

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

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir D. Boyle.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Tynan, O. Moran.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, P. Rice, P. Dineen.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, G. Kelleher, C. Kelleher, J. Lynch, L. Harmon, A. Deasy, T. Coleman.
ALSO PRESENT	Mr. B. Geaney, Chief Executive. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Mr. N. Ó Donnabháin, Director of Services, Housing Operations. Ms. A. O’Rourke, Director of Services, Housing Delivery & Regeneration. Ms. R. Loughry, Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations. Mr. F. Reidy, Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development. Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer. Ms. A. Murnane, Meetings Administrator. Ms. N. Stewart, Administrative Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The Healy family on the death of Sophie Healy.
- The Sorenson family on the death of Pat Sorenson.
- The Olden family on the death of Patricia Olden.
- The McCarthy family on the death Gillian McCarthy.
- The Cronin family on the death of Michael Cronin.
- The Cronin family on the death of Wesley Cronin.
- The O’Flynn family on the death of Catherine O’Flynn.
- The Barry family on the death of Frank Barry.
- The Curtin family on the death of Michael Curtin.

- The Buckley family on the death of Mary Buckley.
- The O’Leary family on the death of Antoinette O’Leary.
- The Collis family on the death of Bridget Collis.
- The Walsh family on the death of Deborah Walsh,
- The McGregor family on the death of Christine McGregor.
- The Foley family on the death of Michael Foley.
- The Dorgan family on the death of Pat Dorgan.
- The Mullins family on the death of Sean Mullins.
- The O’Leary family on the death of Kathleen O’Leary.
- The Riordan family on the death of Sheila Riordan.
- The O’Herlihy family on the death of Craig O’Herlihy.
- The Finn family on the death of Mary Finn.
- The Macken family on the death of John Macken.
- The Sheehan family on the death of Geraldine Sheehan.
- The Guirey family on the death of Peter Guirey.
- The Foley family on the death of Catherine Foley.
- The Burke family on the death of Eleanor Burke.

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

- Cork City FC on becoming First Division League Winners.
- Douglas Tidy Towns on the launch of Voices of Douglas.
- Ballinlough Summer Festival Committee on the holding of the summer festival.
- Scoil Niocláis Parents’ Association on the holding of the family fun day.
- Eddie Dunbar on two stage wins in the Vuelta a Espana.
- Blackpool Youth Club on celebrating their 50th year anniversary.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss motion 61 on Appendix 1, State Control of Pre-School Education, and motion 62 on Appendix 1, Water Services in Cork City, at the end of the meeting.

3. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**

3.1 **LORD MAYOR LED DELEGATION TO CHINA**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of Comhairleoirí C. Kelleher, K. McCarthy and J. Sheehan to China as part of a Lord Mayor led delegation.

3.2 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception for Olympians and Paralympians on their success at the 2024 Olympics.

3.3 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR CORK CAMOGIE TEAMS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception for the Cork Senior and Intermediate Camogie teams on winning the 2024 All-Ireland Championships.

3.4 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR ANN DOHERTY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception for Former Chief Executive Ann Doherty in recognition of her contribution to the City over the past ten years.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

4.1 **NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF A SCHEME FOR THE ABATEMENT OF RATES IN RESPECT OF VACANT PROPERTIES, CORK CITY COUNCIL**

The Chief Executive outlined the public notice in respect of a scheme providing for abatement of rates in respect of vacant properties, applying in the 2025 local financial year.

5. **MINUTES**

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

- Special Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 26th June 2024.

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

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 8th July 2024.

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

- Special Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 2nd September 2024.

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **NUMBER OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FOR DERELICT SITES**

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

I am seeking confirmation on the number of planning applications submitted for derelict sites from 2014 to 2024, along with the count of refusals on these same sites during this period.

A. Do you believe it would be advisable for developers engaging with Cork City Council for planning applications on derelict sites to be exempt from derelict site fees?

B. Could you furnish data regarding planning applications declined by Cork City Council but subsequently approved by An Bord Pleanála from 2014 to 2024, in general and in relation to derelict sites? Additionally, please provide the associated costs of these applications and the revenue accrued by Cork City Council before their denial and subsequent appeal to An Bord Pleanála.

C. The number of site visits, specifically internal inspections carried out in relation to derelict buildings by the planning department and in relation to historical / protected structure by the conservation department.

D. The number of applications that have been asked for further information only to be subsequently refused permission.

It is noteworthy that applications rejected by Cork City Council and later overturned by An Bord Pleanála often result in considerable expenses for developers, which are then transferred to citizens.

In most cases these derelict buildings are dilapidated, uninhabitable and only fit for a complete refurbishment, whereby unreasonable demands are placed on developers due to either refusal of planning permission or the request of prohibitively expensive reports / consultations before a decision is made.

Do you concur that it is time for the planning department to be held responsible for local refusals that gain approval at the national level? Is there a necessity for a structured mechanism that allows developers to not only recoup the initial application expense but also reclaim additional costs incurred due to process-related delays?

Also of note, is the requirement of some departments, specifically conservation when dealing with historical and often dilapidated buildings, to require the input of specific consultants, hence creating an artificial monopoly and undue cost to developers. This practice is outside their remit and not in accordance with planning legislation.

REPLY

The replies below are based on the data available as it is collated.

A. Do you believe it would be advisable for developers engaging with Cork City Council for planning applications on derelict sites to be exempt from derelict site fees?

Reply

The Derelict Sites Levy applies to sites on the Derelict Sites Register, and, in accordance with the Derelict Sites Act 1990, must apply until the dereliction is removed. That stated, Cork City Council will engage with owners of derelict sites and, where appropriate put in place payment plans for the derelict sites levies.

B. Could you furnish data regarding planning applications declined by Cork City Council but subsequently approved by An Bord Pleanála from 2014 to 2024, in general and in relation to derelict sites? Additionally, please provide the associated costs of these applications and the revenue accrued by Cork City Council before their denial and subsequent appeal to An Bord Pleanála.

Reply

The table below presents the number of refusals appealed to An Bord Pleanála and the number of refusals overturned by An Bord Pleanála on appeal in 2021 – August 2024, inclusive. None of these sites are on the Derelict Sites Register.

Year	No. of refusals appealed to ABP	No. of refusals overturned by ABP on appeal
2021	23	11
2022	26	3
2023	21	3
2024*	3	1

*to 31 Aug 2024

Prior to 2021 the information above was not gathered in this format, however the Planning Development Management section has, since 2021 introduced a manual monitoring system in relation to applications appealed and decisions made by An Bord Pleanála.

The related information for prior to 2021 is captured in a different format in the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Annual Returns and Department Returns. The table below presents the information published annually in the NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Reports. Cork City Council consistently appears in the upper percentile in terms of An Bord Pleanála ratifying our decisions, thereby confirming the high-quality planning service being provided.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of Cork City Council planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Bord on any date in the given year:	24	39	37	48	44	36	48
Percentage of the determinations which confirmed the decision made by the local authority:	71%	90%	81%	85%	75%	83%	73%

C. The number of site visits, specifically internal inspections carried out in relation to derelict buildings by the planning department and in relation to historical / protected structure by the conservation department.

Reply

The table below presents the total number of inspections on Derelict and Vacant properties by the planning team. Site inspections under the Derelict Sites Act are external inspections. The number of inspections in relation to historic or protected structures is not currently recorded, however regard is had to the conservation status of properties inspected in relation to the Derelict Sites Act.

Year	Inspections
2022	204
2023	442
2024 YTD	247

D. The number of applications that have been asked for further information only to be subsequently refused permission.

Reply

The table below presents the number of Further Information requests made on planning applications and the number of refusals following receipt of the further information 2020 to 2023.

Year	No. of FI request	No. of refusals following receipt of FI
2020	96	10
2021	334	31
2022	263	22
2023	172	8
2024*	166	6

*to 31st August 2024

As advised in response to Question B, Planning Development Management record statistics for the purposes of National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Annual Returns and Department Returns. The data requested in this particular question in relation to Further Information subsequently being refused is not encompassed within these returns. However, the Planning Development Management section has, in recent years, introduced a manual monitoring system in relation to Further Information requests and the subsequent decision on receipt of FI.

As is evident from this table, the amount of applications refused following a request for Further Information is very low.

Rebecca Loughry
Director of Services
Community, Culture & Placemaking

Fearghal Reidy
Director of Services
Strategic & Economic
Development

6.2 **PLAQUE**

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

Can the CE please advise where the plaque which was laid in the new footpath on McCurtain Street has gone?

This was put in place at the official launch of the VQ infrastructure project by Micheal Martin some months ago.

It has since disappeared and Traders are asking where it has gone, and can it be reinstated in the area, even on a wall?

REPLY

The permanent plaque to mark the completion and official opening of the MacCurtain Street Public Transport Improvement Scheme has now been installed on the street as part of the final works associated with the close out of the capital project. A temporary plaque was used for official opening and the permanent metal plaque (in Irish and English) was installed on Fri 30th August outside the Grace Church adjacent to Spar.

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

6.3 **KILCULLY**

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

What measures is Cork City Council planning to implement in Kilcully to address the number of fatalities and accidents in the area?

Additionally, can you provide details on the safety plan of action for Kilcully and a timeline for the implementation of these works to enhance health and safety in the area?

REPLY

Infrastructure Development is currently progressing plans for the Kilcully section of the Kilcully/Upper Glanmire Pedestrian Safety Scheme which extends 1.6km from St. Catherine's Cemetery east along the L2962 Kilcully Road, to the junction with the L2958 Upper Dublin Hill Road and north to the Anname Bridge. The scheme will improve the overall road safety in the area with particular benefits for vulnerable road

users. The status of the scheme is as follows: preliminary design is complete, Part 8 Planning has been approved by Council, the detailed design is ongoing and scheduled to be finalised by mid-2025 and land acquisition is also being progressed with expected completion by agreement in mid-2025. As in other schemes a CPO process would be undertaken to secure the necessary lands if agreement cannot be reached with the affected landowners. On completion of the land acquisition process, the scheme will progress to tender and construction subject to the usual funding approvals.

In addition, the Kilcully area has been recorded by Traffic Operations as an area to be considered for future traffic management works or a road safety improvement scheme. Once funding is available all measures to improve road safety in the area can be considered including any required review of traffic management. Currently there is no City Council funding available for such works. However, we will retain the project on a list for prioritisation for future roads programmes should funds be made available.

D. Joyce,
Director of Services
Roads & Environment Operations

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

6.4 **EVENT 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 update this Council on the issue of the Event Centre and what the final financial ask is of Cabinet; how much has been paid out to date to consultants of all kinds in this project by this Council and what contact was made in the summer months between the members of the joint venture and Government Departments.

REPLY

The current amount of public funding pledged to the Cork Event Centre is €57m. A recommendation in relation to additional funding is with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage who are liaising with the Government in terms of a decision. Since the initiation of this process in 2013, the Council has spent €1.6 million on legal and consultant services. The City Council is unaware of any contact made between the Joint Venture and Government Departments over the summer months.

Brian Geaney,
Chief Executive.

6.5 **SAFE CITY CENTRE**

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

Can the CE outline what plans are in place to reassure the public that Cork City Council is a safe place to go by day and by night. While it is primarily a matter for

the Gardai, what role does the CE believe that the Council has in making the city centre safer?

REPLY

While this is primarily a matter for the Gardai, there are a number of initiatives led by Cork City Council which also form part of a collaborative response to this matter.

In line with national Community Policing and safety developments, Cork City has begun the process of establishing a Community Safety Partnership, a programme under the auspices of the Department of Justice. This model will build on what the Joint Policing Committee has developed in previous years, whereby a multi-agency response is taken to emerging trends in community safety as well as specific events and concerns. The Community Safety Partnership will also benefit from a staff resource within Cork City Council, as well as an independent Chair. The model has been piloted in Dublin's North Inner City, Longford and Waterford and focuses on community engagement to discern key issues arising locally and city wide. The Community Safety Partnership coordinator will lead on the development of a Community Safety Strategy for the City from 2025. Local Community Safety Forums are also an ongoing feature of the city's community life. These joint community engagement forums allow Cork City Council Community staff and An Garda Síochána Community Policing to triage issues of local safety and Council service provision.

In addition, the public realm works at Morrisson's Island and Grand Parade will enhance the permeability, security, and enjoyment of the city centre.

Cork is also a pilot area under the Night Time Economy Scheme by the Department of Arts, Tourism, Culture Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Security and safety is a key pillar of the new NTE strategy. There is constant engagement with the Gardai in relation to night time. There will also be a number of measures including a new anti-social behaviour campaign to be rolled out shortly.

Fearghal Reidy,
Director of Services,
Strategic & Economic Development

Rebecca Loughry,
Director of Services,
Community, Culture &
Placemaking

6.6 **VICTORIA ROAD TRAFFIC**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if the Council is aware of this "Wild West" daily traffic being endured by the beautiful residents in Victoria Road with heavy goods vehicles going up and down in such a very dense estate, putting inhabitants lives in serious danger. If yes, what is the Council doing to fix it?

REPLY

While residents may live along Victoria Road it is also a public road and one of the key access routes to Blackrock and Ballintemple, as well as being a bus route with no width, height or weight restrictions in place other than the statutory restrictions for public roads in general. There exists public footpaths along the entire length of Victoria road to provide safe passage for pedestrians. Given the functional requirements of this road, the unclear prerequisite for the introduction of a restriction on this road and the impact of displacement on other surrounding roads, no restrictions are planned.

It is to be noted that the route along Albert Quay and Victoria Road (North) forms part of the proposed Cork Docklands to City Centre Route Improvement Scheme. The proposed scheme seeks to rationalise traffic movement along in this area, widen and renew footpaths, better facilitate bus services and improve cycle infrastructure. Details of proposed improvements will be presented to Members as they are finalised over the coming months with a view to progressing public consultation under the Part 8 planning process.

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

Gerry O'Beirne
Director of Services,
Infrastructure Development

6.7 **RESPOND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

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

To ask the CE for the update on the proposed Respond Housing Development on Thomas Davis St. Is there a planned start date for construction as it is over 2 years since the project started.

REPLY

The first phase construction works (enabling and infrastructure works) have been completed on the residential development at Thomas Davis Street, which is being undertaken by Respond Housing Association.

The main construction phase of the residential development required retendering by Respond, with post-tender checks and process now complete. Respond is currently finalising a CALF funding application for submission to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage in the next two weeks, and if approved will then progress to the Housing Finance Agency for final funding approval.

This will enable completion of the legal contractual elements which dictate a construction commencement date. The intention is construction to commence before end of 2024, with completion in Q2, 2026.

Alison O'Rourke
Director of Services

6.8 **HOUSING**

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

To ask the Chief Executive how many people in Cork have an identified housing need?

Broken down by:

- The number of people currently sleeping rough in Cork
- The number of adults and children are accessing emergency accommodation in Cork
- The number of people on the social housing waiting list, including those in receipt of HAP and RAS

REPLY

- There were 15 rough sleepers in Cork City as of 5th of September, 2024.
- In the most recent published report of 31st July there were 466 adults, 139 children accessing emergency accommodation in Cork City.
- Number of eligible applicants on Cork City Council's Social Housing List as at 31st July, 2024 – 3546.
- Number of HAP/RAS transfer applicants as at 31st July, 2024 – 2677.

Niall O'Donnabhain,
Director of Services,
Housing Operations.

6.9 **LEHENAGHMORE/TOGHER ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

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

Could the Chief Executive please provide me with an update on the Lehenaghmore/Togher Road improvements scheme post the An Bord Pleanala Oral Hearing?

REPLY

In August 2024, An Bord Pleanala approved the Compulsory Purchase Order for the Lehenaghmore Roads Improvement Scheme. This follows an application which was submitted in September 2022 and a related Oral Hearing which was held earlier this year.

The CPO approval confirms the City Council's power to acquire the lands necessary to deliver the approved improvement works on the L2455 Lehenaghmore Road and

L2454 Togher Road. There is currently extensive engagement ongoing with affected landowners regarding the acquisition of lands and also the revised boundary treatments/accommodation works. Over the coming weeks the formal CPO notices will be issued with a view to closing out the acquisition processes for the various land plots required.

The detailed design and preparation of the construction tender documents is also in the process of being finalised. It is anticipated that these will be completed before year end thereby enabling the scheme to proceed to the procurement stage with construction to follow in 2025 subject to NTA approval and continued grant funding.

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

6.10 **CONFIRMING NAME OF MARY MACSWINEY BRIDGE**

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 the status of confirming or re-affirming the name of Mary MacSwiney Bridge and the locating of a plaque identifying the bridge at a suitable location at pedestrian level, such as at the intersection of the bridge and Dublin Street in Blackpool (motion 22/236)

REPLY

Following queries from Members and subsequent consultation with the Mid West National Road Design Office, it has been confirmed that as per Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 53 Of 2012 - Roads Act 1993 (Classification of National Roads) Order 2012, the official name of this bridge is Maire McSwiney Bridge.

There is no funding available to install a plaque at this time, however if funding is made available (for example from the Local Electoral Area Fund) Cork City Council would consider installation of a suitably designed plaque.

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

6.11 **HP PRODUCTS**

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

Can the CE confirm if Cork City Council is not using new HP products going forward as the company is on the Boycott, Disinvestment, Sanctions (BDS) list pertaining to Israel.

REPLY

Cork City Council has no plans to use HP products going forward.

Ruth Buckley,
Head of ICT.

6.12 **MARINA PARK**

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 on Marina Park Phase 2 and the Marina Promenade Project?

REPLY

Construction work on the Marina Promenade Scheme commenced earlier this year and is progressing well. The project is expected to be substantially complete and open to the public by the end of the year.

Construction work on the Marina Park Project is also progressing well. The contractor is currently focusing on works in the vicinity of the Atlantic Pond and Holland Park as well as the construction of internal pathways and boundary works. The project is on programme for completion in late 2025 with sections of the park expected to be available to the public in advance of this date. Members will be further updated on progress as both projects continue over the coming months.

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

6.13 **FIRE COVER REVIEW**

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

To ask the CE to provide an update on the fire cover review being undertaken by Cork City Council, and to provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 strategic review of the Council's fire services

REPLY

In 2020 due to the boundary extension and re-structuring of the Fire Services to include Building Control, it was considered that a full Strategic Review of the Fire and Building Control Department would be timely. In the context of the growth and development ambitions for Cork City and the expected expansion in population over the next 20/30 years it was concluded that there was a need to ensure that the Fire Services and Building Control Section was fit for purpose and ready to address the increasing demands and complexities that growth would bring.

Crowe Ireland were appointed to complete a Strategic Review of Cork City Council Fire and Building Control Department. Their remit was to undertake a strategic review of the structures, services and resource utilisation of Cork City Fire and Building Control Department to ensure that it is prepared to deliver an efficient and effective service to cater for the future development of Cork City. The primary objective of the review was to provide Cork City Council with a long-term strategy for the delivery of Fire and Building Control services to its citizens, businesses and stakeholders.

The review made a number recommendations under three main themes:

- Strategy and Planning
- Organisation and People
- Operations and processes.

We are currently in the Implementation Phase of the Strategic Review. The current area of focus is the Fire Risk Cover Review, which is currently being carried out by Crowe Ireland. This is assessing how to provide the most effective and efficient Fire Service to the people of Cork including those in the extended boundary area. A report on the Fire Risk Cover review for Cork City is due to issue in Quarter 4.

Rebecca Loughry
Director of Service,
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

6.14 **TENANT IN SITU SCHEME**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the number of applications for the tenant in situ scheme received to date this year, the amount of applications successful and total amount spent and what engagement from Central government was held on recent changes quietly made to the scheme?

REPLY

Details of Cork City Council's Tenant in Situ Scheme are outlined below up to 31st July, 2024. This scheme initiated in 2023 has continued into 2024 and figures are reflective of this.

- Total contacts received to 31/07/2024 - 555
- Purchased/Sale Agreed/In Progress - 170
 - Closed (Purchase complete): 103
 - With Law (Sale Agreed): 56
 - Offer issued / To be Issued: 7
 - Awaiting valuation: 2
 - Pending Inspection: 2
- Offer refused by Property Owner - 8
- Socially Housed/HAP Supported/APS Accom/Alt Private Accom- 90

- Under review/Further information required/No NTQ issued - 168
- Landlord/Tenant not interested in Acquisition - 104
- County area – referred to Cork County Council - 15

Tenant in Situ - Acquisitions & Expenditure (Programme Years 2023 / 2024)

Programme Year	Nr. of Units	Total Cost	Average Cost	Estimated Average Upgrade Cost
2023	48	€13, 507,500	€281,406.25	€38,136.32
2024	55	€15, 815,000	€287,546.00	€41,441.20

Circular 06/2024, issued in March 2024, outlines the revised arrangements for social housing acquisitions for 2024. In late June 2024 the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued Guidance for 2024 Social Housing Acquisitions. Both documents are attached.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing Operations Directorate.

Alison O'Rourke,
Director of Services,
Housing Delivery & Regeneration Directorate.

6.15 **NEW EDUCATION CAMPUS ON WESTERN SIDE OF BALLINCOLLIG**

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

Can I please ask the Chief Executive for an update on the progress of the C.P.O. process involving the procurement by Cork City Council of lands in Lisheens, Ovens, Cork for the urgently needed education campus for both Gaelscoil an Chaisleáin primary school and Le Chéile secondary school, both of which are currently operating in temporary accommodation in Ballincollig? Can I please ask for specific reference to be made in the response to the extent to which Cork City Council has engaged with the Department of Education in the process to date and also for the provision of a timeline for design, planning and construction phases of the two new schools?

REPLY

Following engagement with the Department of Education, Cork City Council acquired lands at Lisheens, Ovens under Compulsory Purchase Order for proposed school development by the Department. The City Council formally took possession of the lands on 28th May 2024.

The Department of Education has appointed Project Managers and they are in the process of undertaking surveys and topography studies of the site. A design team is anticipated to be appointed by January 2025 to undertake the design and planning processes for the proposed development.

Cork City Council has been engaging with the Department of Education on an ongoing basis and will continue this engagement until such time that a land transfer takes place from Cork City Council to the Department of Education.

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

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the Deputy Chief Executive, dated 29th August 2024 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of land (71.3m² approximately) situated to the rear of No. 32, Aylesbury Downs, Ballincollig, Cork to Gerard Kirstein & Yanhong Pan, c/o O' Donoghue & Associates Solicitors, Trinity House, Georges Quay, Cork for the sum of €500.00 plus costs of €1,500.00 plus VAT.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. Kelleher, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

2. Disposal of the freehold interest in property known as No. 11, Adelaide Street, Cork to Claire Rosehill, c/o Eoin C. Mallon LLP Solicitors, 13, Sheares Street, Cork for the sum of €1,500.00 plus costs of €1,500.00 plus VAT.

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

3. Disposal of the freehold interest in a plot of ground (117 m² approximately) situated to the rear of No. 20, St. Finbarr's Place, Probys Quay, Cork to Mary Cotter, c/o Nancy O' Driscoll Solicitor, 11, South Bank, Crosses Green, Cork, for the sum of €100.00 plus costs of €750.00 plus VAT.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir F. Dennehy, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

4. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of ground (48.6 m² approximately) situated at The Hill, Corbally, Blarney, Cork to Fintan & Valerie Coleman, c/o James J. O' Donoghue & Co. Solicitors, Shournagh House, Tower, Co. Cork, for the sum of €500.00 plus costs of €1,500.00, plus VAT.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. Collins, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Boylan, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

5. Disposal of the freehold interest in land situated at Hollymount Industrial, Hollyhill, Cork to Aron Fiddes, Pamela Fiddes, Mark Fiddes, and Stephen Fiddes, c/o Charles C. Daly & Co. Solicitors, 2, Westbourne Pace, Cobh, Cork, for the sum of €6,500.00 plus costs of €1,500.00 plus VAT.

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

6. Disposal of the freehold interest in the property known as “Shandon”, 14, The Grove, Shanakiel, Cork to Yun Hai Lin and Matthew Lin, c/o Coakley Moloney Solicitors, 49, South Mall, Cork, for the sum of €368,000.00.

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

7.2 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT REDEMPTION ROAD, BLACKPOOL**

In accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed residential development at Redemption Road, Blackpool, in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive thereon as required under Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, dated 2nd August 2024.

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

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development at Redemption Road, Blackpool, in the City of Cork and the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, Cork City Council thereon, it is hereby resolved pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that the development at Redemption Road, Blackpool, in the City of Cork be carried out as recommended in the said report of the Deputy Chief Executive, Cork City Council, which was put before Council on the 9th September 2024.”

7.3 **CHAIRPERSON OF THE LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir O. Moran, seconded by Comhairleoir G. Kelleher, An Chomhairle approved the appointment of Comhairleoir O. Moran as Chairperson of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee in accordance with section 22 (1) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998.

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

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

8.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31/07/2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement of Cork City Council to 31/07/2024.

8.2 **MOTIONS**

8.2.1 **RIGHT TO VOTE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the A/Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 27th August 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will develop specific strategies to educate the 17% of ordinary residents of the City who are not Irish citizens of their right to vote in local elections.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 24/380)

The report of the A/Director of Services stated that Members will be aware that a substantial amount of promotional work has been undertaken by the Electoral Commission around building the awareness around the legal entitlement to vote in local elections and encouraging voter registration. This work included substantial media campaigns and publicity. The process around voter registration has also been streamlined and simplified and online registration has been introduced and widely promoted. In addition to the national work undertaken by the Commission and as part of the national campaign to Check The Register, Cork City Council has also done substantial work in promoting voter registration among non-Irish residents in the administrative area. As most EU and non-EU citizens are eligible to vote in the Local & European Elections only, the Franchise Section applies a particular focus to these potential voters in advance of these electoral events. Campaigns were undertaken originally for the 2019 Local Elections and again for the elections earlier this year. Working with the CCP Directorate, and utilising its various media platforms, the Franchise Office held a number of information sessions in shopping centres and workplaces and has created and made available registration information and instruction. We have also engaged with FDI companies to encourage them to promote voting awareness amongst their workforces. There was also engagement with colleges and universities in Cork, who received voter registration materials for distribution to their student body and members of the Franchise Team also attended some student registration events. Multilingual leaflets and information booklets are available on request and have been provided to interested groups. In collaboration with NASC Reps – the Franchise Section and CCC’s Local Authority Integration Team Unit engaged with direct provision centres and programme refugee locations to encourage voter participation. Following this work there was a significant increase in applications from these locations. Non-Irish citizens accounted for 38% of the voters included in the register balancing list before the Local & European Elections, indicating significant interest closer to the electoral event which clearly demonstrates the impact of the campaigns that have been undertaken. Going forward, it is our intention to continue targeted awareness and voter registration campaigns to enable non-Irish residents to exercise their franchise.

8.2.2 **ELECTION POSTERS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the A/Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 27th August 2024 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will support and seek that going forward election posters should be banned for all elections candidates standing in Cork. Or in the least they should be allowed to print a tiny amount of 40 recyclable posters each. We must protect the image of our beautiful City and always remember that climate crisis is reality.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 24/402)

The report of the A/Director of Services stated that the placement of election posters is legally provided for under section 19 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended by section 9 of the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009. The law allows for the erection or placement of posters provided same are not in place:-

- prior to the making of an Order by the Minister (appointing the day upon which the relevant poll shall be taken) or for 30 days prior to the date of the poll, whichever is the shorter period, or
- for 7 days or more after the latest day upon which the poll was taken for the relevant election.

It is noteworthy that the CA&IR Directorate received just a handful of complaints relating to postering for the Local Elections 2024 (mainly in relation to interference of traffic sightlines). The prohibition of election posters or limitation of the number of posters, as proposed by the motion would require the making of local Bye-laws. A statutory process, including public consultation, would be required for such Bye-laws. Members will be aware of the ongoing work to promote voter registration and encourage participation in electoral events as part of a healthy functioning democracy. This objective and the significance and value of postering to support public awareness and knowledge of electoral events would need to be part of a balanced consideration of all the issues involved.

8.2.3 **COMBAT GENDER AND SEXUALITY BASED VIOLENCE**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That this Council will proactively engage with stakeholder groups in Cork City and County on the best strategy to combat gender and sexuality based violence in an effort to eradicate such violence in our society.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 24/372)

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

FOR: Comhairleoiri K. O’Flynn, J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Tynan, O. Moran, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, S.

O’Callaghan, P. Rice, P. Dineen, D. Boyle, F. Dennehy, G. Kelleher, C. Kelleher, J. Lynch, L. Harmon, A. Deasy, T. Coleman. (29)

AGAINST: (0)

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.

9. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 9th JULY 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 9th July 2024.

10. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 2nd SEPTEMBER 2024**

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

10.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

10.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF JULY 2024**

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

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

12. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoir K. McCarthy as part of the Cork City Council Delegation to the Commemoration Conference, held at Seoul and Jeongeup, South Korea, 5th - 12th May 2024.
- Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the National Healthy Cities and Counties Network Meeting, held at the Department of Health, Baggot Street, Dublin, 9th April 2024.
- Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the Seanad Éireann Public Consultation Hearing on future of local democracy, Healthy Cities, held at Leinster House, Dublin, 25th April 2024.
- Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the Wellbeing Economy and Local Government Forum, held at Reykjavik, Iceland, 11th - 13th June 2024.

13. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

None received.

14. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to continue the meeting past 8pm.

15. **TRAINING**

None received.

16. **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.

An Chomhairle noted that motions 61, State Control of Pre-School Education, and 62, Water Services in Cork City, would be discussed under suspension of standing orders.

17. **MOTIONS**

17.1 **MEASURES TO TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee calling on her to consider introducing the following measures to tackle the anti-social behaviour and open drug use that is occurring on a daily basis on the streets of Cork:

- the allocation of extra manpower, resources and funding to An Garda Síochána in Cork with the goal of ensuring that there is an increased Garda presence on the streets of Cork;
- increasing the maximum sentence for threatening, abusive or insulting behaviour in a public place from 3 months imprisonment to 1 year imprisonment;
- increasing the maximum sentence for intoxication in a public place from a €500 fine to 1 year imprisonment;
- increasing the maximum sentence for aggressive begging from 1 month imprisonment to 1 year imprisonment;

- the introduction of mandatory minimum sentencing for various public order offences where there has been repeat offending within a specified period.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O'Callaghan 24/426)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir O. Moran, a proposed amendment to the motion was tabled to read as follows:-

'That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee calling on her to consider more effective measures to tackle the anti-social behaviour and open drug use that is occurring on a daily basis on the streets of Cork including the allocation of extra manpower, resources and funding to An Garda Síochána in Cork with the goal of ensuring that there is an increased Garda presence on the streets of Cork.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O'Callaghan 24/426)

A vote was called for on the approval of the amendment where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, M. McDonnell, T. Tynan, O. Moran, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, M. Gould, K. Collins, T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, P. Rice, P. Dineen, D. Boyle, C. Kelleher, J. Lynch, L. Harmon, A. Deasy, T. Coleman. (21)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, S. O'Callaghan (5)

ABSTAIN: (0)

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

17.2 **REGULATION OF DEMAND-BASED PRICING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council will write to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment seeking the regulation of demand-based pricing in hospitality, transport, entertainment and other sectors.'

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 24/445)

17.3 **CONSISTENT FAILURE BY THE MANAGEMENT OF UISCE ÉIREANN / IRISH WATER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council call upon the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien to request that the Chief Executive Officer of Uisce Éireann/Irish Water, Niall Gleeson come before a meeting of Cork City Council to

account for the consistent failure by the management of Uisce Éireann/Irish Water to tackle the persistent problems of water discolouration and water outages without sufficient notice in large areas of Cork. At the meeting, Chief Executive Officer Gleeson should be in a position to answer questions from City Councillors on the issues concerned and to provide a detailed report regarding what efforts have been made to tackle these issues to date and what further steps the management of Uisce Éireann/Irish Water propose to take to resolve these problems.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 24/452)

17.4 **FORMAL COMPLAINT TO THE COMMISSION FOR REGULATION OF UTILITIES**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council make a formal complaint to the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) regarding the Chief Executive Officer of Uisce Éireann/Irish Water, Niall Gleeson’s refusal to come before a meeting of Cork City Council to account for the consistent failure by the management of Uisce Éireann/Irish Water to tackle the persistent problems of water discolouration and water outages without sufficient notice in large areas of Cork.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 24/453)

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

‘That Cork City Council make a formal complaint to the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) regarding the Chief Executive Officer of Uisce Éireann/Irish Water, Niall Gleeson’s refusal to come before a meeting of Cork City Council and for Uisce Éireann to account for the consistent failure by the management of Uisce Éireann/Irish Water to tackle the persistent problems of water discolouration and water outages without sufficient notice in large areas of Cork.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 24/453)

17.5 **FUNDING FOR ST. KILLIAN'S SCHOOL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘On May 13th of this year, I submitted to this Council a motion calling for the Government to support St. Killian's School in Mayfield, which provides vital services for children with additional needs. This motion was subsequently passed by the Council.

Nearly four months later, I am now calling on the Council to again support my call to Micheál Martin, Simon Harris, and Eamon Ryan to provide the vital funding to St. Killian's school, so that the children of the school receive the essential therapeutic services that they require to meet their full potential.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 24/454)

17.6 **BRING ISRAEL TO THE PEACE TABLE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That this Council will write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to seek a meeting with him on the efforts being made by the Irish Government to bring Israel to the peace table through trade sanctions.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Harmon 24/461)

17.7 **POP-UP GARDA STATION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion, noting the dissention of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy:-

‘That this Council will write to the Garda Commissioner, Taoiseach and the Minister for Justice to seek immediate extra resources for a pop-up Garda Station in the Patrick Street/Grand Parade/Washington Street areas to be staffed with additional Gardaí allocations, similar to the one on O’Connell Street in Dublin.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Harmon 24/462)

17.8 **ADDITIONAL BUSES FOR THE JAZZ FESTIVAL AND CHRISTMAS 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council contact Bus Eireann / NTA to ensure additional buses are in operation for the Jazz festival 2024 and Christmas 2024.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 24/472)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir B. McCarthy to address An Chomhairle on the following motion, after which a discussion took place, and An Chomhairle approved the motion:-

STATE CONTROL OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

‘Council notes with great concern the closure of the New Horizons pre-school on the St. Vincent’s campus on St. Mary’s Road. This follows on from the closure of Before 5 in Churchfield one year previously. Council supports the growing demand for pre-school education to be put in the charge of the State to ensure continuity of service.’

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy 24/474)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir M. Gould to address An Chomhairle on the following motion:-

WATER SERVICES IN CORK CITY

‘That Cork City Council will take back the ownership, management and operations of all water services in Cork City as a result of the inability and incompetence of Uisce Éireann to provide clean safe drinking water to the people of Cork City.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Gould 24/475)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Gould, a vote was called for on the approval of the motion where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, M. Gould, B. McCarthy, H. Kamegni, P. Rice, J. Lynch, L. Harmon, A. Deasy. (10)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, K. McCarthy, S. O’Callaghan, T. Coleman. (7)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí P. Horgan, D. Boyle. (2)

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

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH