that it is compensation for Covid19 costs and loss of income and will be required to balance the 2021 revenue account.

Initial forecasts indicate that a minimum of €4m will be required for same, and the remaining balance will be available for projects to be decided on by An Chomhairle.

7.1 **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Lord Mayor's travel to the United States in March 2022, accompanied by Comhairleoirí D. Canty and M.R. Desmond, and representatives of the Recreate Shandon Company, to promote the proposed redevelopment project for the Butter Exchange.

The trip will also serve to promote the work of the Women's Caucus, establish linkages in this regard, and further enhance our connections to Frederick Douglass.

7.2 **REPORT ON MOTION**

FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS IN CORK CITY COUNCIL BUILDINGS

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 3rd February 2022, on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council set aside €10,000 for the roll out of free sanitary products in female toilets in CCC buildings such as offices, swimming pools and community centres.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 22/035)

The report of the Director of Services stated that it is proposed that a pilot ‘Period Product Provision’ project is rolled out across Cork City in 2022, putting Cork city to the fore of innovative responses to this serious issue which leads to the exclusion of people across the city from education, work and public services.

From a City Council perspective, this is a topic which was one of the first areas of interest of the new Women's Caucus and is being led on jointly by Corporate Affairs

and International Relations, and the Community Culture and Placemaking Directorates. This pilot will be a collaboration with Sexual Health Centre Cork who have, as part of their own strategic plan, planned to provide for sexual health and period product hubs across Cork City.

Given the budget approved in Budget 2022, it is envisaged that our 10 city libraries, being important community hubs, open to all and freely accessible, are the initial pilot locations for the installation of 'pick'n'mix' style units, where anyone who has need for products can access them as they wish.

Cork City Council has also recently submitted an 'Expressions of Interest' to the Department of Health for funding which is available to address period poverty in communities. If successful, this additional funding can be used to extend the scope of the pilot project to include additional locations.

8. **PARTY WHIPS – 24th JANUARY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 24th January 2022.

8.1 **MOTION REFERRED TO PARTY WHIPS**

8.1.1 **MOTION TRACKER SYSTEM**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 20th January 2022 on the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council in conjunction with the IT Department put in place a "Motion Tracker System" which would enable Councillors to log in and check the status and progress of each individual motion that they have submitted and has been approved by Council. Motions should stay on the system indefinitely under the relevant Councillors name until they are completed. All motions are genuine proposals which originate from within our communities through necessity and under the current system are getting lost over time. This proposed tracker system would be of benefit to Councillors and officials in tracking progress and the status of each individual motion and would enable these issues to be dealt with methodically and efficiently over time.'

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 21/467)

The report of the Director of Services stated that as part of our programme to use technology to enhance the workplace based on the Microsoft 365 suite of solutions, a number of initiatives are either actively being progressed or under consideration for council members in conjunction with the ICT Councillor Working Group.

These solutions are being designed to promote engagement and participation and support the role of the councillors. As well as the use of Teams and SharePoint to provide communications and electronic documentation facilities to the councillors, additional solutions have been advanced or are in the process of being advanced in the following sequential order and include:

1. Move to Exchange On-Line providing an email environment with much richer functionality as well as significantly increased mailbox size – Completed
2. A councillor portal to submit and review progress on service requests and representations – Pilot phase: Underway
3. Councillor Intranet including functionality such as a comprehensive staff directory, news feed, electronic forms and social engagement solutions – To be Completed
4. **A comprehensive meetings administration solution allowing for the electronic submission of motions and agenda items as well as meetings management. This solution would include motion tracking functionality** – To be Completed

To support and promote the adoption of these solutions for all members, The ICT Councillor Working Group is a working group established with Elected Members, staff from ICT and Corporate and International Affairs. This group will finalise aspects of the delivery of the projects and assist in the roll-out through engagement with other members.

9. **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & TOURISM STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 17th JANUARY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the International Relations & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 17th January 2022.

9.1 **REPORT ON RECENT ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE TOURISM SECTOR IN CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 4th January 2022 on recent activities to support the Tourism sector.

9.2 **REPORT ON RECENT ACTIVITIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 4th January 2022 on recent activities in International Relations.

9.3 **MOTION REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE**

9.3.1 **TWINNING WITH COMPARABLE EUROPEAN CITIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 4th January 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That the Council consider twinning with comparable European cities, such as Utrecht in The Netherlands or Aarhus in Denmark, where innovation urban planning and active travel measures have, and are, taking place.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 21/447)

The report of the Director of Services stated that for the last number of years Cork City Council has been very actively involved with the Academy of Urbanism as a means of informing our approach to the ongoing development of Cork by engaging with the experiences of other cities. The Academy is a politically independent, not-for-profit organisation that brings together both the current and next generation of urban leaders, thinkers and practitioners with the mission “to understand, promote and celebrate what makes great places and to apply these lessons to the improvement of towns and cities across Europe and beyond.” The City Council’s involvement included the hosting of the Academy’s Congress in Cork in 2018.

Our participation with the Academy has included direct engagement with both Aarhus and Utrecht as well as with other cities. The sharing of experience and learning in relation to the various aspects of the urbanism agenda is viewed as extremely important and the City Council’s continued involvement with the Academy of Urbanism is seen as being very valuable and an appropriate means of engaging with other relevant cities on different themes of mutual interest and benefit.

10. **ENVIRONMENT, WATER & AMENITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 18th JANUARY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 18th January 2022.

10.1 **REPORT ON LITTERING IN THE BLACKPOOL AREA**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services on littering in the Blackpool area.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to continue the meeting past 8pm.

10.2 **CORRESPONDENCE FROM MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND EGOVERNMENT WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COMMUNICATOINS AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the correspondence from the Minister.

10.3 **MOTIONS**

10.3.1 **AVOID USE OF GLYPHOSATE-BASED WEEDKILLERS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th January 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will identify one area in each of the five wards to begin an expansion of the techniques and expertise used in Ballincollig that avoid use of glyphosate-based weed killers for control of weeds on public roads.’

(Proposed: Cllr. O. Moran 21/352)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a report on the use of herbicides was presented at the last meeting of the Environment, Water and Amenity Strategic Policy Committee and has been approved by An Chomhairle.

10.3.2 **LOCAL PUBLIC RECYCLING AND COMPOST POINTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th January 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will install local public recycling and compost points in the city to support residents unable to travel to the civic amenity centre.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 21/440)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the proposal would be challenging and expensive to implement and also raises the question what would residents do with their residual waste and other non-recyclable material if unable to travel to the civic amenity centre. European union policy is that those polluting should pay i.e. the “polluter pays principle”. This raises the question of how individual users would pay for these services? There is also no need for such installations as householders already have a choice of waste disposal and recycling options including

- Cork city council currently takes recycling material and food waste at the Tramore Valley Park CA site.
- People that are unable to travel to the Tramore Valley Park CA site can avail of household collections with the service providers it is a requirement of their licence that they provide for the segregated collection of foodwaste as well as other waste streams e.g. materials for recycling.
- People may also choose to compost it themselves

The Government supported mywaste.ie website provides detailed information on waste reduction, recycling and other related initiatives and options.

10.3.3 **MOSS WALLS ON PATRICK’S STREET AND GRAND PARADE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th January 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will measure the effectiveness of the moss walls on Patrick’s Street and Grand Parade in providing a ‘clean air bubble’ from air pollution.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 21/442)

The report of the Director of Services stated that as part of Cork City Council’s commitment to air quality in the City and as part of our long history of being to the forefront in testing and evaluation new innovative technologies and concepts, Cork

City Council installed moss walls (City Trees) at Grande Parade and St. Patrick Street in August 2021. This project received specific funding in order to allow the City Council evaluate these new technologies. This moss wall clean air initiative forms part of the City Council's "Clean Air Strategy 2021 - 2026" which contains 69 specific actions to be delivered.

The City Trees were purchased from a German company, Green City Solutions. The City Trees underwent vigorous testing by the company prior to installation of the units in Cork. Each site is equipped with air quality sensors. The data from these sensors will be reviewed and analysed at the end of the first 12 month installation period.

10.3.4 **REHOMING AND PROTECTION OF HORSES AND PONIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th January 2022 on the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council seek assistance from the Dept. of Agriculture to assist them in the re-homing and protecting of horses and ponies throughout the city that are left to wander and who are being treated inhumanly and not in accordance with European guidelines.'

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O'Flynn 21/424)

The report of the Director of Services stated that this motion should be referred to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

10.3.5 **ABANDON GLYPHOSATE IN THE ANNUAL SPRAYING PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th January 2022 on the following motion:-

'Glyphosate, a herbicide originally produced by Monsanto, and also known as Roundup, is currently being used by Cork City Council as part of its spraying programme in Cork City. The herbicide has been classified as a "Group 2A (probably carcinogenic to humans)" substance by the WHO. In addition, there is mounting evidence that the use of Glyphosate poses a serious threat to the biodiversity of important pollinator species, such as bees. In recognition of its potential to cause long-term damage to people, animals, and the wildlife, I call on the Council to abandon its use of Glyphosate in its annual spraying programme for 2022.'

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 21/493)

The report of the Director of Services stated a report on the use of herbicides was presented at the last meeting of the Environment, Water and Amenity Strategic Policy Committee and has been approved by An Chomhairle.

10.3.6 **SPACE FOR WOMENS AND GIRLS ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC PARKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th January 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will develop a policy to provide ‘space for girls’ to allocate space for women’s and girls’ activities in public parks and in funding by Cork City Council of sports amenities and exercise activities.’

(Proposers: Cllr. O. Moran, Cllr. L. Bogue, Cllr. D. Boyle 21/496)

The report of the Director of Services stated that this motion should be referred to the Community Culture and Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee.

10.3.7 **CARBON BENEFIT OF THE PLANTING PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th January 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That the carbon benefit of this Council’s planting programme be identified, encouraged and added to.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 21/507)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the carbon benefit of the City Council’s planting programme can be identified using I-Tree software, this provides an estimated value for pollution removal, carbon sequestration and storage. The initial value at planting and long-term value 50+ years for each tree can be calculated and will assist in encouraging and adding to the benefits trees provide to the city environment.

I-Tree is a software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban and community forestry analysis and benefit assessment tools. The I-Tree software has been used worldwide to quantify the environmental benefits that trees provide in the urban environment.

The I-Tree software will be used for all new tree planting from this year onwards to measure the benefit of these additional trees to the city environment.

10.3.8 **FRIENDSHIP BENCHES IN CITY PARKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th January 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would, perhaps in conjunction with the HSE ‘Connecting for Life Strategy’, install on a pilot basis a number of ‘Friendship’ or ‘Talking Park Benches’ in City Parks, these benches would detail vital numbers for Mental Health Groups & Charities while also allowing a space for someone who would benefit from chatting to a volunteer, friend or even a stranger, an initiative that has worked abroad.’

‘Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí, I gcomhar le ‘Stráitéis Ceangail ar feadh an tSaoil’ FFS, b’fheidir, roinnt ‘Binsí Páirce Cainte’ nó ‘Cairdis’ isteach I bPáirceanna na Cathrach. Thabharfadh na binsí seo eolas riachtanach do Ghrúpa Meabhairshláinte agus Cathrnachtaí, ag tabhairt deise do dhaoine a mbeadh comhrá

le hoibrí deonach, cara nó stráinséir fiú cabhrach dóibh, tionscnamh a fheidhmíonn thar lear.’

(Proposers: Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. K. Collins 21.510)

The report of the Director of Services stated that this motion should be referred to the Community Culture and Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee.

11. **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 20th JANUARY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 20th January 2022.

11.1 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

11.1.1 **ADEQUATE FOOTPATHS IN PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community Culture & Placemaking, dated 18th November 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That the CE will endeavour to ensure within the planning system that adequate footpaths are a basic minimum for all planning applications.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 21/436)

The report of the Director of Services stated that it is not appropriate that footpaths are a basic minimum for all planning applications. There are many circumstances, in the urban area, where shared space would be more appropriate for example, or in the rural setting, the provision of a set-back to accommodate a future footpath network. There is merit, however, that all planning applications should be assessed for adequate pedestrian facilities and this assessment is undertaken for planning applications which are subject to an Urban Roads & Street Design assessment.

11.1.2 **REFUSE CHANGE OF USE PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR SHORT TERM LETS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community Culture & Placemaking, dated 18th November 2021 on the following motion:-

That Cork City Council recognises that:

- private rental cost in Cork city has risen by 13% in the last 12 months
- the Simon Community found that there were only 4 rental properties within HAP limits advertised in March this year
- that potential homes are being lost to short-term let solutions
- Cork City is a rent pressure zone
- Section 7 of Guidance Note for Local Authorities for Regulating Short Term Letting gives clear guidance on the refusal of change of use planning for short-

term letting on grounds of 'general housing demand and need in the area, including the extent of the local authority's social housing list'

- that homelessness is a serious issue in Cork City
- there are thousands of people waiting on Cork City Council's social housing waiting list

And agrees to:

- Refuse all change of use planning applications under the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019 for short-term lets for a period of 3 years or until such a time as a full vote of Cork City Council determines the demand to no longer outweigh the need in the private rental sector.'

(Proposer: Cllr. E. Rynng 21/438)

The report of the Director of Services stated that in relation to Short-Term Letting Cork City Council have been actively engaging in numerous investigations since the new rules came into effect in July 2019 and to date have issued 30 formal warning letters with regard to suspected breaches of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Enforcement notices may issue in relation to a number of these investigations.

In relation to the assessment of planning applications for change of use to short-term letting, any planning application received will be assessed having regard to the Development Plan provisions and the relevant Guidance. To date, Cork City Council has only received one application for the temporary use of student accommodation for tourist and visitor accommodation. This application was refused by Cork City Council (21/40358 refers).

11.1.3 **CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR BICYCLE STANDS AND MUGAS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 18th January 2022 on the following motion:-

'That the CE would outline the process of consultation for small infrastructure items such as bicycle stands and MUGAs.'

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 21/503)

The report of the Director of Services stated that there is no formal consultation procedure required for bicycle parking stands. However, in instances where a proposed bicycle parking stand is close to a premises and its installation might conceivably be of concern to the proprietors or owners, the proposals are discussed with the stakeholder well in advance so that the stand is installed in a mutually acceptable location. Such informal consultations are managed on a case-by-case basis. Currently there is no consultation process in relation to MUGAS.

11.1.4 **CORK PAST AND PRESENT WEBSITE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 18th January 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Library's Cork Past and Present website be put back online as soon as possible. It plays a very supportive role in the study of local history and genealogy in the city and region.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 21/500)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Library are actively pursuing ways to make available as much content as possible from Cork Past and Present as an interim measure while a longer-term solution is being put in place. Fortunately, a working group has been preparing for an updated digital platform that will have improved access to Cork Past and Present and other digital resources within the Councils Archives and Heritage offering. While this process is at an advanced stage there is a time factor to this. In the meantime, an interim solution specific to Cork Past and Present is being worked on and it is intended it will be in place in towards the end of quarter 1, 2022.

11.1.5 **LOCATION OF DEFIBRILLATORS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 18th January 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council map out where all defibrillators are located within the City boundary and advertise the locations on its website, social media platforms and on broadcast and print media as part of an initiative to highlight their use and importance to the public.’

‘Go leagfaidh Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí amach cá bhfuil na dífhribreoirí ar fad ata lonaithe laistigh de theorainn na Cathrach agus fógraíocht a dhéanamh air seo ar a suíomh idirlín, ardáin meán sóisialta agus ar na meáin chraolta is chlóite mar chuid de thionscnaíocht aird a tharraingt ar a dtábhacht don phobal.’

(Proposers: Cllr. K. Collins, Cllr. F. Kerins, Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. E. Ryng 22/032)

The report of the Director of Services stated that there is a national website and App which provides location of defibrillators which is www.rescue.ie. This site allows you to search by location and on a map to the nearest defibrillator. It also allows you to submit the location of defibrillators not already included. There is also a local voluntary group, the Cork City Community First Responders. Cork City First Responders was activated by HSE Ambulance Control on the 19th December 2012.

The scheme comprises of members of the public who volunteer their time to assist their local community by attending emergency calls within a 6KM radius of Cork City Centre. Cork City council will look to promote both of these initiatives through its channels.

11.1.6 **FUNDING TO ADDRESS THE MISUSE OF SCRAMBLERS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 18th January 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council apply for funding to address misuse of scramblers with a view to developing a scheme or project.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 22/010)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council is currently liaising with the Road Safety Authority that they will prepare educational material or a presentation that could be delivered to the communities.

11.1.7 **HORSE PROJECT IN CORK CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 18th January 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council report on its objective to initiate a 'Horse Project' in Cork City, the report should include the agencies involved and that any sub-committee be broadened out to include elected members and groups like 'My Lovely Horse Rescue'.’

‘Go dtabharfaidh Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí tuairisc ar a sprioc 'Tionscnamh na gCapall' a thosú i gCathair Chorcaí, ba cheart don tuairisc na gníomhaireachtaí a bhfuil baint acu leis a chur san áireamh, agus ba chóir leathnú a dhéanamh ar scóip aon fhochoiste chun baill thofa a chur san áireamh agus grúpaí ar nós 'My Lovely Horse Rescue’.

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 22/016)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council currently provides a secretariat function for the Traveller Interagency Group which was reconvened in late 2019 after a considerable hiatus. Part of the work of this group is the oversight of various thematic sub-groups of significance to the work of traveller community development and strategic support for this work. One such group is the Traveller Equine Project Group which has been active for almost a decade, and is convened by the Traveller Visibility Group. The Council is represented on the Equine Project Group by a member of the Community Team.

It has been a central objective of the group to bring about the development of a Horse Project. The group has also initiated and supported various education and cultural projects with traveller men and young people across the city, in particular in schools. The participants, listed below, continue to liaise with both council, third sector and private sector partners to locate a suitable site to pilot a horse project. This continues to be the primary challenge to the realisation of this project.

The sub group include representatives from the below organisations and agencies:

- Traveller Visibility Group
- Cork City Council
- Cork County Council
- ISPCA
- Department of Agriculture
- Tusla Children and Young People's Service Committee
- Healthy Cities
- ETB
- AN Garda Siochana
- HSE Traveller Health Unit
- Travellers of North Cork
- Representatives of Traveller Horse Owners

The group has received an expression of interest from The Donkey Sanctuary to be engaged with in the work of the project.

The City Council representative will also table a motion to include in the group the company which currently holds the contract for dealing with stray or abandoned horses is Four Seasons Limited trading as ACS. It should be noted that this contract is due to go out to tender shortly.

11.1.8 **INCREASE STAFFING LEVELS IN THE CORONER'S OFFICE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 18th January 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council notes that: -

1. Cork City Coroners Court deals with 25 percent of cases of the Dublin counterpart.
2. Despite this, the staffing levels are proportionately lower than Dublin.
3. This is having an impact with cases taking much longer than would be desired.
4. These delays are causing additional heartache and grief.

And.

That Cork City Council resolves to increase the staffing levels to deliver a service comparable with Dublin and thus provide closure and comfort for many in a more timely fashion.’

(Proposer: Cllr. E. Ryng 21/498)

The report of the Director of Services stated that since the appointment of the current City Coroner, Cork City Council has engaged regularly and actively in streamlining systems within City Council and the Coroner's office to eliminate delays. Within a year of his appointment Cork City Council replaced a system of subsidising the cost of a second additional member of staff with the appointment of a clerical officer on City Council payroll.

In addition to the staff member employed directly in the coroner's office, Cork City Council has a permanent part-time clerical officer assigned only to coroner's duties and a senior staff officer supervises the appropriate payments assigned to the service.

Considerable resources from the ICT Department and the Business Process & Service Improvement Division of Corporate Affairs have been assigned to support improvements and automation to assist the coroner's office. The procurement section has also added their considerable expertise in assisting the office in procuring related services.

The present Covid 19 pandemic has unfortunately also caused unavoidable delays, particularly in relation to the conduct of the coroner's court, but Cork City Council have worked closely with the coroner's office to mitigate this as much as possible.

We continue to be committed to providing the best possible service and support to the office and hope that the changes we are developing, together with the hoped-for relaxation of covid restrictions will lead to the avoidance of delay and upset currently experienced by some families.

12. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 10th JANUARY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 10th January 2022.

13. **CENTENARY COMMEMORATION 2019-2023 STEERING COMMITTEE – 11th JANUARY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Centenary Commemoration 2019-2023 Steering Committee from its meeting held, 11th January 2022.

13.1 **CORRESPONDENCE**

13.1.1 **2022 DECADE OF CENTENARIES PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and noted correspondence received from Minister Catherine Martin, T.D., Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in relation to the 2022 Decade of Centenaries Programme – Funding Allocations for Local Authorities.

An Chomhairle further noted Cork City Council's 2022 Decade of Centenaries Programme.

13.2 **COMMEMORATION FUND UPDATE**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 11th January 2022 on the Commemoration Fund Update.

14. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th JANUARY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th January 2022.

15. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th JANUARY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th January 2022.

16. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th JANUARY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th January 2022.

17. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th JANUARY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th January 2022.

18. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th JANUARY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th January 2022.

19. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

20. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

None received.

21. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

An Chomhairle noted section 141 reports as follows:-

- Comhairleoir L. Bogue – National Sculpture Factory Q4 2021.

22. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

23. **TRAINING**

None received.

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

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Reports for November and December 2021.

25. **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.

26. **MOTIONS**

26.1 **CENTENARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ÓGLAIGH NA hÉIREANN**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council write to Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins, Minister for Defence, Simon Coveney and Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Seán Treacy to acknowledge the centenary of the establishment of Óglaigh na hÉireann (formerly known as the National Army) and to formally thank Óglaigh na hÉireann for its 100 years of service to the Irish State and its democratic institutions.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O'Callaghan 22/051)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir S. O'Callaghan, An Chomhairle approved the motion revised to read as follows:-

'That Cork City Council invite to Cork, Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins, Minister for Defence, Simon Coveney and the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, to acknowledge the centenary of the establishment of Óglaigh na hÉireann (formerly known as the National Army) and to formally thank Óglaigh na hÉireann for its 100 years of service to the Irish State and its democratic institutions.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O'Callaghan 22/051)

26.2 **CENTENARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN GARDA Síochána**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council write to Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee and Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to acknowledge the centenary of the establishment of An Garda Síochána (formerly known as the Civic Guard) and to formally thank An Garda Síochána for its 100 years of service to the Irish State and its democratic institutions.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O'Callaghan 22/052)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir S. O'Callaghan, An Chomhairle approved the motion revised to read as follows:-

‘That Cork City Council invite to Cork, Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee and Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to acknowledge the centenary of the establishment of An Garda Síochána (formerly known as the Civic Guard) and to formally thank An Garda Síochána for its 100 years of service to the Irish State and its democratic institutions.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 22/052)

26.3 **EDUCATE TOGETHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, ROCHESTOWN/DOUGLAS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That this Council call on the Department of Education to explain the appalling delay in delivering the much needed Educate Together Secondary School for Rochestown/Douglas and confirm exactly when the planning application will be submitted for same.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Forde 22/055)

26.4 **LEGISLATION FOR VIOLENT OFFENCES AGAINST WOMEN**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee to ask that the government, as part of its new national strategy on gender based and sexual violence, consider introducing legislation, which would provide minimum sentencing for offences involving violence and sexual violence against women (including murder) and which would increase the maximum sentence for assault causing harm from 5 years to 10 years.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 22/056)

26.5 **UPGRADE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AT DUNKETTLE/BALLINGLANNA**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘Could I ask Cork City Council please to write/contact Irish Water requesting a water infrastructural upgrade in the Dunkettle/Ballinglanna area. Water supply is not an issue but with the increase of new house builds and more to follow in this area the water pipes are too small to meet the demand and the diameter of these pipes needs to be increased significantly.’

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Keohane 22/078)

26.6 **INCOME INEQUALITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That this Council calls on the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to take account of the problem of income inequality within the Irish public and private sector. In the US the Dodd Frank Financial Reform (2010) sought to require companies to annually publish the ratio between the compensation of their top executives and their median pay rate. The free movement of people within the European Union and the competitive nature of employment markets make it difficult to regulate this area.

Ireland needs to seek to have widening income inequality arrested. Essential workers are often those on low pay therefore a pay ratio needs to be imbedded in wage negotiation within firms. These measures should be promoted Europewide with the understanding that widening inequality of pay levels is destabilizing to democratic states.’

(Proposers: Cllr. C. Finn, Cllr. D. Boyle 22/100)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir M. Nugent to address An Chomhairle in relation to the following motion:-

FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR THE NORTHSIDE

‘That Cork City Council address the imbalance in funding allocations for the Northside and Southside of the City in terms of the following:

Urban Regeneration & Development Fund

Sustainable Transport Funding

TII Grant Allocation for National Roads

Active Travel 2022 Scheme

Council to ensure it examines the significant opportunities on the Northside of the City for such funding schemes which can unlock the potential identified in the Draft City Development Plan.’

‘Go rachaidh Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí i ngleic leis an éagothroime maoinithe do Thuaisceart agus Deisceart na Cathrach i dtaobh;

Ciste Athnuachan agus Forbairt Uirbeach

Maoiniú d'Iompar Inbhuanaithe

Cionnroint Deontas BIÉ do Bhóithre Náisiúnta

Scéim Taisteal Gníomhach 2022

Go gcintíonn an Chomhairle go scrúdóidh sí na deiseanna suntasacha i dtuaisceart na Cathrach do na scéimeanna maoinithe sin a nochtfaidh an poitéinseal a d'aithin Dréachtphlean Forbairt na Cathrach.’

(Proposers: Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. K. Collins 22/092)

Following discussion, An Chomhairle noted the motion has been referred to the Finance & Estimates Committee meeting of 7th March 2022, the minutes of which will be on the agenda, for consideration at the Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle to be held, 14th March 2022.

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH