

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 10th JULY 2023

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir K. McCarthy.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, D. Boylan.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. O'Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Ryng.
ALSO PRESENT	Mr. B. Geaney, Deputy Chief Executive. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Mr. T. Rogers, Acting Director of Services, Housing. Ms. R. Loughry, Acting Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking. Mr. S. Lynch, Acting Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations. Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. S. Coughlan, Acting Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development. Mr. J. Stapleton, Acting Director of Services, Infrastructure Development. Mr. D. O'Brien, City Librarian, Community, Culture & Placemaking. Ms. E. Roberts, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure Development. Mr. L. Casey, Senior Parks & Landscape Officer, Parks & Recreation Department. Ms. A. Murnane, Meetings Administrator. Ms. V. Keating, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.

APOLOGIES Comhairleoir S. Martin.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- The O'Regan family on the death of Noel O'Regan.
- The Buckeridge family on the death of Brian Buckeridge.
- The Twomey family on the death of John Twomey.
- The Coughlan family on the death of Mary Coughlan.

- The Keating family on the death of John Keating.
- The Ryan family on the death of Brig Ryan.
- The Kiely family on the death of Denis Kiely.

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

- Con O’Leary on 50 years in business serving his community.

3. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**

3.1 **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

In accordance with Standing Orders, An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle of his resignation from the following Committees:-

- Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee
- Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee
- Finance And Estimates Committee
- Arts Committee
- Firkin Crane Development Company
- Heritage Forum
- Board of the National Sculpture Factory

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir G. Kelleher, An Chomhairle approved the appointment of Comhairleoir D. Forde to the above committees.

3.2 **NATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION AND VISIT FROM PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS**

An tArdmhéara noted the significance and success of the recent National Day of Commemoration, held at Collins Barracks, 9th July 2023, and the courtesy visit from President Michael D. Higgins to Cork City Hall.

3.3 **CIVIC RECEPTION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception for Con O’Leary to mark his retirement after 50 years in business.

3.4 **HERITAGE WEEK 2023**

An tArdmhéara reminded An Chomhairle that Heritage Week 2023 would take place 12th - 20th August 2023.

3.5 **UNVEILING OF MICHAEL COLLINS PLAQUE**

An Chomhairle approved travel by Comhairleoir C. Finn to London on Friday 14th July 2023, having been invited to the unveiling of the Michael Collins Plaque in Islington.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Maher, seconded by Comhairleoir C. Finn, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to take motion 42 on Appendix 1, Support for the LGBTQ+ Community and An Garda Síochána, at the end of the meeting.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir F. Kerins, seconded by Comhairleoir S. O'Callaghan, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss housing conditions on Noonan's Road, St. Finbarr's Road at the end of the meeting.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir B. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir L. Bogue, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders to take motion 21 on Appendix 1, Resolve Issues with Cork City Firefighters, at the end of the meeting, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M. R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. O'Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (25)

AGAINST: (0)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoir T. Shannon. (1)

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

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

None received.

5. **MINUTES**

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

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 12th June 2023.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Canty, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Dineen, An Chomhairle considered and approved the minutes of:-

- Annual Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 23rd June 2023.

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **PUBLIC GREEN SPACE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the amount of public green space that exists (excluding Fitzgerald's Park and Bishop Lucy Park) on the City Centre island?

REPLY

I attach a drawing of the City Centre Island showing the location and size of public parks, open space areas, outdoor sports pitches/grounds, school grounds and UCC Campus amenity areas.

Sean Lynch
A/Director of Services
Roads and Environment Operations Directorate.

(See 06.2 for drawing)

6.2 **HOW MANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FROM RECENTLY ZONED LAP PROCESS**

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

Could I ask please how many planning applications have been applied for from recently zoned land from the LAP process and how many houses will be delivered from this process. Bearing in mind that the Newspaper Headlines on the 16th of March 2022 (the day after the LAP vote) was 20,000 homes could be delivered.

REPLY

The vote that took place on 15 March 2022 at a Special Meeting of Council agreed the material amendments to the Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 prior to the public consultation on these amendments. The new City Development Plan was adopted and any zonings in the Plan came into effect on 8th of August 2022. The Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 is a six-year plan. It will be subject of a formal review with an interim report prepared by the Planning Policy Section after it is in place for a period two years.

Rebecca Loughry,
A/Director of Services,
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

6.3 **EVENT CENTRE UPDATE**

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

As we start Q3, can an update be given on the Event Centre development, including a start date, confirmation that detailed design is complete and whether or not the funding and costing parameters have changed?

REPLY

The event centre consortium has informed Cork City Council that the detailed design process will be completed in July 2023. Once completed, the level of funding / costing parameter changes will be determined. Cork City Council will undertake a full verification process on the final design costings once received. Once the verification process is completed, final discussions with the joint venture will take place and it is not possible to give a start date for the project in advance of the conclusion of that discussion.

John Hallahan,
Chief Financial Officer.

6.4 **GRANGE ROAD TO TRAMORE VALLEY PARK PEDESTRIAN / CYCLE LINK**

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

Now that work on the pedestrian and cycle link from the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park is well underway and the bridge over the South Ring Road has been installed, I would ask the Chief Executive for the approximate date on which work on the project is likely to finish and for the approximate date on which the pedestrian and cycle link is likely to be open for use by the public?

REPLY

Construction work on the new pedestrian and cycle connection from the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park, include the new bridge over the N40, commenced in June 2022. The project is funded by the National Transport Authority and will provide a sustainable alternative route from Grange to the Tramore Valley Park and onwards to Douglas and the City centre. Good progress has been made in the delivery of the scheme and the new bridge deck was installed in April 2023. It is currently estimated the project will be substantially complete in late August/early September enabling the infrastructure to be opened as planned in late September. Over the coming weeks Members will be further updated on progress to completion and the final dates for the scheme.

John Stapleton,

A/Director of Services,
Infrastructure Development.

6.5 **STREET LIGHTING**

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

Where Cork City Council are upgrading lighting in areas, if the light that was originally in place, had the advantage of giving security & lighting to residents for over 30 years, then I think there is a genuine expectation that any works carried out by Cork City Council would give equal or better lighting in the area not worse lighting. Does the CE agree that this should be the position?

REPLY

Cork City Council are continuously improving the public lighting network across Cork City by upgrading the civil / electrical infrastructure such as ducting, access chambers, mini pillars, light columns and also LED lanterns.

All new public lighting columns are required to be sited on public road/footpath and cannot be sited within private property. All old public lighting columns on private property are and will be removed during upgrade works and new public lighting column will be sited in the most efficient location while ensuring Cork City Council provide the required lighting levels to the public domain. Lighting of private properties is the resolve of private individuals and not within the scope of Cork City Council.

The efficient design of public lighting columns and the careful selection of their locations enables Cork City Council to play their part in ensuring Ireland meet their 2030 climate action requirements. All new public lighting installations are designed using the current EN:13201 public lighting design standards. These standards sets out minimum lighting levels to be met by Cork City Council, which ensure lighting levels are sufficient to enable persons to detect obvious hazards at night time in the public domain, this would then be in compliance with H&S requirements of Cork City Council.

Sean Lynch,
A/Director of Services,
Roads & Environment Operations Directorate.

6.6 **HILSERS JEWELLERS BUILDING ON GRAND PARADE**

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

Can the CE outline plans for the former Hilsers Jewellers building on Grand Parade, mentioned previously as an option for a Cork City Council information/public display centre with the provision of public toilets?

REPLY

Following the decision by Council to adopt the Public Toilet policy and reject the provision of public toilets in the former Hilsers Jewellers building on Grand Parade, it was agreed that alternative options would be looked at. Subsequently, there has been the provision of 2 public toilets adjacent to the City Library on the Grand Parade.

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

6.7 **HOUSING UNITS**

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

Can the CE please advise precisely how many Housing Units are currently vacant in Kelleher's Buildings, Dillons Cross, how long they have been vacant and when will they be available for rent and occupation again? I know that some of these Units have been vacant for quite a long time. What is the reason for this delay in turning these much-needed properties into Homes?

REPLY

Out of a total of 50 houses there are 6 units currently on the list of vacant properties for return in Kelleher's Buildings, Dillons Cross. All of these properties are programmed for return in Q3 of 2023, 2 in July and 4 in September. The average period vacant ranges depending on time of repair and time to tenant the property. Given the age and size of units in Kelleher's Buildings coupled with the fact that they are reserved for older persons and subject to direct nomination it can take longer to tenant. As a consequence, we are currently proactively engaging with suitable older persons on the housing list to identify those interested in or willing to move to Kelleher's Buildings to expedite allocations when returned for nomination.

The Housing Directorate has set up a new structure and programme to address long term vacancy and turnaround times. Based on process and system improvements, the City Council is confident it will deliver an increased reduction in the turnaround times throughout 2023.

Thomas Rogers,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing.

6.8 **BLOCKED DRAINS – COUNCIL HOUSING**

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

To ask the Chief Executive how tenants or residents can (without equipment and training under health and safety) remove sewerage from blocked drains from wherever

the cause is. Does Council agree, because of a new policy, that when this happens that leaving sewerage in gardens is a health issue and to report on the number of blocked drains known to Council and how Council plans to address this ongoing issue.

REPLY

The policy, action or practice in relation to sewers has not changed. Recently a guidance note was prepared in a short-written format to aid and support the delivery of our service and to provide an understanding that the cause of any blockage/overflow is essential in addressing or resolving any presentation of a blockage and or overflow. The vast majority of blockages are once off and caused by what is flushed and or poured from the property into the sewer. Uisce Éireann have compiled and made available, linked also from the City Council Water Services Section of the website, a helpful communication in relation to sewers, blocked drains, and campaigns such as **Think Before You Flush! & Think Before You Pour!** along with posters and helpful videos.

In terms of context 46% of all plumbing requests from tenants of Cork City Council are blockages. There have been 1,425 cleaning blockages cases logged since the beginning of 2023, 450 in the South LEAs; 238 in the Northeast and 737 in the Northwest which involves significant resources both human and financial to resolve. As is proper practice the City Council respond to these service requests and must establish the nature and cause of the blockage alongside the responsible party.

The City Council has responsibility to ensure there is an intact, standard wastewater system/sewer that enables the safe and comfortable use by the tenant. The tenant has the responsibility for cleaning and maintenance of internal plumbing and the sewer, from the property to the public connection. The majority of clearing blockages cases are therefore tenant responsibility. If however there is uncertainty or in the case of vulnerable persons, our tenants can contact the customer service unit, where the issue will be discussed. If it is deemed that the issue requires further investigation, the details will be forwarded to the respective area teams who will investigate. If they feel it is a tenant responsibility, the tenant may be advised to seek professional help from a drain cleaning company.

As has always been the case where the responsibility rests with Cork City Council or a vulnerable tenant needs assistance in resolving the matter Cork City Council will attend to the repair and clearing of the blockage.

If it is suspected that the blockage is on the public wastewater side, contact should be made with Uisce Éireann. If the blockage is on the public side they will have it cleared as a matter of urgency. This is generally within 24 hours.

Thomas Rogers,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing.

6.9 **CORK TO BANDON RAILWAY LINE**

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

To ask the CEO if any discussions have taken place between Cork City Council and our counterparts in Cork County Council and any other body in relation to my previous proposal to utilise the former Cork to Bandon railway line to continue the greenway incorporating the Viaduct, tunnel and other historical aspects of the former railway line, and if not, is it intended to hold any such discussions in the future to help to create what could be potentially the most historic and interesting greenway in the country which would be based primarily in an area that is currently void of any pedestrian facilities.

REPLY

Preliminary discussions took place between Cork City Council and representatives from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) concerning a future greenway along the Old West Cork Rail line and its relationship with Phase 1 of the Viaduct to City Greenway as set out in the recent Part 8 Planning proposals.

Members will be kept informed of any further developments with this overall plan.

John Stapleton,
A/Director of Services,
Infrastructure Development Directorate

6.10 **URBAN REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the plans this Council has to make use of the third phase of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, under which the Government is making 100% funding available for the acquisition of derelict and vacant properties?

REPLY

Cork City Council has made a submission for funding under URDF 3 to support the ongoing work of the local authority in relation to derelict and vacant sites. This will support Cork City Council's programme of acquisition of derelict and vacant sites. We await confirmation from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the funding that will be allocated to Cork City Council under this scheme.

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

6.11 **CAR FREE DAY 2023**

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

Can I ask the CE if she intends to hold Car Free Sunday on 23rd September 2023 to signal the council intent as a Mission City to reduce our carbon emissions by half by 2030.

REPLY

Cork City Council staff from a variety of teams including Economic Development, Operations and Sustainable Transport will be attending a meeting with Cork Environmental Forum and other relevant stakeholders with the view of holding a Car Free Day in September this year. This meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11th July 2023.

Rebecca Loughry,
A/Director of Services,
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

6.12 **NWQR**

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

Can the CE advise me on what an updated timeline of the NWQR by phase in tabular form and to report to Council on any delays in phases, the perceived financial and time impact of these and the reason behind any such delays.

REPLY

A summary of the current active projects in the Cork Northwest Quarter Regeneration (CNWQR) is provided on a monthly basis in the Chief Executive's Report and on a regular basis in the Housing Directorate's Regeneration meetings. This is further summarised as follows:

Phase	No. of homes	Status	Progress Update
1A	23	Completed	Cork City Council project – completed.
1B	29	Completed	Cork City Council project – completed.
2A	47	Completed	Cork City Council project – completed.
1D	21	Completed	Tuath Housing project – completed.
2C	24	Under Construction	This project is the subject of a complex contractual dispute, with associated delays, and is subject to both legal and commercial

			privilege. A further update will issue to an Chomhairle on this project once those matters are resolved.
1C	41	Under Construction	Construction is underway onsite. This project is on track to deliver in 2024.
2B	38	Under Construction	Construction is underway onsite. This project is on track to deliver in 2024.
1D East	17	At Tender Stage	O’Cualann affordable housing project – the enabling works contract is now complete, unlocking this site for development. The project is at tender stage currently.
3B	62	Pre-tender Stage	Part 8 approved – detailed design being concluded with a view to tender for main housing contract 2024. On track.
4A	43	Pre-tender Stage	Part 8 approved – detailed design being concluded with a view to tender for main housing contract 2024. On track.
Phase 3 Demolition		Ongoing	At Knocknaheeny Avenue and Harbour View Road – substantially complete. Ardmore Ave due to commence Q3 2023. On track.
Decanting of Phase 3 and 4 residents		Ongoing	The decanting of next phases is an ongoing process but is progressing and on track.
TOTAL:	345 Homes		

The CNWQR is a multi-phase multi-annual complex project which requires significant resident engagement and cooperation, together with the usual complexities of progression of multiple construction projects with associated decanting requirements. While the overall programme is linear, it is designed to be agile in nature to ensure the ongoing successful development and delivery of this Regeneration project.

Thomas Rogers,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing.

6.13 **DEVELOPMENTS AT THOMAS DAVIS STREET & GERALD GRIFFIN STREET**

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

Can the CE give an update on when construction will start two sites:

1. Thomas Davis St, Blackpool
2. Gerald Griffin St (by Neptune).

It is over two years since these sites had planning permission approved for development.

REPLY

The site at Gerald Griffin Street is currently within a live procurement process, under the Competitive Dialogue procedure, to seek to progress development on this site with a view to commencement of development before the end of 2023. As the procurement process is live, further detail cannot be provided at this time, but a full briefing will issue to Council in due course when the procurement process concludes.

The scheme at Thomas Davis Street is being progressed by the approved housing body Respond, in partnership with Cork City Council. Respond completed the Phase 1 Contract onsite, which comprised all of the site enabling works. A title issue then delayed progression of the site, and Cork City Council has just recently assisted with same, with the matter now concluded successfully as of June 2023. The Phase 2 main Housing Construction contract is now therefore being re-tendered by Respond in July 2023 in order to progress this project of priority in Blackpool village, which will restore a vacant and derelict site back to much needed residential use.

Thomas Rogers,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing.

6.14 **PARKING OFFENCES**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if Cork City Council accepts images of parking offences (e.g. parking on footpaths, bus lanes and cycle lanes) via the Customer Service Unit, as described in the report to motion 22/102, and how offences reported in this way are or will be handled (e.g. will fines be issued or the motorist contacted)?

REPLY

At the Roads & Transportation SPC in April 2022, the following motion referenced above was considered:

“That the CE will work with An Garda Siochana to develop a portal where the public can upload images of serious road traffic offences such as parking on footpaths and cycle lanes, or close passing cyclists”.

The report to the committee stated that “Road traffic offences, including parking offences, can be reported to Cork City Council via our Customer Service Unit (021 – 4924000) or via the City Council’s Customer Request page (www.corkcity.ie) on our website. Any information submitted via either channel is passed to the Traffic Wardens Service. Images of such offences can be submitted to the Customer Service Unit via email (service@corkcity.ie) or via the website page. Alternatively, the offences can be reported to An Garda Siochana. As the facility to electronically engage with Cork City Council and upload / submit images already exists it would not be a good use of resources to create a second competing portal. Cork City Council would encourage members of the public to use existing communication channels to continue to report matter of concern to them”.

As stated in the response to the committee, any submitted images are passed to the Traffic Warden Service. The issuing of a Fixed Charge Penalty Notice (FCPN) for an alleged offence and a subsequent prosecution based on an image supplied other than by a Traffic Warden is problematic due to issues surrounding provenance, insufficient supporting information, potential GDPR concerns, etc. However, the Parking Enforcement Manager or his deputy will determine the appropriate response e.g., to deploy Traffic Wardens or mobile patrols to the location concerned. Traffic Wardens will then assess the issues and may issue Fixed Charge Penalty Notices (FCPN) if there are breaches of the roads legislation / regulations or parking byelaws.

Sean Lynch,
A/Director of Services,
Roads & Environment Operations Directorate.

6.15 **EVENTS CENTRE**

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

To ask the Manager if there is a definitive date with the Department and the stakeholders for final decisions on the event centre building works to begin and if all public monies pledged to date have been finalised with no further additions?

REPLY

The event centre consortium has informed Cork City Council that the detailed design process will be completed in July 2023. Once completed, the level of funding / costing parameter changes will be determined. Cork City Council will undertake a full verification process on the final design costings once received. Once the verification process is completed, final discussions with the joint venture will take place and it is not possible to give a start date for the project in advance of the conclusion of that discussion.

John Hallahan,
Chief Financial Officer.

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF CORK LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP CLG**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, An Chomhairle considered and approved the nomination of Comhairleoir F. Dennehy to fill the vacancy on the Board of Management of Cork Local Sports Partnership CLG, arising from the resignation of Comhairleoir C. Kelleher.

7.2 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the Chief Executive, dated 29th June 2023 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of the freehold interest in two units, known as Unit 1A (2243.2m² approximately) and Unit 2B (1125.1m² approximately), situated at Hollymount Industrial Estate, Hollyhill, Cork to Energywise Savings Ireland Limited c/o Patrick Sheehan Solicitor, No. 65, New Street, Killarney, Co. Kerry for the sum of €16,000.00 (plus VAT if applicable) plus costs of €1,500.00 plus VAT.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Nugent, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Boylan, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

2. Disposal of interest in an area of land (53.6m² approximately) situated to the rear of the Masonic Hall, No. 27, Tuckey Street, Cork to Craft Properties Limited, c/o Irwin Kilcullen & Co. Solicitors, No. 56, Grand Parade, Cork, for the sum of €1.00, plus costs of €1,500.00 plus VAT.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, a vote was called for on the approval of the disposal where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, M. Finn, S. O'Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Rying. (18)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, B. McCarthy, L. Bogue, D. Boyle, C. Finn. (7)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting for the disposal were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried, and the disposal approved.

3. Disposal of Units No. 7 & 8, Grand Parade Market, Grand Parade, Cork, to Cork Rooftop Farm Limited c/o, Edward O'Mahony & Co. Solicitors, No. 8, South

Mall, Cork by way of lease for a term of 3 years at an annual rent of €15.80 per square foot plus rates and service charges.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Dineen, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

7.3 **SECTION 85 AGREEMENT WITH CORK COUNTY COUNCIL - RESURFACING WORKS ON N28 CARRS HILL**

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Roads Act 1993, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 2nd June 2023 and the proposed Section 85 Agreement to facilitate road resurfacing works on the N28 Carrs Hill.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“To facilitate the resurfacing of the N28, Carrs Hill as set out, Cork City Council will carry out on behalf of Cork County Council, it’s powers, functions and duties as a local authority and or as a road authority, insofar as they relate to, concern and or involve the proposed works set out in the Schedule hereto, where the proposed works shall be situated within the administrative area of Cork County Council and Cork City Council is able and willing to do so. Accordingly, Cork City Council hereby resolves to enter into an Agreement with Cork County Council pursuant to the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 14 of the Roads Act 1993.”

7.4 **SECTION 85 AGREEMENT WITH CORK COUNTY COUNCIL - DUNKETTLE ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECT**

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Roads Act 1993, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 2nd June 2023 and the proposed Section 85 Agreement to facilitate the delivery of the Dunkettle Active Travel Project.

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

“To facilitate the Dunkettle Active Travel Project as set out, Cork County Council will carry out on behalf of Cork City Council, it’s powers, functions and duties as a local authority and or as a road authority, insofar as they relate to, concern and or involve the proposed works, where the proposed works shall be situated within the administrative area of Cork City Council and Cork County Council is able and willing to do so. Accordingly, Cork City Council hereby resolves to enter into an Agreement with Cork County Council pursuant to the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 14 of the Roads Act 1993.”

7.5 **EXTENSION TO N40 (SOUTH RING ROAD) OFF-RAMP AT WESTBOUND APPROACH TO MAHON, J10 - PART 8 PLANNING**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 179 (4) (a) of Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed Extension to N40 (South Ring Road) off-ramp at westbound approach to Mahon J10 Scheme and the attached report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, thereon, as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development viz. Extension to N40 (South Ring Road) off-ramp at westbound approach to Mahon J10 Scheme and the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, thereon, it is hereby resolved pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that the Extension to N40 (South Ring Road) off-ramp at westbound approach to Mahon J10 Scheme be carried out as recommended in the said report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, Cork City Council, which was put before Council on the 10th July 2023.”

7.6 **CORK CITY TO VIADUCT GREENWAY PHASE 1 – TRAMORE ROAD TO EAGLE VALLEY - PART 8 PLANNING**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 179 (4) (a) of Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed Cork City to Viaduct Greenway Phase 1 (Tramore Road to Eagle Valley) Scheme and the attached report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, thereon, as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

On the proposal of Comhairleoir F. Dennehy, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Finn, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development viz. the Cork City to Viaduct Greenway Phase 1 (Tramore Road to Eagle Valley) Scheme and the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, thereon, it is hereby resolved pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that the Cork City to Viaduct Greenway Phase 1 (Tramore Road to Eagle Valley) Scheme be carried out as recommended in the said report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, Cork City Council, which was put before Council on the 10th July 2023.”

7.7 **SOUTH MALL / PARNELL PLACE JUNCTION PEDESTRIAN SAFETY SCHEME - SECTION 38 APPROVAL**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Tynan, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, following public consultation, on the proposed South Mall / Parnell Place Junction Pedestrian Safety Scheme pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009.

7.8 **PROPOSED CHANGES TO MORGAN STREET TRAFFIC FLOW – APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 38 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1994 (AS AMENDED)**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir P. Dineen, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Finn, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 12th June 2023, following public consultation, on the proposed changes to Morgan Street traffic flow, pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009.

An Chomhairle further noted Comhairleoir D. Boyle’s request that his dissatisfaction with the proposed changes be recorded.

7.9 **ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL SCHOOL WARDENS**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 2nd June 2023, following engagement with the Members through the Roads & Transport SPC and an associated subgroup established to consider this allocation, to appoint two additional School Wardens, one to Gaelscoil Pheig Sayers and one to Scoil Ursula/Ursuline Primary School, as provided in Budget 2023.

An Chomhairle further noted a conflict of interest declaration from Comhairleoirí M. Nugent and K. Collins.

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 3rd JULY 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 3rd July 2023.

8.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31/05/2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 31/05/2023.

8.2 **ACCESS AND DISABILITY SUPPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and noted a presentation was given by S. Murphy, Social Inclusion Specialist, outlining the role of each Directorate regarding the services they provide in relation to access and supporting people with a disability.

8.3 **MOTIONS**

8.3.1 **EXTERNAL MEMBERS OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 29th June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That in line with a national review currently being undertaken, that this Council undertake a review of the engagement (and any factors that may hinder full engagement) of the external members of the Council’s Strategic Policy Committees.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/277)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has engaged the Research Division of the IPA to carry out a general review of the role and operation of Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs).

The review will evaluate the operation of SPCs, including the legislative provisions and the Department-issued guidelines which provide for SPCs, with a view to:

- enhancing the effectiveness of the operation, role and impact of SPCs;
- enhancing the effectiveness of the interaction of SPCs with the Corporate Policy Group;
- further strengthening and empowering elected members of local authorities in their policy-making role;
- ensuring that communities and all stakeholders, have appropriate input, via SPCs, to policy-making processes at local level in an inclusive and facilitative manner.

The Department have established a Stakeholder Working Group to oversee, advise and steer the review.

Cork City Council looks forward to fully engaging with the review and ensuring that communities and all stakeholders, have appropriate input, via SPCs, to policy-making processes at local level in an inclusive and facilitative manner.

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

9. **PARTY WHIPS – 26th JUNE 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 26th June 2023.

9.1 **NAMING OF THE NEW BRIDGE OVER THE N40/SOUTH RING ROAD CONNECTING GRANGE/FRANKFIELD TO TRAMORE VALLEY PARK**

An Chomhairle considered the following shortlist of names regarding the naming of the new bridge over the N40/South Ring Road connecting Grange/Frankfield to Tramore Valley Park:-

1. Vernon Mount Bridge
2. Fuinseog Dubh / Black Ash Bridge
3. Tramore Valley Bridge
4. Sanctuary Bridge
5. Pride / Bród Bridge
6. Tobar Bridge

A vote was called for to identify the two preferred nominations, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR VERNON MOUNT BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, M. Finn, S. O’Callaghan, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, G. Kelleher. (11)

FOR FUINSEOG DUBH / BLACK ASH BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, O. Moran, M. Nugent, K. Collins, L. Bogue, D. Boyle, F. Kerins, C. Finn, E. Ryng. (9)

FOR TRAMORE VALLEY BRIDGE: Comhairleoir P. Dineen. (1)

FOR SANCTUARY BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Sheehan, T. Moloney. (3)

FOR PRIDE / BRÓD BRIDGE: Comhairleoir B. McCarthy. (1)

FOR TOBAR BRIDGE: Comhairleoir C. Kelleher. (1)

An tArdmhéara declared Vernon Mount Bridge and Fuinseog Dubh / Black Ash Bridge to be the two nominations with the highest number of preferences. A vote was called for to approve the name of the bridge as Vernon Mount Bridge or Fuinseog Dubh / Black Ash Bridge, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR VERNON MOUNT BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, M. Finn, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher. (14)

FOR FUINSEOG DUBH / BLACK ASH BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, M. Nugent, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, L. Bogue, D. Boyle, F. Kerins, C. Finn, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (12)

As those voting for Vernon Mount Bridge were greater than those voting for Fuinseog Dubh / Black Ash Bridge, An tArdmhéara declared that the new bridge would be named Vernon Mount Bridge.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

10.1 **MOTIONS**

10.1.1 **BUS ISSUES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 2nd June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council invite Bus Éireann to the Roads & Transportation SPC to discuss issues around bus times, ghost buses, lack of buses at big events, late night buses particularly over the Christmas period and jazz weekend.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/170)

The report of the Director of Services stated that invitations to attend or present on specific matters to the Roads and Transport Strategic Policy Committee can be issued in accordance with the agreement of the Committee.

10.1.2 **CYCLEWAY FROM BLACKPOOL TO BLARNEY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 2nd June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will advance a cycleway from Blackpool to Blarney, including routes already identified in the Cork Metropolitan Area Cycle Plan and emerging from the N/M20 Cork to Limerick scheme and CycleConnects; and connecting with the Cork–Waterford pathfinder project through the city centre.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran, Cllr. J. Sheehan 23/175)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the planned provision of new cycle facilities from Blarney to Cork City will be guided by the forthcoming Cycle Connects Plan for the Cork Metropolitan Area (currently in draft form at public consultation stage) and the active travel elements which are being developed as part of the M20 Cork Limerick Corridor Scheme. These projects will influence the recommended routing, linkages etc and as they are further developed the City Council will seek to have the delivery of the Blarney progressed. In the interim the Council will be progressing other related schemes in the area including the Blarney Pedestrian and Cycle Infrastructure Scheme which will be issued for public consultation shortly as part of the part 8 planning progress.

10.1.3 **TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT STAFF**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 2nd June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council trial traffic enforcement staff for Sundays with adequate publicising that such a trial is in operation. The City has spent millions on improving our public realm, cycling infrastructure and public spaces yet continued bad parking habits are disturbing these spaces.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/223)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Parking Enforcement is a Monday to Saturday operation with additional cover being provided on Sundays in the lead up to Christmas to assist drivers, the flow of traffic and the turnover of parking spaces. This additional cover is facilitated by the provision of overtime which is included in the Budget each year.

If the Parking Enforcement Team were to provide cover on Sundays as a trial as suggested, a budget for these extra Sundays would need to be provided in Budget 2024. If the Members so require, a request for an additional budget can be sought during the 2024 budget process.

10.2 **ACTIVE TRAVEL FUNDING FOR THE NORTHSIDE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 2nd June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council recognises that:

- There has been a long history of underinvestment on the Northside of Cork City
- 92 projects were announced as allocated through Active Travel Funding in Cork city last week
- 42 of these projects were on the Southside, only 22 of these were on the Northside
- €14.11 million was allocated for the Southside, €6.2 million on the Northside
- The average project allocation is €378,533
- The average project allocation on the Northside is €282,500

Cork City Council agrees:

- Release details on all projects applied for under Active Travel Funding
- Ensure that in the next round of applications for Active Travel Funding, projects will be prioritised on the Northside to address the imbalance.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 23/098)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the following projects incorporating active travel facilities/improvement works across the north side of the City have been approved for funding to the end year by the National Transport Authority as set out below.

In addition to these projects, new or improved pedestrian and cycle facilities are proposed or progressing in a range of projects funded by other agencies eg Glanmire Roads LIHAF Improvement Schemes, the Northern Distributor Road, the North West Regional Park and TII funded road improvements.

All funded projects are grounded in Council approved policies and in particular the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS), which details the infrastructure required for the ongoing development of Cork to the year 2040. Schemes progressed also have regard to the specific opportunities and priorities identified by Members at local level throughout the year. Details of the additional projects securing funding during this year will be advised to Members and ongoing progress in the delivery of all schemes will be reported to Council on a regular basis.

Project Code	Project Name	Estimated Spend 2023
CCC/17/0001	McCurtain Street Public Transport Improvements	€4,500,000
CCC/19/0006	Ballyvolane Phase 2 - (Fox & Hound Junction)	€900,000
CCC/20/0006	Glanmire Cycle Way and pedestrian improvements	€100,000
CCC/20/0020	Northern Distributor Road Route Selection	€100,000
CCC/20/0025	Upgrade of Dunkettle Road Ph 1	€500,000
CCC/21/0012	Glanmire to City Cycle (Ph 1 - Village to Dunkettle)	€800,000
CCC/21/0016	Blarney Village Cycle Route	€350,000
CCC/21/0017	Mayfield to Glen Cycle Route	€250,000
CCC/21/0022	Kilcully & Upper Glanmire Pedestrian Improvements	€500,000
CCC/21/0019	Knapp's Square Cycle /Pedestrian Upgrade	€950,000
CCC/21/0038	Banduff Road Upgrade	€250,000
CCC/21/0039	Kerry Pike Pedestrian Improvements	€100,000
CCC/22/0003	Dunkettle Rd Ph 2 Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	€320,000
CCC/22/0007	Glanmire to City Cycle Route (Ph 2 - Dunkettle to City)	€500,000
CCC/22/0010	Wellington Rd Cycle Scheme	€30,000
CCC/22/0013	Shanakiel/Strawberry Hill Cycle Scheme	€30,000
CCC/23/xxxx	Hazelwood Road - Junction Upgrade	€1,000,000

CCC/23/ xxxx Nashes Boreeen Active Travel Scheme	€145,000
CCC/23/xxxx Colmcille to Gardiners Hill Active Travel Scheme	€30,000
CCC/23/xxxx Knockpogue and Knockfree Active Travel Scheme	€100,000
CCC/23/xxxx Glenryan Rd/ Cattlemarket Ave Active Travel Scheme	€30,000
CCC/23/xxxx Horgan's Quay /North Docklands Active Travel	€100,000
CCC/23/xxxx SRTS - Glanmire Community College - R1	€60,000
CCC/23/xxxx SRTS - St Lukes NS - r1	€60,000
TOTAL	€11,705,000

11. **STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 19th JUNE 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Strategic, Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 19th June 2023.

11.1 **EIRGRID – OFFSHORE GRID INFRASTRUCTURE**

An Chomhairle considered and noted a presentation was given by Mr Martin Mahon and Ms Sinéad Dooley of Eirgrid.

11.2 **PAINTING GRANTS SCHEME**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir F. Dennehy, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Finn, An Chomhairle considered and approved the grant payments.

11.3 **CITY CENTRE PLACEMAKING FUND**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Moloney, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, An Chomhairle considered and approved the grant payments.

11.4 **MOTIONS**

11.4.1 **CORK CITY DASHBOARD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Head of ICT and Business Services, dated 15th June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City data dashboard be reconstructed and hosted online in association with the aims of the City Council’s digital strategy.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 23/200)

The report of the Head of ICT and Business Services stated that the Cork Dashboard was developed by Maynooth University through the SFI funded Building City Dashboards project. It was a collaboration between SFI, NUI Maynooth, Cork City Council and Cork County Council and was launched in December 2017. The dashboard aim was to visualise data to make it easy for all citizens to consume no matter what their level of technical ability.

In 2021, the SFI funding ended, and Cork City Council looked at future development and funding opportunities for the dashboard with the Insight Centre for Data Analytics at University College Cork. We developed and costed a project scope to re-develop the pilot dashboard as a tool for citizens, voluntary sector, public bodies, and local businesses. It would also act as a research platform for citizen participation, citizen science, data analytics and visualisation. Due to the specialist skills required to develop the dashboard and to ensure meaningful citizen participation the costs for this project was approximately €185k with SFI funding of 40%.

The project group discussed co-financing with several private sector organisations. While there was some interest, unfortunately, we were unable to secure the level of funding required to progress the project. The dashboard is no longer hosted online and while the dashboard was open source, and the code is all still publicly available through git hub it would need to be rebuilt again. The resources required to develop the dashboard and the associated work to co-develop the dashboard in response to citizens needs remains unfortunately prohibitively high.

11.4.2 **DERELICT SITES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the joint report of the Directors of Services, Strategic & Economic Development and Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 16th June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council recognises the transformative effect the €4.2m cumulatively owed in derelict sites could have in resolving dereliction and agrees to publish a report:

- Detailing the actions undertaken to recoup this money and the planned action in the next 12 months.
- Updating Council on any derelict site disposed of in the last 5 years and the current status of same.
- Outlining the target for inspections, additions to the register and CPOs in 2023.
- Provide details on the status of the 15 sites removed from the register in 2022.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 23/216)

The joint report of the Directors of Services stated that in addition to standard debt collection, issuing invoices and follow up with statements and other contact, Cork City Council is advancing legal proceedings to pursue uncollected derelict sites levies. Just to note title issues, property sales, difficult domestic circumstances, current litigation between parties are some of the reasons which can contribute to the challenges in trying to both collect and invoice for a derelict sites levy.

There were 9 derelict sites disposed of in the last 5 years. Of these:

- 1 property has since been reacquired by the Council because it was undeveloped.
- 1 property is restored.
- Planning has been granted for 4 properties and awaiting commencement on site,
- 1 property had further land acquired under the DSA 1990 and is to be developed out by Respond.
- Planning permission has been applied for in the case of 1 property, and the applicant awaits determination.
- 1 property remains in conveyancing but is due to complete soon.

Presently 14 sites have been added to the Derelict Sites Register this year to date. A further 10 files have been closed, and 7 sites removed from the Register. Cork City Council is working on a compulsory acquisition programme. The target number of inspections is 180.

The following properties were removed from the Derelict Sites Register in 2022

SP Ref	Address	Electoral Area
DSP 1697	55 Oliver Plunkett Street	Cork City South Central
DSP 1806	Coolmore, 1 Strawberry Hill	Cork City North West
DSP 1115	44 Cornmarket Street	Cork City South Central
DSP 1705	93/94 North Main Street	Cork City South Central
DSP 1706	95 North Main Street	Cork City South Central
DSP 1707	96 North Main Street	Cork City South Central
DSP 2010	21 St. Vincent's View, College Road	Cork City South Central
DSP 1153	Summerville, Winters Hill	Cork City North West
DSP 1606	23 St. Finbarrs Place	Cork City South Central
DSP 1792	21 George's Quay	Cork City South Central
DSP 1688	The Former Car Show Room, Dennehy's Cross	Cork City South West
DSP 1508	Glasheen House, Dorgans Road	Cork City South Central
DSP 1930	Garage adjoining 15 Telephone Terrace, Blarney, Cork	Cork City North West
DSP 1756	St Anthonys, Ballyhooly Rad	Cork City North East
DSP 1860	18 St. Finbarrs Park	Cork City South Central

12. **HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 20th JUNE 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 20th June 2023.

12.1 **HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Housing Progress report.

12.2 **MOTIONS**

12.2.1 **STATE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 16th June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That in view of the current housing emergency, and in recognition of the failures of successive central governments and the private sector to build sufficient, good quality housing for people, Cork City Council calls on the Government to set up a State Construction company.

This company would be tasked to build public and affordable housing. The creation of such a State company, using the local authority infrastructure such as Cork City Council, would remove the profit motive and reverse the commodification of housing.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 23/007)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council is currently and effectively achieving the objective such as that proposed in the above motion. The Housing Directorate is providing supply of excellent quality public and affordable housing schemes through several mechanisms, namely, Turnkey Acquisition, Local Authority Affordable Purchase, Design/Build & the Competitive Dialogue Initiative.

The effective delivery of those respective initiatives entails use of Cork City Council resource infrastructure for all schemes together with physical infrastructure in many schemes.

The Housing Directorate does not see the proposed motion as providing any additional significant benefit to our current processes which are proving extremely effective in delivery.

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

12.2.2 **TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 16th June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘Can Cork City Council give a report on the tenant purchase scheme and average time from first contact to completion, how many they’ve processed in each of the last 5 years and how many they’ve refused.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 23/099)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme was launched in Cork City Council on 1st February 2016. Details of the numbers of applications, etc. over the last 5 years are as follows:

- 261 applications received.
- 124 refused/cancelled applications.
- 30 completed sales.
- 107 applications are currently under review.

During Covid, the service, together with other services across local government, was deemed non-essential by the Department in the context of the pandemic and was, as a result, stood down for a period of time.

This led to a backlog of applications to be processed so providing an average timeframe would not be representative due to unforeseen circumstances outside of the City Council's control.

The Tenant Purchase Section is actively addressing all delayed applications (currently 107) and each of these applicants has been engaged with via phone, letter, email. New processes have been introduced within the section to ensure that applications are dealt with swiftly. It is the goal of the Tenant Purchase Section to ensure that any Tenant Purchase application, from time of initial contact to completion of sale, would be processed within a 4–6 month window. This is dependent on the prompt provision of requested information from applicants, that they meet all the terms and conditions of the scheme and that they have the requisite financial resources to purchase the property.

The Tenant Purchase Section is in the final stages of modifying the Tenant Purchase application form to make it more user friendly. It is also intended to provide additional documentation on the City Council's website outlining the steps relating to how the scheme operates together with providing all relevant handbooks and leaflets ensuring applicants are fully informed on the qualifying criteria of the scheme before they apply in the first place.

12.2.3 **HOUSING UNITS FOR SINGLE APPLICANTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 16th June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That single applicants on Cork City Council list be considered for 2-bedroom housing units.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 23/111)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Housing [Miscellaneous Provisions] Act 2009, Section 20, requires local authorities to carry out a social housing assessment to determine the eligibility and need of applicant households for social housing support. The process to determine a household's qualification for support and the housing need are set out in:

- Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 (S.I. 84 of 2011),
- Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 136 of 2011),

- Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 321 of 2011) Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 288 of 2016) and
- Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 116 of 2021) made under sections 3, 20 and 32 of the 2009 Act.

From the 1st of April 2011, local authorities are required to assess all new applicants, and existing applicants on review, in accordance with section 20 of the 2009 Act and these Regulations.

While there is a significant demand for housing from single person households, it should be noted that a consequence of all such households automatically qualifying for 2-bed properties, would be to introduce a direct competition with and longer waiting times for qualifying family households. This change would also necessitate a material amendment to the Council's Scheme of Lettings which is a reserved function of Council.

Noting the need however it is proposed to assess the potential for and assess the impact of approving single applicants on Cork City Council's housing list for 2-bedroom housing units through a pilot initiative in a measured and targeted way. A report on the potential for and feasibility of such a pilot will be presented to the next meeting of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

12.2.4 **GREENING OF THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 16th June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That the CE will endeavour to enhance the greening of the city when building housing either directly or indirectly by providing access to nature with green entrances and pocket parks.’

(Proposers: Cllr. C. Finn, Cllr. T. Fitzgerald, Cllr. D. Cahill 23/121)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out specific policy and objectives in relation to realising enhanced urban greening and access to high quality parks and public amenity spaces e.g. Chapter 2, Objective 2.14, Chapter 3, Objective 3.86 & 3.87, Chapter 6 – Green & Blue Infrastructure, Chapter 11, Objective 11.9 which are considered and form part of the Housing Directorates development of new housing schemes across the city.

Open space and greening of new schemes is considered an important part of the preparation of Part VIII housing developments and through the normal planning process should the Council acquire a scheme with planning in hand. The Housing Directorate will continue to implement the specific planning objectives and policies of the City Council and incorporate them into urban development proposals.

12.2.5 **STOCK SURVEY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 16th June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council undertake a stock survey of local authority houses on a pilot scheme in a number of areas to shape a preventative maintenance programme ahead of Budget 24.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 23/145)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is committed to putting in place structures to ensure the effective and efficient management of the Local Authority housing stock and is working with the LGMA/HDCO and the Local Authorities to transition from a largely response-based approach to housing stock maintenance to a strategic and informed Planned Maintenance approach informed by stock condition surveys.

Cork City Council is currently piloting a condition survey programme of 100 of our properties. The pilot will evaluate the nationally established stock condition survey template, established through the LGMA and the Housing Delivery Co-ordination Office. This template has been developed with the requirements and functionality of the new ICT asset management system, expected to be implemented in 2023. The Cork City Council pilot, as part of the survey, is also looking at our properties in relation to the Rental Accommodation Standards. We are seeking to establish the necessary survey/inspection methodology required in order to capture all the relevant information in one visit. On implementation of the ICT system, we will explore further methods of stock survey, including the possibility of a customer portal, directly associated with the properties when surveyed.

Cork City Council has also been chosen to pilot the new ICT asset management system which is due to be rolled out in 2023. The system has a number of core modules including, Stock Condition Survey; Asset Register; Planned Maintenance; Private Rental Inspections; & Works contract Management. Work with Cork City Council as a pilot site is expected to commence in Q3 of 2023. Cork City Council has been represented on the project and evaluation board nationally.

It should be acknowledged that in the absence of a real-time asset management system and up to date condition of our stock, there has been significant investment in upgrading the Council’s housing stock over recent years. The most recent example is the completion of the loan funded roofline repair programme that targeted stock most in need of this category of repair. Another loan facility may be required to give effect to the implementation of works identified through the roll out of a planned preventative maintenance programme and stock condition survey.

12.2.6 **MORATORIUM ON EVICTION OF SOCIAL HOUSING TENANTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 16th June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council maintains a moratorium on the eviction of social housing tenants who are not in their probationary period notwithstanding the Government’s ending of the national eviction ban.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 23/184)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Residential Tenancies (Deferment of Termination Dates of Certain Tenancies) Act 2022, as members will be aware, deferred the termination dates of certain tenancies, i.e. those covered by the Residential Tenancies Act 2004; local authority tenancies are not governed by this legislation. It is important to note, however, that local authorities do not serve Notice of Terminations for reasons similar to those issued in the private housing market.

Local authorities only serve Notices on tenants where there is a breach of the Tenancy Agreement, such as in cases of Anti-Social Behaviour or failure to engage in relation to a build-up of rent arrears despite repeated attempts by the local authority to get the tenant to make and keep a satisfactory repayment agreement. This mirrors the situation that pertained during the winter period for private tenancies and which was, as set out in Article 2 (2) of the Act, that termination dates were deferred unless there was “a failure by the tenant to comply with one or more than one of his or her obligations under Section 16 of the Act of 2004”.

12.2.7 **RAISE THE ROOF CAMPAIGN**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Councillors endorse and support the demands of the Raise the Roof campaign that demonstrated in Cork City on the 10th of June.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 23/284)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir L. Bogue, seconded by Comhairleoir O. Moran, 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. Nugent, B. McCarthy, L. Bogue, M. Finn, D. Boyle, F. Kerins, C. Finn, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (12)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Kelleher. (11)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoir K. McCarthy.

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

13. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 13th JUNE 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 13th June 2023.

14. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 3rd JULY 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 3rd July 2023.

14.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

14.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF MAY 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Financial Statements to end of May 2023.

15. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 26th JUNE 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 26th June 2023.

15.1 **SPEED LIMIT ON THE SOUTH CITY LINK ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 22nd June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That the speed limit on the South City Link Road, from the Capwell slip road towards City Hall be reduced to 50kph.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/278)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the N27 South Link Road is classified as a National Road. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) are responsible for the operation and development of national roads in Ireland. A review of speed limits on national routes is carried out periodically, usually every 5 years, in accordance with the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland. Your request will be referred to TII to be considered at the next review.

An Chomhairle further agreed to refer the motion to the South East Local Area Committee for further discussion.

16. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 26th JUNE 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 26th June 2023.

17. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 26th JUNE 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 26th June 2023.

18. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 26th JUNE 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 26th June 2023.

19. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th JUNE 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th June 2023.

20. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

21. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoirí C. Kelleher and D. Boylan as part of the Cork City Council Delegation Learning Trip to Lisbon, Portugal, 14th-17th May 2023.
- Comhairleoir D. Boylan at the European Maritime Day, held in Brest, France, 23rd-26th May 2023.
- Comhairleoirí D. Boyle, J. Kavanagh and S. Martin at the AILG Module 3 training, Overview of Existing Planning Legislation and Policy Guidance, held at Avalon House Hotel, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, 17th June 2023.

22. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

None received.

23. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

23.1 **AILG AUTUMN TRAINING SEMINAR 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh at the AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2023 to be held at Sligo Park Hotel & Leisure Club, Pearse Road, Sligo, 14th September 2023.

24. **TRAINING**

None received.

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

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive's monthly management report for May 2023.

26. **MOTIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

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

An Chomhairle noted that motion 42, Support for the LGBTQ+ Community and An Garda Síochána, and motion 21, Resolve Issues with Cork City Firefighters, would be discussed under suspension of standing orders.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

SUPPORT FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY AND AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

'That Cork City Council reaffirms its on-going support and solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community in Cork City and with all workers who have endured bullying and harassment from a vocal minority. It is imperative that we promote human rights for all. We reiterate our City is open to all, inclusive and proud of the work we have achieved but are mindful of the challenge ahead of creating a safe and welcoming city for all and that this Council does not recognise vigilantism and supports the valuable and brave work of An Garda Síochána as the only legitimate police force in this City and in this State.'

(Proposers: Cllr. J. Maher, Cllr. C. Finn 23/342)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir F. Kerins to address An Chomhairle on housing conditions at Noonan's Road, St. Finbarr's Road after which a discussion took place.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

RESOLVE ISSUES WITH CORK CITY FIREFIGHTERS

'In light of the ongoing industrial action being undertaken by Cork City firefighters,

their unanimous rejection of the last offer, and the real danger to public safety being caused by understaffing, Council calls on the executive to go back to the firefighters with serious proposals to resolve the issues.’

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy 23/315)

27. **MOTIONS**

27.1 **REJECT THE INTRODUCTION OF AN HONOURS SYSTEM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Tánaiste Micheál Martin and Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan calling on the government to reject the recent proposal to introduce an honours system in this Country on the basis that such a system would be incompatible with the principle of equality of all citizens of our Republic.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 23/296)

27.2 **NATURE RESTORATION LAW**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That this Council supports the need for the European Parliament to support a strong and effective Nature Restoration Law.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/237)

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH