

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2025

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| PRESENT | Ardmhéara Comhairleoir D. Boyle. |
| NORTH EAST | Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Tynan, O. Moran, N. O'Flynn. |
| NORTH WEST | Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy. |
| SOUTH EAST | Comhairleoirí K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan. |
| SOUTH CENTRAL | Comhairleoirí S. O'Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, N. O'Connor. |
| SOUTH WEST | Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, J. Lynch, A. Deasy, T. Coleman. |
| ALSO PRESENT | Mr. V. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive. Mr. B. Geaney, Assistant Chief Executive. Ms. R. Loughry, Director of Services, Corporate and Community Affairs. Mr. J. Hallahan, Head of Finance. 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. Mr. G. O'Beirne, Director of Services, Infrastructure Development. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Emergency Management and Climate Action. 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'Neill family on the death of Michael O'Neill.
- The O'Halloran family on the death of Phyllis O'Halloran.
- The Power family on the death of Donal Power.
- The Buckley family on the death of Mary Buckley.
- The Harrington family on the death of Margaret Harrington.
- The Lehane family on the death of Patrick Lehane.
- The Griffin family on the death of Raymond Griffin.
- The Plunkett Blyth family on the death of Grace Mary Plunkett Blyth.
- The Fitzgerald family on the death of John Fitzgerald.

- The Theron family on the death of Agnes Theron.
- The O’Driscoll family on the death of Esther O’Driscoll.
- The Diggin family on the death of Olive Diggin.
- The Hogan family on the death of Eddie Hogan.
- The Tobin family on the death of Teresa Tobin.
- The Desmond family on the death of Finbarr Desmond.

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

- Senator Laura Harmon on her election to Seanad Éireann.
- Senator Garret Kelleher on his election to Seanad Éireann
- Cian Ducrot on winning a Grammy Award for songwriting.

3. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**

3.1 **ELECTION TO SEANAD ÉIREANN**

An tArdmhéara extended congratulations to Senators L. Harmon & G. Kelleher on their election to Seanad Éireann and called on them to address An Chomhairle. An tArdmhéara further confirmed that co-options would take place at the Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle to be held, 10th March 2025.

3.2 **INTELLIGENT CITIES CHALLENGE CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of Comhairleoir O. Moran to Brussels from 5th – 6th March 2025 for the Intelligent Cities Challenge Conference.

3.3 **LORD MAYOR LED ANNUAL UNITED STATES VISIT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of An tArdmhéara D. Boyle and Comhairleoirí T. Shannon and C. Kelleher to the United States from 3rd – 10th March 2025 as part of the Lord Mayor led annual United States visit to continue and advance discussions on shared learnings between the two cities.

3.4 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR THE KABIN STUDIO**

An tArdmhéara reminded An Chomhairle that a Civic Reception for the Kabin Studio would take place on 20th February at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber.

3.5 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR CIAN DUCROT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception for Cian Ducrot on winning his first Grammy Award.

3.6 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR CÓRAS IOMPAIR ÉIREANN**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception for Córás Iompair Éireann (CIE) on 80 years since its formation.

3.7 **ANNUAL DECLARATION FORMS**

An tArdmhéara reminded An Chomhairle of the need to complete and return Annual Declaration Forms.

3.8 **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle that a Special Meeting of Council would be scheduled in the coming weeks to consider issues relating to Uisce Éireann and water quality in the City.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

4.1 **PROPOSED HOLDING OF AN EVENT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Chief Executive on the proposed holding of the St. Patrick's Day Parade on 17th March in Cork City centre.

4.2 **FLOODING EVENT AT MONAHAN ROAD AND CENTRE PARK ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Chief Executive on the recent flooding event at Monahan Road and Centre Park Road.

5. **MINUTES**

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

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 13th January 2025.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Maher, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Horgan, An Chomhairle considered and approved the minutes of:-

- Special Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 20th January 2025.

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **FENCE & GATE AT ARDPATRICK AVENUE**

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

Can the CE please advise and provide an update on the current status of the proposed and approved status on the installation of the Fence and Gate at the cul de sac at the end of Ardpatrick Avenue in Blackpool.

REPLY

A referral under Section 5 of the Planning Act in April 2024 was made to An Bord Pleanála in April last year as to “whether the proposed erection of a fence and gate is,

or is not, exempted development within the meaning of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 (as amended) (PDA) and the PDR, whether such development would result in the segregation of the estate, and the control, and or prohibition, of access through Ardpatrick, and whether this would represent development that would materially alter the terms of the parent planning permission, as amended, and the interruption of a recreational amenity currently enjoyed by residents and members of the public.”

A decision on the referral is awaited. Once the decision is made it will be advised to the Local Area Committee for consideration.

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

6.2 **STREET PERFORMER BYE LAWS**

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

I ask the CEO to provide details of the current enforcement measures that are in place if any with regard to our current street performer bye laws.

I further ask as to how many fines have been processed if any thus far to performers who overstay their allotted time at any particular stand (approved performance location) and for those who use amplification over and above the allotted the 100 decibels permitted under the updated bye laws.

REPLY

Since the introduction of the Street Performer Bye- Laws on the 20th May 2024 a total of 84 permits have been issued (55 Annual permits & 29 Short term permits (3 month). Enforcement of these bye-laws takes place via two methods:-

1. Non-routine street inspections.
2. Responding to complaints received from members of the public, businesses, or other performers.

In 2024 a total of 58 inspections were carried out which resulted in:

- The issuing of 4 fines in relation to performing without a valid permit.
- 1 written warning issuing to a performer who had not adhered to the correct times and locations

Enforcement Officers also engaged with several performers in relation to performance times and the performers moved on amicably.

No fines or warnings were issued in relation to volumes exceeding the 75dB limit permitted in the bye-laws.

Paul Moynihan,

Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.3 **BAKERS ROAD FLATS**

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

To ask the CE to include the flats on Bakers Road in the North West Regeneration Scheme. This would include the demolition of the flats and the construction of new homes.

REPLY

The City Council is currently engaged in the delivery of the Cork City Northwest Regeneration Masterplan & Implementation Report ('Masterplan'), which was adopted by Council, with funding being made available for the delivery of the contents of the Masterplan only by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

The Bakers Road flat complex does not fall within the Regeneration Masterplan, but as part of a larger portfolio of flat complexes across the city. Cork City Council is reviewing all such complexes currently with a view to identifying solutions for their longer-term refurbishment and regeneration. The Bakers Road complex is included in this review.

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

6.4 **HOUSING OFFICERS**

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

To ask the CE the number of Housing Officers employed by Cork City Council, the number of Housing Officers per Housing Area, and the number of tenancies for which each Housing Officer is responsible?

REPLY

The Housing Directorate has a total of 14 Housing Officers assigned to its three Area Housing Offices across the City. These Housing Officers are responsible for managing over 11,000 City Council owned properties. The table below details the number of properties managed by each of the Housing Officers.

| AREA HOUSING OFFICE | NUMBER OF PROPERTIES MANAGED |
|---|---|
| NORTH EAST (NE) – 4 no. Housing Officers | |
| NE Housing Officer 1 | 653 |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| NE Housing Officer 2 | 665 |
| NE Housing Officer 3 | 709 |
| NE Housing Officer 4 | 644 |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTIES | 2,671 |
| NORTH WEST (NW) – 5 no. Housing Officers | |
| NW Housing Officer 1 | 819 |
| NW Housing Officer 2 | 706 |
| NW Housing Officer 3 | 732 |
| NW Housing Officer 4 | 884 |
| NW Housing Officer 5 | 769 |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTIES | 3,910 |
| SOUTH (S) – 5 no. Housing Officers | |
| S Housing Officer 1 | 1,043 |
| S Housing Officer 2 | 883 |
| S Housing Officer 3 | 922 |
| S Housing Officer 4 | 840 |
| S Housing Officer 5 | 1,027 |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTIES | 4,715 |
| OVERALL TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTIES | 11,296 |

The work of the Housing Officers includes the management of tenancies on a daily basis, including:

- Allocation of Property: On receipt of a recommendation from the City Council's Allocations Officer, interviewing and carrying out background checks on prospective tenants, organising viewing of properties, signing up tenancies for applicants, determining the rent for new tenancies based on household income, providing information to tenants on rent payment methods, going through the key points of the tenancy agreements and responsibilities in renting a City Council property, etc.;
- Tenancy Management: Managing the tenancy including updating household composition, where applicable, dealing with estate management issues and tenancy breaches in conjunction with the Tenancy Compliance Team, processing of tenancy surrenders in the event of the departure of a tenant, engaging with next-of-kin in the case of deceased tenants, liaising with the Housing Assets Management Team in relation to inspections of properties as required;
- Liaising with An Garda Síochána and other statutory agencies, e.g. HSE, Tusla, medical professionals, CSPCA on an ongoing basis in relation to tenancy and welfare issues.

There is a further portfolio of Cork City Council-owned property, where the Council has engaged the services of a number of Approved Housing Bodies, e.g. Tuath, Focus Ireland, Sophia Housing and Clúid, to manage an additional number of City Council owned developments and individual properties across the city.

It is proposed to undertake a review of Area Management in 2025 in the context of the expanding portfolio of Council-managed properties, and the expected and projected pipeline in the coming years.

Alison O'Rourke
Director of Services
Housing Directorate.

6.5 **SHANDON BELLS & TOWER**

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

Can the CE provide a breakdown of the costs involved in the repair and refurbishment of the clock faces and associated works to Shandon Bells and Tower. This is a huge part of our heritage and attracts large numbers of tourists to the area year on year. Can a timeline be provided on when these works are due to start and be completed.

REPLY

The costs of repairs to the Shandon clock are estimated to be in the region of €400,000. Final costs will be determined prior to any works commencing. These repair works involve several specialists in conservation, horology and structural repair. Cork City Council is applying for funding under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Historic Structures Fund to contribute towards these costs. The timeline for these works is dependent on the outcome of the funding application, however Cork City Council is committed to carrying out the required repair works to this historically important landmark.

Niall Ó Donnabháin
Director of Services
Planning and Integrated Development

6.6 **PUBLIC LIGHTING ON CASTLE ROAD**

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

To ask the Chief Executive about progress adding public lighting on Castle Road from Ringmahon Road to St. Luke's Home? It was understood that public lighting was to be added here as part of the Mahon Cycle Scheme, but this has not been done. Please, address.

REPLY

The last Mahon Scheme update to the South East LAC Members, indicated that approved works for Castle Road were programmed to commence in March 2025. The works on Castle Road include the provision of new footpaths, drainage systems, public lighting, road resurfacing etc. The delivery of the scheme works is currently ahead of programme and as such the works on Castle Road are now expected to be

commenced in late January/early February. It is anticipated that the works in this area will be complete in April 2025 and Members will be kept updated on related progress.

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

6.7 **PEDESTRIAN WORKS FOR CATHEDRAL WALK**

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

Can the CE give a timeline and date when the promised pedestrian works that were promised for Cathedral Walk in terms on Bollards and other safety measures on the footpaths to protect pedestrians, especially school children from North Pres Primary School from cars parking on the footpath. These works were promised over a year ago?

REPLY

Arrangements were in place to commence these works in December 2024. However the carrying out of the works was delayed due to the presence of underground cables. Liaison is required with ESB to determine a safe manner to execute the works and contact has been made with the ESB to progress the matter.

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

6.8 **WATER QUALITY**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if they have engaged with Uisce Éireann, the EPA and the HSE in relation to the worrying issues raised on the episode of Prime Time which aired on the 30th day of January 2025 in relation to water quality in Cork City. In particular, has the Chief executive engaged with the relevant bodies in relation to the failure to report excessive levels of manganese in the water and if so what was the result of that engagement.

REPLY

There has been and there continues to be ongoing engagement with Uisce Eireann in relation to issues relating to water quality in Cork City as referenced in the recent Prime Time programme. Engagement with the relevant regulatory authorities on matters of water quality and reporting requirements in relation to same are matters for Uisce Eireann which has the statutory responsibility for delivery of water services. I understand that there is regular engagement by Uisce Eireann with these authorities.

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

6.9 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY - CARR'S HILL GRAVEYARD**

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

To ask the CE for an update to the archaeological conservation strategy for Carr's Hill graveyard?

REPLY

Since the completion of the transfer of ownership of the Carr's Hill graveyard to Cork City Council a review of all surveys and information pertaining to the site is being undertaken in order to inform a sustainable maintenance and management strategy for the site. An archaeological conservation strategy is not currently being undertaken.

A number of non-intrusive archaeological surveys have been carried out including GPR (ground penetrating radar) and drone photogrammetry surveys which have created a detailed 2D and 3D model of the physical landscape and features at Carr's Hill. A bio-diversity study for the site was completed late last year. Further analysis of these surveys and studies is ongoing and Members can be updated as matters progress.

In the meantime the graveyard has been included in our Parks work programme for 2025 and grass-cutting on the site will commence next month.

Niall O'Donnabhain,
Director of Services,
Planning & Integrated Development.

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

6.10 **FORMER VITA CORTEX SITE**

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

To ask the CE for an update re the former Vita Cortex site to include the current planning status and timelines for future development of the site.

REPLY

A proposal for the redevelopment of this site is currently being progressed under the LRD process.

The Planning Authority assessed documentation submitted by the applicant as part of the first “Opinion” stage of the LRD process and issued an Opinion report to the applicant on Wednesday 18th of December 2024.

The LRD opinion will be valid for 6 months and allows the applicant to progress to the application stage i.e. a planning application must be submitted within 6 months of receipt of the LRD opinion. Otherwise the applicant must re-commence the pre[1]application consultation process again.

Niall O Donnabháin
Director of Services
Planning & Integrated Development.

6.11 **DATA PROTECTION STANDARDS FOR TENANTS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive what security and data protection standards are provided to tenants where data is collected on the inspection of private rented accommodation under Housing (Standards For Rented Houses) Regulations 2019, including those standards required from third-party inspectors?

REPLY

Cork City Council receive data regarding tenant information from the RTB in order to carry out inspections of private rented accommodation under Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019. This is subject to a Data Sharing Agreement in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) which details the requirements in regard to the use, sharing and security of this information.

In regard to third party inspectors a Data Processing Agreement exists between Cork City Council and the third-party provider again in accordance with GDPR.

The Data Protection measures include personnel measures, physical security and network security measures in accordance with the agreements.

Data collected on site is subject to the same protection measures.

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

6.12 **EVENTS CENTRE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to publish the minutes and attendance of the project development board meeting on the Event Centre on January 24th, if the Board will Accept submissions on the subject from the sectors the Event Centre seeks to operate in and when a Briefing of Elected Members will take place?

REPLY

The Project Development Board (PDB) is a high-level governance and decision-making body required by the Government to oversee the procurement, planning, development, and delivery of the Cork Events Centre by Cork City Council. The PDB has representation from relevant Government Departments, Agencies, Cork City Council, and members with relevant experience / expertise from stakeholders and the private sector. Its remit is to provide a platform for high-level coordination and governance, enabling the effective alignment of project activities with national and regional goals. It is understood that the procurement process as it progresses will include effective stakeholder identification and consultation as a prerequisite.

The PDB is up and running and held its first meeting on the 24th January. The Assistant Chief Executive (ACE) will raise the matter of publication of minutes including the important matters around protection of commercially sensitive procurement information at the next meeting of the PDB this month. It is appropriate that the PDB is given the opportunity to make decisions on such matters. The ACE can then brief the Elected Members.

Brian Geaney,
Assistant Chief Executive.

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the Chief Executive, dated 30th January 2025 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of ground (381.4m² approximately) situated at Ballyvolane Commercial Park, Ballyvolane, Cork, to Focus Developments Ltd, c/o David Cowhey Solicitors LLP, Plunkett Chambers Business Centre, 21/23 Oliver Plunkett Street, Cork. for the sum of €2,000.00, together with costs of €1,500.00 plus VAT.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

2. Disposal of the freehold interest in property situated at Dunkettle Road, Glanmire, Cork to Phillip Scott & Elizabeth Long, c/o O'Dowd Solicitors, 6, Crestfield Centre, Glanmire, Cork for the sum of €320,000.00.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

3. Disposal of the freehold interest in the property situated at 15 & 16, Kyle Street, Cork to Jim Vaughan, c/o RDJ LLP, 85, South Mall, Cork, for the sum of €185,000.00.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

4. Disposal by way of exchange of property known as 59, Saint Colmcille's Road, Gurrabraher, Cork to Cornelius & Eileen Collins, c/o Finbarr Murphy Solicitors, Lee White House, 8, Washington Street, Cork, in exchange for the property owned by the said Cornelius & Eileen Collins at 14, Killala Gardens, Knocknaheeny, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Gould, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

5. Disposal by way of exchange of property known as 40, Knockfree Avenue, Cork to Elizabeth Higgins, c/o Murphy & Condon Solicitors, 69, Shandon Street, North Gate Bridge, Cork in exchange for the property owned by the said Elizabeth Higgins at 37, Killala Gardens, Knocknaheeny, Cork.

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

7.2 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: DEERPARK, DE PAUL HOSTEL, FRIARS WALK, CORK - SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 22nd of January 2025 in relation to a loan facility for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in respect of the provision of 8 semi-detached one bed bungalows of accommodation at Deerpark, De Paul Hostel, Friars Walk, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir H. Kamegni, 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 €2,150,893 be granted to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP), subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of 8 one bed units of accommodation at Deerpark Mews, De Paul Hostel, Deerpark, Friars Walk, Cork.”

7.3 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: 92 BALLYHOOLEY ROAD, ST. LUKE’S, CORK - ÓGLAIGH NÁISIÚNTA NA HÉIREANN (ONE)**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 22nd of January 2025 in relation to a loan facility for Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann in respect of the provision of 6 one bed units of accommodation at 92 Ballyhooley Road, St. Luke’s, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir F. Dennehy, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, 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 €1,161,800 (previously €1,079,775) be granted to Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann (ONE), subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of 6, one bed units of accommodation at 92 Ballyhooley Road, St. Lukes, Cork.”

7.4 **TAKING IN CHARGE OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT CLUAIN ARD, CASTLEOWEN, KNOCKACORBALLY & MONACNAPA, BLARNEY, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations Directorate, dated 15th January 2025, in relation to the proposed taking in charge of roads serving the development at Cluain Ard, Castleowen, Knockacorbally & Monacnapa, Blarney, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Boylan, seconded by Comhairleoir K. Collins, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Having considered the Report of the Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations Directorate, dated 15th January 2025, and the provisions of Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act 1993, it is now hereby declared by this Order that the said roads serving Cluain Ard, Castleowen, Knockacorbally & Monacnapa, Blarney, Cork, are public roads.”

7.5 **TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEMES 2025**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir O. Moran, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle considered and approved the recommendation of the Director of Services, Local Area Development and Operations, dated 27th January 2025, following public consultation, on the proposed Traffic Calming Schemes 2025, pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act 2009.

7.6 **PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir H. Kamegni, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Horgan, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services,

Planning & Integrated Development, dated 6th February 2025, on proposed additions to the Record of Protected Structures.

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 4th FEBRUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 4th February 2025.

8.1 **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

An Chomhairle considered the following reports from the Audit Committee in pursuance of the provisions of the Local Government Audit Committee Regulations, 2014:

1. An Chomhairle considered and noted Section 121 Report.
2. An Chomhairle considered and noted the Audited Annual Financial Statement.
3. An Chomhairle considered and noted the LGA Audit Report.
4. On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Audit Committee Charter 2025.
5. On the proposal of Comhairleoir P. Horgan, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Audit Committee Work Programme 2025.

8.2 **MOTIONS**

8.2.1 **INDEPENDENT REVIEW BODY OF CORK CITY COUNCIL'S EXPENDITURE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate & Community Affairs Directorate, dated 30th January 2025 on the following motion:-

‘The most recent independent review of the City Council’s staffing complement was conducted in 2013. This motion calls on the Chief Executive to establish an updated independent review body. Additionally, should the Chief Executive deem it necessary, the remit of this body to be extended to review the non-pay elements of the City Council’s expenditure.

The purpose of the review is to ensure that the City Council’s financial capacity to deliver public services will not be compromised in the event of an economic downturn. The services identified as Members’ Priorities in the Finance and Estimates Committee Report 2024 are:

- Housing Maintenance
- Homeless Services
- Footpath Repairs
- Tree Pruning
- Line Painting
- Local Area Committee (LAC) Funding

- Sports Grants
- Ward Funds’

(Proposer: Cllr. A. Deasy 25/028)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage requires Local Authorities to carry out a workforce plan process. This process commenced in Cork City Council in during 2024 and is continuing in line with the Strategic Framework for Workforce Planning adopted by the local government sector. The plan will reflect the priorities that the Chief Executive has highlighted to Members. This process equates effectively to the independent “review” contained in the motion as it will be subject to approval by the Department once considered. A review of staffing should not only focus on numbers of staff, but also on types required to deliver programmes, policy, strategy and services – all of which are subject to change as the economic and political landscape changes. However, the core business of local government should be resourced constantly from a staffing perspective.

9. **PARTY WHIPS – 27th JANUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 27th January 2025.

10. **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & TOURISM STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - CAIDREAMH IDIRNÁISIÚNTA & TURASÓIREACHT – 20th JANUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the International Relations & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 20th January 2025.

10.1 **REPORT ON RECENT ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE TOURISM SECTOR**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the A/Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development, dated 10th January 2025 on recent activities to support the tourism sector.

10.2 **MOTIONS**

10.2.1 **TWINNING MECHANISM WITH A CITY IN PALESTINE**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate & Community Affairs, dated 10th January 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council will seek the establishment of a twinning mechanism with a city in Palestine and Cork City.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Harmon 24/560)

The report of the Director of Services stated that pursuant to previous motions concerning Cork twinning with a city in Palestine, a Council official met with the Ambassador of the State of Palestine, H.E. Jilan Wahba Abdalmajid, at the Embassy in Dublin in April 2023. This was followed up in May 2023 by a programme in Cork for the Ambassador including a meeting with then-Lord Mayor Deirdre Forde and officials. The Ambassador noted her interest at the time in exploring a project between Cork and the city of Nablus in Palestine. Her rationale for the selection of Nablus as a candidate for a project was its status as the centre of commerce in Palestine and it being a university town (hosting the fifth best university in the Arab world, with a particularly strong reputation in medicine).

Further Council engagement in the months ahead added the possibility of a heritage and conservation link between the two historic cities, and the Ambassador was keen to develop other projects including the visit of a Palestinian youth orchestra to Cork. The outbreak of hostilities on 7 October 2023 put a pause to these initiatives. However, pursuant to motions brought to Council, opportunities for continued engagement have been secured. The Ambassador has twice visited Cork since to brief elected members on the situation in Palestine, the first visit coinciding with the initial ruling of the International Court of Justice on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories in February 2024. The second taking place in September 2024. The emphasis in these briefings has been on the role which elected members could play as advocates for Palestine. The Lord Mayor, Cllr. Dan Boyle, has also had a phone call with the Ambassador since.

The current approach of Council with respect to twinning is to develop timebound programmes of mutual benefit with prospective partners before entering into formal twinning arrangements. Both the Embassy of the State of Palestine and Cork City Council have emphasised the need for a project to be both practical and meaningful. Council will continue to engage positively with the Palestinian Embassy and engage with the Palestinian community locally, on how best to advance a project, and will continue to secure periodic opportunities for the Ambassador to brief elected members

11. **ENVIRONMENT, WATER & AMENITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - COMHSHAOL, UISCE & ÁISEANNA – 21st JANUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 21st January 2025.

11.1 **FLOODING**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the presentation by Mr. Noel Murtagh on Flooding and Flood Relief Schemes.

11.2 **MOTIONS**

11.2.1 **PUBLIC TOILETS**

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

‘Cork City Council agrees that the city needs more public toilets.

The Council, therefore, agrees that three new public toilets should be added to the city each year for the next five years. This will be funded from a new budget line in the upcoming Cork City Council budget.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Rice 24/468)

The report of the Director of Services stated that there is no funding provision in the budget for the provision and operation of additional public toilets in Cork City Centre. If funding is provided in future years then additional facilities can be delivered.

11.2.2 **FLOODING**

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

‘Cork City Council acknowledges the significant impact flooding has on residents, businesses and public spaces. The City Council also acknowledges that the risk of flooding will increase as our climate changes.

Therefore, the Council will prioritise flood preparedness. This will include clearing drains and gullies, depaving, advancing early warning systems, rapid clean-ups, business adaptation advice, and other support.

The Council also supports upstream nature-based solutions such as allowing rivers to bend to slow the flow, compensating farmers whose land is allowed to flood, and planting more trees for water absorption. The Council will also give serious consideration to the creation of a tidal barrier downstream.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Rice 24/532)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead organization for flood risk management in Ireland and has the national authority for the implementation of the EU Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks 2007/60/EC.

Cork City Council continues to work closely with the OPW in the design, planning and delivery of several flood defence schemes in Cork city. OPW funded flood defence schemes have recently been completed in Douglas and Togher, and construction is currently underway on schemes at Morrison’s Island and Riverstown/Glanmire.

The OPW is also currently advancing the design of the Blackpool Flood Relief Scheme and the Lower Lee Flood Relief Scheme (LLFRS). Tidal barriers were assessed as part of the Lee Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan (CFRMP) at several locations in Cork Harbour. That assessment was reviewed as part of the OPW's LLFRS Options Report and tidal barriers were found not to be viable at this stage. The LLFRS will offer flood protection to around 900 homes and 1200 businesses in Cork city when constructed. The OPW is overseeing the completion of the detailed design, and it is anticipated that the scheme will be submitted to DPER for confirmation in early 2026.

LLFRS will incorporate a flood forecasting system and the use of washlands downstream of the Inniscarra and Carrigadrohid Dams. Extensive areas of biodiverse planting, including riparian vegetation, woodland and hedgerows are proposed as part of the scheme.

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.

Cork City Council has dedicated crews who periodically clean out the 40,000 gullies across the City. However, if a resident 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.

Cork 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.

11.2.3 **PROGRAMME OF WORKS TO KEEP STORM GULLIES IN GOOD ORDER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 16th January 2025 on the following motion:-

‘I ask that the Operations Directorate would initiate plans to ensure that our storm gullies are kept in good order so as to prevent flash flooding due to torrential downpours which are becoming more commonplace due to the increase in Atlantic Storms.

Recent torrential downpours lasting many hours saw low lying areas being affected by surface flooding even though the river itself was at low tide.

I understand and accept that the task in hand would be an immense amount of work so therefore it would be acceptable that a programme of works on an annual basis be commenced so as to clear gullies in an organised way area by area street by street.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Dineen 24/542)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council has a dedicated gully cleaning crew of 8 men, led by the Junior Foreperson. There are approximately 25,000 gullies in Cork City. Gullies are cleared in a planned and scheduled way. Over 46,000 gully cleaning operations were undertaken in 2024. In addition, 5,900m of linear drain are cleaned in the City Centre and surrounds. Gullies in flood prone areas are cleaned on a more frequent basis and calls to CRM are responded to. However, it should be noted that during the leaf fall season (late September to November), the gullies can become covered very easily by leaves and this can lead to temporary flooding of roads until the leaves are removed. As evidenced in recent events leaves can block gullies within 1 hour of an area being completely cleaned of leaves by a gully crew. Thus, no amount of additional resources will resolve the issue of leaves blocking gullies during flash flood situations.

11.2.4 **STORMWATER HOLDERS AT THE END OF HILLS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 16th January 2025 on the following motion:-

‘To seek an audit of capacity for stormwater holders at the end of hills in the City, especially in areas where flooding has occurred in heavy rainfall like on Douglas Street.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Harmon 24/561)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council’s Drainage Section is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the city’s stormwater network. It should however be noted that the majority of the drainage network within the city is a combined network (both foul and storm drainage) and is effectively an Uisce Éireann asset. Uisce Éireann is currently preparing plans for the separation of the combined network into separate foul and storm sewer systems. This is a long term project with the first package of works in the city not likely to commence before 2030.

City Council resources for maintenance and operation of the stormwater network are limited and would not facilitate the carrying out of an audit as sought by the motion. In any event, any plans for water attenuation would need to be considered in the planning for the long-term Uisce Eireann investment project and any attenuation installations appraised in the context of the considerable maintenance and operational costs involved.

11.2.5 **TREE PLANTING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 16th January 2025 on the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council believes that Cork needs more trees. Trees help reduce flooding and provide shade in extreme heat. They also add to the biodiversity of the city. Cork City Council, therefore, agrees to increase tree planting by 20% year on year for the next 5 years.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Rice 24/579)

The report of the Director of Services stated that since 2020, Cork City Council has successfully planted over 15,000 trees, making a significant contribution to enhancing the city's urban environment. Currently, the Council is planting between 4,000 to 5,000 trees annually, reflecting its commitment to fostering a greener, more sustainable city.

However, the limited availability of suitable publicly owned planting spaces presents challenges to increasing this annual target. Without additional land and resources, expanding beyond the current planting rate is not feasible.

Policy 14 of the Tree Strategy underscores the importance of prioritizing quality in tree planting to ensure long-lasting benefits for the city and its residents.

Cork City Council remains committed to sustainable and impactful tree planting. Should additional suitable lands and resources become available for tree planting, the Council would explore opportunities to incrementally increase the annual planting target, further strengthening Cork's green infrastructure and environmental resilience.

4000 trees including community planting, are scheduled to be planted in 2025.

11.2.6 **NEW PUBLIC TOILETS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 16th January 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council begin a programme of installing new public toilets in the parks or on new active greenways. A survey of city needs to be done including City Centre and costings be prepared for Councillors to make informed decisions at budget meetings.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 24/321)

The report of the Director of Services stated that it is the intention of Parks & Recreation to have public toilet units in all major public parks, these parks attracting the highest footfall and time spent enjoying the amenity. There is an automatic self-cleaning toilet unit at the Regional Park in Ballincollig, two new units will shortly be

installed at Fitzgerald's Park (an increase of one), as well as public toilets located at Tramore Valley Park and Marina Park Phase 1.

Parks & Recreation are currently reviewing the feasibility of the provision of a self-cleaning automatic toilet in Tramore Valley Park and Marina Park Phase 2.

Each automatic self-cleaning unit costs in the region of €35,000 annually on rental and maintenance costs, and funding for each additional unit installed will need to be secured.

There is no budgetary provision to extend provision to smaller parks, nor is there considered to be an acute need for same as most of these park users live locally.

11.2.7 **ADDITIONAL GULLIES IN ESTATES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 16th January 2025 on the following motion:-

‘To initiate a review and plan for additional gullies in estates where flooding and water planing occur after heavy rain, especially where more vulnerable residents reside.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 24/595)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council has a crew dedicated to clearing gullies. This is carried out on a planned basis. The crew also check on areas where flooding has occurred to ensure the gullies at those locations are clear. The Drainage section carries out jetting of sewer lines where blockages are apparent.

During the leaf fall season (late September to November), the gullies are covered very easily by leaves and this can lead to temporary flooding of roads, until the leaves are removed. As evidenced in recent events leaves can block gullies within 1 hour of an area being completely cleaned of leaves by a gully crew.

The majority of the city is served by a combined sewer network (both foul and surface water). The capacity in the combined sewer is limited. Adding new gullies to a combined system would increase the rate of storm water to the system and could lead to unintended consequences and flooding elsewhere. Ideally therefore, the solution to localised issue would not be the installation of new gullies but rather increased capacity in the network. The combined sewer networks are Uisce Éireann assets and new gullies cannot be added without UÉ permission. UÉ have carried out a Drainage Area Plan (DAP) for Cork City which will separate the combined system into foul and storm sewers, with the storm sewers being handed over to Cork City Council. These works will be undertaken in stages throughout the city, but at this stage are likely to be a number of years off (post 2030).

For localised areas served by separate storm systems, the City Council can investigate actions that could potentially alleviate flooding. A full scale review and plan for additional gullies would require resources and funding which are currently not available.

12. **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - POBAL, CULTÚR & COMHFHORBAIRT ÁITE – 23rd JANUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 23rd January 2025.

12.1 **REPORT ON THE LCDC ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report on the LCDC Annual Report 2023.

12.2 **MINUTES OF THE ARTS COMMITTEE OCTOBER 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Minutes of the Arts Committee October 2024.

12.3 **MOTIONS**

12.3.1 **LGBTQ+ GROUPS IN CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate & Community Affairs, 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.

12.3.2 **AUTISM FRIENDLY CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate & Community Affairs, dated 23rd January 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will meet with and partner with AsIAM to initiate a plan for Cork to become an autism friendly city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Harmon 24/622)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council through the Community Team will meet with AsIAM to look at the feasibility of Cork becoming an autism friendly city and report back at the February SPC.

12.3.3 **CORKMAS EVENTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate & Community Affairs, dated 23rd January 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council report on the Corkmas events including the successful Christmas parade and markets, Council to look at options now for a New Years event.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 25/039)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a report on the annual Christmas festival will be prepared and presented to the Arts Committee.

Corkmas 2025 was a success and helped to create a very positive atmosphere in the city centre in the lead up to Christmas. The inaugural parade to celebrate the switching on of the Christmas lights in the city took place on Friday, 15th November. The parade attracted approximately 40,000 attendees.

Other Corkmas Events included the Festive Market and Corkmas Santa Experience at Emmet Place, which ran Thursday to Friday from 22nd November to 22nd December and the Ferris Wheel and SOLAS festive light installation on Grand Parade. The Corkmas marketing campaign promoted all of the events taking place across the city from Pantos to ice-skating to community-led events.

The success of Christmas 2024 in Cork was the result of huge effort and collaboration between staff across the organisation led by the Events team with Communications, Lighting and the Fire Service, Roads, Tourism etc. with the support and contribution of Elected Members, city stakeholders and suppliers.

The full report will include recommendations for replicating and sustaining the success of 2024 in 2025.

12.3.4 **CORK COMMUNITY TV**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate & Community Affairs, dated 23rd January 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will partner with Cork Community TV to promote and engage people on the work and activities of the Council, including exploring ideas to work together on the promotion of the business of Council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 24/601)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council collaborates and works with Cork Community TV to promote and engage people on the work and activities of the Council. Cork Community TV has livestreamed local elections. The Community Team have engaged Cork Community TV on a number of items including the annual Lord Mayor’s Community and Heritage Concert, a podcast on the Cork City PPN and the Irish Language programme. In addition, they have been funded under the LCDC Grants, Irish language Grants and Arts Grants.

13. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 14th JANUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 14th January 2025.

14. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 4th FEBRUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 4th February 2025.

15. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th JANUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th January 2025.

16. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th JANUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th January 2025.

17. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th JANUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th January 2025.

18. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th JANUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th January 2025.

19. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th JANUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 28th January 2025.

20. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

21. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoir G. Kelleher at the AILG Autumn Training Seminar, held at Co. Monaghan, 11th - 12th September 2024.
- Comhairleoir G. Kelleher at the LAMA Autumn Seminar, held at Newgrange Hotel, Navan, Co. Meath, 17th - 18th October 2024.

22. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

An Chomhairle noted section 141 reports as follows:-

- Comhairleoir J. Lynch – Crawford Art Gallery – December 2024.
- Comhairleoir J. Lynch – Cork International Film Festival – August to December 2024.
- Comhairleoir J. Lynch – National Sculpture Factory – July to December 2024.
- Comhairleoir L. Harmon – ETB – September 2024.
- Comhairleoir L. Harmon – Cork Film Festival – August 2024.

23. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

24. **TRAINING**

24.1 **ASSOCIATION OF IRISH REGIONS' ANNUAL TRAINING SEMINAR**

An Chomhairle considered and retrospectively approved the travel of Comhairleoirí S. Martin and J. Kavanagh to Athlone on 5th and 6th February 2025 for the Association of Irish Regions' Annual Training Seminar 2025.

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

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive's monthly management reports for November and December 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 44, Cessation of Funding from Uisce Éireann, be referred to the Finance & Estimates Committee.

27. **MOTIONS**

27.1 **CORK CITY SPECIFIC ISSUES**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

'That this Council will seek to invite the Ministers for Transport Darragh O'Brien, Justice Jim O'Callaghan and Housing James Browne for engagement on Cork City specific issues in the areas of public transport, infrastructural investment, Gardaí support and housing provision amongst other areas as a matter of urgency.'

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 25/055)

An Chomhairle agreed to refer the motion to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.

27.2 **ONCE OFF GRANT FOR MAINTAINING TREES**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

'That this Council will write to the new Minister with responsibility for forestry and trees to seek consideration of a once off grant that will help private property owners

to maintain, not cut down, trees on their land that may pose a risk to neighbours, to infrastructure or their own property.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 25/061)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle approved the motion revised to read as follows:-

‘That this Council will write to the new Minister with responsibility for forestry and trees to seek consideration of a once off grant that will help private property owners to assess, not cut down, trees on their land that may pose a risk to neighbours, to infrastructure or their own property.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 25/061)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, seconded by Comhairleoir M.R. Desmond, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to continue the meeting 30 minutes past 8pm.

27.3 **HOUSING IN CORK CITY**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council invite the new Minister for Housing and Local Government to meet with the Council at the earliest opportunity to discuss the shortage of housing in Cork City, the unaffordability of new homes being built within the Council's administrative area, the city's homelessness crisis and other issues of concern to members.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Lynch 25/063)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, a vote was called for to refer the motion to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, D. Boyle, F. Dennehy, T. Coleman.
(11)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, M. Gould, B. McCarthy, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, S. O’Callaghan, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, N. O’Connor, C. Kelleher, J. Lynch. (13)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting against the amendment were greater than those voting for, An tArdmhéara declared the amendment to the motion defeated.

An Chomhairle approved the motion without amendment.

27.4 **SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Housing and Local Government urging the development and implementation of an action plan - in conjunction with local authorities - to remove barriers to accessing social housing support by victims of domestic violence.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Lynch 25/064)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir B. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Lynch, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to continue the meeting 15 minutes past 8:30pm.

27.5 **CONTROL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (OCCUPIED TERRITORIES) BILL**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That this Council registers its concern at recent indications from the Government that they will not follow up on their election commitment to enact the Control of Economic Activities (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018 and opposes any attempts to row back on enacting the bill in full.

This important bill was introduced in the context of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion from July 2024 which deemed Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land illegal and stated that all countries were obliged not to trade with them.’

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy 25/067)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders to continue the meeting, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, M. Gould, B. McCarthy, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, S. O’Callaghan, F. Kerins, D. Boyle, N. O’Connor, J. Lynch. (12)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, M.R. Desmond, C. Kelleher, T. Coleman. (8)

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.

Items 27.5, 27.6, 27.7 and 27.8 were deferred to the next Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle to be held, 10th March 2025.

27.6 **UPGRADE OF THE R624 ROAD**

‘That Cork City Council will write to the Government to emphasise the strategic priority and urgent upgrade of the R624 road to unlock the brownfield urban regeneration of the Cork docklands through the development of 1,325 homes with planning permission.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 25/079)

27.7 **TFI 90-MINUTE LEAP CARD FARE**

‘That Cork City Council will write to the Government and the National Transport Authority to ask them to make the new bus network for Cork a national priority and bring the TFI 90-Minute Leap Card Fare to Cork.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 25/081)

27.8 **ONGOING ISSUES WITH WATER QUALITY**

‘That Cork City Council will write to the Chief Executive of the EPA, Uisce Éireann and the HSE to request their urgent attendance at a special meeting of Cork City Council to discuss ongoing issues with water quality in Cork City and the potential public health risk of same.’

(Proposers: Cllr. K. Collins, Cllr. M. Gould, Cllr. F. Kerins 25/090)

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH