

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 11th APRIL 2023

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

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The Hegarty family on the death of Liam Hegarty.
- The Cantillon family on the death of Greg Cantillon.
- The Powell family on the death of Elizabeth Powell.
- The Walsh family on the death of Nellie Walsh.
- The Cox family on the death of Marguerite Cox.
- The Condon family on the death of Sandra Condon.
- The Sheehan family on the death of Art Sheehan.

- The O’Callaghan family on the death of Marge O’Callaghan.
- The Cashman family on the death of Fr. Denis Cashman.
- The Glavin family on the death of Ger Glavin.
- The Hegarty family on the death of Dónal Hegarty.
- The Lucey family on the death of Mary Lucey.
- The Russell family on the death of Sheila Russell.
- The Raleigh family on the death of Brendan Raleigh.
- The Bennett family on the death of John Bennett.
- The Dineen family on the death of Mary Dineen.
- The Quinlan family on the death of Noreen Quinlan.

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

- Ballincollig Basketball Club on winning the National Basketball Super League title.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir L. Bogue, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Ryan, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders to take motion 36 on Appendix 1, Moratorium On Eviction Of Social Housing Tenants at the meeting, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, T. Tynan, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, F. Ryan, L. Bogue, K. McCarthy, M. Finn, F. Kerins, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (14)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, T. Shannon, D. Forde, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, G. Kelleher. (14)

ABSTAIN: (0)

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

An Chomhairle noted that the motion will be considered, as referred by the Meetings Administrator, by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Nugent, seconded by Comhairleoir K. Collins, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders to discuss the way the Special Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 3rd April 2023 concluded, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, T. Tynan, O. Moran, G. Keohane, M. Nugent, K. Collins, F. Ryan, L. Bogue, M. Finn, F. Kerins, C. Finn, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (13)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, D. Forde, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, G. Kelleher. (15)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting against the proposal to suspend standing orders were greater than those voting for, An tArdmhéara declared the proposal defeated.

3. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**

3.1 **INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON LEADERS OF REVOLUTIONS WORLDWIDE**

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle on an invitation received from Jeon Guep City Government to partake in an International Forum on Leaders of Revolutions Worldwide to be held in Korea from the 5th - 12th May 2023.

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of An tArdmhéara at the forum.

3.2 **ALL IRELAND COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL AWARDS**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoirí D. Boyle, D. Canty, and T. Shannon at the All Ireland Community and Council Awards to be held in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary on Saturday 15th April 2023.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S ITEMS**

4.1 **PROPOSED HOLDING OF AN EVENT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Chief Executive, dated 11th April 2023 on the proposed holding of Cork Carnival of Science on 10th and 11th June 2023 in Fitzgerald Park.

4.2 **CORK CITY LEARNING SITE VISIT TO LISBON**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Chief Executive, dated 6th April 2023 on the Cork city learning site visit to Lisbon.

An Chomhairle approved travel to Lisbon for An tArdmhéara, accompanied by Comhairleoirí D. Boylan, C. Kelleher, J. Sheehan, and T. Moloney.

5. **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir G. Kelleher, An Chomhairle considered and noted the Draft Annual Report 2022.

6. **MINUTES**

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

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 13th March 2022.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle considered and approved the minutes of:-

- Special Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 3rd April 2023.

Members raised concerns that the minutes of the special meeting did not reflect the discussion that took place at the meeting.

The Meetings Administrator advised that standard practice is to record the decision of An Chomhairle and not the associated discussion.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Boyle, seconded by Comhairleoir O. Moran, An Chomhairle noted that the special meeting of An Chomhairle held, 3rd April 2023 followed on from the special meeting of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee held, 29th March 2023.

7. **QUESTION TIME**

7.1 **HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022**

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

What housing developments have commenced or come to completion in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 developments to include all social, affordable, cost rental, purchases and private developments?

REPLY

The number of completed new dwellings in Cork City, as verified by CSO data, is 3,700 units for the period 2019-2022 (this takes into account the 2019 boundary change). These figures include both private and public delivery. These are new builds only and exclude refurbishments by either the public or private sector. A breakdown of new builds in Cork City for each year 2019 to 2022 is presented below.

	2022	2021	2020	2019	TOTAL
New Dwelling Completion - All housing types	1,202	742	1,024	732	3,700

A total of 2,286 new homes have been delivered by Cork City Council in the years 2019-2022, across all delivery streams. Within this a total of 2,049 homes were

delivered for social housing, 132 homes for affordable housing and 105 homes for cost rental provision.

Year	2022	2021	2020	2019	Total
Social Housing - Build	517	43	271	503	1334
Social Housing – Leasing *	158	134	48	36	376
Social Housing - Acquisition	56	72	56	155	339
Affordable Housing Schemes	132	-	-	-	132
Cost Rental Schemes	105	-	-	-	105
TOTAL:	968	249	375	694	2286
*(including Repair and Lease and Mortgage to Rent)					

Cork City Council has a current pipeline of 1,986 social homes, with schemes comprising a total of 1,151 units across 32 developments under construction.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

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

7.2 **SPECIAL MEETING OF HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY**

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

Can the CE tell me if at the Special Meeting of full council on the 03rd April 2023 with a single item agenda “An Chomhairle to consider matters from the Special Meeting of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee held, Wednesday 29th March 2023.” If the correct procedures were followed?

Furthermore, can the CE tell me if the decision taken on the night was discussed and decided on in consultation with or in the presence of the CE **&/or** any of her staff pre the council meeting proceeding?

I think the decision was fundamentally wrong & also wrong in procedure and I believe the Ard Mhéara got this wrong. What should have happened (in my opinion), was the single agenda item should have been discussed & debated first & the motion which was requested by Cllr. Mike Nugent to be added to the agenda, should have been put to the end of the agenda to be discussed & voted on as would be customary at Council meeting.

Can the CE confirm whether this is the case or not please?

REPLY

I am satisfied that the correct procedures were followed for the Special Council Meeting that took place on April 3rd, 2023.

The decision of Council on the night (which was not to take the proposed motion, without notice, of Cllr. Mick Nugent) was not discussed prior to the Council meeting by the Chief Executive or members of her staff.

The business for the Special Meeting of Council held on April 3rd, 2023 was to “consider matters from the Special Meeting of the Housing SPC held on Wednesday, 29th March, 2023.” My understanding is that the motion of Cllr. Nugent was interpreted by the Lord Mayor as the matter coming from the Special SPC meeting, and as such that represented the business of the Special Meeting and was properly dealt with.

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

7.3 **DOUGLAS STREET PUBLIC REALM**

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

Can the CE update Council on plans to improve the public realm on Douglas Street including consideration of the installation of one-way traffic systems?

REPLY

A multidisciplinary design team was appointed in October 2022 to prepare proposals for improving the sustainable travel facilities and public realm on Douglas Street, White Street and Mary Street with funding provided by the National Transport Authority.

The design team is currently considering various options aimed at rationalising vehicle movement through the area while at the same time improving active travel and public realm facilities. This optioneering process forms part of the required standard appraisal process for projects of this nature. The preferred layout is likely to be identified by mid-year following which details will be presented to the Local Area Committee Members. The emerging improvement works scheme can then proceed to the preliminary design and planning process later this year subject to confirmation of the preferred layout and approval from the NTA.

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

7.4 **LOCAL AUTHORITY LAND LEGACY DEPT INITIATIVE**

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

Could the Chief Executive report on City Council submission to the Government Local Authority Land Legacy Debt Initiative. Did the City Council make a submission to the above and if yes what was the outcome for the Council in terms of debt relief on City Council land purchases?

REPLY

An application for funding under the Social Housing Investment Programme to address local authority Land Legacy Debt was submitted by the Housing Directorate to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage in early December 2022 in respect of two specific sites in the ownership of Cork City Council as follows:

- Lands known as the Old Whitechurch Road Development Site
- Lands known as the Nash’s Boreen Site

The application was made in response to communication from the DHLGH to Local Authorities on the 22nd November 2022, committing to working to identify appropriate measures to address the local authority Land Legacy Debt and to support the advancement of development of social housing on indebted sites in the ownership of Local Authorities.

Cork City Council received notification of a grant of funding to those applications in late December 2022, amounting to a total of €11,516,433 & €2,348,478.00 respectively.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

7.5 **VACANT HOMES**

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

Can the CE outline the Council’s capacity to deal with vacant homes? Will the Council be utilising resources available at Departmental level for putting in place extra Vacant Homes Officers?

REPLY

A Vacant Homes Officer has been assigned in Cork City Council. The officer is working on a range of programmes aimed at addressing vacancy, including derelict sites and Croí Cónaithe. The officer also engages with other directorates on supports such as Repair and Lease, Architectural Conservation Area Grants, Living City Initiative etc. The officer also works with a team of planners, housing, law and property to address vacancy and dereliction.

In 2023 Cork City Council will host a targeted stakeholder event aimed at raising the awareness of approaches to addressing dereliction and vacancy. The City Council will also conduct an updated survey of vacancy across the city. The Council has been engaging with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to increase the resources available to the city to address vacancy, particularly under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

It is noteworthy that vacancy rates have been declining in Cork City Council's administrative area over the last 10 years. According to the 2022 Census the level of vacant dwellings across Ireland stood at 7.9%. In Cork 4,994 vacant dwellings in Cork city in 2022, which represented 5.5% of the housing stock in the city. According to the CSO, in 2011 the level of vacancy in the city was 11% and in 2016 it was 8%. According to Revenue, based on LPT returns in 2022, the level of vacancy in Cork city was 2.6%.

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

7.6 **COST RENTAL BACKSTOP**

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

To ask the Chief Executive what steps the council is taking to ensure implementation of the new "cost rental backstop" whereby the council or an Approved Housing Body (AHB) will purchase the home of renters who are not in receipt of HAP or RAS but who are facing homelessness due to the sale of the property including what extra resources (e.g. manpower and budgetary) is the council devoting to ensure this?

REPLY

The Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage has set out arrangements for a temporary Cost Rental Tenant In-Situ (CRTiS) Scheme from 1st April 2023 onwards.

The intention of the CRTiS Scheme is to provide an additional option for households who are at risk of homelessness. The Scheme is delivered by the Housing Agency, supported by the Department for property acquisitions, with the tasks of day-to-day

tenancy and property management handled on an external contract basis via a third-party in due course. The Housing Agency has a dedicated fund for acquiring these properties.

The scheme will be available where a household faces the termination of a tenancy due to the intended sale of the property, is not able to purchase it from a landlord, is at risk of homelessness, is not in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and meets income eligibility criteria (€53,000) and other qualifying criteria. In such circumstances, the Housing Agency may acquire the property with the tenant-in-situ, subject to certain conditions relating to the status of the tenant and the property.

Cork City Council will have responsibility for the initial assessment of applicants, who are tenants in receipt of a valid notice of termination due to an intended sale of the property. The Council is required to assess tenants to deem if they are at risk of homelessness. Once a household is deemed potentially eligible for the CRTiS scheme, the Council then submits all details to the Housing Agency for progression as a CRTiS case.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

7.7 **NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS IN CITY**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the number of housing units existing in the City developed by Approved Housing Bodies and those expected to be developed in the coming year?

REPLY

Cork City Council's register of approved housing body properties funded through the various capital funding streams, indicates a total of 1,789 units currently. A further total of 384 units is projected for delivery in 2023 by the approved housing body sector in Cork City.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

7.8 **NO OF EMERGENCY BEDS AVAILABLE**

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

Can the CE outline the number of emergency accommodation beds currently available and unoccupied for families, by family size, couples and individuals respectively in tabular form?

REPLY

Available Accommodation	Size of Occupants	No. of units	Capacity
Single Room	1 occupant	10	10
Double Room	2 occupants	9	18
Triple Room	3 occupants	3	9
Family room	4 occupants	5	20
Large space	6 - 8 Occupants	6	39
Extra Large space	8 - 10 Occupants	1	8
Totals		34	104

Reserve Accommodation			
Family space	4 - 6 Occupants	13	50

Totals		47	154
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Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

7.9 **NO OF ACQUISITIONS MADE OF PROPERTIES WITH TENANT THREATENED BY EVICTION IN SITU**

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

To ask the Chief Executive how many acquisitions have been made this year of properties with a tenant threatened by eviction in SITU and what is the proposed budget for such acquisitions for the remainder of the year?

REPLY

The Housing Directorate is currently progressing the acquisition of 33 homes, with 3 sales of property to Cork City Council now closed, and the remaining 30 properties progressing through the conveyancing process. As further properties are deemed eligible for acquisition, the properties are immediately being reviewed within the acquisitions programme.

In March 2023, Government decided to increase the national target of social housing acquisitions under the Housing for All provision from 200 per annum to 1,500 in 2023.

The additional 1,300 acquisitions in 2023 are to be focussed on the acquisition of homes where a HAP or RAS tenant has received a Notice of Termination, due to the sale of the property. In order to provide a greater focus on acquisitions in areas of greatest need and to support planning by local authorities, Cork City Council has been provided with an initial allocation of 80 acquisitions, which are fully funded by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

This is not a target, but rather to support planning and to allow local authorities to prioritise the acquisitions to be targeted. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will keep this under review through 2023.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

7.10 **LAND BETWEEN CLIFTON TERRACE & LOWER GLANMIRE ROAD**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if Cork City Council intends to take ownership of a parcel of land between Clifton Terrace and Lower Glanmire Road from CIE for the creation of a pocket park; and the status of the transfer of ownership?

REPLY

CIE/Irish Rail have recently indicated that they will consider a long lease of a linear strip of land south of Clifton Terrace to City Council for it to be developed as a Community Garden for local residents.

CIE/Irish Rail have advised that the lands contain existing burdens that must be retained in any future lease with the Council. These burdens are being examined in the context of compatibility with Community Garden use before engaging further with CIE/Irish Rail.

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

7.11 **ALLOCATION OF RECENTLY COMPLETED HOUSES**

The following question submitted by Comhairleoir E. Rynng was deferred to the next meeting of An Chomhairle to be held, 8th May 2023:-

Referring to the 1,215 houses classed as “recent completions” in the January CE report, can the CE give a breakdown of how many have been allocated to tenants?

8. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

8.1 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the Chief Executive, dated 30th March 2023 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of ground (323.1m² approximately) situated adjacent to No 6, Boherboy Road, Lotamore, Cork to Paddy Longmore and Sinéad Ryan c/o Niamh O’Leary of Colm Burke Solicitors, 33, Washington St, Cork, for the sum of €100.00.

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

2. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of ground (337.3m² approximately) situated adjacent to No 7, Boherboy Road, Lotamore, Cork to Eileen Scully, c/o Donal Daly of Daly Derham Donnelly Solicitors, Unit 4, Cleve Business Park, Monahan Road, Cork, for the sum of €100.00.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Canty, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

3. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of ground (31.3m² approximately), situated adjacent to No. 16, Lotamore Grove, Lotamore, Mayfield, Cork to Gretta Scannell, c/o Noonan Linehan Carroll Coffey Solicitors, 54, North Main Street, Cork for the sum of €10.00.

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

4. Disposal by way of exchange of No. 7, Park Lawn, Parklands, Commons Road, Cork to Michael & Theresa O’ Mahony, c/o Joe Cuthbert Solicitor, 16, South Mall, Cork in exchange for the property owned by the said Michael & Theresa O’ Mahony, at No. 3, Fota Lawn, Knocknaheeny, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

5. Disposal of six sites, within the residential development site known as Newton Green, Newton Heights, Boherboy Road, Lotamore, Mayfield, Cork, to Lyonshall Ltd and Clancy Project Management Ltd in equal shares as tenants in common c/o, Niall Daly, of BDM Boylan Solicitors, Clarkes Bridge House, Hanover Street, Cork for the sum of €553,500.00 (inclusive of VAT).

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

6. Disposal of 19 units situate at and known as numbers 1 to 15 inclusive, 17,18, 22 and 23 Newton Close, Newton Heights, Boherboy Road, Lotamore, Mayfield Cork to nineteen applicants under the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Finn, seconded by Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

7. Disposal of 9 sites situate at and known as site numbers 1,2,4,5,11,12,13,15 and 18 inclusive Newton Green, Newton Heights, Boherboy Road, Lotamore, Mayfield, Cork to various applicants under the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir O. Moran, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

8.2 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: 18 NORTH MAIN STREET, CORK - PETER MCVERRY TRUST CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 23rd March 2023 in relation to a loan facility for Peter McVerry Trust CLG in respect of the provision of 7 no. 1 bed units at 18 North Main Street, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Boyle, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Nugent, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Resolved that, pursuant to the provision of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, a loan facility not exceeding €2,105,279 be granted to Peter McVerry Trust CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of 7 no. 1 bed units at 18 North Main Street, Cork.”

8.3 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: ST. JOACHIM & ANNE’S, ANGLESEA STREET, CORK - CORK SIMON CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 23rd March 2023 in relation to a loan facility for Cork Simon CLG in respect of the provision and refurbishment of 8 units of accommodation at St. Joachim & Anne’s Anglesea Street, Cork.

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

“Resolved that, pursuant to the provision of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, a loan facility not exceeding €2,011,366.41 (previous loan being €1,781,280.72) be granted to Cork Simon CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision and refurbishment of 8 units of accommodation at St. Joachim & Anne’s, Anglesea Street, Cork.”

8.4 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: OAKMOUNT, TOWER, BLARNEY, CORK - COPE FOUNDATION CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 23rd March 2023 in relation to a loan facility for Cope Foundation CLG in respect of the provision of 1 three bed unit of accommodation at 27 Oakmount, Tower, Blarney, Cork.

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

“Resolved that, pursuant to the provision of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, a loan facility not exceeding €468,420 be granted to Cope Foundation CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of 1 three bed unit of accommodation at 27 Oakmount, Tower, Blarney, Cork.”

8.5 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: TIVOLI, SILVERSPRINGS, CORK - TUATH HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 23rd March 2023 in relation to a loan facility for Tuath Housing Association Ltd. in respect of the provision of 15 no. units of accommodation at Tivoli, Silversprings, Cork.

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

“Resolved that, pursuant to the provision of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, a loan facility not exceeding €5,744,250 be granted to Tuath Housing Association Limited, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of 15 no. units of accommodation at Tivoli, Silversprings, Cork.”

8.6 **ACTIVE TRAVEL IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT KNOCKPOGUE AVENUE AND KNOCKFREE AVENUE - 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 Active Travel Improvement Works at Knockpogue Avenue and Knockfree Avenue and the report of the Director of Infrastructure Development thereon dated 6th April 2023, as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

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

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development viz. the Active Travel Improvement Works at Knockpogue Avenue and Knockfree Avenue and the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, Cork City Council dated 6th April 2023 , it is hereby

resolved pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that the Active Travel Improvement Works at Knockpogue Avenue and Knockfree Avenue be carried out as recommended in the said report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, Cork City Council.”

9. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 3rd APRIL 2023**

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

9.1 **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

9.1.1 **CORK CITY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Audit Committee Report for 2021

9.1.2 **AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for year ended 31st December 2022.

9.1.3 **AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Audit Committee Charter.

9.1.4 **AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2023**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Canty, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Audit Committee Annual Work Programme for 2023.

9.2 **REPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Report of the Local Government Auditor 2021.

9.3 **ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Audited Annual Financial Statement 2021.

9.4 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 28/02/2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 28/02/2023.

9.5 **MOTIONS**

9.5.1 **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SERVICES DATED 22nd MARCH 2023
IN RELATION TO FIRE RESPONSE TIMES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 22nd March 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will publish average, mean, quickest and longest response times to incidents of fire per month, as part of the monthly CE Report.’

(Proposer: Cllr. E. Ryng 23/143)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Fire & Building Control Department works to ensure that an efficient and effective fire service is provided to the people of Cork City. This includes making sure there is a prompt response to all calls for emergencies from the public.

The mobilisation system for Cork City Fire Brigade is provided by Limerick County Council. They manage the day to day running of the mobilisation system and all associated reporting.

Response time figures for fires and non-fires are available in a nationally agreed and consistent format. They are one of the national performance reportable figures for Local Authority Fire Services. They are reported and published by NOAC on an annual basis. The latest report for these figures is NOAC-PI-Report-2021-FINAL.pdf

The Munster Regional Control Centre issue the response times for each Local Authority on an annual basis to enable the completion of the NOAC returns. Quarterly reports are issued and used for trend analysis and as check to ensure that there are no major changes to the response times. They are further checked and verified prior to the issuing of the annual figures.

For this reason, it is not possible for them to be part of the monthly Chief Executives report.

10. **PARTY WHIPS – 27th MARCH 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 27th March 2023.

11. **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & TOURISM STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEE – 20th MARCH 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the International Relations & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 20th March 2023.

11.1 **RECENT ACTIVITIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 15th March 2023 on recent activities in International Relations.

11.2 **RECENT ACTIVITIES IN TOURISM**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 7th March 2023 on recent activities in tourism.

12. **ENVIRONMENT, WATER & AMENITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 21st MARCH 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 21st March 2023.

12.1 **MOTIONS REFERRED BACK TO THE COMMITTEE BY AN CHOMHAIRLE AND THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SERVICES THEREON:-**

12.1.1 **POLICY ON NON-REMOVAL OF AMENITIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 9th May 2022 on the following motion:-

‘Going forward, Cork City Council will implement a policy of not removing amenities from the public realm such as benches or waste bins as a solution to anti-social behavior.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Ryan 22/112)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the current policy regarding the removal of fixtures and fittings in the public realm, parks and other amenities is that an item is only removed after all measures to address an issue have been exhausted. It is important to note that fixtures and fittings may have been inappropriately sited and are the source of ongoing nuisance and disturbance to nearby residents.

As issues are brought to our attention they are assessed, and a decision made in the context of maintaining the service and, ensuring the quality of life of residents is not compromised.

12.2 **MOTIONS**

12.2.1 **ABANDONED BICYCLES IN THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 14th March 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will report on its policy and operations to identify and remove abandoned bicycles in the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/011)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Operations Directorate is in the final stages of finalising an abandoned bicycle policy which will be brought to the SPC for consideration and adoption.

This is a complex matter given the subjectivity of defining an abandoned bike versus a bike which is being used but parked for a long timeframe.

Clearly, it is far easier to classify damaged bukes as abandoned but even in such cases such bikes may still have a significant value.

12.2.2 **WATERBORNE LITTER IN THE RIVER LEE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 14th March 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will report on the opportunity to install a rubbish barrier, trash wheel or other solution for capturing waterborne plastic litter in the River Lee in the city, preventing it from entering the estuary and the sea.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/080)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the River Lee is a navigable waterway which is used by vessels for commercial, recreational and utilitarian reasons. It would therefore be inappropriate to install a barrier to restrict the movements of these vessels through its channels.

Cork City Council can undertake to investigate and assess areas where there is a particular issue with waterborne plastic litter in the River Lee. Suitable solutions to address this issue can be determined, which may vary from area to area.

Funding and the requisite resources to carry out this work is not available at present. Capital investment to install the appropriate solutions for capturing and removing water borne litter and long term operate and maintenance budgets need to be considered.

13. **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 23rd MARCH 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 23rd March 2023.

13.1 **MOTIONS**

13.1.1 **AMHRÁN NA BHFIANN**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 20th March 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council commemorates Amhrán na bhFiann that encourages our citizens to learn the Irish National Anthem.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 23/064)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Irish Officer will promote the use of the National Anthem to schools and will make the wording of the National Anthem available on the City Council website.

13.1.2 **PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE OPERATION OF THE CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 20th March 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will hold a public consultation on the operation of the Customer Service Unit and customer service requests to invite input and ideas on ways to improve the transparency, accountability and responsiveness of the city to residents’ needs.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/082)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Customer Service Unit (CSU), in cooperation with the Communications Section and ICT, carried out a survey of 1,022 callers over 18 days in 2021.

The main objectives of the survey was to:

- Evaluate why callers are contacting the CSU;
- Identify if the issue could be solved by improving our communications with the public;
- Identify how customers could access information they needed without having to call the CSU;
- Identify ways to improve services to the public;
- Identify ways to improve our responsiveness to the public;

Each caller was asked a series of questions plus they were given an opportunity to provide comments.

A pilot project of a Journey Mapping Exercise of Case and Service Assessment was undertaken simultaneously.

The survey was presented to the SMT, CCP SPC and to the CRM Steering Group.

Recommendations and actions based on the results of the survey are ongoing.

13.1.3 **FUNDING FOR FRIENDLY CALL CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 20th March 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would allocate funding to Friendly Call Cork to help with the running costs of this fantastic initiative.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 22/506)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council recognise the value of the Friendly Call Service and the positive impact it has across the city, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Each year Cork City Council invite applications from all community groups to the various funding streams, both local and national. This is to enable a fair and equitable access to the grants Cork City Council administer.

The ‘Community Support Fund’ 2023 under the Community Enhancement Programme funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, administered by Cork City Local Community Development Committee will be open for applications from the 23rd January 2023 on the Submit Portal on the Cork City Council Website. This fund will support community groups particularly in disadvantaged areas with their (non-pay) running costs and capital purchases.

For clarity, in relation to running costs, it is not Cork City Council’s policy to fund any pay related running costs for community groups.

13.1.4 **DISABILITY LIAISON, ACCESS AND EQUALITY OFFICER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 20th March 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That the CE identifies a disability liaison, access and equality officer in order to promote equality of opportunity and access for all people.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 22/515)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council Operations directorate regularly meet with disability access groups. The Disability Liaison Access & Equality Officer would have a role across a number of directorates, and it would be the remit of Personal & Organisational Development Directorate with regard to their placement.

The Community & Social inclusion section of Community Culture and Placemaking Cork City Council is dedicated to working for a society of greater equality and opportunity for all members of society. The Social Inclusion Unit and Community section are currently working with POD Training section to roll out Disability

Awareness Training across the City Council the Cork Access group are providing community oversight of this project. The Social Inclusion and Community section sit on all of the relevant interagency networks in the city who work toward making Cork an inclusive, diverse and welcoming city; including LGBT Interagency Group, Traveller Interagency Group, and the Integration Strategy Working Group.

The Cork Access Group is a voluntary group of people with members who either have a disability or work with people who have disabilities. It is possible to become a member of the Cork Access group by a referral by people with a disability. They have an annual AGM however due to covid an AGM has not been held in the past 3 years.

The new Local Economic and Community Plan public consultation is currently open until 26th May. As part of this process Cork City Council have commissioned the consultants to host a focus group for people with disabilities Stephen Murphy is leading on this from City Councils' side, this will happen in May. There will also be two Community Engagement Workshops on Thursday 13th April (morning) and Tuesday 18th April (evening), supported by UCC Community Engagement, these have been shared with all community organisations including disability representatives groups.

14. **HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 29th MARCH 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee from its special meeting held, 29th March 2023.

Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald briefed An Chomhairle on the presentation given at the special meeting of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee, held 29th March 2023, and invited the Director of Services, Housing, to provide a further update.

A detailed discussion took place after which, An tArdmhéara invited the Director of Services, Housing to respond to matters raised.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Moloney, An Chomhairle agreed to adopt the presentation given at the special meeting of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee, held 29th March 2023.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

15. **CENTENARY COMMEMORATION 2019-2023 STEERING COMMITTEE – 21st MARCH 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Centenary Commemoration 2019-2023 Steering Committee from its meeting held, 21st March 2023.

15.1 **COMMUNITY COMMEMORATIVE FUND APPLICATIONS**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. O’Callaghan, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report on the recommended grant allocations under the 2023 Commemorative Fund.

15.2 **MOTION**

15.2.1 **PLAQUE IN HONOUR OF VOLUNTEER LIAM HEALY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council mark the centenary of Volunteer Liam Healy by installing a plaque at Liam Healy Road, Fairhill. This plaque could then be included in a further phase of the Revolutionary Trail.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 23/140)

16. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 14th MARCH 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 14th March 2023.

17. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 3rd APRIL 2023**

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

17.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

17.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF FEBRUARY 2023**

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

18. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th MARCH 2023**

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

19. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th MARCH 2023**

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

20. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th MARCH 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th March 2023.

21. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th MARCH 2023**

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

22. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th MARCH 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 28th March 2023.

23. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 8th MARCH 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its special meeting held, 8th March 2023.

24. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

25. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoirí S. Martin and T. Shannon at the LAMA Spring Seminar, Apprenticeship and Future Building Initiatives, held at the Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork from the 2nd - 4th March 2023.
- Comhairleoirí D. Boyle and T. Shannon at AILG Module 1 training, A Briefing on the Electoral Reform Act, held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick on the 25th February 2023.
- Comhairleoirí S. Martin and T. Shannon at AILG Module 2 training, Local Authority Climate Action Plans, Action Focused Ambition at Local and Community Level, held at the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth on the 25th March 2023.

26. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

None received.

27. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

27.1 **SUCK VALLEY WAY CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle considered and retrospectively approved the attendance of Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the Suck Valley Way Conference 2023, Inspiring Rural Creativity, held at Gleeson's Townhouse, Market Square, Co. Roscommon from the 5th - 6th April 2023.

28. **TRAINING**

None received.

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

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

30. **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.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir G. Keohane, An Chomhairle further noted the withdrawal of motion 23/115, Rivers In Flood Risk Areas.

31. **MOTIONS**

31.1 **REMOVE FALLEN TREES FROM GLASHABOY RIVER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'Dear Cork City Council, would it be possible please to ask Inland Fisheries or the OPW to remove the fallen trees from the Glashaboy River in Glanmire Village immediately. Since I reported it first more fallen trees and debris have accumulated and it has doubled in size creating a dam and will cause a flood.'

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Keohane 23/116)

31.2 **EXTENSION OF THE EVICTION MORATORIUM**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council reaffirms its stance on the need for an extension of the eviction moratorium and will write to the Minister for Housing requesting he progress legislation to reinstate the ban immediately, to be in place until January 31st 2024.'

(Proposers: Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. K. Collins, Cllr. F. Kerins, Cllr. E. Ryng 23/167)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. Collins, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Finn, a vote was called for on the approval of the motion where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, O. Moran, G. Keohane, M. Nugent, K. Collins, K. McCarthy, M. Finn, D. Boyle, F. Kerins, C. Finn, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (12)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, T. Shannon, D. Forde, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, G. Kelleher. (12)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting in favour of the motion were equal to those voting against, An tArdmhéara, having the casting vote, voted against and declared the motion defeated.

31.3 **ROOF AT THE ENGLISH MARKET**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council asks the Minister for the OPW for once off funding to address the roof issue in the English Market.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/169)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle agreed to refer the motion to Corporate Affairs for report through the Property Section.

31.4 **RECOGNISE THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion, noting a conflict of interest declaration from Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald and T. Moloney:-

‘That Cork City Council calls on the Government to recognise the work done by the community and voluntary sector. Public services have been systematically outsourced to this sector without the necessary funding and institutional infrastructure.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 23/183)

31.5 **DEMAND FOR CENTRAL FUNDING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING STOCK IN RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT EVICTION BAN DECISION**

An Chomhairle agreed to withdraw the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Housing and Local Government to express frustration at the lack of information relating to the expected effects of the ending of the eviction ban for local authorities as providers of housing and homeless services. The Council is concerned at the lack of management information flowing from central Government which is necessary for proper planning for the anticipated increase in homelessness and demand for council services as a direct consequence of the eviction ban being ended. The Council is particularly concerned that it has had to unilaterally correct misinformation given by Ministers in relation to inexistant supports for those at risk of eviction. The Council demands that the Minister urgently provides capital spend to local authorities including Cork City Council for the purpose of taking properties released into the market by dint of the ending of the eviction ban

into the local authority housing stock. The Council sees local authorities as the principal providers of social housing in the State and demands that its capacity to absorb the pressure created by the national housing ban ending is urgently augmented. The Council further notes that the ending of the eviction ban is a de facto outsourcing of national housing policy to local authorities already under-resourced to manage unprecedented demand for housing and homeless services. The letter shall be copied to all other local authorities in the State for the purpose of encouraging coordinated demands for the aforementioned financial supports.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 23/185)

This concluded the business of the meeting.

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH