

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9th DECEMBER 2024

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir D. Boyle.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí S. O'Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Kerins, P. Dineen.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, G. Kelleher, C. Kelleher, J. Lynch, L. Harmon, A. Deasy, T. Coleman.
ALSO PRESENT	Mr. V. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive. Mr. B. Geaney, Assistant Chief Executive. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Local Area Development and Operations. Mr. N. Ó Donnabháin, Director of Services, Planning & Integrated Development. Ms. A. O'Rourke, Director of Services, Housing. Ms. R. Loughry, Director of Services, Corporate & Community Affairs. Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer. Ms. N. Stewart, Meetings Administrator. Ms. V. Keating, Staff Officer, Corporate & Community Affairs.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The O'Callaghan family on the death of Vanessa O'Callaghan.
- The O'Brien family on the death of Michael O'Brien.
- The Cronin family on the death of Michael Cronin.
- The O'Sullivan family on the death of Pat O'Sullivan.
- The Goodwillie family on the death of John Goodwillie.
- The Doherty family on the death of Thomas Doherty.
- The Reynolds family on the death of Paul Reynolds.
- The Crowley family on the death of Theresa Crowley.
- The Newman family on the death of Frances Newman.
- The O'Flynn family on the death of Helen O'Flynn.
- The McLoughlin family on the death of Mary McLoughlin.
- The Breen family on the death of Ned Breen.
- The Crowley family on the death of John Crowley.
- The Dorney family on the death of Catherine Dorney.

- The Mulcahy family on the death of Peggy Mulcahy.
- The Meehan family on the death of Anna Meehan.
- The O’Callaghan family on the death of Augustine (Gussy) O’Callaghan.
- The Kelly family on the death of Tom Kelly.
- The Burke family on the death of Edward Burke.

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

- Sarsfields GAA on becoming Munster Senior Hurling Champions.
- Russell Rovers on becoming Munster Junior Hurling Champions.
- Kilmurry GAA on becoming Munster Junior Football Champions.
- Watergrasshill GAA on becoming Munster Intermediate Hurling Champions.
- St. Michael’s LGFC on becoming Minor County Champions.
- Visit Cork on the holding of the Cork Ambassador Awards.
- Eoghan Kenny T.D. on his election as a T.D. for Cork North-Central.

3. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**

3.1 **OUTGOING COUNCILLORS**

An tArdmhéara congratulated Deputies Pádraig Rice and Kenneth O’Flynn on their election to Dáil Éireann and invited them to enter the Council Chamber and speak from their former seats.

3.2 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR MARTIN HARVEY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception for Martin Harvey to mark his retirement as Returning Officer for Cork City after 35 years.

3.3 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR CORK COUNTY BOARD PITCH AND PUTT CLUB**

An tArdmhéara reminded An Chomhairle that a Civic Reception would take place for Cork County Board Pitch and Putt Club on Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 6pm.

3.4 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR BALLINCOLLIG TIDY TOWNS**

An tArdmhéara reminded An Chomhairle that a Civic Reception would take place for Ballincollig Tidy Towns on Tuesday 17th December 2024 at 6pm.

3.5 **SPECIAL MEETING OF AN CHOMHAIRLE**

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle that a Special Meeting of An Chomhairle would take place on Tuesday 17th December 2024 at 4pm to co-opt two new members to Council.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle that notification had been received from Comhairleoir M. Gould of her intention to suspend standing orders, and called on Comhairleoir M. Gould to read her motion:-

‘That Cork City Council:

- holds the family and friends of Vanessa O’Callaghan in our thoughts this evening
- requests the Chief Executive utilise all powers available to her to open a temporary facility for those sleeping rough to access basic needs - somewhere to eat, charge phones and shower over the Christmas period
- agrees to name this facility in honour of Vanessa as requested by her family
- begins long-term planning for improved homeless services recognising the complexity of rough sleeping
- calls for a more visible Garda presence to prevent attacks on the most vulnerable.’

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Gould, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders to take the motion at the meeting, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, O. Moran, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, K. McCarthy, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, D. Boyle, J. Lynch, L. Harmon, A. Deasy. (14)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, T. Shannon, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Dennehy, G. Kelleher, C. Kelleher, T. Coleman. (13)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting in favour of the proposal to suspend standing orders did not meet the 2/3 majority required in accordance with standing orders, An tArdmhéara declared the proposal defeated.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S ITEMS**

None received.

5. **MINUTES**

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

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 11th November 2024.

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **SOUTH PARISH**

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

I ask that you would provide clarity on the following.

- 1, Clarify the boundary of the South Parish.
- 2, Clarify how many parking spaces have been removed from within the South Parish in the past 10 years
- 3, With regard to the loss of many parking spaces and with a future plan to remove more much needed parking spaces in the South Parish may I ask as to what has happened to, and where are the locations of the parking spaces that were paid for by way of contributions via the planning process. In particular once again to the 3 planning applications that were granted and are mentioned below.

1, Planning permission ref. T.P. 00/24158 Schedule of conditions Part 9F Contribution: £11,502.00 for the provision of car parking spaces.

[Reason for condition] "Adequate and sufficient car parking cannot be provided within the site curtilage. This contribution is to a fund for the provision by Cork City Council of car parking facilities adjacent to the City Centre. The proposed car parking areas will facilitate the proposed development"

2, Planning permission ref. T.P. 02/26527 Schedule of conditions Part 11 G Contribution: €19,778.00 for the provision of car parking spaces.

[Reason for condition] "Adequate and sufficient car parking cannot be provided within the site curtilage. This contribution is to a fund for the provision by Cork City Council of car parking facilities adjacent to the City Centre. The proposed car parking areas will facilitate the proposed development"

3, Planning permission ref. T.P. 9519625 Schedule of conditions Part 8 Contribution: £2304.00 for the provision of 2 car parking spaces. "Prior to commencement of development the developer must make a contribution to Cork Corporation towards the cost of works viz provision of 2 No carparking space facilitating the proposed development. The present value of the contribution is £2304. The amount payable will be determined by the Consumer Price Index prevailing at the date of payment"

[Reason for condition] "Adequate and efficient car parking cannot be provided within the site curtilage. This contribution is to a fund for the provision by the corporation of car parking facilities adjacent to the City Centre. The proposed car parking areas will facilitate the proposed development"

REPLY

The Operations Directorate manages parking on a street basis and does not use parish boundaries. As such, the Directorate does not have data on the changes to parking spaces in the area referenced in the question.

I can confirm that Development Contributions were levied and paid on planning permission ref nos. TP 00/24158, TP 02/26527 & TP 95/19625. As Cork City Council is not required to keep financial records for more than 7 years (less in some cases), it is not possible to state definitively where funds were allocated 24 - 29 years ago. At the time in question the forementioned contributions would have been used to provide

and/ or maintain a variety of parking options e.g., in the immediate vicinity of the area referred to Cork City Council operated a surface car park, White Street car park, and that facility would have received funding for facility enhancements – resurfacing, relining & resigning, upgrade to facility payment by park by phone etc; development of Black Ash Park & Ride to facilitate visitors and shoppers coming into the city centre and removing the potential for such vehicles parking in areas adjacent to the city centre, creation of disabled parking bays, relining parking spaces, etc.

It is national policy, supported by Cork City Council City Development Plan, to encourage active travel and sustainable transport and many projects to support same, costing millions of Euro, have been funded nationally and delivered by Cork City Council over the last number of years. The impact of such policy and schemes is deliberately and actively to reduce road space for cars and provide more road space for sustainable transport modes. This national policy, supported by local implementation, does and will continue to impact on parking spaces as sustainable transport is prioritised.

Paul Moynihan,
Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.2 **GARAGES AT PATRICK O'DONOGHUE PLACE**

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

What is holding up the rental of these units to the residents as agreed?

REPLY

Cork City Council issued Licence Agreements in relation to the garages to the legal representatives of 5 residents of Patrick O'Donoghue Place earlier this year. The rental process can conclude on the return of the completed Licence Agreements to Cork City Council.

Alison O'Rourke,
Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.3 **REPAIR AND LEASE SCHEME – BUY AND RENEW SCHEME**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the number of applications received, approved and disallowed by Cork City Council for the year 2023, 2024 year to date under the repair and lease scheme, the buy and renew scheme; the types of properties involved (apartment, detached, bungalow etc) the amount paid under each scheme to date, and the length of turnaround time on average, in tabular form.

REPLY

The Repair & Lease and Buy & Renew Schemes are two mechanisms utilised by the Housing Directorate as part of its delivery programme.

Repair and Lease Scheme

The Repair and Lease projects provide for a mix of unit types from traditional houses to apartments. The approved projects under construction, formerly derelict properties, will provide 18 apartments in 2025. Refurbishment costs in respect of Repair and Lease units is capped at €80,000 per unit, with total expenditure to date in respect of projects referenced below at €640,000.

Cork City Council's target for the delivery of Repair and Lease properties under Housing for All, is a total of 48 homes, with 14 completed to date, and a further 27 currently within various stages of our programme.

The following table briefly outlines detail on the number of applications received, approved for Repair & Lease projects for the programme years of 2023 & 2024, as requested.

RLS Programme Year	Proposals	Approvals	Projects Proceeding	Nr. of Homes	Alternative Delivery (AHB Deliver)
2023	3	2	2	4	1
2024	9	9	1	16	8

Cork City Council partners closely with the AHB Sector for the delivery of Repair and Lease properties, which has been successful to date, hence the above additional column to demonstrate partnership projects with the sector.

Buy & Renew Scheme

A total of five properties, 1 nr. 3 bedroom terraced & 4 nr. 3 bedroom semi-detached, were acquired utilising the Buy & Renew Scheme and incorporated into the housing delivery programme at a cost of €938,875. Refurbishment of one of those properties is complete with a turn-around time of 23 weeks and a cost of €45,051. The balance of properties which required more substantial refurbishment works are under construction and scheduled for delivery in Q1, 2025.

The Housing Directorate considers both the Repair and Lease, and Buy and Renew Schemes, to be successful to date, both in terms of expanding the delivery programme, but also as a successful intervention around dereliction and vacancy, and this programme is expected to expand further in 2025 and 2026.

Alison O'Rourke,
Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.4 **HOUSING STOCK RETROFITTED 2003 & 2024**

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

To ask the Council the number of Council Housing stock retrofitted in 2023 and 2024 year to date, the amount spent on such retrofitting and the energy savings made in that time and the timeline for full housing stock retrofit?

REPLY

Cork City Council's social housing retrofit program aims to ensure that all included housing stock has an energy rating of B2 or better. If a B2 energy rating cannot be achieved, then the cost optimal equivalent as defined by the building regulations must be achieved.

In 2023, Cork City Council retrofitted 53 homes at a cost of €2,056,120. The rated energy savings are 30,869,269 kilowatt hours/year.

In 2024, Cork City Council retrofitted 123 homes at a cost of €5,248,656, which is in excess of the target set for Cork City Council for 2024 of 116 homes by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. The rated energy savings achieved are 180,802,791 kilowatt hours per year.

Looking forward to 2025, the social housing retrofit programme has a projected pipeline of 290 properties which will be progressed in line with available funding.

Cork City Council therefore continues to expand its social housing retrofit programme on an annual basis.

Alison O'Rourke,
Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.5 **AGE FRIENDLY "TAKE A SEAT" INITIATIVE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for progress on the Age Friendly "Take a Seat" initiative and its incorporate of the "Leeside Leithreas Scheme?"

REPLY

Cork City Council in cooperation with the Age Friendly Alliance & Forum will be publishing an Action Plan for the Cork City Age Friendly Programme in the first quarter of 2025. Both the 'Take a Seat' and 'Leeside Leithreas' Schemes will be incorporated into the Cork Age Friendly implementation plans for 2025 as part of the Age Friendly Business Training offering.

Age Friendly Business Training has been rolled out to businesses in association with the Cork City Local Enterprise Office. The new draft Action Plan proposes an increased offering of business training in 2025. This training will be free of charge to the Cork business communities in conjunction with our Age Friendly Alliance partners, Cork City Local Enterprise Office, Cork Business Association and Cork Chamber.

Rebecca Loughry,
Director of Services,
Corporate & Community Affairs.

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the Chief Executive, dated 28th November 2024 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of land (737.5m² approximately) located at The Marina, Cork to the Trustees of Lee Rowing Club, c/o John O’Lee & Co. Solicitors, 30/31 South Mall, Cork by way of a supplementary sporting lease, to run concurrent with the existing principal lease.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

2. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of ground (86.85m² approximately) located at Hollyhill Lane, Hollyhill, Knocknaheeny, Cork to Margaret & Thomas Egan, c/o Martin A. Harvey & Co. Solicitors, Parliament House, 9, Georges Quay, Cork for a nominal fee of €1.00.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, seconded by Comhairleoir K. Collins, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

3. Disposal of Unit No. 12 and Units Nos. 13-19, Princes Street Market, Cork, to Starlow Limited (trading as Farmgate Café) c/o J. W. O’Donovan LLP Solicitors, No. 53, South Mall, Cork, by way of lease for a term of 21 years from the 1st January 2024 at an annual rent of €15.80 per square foot plus rates and service charges.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir O. Moran, seconded by Comhairleoir M.R. Desmond, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

7.2 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: O’CONNELL COURT, DOUHCLOYNE, LEHENAGHMORE, TOGHER, CORK - OAKDENE HOUSE CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing Delivery & Regeneration, dated 18th November, 2024 in relation to a loan facility for Oakdene House CLG in respect of the provision of 90 one bed units of

accommodation and additional communal facilities at O'Connell Court, Doughcloyne, Lehenaghmore, Togher, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir F. Dennehy, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Lynch, 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 €28,607,000 be granted to Oakdene House CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of 90 one bed units of accommodation at O'Connell Court, Doughcloyne, Lehenaghmore, Togher, Cork.”

7.3 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT FARRANLEA ROAD**

In accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, An Chomhairle considered the proposed residential development at Farranlea Road, in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive thereon as required under Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, dated 10th November 2024.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir A. Deasy, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Dineen, a vote was called for on the approval of the proposed residential development, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, S. O'Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, D. Boyle, F. Dennehy, G. Kelleher, C. Kelleher, J. Lynch, L. Harmon, T. Coleman. (26)

AGAINST: Comhairleoir A. Deasy. (1)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried, and the proposed residential development approved.

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

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development at Farranlea Road, in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive, 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 development at Farranlea Road, in the City of Cork be carried out as recommended in the said report of the Chief Executive, Cork City Council, which was put before Council on the 9th December 2024.”

7.4 **EXTERNAL NOMINATIONS TO STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir P. Horgan, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Public Participation Network's and Cork Business Association's nominations to Cork City Council's Strategic Policy Committees.

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 2nd DECEMBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 2nd December 2024.

8.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31/10/2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 31/10/2024.

8.2 **CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2029**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. Kelleher, seconded by Comhairleoir H. Kamegni, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report, dated 28th November 2024, in relation to the preparation of a draft Corporate Plan for the period 2024-2029.

8.3 **MOTIONS**

8.3.1 **TWO-TIER PAY FOR SCHOOL WARDENS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 28th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council expresses its total opposition to two-tier pay for school wardens.

Council believes that school wardens working in areas that used to be part of the Cork County Council jurisdiction should receive the same rate of pay as that currently paid to school wardens employed in areas that were part of the Cork City Council jurisdiction before the 2019 merger.’

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy 24/567)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the matters referred to have been the subject of ongoing discussions and negotiations between the Council and SIPTU which is the trade union that represents the School Warden grade. This is the appropriate forum for these matters to be resolved and the Council is confident that these discussions will yield a satisfactory outcome in the near future.

8.3.2 **DIRECTLY-ELECTED LORD MAYOR OF CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 29th August 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That the Corporate Policy Group will recommend to Cork City Council to provide by law for a directly-elected Lord Mayor of Cork in accordance with Section 47 of the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 24/379)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the legal provisions relating to the holding of plebiscites on the direct election of mayors are set out in Part 6 of the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024 (<https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2024/act/7/enacted/en/print#part6>). Pursuant to the provisions of Section 47(1)(a)(i) of the Act, the Corporate Policy Group may submit a report to An Comhairle recommending a proposal to provide by law for a directly elected Lord Mayor for Cork City. While there is no prescriptive template for such report, it would require to set out the cost of holding the plebiscite and the revenue costs of running the Office of a Directly Elected Lord Mayor. These costs would need to be borne by Cork City Council. The cost of holding a plebiscite as a “stand-alone” electoral event would be substantial and would need to be provided for through the Council’s budgetary process. For the information of Members, I attach herewith correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to the role, functions and responsibilities of the Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick as well as the structural changes brought about by the creation of the Office. These matters would be relevant in the drafting of a proposal under the Act. Finally, Members are advised that the following motion was approved by An Comhairle at its meeting held on 13th May, 2024: ‘That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Local Government, in light of legislation having been enacted in relation to the position of directly elected mayors, to ask that a second plebiscite for a directly elected mayor of Cork City be held during the next Council term.’ The Meetings Administrator subsequently wrote to Minister Darragh O’Brien advising him of the Council’s approval of the motion and an acknowledgement of same has been received from the Minister’s Office.

9. **PARTY WHIPS – 25th NOVEMBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 25th November 2024.

9.1 **MEETING SCHEDULE 2025**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. Collins, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed Meeting Schedule for 2025.

10. **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & TOURISM STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - CAIDREAMH IDIRNÁISIÚNTA & TURASÓIREACHT – 18th NOVEMBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the International Relations & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 18th November 2024.

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

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs and International Relations, dated 12th November 2024 on recent activities in International Relations.

10.2 **REPORT ON RECENT ACTIVITIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN TWINNED CITIES**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs and International Relations, dated 12th November 2024 on recent activities in International Relations in twinned cities.

10.3 **REPORT ON RECENT VISIT TO SHANGHAI AND SHENZHEN**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs and International Relations, dated 12th November 2024 on the recent visit to Shanghai and Shenzhen.

11. **ENVIRONMENT, WATER & AMENITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - COMHSHAOL, UISCE & ÁISEANNA – 19th NOVEMBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 19th November 2024.

11.1 **DEDICATED DOG PARKS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the presentation on Dedicated Dog Parks.

11.2 **MOTIONS**

11.2.1 **DEDICATED DOG PARKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council consider introducing dedicated dog parks across various locations in our city. Dog parks have proven to be beneficial not only for our furry companions but also for the city and its residents. Here are some key advantages of having dog parks in Cork City:

1. ****Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership:**** Dog parks provide a safe and controlled environment for dogs to play and socialize. This encourages responsible pet ownership and helps in fostering better-behaved canine companions in our community.

2. ****Enhancing Community Engagement:**** Dog parks serve as gathering spots for dog owners, creating a sense of community and fostering social connections among residents. This can lead to a stronger and more tightly-knit local community.

3. ****Improving Health and Well-being:**** Regular visits to dog parks offer both dogs and their owners opportunities for exercise and physical activity. This can contribute to improved health outcomes, including reduced stress levels, lower blood pressure, and increased overall well-being.
4. ****Boosting Local Economy:**** The presence of dog parks can attract more visitors, both local and tourists, to certain areas of the city. This increased foot traffic can benefit local businesses, such as pet stores, groomers, and cafes located near the parks.
5. ****Preserving Green Spaces:**** By designating specific areas as dog parks, we can help protect other public spaces, such as playgrounds and recreational areas, from potential damage caused by off-leash dogs. This contributes to the conservation of our city's green spaces for everyone to enjoy.

In light of these benefits, I strongly believe that the introduction of dog parks in Cork City would be a valuable addition to our community. I respectfully urge the Council to consider this proposal and work towards creating more inclusive and pet-friendly spaces for all residents to enjoy.'

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O'Flynn 24/163)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council is currently constructing a pilot Dog Park in the Regional Park, Ballincollig, which will be operational in the next week. The Park will be monitored as regards usage / any issues that may arise and its effectiveness reviewed over the next year prior to any decision to provide an additional Park.

11.2.2 **LOCATION FOR A TRAINING TRACK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council work with the various athletic clubs in the city to help identify a location for a training track (running) that would accommodate the needs of track and field athletes. They could obtain a lease and then source funding from National Government.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 24/215)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Cork City Council has met with representatives of the athletics clubs in the city with a view to identifying location and potential delivery and operational models for a running track in the city. Cork City Council will continue to work with this group to support the delivery of such facilities in a viable and sustainable manner, to the benefit of sports and health in the city.

11.2.3 **NOTIFICATION OF BROKEN OR DAMAGED UTILITY COVER APRONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council will create a one stop shop email for the public, separate to the service centre system, for the notification of broken or damaged utility cover aprons that can then be directly sent to the utility provider in question.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 24/373)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a one stop shop already exists for the submission of all service requests to Cork City Council. Service request can be submitted via any of the following channels:

- 1) By ringing the Customer Service Unit (CSU) on 021 492 4000
- 2) By emailing the CSU – servicecentre@corkcity.ie
- 3) Via our website – Service Requests tab on the homepage

All submissions received are logged on our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) ICT System. All received requests are assigned to the relevant staff member, who will investigate and take action as appropriate, including contacting the relevant service provider.

The creation of duplicated separate and individual systems for different types of service requests, which would require both human and financial resources to support, manage and operate on an ongoing basis, cannot be justified and could be significant. There is no evidence that the existing systems are not providing a high level of service or that a new separate system would in any way improve service levels.

Thus, the best level of service to the public is provided via a unified single service request ICT system.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir P. Horgan, seconded by Comhairleoir O. Moran, An Chomhairle further agreed to refer the motion back to the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee for further discussion.

11.2.4 **PLAYGROUND SHADES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council will examine and trial the use of playground shades to allow play in playgrounds shielded from sun and rain and that trials will be carried out for this autumn to allow further use of playgrounds year round.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 24/374)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the provision of playground shades will need to be thoroughly researched and reviewed before any commitment is given to trial sunshades in Cork City Council's playgrounds.

This review will need to include associated costings, possibility of retrofitting in existing playgrounds – structural integrity of these units, construction materials, are they currently being used in other local authorities in Ireland and have they been a success or failure, and how vandal resistant they may be e.g. fires and wanton destruction etc.

Also of concern also would be the risk of such structures providing sheltered areas at nighttime for unsocial gatherings that would impact negatively on nearby residents and on the safety of the play equipment.

It should be noted that playgrounds in Cork City Council Parks are available for use all year round and at presently are actively used every month of the year.

Should specific funding be provided in the 2025 budget to fund the above review, same can be undertaken with a view to having the report completed by the end of 2025.

11.2.5 **NEW SYSTEM OF DEEP CLEANING CORK CITY CENTRE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council introduce a new system whereby Cork City Centre is deep cleaned much more often and at regular intervals.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 24/383)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council currently operates a cleaning service in the city centre utilising a street scrubber and power washer unit, both units operate daily in the City Centre area. Cork City Council also carries out a deep cleaning programme each spring which involves contractors working through the night cleaning pavements in the City Centre area. In addition to the above, we have recently been granted approval for the purchase of a new specialised power washing unit with 2 new staff which we expect to be operational in February 2025.

The Cleansing Section is constantly exploring new systems and new ways of optimising their staff and equipment to carry out more deep cleaning within available resources and cleansing staff have been in contact with other local authorities looking at alternative options.

11.2.6 **CORK LIDO**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council supports the work underway to bring a Cork Lido to fruition, which would bring many benefits to Cork City in relation to health, tourism, community and local businesses. This Council will work to identify suitable funding from all avenues for this open air swimming facility including necessary state funds to create it.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Harmon 24/389)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council has provided support for a voluntary group to conduct a location analysis for a LIDO in Cork City. In addition, Cork City Council has worked with Swim Ireland to model the need for swimming facilities (indoor and outdoor) in the city as a pilot for the country. Sites are being appraised for the provision of swimming facilities, after which business plans etc will be prepared.

This process will take time, and the members of Cork City Council will be kept informed. Cork City Council would be glad to meet with the LIDO group to review this proposition further.

11.2.7 **DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDOOR RUNNING TRACK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘In light of the remarkable achievements of Irish athletes on the global stage, particularly at the recent Olympics, and acknowledging the ongoing need to nurture and develop new and emerging talent within our city and beyond, I propose that Cork City Council formally supports the development of an indoor running track to serve the athletics community in the Cork area.

Rationale:

1. **National and Local Athletic Success:** The success of Irish athletes, including those hailing from Cork and Munster, has shone a spotlight on the importance of providing world-class training facilities. To build on this success and ensure future generations have the opportunity to excel, we must invest in the necessary infrastructure.
2. **Current Facility Deficit:** Despite the strong tradition of athletics in Cork, there is a glaring lack of sufficient indoor facilities to support athletes, particularly during the winter months. This deficit puts our local talent at a disadvantage compared to athletes in other regions who have access to indoor tracks.

3. **Fostering New Talent:** An indoor running track would not only benefit elite athletes but also provide a vital resource for schools, clubs, and community groups across Cork. It would enable year-round training, foster grassroots participation, and help identify and develop the next generation of Irish sports stars.
4. **Health and Wellbeing:** Beyond the competitive aspect, such a facility would contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of our citizens by promoting physical activity in a safe and accessible environment.

Conclusion:

Given the clear benefits to our community and the potential to enhance Cork's reputation as a hub for sporting excellence, I ask that Cork City Council:

1. **Endorse the proposal** for the development of an indoor running track.
2. **Seek out potential partnerships** and funding opportunities at the local, national, and EU levels to bring this project to fruition.
3. **Initiate a feasibility study** to identify the most suitable location and scope for this facility within Cork City.

By supporting this motion, we can take a significant step towards ensuring that Cork continues to produce top-tier athletes and remains a leader in sports development.

I respectfully request that this motion be considered and supported by the members of Cork City Council, with a view to taking actionable steps towards the development of this much-needed facility.'

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boylan 24/410)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a meeting took place between the Athletic Association of Ireland Cork County Board and officials from Cork City Council (Economic Development, Operations and CCP) to discuss the potential development of an athletics track in Cork City. It was agreed, following this meeting, that Cork City Council would fund the Athletics Board to hire consultants to undertake a feasibility study on this project. It is envisaged that this study will take 16 weeks to complete.

11.2.8 **WATER STATION POLICY FOR PARKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council would progress the implementation of their water station policy for parks and expedite the roll out of water stations in parks and locations throughout the city. With Cork's healthy city status and more citizens using our parks it is imperative that we provide water stations.'

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Sheehan 24/431)

The report of the Director of Services stated that in the past few years, the City Council has installed 7 drinking water fountains across the following Parks:

- 1) The Regional Park in Ballincollig
- 2) The Community Park in Douglas
- 3) Tramore Valley Park
- 4) Meelick Park
- 5) Fitzgerald's Park x 2
- 6) Bishopstown Park (Murphys Farm).

We intend expanding the roll out further next year, subject to resources, installations varying from €4,500 to €7,000 depending on the civil works necessary to get a connection. Each new connection requires Uisce Eireann consent which could take a few months.

However, it is not possible to have fountains in each park, the costs associated with making a connection to a water supply being prohibitively expensive. This has proved to be the case in Gerry O Sullivan Park, Pophams Park, Clashduv Park and the Glen River Park following site assessments.

11.2.9 **PUBLIC TOILET SIGNAGE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will provide additional street signage to highlight the location of the public toilets on Grand Parade and other locations.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 24/446)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council's Drainage Dept. is currently progressing the provision of additional signage to highlight the location of the public toilets on Grand Parade and other locations.

11.2.10 **TENNIS COURTS IN PUBLIC PARKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council develop a plan to have tennis courts installed in all its public parks. The success of the upgraded tennis courts in Kempton Park in Ballyvolane needs to be replicated across the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 24/470)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council has been very supportive of the sport of tennis, leasing lands to Douglas Tennis Club, Bishopstown Tennis Club and Ballinlough Tennis Clubs which allowed clubs to establish in these locations. All clubs are operating successfully.

It also developed a suite of 5 outdoor tennis courts in Clashduv Park which are in good condition but underused, and 2 outdoor tennis courts in Meelick Park. The courts at Meelick Park have recently being resurfaced at a cost of €60,000, with the associated car park area costing €4,000k to resurface.

The approximate cost of providing two new tennis courts is €100,000. Most of our parks such as Gerry O Sullivan Park, Pophams Park, the Fairfield, Lough Mahon Park, Tory Top Park, Beaumont Park, Glenamoy Lawn Park etc are not suitable due to lack of space or topography.

Neither is there evidence that provision of additional courts could be justified in terms of usage and cost.

11.2.11 **DOLPHIN SWIMMING CLUB**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council work with Dolphin Swimming Club and help to secure a home for their 50m swimming pool in Cork City.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 24/471)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a meeting was held with Club officials and it is understood that very substantial capital costs would have to be incurred to bring this project to fruition with no indication of how this could be funded nor the ongoing substantial operating costs met.

As part of a National Swimming Pool Planning Model, the City Council is working with Swim Ireland and its consultants on an assessment of swimming pool provision in the Cork area. This study will guide the Council in any decision in relation to pools within the City in the medium term.

As such, the City Council is not in a position at present to make any commitment in relation to the project.

11.2.12 **ILLEGAL BONFIRES ON NON FIRE NIGHT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council presents a report on the number of green spaces destroyed by illegal bonfires on non fire night for the last four years and the costs involved over the

last four years and to look at preventative measures to protect these green spaces for 2025 availing of existing resources and community involvement.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 24/485)

The report of the Director of Services stated that generally there are approximately 37 illegal bonfires across the City around June 23rd of varying scale, most very modest, 19 in the North West, 10 in the North East, 5 in the South East and 4 in the South West. It should be noted that this is a considerable reduction on the amount of fires 10 years ago, where over 80 large fires would have been lit.

The Family Fun Night Project where the City Council and local community groups organise family fun activities in parks across the City on June 23rd has had a big impact on reducing the amount of fires and local children nowadays generally attend fun events in their local parks rather than attend unauthorised bonfires. Additional measures such as the Council arranging skips for clean ups in particular areas prior to the night has also helped, together with interventions where local community groups request assistance in arranging alternative activities on green areas on the night in question.

The Council is willing to support where possible, any request by a local resident’s group to work with them to help reduce the number of bonfires further.

Annual clean up costs are € 7500 approximately.

11.2.13 **SPOT FLOODING DURING SEVERE RAIN EVENTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will record and publish data of areas affected by spot flooding during severe rain events; that this data will be used to verify that storm drains in these areas are clear ahead of Orange Alerts for rainfall; and that documentation will be provided to residents in all areas on how to clear gullies.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 24/510)

The report of the Director of Services stated that spot flooding, especially when caused by pluvial events, can occur anywhere in the City. For example, the cloudburst event which took place on the 16th of October 2022 resulted in flooding in areas which, according to local residents who had lived there all of their life, had not flooded in the previous 50 years.

Cork City Council is aware of the locations of infrastructure e.g. trash screens, culverts and key gullies, which can cause problems during rainfall events if they are blocked and prioritises inspection of these locations in advance of any weather warnings.

The OPW provides information on past flood events on their website floodinfo.ie which is available for any member of the public who wishes to view same.

During extreme rainfall events there will be multiple locations where spot flooding can occur. Cork City Council prioritises our emergency response to these based on the prevailing weather conditions and the risk. Each weather event will require a different response depending on whether the main cause of flooding is tidal, pluvial or fluvial.

Cleaning of gullies is the responsibility of Cork City Council. While Cork City Council would welcome residents brushing leaves off the top of a gully, it would not be appropriate for us to instruct any further intervention due to potential health and safety risks. If a residents identifies a gully which is blocked (i.e. the gully pot is full to the top) same should be reported to the City Councils Customer Service Unit on 021-4924000 and a crew will attend to this location and address the matter.

11.2.14 **SLOW AND REDUCE RAINWATER FLOWS DURING SEVERE RAIN EVENTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 18th November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will assess areas for opportunities to re-green hard surfaces as a means to slow and reduce rainwater flows during severe rain events; that the Cork City Council Development Plan will require driveways to be constructed using rainwater permeable surfaces; and that standards for surface water attenuation, and capacity of storm drains, will be reviewed in light of increased severe rain events.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 24/511)

The report of the Director of Services stated that City Council is presently a partner in an EU project entitled GreenDense which is looking at piloting the greening of a limited number of paved locations across the City. Depending on the outcome of this project and the availability of future funding, it would be hoped to expand on this initiative in future years.

Paragraph 11.145 of the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out the requirements for residential entrances and parking in front gardens and requires hard surfaces for driveways to be permeable.

Cork City Council manages over 130 km of storm drains and an increasing number of Storm Water Attenuation tanks across the City area. There is also additional surface water infrastructure in the suburban areas around the City. Uisce Eireann also manage an extensive Combined Sewer Network which plays a key role in the management of surface water during weather events. Over the next number of years a review of the management of surface water will have to be undertaken with a view to identifying capital projects which could be implemented to address surface water flooding issues. While some interventions will be engineering in nature, there is also a key role which can be played by Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) and Natural Surface Water Management Infrastructure.

12. **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - POBAL, CULTÚR & COMHFHORBAIRT ÁITE – 21st NOVEMBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 21st November 2024.

12.1 **MOTIONS**

12.1.1 **COMMUNITY HALL IN CORK CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘My motion seeks to encourage the City Council to initiate plans and allocate resources for the construction of a community hall in Cork City. This facility will serve as a versatile space for community gatherings, social events, public meetings and other activities that enhance community engagement, inclusion and cohesion. Many residents, community groups, and organisations have expressed a need for a centralized space to host a variety of community-focused activities.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 24/460)

The report of the Director of Services stated that availability of suitable spaces for community groups of all kinds to gather, hold events, train, provide services and avail of office space is very much a live issue for Cork City Council. The Community team recognises, in particular, the dearth of availability of space for new communities as well as community groups who operate in the city centre.

‘Let’s Plan Together’, Cork City’s Local Economic and Community Plan has identified ‘A City of Safe Accessible & Resilient Neighbourhoods’ as a High-Level Goal within the plan, which constitutes the key policy document for our community and social inclusion work across the city.

The actions underneath this goal speak to the recognised need to understand the space, groups and needs across our city’s communities.

Action 5.3.2 states:

‘Cork City Council will lead on a city-wide assessment of community infrastructure, assets, spaces and needs to inform planning and resource allocation in the sector.’

In line with the broader implementation of the LECP, it is anticipated that an initial assessment will come in 2025. This component goes hand in hand with ongoing collaboration between Community and Planning Policy when assessing the potential for community spaces to be incorporated into proposed developments.

12.1.2 **LGBTQ+ GROUPS IN CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council is proud of the work that LGBTQ+ groups in Cork continue to do in our city. This Council stands opposed to all forms of homophobia, transphobia and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Harmon 24/390)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council have been to the fore in terms of innovation, leadership and initiatives related to social inclusion, advocacy and leading the way on equality for all. Some key milestones include:

- 2002: The Cork City LGBTI+ Interagency was established. Since then, we have been delivering the annual LGBTI+ Awareness Week in collaboration with a range of NGOs and semi-state members of the LGBTI+ Inter-Agency. We are the only Local Authority in Ireland to run an annual LGBTI+ Awareness Week.
- 2006: Cork City’s first Pride parade was held. It has grown year on year to what is now a week-long festival of events. Cork City Council is one of the funders of this event.
- 2012 Cork City Council became the first Local Authority in the State to officially support marriage equality, after it unanimously passed a motion to support same.
- 2014: Cork City Hall was the first Civic building in Ireland to fly the Rainbow Flag.
- 2020: Cork City is the first and only city on the island of Ireland to have become a member of the International Rainbow Cities Network (RCN), who pledge to protect and enhance LGBTI+ rights and inclusion across municipalities.
- 2022: Cork City Council was the first local authority in Ireland to install a Rainbow Balustrade at the entrance to Cork City Hall. In the same year, we worked with the LGBTI+ Interagency and Cork Pride to install two Rainbow Crossings on Patrick Street.
- Cork City Council has ongoing work with our sister San Francisco in relation to Rainbow City initiatives and supports.
- 2023: Cork City hosted the RCN EU for Citizens Policy Conference. This led to the publication of the RCN LGBTIQ Good Practice Guidelines for cities. Cork was one of 20 European Cities participating in this policy working group over two years of development.
- In July 2023, Cork City delegates were invited by our sister city Cologne to participate in their annual Pride Festival.

This work will continue to grow and re-enforce equality and rights as laid out broadly in the new Local Economic & Community Plan actions across a range of communities. Specific to the LGBTI+ Community is action 2.3.3 outlined below to deliver on the progressive approach to creating a safe, warm and welcoming city for all but in this instance our LGBTI+ Community.

Action 2.3.3: Support the LGBTI+ community in Cork city through its strong and robust community and voluntary organisations and encourage policy development

from a rights-based perspective across agencies. To lead on and encourage an all-island approach to Irish cities membership of the Rainbow Cities Network.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. Collins, seconded by Comhairleoir C. Kelleher, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to continue the meeting past 8pm.

12.1.3 **SPACES AND PROGRAMMES FOR OLDER CITIZENS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘To request that Cork City Council take the lead in looking after our older residents by setting up a proper support system that encourages socialisation, prevents loneliness and isolation, and provides the help needed where it's lacking. Cork City has a growing number of older residents who often face challenges like feeling isolated, not having enough to do, and not getting the support they need. As a Council that cares about all its people, it's time we did something about it by creating spaces and programmes that make life better for our older citizens.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boylan 24/411)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork has been a designated a WHO Age Friendly City since 2019.

The Cork City Age Friendly structures ensure that we the support, connect and promote older people in our city.

Cork City is part of Age Friendly Ireland which is a National Shared Service which supports communities to prepare for the rapid ageing of our population by addressing environmental, economic and social factors that influence the health and well-being of our older adults.

The Age Friendly approach ensures that we broaden the view of ageing beyond health valuing older people as contributors to our city.

Our existing structures in Cork city are:

- **Age Friendly Alliance** a high-level cross-sector strategic group, chaired by the Chief Executive, whose member agencies include an Garda Síochána, the HSE, Irish Rail, Bus Éireann, Education partners, Libraries and the business sector.
- **Age Friendly Forum** is the older persons council currently consisting of four elected representatives providing a voice to older people at alliance level, co-designing solutions and initiatives to serve our older communities.

- **Age Friendly Programme Coordinator** works with the Alliance, Forum and additional strategic partners to develop and implement an Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plans, supporting initiatives that respond to priorities raised at local level.
- **Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator** undertakes individual home visits to older people living in the Cork city and assesses their needs to assist ageing in place. Over 80 home visits have been completed in Cork city since the introduction of this service.
- **Age Friendly Interdepartmental Group** is a cross-directorate group who works collaboratively to ensure that the age friendly agenda is considered and incorporated into all aspects of local government service delivery.
- **Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisor** provides specialist housing advice to the authority itself, to private sector organisations interested in providing age friendly housing and to the general public

Current Activities

Age Friendly Seating delivered in conjunction with City Architects, Roads & Engineering has been installed in 5 areas across Cork City.

Age Friendly Business Training has been rolled out to businesses in association with the Cork City Local Enterprise Office. (2 sessions in 2023)

Walkability Studies take place annually in association with the Access Group, 'Make Way Day' and Cork City Council.

Age Friendly Stadium: Progress is underway on securing Age Friendly designation for Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

Supporting and signposting to all services supporting older people including **Friendly Call, Library Link and Befriending Services.**

Delivery of **Cultural Companions / Age Friendly** event targeting older men funded by Healthy Ireland and Age Friendly 'Meet Jimmy Barry Murphy'

Signposting towards 'meals on wheels' services through the community work dept, HSE.

Working on the development of an **Age Friendly Strategy** which will be open for public consultation shortly, this follows a series of consultations with older people facilitated by UCC to inform the themes.

All of our **Cork City Libraries have Age Friendly designation**, and each has an Age Friendly Champion who works with older people to co-design and continuously improve their services hosting activities, groups and initiatives across all sites daily.

Community Newsletter: The Cork City Age Friendly Programme City Database is used to reach out weekly to 500+ subscribers with both electronic and printed updates on practical initiatives, local and national as appropriate.

This month Cork City Council has been shortlisted for two National Awards related to Age Friendly:

- (a) **Cork Age Friendly Conversations** project has been shortlisted in the annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.
- (b) Mahon Point **Irelands First Dementia Inclusive Shopping Centre** in the Business Innovation Category in the National Age Friendly Achievement Awards.

12.1.4 **TOY LIBRARIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That in order to promote learning through play this Council roll out a toy library in all public libraries across the city. Toy libraries provide greater accessibility to play while also reducing waste and encouraging a culture of sustainability.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Kerins 24/482)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Libraries was the first Irish public library authority to provide universal access to a toys and games collection. Our libraries stock a range of toys, jigsaws and games which can be borrowed by members of the library. The collection aligns with the Sustainable Development Goal of Responsible Consumption – to borrow rather than buy or try before you buy to avoid unnecessary purchasing of toy and play equipment that does not get used.

The Toys and Games in the collection are suitable for all and aligns with the Playful Paradigm approach of making play accessible for all ages - adults as well as children. The collection supports individuals and families in short-term or space limited accommodation, it supports all forms of play- indoor and outdoor, active, and restful, group and individual. The collection supports adults living with dementia (piecing together a series of jigsaws that are designed specifically for adults with dementia for example). Items in the collection are carefully curated for their robustness and suitability for shared use. The collection is added to annually and selections grow and widen.

The coming of a New City Library, when its developed, will see a dedicated space for a Toy Library enhancing the current availability and building with the spirit of the Playful Paradigm Project in mind.

Toy Libraries are in line with initiatives in this area and complement a wider and integrated approach. Cork City Council Libraries have been key project partners in the Let’s Play Cork Initiative since its inception under the URBACT Playful Paradigm Project. As a component of this urban best practise transfer project, Cork City Council considered how to incorporate learnings from Toy Libraries in partner cities across Europe. Through collaboration with the Let’s Play Steering group Cork City Libraries

offers the following programme under the Let's Play Cork initiative. **Community Play Bags** are housed in each local library and can be booked and checked out by registered community groups across the city. These bags contain the equipment and prompts to support a community play event at neighbourhood celebrations, estate parties, sports days etc. The bags are regularly checked and updated to ensure high-quality outdoor equipment is available to residents' associations, community, and sports groups.

Community Play Leader Training is provided to compliment the above Play resources. Let's Play Cork and Cork Local Sports Partnership frequently hold play leader sessions locally and for a city-wide audience. The sessions provide participants with ideas, skills, and the capacity to hold dynamic and engaging play sessions for all. Participants are also covered by CLSP's public liability insurance.

12.1.5 **HOST EURO 2028 GAMES IN PÁIRC UÍ CHAOIMH**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Assistant Chief Executive, dated 21st November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council supports any efforts to secure the ability to host games in Euro 2028 in Páirc Uí Chaoimh and that such a hosting opportunity outside of Dublin would be a massive boost to Cork City and surrounding regions.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 24/375)

The report of the Director of Services stated that while the lead responsibility in relation to this matter will rest with the FAI and the GAA, Cork City Council would be supportive of any efforts in this regard and available to advise as required in relation to the logistical and planning supports that the Council could provide.

12.1.6 **BREASTFEEDING-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will develop an initiative similar to Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick to help improve the health and wellbeing of breastfeeding mothers, babies and their families through the development and promotion of breastfeeding-friendly businesses, organisations and communities.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 24/512)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Community Culture and Placemaking Directorate through the Healthy Ireland coordinator is currently reviewing what has been done in other local authorities, including Limerick Local Authority and will report back on the best pathway to collaboration on the creation of a similar programme to Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick. It would be envisaged that such a programme would have to be done in collaboration with all of the relevant stakeholders of which Cork City Council would be one.

12.1.7 **SUPERVISED AND CONTROLLED INJECTION CENTRES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘My motion seeks City Council approval to explore the establishment of supervised and controlled injection centres in the city to address the growing and worrying public health and safety concerns. By putting in place these centres, the city will take a proactive step and approach to improving public health, supporting individuals with substance use disorders or addiction, and enhancing the overall community well-being. Supervised injection centres offer a compassionate, evidence-based solution to the challenges of public drug use, overdose, and community safety (some critical areas).’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 24/515)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council is one of the number of partners that has been supporting the HSE in the development of a supervised injection facility for Cork city. In 2023 Cork City Council participated in a site visit to a number of facilities in Lisbon. The development of a supervised injection facility is also a key action in the Cork City LECP. Current legislation allows for the development of one pilot facility in Dublin and legislative change is required for the development of a similar facility in Cork city. The HSE and Cork City Council have jointly commissioned a piece of research from UCC to scope the scale of the type of service needed. Joint work is underway between the HSE and Cork City Council to examine a number of options in relation to supporting this very vulnerable cohort.

12.1.8 **PERMANENT BASE FOR CORK CITY FIRST RESPONDERS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st November 2024 on the following motion:-

‘Cork City First Responders is a voluntary organization that has been serving the Cork City area since 2012, with 52 highly trained volunteers who work in conjunction with the National Ambulance Service, providing 24/7, year-round service within a 7.5km radius of the Marina Market. In 2023 alone, they responded to over 1,800 emergency callouts on a voluntary basis. The team supports the community in cases of cardiac arrest, chest pain, respiratory emergencies, choking, and strokes. They also work closely with local community groups, promoting vital life-saving skills such as CPR and defibrillation. Over the past year, they have trained more than 1,500 people in these crucial potentially lifesaving techniques.

Cork City First Responders need a permanent base of operations, ideally circa 2000sq. ft., with 2 training rooms and 2 offices spaces, along with storage and welfare facilities.

This motion calls on the Chief Executive to review existing premises to ascertain if City Council can offer Cork City First Responders a permanent base anywhere within the City Boundary.'

(Proposer: Cllr. A. Deasy 24/539)

The report of the Director of Services stated that our community staff have engaged with the Cork City Council Property Section and currently, there is no such suitable property or space available to Cork City Council at this time that would meet the needs of the Cork First Responders. We periodically receive such requests from the community and voluntary sector and we are conscious of the demands placed on such organisations in terms of additional rental cost, etc. Some of the Community Grants address running costs and we endeavour to direct the community organisations to apply for same where applicable as a support to them. When property becomes available to the community section we address this opportunity with community groups by opening expressions of interest as a fair, transparent and equitable way of distributing such properties and maximising their use for the community. Should such property become available into the future through the community section we will endeavour to follow that process again and publicly invite applications.

12.1.9 **COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR THE MUNSTER CRICKET TEAM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st November 2024 on the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council will advance the selection and development of a site for community facilities for the Munster Cricket team.'

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 24/574)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council has received a number of requests for land to accommodate sport development across the City, including needs identified through the Cork City Active Recreation Infrastructure Needs Study, such as from Munster Cricket. Whilst available lands are scarce and it is not possible to meet all these needs, it is hoped to make recommendations shortly that would accommodate some of these requests.

12.1.10 **NEW PUBLIC CHILDCARE FACILITIES IN THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st November 2024 on the following motion:-

'Cork City Council agrees that Ireland needs a new public model of childcare where fees are capped at affordable rates, and workers are better paid. To that end, the

Council will work with the central Government to support the expansion of new public childcare facilities in the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Rice 24/576)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council continues to collaborate and work with a variety of Government Departments including the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth who take a lead on childcare provision in Ireland. The Community Culture and Placemaking Directorate will continue to be a collaborative partner with other relevant stakeholders in the expansion of any new public childcare facilities undertaken by the Department.

13. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 12th NOVEMBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 12th November 2024.

14. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 2nd DECEMBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 2nd December 2024.

14.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

14.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF OCTOBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Financial Statements to the end of October 2024.

14.2 **MOTIONS**

14.2.1 **COUNCIL RELATED PAYMENTS AT A LOCAL POST OFFICE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Chief Financial Officer, dated 2nd December 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council will examine a pilot project to allow for Council related payments at a local post office in the administrative confines of Cork City Council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 24/416)

The report of the Chief Financial Officer stated that An Post currently process two different types of rent payment for Cork City Council, HB (Household Budget) and BP (Bill Pay).

Household Budget (HB)

The Household Budget payment is deducted directly from a tenant’s social welfare if they collect their social welfare payment from the Post Office. Tenants can complete an application form which is scanned by us and forwarded to the Household Budget department of An Post to get set up. Once set up, rent will be deducted at source. The

account data is forwarded to us by An Post and typically takes 4-5 days for payment to be reflected onto our rent accounts.

Bill Pay (BP)

This is where Tenants have a physical card which the Post Office Teller either scans or manually enters and they physically make a payment of any amount they choose. We used to issue these cards up to about 10 years ago but no longer do so. It was intended to discontinue this method of payment. However, tenants who still have this card can continue to use it. If they lose it or it stops working, it is not replaced. They are advised to switch their method of payment to HB, set up a standing order in the bank or avail of any of our numerous alternative payment methods.

Costs Associated with Rent payments

Cork City Council pay An Post a flat fee for every transaction of €1.11. The total payment to An Post in 2023 for both of these services combined was €137,612.75. That breaks down into €102,320.35 for BP and €35,292.40 for Household Budget.

Why did Cork City Council stop issuing Bill Pay cards?

- 1. Costs** – Cork City Council as outlined above are charged a flat rate of €1.11 per transaction. BP customers can pay whatever amount they wish, as often as they like i.e. if a customer's rent is €30 per week, they can pay €10 Monday, €10 Wednesday and €10 Friday. In this scenario Cork City Council would be charged €3.33 for An Post processing this one customers rent for the week.
- 2. The issues involved with losing/replacing cards, people forgetting cards and giving wrong card numbers** – When everything goes right, the delay on a customer's An Post payment being reflected in their account is 4-5 days. This is typically at least doubled when things go wrong – ie when An Post manually enter a rent account number incorrectly, requiring manual correction in Cork City Council resulting in very significant inefficiencies. These instances are not irregular.
- 3. Streamlining payment as best as possible through Cork City Council** – Cork City Council has numerous existing ways to pay rent directly through us. In person, over the phone, by standing order/direct debit, and now online through Mycoco.

Feasibility of using An Post for other Cork City Council payments

Other than Rents, the largest of volume of public payments taken by the Council are fines which include parking fines. The feasibility of using An Post for fines has been examined previously concluding that it would not be feasible for the following reasons:

- 1. Fines are complex to manage** i.e. they increase in amount after 28 days, and fine payments cannot be accepted after certain days (56 days in the case of parking fines). An Post staff would not be in a position to discuss or even debate this with customers presenting to pay the lower amount, which is a regular scenario in the cash office. If somebody tries to pay a fine in An Post but it is now gone to court, it cannot be accepted. An Post could mistakenly take their money in error but they have a court date.
- 2. Fines are often disputed/appealed** – and the appeal has to happen before payment. If somebody pays the fine through An Post, then attempts to appeal, they will not be able to appeal.

3. If the ownness is on the customer to present to An Post with the fine number, what if they get a digit wrong for example? Rents already have this issue with Bill Pay and it is a difficulty for them. The relevant department in Cork City Council won't be able to process the payment, and fines are on a ticking clock with the threat of raised prices and court summons. Cork City Council will have great difficulty in tracking down the correct fine/person.
4. The cash office must ring the relevant departments for clarification on fine payments. This facility would obviously not be available to An Post.
5. There is a 4-5 day delay in processing rent payments from the moment of payment to them being recognised on Cork City Council accounts. If somebody pays An Post a parking fine on the 56th day (given they have 56 days to pay from date of issue) – the delay in processing means that the file could go to court but the person have paid. This scenario would be worsened again if the person provides an incorrect fine number to the An Post cashier.
6. It would not be feasible to circulate information of all fines to An Post. Fines arise daily to different people, for different amounts, for different things, from different departments

People can pay for parking fines through the online payment portal, in person at City Hall, and over the phone.

15. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th NOVEMBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th November 2024.

16. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th NOVEMBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th November 2024.

17. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th NOVEMBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th November 2024.

18. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th NOVEMBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th November 2024.

An Chomhairle further agreed to refer item 6.6 on the North East Local Area Committee minutes, One-Way Traffic Flow System On York Hill, back to the committee for further discussion

19. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 26th NOVEMBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 26th November 2024.

20. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

21. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoirí S. Martin and J. Kavanagh at the AILG Government Legislation Policy Programme 2024, a briefing for Elected Members, held at Tower Hotel, Co. Waterford, 16th November 2024.
- Comhairleoir K. McCarthy as part of the China Delegation Visit to Shanghai and Shenzhen, 1st - 9th November 2024.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the La Touche Legacy Weekend Conference, held at Greystones, Co. Wicklow, 20th - 21st September 2024.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the MacGill Summer School 2024, held at Glenties, Co. Donegal, 18th - 20th July 2024.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the AILG Autumn Training Seminar, held at Co. Monaghan, 11th - 12th September 2024.

22. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

An Chomhairle noted section 141 reports as follows:-

- Comhairleoir O. Moran – CORE – August to November 2024.
- Comhairleoir O. Moran – Cork ETB – August to November 2024.
- Comhairleoir O. Moran – Cork Local Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce – August to November 2024.

23. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

24. **TRAINING**

None received.

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

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive's monthly management report for October 2024.

26. **MOTIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

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

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Gould, An Chomhairle agreed that motion 29, Knocknaheeny Regeneration, be referred to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

27. **MOTIONS**

27.1 **PAY PARITY FOR WORKERS IN SECTION 38/39 ORGANISATIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That this Council supports pay parity for workers in section 38/39 organisations with their counterparts in the HSE and will write to the new Taoiseach and Minister for Health to seek their action on same.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 24/592)

27.2 **CORK COMMUTER RAILWAY ORDER FOR PHASE 2**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That this Council will write to the incoming Minister for Transport to reinforce the importance of ensuring the Cork Commuter Railway Order for Phase 2 is approved as soon as it is received from Irish Rail and the importance of removing as many obstacles as possible for all transport capital projects in Cork.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 24/594)

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH