

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8th JANUARY 2024

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir K. McCarthy.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, D. Boylan.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, D. Forde.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, Orla O’Leary.
ALSO PRESENT	Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive. Mr. B. Geaney, Assistant Chief Executive. Mr. N. Ó Donnabháin, Director of Services, Housing. Ms. A. O’Rourke, Director of Services, Housing Delivery & Regeneration. Mr. D. O’Brien, Interim Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations. Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. F. Reidy, Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development. Mr. G. O’Beirne, Director of Services, Infrastructure Development. Ms. A. Murnane, Meetings Administrator. Ms. V. Keating, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The Carman family on the death of Paul Carman.
- The O’Donovan family on the death of Jerry O’Donovan.
- The Mulroy family on the death of Donie Mulroy.
- The Murphy family on the death of Derry Murphy.
- The Keeshan family on the death of Denis Keeshan.
- The O’Keeffe family on the death of Eileen O’Keeffe.
- The Lane family on the death of Monica Lane.
- The Bracken family on the death of Michael Bracken.

- The McEvoy family on the death of Noreen McEvoy.
- The Carroll family on the death of Evelyn Carroll.
- The Foley family on the death of Jim Foley.
- The Barry family on the death of Pat Barry.
- The O’Sullivan family on the death of Mary O’Sullivan.
- The Mulhearn family on the death of Helen Mulhearn.
- The Murray family on the death of Donal Murray.
- The Galvin family on the death of Carmel Galvin.
- The O’Brien family on the death of Tom O’Brien.
- The O’Sullivan family on the death of Michael O’Sullivan.
- The O’Neill family on the death of Frances O’Neill.
- The Collins family on the death of Gina Collins.
- The O’Leary family on the death of Con O’Leary.
- The McGrath family on the death of Donal McGrath.
- The Harrison family on the death of Florence Harrison.
- The Wool family on the death of Jamie Wool.
- The Martin family on the death of Patrick Martin.
- The McKenzie family on the death of James McKenzie.
- The Murphy family on the death of Con Murphy.
- The Fitzgerald family on the death of Ursula Fitzgerald.

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

- Glanmire Ladies Football Team on winning the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Championship in Croke Park.
- Neptune Basketball Club on organising and hosting the semi-final of the National Cup Finals.
- Eddie O’Hare on 45 years as The Echo/Irish Examiner photographer.
- Denis Minihane on his retirement from The Echo/Irish Examiner.
- Cillian Murphy on winning a Golden Globe Award.

3. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**

3.1 **PASSING OF CON O’LEARY**

An tArdmhéara expressed sympathy to the family of Con O’Leary, RIP.

3.2 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR LÚTHCHLEASA BUNSCOILEANNA CHORCAÍ**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception for Lúthchleasa Bunscoileanna Chorcaí, now in its 100th year of organising the Cork Primary School Sports.

3.3 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR BALLINCOLLIG TIDY TOWNS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception for Ballincollig Tidy Towns on being named Ireland’s Tidiest Large Urban Centre, and winning the County Award at the National Tidy Towns Awards.

3.4 **TRAVEL TO MANCHESTER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir K. McCarthy to Manchester on January 15th, to collect personal possessions of Republican leader Leo Murphy, for the Cork Museum.

3.5 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir T. Tynan to address An Chomhairle on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council applauds the decision of South Africa, which regards Israel as an apartheid state, to file a case at the International Court of Justice, asserting that Israel “has breached and continues to breach its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide”, which defines genocide as acts such as killings “committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.”

The case filed also asks the Court to order Israel to cease hostilities in Gaza that could amount to breaches of the Convention, to make reparations, and to provide for reconstruction of what Israel has destroyed.

The genocidal acts of the Israeli state include the indiscriminate and mass killing of Palestinians, especially children, the destruction of their homes, their expulsion and displacement, the blockade on food, water and medical assistance, the destruction of essential medical and health care facilities, causing serious mental and bodily harm, and deliberately inflicting conditions meant to “bring about their physical destruction as a group.”

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Tynan, seconded by Comhairleoir L. Bogue, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders to discuss the motion at the end of the meeting, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, G. Keohane, M. Nugent, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, C. Finn, T. Moloney, Orla O’Leary. (17)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, J. Sheehan, D. Boylan, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, S. Martin, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher. (10)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí K. McCarthy, D. Forde. (2)

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.

3.6 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir O. Moran to address An Chomhairle on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council, noting the attacks by Hamas of 7 October and the death of over 1,100 people, including nearly 700 civilians and 36 children, Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza and the resulting humanitarian catastrophe there, with the death of over 22,000 people in Gaza, including 8,000 children, and further noting that the Republic of South Africa has launched a case at the International Court of Justice deeming this military campaign an act of genocide, will write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to publicly push the EU to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, an appropriate humanitarian intervention and a political settlement based on equality and justice.’

On the proposal of Comhairleoir O. Moran, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the motion at the end of the meeting.

3.7 **SPECIAL MEETING OF COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle that a special meeting of the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee will be held on 22nd February 2024.

3.8 **TRAVEL TO SAN FRANCISCO**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir K. McCarthy and Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, M. Finn, T. Moloney, J. Sheehan, D. Forde, J. Maher and D. Canty to San Francisco in March 2024, as part of the Lord Mayor led annual United States visit, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the twinning with San Francisco.

3.9 **STANDING ORDERS WORKSHOP**

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle that a workshop to review standing orders will be held on 11th January 2024 at 5pm in the Council Chamber.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S ITEMS**

4.1 **UPDATE ON CORK CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CURRENT WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The Chief Executive provided an update on Cork City Council’s response to current icy weather conditions.

5. **MINUTES**

An Chomhairle considered the minutes of:-

- Special Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 16th November 2023.

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

FOR: Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, D. Forde, M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, O. O'Leary. (27)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, L. Bogue. (2)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí B. McCarthy, T. Moloney. (2)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried, and the minutes of the Special Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 16th November 2023 approved.

An Chomhairle considered the minutes of:-

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

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir M.R. Desmond, a vote was called for on the approval of the minutes, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, D. Forde, M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, O. O'Leary. (28)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, B. McCarthy, L. Bogue. (3)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried, and the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 11th December 2023 approved.

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **OWNERSHIP OF AREA UNDER FOOTBRIDGE FROM CLIFTON TERRACE TO LR. GLANMIRE ROAD**

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 in Cork City Council taking ownership of the area under the footbridge from Clifton Terrace to the Lower Glanmire Road from CIE and for its use as a community park.

REPLY

This is a complex matter subject to negotiating a lease agreement with the owner of the lands, facilitating the existing established rights of way over the lands and accommodating the requirements to permit access to onsite infrastructure by third parties etc. Cork City Council continue to engage with the owner of the property with a view to moving this project forward in 2024.

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

6.2 **MULTI USE GAMES AREA IN GRANGE/FRANKFIELD**

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

Could the Chief Executive please provide an update on the plan to install a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in Grange/Frankfield, including:

- The approximate date upon which it is hoped to commence work installing the MUGA and
- The approximate date upon which it is hoped that the MUGA will be ready for use by the public?

REPLY

Cork City Council will request orders for work to commence on the design and installation of the MUGA in quarter one of 2024.

It's intended the MUGA will be ready for use by the public before the end of quarter two 2024.

David O'Brien,
Interim Director of Services,
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

6.3 **EVENT CENTRE**

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

To inquire about the progress of the Event Centre development and the anticipated commencement of construction.

I believe it is crucial for all members to be updated on this significant project.

Firstly, I would like to express my appreciation for the effort and dedication that has been put into this development thus far. The event centre holds great potential to

enhance our City and provide a much-needed space for various activities and gatherings.

I understand that the development of such a project involves various stages, including planning, design, and acquiring necessary permits. With that in mind, I am eager to know how far along we are in this process. Could you kindly provide an update on the current status of the event centre development?

Furthermore, it would be greatly beneficial if you could inform us about the anticipated commencement of construction. This information will allow us to plan accordingly and ensure that all members are aware of the timeline.

I kindly request your assistance in keeping us informed about any updates regarding this project.

REPLY

The Planning and Design stages of the Cork Event Centre have been completed. The consortium constructing the Event Centre will have a legal obligation to Cork City Council to ensure that all the necessary Permits are in place as required.

Cork City Council have made a submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in late December 2023. At present we are continuing to engage with the consortium to finalise funding contributions, to enable the Event Centre project to proceed to finalisation of legal arrangements and commencement of construction.

Ann Doherty,
Chief Executive.

6.4 **EMERGENCY SERVICES CALL OUT ON SRR**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the number of times emergency services, managed through this Council, have been called to deal with vehicle collisions along the Southern Ring Road (N40) in 2023?

REPLY

Cork City Fire Brigade responded to 8 incidents of road traffic collisions along the South Ring Road (N40) in 2023.

David O'Brien,
Interim Director of Services,
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

6.5 **NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN HOMELESS ACCOMMODATION IN 2023**

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

Can the CE please provide me with the number of families and individuals who entered homeless accommodation in each of the months last year, the number of these who were children and the number of tenant in situ in progress and completed.

REPLY

The table below details the number of families, individuals and children who entered homeless accommodation in each month of 2023.

January		
Family	Individuals	Children
5	28	8
February		
Family	Individuals	Children
2	16	2
March		
Family	Individuals	Children
10	25	17
April		
Family	Individuals	Children
14	49	32
May		
Family	Individuals	Children
9	39	24
June		
Family	Individuals	Children
10	25	23

July		
Family	Individuals	Children
7	28	12
August		
Family	Individuals	Children
8	40	14
September		
Family	Individuals	Children
9	37	14
October		
Family	Individuals	Children
8	30	10
November		
Family	Individuals	Children
6	21	10

Detailed information on the numbers in emergency accommodation, presentations and households exiting services are provided in the Chief Executive’s Management Report monthly. The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage also publish monthly returns on their website giving details of the homeless statistics for the Southwest Region.

As of 31st December, 2023, 144 applications for Tenant in Situ are in progress or completed.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
 Director of Services,
 Housing Operations.

6.6 LEGHENAMORE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the Leghenamore Road Improvement Project?

REPLY

Part 8 Planning for the proposed Lehenaghmore Road Improvement Scheme was approved by Council in 2021. The scheme requires the acquisition of over eighty plots from twenty five land owners. In order to secure same, a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the scheme was published and submitted to An Bord Pleanála in August 2022. An Bord Pleanála is currently assessing the objections received to the CPO and its determination on the land acquisition order is expected shortly.

In the interim, the project team has been finalising the detailed designs for the works. It has also entered into negotiations with land owners aimed at securing the required lands through agreement where possible. Agreements have now been reached with the majority of land owners and negotiations at an advanced stage in respect of the remaining plots.

It is expected that the necessary land acquisition arrangements will be concluded shortly (whether by approval to the CPO or direct agreement with landowners) thereby enabling the Council to proceed with the publication of tenders for the works subject to continued grant funding for the scheme. It is estimated that the construction phase will be of approx. twelve months duration.

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

6.7 **NORTH WEST REGIONAL PARK**

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

Can the CE report on progress re the North West Regional Park, is there a project team with a lead in place? Can re-zonings through the City Development Plan be accommodated to still deliver this priority Council objective?

REPLY

The development of a new North-West Regional Park is an objective of the City Council as set out in the City Development Plan 2022-2028 (objective 10.91). In addition, an appropriate area of land has been zoned as open space within the Plan to support this intention.

The Development Plan proposes a facility that includes both active and passive recreational areas with interconnected spaces including parks, natural green spaces, ecosystems, greenways and blueways. The new park is intended to create green linkages between the City and its hinterland, complimenting biodiversity and proving

important economic, leisure, health and environmental benefits to the north west quadrant of the City.

The Development Plan envisages the preparation of an overall masterplan to guide the development of the proposed park. Tenders for the appointment of a multidisciplinary design team to progress the development of the masterplan were issued in November 2023. It is expected that the successful tenderer will be appointed in February and that work on the preparation of the masterplan will be progressed thereafter. The proposals for the new park will be presented to Members in advance of public consultation and Members will be kept apprised of progress on the development of same.

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

6.8 **NORTHERN DISTRIBUTOR ROAD**

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

Can the Chief Executive provide an update on when the proposed route for the Northern Distributor Road for Cork City will be decided and when work will commence and what pressures / lobbying have been made by Cork City Council to ensure this project is delivered?

REPLY

The Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (2020) provides for the delivery of a new Cork Northern Distributor Multi-Modal Route as one of a number of capital projects which are required to support the development of Cork City over the period to 2040. The Strategy envisages scheme appraisal over the period to 2026 with scheme delivery progressing over the period to 2031.

It is intended that the Cork Northern Distributor Multi-Modal Route provide for orbital movement for bus, pedestrian, cycle and some strategic and/or general traffic thereby reducing reliance on radial routes through Cork City Centre.

In 2021 Council secured initial grant funding for the project from the National Transport Authority. This enabled the appointment of a multi disciplinary design team led by RPS Consulting Engineers to progress the assessment and preliminary design for the scheme.

In accordance with the requirements of the Public Spending Code, the Strategic Appraisal Report for the scheme was prepared and submitted for approval in 2023. This was subsequently updated and approved in December 2023. This approval enabled the Design Team to progress with the concept development and options selection phase of the design process. This work is now underway and it is anticipated that Council will be undertaking non statutory public consultation on the preferred scheme routing in the coming months. This will be followed by the preliminary design

and planning approval phases for the scheme. Members will be kept apprised of progress on the scheme over the coming months.

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

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **ARTS GRANTS 2024**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Boyle, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 11th December 2023 on the Arts Grants 2024.

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

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

8.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 30/11/2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 30/11/2023.

9. **STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 18th DECEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Strategic, Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 18th December 2023.

9.1 **TELEPHONE BOX PROCEDURE**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the presentation of the Director of Services, Strategic and Economic Development, on the plans and processes for phone boxes in Cork City.

9.2 **UPDATE ON VACANCY AND DERELICTION**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the presentation of the Vacant Homes Officer, Strategic and Economic Development, on the progress regarding vacancy and dereliction in Cork City.

9.3 **MOTIONS**

9.3.1 **REGISTER OF VACANT HOUSES/APARTMENTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic and Economic Development, dated 18th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That the CE will develop a register of vacant houses/apartments based on the data collected by the CSO census data at 5-year intervals.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 23/561)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the 2022 Census of Population found that there is 5.5% vacancy in Cork City. This would represent one of the lowest vacancy rates in Ireland. However, the data is not available to Cork City Council. Separately, Cork City Council conducted a survey of vacancy in the city. This survey will be updated and property owners have been engaged with to support removal of dereliction or occupation of these properties.

10. **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 19th DECEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 19th December 2023.

10.1 **REPORT ON CORK CITY ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS) BYE LAWS 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 18th December 2023, regarding Cork City Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) Bye Laws 2023.

10.2 **MOTIONS**

10.2.1 **UPDATE FROM THE GARDAÍ ON CONDUCT OF MOTORISTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 11th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That the CE will seek an update from the Garda Superintendent in Cork about instructions to Gardaí on how to handle cases of close passing causing harm to cyclists and the conduct of motorists when illegally parked particularly at a bus pick up and drop off point.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 23/460)

The report of the Director of Services stated that issues relating to discharge of policing functions in Ireland and the related management instructions are a matter for An Garda Síochána rather than the local authority strategic policy committee. It is to be noted however that Joint Policing Committees have been established to provide a dedicated forum to support consultation, cooperation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, local authority elected representatives and

officials and the community and voluntary sectors. The Committee meets on a regular basis with members representation as appropriate.

10.2.2 **PARK AND RIDE FOR THE NORTHSIDE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 11th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council makes contact with relevant departments, NTA and other stakeholders necessary to ensure a park and ride is delivered for the Northside of Cork City.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/468)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (2020) details the infrastructure required to support the development of Cork over the period to 2040. It envisages the development of a network of strategic Park and Rides at designated public transport interchanges so as to provide onward access to the City Centre and other key destinations via high frequency public transport, walking or cycling.

The Strategy identifies six indicative locations for such facilities which will be the subject of further investigation (Blarney/ Stoneview, Dunkettle, Carr’s Hill, Bandon Rd and Ballincollig). In the majority of cases the Park and Rides are related to the delivery of the new Bus Connects network with the necessary Bus Corridor upgrades to be delivered in advance of the opening of new Park and Ride facilities. This is because Park and Ride facilities are not attractive to potential users if the related bus service is hampered by general traffic congestion. Significant work has been undertaken by NTA in relation to the Bus Network Review and more recently in relation to the proposed Strategic Corridor Upgrades. Progress on the other elements of the Bus Connects Programme will similarly be advanced in the period ahead and these include Park and Rides, ticketing, cashless payment systems, bus fleet/zero emissions, new fare structures and new stops/shelters. Members will continue to be updated on progress in the planning and delivery of the Bus Connects programme and related element.

11. **HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 19th DECEMBER 2023**

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

11.1 **HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT**

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

11.2 **UPDATE ON HOMELESS SERVICES**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the update of the Director of Services, Housing Operations, dated 18th December 2023 on Homeless Services.

11.3 **MOTIONS**

11.3.1 **HOUSING PROJECTS IN THE NORTH-WEST AND NORTH-EAST WARD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing Delivery & Regeneration, dated 14th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘To ask Council to furnish me:

1. The details of all new social and affordable housing projects commenced since 2019 and completed to date.
2. Include social, affordable, low-cost rental, housing for older people, voluntary bodies.
3. The total number of units in each project.
4. The amount of funding delivered by central government to deliver the development(s).
5. The number of developments expected to be completed and allocated by 2024.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 23/320)

The report of the Director of Services gave a breakdown of the housing delivery programme for the years 2019 – 2023 which accounts for the provision of both social and affordable homes in the Northwest & Northeast wards.

Table 1. Overall Programme delivery - Construction

Programme Year	No. of Homes
2019	214
2020	186
2021	41
2022	384
2023	129

Table 2. Breakdown of Programme Delivery Projects 2019 - 2023

Year	Scheme Name	Tenure	No. of Homes
2019	Lower Glanmire Road, Cork City	AHB Social	8
2019	The Meadows, Knocknacullen East, Gurrabraher, Cork	AHB Social	21
2019	The Meadows (Phase 2) Gurrabraher, Cork City	AHB Social	17
2019	39-40 Shandon Street	AHB Social	5
2019	Farranferris - Bishops Avenue	AHB Social	35
2019	Farranferris - Bishops Avenue	AHB Social	2
2019	Phase 2A Knocknaheeny	Regeneration	47
2019	Farranferris	Social	5

2019	Blarney Street	Social	25
2019	St. Johns Well	Social	6
2019	3 Knockfree Cottages	Social	2
2019	Ard na Ri, Banduff Road, Cork (Phase 1)	Social	10
2019	Ard na Ri, Banduff Road, Cork (Phase 1)	Social	10
2019	Gearney's Boreen, Commons Road, Cork	Social	3
2019	Ballinglanna	Social	16
2019	Woodville	Social	2

2020	Croppy Boy, Fairhill	AHB Social	7
2020	Croppy Boy, Fairhill	AHB Social	12
2020	Croppy Boy, Fairhill	AHB Social	2
2020	Redforge Road, Blackpool, Cork City	AHB Social	18
2020	Farranferris - Bishops Avenue	AHB Social	41
2020	Woodside, Kerry Pike	AHB Social	20
2020	Farranferris - Bishops Avenue	AHB Social	8
2020	Woodside, Kerry Pike	AHB Social	2
2020	29/30 Lower John Street, Cork	Social	17
2020	7-11 Gerald Griffin Street, Cork	Social	13
2020	5 Fairfield Heights, Fairhill, Cork	Social	3
2020	Shandon Street/John Philpott Curran Street	Social	9
2020	Cluain Ard Blarney	Social	3
2020	8 Model Village Tower	Social	1
2020	Ballinglanna	Social	16
2020	Coppengers Field	Social	7
2020	Courtbrack (Cluain Ard), Blarney	Social	7

2021	Redforge Road, Blackpool, Cork City	AHB Social	31
2021	1 Emerald View, Old Mallow Road, Cork City	AHB Social	6
2021	Cois Coille - No.s 2/3	AHB Social	2
2021	Gleann Fia Tower (Phase 1a)	Social	2

2022	Newton Heights, Boherboy Road	Affordable	37
2022	Cluain Chaoin Coolflugh Tower	Affordable	33
2022	Crann Darach, Middle Glanmire Road,	Affordable	27
2022	14 Lower Glanmire Road, Cork	AHB Social	2
2022	Barters Wood, Tower, Cork City.	AHB Social	3
2022	Barters Wood, Tower, Cork City.	AHB Social	3
2022	Glanmire Village	AHB Social	3
2022	Redforge Road, Blackpool, Cork City	AHB Social	20
2022	Hereford Place Ballymachthomas Street,	AHB Social	17
2022	Hereford Place Ballymachthomas Street,	AHB Social	2
2022	St. Dominics Middle Glanmire Road, Montenotte	AHB Social	27
2022	Mile Stream, Shanakiel, Cork City	AHB Social	22
2022	Newton Heights, Boherboy	AHB Social	23
2022	Summerville Place, Sundays Well	AHB Social	10

2022	Mile Stream, Shanakiel, Cork City	AHB Social	20
2022	Middle Glanmire Road	AHB Social	27
2022	Crann Darach, Middle Glanmire Road,	AHB Social	27
2022	Shanakiel Road	Social	20
2022	20 Mount Eden Road	Social	1
2022	21 St Anthony's Road	Social	1
2022	26 Watercourse Road	Social	1
2022	2A Fairhill	Social	1
2022	99 Ballinderry Park	Social	1
2022	Spring Lane	Social	8
2022	Watercourse Road	Social	37
2022	Cluain Chaoin Coolflugh Tower	Social	3
2022	Glashaboy, Glanmire	Social	2
2022	Cluain Chaoin Coolflugh Tower	Social	1
2022	Lia Fáil, Coolflugh, Kerry Road	Social	1
2022	Cluain Chaoin Coolflugh Tower	Social	2
2022	Knocknahorgan Sallybrook Glanmire (Phase 1)	Social	2

2023	Newton Heights, Boherboy	Affordable	22
2023	12,14,15 Model Quarters, Tower	AHB Social	3
2023	Newton Heights, Boherboy	AHB Social	11
2023	Old Mallow Road	Social	54
2023	Boyces Street - Housing	Social	14
2023	16A Kerry Road (former Slí Gartan), Mayfield	Social	1
2023	Gleann Fia Tower (Phase 1b)	Social	2
2023	Gleann Fia Tower (Phase 1c)	Social	2
2023	Knocknahorgan Sallybrook Glanmire (Phase 2)	Social	2
2023	Gleann Fia (Phase 2)	Social	4
2023	Knocknahorgan Sallybrook Glanmire (Phase 3)	Social	2
2023	Ballinglanna Glanmire	Social	6
2023	Arlington Coolymurraghue Kerry Pike	Social	2
2023	Crenagh Hill	Social	2
2023	Knocknahorgan Sallybrook Glanmire (Phase 4)	Social	2

The total amount of housing delivery capital expenditure 2019-date is exceeding €477 million.

The projected delivery of new-build homes for 2024 is projected to exceed 550 no. homes, across 34 various projects from local authority direct build to Part V social housing delivery.

Members welcomed the report and the significant delivery of social and affordable housing across the city. Members also emphasised the need to promote and communicate this significant work programme following conflicting reports on housing output in the public domain.

11.3.2 **REVISE POLICY REGARDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEMES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing Delivery & Regeneration, dated 14th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council agrees to revise policy to allow successful applicants for affordable housing who face a delay of over 4 weeks from original closure date, through no fault of their own, to apply for other affordable housing schemes as these may come available.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 23/345)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council ‘Local Authority Affordable Purchase’ schemes are offered in accordance with the Affordable Housing Act 2021 enacted on 21st July 2021 and the Affordable Housing Regulations 2022 which came into effect on 13th April 2022. The legislation does not contain any impediment to applicants applying for multiple affordable schemes, with their eligibility independently assessed for each scheme.

However, successful applicants, who are under offer for purchase of a home in one scheme, in advance of advertisement of a subsequent scheme, reach a point where they need to demonstrate commitment and property-specific mortgage approval. Therefore, it is not feasible to suspend their offer for purchase of a home indefinitely, while subsequent schemes are advertised, and applicants qualified.

11.3.3 **UPDATE ON LOAN FOR HOUSING MAINTENANCE WORKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing Operations, dated 14th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council update on the €11 million loan taken down by Council for housing maintenance works including works to date.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 23/392)

The report of the Director of Services stated as follows:

Category	Proposed No. of Properties Based on Estimated Cost	No. of Completed Properties	% Completed of Original Target Nos. of properties	Total Budget/ €M	Total Expenditure/ €M	% of Budget Completed
Roof and Roofline Repairs	606	1380	201%	€4,558,000	€5,256,000	115%

Windows & Doors	473	814	172%	€1,892,000	€1,892,000	100%
Central Heating	150	150	100%	€1,050,000	€1,050,000	100%
Stock Survey	The stock survey is aligned with the roll out of the National Asset Management System of which Cork City Council are the lead pilot Local Authority across the country - €0.5m , Cork City Council's Housing Maintenance Department is currently piloting the mobile app that will collect data from the survey in a consistent, standardised and monitorable format.					
Taking In Charge	In all, 34 no. estates have been initially identified. A high-level team including the Director of Services for Housing Operations is engaging on the matter, chaired by the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking. €1.35m .					
Remediation works to Fairfield Meadows & Fairfield Lawn	The contract for remediation works to dwellings at both Fairfield Meadows and Fairfield Lawn was awarded to HG Construction (Ireland) Limited. (73 Units – 1-50 Fairfield Meadows /1-23 Fairfield Lawn). The project commenced in June 2022 with correspondence issued to each tenant/occupier within those residential schemes to advise of their appointment, and to coordinate scheduling of works to individual properties. HG Construction (Ireland) Limited have, as of 30 th March 2023, completed their programme of works to 70 of a total of 73 dwellings at a final account sum of: €731,355.46 . HG Construction could not gain access to 3 dwellings. Housing Maintenance and Area Management staff visited the estates again in December 2023 and met with residents. Relevant maintenance work has been identified and will be followed up.					
Total				€11,000,000	€8,929,355	81%

11.3.4 CONVERSION OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES INTO HOUSING

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing Delivery & Regeneration, dated 14th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That a report be prepared on the potential conversion of commercial city centre properties into housing.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/401)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council, Housing Delivery & Regeneration Directorate has, in recent years, as part of its housing delivery programme, actively sought to implement initiatives to incentivise the potential conversion and/or repurposing of commercial properties for the provision of social housing. Such initiatives include, but are not limited to, ‘Competitive Dialogue’, ‘Repair & Lease’ and ‘Turnkey Acquisition’ all of which have the capacity to deliver in a variety of scale.

The initial success of such initiatives is evidenced in delivery of residential projects at Denroches Cross, Watercourse Road and Skehard Road, which saw the repurposing of industrial buildings and their yards through the ‘Competitive Dialogue’ procurement process.

In addition, the successful procurement of a development proposal which resulted in the conversion of ‘Springville House’, former commercial offices, (Blackrock Road) to provide for right sizing housing, is delivered in partnership with Tuath. The innovative approach by Cork City Council was recognized by Chambers Ireland, Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023, as winner of the ‘Urban Revival’ category.

While such properties are generally in the realm of private ownership, which can be challenging to realise such conversion/repurposing, Housing Delivery & Regeneration is aware of the potential and continues to develop our initiatives to further incentivise the conversion of commercial properties to residential developments.

11.3.5 **INCLUDE MOBILITY SCOOTERS UNDER GRANTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing Operations, dated 14th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council includes mobility scooters under the Grants for Older People and People with a Disability programme.

Mobility scooters have become an essential mode of transportation for individuals with mobility challenges, enabling them to maintain their independence and participate fully in community life. These scooters play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for older people and those living with disabilities, providing them with the freedom to navigate their surroundings.

By incorporating mobility scooters into the existing Grants for Older People and People with a Disability programme, we can directly assist individuals in obtaining these devices. This support will alleviate the financial burden that often accompanies the purchase of a mobility scooter, making it more accessible to those who require it.

Additionally, by including mobility scooters in the grant program, we send a clear message of inclusivity and support to our older residents and fellow citizens with disabilities. It is vital that we empower all members of our community to live their lives to the fullest and participate in society without limitations.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 23/322)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council along with all local authorities determine whether a grant is payable in the first instance in accordance with the Statutory Regulations, Housing (Adaptation Grants for Older

People and People with a Disability), Regulations 2007 [S.I. No. 670 of 2007], Amendment Regulations 2014 [S.I. No. 104 of 2014] and the criteria outlined therein, and if so, the works which are necessary to make the accommodation more suitable for the applicant.

The scheme comprises a range of grants for necessary improvement works or adaptations to houses, in order to facilitate the continued independent occupancy of their own homes by older people and people with a disability. These schemes cover works reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of applicants, which does not include the provision of grant funding towards mobility scooters.

An Chomhairle further agreed to refer the motion back to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for further discussion.

11.3.6 **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing Operations, dated 14th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council supports the Public Participation Network call on to undertake an in-depth, proactive equality impact assessment of its housing allocation policy for compliance with its statutory, positive Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty (PSEHRD), with a particular focus on equality of outcomes. Asking that this include key representative community organisations and individuals covered under the nine grounds under the Equality Acts. Asking that this process be underpinned by the principles of transparency and accountability in order to ensure public confidence in the system of housing allocations. Furthermore, all findings and recommendations should be published publicly. Call on Cork City Council to work earnestly to implement improvements in this system with specific and timebound targets to achieve equality of outcome for all.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/450)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council’s Housing Allocation Scheme was amended and approved by Elected Members at a meeting of An Chomhairle on 24th April, 2017. The Housing Operations Directorate has been reviewing the scheme over the past number of months with a view to holding workshops with all Elected Members in 2024. As part of the review process, an Equality Impact Assessment will be considered.

11.3.7 **WALK-THROUGH AUDIT IN THE HOUSING DIRECTORATE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing Operations, dated 14th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council report on any learnings from a previous ‘walk-through audit’ in the Housing Directorate and if it is timely for a new audit to be carried out.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 23/454)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the referenced ‘Walk-through Audit’ for what was the Housing and Community Directorate dates from September 2013. This document is over 10 years old, is of its time and does not reflect the nature, extent, scope, and expectation of service delivery in the area of Housing Maintenance today. The report predates the boundary extension, the roll out of CBL, the advent of the Customer Relationship Management System, the role of the Customer Services Unit, the use of the €11 million loan and an array of other system, audit and process improvements that have been brought about over the intervening years. The recommendations raised have been reviewed and considered in that context.

From January – October 2023, the Housing Maintenance Department received over 16,500 service requests, with the close out of 13,752 cases for the same period. This equates to an 83% close out rate up from 67% in 2022. The Directorate is committed to improving Housing Maintenance service delivery across both its response repair and planned maintenance sections and will give effect to necessary service improvements throughout 2024.

11.3.8 **TRAVELLER HOMELESS TASK FORCE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing Operations, dated 14th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘Calls on Cork City Council to establish a local Traveller Homeless Task Force, which will be action and outcome focused to overcome the ever-increasing, disproportionate and intergenerational degree of traveller homelessness.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 23/466)

The report of the Director of Services stated that following a presentation by Cena to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee on the 16th May, 2023, the Traveller Accommodation Unit and the Accommodation Placement Service have engaged with Cena to address the number of representatives of the Traveller Community currently availing of homeless services. Cena (the word means ‘home’ in the Traveller language) is an Approved Housing Body that is working for and with Travellers to address critical accommodation needs. This collaboration with Cena will be focused on and targeted at traveller homelessness. A review of the partnership will be conducted in 2024 to determine its effectiveness and consideration can be made at that point in relation to the establishment of a local Traveller Homeless Task Force.

11.3.9 **DELAYS IN MAINTAINING COUNCIL HOMES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing Operations, dated 14th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘Would it be possible please to discuss the delays in maintaining Cork City Council homes. Is it because the maintenance of Council houses is overwhelming and outside contractors cannot keep up with the workload? Is it because outside contractors are dealing with their primary work and might eventually do repairs on a Council house? Are maintenance requests being reported to outside contractors in a timely manner? Should we consider Cllr. Ted Tynan’s opinion in which he has been saying for years that Cork City Council employ trades people directly so basic maintenance can be done immediately? In my opinion we could leave the bigger maintenance issues to outside contractors, i.e. reroofing, window replacements, retrofitting etc.

My reasoning for this motion is because one family is waiting 18 months and still waiting to get their window sky lights repaired because they are leaking and as a result of the delay their entire house is covered in mould, damp throughout, bathroom electrics do not work etc. If this maintenance request was carried out immediately, we would not have a destroyed house which will cost thousands of euro to remedy the damage.

One more example and I’m sure Councillors can give examples throughout the City, a lady is having issues with her wood burning chimney flues, this issue was reported in September this year. She cannot light her stove because the smoke comes into the house. The carbon monoxide alarm sets off on a regular basis even when the stove is not lighting. An outside contractor eventually called on Tuesday the 24th of October after many emails, phone calls etc. However, the contractor told the tenant that he will have to come back with a camera and look up into the flue and he will come back this week with brushes also to clean the flue. As of today the 1st of November 2023, there is still no sign of him despite the urgency of this request. Why didn’t the contractor have the necessary equipment that is needed on the day he called? Will Cork City Council get a call out charge and will there be another charge when the job is done and while the lady waits the carbon monoxide alarm is still going off and she waits in a cold house?

In summary we should have in house trades people to deal with easy quick repairs that will prevent thousands of euro worth of damage in the long term.’

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Keohane 23/496)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Housing Maintenance Department receives over 21,000 service requests on a yearly basis. These service requests are logged through Cork City Council’s Customer Service Unit. Cases are categorised as emergency, urgent, and routine, and are dealt with in order of priority by the Council’s depot teams and appointed specialist contractors depending on the nature and type of repair work involved.

From January – October 2023, the Housing Maintenance Department received over 16,500 service requests, with the close out of 13,752 cases for the same period. This equates to an 83% close out rate up from 67% in 2022. The Directorate is committed

to improving Housing Maintenance service delivery and endeavours to expediate all service requests in a timely manner and in accordance with the order of priority as outlined above for the benefit of all our current and future tenants.

All service requests can be logged by tenants of Cork City Council through our Customer Service Unit – (021) 4924000.

11.3.10 **RECENT PROTEST BY RESIDENTS OF FAIRFIELD MEADOWS AND FAIRFIELD LAWN**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing Operations, dated 14th December 2023 on the following motion:-

‘In light of the recent protest by the residents of Fairfield Meadows and Fairfield Lawn, that Council recognises the work done to this point is not adequate and has not come anywhere close to addressing the issues in the houses and the estate itself. Council calls on the management of the housing directorate to meet with the residents, as they previously have in Noonan’s Road and Glentrasna, to see the problems firsthand and make a commitment to resolve them as an urgent priority.’

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy 23/524)

The report of the Director of Services stated that senior staff from the Housing Operations Directorate visited the above site on 7th December and met with a number of residents where their concerns and issues were noted and a programme of works is currently being actioned by staff of the Housing Operations Directorate.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

12. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 12th DECEMBER 2023**

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

13. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

14. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh and D. Boyle at the AILG Module 6 training, Road Safety, New Speed Limit Policy, and Safeguarding Road Users, held at Tower Hotel, Waterford City, 16th November 2023.
- Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the WHO European Healthy Cities Annual Business Meeting, held at Utrecht, the Netherlands, 20th - 23rd November 2023.
- Comhairleoir M. Finn at the I Capital Innovation Cities Awards, held at Marseilles, France, 26th - 28th November 2023.

15. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

None received.

16. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

16.1 **NEW IRELAND COMMISSION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoir G. Kelleher at the New Ireland Commission event in Bellaghy, Co. Derry on Thursday 18th January.

17. **TRAINING**

17.1 **LAMA AND AILG CONFERENCES AND TRAINING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved attendance by Elected Members at all LAMA and AILG conferences and training during 2024.

18. **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.

19. **MOTIONS**

19.1 **INTRODUCTION OF A ‘VOLUNTEER TAX CREDIT’**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘Conscious of the huge role volunteers play across the full gamut of life in Cork and Ireland, and mindful of the drop-off in volunteering that has hallmarked the post Covid period, Cork City Council calls on the Minister for Finance and Minister for Public Expenditure to introduce a ‘Volunteer Tax Credit’ with the twin aim of giving existing volunteers a bit of added value for their efforts and also to attract new people to volunteer in their communities. If we do not try to tackle the slide in volunteerism, we will regret it in a decade or less.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 23/486)

In the absence of the proposer of the motion, the motion was considered withdrawn.

19.2 **FUNDING FOR CORK CITY SUPPORT AFTER CRIME SERVICES**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘I ask that this Council condemns the Department of Justice on its decision to withdraw funding of €165k for the Cork City Support After Crime Services. Because of the Department’s appalling decision to withdraw this much needed funding the service that is currently being provided to victims of crime in our City will very sadly cease to provide it's supports to the victims of crime from the 31st of January 2024.

The decision to withdraw funding is a slap in the face to the victims of crime while at the very same time the perpetrators of crime receive all the necessary support that he/she requires including free legal aid. This support amounts to many millions of Euro every year and freely spent every year to provide supports for individuals who have no regard for the laws of the land or their victims.

The Support After Crime Service provided an invaluable service to victims of crime while the Department of Justice and the State fails to provide any such service therefore this very anomaly creates an unfair justice system.

Our current justice system leans immensely in favour of the perpetrator of crime, and it is therefore creating a crime pays policy in Ireland and this needs to change with immediate effect.

I further ask that this Council calls on the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee T.D., An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar T.D., An Tánaiste Micheal Martin (T.D. for Cork South Central), the Minister for Finance Micheal McGrath (T.D. for Cork South Central), and the Minister for Trade, Enterprise and Employment Simon Coveney (T.D. for Cork South Central) to initiate a review of our judicial approach to criminality and the supports provided therein including the Free Legal Aid System and to introduce a more robust structure that provides less supports for criminals and more supports for the victims which should include advisory supports, compensation for the victims of crime and financial retribution from the perpetrator for the victims of crime.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Dineen 24/007)

An Chomhairle agreed to refer this motion to Party Whips for further discussion.

19.3 **CALL TO ABOLISH UISCE ÉIREANN**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘Cork City has, in recent years, been experiencing problems affecting the quality of the domestic water supply, with issues such as discolouration and sediment, along with reports of nausea and stomach upset amongst the City's residents.

In light of this, a new water treatment plant was opened on the Lee Road in 2022.

The plant, operated by Murphy Construction, was supposed to restore the quality of drinking water to the City, but on 28th July 2022, a huge quantity of sodium hydroxide was added to the water supply. The sodium hydroxide acted as a cleaner, and scoured out the water pipe system throughout the City, but this also resulted in hundreds of leaks in the piping system.

In addition, the injection of sodium hydroxide caused long-term built-up composite, which had been used to patch previous leaks, to detach and enter the drinking water.

In light of this mismanagement of the City's water system by Uisce Éireann and Murphy Construction, I am now proposing that Cork City Council calls on the coalition Government to, as a matter of urgency, abolish Uisce Éireann, and to transfer all of the water services, sewage services and water treatment plants back to the local authorities such as Cork City Council.

I envision this process being completed using existing infrastructure within the local authorities, and drawing on the experience and care of the water workers, to return our water treatment and management systems to full public ownership.

Only when these essential water treatment services are returned to democratic, public control, can the residents of Cork City and beyond have faith in the quality and safety of our water supply.'

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 24/018)

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

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, G. Keohane, M. Nugent, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, L. Bogue, D. Boyle, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, C. Finn, O. O'Leary. (13)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, D. Boylan, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, S. O'Callaghan, F. Dennehy, G. Kelleher. (9)

ABSTAIN: (0)

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

19.4 **RECENT DELAYS ON KEY CITY BUS SERVICES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council write to the management of Bus Éireann to request an urgent meeting with Councillors to address recent delays on key city bus services and to the Minister for Transport to ask for an explanation as to the National Transport Authority's announcement that new services in Cork scheduled for implementation in 2024 have been postponed until at least 2025 despite urgent community need.'

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 24/040)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir O. Moran to address the meeting on the following motion, after which a discussion took place and An Chomhairle unanimously approved the motion:-

‘That Cork City Council, noting the attacks by Hamas of 7 October and the death of over 1,100 people, including nearly 700 civilians and 36 children, Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza and the resulting humanitarian catastrophe there, with the death of over 22,000 people in Gaza, including 8,000 children, and further noting that the Republic of South Africa has launched a case at the International Court of Justice deeming this military campaign an act of genocide, will write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to publicly push the EU to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, an appropriate humanitarian intervention and a political settlement based on equality and justice.’

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH