

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9th OCTOBER 2023

PRESENT	Leas Ardmhéara Comhairleoir C. Finn.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, D. Boylan.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, D. Forde.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, F. Kerins.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Ryng.
ALSO PRESENT	Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive. Mr. B. Geaney, Assistant Chief Executive. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Mr. N. Ó Donnabháin, Director of Services, Housing. Ms. R. Loughry, Acting Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations. Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. G. O'Beirne, Director of Services, Infrastructure Development. Mr. K. O'Connor, Senior Planner, Strategic & Economic Development. Ms. A. Murnane, Meetings Administrator. Ms. N. Stewart, Administrative Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Ms. M. Meehan, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.
APOLOGIES	Comhairleoirí K. McCarthy, P. Dineen, D. Boyle.

An Leas Ardmhéara recited the opening prayer.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An Leas Ardmhéara invited Comhairleoir S. O'Callaghan to address An Chomhairle on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council call on the contractor, Citidwell to:

- open Cooneys Lane to vehicular traffic for two hours every weekday morning so as to enable parents to bring their children to school and to enable people to travel to work:
- give passes/badges to the residents of Cooneys Lane, which would enable them to pass through the roadblock on Cooneys Lane whenever they wish.'

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Maher, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Forde, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders to take the motion, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, M. Nugent, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, D. Boylan, L. Bogue, D. Forde, M. Finn, S. O'Callaghan, F. Kerins, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (15)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, S. Martin, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher. (9)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí O. Moran, D. Cahill, D. Canty, C. Finn. (4)

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 Leas Ardmhéara declared the proposal defeated.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir L. Bogue, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders to change the order of debate and to discuss motion 42 and motion 43 on Appendix 1, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, G. Keohane, M. Nugent, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, L. Bogue, M. Finn, F. Kerins, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (12)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, D. Forde, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher. (16)

ABSTAIN: (0)

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

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The Horgan family on the death of Tim Horgan.
- The Salmon family on the death of Grace Salmon.
- The Drumm family on the death of Andrew Drumm.
- The O'Sullivan-McQuaid family on the death of Fiona O'Sullivan-McQuaid.
- The O'Flynn family on the death of Helen O'Flynn.
- The Kearney family on the death of Stephen Kearney.
- The Fitzgerald family on the death of Margaret Fitzgerald.

- The Deasy family on the death of James Deasy.
- The O’Sullivan family on the death of Jim O’Sullivan.
- The O’Flynn family on the death of Seamus O’Flynn.
- The McGuinness family on the death of Aidan McGuinness.
- The Leahy family on the death of William Leahy.
- The Halpin family on the death of Dave Halpin.
- The Buckley family on the death of Frank Buckley.
- The McElligott family on the death of Joan McElligott.
- The Keeshan family on the death of Margaret Keeshan.
- The Smith family on the death of Berna Smith.
- The Connolly family on the death of Celia Connolly.
- The Healy family on the death of Elsie Healy.
- The O’Flynn family on the death of Ann O’Flynn.
- The Cunneen family on the death of Susan Cunneen.
- The Field family on the death of Liam Field.
- The O’Callaghan family on the death of Philomena (Phil) O’Callaghan.
- The Brohan family on the death of Jimmy Brohan.
- The O’Neill family on the death of Eileen O’Neill.
- The O’Hara family on the death of Tom O’Hara.
- The Cummins family on the death of Joan Cummins.
- The Ahern family on the death of Mary Ahern.
- The O’Sullivan family on the death of Nellie O’Sullivan.
- The Leisk family on the death of Liam Leisk.
- The Coughlan family on the death of Sr. Betty Coughlan.
- The Delaney family on the death of Vincent Delaney.
- The Creed family on the death of Sr. Clare Creed.
- The Barrett family on the death of Sheila Barrett.
- The Kelly family on the death of Mary Kelly.
- The Dineen family on the death of Sarah Dineen.
- The McCarthy family on the death of Anne McCarthy.
- The King family on the death of Linda King.
- The Browne family on the death of Teresa Browne.
- The Dennehy family on the death of Marie Dennehy.
- The Ballard family on the death of George Ballard.

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

- Mayfield GAA Club on winning the “Junior A” Football Championship City Division Title on Saturday 7th October 2023.
- Ballincollig Tidy Towns on recent achievements at the National Tidy Towns Awards on Friday, 6th October 2023, including being named “Ireland’s Tidiest Large Urban Centre”, finishing joint second, and winning its eleventh gold medal in a row.
- Douglas Tidy Towns on winning the bronze medal at the National Tidy Towns Awards 2023.
- Aideen Mullins on being crowned U-18 WBC Muay Thai European Champion.

- Glanmire Ladies Intermediate Footballers on being crowned Intermediate County Football Champions.

3. **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

3.1 **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

An Leas Ardmhéara reminded An Chomhairle that a Special Meeting of Council will take place on 16th November to mark the closing out of the decade of Centenaries, which will be followed by a Commemorative Gala Event in the Concert Hall.

3.2 **RESIGNATION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the resignation of Comhairleoir E. Ryng from Cork City Council.

3.3 **LORD MAYOR'S DELEGATION TO CHINA**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of An tArdmhéara K. McCarthy, Comhairleoirí C. Kelleher, K. O'Flynn, D. Canty and M. Finn as part of a Lord Mayor's delegation to China.

3.4 **LGBTQ+ ALLY AWARD**

An Chomhairle acknowledged and congratulated Cork City Library Staff for being awarded the LGBTQ+ Ally Award for 2023 at the GALAS.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

4.1 **STATUS UPDATE REPORT: NOONAN ROAD/ST. FINBARR'S ROAD/FORT STREET AND DEAN STREET**

The Chief Executive presented an update report on the Noonan Road/St. Finbarr's Road/Fort Street and Dean Street Housing Complexes.

5. **MINUTES**

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

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 11th September 2022.

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **STAFF WELFARE IN WORKPLACE (TRAFFIC WARDENS)**

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

Staff welfare in the workplace (Traffic Wardens).

As a consequence to the protests within the environs of City Libraries and the welfare of staff I ask the CEO to outline what protection is given to the welfare of City Council Traffic Wardens while in the course of performing their duties on public streets. In particular can the CEO share what protection if any are provided/addressed through the current parking by laws by way of enforcement/fines and or possible court appearance for a person who uses threatening behaviour to a Traffic Warden while on/off duty.

REPLY

Risk assessments are prepared for a significant quantum of activities undertaken by Cork City Council staff, and this includes the work undertaken by our Traffic Wardens. These Risk Assessments identify risks to the health and safety of our staff and identify and implement control measures to manage those risks. One such risk identified for our Traffic Wardens is the potential for confrontation with the members of the public and our control measures include training in dealing with aggressive people, communication system between the Traffic Warden and the Traffic Warden Supervisor, carrying of communication devices that include man down facility, etc. The Local Authorities (Traffic Wardens) Act 1975, as amended, includes provisions in relation to obstructing Traffic Wardens undertaking their duty. All incidents are reported, and control measures reviewed and modified as required. Any serious incident is reported to An Garda Síochána.

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

6.2 **MACCURTAIN STREET – TWO WAY SYSTEM**

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

Is the chief executive confident that the two way system very shortly to be introduced to MacCurtain street will work properly and safely? In particular will the width of the new road layout be sufficient for both buses and trucks to traverse safely.

REPLY

The *MacCurtain St Public Transport Improvement Scheme* is a significant sustainable transport and public realm improvement project. It covers a large area in the centre of City with improvement works being undertaken on Wellington Rd, MacCurtain St,

Bridge St, Lavitts Quay, Merchants Quay, Andersons Quay, Penrose Quay, Partricks Quay, Pine St, Devonshire St, Coburg St, Leitrim St etc.

The scheme has been implemented to prioritise sustainable transport and reduce car dependency thereby supporting the future growth of the Cork Metropolitan Area through the provision of an efficient and safe transport network. The design of the scheme and traffic changes introduced to date allow for the movement of services and freight along the quays while maintaining access to the area for deliveries. The public realm design of the street promotes MacCurtain Street as a key destination for business and recreation with a primary focus on improved street activity, improved streetscape, enhanced pedestrian facilities alongside a high level of public transport connectivity.

To maximise the benefits and take advantage of these new measures, several bus routes will operate in both directions on Coburg Street, Bridge Street and MacCurtain Street. These routes can take advantage of the reduced traffic volumes on MacCurtain Street as well as new bus priority measures throughout the scheme to improve both bus journey times and reliability.

Since construction commenced over twenty months ago, extensive work has been successfully undertaken and the most significant traffic changes and much of the public realm works are now complete.

The scheme provides for the reintroduction of two way vehicular movement on MacCurtain Street. As a result of the changes already introduced in the surrounding area, the future levels of vehicular movement on the street will be a small proportion of the movements experienced when the street operated as a one way through route. The scheme is and will continue to operate as planned and it has been subject to the normal road safety audit requirements throughout the design and delivery phases. The carriageway widths are appropriate for the area and are fully in accordance with current design standards. The scheme will dramatically improve the transport facilities and public realm across a large area within the City Centre.

It is now in the final phases of delivery and it is anticipated the works will be fully complete before the end of the year.

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

6.3 **RAPID DEVELOPMENT PEDESTRIAN SCHEME**

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

That the CE report on proposals under the 'Rapid Development Pedestrian Scheme' & next steps for same.

REPLY

Construction work on the Rapid Deployment Pedestrian Scheme Southwest is now substantially complete and design work is currently being developed for the Rapid Deployment Pedestrian Scheme Northwest. Details of proposed works will be presented to Members of at the Local Area Committee when this is finalised. Subject to Members approval and continued funding from the NTA it is anticipated that the proposed improvement works will proceed to construction in 2024.

An enabling works contract is currently being finalised for Churchfield Road/John F Connolly Road. This work includes the removal of the concrete pipe bollards and the reinstatement of footpaths The Churchfield Road/John F Connolly Road work will proceed in Q4 2023, subject to funding approval from the NTA.

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

6.4 **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

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

Can Cork City Council assess the need for an additional public light at lower Kent Road (on the green around 78).

REPLY

Cork City Council's Public Lighting Section will undertake a review of the existing public lighting at Kent Road (near 78 Kent Road, T12 N2N6). The outcomes of this review will determine, what if any, actions are to be undertaken.

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

6.5 **REGENERATION OF KNOCKNAHEENY**

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

Can the CE confirm that Cork City Council has only built 99 Homes under Regeneration of Knocknaheeny since the project formally commenced in 2011 and provide an estimated completion date for the project. Has this pace of progress been accepted by yourself and the housing director given that at this rate it will take 55 years for the project to be completed?

REPLY

The City North-West Quarter Regeneration Programme (CNWQR) is a major project of regeneration by Cork City Council in the northwest area of Cork City. The initial starting point to this regeneration project was when the CNWQR Masterplan & Implementation Report was published in 2011, and this subsequently was developed into a relocation strategy and construction programme, as well as the finalisation of a Design and Public Realm strategy. The building programme did not commence in 2011.

While regeneration is often thought of in terms of the built environment, it is not just about bricks and mortar.

There is also a social and economic side to regeneration. Developing strong communities improves the quality of life of residents which in itself addresses problems at individual and household levels.

One of the many challenges facing local authorities is not just the delivery of a vast range of services but to continuously invest in social and infrastructural change. As Ireland's second capital and a city thriving in terms of international business and investment, the City Council have taken a proactive approach to regeneration in the city and the project in the city's northwest is a prime example.

To create a truly successful urban area, which is the central Masterplan objective, requires focused and ongoing policy and operational interventions as well as physical development. The Regeneration Programme therefore also includes for the delivery of a social and environmental plan over the life of the project, with measures including education, sports development, social enterprise and environmental improvements.

The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage is firmly committed to the successful regeneration of the Cork North West Quarter and has made a substantial investment to the masterplan for the regeneration of the area which will revive communities, create employment opportunities for local people, and improve the housing stock.

This complex project involves the demolition of over 450 houses and their replacement by over 650 new homes as well as a range of social, environmental and economic interventions, with funding support from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The project, therefore, requires phased development of the regeneration area, dependent on the phased relocation of existing residents, as well as careful design and planning from a placemaking and community building perspective.

The initial phase of the project was one of refurbishment of 61 existing properties. Thereafter, the new build projects completed from 2017 have totalled 99 homes, with a further 103 homes currently under construction, 105 homes at final design and pre-tender approvals (to commence in 2024 once all relocations and demolitions are complete) and a further 97 homes currently under design. The Approved Housing Body Sector has also delivered 21 homes in the same timeframe. Delivery to date therefore comprises a total of 181 homes.

Significant infrastructure works have also been undertaken as enabling works, to facilitate future development e.g., Irish Water watermain diversions. Such work is significant on any large-scale development of this nature, which is one of the largest building projects in the City currently. In tandem with the build programme, a highly complex relocation strategy applies, and Cork City Council has completed Phases 1 and 2 relocations, with 75% of Phase 3 now complete, all of which is essential to the progression of the next phases of our build programme.

The construction programme has been delivering since 2017, notwithstanding being affected by pandemic-related construction shutdowns and Ukrainian War related materials shortages and delays. Significant momentum has been achieved in recent years and will continue under the current programme which is currently projected out to 2028. Cork City Council issues regular updates on the programme to its local elected members, together with any affected residents or homeowners, and will continue to do so. The suggested programme posed in the question is not a fair extrapolation of the delivery programme delivered or planned, which is regularly communicated to members as programme develops.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

6.6 **HOUSING ALLOCATIONS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if all housing properties are allocated through the CBL system; if not, what are the circumstances under which such properties are made available?

REPLY

Cork City Council's Allocation Scheme prepared in accordance with Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 198 of 2011) became effective from 24th April 2017

Under the Allocation Scheme, Cork City Council may from time to time, as it considers fit, reserve and designate for particular categories of households a particular number or proportion of dwellings becoming available for allocation and where a particular number or proportion of dwellings becoming available for allocation is set aside or designated for a particular category or categories of households, priority shall be accorded to households of that particular category in the allocation of those dwellings.

The following are the types of properties which are not allocated using the CBL system:

- Available properties in developments which are specifically designated for allocation to the elderly or older persons.

- Available properties which are adapted to be suitable for persons with a physical or sensory impairment or medical need.
- Available properties which are required for urgent allocation to Cork City Council tenants arising from specified exceptional circumstances, including displacement by fire, flood or any other emergency, development, redevelopment, or regeneration of an area by Cork City Council, or exceptional medical or compassionate grounds.

Cork City Council may occasionally make properties available to households who are homeless and in emergency accommodation. This may be done where there is a large development with a significant number of units available for allocation. A small portion of the units may be provided for this purpose.

It should be noted that any household selected for nomination to a unit made available outside the CBL system is still subject to the normal pre-allocation checks and interview process.

In addition, some properties may be specifically designated at the time of purchase or construction for a particular category of household such as those with a disability, homeless or care leavers. This designation is applied based on the type of capital funding provided for the property. For example, an Approved Housing Body may receive approval for CAS funding for a property for someone identified as being homeless.

This property will therefore have to be allocated to a social housing applicant who meets these criteria. Therefore, this property would not be advertised on CBL.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

6.7 **CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL**

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 permission was granted to Uisce Éireann to dump or store construction material in an area zoned High Landscape Value off the North Ring Road opposite Corrib Lawn?

REPLY

Cork City Council did not grant Uisce Eireann's contractor permission to enter and store construction material on the green area opposite Corrib Lawn. They do have a Road Opening Licence allowing them to work on the road/footpath area only to upgrade and future proof water infrastructure through the installation of a new pipe network.

Cork City Council have engaged with Uisce Eireann and their contractors and have received a commitment that all material is to be removed from the site by Friday 6th

October 2023. Following this, a permanent reinstatement of the area is to be agreed with Cork City Council's Parks Department and implemented by Uisce Eireann.

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

6.8 **NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES & CHILD CITY CHILDCARE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to make all resources available within Cork City Council's remit to support Northside Community Enterprises and Cork City Childcare to reopen Before 5 Family Centre nursery and community services in Churchfield.

REPLY

Cork City Council in collaboration with other agencies will continue to engage and support the development of processes necessary for the successful reopening of a family centre in the Churchfield area.

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

6.9 **LIST OF APPROVED HOUSING BODY DWELLINGS**

The following question submitted by Comhairleoir E. Rynng was deferred to the next meeting of An Chomhairle to be held, 13th November 2023:-

To ask the CE for a list of Approved Housing Body Dwellings that have been vacant for six months or more, as of 1st of October, setting out in each case:

The address
The reason for the vacancy
The name of the Approved Housing Body
And the length of the vacancy

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the Chief Executive, dated 28th September 2023 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of property known as No. 5, & No. 6, York Square, Ballinlough Road, Cork by way of lease, together with two parking spaces and a right of way to Cope Foundation CLG, c/o O' Flynn Exhams Solicitors, No. 58, South Mall, Cork for a term of 5 years and 1 month subject to a rent of €200.00 per annum.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

2. Disposal of No. 26, Bride Valley Park, Fairhill, Cork by way of lease, to Fairhill/Fairfield Community Association CLG, c/o Taylor Solicitors, Unit 3A, River House, Blackpool Retail Park, Cork for a term of 4 years and 9 months subject to a rent of €500.00 per annum.

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

3. Disposal of No.16, Killary Green, Knocknaheeny, Cork by way of exchange, to Helena and Leonard O’Doherty, c/o John Hinchon and Co. Solicitors, The Bake House, Waterloo Road, Blarney, Cork, in exchange for the property owned by the said Helena and Leonard O’Doherty at No. 72, Kilmore Road Lower, Knocknaheeny, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir G. Kelleher, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Boylan, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

7.2 **TAKING IN CHARGE OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT WILLOWBANK, CHURCH ROAD, BLACKROCK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 11th September 2023, in relation to the proposed taking in charge of roads serving the development at Willowbank, Church Road, Blackrock, Cork.

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

“Having considered the Report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 11th September 2023, and the provisions of Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act 1993, it is now hereby declared by this Order that the said roads serving Willowbank, Church Road, Blackrock, Cork, are public roads.”

7.3 **TAKING IN CHARGE OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT WESTVIEW, COOLROE, BALLINCOLLIG, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 11th September 2023, in relation to the proposed taking in charge of roads serving the development at Westview, Coolroe, Ballincollig, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Canty, seconded by Comhairleoir G. Kelleher, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Having considered the Report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 11th September 2023, and the provisions of Section 11

(1) of the Roads Act 1993, it is now hereby declared by this Order that the said roads serving Westview, Coolroe, Ballincollig, Cork, are public roads.”

7.4 **TAKING IN CHARGE OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE FERNS, CLASSES LAKE CLASSES, OVENS, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 8th September 2023, in relation to the proposed taking in charge of roads serving the development at The Ferns, Classes Lake Classes, Ovens, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir G. Kelleher, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Canty, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Having considered the Report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 8th September 2023, and the provisions of Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act 1993, it is now hereby declared by this Order that the said roads serving The Ferns, Classes Lake Classes, Ovens, Cork, are public roads.”

7.5 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: 35 HOLLYWOOD ESTATE, HOLLYHILL, CORK - PETER MCVERRY TRUST CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 21st September 2023 in relation to a loan facility for Peter McVerry Trust CLG in respect of the provision of one unit of accommodation at 35, Hollywood Estate, Hollyhill, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, 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 €313,599 be granted to Peter McVerry Trust CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of one unit of accommodation at 35 Hollywood Estate, Hollyhill, Cork.”

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 2nd OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 2nd October 2023.

8.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31/08/2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 31/08/2023.

8.2 **BANK OVERDRAFT FOR Y/E 31/12/2024**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Chief Financial Officer, dated 29th September 2023 on the bank overdraft for year ending 31st December 2024.

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

“That Cork City Council approves, pursuant to Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001, an overdraft facility of €25m (twenty-five million euro) for the twelve-month period to 31st December 2024.”

9. **PARTY WHIPS – 25th SEPTEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 25th September.

10. **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & TOURISM STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 18th SEPTEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the International Relations & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 18th September 2023.

10.1 **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AROUND HEALTH WITH SHANGHAI**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 6th September 2023 on a Memorandum of Understanding with Shanghai concerning Health.

10.2 **RECENT ACTIVITIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 6th September 2023 on recent activities in International Relations.

10.3 **RECENT ACTIVITIES IN TOURISM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 4th September on the recent activities in tourism.

10.4 **MOTIONS**

10.4.1 **BUILD NETWORKS WITH PALESTINE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 6th September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will commemorate the anniversary of the killing of Palestinian-American journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, by progressing our policy agreed on 26 October 2021 to build networks with a city in Palestine; re-affirming the solidarity that already exists between the people of Cork and the people of Palestine;

and will forward this message to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Mission of the State of Palestine in Dublin.’

(Proposers: Cllr. O. Moran, Cllr. D. Boyle, Cllr. E. Ryng 23/198)

The report of the Director of Services stated that “As outlined in my report to the Corporate Policy Group dated 30/08/2023 in relation to motion no. 23/351 and my update report dated 31/08/2023 to this SPC, Cork City Council is continuing to progress and build our links with Palestine in response to motions submitted by Council.

A working relationship has been established with the Mission of State of Palestine in Dublin and a meeting has been held with the Palestinian Ambassador. The Ambassador is very supportive of Council engagement and has emphasised the value of the development of meaningful and practical links between Cork and a city in Palestine. A call has been scheduled for October 2023 between the Lord Mayor and the Mayor of Nablus to discuss partnership opportunities in the areas of heritage and biodiversity, which Nablus has expressed interest in.

Further updates on this will be reported through the International Relations and Tourism Strategic Policy Group.”

10.4.2 **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AT ELIZABETH FORT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 4th September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That the next phase of tourism development be progressed with in Elizabeth Fort especially with info panels on the ramparts and the rejuvenation of the two fallen down sheds in the eastern walls of the parade ground.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 23/202)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Elizabeth Fort has benefited from considerable investment over recent years – grants secured from various government departments, State agencies, the EU and Cork City Council’s own resources have facilitated a range of improvements at the Fort including:

- New two room permanent exhibition on the history of Elizabeth Fort
- Multilingual audioguides for visitors
- Resurfaced parade area, retrofit seating and opening of second exit
- New outdoor stage and lighting
- Installation of new handrail and pathway, with associated hard landscaping to facilitate opening up of a rear stairwell enabling visitors to complete a circular walk of the Fort
- New planting scheme
- New roof to parts of Garda barracks
- New external signage
- Free public wifi access through wifi4EU

In 2023 financial support has been secured from the Community Monuments Fund to facilitate works needed on the wooden walkway at Elizabeth Fort and this work is currently being scoped and tendered with a view to completion in November.

The level of potential investment required at Elizabeth Fort is considerable and largely dependent on support from government departments and state agencies. An application to support improved interpretation at Elizabeth Fort will be submitted under the Community Monuments Fund in 2024.

Elizabeth Fort also provides accommodation for Visit Cork and facilitates the use of two houses by the Irish Landmark Trust. A few spaces remain unused at the Fort, including the two sheds, which require considerable investment to bring back into use. Works on all components of the fort will be considered and prioritised as resources become available.

10.4.3 **RIVER TOURISM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 4th September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council explores and costs the option of building a pontoon on Patrick's Quay that allows for the option of water activities and tourist opportunities in the City. The potential of river tourism must be realised by this Council and offering this facility will help open up the city to so many opportunities.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/226)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Fáilte Ireland's draft Destination and Experience Development Plan for Cork City, Harbour & East Cork highlighted the opportunity to drive transformation in leisure tourism by creating a World Class Harbour Experience and to provide new ways for the visitor to engage with the Harbour islands and communities. Fáilte Ireland is currently tendering for the development of a Tourism Plan which will identify what is needed in order to deliver this world class experience, including the river that links to the city. The work will be undertaken in partnership with Cork City Council and Cork County Council. Active /amenity use of the river is also being considered as part of the plans for Cork City Docklands.

11. **ENVIRONMENT, WATER & AMENITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 19th SEPTEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 19th September 2023.

11.1 **MOTIONS**

11.1.1 **PITCHES FOR CORK LADIES FOOTBALLERS GAA**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 12th September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘Has there been any discussions between Cork City Council and above? They have expressed an interest in obtaining and developing land into playing pitches within the city. They have some assets.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 23/152)

The report of the Director of Services stated that arising from the Cork Active Recreation Infrastructure Needs Study, a number of specific playing facility needs were identified by various clubs/sports organisations to cater for existing and future demand. A Working Group consisting of personnel from Planning and Parks is considering all these requests and exploring options to cater for this unmet demand. The Group met representatives from Cork Ladies Football as part of this process in recent months.

The review process will be completed within the next six months.

11.1.2 **SIGNAGE FOR DOG OWNERS AT PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 12th September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council install signage near public playgrounds reminding dog owners of their responsibilities when it comes to dog litter and keeping their dog on a lead.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Kerins 23/252)

The report of the Director of Services stated that additional signage reminding dog owners of their responsibilities when it comes to dog litter and keeping their dog on a lead in playgrounds will be installed this Autumn along with the new Communication Boards.

11.1.3 **EPA GREEN PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 12th September 2023, and the report of the Head of Finance, dated 1st June 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council adopts the EPA Green Procurement Guidelines as a guiding document for all public procurement within the remit of Cork City Council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/209)

The report of the Director of Services stated that this matter was before the Corporate Policy Committee on the 6th June 2023 and set out the reply of the Head of Finance to the above motion which stated that Cork City Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures have been updated to incorporate EPA Green Procurement guidelines. The City Council's procurements policy specifically states that for green procurement the City Council will follow the green public procurement guidance document issued by the EPA in 2021.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

12. **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 21st SEPTEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 21st September 2023.

12.1 **MINUTES OF THE ARTS COMMITTEE 26th JUNE 2023**

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

12.2 **MOTIONS**

12.2.1 **FUNDING FOR CORK PRIDE 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will provide support funding for Cork Pride 2023 due to considerable loss of corporate sponsorship this year and that in budget 2024 we provide funding similar to that of other festival events Cork City supports.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/288)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council has continually supported the valuable work of Cork LGBT+ Pride Festival each year through the Community Section with an annual grant and additional LCDC grants. The total grants awarded to Cork Pride for 2023 was:

Funding 2023:

- Festival Grant (Annual) €5,000
- Cork City Council Community Development Grant €2,500
- LCDC Community Support Fund 2023 Running and Capital Costs €3,084.38
- Additional grants for 2023 (Diverted Expenditure, Advertising) €3,730

- Total €14,314.38

A proposal for funding received from Cork LGBT+ Pride Festival for 2024 has been submitted for Council to consider in its deliberation on the 2024 Council Budget.

12.2.2 **RESOLVE ISSUES WITH CORK CITY FIREFIGHTERS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘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)

The report of the Director of Services stated that “Further to extensive engagement using the WRC mechanism, I am glad to report that the firefighters industrial relations issues have now been resolved. The industrial action referred to in the motion no longer exists.”

12.2.3 **SOLIDARITY WITH THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council recognises that recent attacks, several of them violent, against members of the LGBTQ+ community in Cork represents a developing problem and that it is taking place in the context of an increasing climate of far-right hostility and intolerance, in Ireland and internationally.

Further that this Council votes to adopt a position of solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community and condemnation of homophobic and transphobic bigotry and violence.’

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy 23/316)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council has for many years been an advocate and support for the LGBTQ+ community in Cork, and has worked in partnership and solidarity with the community on a variety of initiatives and events including LGBTQ+ Interagency Week, Rainbow City Initiative, Cork Pride etc. The safety of our city is a key priority and ongoing work includes high levels of cooperation and planning with An Garda Síochána, Community and Statutory organisations and the Business Community, through Inter-Agency collaboration, Safety Forums, Joint Policing Committee etc.

Cork City Council has a dedicated and informed webpage on how to report a hate crime on the community section of the City Council website. <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/search/?q=Hate+Crime>

12.2.4 **SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT FOR LIBRARY STAFF**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will ensure a safe working environment for staff in the library system.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 23/340)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council places the utmost importance on the safety and wellbeing of its staff. This includes the provision of a safe working environment for its employees. The Council employs a comprehensive Health and Safety management system, updates policies and procedures to best practice guidelines and provides training and support for all who need it. These measures extend to all Library staff as they do to any Council employee.

12.2.5 **FUNDING STREAMS FOR CORK PRIDE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will seek to support Cork Pride in line with the economic and social benefit to the City by establishing funding streams necessary for its continuity.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 23/341)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council has continually supported the valuable work of Cork LGBT+ Pride Festival each year through the Community Section with an annual grant and additional LCDC grants. The total grants awarded to Cork Pride for 2023 was:

Funding 2023:

• Festival Grant (Annual)	€5,000
• Cork City Council Community Development	€2,500
• LCDC Community Support Fund 2023 Running and Capital Costs	€3,084.38
• Additional grants for 2023 (Diverted Expenditure, Advertising)	€3,730
• Total	€14,314.38

A proposal for funding received from Cork LGBT+ Pride Festival for 2024 has been submitted for Council to consider in its deliberation on the 2024 Council Budget.

12.2.6 **SUPPORT FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY AND AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st September 2023 on the following motion, noting the dissention of Comhairleoir B. McCarthy:-

‘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)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council is extremely proud of Cork’s Rainbow City status as part of which we have for many years been an advocate and support for the LGBTQ+ community in Cork. We continue to work in partnership and solidarity with the community on a variety of initiatives and events including LGBTQ+ Interagency Week, Rainbow City Initiative, Cork Pride etc. The safety of our city is a key priority and ongoing work includes high levels of cooperation and planning with An Garda Síochána, Community and Statutory organisations and the Business Community, through Inter-Agency collaboration, Safety Forums, Joint Policing Committee etc.

12.2.7 **2021 AGE FRIENDLY SEATING GUIDE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘The City Centre is comprised of a number of key routes and walkways. To enable pedestrian usage of the Core Retail Centre and to make a reality the accessible city envisaged by the City Council, the City Council will adhere to the guidance provided by Age Friendly Ireland in their 2021 Age Friendly Seating Guide. This indicates that no frequently travelled pedestrian route should be without rest opportunities at the midway point and at the top and bottom of inclines. Seating should be 450mm high with a 500mm depth and a raised armrest. The City Council will map all frequently travelled pedestrian routes in the Core Retail Centre as a priority and make these interventions. Town and village centres will then be considered for implementation of the guidance.’

(Proposer: Cllr. E. Ryng 23/352)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Age Friendly Alliance is a high-level cross-sector group, chaired by Cork City Council Chief Executive, Ann Doherty, whose member agencies form an overarching strategic partnership. The group convenes quarterly and provides a forum for key input into local and national

programme strategic plans and enables implementation. Alliance member organisations include the Health Service Executive (HSE), Cork Age Friendly Forum, Age Friendly Ireland, Cork Education and Training Board (CETB), An Garda Síochána, Bus Éireann, Cork Chamber, Cork Business Association (CBA), Cork City Partnership, Cork Healthy City initiative, COLLAGE (UCC), Cork City Council, Alzheimers Society of Ireland, Age Action. The Age Friendly Alliance commits to progress actions identified in the Cork Age Friendly City Strategy 2016-2020 as well as new issues which may arise during the lifetime of the Strategy. A new Age Friendly Strategy is now in development and Age Friendly Seating will continue to be a priority action.

Age Friendly Seating

The Cork City Age Friendly Programme monitor strategy progress on an ongoing basis with an Action Tracker tool. Age Friendly Seating is a standing item on the quarterly agenda and the Alliance will endeavour to continue its efforts to identify further opportunities for additional Age Friendly Seating in Cork City Centre and strive to replicate the five Age Friendly seating areas delivered in the city centre in 2021. These seating areas were retrofitted from the existing concrete seats on busy thoroughfares identified and chosen by older persons representatives.

Age Friendly Seating Project 2021

In 2021, an Age Friendly Seating project was successfully completed in response to the issue raised by older people's representatives. Cork Age Friendly older persons representatives conducted a review of existing seating. 60% of respondents in the 2016 Age Friendly Strategy report were dissatisfied with seating in the city. They found the current seating to be too low with a cold surface, no back or arm support and not welcoming.

Design Considerations

Location of rubbish bins away from seating, preferably in excess of 10 metres.
A well-designed seat needs arm rests, and the seat material needs to be more accommodating than cold concrete, preferably sustainable timber.
Ideally seats should be located every 100 metres.
Awareness of positive (birdsong) and negative noise (heavy traffic).
Seats should be provided where older people want to sit.

Design Guidelines

Position facing views/points of interest/social interaction.
Height increased.
Surface warmer and easier to touch.
Arm rest height 200-250mm from seat height
Angled back rest.
Range of seat widths to allow individual/group/size accommodation.

The Team and Funding

Members of the project team included Age Friendly Older Persons Representatives, Roads Operations Cork City Council, City Architects Department, Community Culture and Placemaking Directorate, Cork Occupational Services Ltd.

Funding of €60,000 was secured from the National Transport Authority to provide the seating.

The Result

Retrofitted Age Friendly Seating in 5 city centre locations, Prince's Street, Grand Parade, Daunt Square, Cornmarket Street, St. Patricks Street

Conclusion

The Age Friendly Cork City Programme will continue its efforts to identify and optimise possible Age Friendly Seating opportunities should funding become available for a similar project. Any future seating projects delivered by the Age Friendly Cork City programme will adhere to the guidance provided by Age Friendly Ireland in their 2021 Age Friendly Seating Guide (attached).

12.2.8 **HOUSING FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION APPLICANTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 21st September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Integration and the Minister for Public Works and ask them both to meet with all Councillors with Department officials to outline the programme of works for any further housing developments for international protection applicants and refugees fleeing the despicable war on Ukraine.

It's important to point out that I am in favour of housing refugees, but it would help if Councils were consulted to help us answer questions to the public and stop the spread of false news and rumour.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/224)

The report of the Director of Services stated that The Department of the Taoiseach is in the process of establishing a Central Engagement Team based in the Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth but working across Government to co-ordinate its work. As part of this process engagement is taking place with Local Authorities. The aim of this new model of engagement is to develop more effective co-ordination across Government Departments, agencies, local authorities, and communities regarding the movement of people in and out of accommodation centres and ensure coherent messaging and strong communications on migration.

This team will engage with colleagues across Government and key stakeholders to assist with the openings of accommodation centres, especially where these require an active engagement process. A key contact will be available for these openings who

will be available to meet with community leaders, elected representatives, Local Authority staff etc.

Over the coming months there will be increasing number of arrivals due to people fleeing the war in Ukraine and those seeking international protection.

The sourcing and allocation of accommodation will not be the remit of Cork City Council or the Central Engagement Team, nor will the Council/Engagement Team have any influence over the timings of the openings.

The Central Engagement Team will aim to ensure that all relevant stakeholders have quality information at the earliest opportunity.

13 **HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 3rd OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 3rd October 2023.

13.1 **HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT**

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

13.2 **SUMMARY OF SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENT (SSHA) 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 28th September 2023 in relation to the Summary of Social Housing Assessment (SSHA) 2023.

13.3 **HOUSING UNITS FOR SINGLE HOUSEHOLD APPLICANTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 28th September 2023 in relation to the review of the feasibility and impact of approving single household applicants for 2-bedroom units.

13.4 **MOTIONS**

13.4.1 **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.

13.4.2 **SKIDDY’S HOMES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 28th September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council engage with the above with a view to redeveloping the housing sites at Pouladuff Road and Vicars Road. They are dated and Council, with Government funding, working with an existing voluntary housing agency could reimagine both complexes.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 23/154)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council will engage with the management of Skiddy’s Homes with a view to determining the feasibility of any future redevelopment of the projects concerned.

13.4.3 **HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANT FUNDING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 28th September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council report on what seems to be the lowest drawdown of Housing Adaptation Grant funding since 2016, any issues involved and what can be done to ensure full funding is available to applicants.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 23/205)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the following gives a breakdown of monies spent by Cork City Council in relation to Housing Adaptation Grants for both privately owned properties and local authority owned properties from 2016 – 2023 to date.

CLAIM YEAR	ONCE OFF ADAPTATION WORKS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY TENANTS €	HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANTS FOR PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTIES €
2016	1,046,293.90	1,444,444.99
2017	3,063,144.12	1,379,752.00
2018	3,079,189.98	1,147,198.00
2019	460,106.86	1,147,198.00
2020	1,574,032.50	906,433.00
2021	1,124,024.39	1,589,449.90
2022	1,089,018.50	2,202,359.04
2023 to Date	1,215,632.47	1,588,281.45

Cork City Council carried out minor adaptation works to 65 individual local authority properties in 2022. Larger projects, which include for extensions to properties, were partially delayed in 2022 due to the impacts of Covid and significant construction cost inflation. 2023 will see a marked increase in larger adaptation works to properties and the Council anticipate a substantial increase in the amount of Departmental funding drawdown in relation to adaptation works in 2023.

The report further advised that Cork City Council has also increased the number of transfers of tenants requiring major adaptation works to more appropriate City Council owned accommodation to meet their needs following assessment of their applications. This can help address the needs of certain tenants more quickly with less disruption.

13.4.4 **DISPOSAL OF AFFORDABLE HOMES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 28th September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council notes that nobody is currently living in one of the 135 affordable homes built in Cork City last year, that the scheme for disposal is not working efficiently and that there is no timeline for the disposal of 41 homes delivered last year but that will likely be after the summer Council recess. Cork City Council agrees to engage with the Department to develop an enhanced disposal scheme that allows these homes progress quicker and prevents delays.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 23/217)

The report of the Director of Services stated that it is not accurate to state “nobody is currently living in one of the 135 affordable homes built in Cork City last year”. Affordable Purchasers are in-situ in homes across all four of the current affordable schemes at ‘Newton Heights’, ‘Cluain Chaoin’, ‘Crann Darach’ & ‘Ardrostig’.

Cork City Council is actively progressing conveyance to affordable purchasers, with the process also dependent on purchasers having loan approvals and Help to Buy applications to the Revenue Commissioners in place to conclude the conveyance.

13.4.5 **FLAT COMPLEXES AT NOONAN ROAD, ST. FINBARR’S ROAD, FORT STREET AND DEAN STREET**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 28th September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council Housing Directorate makes the necessary arrangements to demolish the Council’s old flat complexes at Noonan’s Road, St Finbarr’s Road, Fort Street and Dean Street and develop more up to date sustainable accommodation on the site. The existing residents and families can be housed subject to their agreement after appropriate community consultation either permanently or on a temporary basis in the new social housing developments that are under construction at Barrack Street and Denroches Cross.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 23/270)

The report of the Director of Services stated that at the workshop meeting held with South Central LAC Members on 27th September 2023 the findings of the initial feasibility study/assessment on the future of the flat complexes at Noonan Road, St. Finbarr’s Road, Fort Street and Dean Street was discussed. Given the age of the buildings, the limited refurbishment options, the necessity to relocate residents given the extent of works required and the wider development opportunities for this historical part of the city, Cork City Council considers redevelopment as the preferred option for the flat complexes. This would require, on a phased basis, the temporary or permanent relocation of all residents, with an option to return to the redeveloped new homes in due course or if they so wish to remain living at their relocated home.

The report further advised that any redevelopment will be subject to meaningful resident and community consultation, a detailed design process and central government funding.

As this process will take time, residents have been assured, by way of a letter drop on the 28th September 2023, that it will not be necessary to move out of their homes immediately and that the Council will closely work with all residents to discuss and address Cork City Council’s plans and the relocation of all residents on a phased basis.

The Council will continue to address maintenance issues within the residential complexes on a priority basis. In that regard, the report stated that residents can contact the Council at 021-4924000 to report any concerns they may have, and the City Council will continue to address these. Those residents that have already

submitted a transfer request can continue to engage with the CBL system weekly or those that are having difficulties or have particular needs, can contact the Council directly and they will be provided with the required assistance. The report stated that the City Council will also be in contact with homeowners in the complexes to discuss the options available to them as part of this intervention.

Additionally, the report stated that the Council team will do its best to engage with all residents in person in the area again from 2nd October - 6th October between 9.00 a.m. & 5.00 p.m. to listen and understand their concerns, to answer any specific or personal queries they may have and to hear their views on the options for the future planning and design of this area of the city. It is also proposed to arrange a residents' meeting following those individual meetings to further discuss and get residents' feedback on any future development of the area.

13.5 **CHORISTERS HOUSE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 2nd October 2023 on the following motion, noting the dissent of Comhairleoir B. McCarthy:-

‘This Council calls on the executive to look into the use of the tenant in situ scheme and any other available measures to take the historic Choristers House into public ownership as an urgent measure to stop this mass eviction. The building should be used to provide long-term, quality, public housing with rent based on Cork City Council rental policy.’

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy)

The report of the Director of Services advised that Choristers House, Dean Street is a privately owned residential four-storey masonry building currently for sale on the open market. Residents within the building have been served Notices of Termination which are due at the end of the year. From the information available, the building was built circa 1760 as a single house but was converted into 25 apartments circa 1989. The building is a registered Protected Structure (Reference Number PS061), is included on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and lies within an Architectural Conservation Area (South Parish ACA Sub Area A) and within a Zone of Archaeological Potential.

Of the 25 apartments in this property, 14 no. are currently vacant, and, of the remaining occupied units, 9 no. are occupied by HAP tenants or residents that qualify for social housing support. There are currently 15 people residing in the building with people continuously moving out. The Council is in contact with those residents in receipt of social housing support and is providing assistance in terms of relocation from the building via transfer or nomination. Contact has been made with the owner and remaining residents of the building offering them assistance in terms of social housing assessments to determine their eligibility or otherwise for social housing support.

A review of the building, in terms of building regulation and fire compliance, has been undertaken which confirms the building is not compliant with current building and fire regulations. The review also confirms that the nature and extent of work needed to bring the buildings up to standard will be significant in terms of costs, time and impact and would likely result in a consequential reduction in housing units within the building. Any such work would also require the early relocation of all residents from the building to facilitate this significant upgrade.

The report further advised that given the above, Cork City Council will not be seeking to acquire the building but rather will work with the social housing occupants and other residents to assist in their relocation from the building over the next number of months.

14 **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 12th SEPTEMBER 2023**

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

15 **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 2nd OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 2nd October 2023.

15.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

15.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF AUGUST 2023**

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

15.2 **2024 OVERDRAFT REQUIREMENT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Chief Financial Officer, dated 29th September 2023 requesting approval for an overdraft facility of €25m for the twelve-month period to 31st December 2024.

16 **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th SEPTEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th September 2023.

16.1 **FLATS AT THE JUNCTION OF PEARSE ROAD AND FRIARS WALK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 21st September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council endeavour to seek funding for the block of flats on the junction of Pearse Road and Friars Walk opposite the Credit Union and Ballypheane

Church. It is the only remaining block to be done to complete the project in Ballyphehane/Pouladuff.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 23/358)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Apartment Deep Retrofit Programme (set out under the South Eastern Assembly Operational Programme 2014 to 2020) provided approximately €10m in funding to Cork City Council. The City Council delivered upgrades to over 210 apartments across the City, with a significant number of properties being delivered in the Ballyphehane/Pouladuff area. The Apartment Deep Retrofit Programme no longer exists and has been superseded by the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (EERP) launched in 2021.

Retrofitting with deep energy efficiency improvement measures is part of the Government’s plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from housing to achieve targets by 2030 under the Government’s Climate Action Plan (2019) where 500,000 homes in Ireland will be retrofitted. The target is for properties to have a B2 energy rating. Cork City Council has a major role to play in same, with an expected upgrade to approximately 2,500 properties by 2030. Cork City Council currently has 828 properties in the EERP pipeline. While the remaining apartment blocks in the Ballyphehane/Pouladuff area are not included in the current pipeline, consideration will be given to their inclusion in future phases of the EERP programme subject to feasibility and cost.

17 **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th SEPTEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th September 2023.

18 **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th SEPTEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th September 2023.

19 **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th SEPTEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th September 2023.

20 **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 26th SEPTEMBER 2023**

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

21 **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

22 **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoirí S. Martin, G. Kelleher, J. Kavanagh and T. Shannon at the AILG Autumn Training Seminar, Future of Local Government in Ireland, held at Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo, 13th - 14th September 2023.

23 **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

None received.

24 **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

24.1 **NOAC CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle considered and retrospectively approved the attendance of Comhairleoir S. Martin at the NOAC Audit Committee Workshop, held at Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, 4th October 2023.

25 **TRAINING**

None received.

26 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive's monthly management reports for June, July and August 2023.

27 **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.

28 **MOTIONS**

28.1 **PROPOSED STRATEGIC CORRIDORS IN THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would write to Bus Connects asking for an update on proposed strategic corridors in the City, the timeline of same and also asking if there is to be a third phase of public consultation, and if so, when.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 23/311)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Forde, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle approved the motion revised to read as follows:-

‘That Cork City Council would write to Bus Connects asking them to meet with Councillors on proposed strategic corridors in the City, the timeline of same and also asking if there is to be a third phase of public consultation, and if so, when.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 23/311)

28.2 **NEGATIVE REPORTING OF LITTERING IN CORK CITY**

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

‘That Cork City Council would write to IBAL (Irish Businesses against Litter) and request that they meet with either the Full Council or the relevant SPC to discuss their regular negative reporting of littering in various areas of Cork City, which unfortunately gets national coverage in the media and reflects very badly on Cork City from many perspectives.

Cork City Council uses significant resources on an ongoing basis, endeavouring to enhance our City and what we have to offer as an attractive City to live in, work in or indeed visit. Not to mention the very large and growing number of voluntary groups, such as Tidy Towns groups and various other community groups right across our City, who work so hard to enhance their local communities. These constant negative reports can have a very damaging effect on the enthusiasm and confidence of our local voluntary groups, and this really needs to be taken into serious consideration.

These constant negative reports from IBAL are very unhelpful and most unwelcome.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 23/312)

28.3 **INCLUDE YOUGHAL IN THE ALL-ISLAND RAIL REVIEW**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council calls on our Government and in particular Tánaiste Martin, Minister McGrath and Minister Coveney to step up to their responsibilities and ensure that the rail line to Youghal is reinstated and included in the All-Island Rail Review.

Re. The All-Island Rail Review.

It is disappointing that the rail connection from Cork/Midleton to Youghal is not being considered or included in the plan. Not including this section of track is a let-down for East Cork and the communities that this rail line would serve. Furthermore to this as we as a country strive to encourage change to use public transport as opposed to cars and all in the interest of Climate Change and reducing car usage. Not including Youghal in the All-Island Rail Review ensures that we are failing to provide a robust alternative to enhance that change which to me is contradictory to what we are preaching thereby discouraging me to be positive about public transport going forward.

Leaving Youghal out of the plan is very disappointing and we as an Elected Body should ask that this section of track be considered for inclusion. At present we are

pushing ahead with the installation of a Greenway along the old line and I'm at a loss as to why we cannot reinstall the rail line in conjunction with the Greenway as it would make perfect sense to do this now in the interest of Climate Change while at the same time promoting the use of public transport.'

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Dineen 23/366)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by T. Shannon, An Chomhairle approved the motion revised to read as follows:-

'That Cork City Council calls on our Government and in particular Tánaiste Martin, Minister McGrath, Minister Coveney and Minister Eamon Ryan to step up to their responsibilities and ensure that the rail line to Youghal is reinstated and included in the All-Island Rail Review.

Re. The All-Island Rail Review.

It is disappointing that the rail connection from Cork/Midleton to Youghal is not being considered or included in the plan. Not including this section of track is a let-down for East Cork and the communities that this rail line would serve. Furthermore to this as we as a country strive to encourage change to use public transport as opposed to cars and all in the interest of Climate Change and reducing car usage. Not including Youghal in the All-Island Rail Review ensures that we are failing to provide a robust alternative to enhance that change which to me is contradictory to what we are preaching thereby discouraging me to be positive about public transport going forward.

Leaving Youghal out of the plan is very disappointing and we as an Elected Body should ask that this section of track be considered for inclusion. At present we are pushing ahead with the installation of a Greenway along the old line and I'm at a loss as to why we cannot reinstall the rail line in conjunction with the Greenway as it would make perfect sense to do this now in the interest of Climate Change while at the same time promoting the use of public transport.'

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Dineen 23/366)

28.4 **IMPROVE AND STANDARDISE MISCARRIAGE CARE AND SERVICES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council write to Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly calling on him to improve and standardise miscarriage care and services nationally.

This requires:

- Resourcing pregnancy loss services within the 19 maternity units/hospitals to ensure a minimum service and standard in all, with dedicated specialist recurrent miscarriage clinics regionally.

- Ensuring the full complement of clinical midwife specialist in bereavement and loss posts are filled and sustained across the country, and that there are sufficient numbers of posts to match the demand in services.
- Resourcing a designated staff member (midwife) for early miscarriage care to enable development of individualised care plans after a woman's first miscarriage in each of the 19 maternity hospitals/units.
- Access to dedicated counselling and psychological supports after a person's first and subsequent miscarriages.
- A focus on second trimester pregnancy loss, to include improved and standardised investigation, management, care and supports, with enhanced care in a subsequent pregnancy, across all 19 maternity hospitals/units.
- Providing necessary resources and supports for healthcare staff, teams and hospitals to access and learn from continuing professional development and training opportunities around bereavement care.
- Enhanced funding to ensure that there are dedicated spaces within maternity units/hospitals for the delivery of high quality bereavement care that facilitates privacy and dignity.
- Standardised reporting of first and second trimester miscarriage rates nationally to inform service delivery and improvements.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O'Callaghan 23/414)

28.5 **ALLOCATION OF AN EXTRA €1.5 MILLION IN LOCAL PROPERTY TAX (LPT) TO CORK CITY COUNCIL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council write a letter to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien calling on him to re-consider his decision to only allocate an extra €1.5 million in Local Property Tax (LPT) baseline funding to Cork City Council, which is the minimum amount of extra funding allocated to Local Authorities under the Local Property Tax Baseline Review. In the letter, the Minister should also be asked whether the fact that Cork City Council is obligated to pay approximately €15 million per year to Cork County Council for the next 6 years was taken into consideration in deciding to only allocate an extra €1.5 million to Cork City Council whilst simultaneously allocating an extra €10 million to Cork County Council.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O'Callaghan 23/418)

28.6 DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES BY MURPHY ENGINEERING

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council deplores the dismissal by Murphy Engineering of four of its employees who were employed at Rusal Alumina, Foynes, for attending a legitimate trade union meeting.

This action together with the withholding of several weeks pay owed to the workers concerned shows that this company, which was awarded several state contracts, including the operation of the water works on the Lee Road, Cork and the installation of water meters, will do everything in its power to undermine workers' rights to representation by their trade unions.

Cork City Council supports the call by the worker's union UNITE for their immediate reinstatement with compensation for loss of earnings.

We further demand that Murphy Engineering be excluded from all state or local authority contracts in the future.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 23/419)

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

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, M. Nugent, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, L. Bogue, F. Kerins, E. Ryng. (8)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, J. Kavanagh, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, T. Shannon, D. Forde, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn. (11)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí O. Moran, G. Keohane, M. Finn. (3)

As those voting for the motion were less than those voting against, An Leas Ard mhéara declared the vote and the motion defeated.

28.7 NATIONAL EMERGENCY PLAN ON VACANCIES AND DERELICT SITES

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘Given we have more than 5,000 vacant dwellings in this City alone and €5,000,000 of the derelict property levy remains outstanding for the period between 2020 and 2023, this motion proposes that Council call on the Government to enact a national emergency plan on vacancies and derelict sites. Key measures need to include enforcing the levy, prosecutions when necessary and taking vacant and derelict properties being hoarded for profit into public ownership.’

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy 23/425)

28.8 **2024 BRIDGE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME OF WORKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That the City Council Executive contact TII requesting it organise the carrying out of inspections of the parapets and railings under its management and responsibility within Cork City Council jurisdiction and to prioritise upgrading and the carrying out of essential maintenance such as painting as part of its 2024 bridge maintenance programme of works. As well as carrying out an important and critical safety function, the City bridges form an important visual impact to City residents and visitors alike with a high volume of traffic using TII bridges within the City boundaries. The carrying out of essential maintenance such as painting will defer more expensive essential capital works thus offering better value to the taxpayers while improving the urban environment.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Cahill 23/426)

28.9 **NEW 2A (MTU TO GLANMIRE) BUS SERVICE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council believes the new 2A (MTU to Glanmire) bus service should be a 24-hour service, like the 1 (Ovens to Carrigaline) and 3A (Carrigaline to Hollyhill); and will forward this motion to the National Transport Authority.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/440)

28.10 **PLANNING BILL 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council writes to Minister Eamon Ryan asking for clarification on why the passing of the Planning Bill 2022 happened apparently without public consultation on the proposal prior to committee stage, in breach of Article 8 of the Aarhus convention.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 23/459)

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH