

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir K. McCarthy.
<b>NORTH EAST</b>	Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane.
<b>NORTH WEST</b>	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, D. Boylan.
<b>SOUTH EAST</b>	Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, D. Forde.
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins.
<b>SOUTH WEST</b>	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, O. O’Leary.
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive. Mr. B. Geaney, Deputy Chief Executive. Mr. N. Ó Donnabháin, Director of Services, Housing Operations. Ms. A. O’Rourke, Director of Services, Housing Delivery & Regeneration. Ms. D. O’Brien, Interim 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. F. Reidy, Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development. Ms. M. Carew, Arts Officer, Community, Culture & Placemaking. Ms. A. Murnane, Meetings Administrator. Ms. V. Keating, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The O’Connor family on the death of John O’Connor.
- The Tynan family on the death of William (Billy) Tynan.
- The Tynan family on the death of Dave Tynan.
- The Dennehy family on the death of Jeremiah (Miah) Dennehy.
- The O’Mahony family on the death of Liam O’Mahony.

- The Marshall family on the death of Eleanor Marshall.
- The Curran family on the death of Michael Curran.
- The Enright family on the death of Mary Enright.
- The Martin family on the death of Rita Martin.
- The de Barra family on the death of Br. Gearóid Dónal de Barra.
- The Clarke family on the death of Breda Clarke.
- The O’Leary family on the death of Margaret O’Leary.
- The Delaney family on the death of Lila Delaney.
- The Crowley family on the death of Donal Crowley.
- The Spicer family on the death of George Spicer.
- The Boyle family on the death of Maureen Boyle.
- The Buckley family on the death of Alan Buckley.
- The O’Mahony family on the death of Christine O’Mahony.
- The Murphy family on the death of Paul Murphy.
- The Mohally family on the death of Ger Mohally.
- The Dunne family on the death of Patrick Dunne.

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

- Foireann peile buachaillí Ghaelscoil an Ghoirt Álainn a bhuaigh Sciath na Scol Chorcaí i bPáirc Uí Chaoimh Dé Céadaoin, 8 Samhain / Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Álainn boys football team on winning Sciath na Scol Chorcaí in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Wednesday, 8 November 2023.
- Tony Foy and Grange/Frankfield Partnership for your many years of hard work finally resulting in the construction of the Pedestrian and Cycle Lane and Vernon Mount Bridge from the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park.
- Ger Lehane and Grange/Frankfield Partnership for your many years of hard work finally resulting in the construction of the Pedestrian and Cycle Lane and Vernon Mount Bridge from the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park.
- Brendan Kelleher and Grange/Frankfield Partnership for your many years of hard work finally resulting in the construction of the Pedestrian and Cycle Lane and Vernon Mount Bridge from the Grange Road to Tramore Valley Park.
- Aaron O’Donoghue on winning the All-Ireland Elite-Boxing Championship.
- Amy O’Connor on being crowned the Gaelic Writers’ Association Camogie Personality of the Year and receiving a 2023 Camogie All-Star Award.
- Amy Lee on receiving a 2023 Camogie All-Star Award.
- Na Píarsaigh GAA on celebrating 80 years since its formation in 1943.

## 3. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**

### 3.1 **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

An tArdmhéara thanked members of An Chomhairle for attending the Special Meeting of Council, held 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023, to pay tributes to former Lord Mayor of Cork, Joe O’Callaghan, RIP, on his passing.

3.2 **BUDGET MEETING**

An tArdmhéara reminded An Chomhairle that the Budget Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

3.3 **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

An tArdmhéara reminded An Chomhairle that a Special Meeting of Council will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to mark the closing out of the Decade of Centenaries, which will be followed by the Commemorative Gala Event in the Concert Hall.

3.4 **WHO CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of An Leas Ardmhéara Comhairleoir C. Finn to Utrecht for the WHO Conference from 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.

3.5 **FAMILIARISATION TRIP TO BRUSSELS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of Comhairleoirí C. Finn, K. O'Flynn and D. Canty to Brussels from 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 for a familiarization trip.

3.6 **CORK ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of Comhairleoir K. O'Flynn to London for the Cork Association Annual Dinner on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.

3.7 **EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF INNOVATION ICAPITAL AWARDS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of Comhairleoir M. Finn to Marseille from 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 for the European Capital of Innovation iCapital Awards.

3.8 **40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CORK CITY FC**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 for Cork City FC to mark their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

3.9 **LORD MAYOR LED DELEGATION TO CHINA**

An tArdmhéara noted the success of the Lord Mayor led delegation to China.

3.10 **LORD MAYOR'S GALA CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

An tArdmhéara reminded An Chomhairle that the Lord Mayor's Gala Christmas Concert was recently launched, and it will take place on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.

### 3.11 **WELCOME TO UCC STUDENTS**

An tArdmhéara welcomed Dr. Aodh Quinlivan and UCC BSc Government 1<sup>st</sup> Year Students to the Council Meeting, who were in attendance in the public gallery.

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. Collins, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders to discuss the switching on of the Christmas lights at the end of the meeting, where there appeared as follows:-

**FOR:** Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, D. Forde, M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, O. O’Leary. (29)

**AGAINST:** Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh. (1)

**ABSTAIN:** (0)

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

## 4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S ITEMS**

### 4.1 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT ON THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Chief Executive regarding the Christmas Lights switch on.

## 5. **MINUTES**

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

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

## 6. **QUESTION TIME**

### 6.1 **FLOODING ON R610 ROCHESTOWN ROAD/DELFORD JUNCTION**

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

That the Director report on what adaptive/mitigating/attenuating /prevention measures can/will be taken to prevent/minimise continuous flooding on R610 Rochestown

Road/Delford Junction and at Monastery Road including recent and very unusual overflow of stream adjacent to Rochestown Inn and parallel to this Road.

## **REPLY**

Storm Babet was a very significant rain event. An Orange rain warning was issued by Met Eireann for this weather event which lasted more than 36 hours. It must thus be appreciated that this was a somewhat unique event and not one that would be expected to occur regularly.

Following significant works completed recently by the Area Office, the Rochestown Road at fingerpost roundabout performed very well during recent significant rainfall event. It is envisaged that with regular maintenance, this area will continue to perform well during pluvial events.

The Delford Junction has had a history of getting ponded with heavy rainfall. In an effort to address this continual flooding this past week (week ending 3/11/23) two additional gullies were installed at this junction. These gullies will double the number of gullies at the junction from 2 to 4 and it is hoped that this will allow greater volumes of water to be processed by the surface water drainage network. This matter will be kept under review to ascertain the impact of the additional gullies at this location with respect to addressing the flooding issues.

Due to the very significant quantum of water which fell over the 36 hour event the Rochestown Road at Hop Island flooded. The swamp area next to the road became full to capacity, and this in turn flooded the road. Pumps were brought to site to drain the swamp. These pumps assisted existing pipes which were at capacity. It took approximately 1 week to get the water levels down.

On Monastery Road, substantial damage was caused to the road during the rainfall event associated with Storm Babet. The road has subsequently been repaired (week ending 3/11/23). There was no failure of drainage systems on this road, it was a pure water quantity/capacity issue.

All drains on both Rochestown Road at Hop Island and Monastery Road have been checked and are running clear currently. Investigations are continuing, and an application will be made for funding for extra drainage systems on these roads to cover exceptional rainfall events like Storm Babet, if the above investigations identify that such improvements will have an effective impact during such weather events.

David Joyce  
Director of Services  
Roads & Environment Operations Directorate

## 6.2 **RETROFIT OF FLATS AT FARRANCLEARY**

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

Could you kindly confirm whether an application has been made for the retrofit at the flats at Farrancleary. If so, I kindly request a copy of the application and the process details to be provided to the Council.

Alternatively, if there is no existing application at this time, could you please explain why no steps have been taken to address the state of disrepair in the flats? Upgrading them in terms of energy efficiency and fire regulations would be highly beneficial and necessary.

### **REPLY**

Cork City Council, with part funding from the DHLGH through the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, is working to improve the energy efficiency of our social housing stock. The standard to be achieved is an energy rating of B2 or the cost optimal equivalent as defined in the Building Regulations Part L - Conservation of fuel and energy. The selection of properties for inclusion in the program in any given year is determined by the program set out by the department for that year. Currently the program envisages a mix of properties e.g. those with a poor energy rating and those with a better rating so as to achieve an average expenditure of €34,000 per property with a maximum expenditure of €48,850 for an end of terrace property and €42,350 for a mid-terrace property. These grant amounts apply to both houses and apartments despite the latter generally costing more to deliver to the requisite energy efficiency standard.

Cork City Council currently has 828 properties in the EERP pipeline. The Farrancleary Place flats are not included in the current pipeline but a further assessment of the Farrancleary flats, will be undertaken to assess the potential of including them in future rounds of EERP subject to viability and funding.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,  
Director of Services,  
Housing.

## 6.3 **SEVERE TRAFFIC ISSUES IN BISHOPSTOWN-MTU AREA**

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

To ask the CEO to outline if any discussions have been had with the Munster Technological University in relation to alleviating the current severe traffic issues that are created in the Bishopstown area, including residential estates, by means of creating park and ride facilities or a designated slip road which was previously in a City Development Plan or is the CEO aware of any other plans that MTU may have in the pipeline to alleviate this ongoing issue.

## REPLY

The Traffic Division is not involved in any engagement with MTU regarding traffic associated with their campus or the general Bishopstown area.

In relation to new public Park and Rides, CMATS (2020) envisages the development of a network of such facilities and identifies six indicative locations which are to be the subject of further investigation (Blarney/Stoneview, Dunkettle, Carr's Hill, Bandon Rd and Ballincollig). In the majority of cases these proposed Park and Rides are related to the delivery of the new Bus Connects network with the necessary Bus Corridor upgrades to be delivered in advance of the opening of new Park and Ride facilities. Significant work is being advanced by the NTA in relation to the corridor upgrades and Members will continue to be updated in relation to progress on the planning and delivery of same as well as the other elements of the Bus Connects programme.

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

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

## 6.4 FLOODING IN GLANMIRE & BLACKPOOL

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

To ask the Chief Executive to detail, in tabular form, the dates and times conversations and correspondence was held or sent with Government Ministers following the flooding in Glanmire and Blackpool; to detail which Ministers were contacted, which answered, and the amount of funding requested, along with the funding delivered to the Local Authority from each Department contacted, in tabular form.

## REPLY

Two Government Ministers visited the Residents of Copper Valley Vue following the flooding in the estate caused by Storm Babet. Both Ministers engaged directly with the residents of the estate affected by the flooding. Funding for various initiatives was discussed between the Ministers and the residents. Cork City Council officials were also present at these engagements.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Minister</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Copper Valley Vue	Minister Michael McGrath TD, Minister for Finance
20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Copper Valley Vue	Minister Patrick O'Donovan Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform and at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Following on from the foregoing, the design team for the Glashaboy Flood Relief Scheme is currently examining the proposed works throughout the scheme to consider whether there are any additional short term or other interventions that can be beneficially proposed in addition to the approved works. It is anticipated that any such works will be approved and funded as additions to the current capital scheme.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have written to Local Authorities regarding the recoupment of exceptional costs associated with the emergency response to flooded areas. In this correspondence the Minister recognises that local authorities have, out of necessity, incurred immediate and exceptional expenditure in dealing with this emergency situation and that this may pose difficulties for local authorities in light of the constraints on local government finances. The correspondence goes on to say that the Department is exploring any options available to allocate supplementary funding to contribute towards exceptional expenditure directly associated with recent flood response activities by affected local authorities. It also states that should funding become available, eligible costs could include those associated with emergency response and immediate clean up activities only. Expenditure on capital items arising from remediation measures or relating to programmes funded by other Departments are not included in eligible expenditure.

David Joyce  
Director of Services,  
Environment & Roads Operations.

Gerry O'Beirne  
Director of Services,  
Infrastructure Development.

#### 6.5 **DEVELOPMENT OF LINKS BETWEEN CORK CITY COUNCIL & PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

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

Can the CE update on the development of links between Cork City Council and the Palestinian people & the State of Palestine Mission in Ireland?

#### **REPLY**

Cork City Council has built an excellent working relationship with the Mission of the State of Palestine in Dublin in 2023 in order to meet the aspirations of Council motions pertaining to deepening links with Palestine.

Following a meeting held between the Ambassador and the International Relations team at the Palestinian Mission, former Lord Mayor Forde welcomed the Ambassador to Cork for a programme of engagement in May 2023.

The Ambassador expressed the Mission's preference for Cork to develop a civic project with the city of Nablus in Palestine.

A call had 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 the Mayor of Nablus had expressed interest in. The Ambassador was also in discussion with Council on the possibility of hosting a Palestinian Youth Orchestra in



Cork City in 2024. The recent outbreak of hostilities in the region has necessarily put a pause on these activities, and there are several motions before Council this evening which will define our response.

Pursuant to the aspirations of Council, Cork City Council remains committed to the development of meaningful and practical links between Cork and Palestine.

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

#### 6.6 **FIREMAN'S SHELTER**

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 the project to refurbish the old Fireman's Shelter dating back to the Burning of Cork times... including what form it will take, where it will be situated and when it will be unveiled?

#### **REPLY**

The Fireman's Rest was commissioned by Cork Corporation in early 1892 and was 120 years old last year. It was in place and functional for many historic occasions in Cork including the burning of Cork in 1920. The Rest has a strong link to the working people of Cork. It was originally assembled for the Cork Fire Brigade, shared by them with the staff of the old tram company (1898-1930) and later, exclusively used by CIE (1931- 2003).

Cork City Council is currently completing a full restoration of the Fireman's Rest. The refurbished Rest will be sited on the forecourt of the Fire Station on Anglesea Street; where accommodation works are ongoing.

The substantial refurbishment work is expected to be completed by end Dec 2023. A ceremony to unveil the rest will take place before end Dec 2023.

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

#### 6.7 **INFILL HOUSES ON FOYLE AVENUE**

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

Can the CE give a full breakdown of each of the costs associated with infill houses on Foyle Avenue, Knocknaheeny?

#### **REPLY**

The infill housing project on Foyle Ave consists of the construction of two homes: 1 x three-bedroom home and 1 x two-bedroom home, together with site enabling works and public realm works.

The all-in total budget for the design and construction of the Foyle Avenue infill housing units, including significant enabling works and public realm works is of the order of €780,758.35 including VAT.

It is considered that the detailed breakdown of the tender amount in this case is commercially sensitive. The all-in total cost of the new homes, excluding abnormal costs, is in line with the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage Basic Unit Costs for New Build social housing schemes.

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

## 6.8 **BANDUFF ROAD FLOODING**

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

1. In light of the persistent flooding on Banduff Road, I am asking if the flooding was exacerbated by the dumping of hundreds of tonnes of demolition material, such as concrete, taken from Merchant's Quay and Douglas Village shopping centre onto the bog floodplain of the Glen River Valley located adjacent to the Banduff Road, over a twelve year period from the 1990's to the early 2000's?
2. Is Cork City Council actively investigating this issue?
3. Are there any plans being drawn up to remove the dumped demolition material from the Glen River Valley?

### **REPLY**

1. Cork City Council is investigating the nature of the flooding which occurred on the Banduff Road as a result of Storm Babet, which was a very significant and unprecedented weather event. Until these investigations are completed, the Council cannot comment on the possible causes of this flooding in any further detail.
2. Cork City Council is actively investigating the most appropriate solutions to the flooding issue at Banduff Road. If a deliverable solution is identified then we will be apply for funding to carry out the identified works.
3. The matter is under investigation as the area was in the control of another Local Authority at the time and will be reported on when the investigation is complete.

David Joyce,  
Director of Services.

Roads & Environment Operations Directorate.

6.9 **OWL AND SWIFT BOXES**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for the progress of identifying locations to install owl and swift boxes in the city, as per motions 21/066 and 20/083?

**REPLY**

In 2023 Cork City Council Heritage Officer worked with a suitably qualified ornithologist to identify artificial Swift nesting sites in a variety of locations throughout the Cork city area and to monitor them over a 12-month period. These artificial nesting sites comprised of swift boxes. In 2023 swift boxes were installed in 3 schools in Cork city.

- Scoil Mhuire Ballincollig.
- Blarney Street CBS.
- Scoil Mhuire Wellington Road.

In 2024 it is intended to install swift boxes in public buildings including the roof at City Hall and Glanmire Community Hall.

In addition, Cork City Council supported the Men's Sheds in the development of a Sand Martin Wall, which has been installed in Cork Lough in 2023.

The Biodiversity Officers will consider suitable locations for owl nesting boxes along with several other biodiversity projects in 2024 subject to suitable resources being made available.

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

6.10 **NUMBER OF LAPSED PLANNING PERMISSIONS FOR LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 2019**

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 planning permissions for large scale developments have lapsed since 2019?

**REPLY**

Legislation providing for large-scale residential developments commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021. This essentially replaced the Strategic Housing Development

provisions under the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016.

28no. SHD applications, totalling 7,031 residential units and 2,246 student bed spaces were granted under this legislation. No SHD permission has lapsed at this time.

Furthermore, there are also a total of 6 no. SHD applications that are with An Bord Pleanála with no decision. This amounts to a total of 2,218 residential units and 206 no. bed spaces awaiting decision from An Bord Pleanála.

David O'Brien,  
Interim Director of Services,  
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

#### 6.11 **CORK FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME**

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

Can the CE please provide clarification and an update on the current progress status on the Cork Flood Relief Scheme in terms of Costs, Timeline and any other related issues.

#### **REPLY**

The Morrison's Island Public Realm Improvement and Flood Protection Scheme is being advanced by Cork City Council in association with the Office of Public Works. The scheme provides for a complete renewal of the public realm along Morrisons/ Fr Matthew Quay, from Parnell Bridge to Parliament Bridge. The execution of public realm improvement works also creates an opportunity to provide enhanced flood protection measures and these will be delivered as part of the scheme to the benefit of circa four hundred properties in that part of the City.

As Members will be aware the project was approved by Council following public consultation and it was subsequently approved by An Bord Pleanála under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

The Bord Pleanála decision was, however, the subject of judicial review proceedings and in 2021 the High Court upheld the Bord's approval of the scheme. The High Court also subsequently refused a request for leave to appeal. In 2022, leave to appeal was granted by the Supreme Court on foot of a direct application by the appellants. The Supreme Court went on to hear the appeal and rejected the case submitted thereby upholding the approval for the works.

Earlier this year, the Council established a panel of contractors who would be invited to tender for the works. The detailed design and tender documents were subsequently finalised and tenders are now being sought from the shortlisted main contractors and specialist contractors. It is anticipated that tender assessments and contractor appointments will be completed in **Q1 2024** with works to commence in **Q2 2024**.

It is expected that the scheme, when completed, will be transformative in its impact – further supporting the ongoing private sector investment in the area as well as creating new opportunities for the public to enjoy this riverside location.

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

#### 6.12 **LICENCING SYSTEM FOR RENTAL OF EBIKES**

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

Can the CE give an update on the proposed licencing system being developed by Cork City Council for the rental of ebikes in public areas within the city boundary?

#### **REPLY**

Cork City Council have commenced the preparation of a Shared Micromobility Service Strategy (i.e. public shared (e)bike/ e-scooter schemes) and are in discussion with the National Transport Authority with respect to the Strategy taking into account both their plans for the existing TFI bike share scheme and the change in regulations (Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023) associated with the use of e-scooters on public roads in Ireland.

It is envisaged that the draft Strategy will be brought before the Transport Strategic Policy Committee in Q1 2024 subject to agreement with the National Transport Authority. The approval of this Strategy will facilitate the roll out of a shared micromobility licensing system subject to the introduction of the necessary byelaws and procurement processes later in 2024.

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

### 7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

#### 7.1 **SECTION 19 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – CASUAL VACANCIES**

##### 7.1.1 **VACANCY IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF CORK CITY COUNCIL**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir F. Kerins, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Nugent, An Chomhairle approved the nomination of Orla O’Leary to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Comhairleoir E. Rying.

##### 7.1.2 **VACANCIES ON BOARDS/COMMITTEES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. Collins, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, An Chomhairle approved the nomination of Comhairleoir O. O’Leary to fill the vacancies

on the Boards/Committees listed below arising from the resignation of Comhairleoir E. Ryng.

Strategic, Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee  
International Relations & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee  
South West Local Area Committee  
Cork Area Strategic Plan Committee (CASP)  
An Grúpa Forbartha Gaeilge  
Cork Local Sports Partnership CLG  
Joint Policing Committee  
Climate Action Committee

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir O. O'Leary to address the meeting.

## 7.2 **VACANCY ON THE ARTS COMMITTEE**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Dennehy, An Chomhairle approved the nomination of Comhairleoir S. Martin to fill the vacancy on the Arts Committee, arising from the resignation of Comhairleoir K. O'Flynn.

## 7.3 **VACANCIES ON BOARDS/COMMITTEES**

An Chomhairle noted the vacancies on the Boards/Committees below arising from the resignation of Comhairleoir D. Forde:

Firkin Crane Development Company  
Heritage Forum  
Board of the National Sculpture Factory

It was agreed to discuss this matter further amongst Party Whips.

## 7.4 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the Chief Executive, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of land (35.2m<sup>2</sup> approximately) situated adjacent to No. 1, Burton Terrace, Gardiners Hill, Cork, to Clodagh Harrington, c/o Eoin C. Daly Mallon LLP, 13, Sheares Street, Fenns Quay, Cork for the sum of €500.00 plus costs of €1,500.00 plus VAT.

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

2. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of land (47m<sup>2</sup> approximately) which comprises a portion of No. 32, St. Anne's Drive, Montenotte, Cork to Michael Andrew Gaffney as Legal Personal Representative in the Estate of Beatrice Mary Gaffney c/o O'Flynn Exhams LLP, 58, South Mall, Cork for a nominal sum of €1.00.

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

3. Disposal of Stall No. 4B, Grand Parade Market, Cork, to Café Marius Limited c/o Joyce & Co., Solicitors, 9, Washington Street West, Cork, by way of a renewal of lease for a further term of 21 years from 1st January 2024 at a rent of €10,000.00 per annum.

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

7.5 **EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OVER A SECTION OF THE ROADS & FOOTPATHS AT ADMORE AVENUE & KNOCKNAHEENY AVENUE, KNOCKNAHEENY, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attached report and recommendation of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023, following public consultation, on the proposed extinguishment of a public right of way over a section of the roads and footpaths at Admore Avenue and Knocknaheeny Avenue, Knocknaheeny, Cork, pursuant to Section 73 (1) (a) of the Roads Act 1993.

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

“Now Council hereby RESOLVES THAT

No written objections or representations having been received within the prescribed statutory period set out in section 73 (1) (a) of the Roads Act 1993, it is now hereby Ordered that the following Public Right of Way be extinguished with effect from the date of the making of this Order:-

“From the point marked AA at Ardmore Avenue on said map for a distance of approximately 145 Metres in an easterly direction to point marked BB; from the point marked CC at Ardmore Avenue on said map for a distance of approximately 46 Metres in a North Easterly direction to point marked DD.”

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

8.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 30/09/2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 30/09/2023.

8.2 **MOTIONS**

8.2.1 **AUTOMATED SUBTITLES ON ALL ONLINE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the A/Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council agrees to provide automated subtitles on all online Council proceedings to expand accessibility and ensure proceedings are available to all members of the public.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 23/434)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council streams council meetings on YouTube. While the suggestion seems feasible, it will require investigation and testing to determine its suitability. Further update will issue in due course.

#### 8.2.2 **PLOTS AT BESSBORO MOTHERS AND BABIES HOME, THE GOOD SHEPHERDS FACILITY, ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY AND CARR'S HILL**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council facilitate the proper and effective naming of those who are interred in plots associated with the Bessboro Mothers and Babies home and from the Good Shepherds facility in Sunday's Well, at St. Joseph's Cemetery, and that similar efforts be made to acknowledge and commemorate those known to be interred at a burial site on Carr's Hill.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/448)

The report of the Deputy Chief Executive stated that, according to the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation Report published in 2019, the burial place of over 900 children who died in the care of the Bessboro Mother and Baby Home is unknown. The Commission did state that 53 children are buried in St Joseph's Cemetery, 2 in St Finbarr's and most likely 5 in the All Saints Cemetery at Carr's Hill.

The Good Shepherd Sisters have a number of headstones erected in recent years at plots in St. Joseph's Cemetery detailing the names of those interred in the graves.

Cork City Council has been engaging on an ongoing basis with the representatives of survivors groups of the Mother and Baby Homes. The marking of sites and graves is deeply personal and to that extent, the Council will continue to engage with the representative organisations to ensure that any commemoration is sensitive to the needs of survivors.

Cork City Council is at present in the process of arranging the transfer of All Saints Famine Cemetery on Carr's Hill to its ownership. A project team will be set up initially to scope, research and inform any future development for the site which will include consideration of the agreed priorities of survivors. Further updates will issue in due course.



9. **PARTY WHIPS – 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

9.1 **MOTION REFERRED TO PARTY WHIPS FROM ROADS & TRANSPORTATION SPC**

9.1.1 **STREET OR PLACE NAME FOR FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 on the following motion:-

‘Given that the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the visit of Frederick Douglass to Cork is on October 11<sup>th</sup>, that Cork City Council will investigate marking the occasion by naming a street or place for Frederick Douglass.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 20/253)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the list of unnamed streets (copy attached) was circulated to the City Archaeologist, the Heritage Officer, the Conservation Officer, and the City Library Studies. Having duly considered the locations, it was agreed that there was no historical or meaningful connection between Frederick Douglass and any of the unnamed street.

A number of alternative suggestions were made to commemorate individuals such as an art installation, social housing development, park bench, tree planting, sports bursary etc depending on the interests of the individual being commemorated.

A creative outreach project or some form of conference or series of talks, exploring the topic of slavery, both historic and current, was suggested as an appropriate and fitting way to commemorate Frederick Douglass.

It was noted that the City Library had an exhibition on Frederick Douglass which has toured most of the libraries and is accessible on our website on <https://www.corkcitylibraries.ie/en/online/exhibitions-online/>.

The Fredrick Douglass Trail map produced on the anniversary of the visit to Cork notes significant locations where he lectured and stayed. It is noteworthy that there is a plaque in the Imperial Hotel commemorating his visit also.

In addition, the Imperial Hotel Cork unveiled a new guest lounge named in honour of Frederick Douglass with a historic talk and walking tour of the Cork Abolitionists Trail to celebrate their famous past guest on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

An Chomhairle further agreed to refer this motion to the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee.

10. **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

## 10.1 **MOTIONS**

### 10.1.1 **FULL REVIEW OF PARKING BYLAWS**

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

‘I request that a full review of all issues arising from the changes to the parking bylaws be carried out.

That a full list of the difficulties & complaints received from the public, especially around residential parking permits be included in this review.

There may have been unintended consequences that have resulted from the changes made to the bylaws and if so, Cork City Council take responsibility for our mistakes and amend the bylaws as quickly as possible to negate the unintended consequences.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 23/251)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council Parking Byelaws 2022 did not introduce any significant changes to the parking regime in place in Cork City.

Council adopted a Parking Permit Policy and Parking Permit Scheme in March 2022 that came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022.

The changes in the policy and scheme were proposed by the Roads & Transportation SPC in response to a perception that there were flaws/weaknesses in the parking permit system as implemented:

- A perceived conflict between available parking spaces and the demand for Residents Parking Permits
- A permit fee that had not been changed for many years, that did not reflect the cost of providing the service and did not act as an incentive to use alternative sustainable modes of transport.
- Lack of awareness of some of the prohibitions within the Scheme
- There was a belief that permits were being issued to individuals who were not entitled to a permit.

The objective of the revised policy and scheme as adopted is to:

- Make the scheme more robust and less likely to abuse,
- Ensure that only valid applicants are in receipt of a Permit and
- Encourage the switch to more sustainable transport modes.

In response, four changes were made in 2022:

1. One additional piece of information is to be submitted by an applicant depending on the nature of residency i.e., if the applicant is a homeowner the

applicant is required to submit the page(s) of their home insurance policy that clearly states the name of the insured, the property being insured and that both the building & contents are insured. All monetary values or specific risks or claims history can be redacted by the applicant (If an applicant does not have home insurance, the applicant can submit alternative documentation to demonstrate home ownership in lieu of house insurance e.g., title deeds of the property); If the applicant is a tenant the applicant is required to submit proof the property/tenancy is registered with the Residential Tenancies Board.

2. Variation to the maximum number of Residents Parking Permits to be issued.
3. Modification of the fees associated with Residents Parking Permits.
4. Introduction of Resident's – Vehicle Hire Parking Permits to cater for residents who do not own a vehicle but may need to rent a vehicle from time to time.

In implementing the above changes, a couple of issues arose that have been addressed:

- An applicant, while a homeowner, that does not have home insurance. For this type of applicant, a Declaration has been introduced that is completed and signed by the applicant, specifies alternative documents to be submitted, and is signed by a Peace Commissioner.
- An applicant that is neither a homeowner nor a tenant e.g., child / partner/ parent etc. of the owner occupier. To allow consideration of this type of application, a Declaration has been introduced and is available to be completed by the applicant and signed by a Peace Commissioner.

A remaining issue from the changes made in 2022 is the non-registration of rented properties with the Residential Tenancy Board. There is a legal requirement that rented properties are registered by the Residential Tenancy Board. The requirement under the scheme that a rented property is registered is to ensure that the property is genuinely available as a rented property and the applicant resides in such property. This has and continues to be an issue for a number of applicants. However, this is also the type of tenancy that is have the most potential for abuse.

The policy and scheme are documents adopted by Council and can be amended by Council should they wish to do so.

#### 10.1.2 **ACCESS FOR PEDAL CYCLES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will report on its policy for increasing access for pedal cycles to enter contra-flow on one-way streets for motor traffic.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/265)

The report of the Director of Services stated that as part of the overall policy to improve cycle infrastructure across the City, Cork City Council has provided a number of cycle facilities on one way streets and where appropriate this includes cycle facilities which operate on a contra flow basis. Contraflow cycling allows cyclists to travel on a one-way street in the opposite direction to all other traffic. The provision of such facilities, where appropriate, on one-way streets can significantly improve

connectivity and directness for cyclists. They can also improve overall road safety with a reduced likelihood of cycling against oncoming traffic or use footpaths to avoid detouring around a one-way street.

Examples of existing contraflow cycle facilities include those on Lancaster Quay, Western road, Washington St, Popes Quay, South Main St, Sullivans Quay, Frenches Quay, Bishop St, Probys Quay, Terrance McSwiney Quay, Albert Quay, Victoria Rd, Lower John St. etc. While the design of contraflow cycling facilities on one-way streets can present particular challenges, they are viewed as an important addition to the overall cycle network and consequently the Cycle Network Plan and proposed Cycle Connects Plan includes provision for the continued development of such facilities. In the design and planning of these facilities regard is had to the standards and guidelines in place and all proposals are subject to consultation in accordance with the Roads Acts or Planning Act. Details of new improvement schemes incorporating contra flow cycling on one way streets will continue to be advised to Members at Local Area Committee meetings or Council briefings as appropriate.

### 10.1.3 **ENFORCEMENT OF ILLEGAL PARKING**

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

‘That the CE will produce a budget to adequately resource the enforcement of illegal parking at all designated times.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 23/271)

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

As requested at the June SPC meeting, a submission was made to Budget 2024 to provide a budget to allow the introduction on a trial basis of additional parking enforcement on several Sundays and a number of late shifts during 2024.

### 10.1.4 **ADDITIONAL PARK AND RIDES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council submits new locations for additional Park and Rides in Cork City to the National Transport Authority before December 2023 and publishes the sites submitted along with funding request to make them viable.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/286)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Cork Metropolitan Area Transportation Strategy was adopted by the National Transport Authority in February

2020 and details the transportation investment required to support the ongoing development of Cork over the period to 2040. The Strategy envisages the development of a network of strategic Park and Rides at designated public transport interchanges to provide onward access to the City Centre and other key destinations via high frequency public transport, walking or cycling. The Strategy identifies six indicative locations which will be the subject of further investigation (Blarney/Stoneview, Dunkettle, Carr's Hill, Bandon Rd and Ballincollig). In the majority of cases the Park and Rides are related to the delivery of the new Bus Connects network with the necessary Bus Corridor upgrades to be delivered in advance of the opening of new Park and Ride facilities. This is because Park and Ride facilities are not attractive to potential users if the related bus service is hampered by general traffic congestion. As Members will be aware significant work has been undertaken by NTA in relation to the Bus Network Review and more recently in relation to the proposed Strategic Corridor Upgrades. Progress on the other elements of the Bus Connects Programme will similarly be advanced and these include Park and Rides, ticketing, cashless payment systems, bus fleet/zero emissions, new fare structures and new stops/shelters. Members will be updated on progress in the planning and delivery of the Bus Connects programme and related element.

#### 10.1.5 **MARKINGS AT ENTRANCES TO RESIDENTIAL 30KM/H SLOW ZONES**

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

‘That it shall be the policy of Cork City Council to mark the entrances to residential 30km/h slow zones with street-level markings.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/330)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Traffic Signs Manual outlines the signage required when implementing a 30 km/hr slow zone or other speed limits and these signs as prescribed are implemented by Cork City Council. As set out in the Traffic Signs Manual, speed limit road markings should only be used in situations where it is necessary to reinforce the upright signing for reasons of safety, such as the entrance to a village or where an unexpected reduction in speed limit occurs. Such signing is implemented as prescribed in the relevant situations.

#### 10.1.6 **SUNFLOWER PARKING SPACES**

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

‘That Cork City Council put in place sunflower parking spaces for people with hidden disabilities.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 23/359)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the introduction of sunflower parking spaces is a welcome idea to cater for hidden disabilities. Unfortunately, sunflower parking spaces and other non-standard parking spaces on public roads are not

prescribed under the current parking legislation. As there is no enforcement mechanism it is difficult to provide these spaces and ensure they are not abused. However, the provision of sunflower parking spaces in the multi storey car parks can be explored when the car parks are being re-lined and if appropriate included at that time.

#### 10.1.7 **NOTIFYING UTILITY PROVIDERS OF RESURFACING WORKS**

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

‘I call on Cork City Council and specifically the Operations Directorate to ensure that any resurfacing works are notified to utility providers and most especially to Uisce Éireann and that replies are insisted upon. Information such as planned works, leak and break history should be sought. Should replies not be received and resurfacing works done that are later undone by a utility, these should be charged back to the utility at the full rate of the initial resurfacing and redone properly. Utility providers, and most especially Uisce Éireann, need to be made understand their responsibility when it comes to monies spent by City Council that is collected through LPT. The recent issues when resurfacing Model Village in Tower cannot be repeated.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boylan 23/379)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council Roads Operations Division notifies all utility providers as well as internal and external stakeholders well in advance of any resurfacing works being undertaken. Any utility provider who excavates a newly resurface road (i.e. within 5 years of the road being resurfaced), either due to an emergency or refurbishment works, must reinstate the surface to the same specification for the full road width and for 5metres either side of the end of the excavation. The entire cost of this reinstatement is borne by the utility Company. There is thus an incentive for the utility provider to notify the local authority of any issues or planned works once they receive notification of our annual resurfacing programme of works and to undertake any planned works before the road is resurfaced. Cork City Council continues to engage with Utility Providers with a view to constantly improving cooperation and communication processes.

#### 10.1.8 **UPDATED STRATEGY FOR WALKING IN THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the joint report of the Directors of Services, Roads & Environment Operations and Infrastructure Development, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will prepare an updated strategy for walking in the City, including improving the pedestrian infrastructure and environment of the City, that this is accessible, and ensuring footpaths are free of cyclists, e-scooters and parked motor vehicles.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/387)

The joint report of the Directors of Services stated that the Cork Metropolitan Area Transportation Strategy was published in February 2020 and details the transportation investment required to support the ongoing development of Cork over the period to 2040.

The transport projects detailed in the Strategy include investment in pedestrian and cycle improvements as set out in the existing cycling plan and walking strategy. In the coming months it is expected that these plans will be further developed and updated through the new National Transport Authority cycle connects plan and also by the proposed National Transport Authority pedestrian enhancement plan. The latter is an objective of the Department of Transport National Sustainability Mobility Policy Action Plan 2022 – 2025 and the Climate Action Plan 2023 and will help inform which areas would benefit from pedestrian connectivity improvements and help focus future pedestrian infrastructure investment.

The City Council has developed an extensive programme of capital works which includes for pedestrian improvements across the City which are supported by way of grant funding from the National Transport Authority. This investment is to be further augmented through the Cork Bus Connects programme under which significant cycle and pedestrian improvements are to be effected to the eleven strategic transport corridors to be upgraded under the programme. It is envisaged that the level of investment available for active travel improvements will increase further in the years ahead and the related scheme proposals will be presented to Members as part of the public consultation consent processes under the Roads and Planning Acts.

Nationally, parking is regulated across the state through the Roads Traffic Acts and Roads Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations. This legislation also applies to Cork City, and it controls matters such as parking on yellow lines, footpaths, cycle paths, bus stops, taxi ranks etc. Cork City Council's Traffic Wardens have the power to issue tickets for illegal parking (under the national legislation) and non-payment of parking fees (under local bye-laws). Traffic Wardens have no role in the regulation of cyclists or e-scooters. Violations such as the inappropriate use of footpaths by cyclists or e-scooters can only be enforced by An Garda Síochána. The city centre has the highest density of spaces, has a requirement to ensure quick turnover of spaces & to provide opportunities for deliveries, a need to minimise obstructions, etc. Thus, Cork City Council's Traffic Warden resources are deployed in the first instance in the city centre with areas outside the core covered as resources permit.

#### 10.1.9 **INSTALLATION OF A BIKE BUNKER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the joint report of the Directors of Services, Roads & Environment Operations and Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will fund the installation of a bike bunker for use by interested residents as an alternative to resident or on-street car parking at a suitable location, such as Glenmont in Silversprings, and will invite expressions of interest from residents groups, like was recently funded by Waterford Sports Partnership.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/388)

The joint report of the Directors of Services stated that CCP will engage with residents/sports partnership/other stakeholders to identify a suitable location/model to pilot the use of bike bunkers in residential areas. Should a suitable location/model be identified, CCP will work with Traffic operations to install the bunker subject to funding and resources.

#### 10.1.10 **BIKE PARKING IN CORK CITY CENTRE**

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

‘That Cork City Council will investigate the provision of covered and secure bike parking in Cork City Centre. Council owned car parks could possibly be adapted to provide some parking for bikes on a proportionate payment basis.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 23/394)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council are currently considering a project to provide large scale covered and secure bike parking in a city centre car park. The project will be supported by Cork City Council and the NTA and it is anticipated that the bike parking will be available to the public in 2024.

#### 10.1.11 **NATIONALLY AGREED TRAFFIC SIGNALS FOR CYCLING**

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

‘That the CE will ascertain the nationally agreed traffic signals for cycling and apply them uniformly across the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 23/180)

The report of the Director of Services stated that it is noted that a new Cycle Design Manual was released in Sept 2023 by the NTA overseen by the Department of Transport which replaces the previously published National Cycle Manual released in 2011. All future projects/works will now be informed by this document in relation to all future scheme designs. A signalling audit of recently implemented city centre cycling facilities on existing traffic signal sites will be undertaken between North Gate Bridge and Michael Collins Bridge, endeavouring to provide a consistency of approach on recent upgraded schemes.

#### 11. **STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Strategic, Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

#### 11.1 **UPDATE ON CENSUS 2022 RESULTS FOR CORK CITY**



An Chomhairle considered and noted a presentation was given by Ms Kelly Cotel, Planner, Planning Policy outlining the recently released census data relevant to Cork City.

## 11.2 **UPDATE ON DOCKLANDS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted a presentation was given by Mr Bryan Fitzgerald, Cork Docklands, on the progress regarding the Docklands regeneration, outlining upcoming activity and timelines.

## 11.3 **MOTIONS**

### 11.3.1 **ST. LUKE'S COMMUNITY GARDEN**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic and Economic Development, dated 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will make a statement identifying the St. Luke's Community Garden as a community green space, meeting the needs of a pocket park and other objectives under the Cork City Development Plan 2022–28.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 23/442)

The report of the Director of Services stated that St Luke’s community garden is zoned “Public Open Space” in the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028. This zoning has the objective to protect, retain and provide for passive and active recreational uses, open space, green networks, natural areas and amenity facilities.

### 11.3.2 **LANDS SUITABLE FOR AN URBAN DEVELOPMENT ZONE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic and Economic Development, dated 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council agrees to identify and report to Council on lands that may be suitable for an Urban Development Zone as identified under the UDZ legislation currently progressing through the Oireachtas.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 23/346)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Urban Development Zones (UDZs) are a mechanism proposed in the “General Scheme Land Value Sharing and Urban Development Zones Bill 2022” to identify significant, well-located, underutilised urban areas for integrated sustainable redevelopment or regeneration including housing backed by State investment in infrastructure. Once the UDZ legislation is enacted, guidance will be published and the Minister will request local authorities and regional assemblies to identify potential candidate UDZ sites. The City Development Plan 2022 - 2028 provides a framework to inform the selection of potential candidate UDZ sites, for example the expansion areas identified in the Core Strategy including

the Cork City Docklands and Tivoli Docklands, North Blackpool / Kilbarry, Ballyvolane East, South Ballincollig and Castletreasure. Further in-depth assessment of potential candidate UDZ sites will commence once the parameters of the final legislation are available.

### 11.3.3 **FORMER GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS SITE AT SULLIVAN'S QUAY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic and Economic Development, dated 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council acquire the former Government Buildings site on Sullivan’s Quay to be developed as a city park.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/398)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy set out in the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 identifies strategic lands for city parks over the short, medium and long term. This site is not included in the strategy. The planning permission on the land in question referred to in the Director of Service’s previous response to this Motion has since expired and there is currently no extant permission on site. The site has a high profile in a prominent location in the city centre. It has a flexible zoning objective in the heart of the city centre. The cost to the Council to acquire this site is therefore likely to be substantial. The site is subject to the Residential Zoned Land Tax.

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

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

### 12. **ENVIRONMENT, WATER & AMENITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee from its special meeting held, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### 12.1 **CORK CITY MOSS WALLS INITIATIVE**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the recommendations contained within the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, in relation to the Cork City Moss Walls Initiative.

### 13. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

### 14. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

#### 14.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

##### 14.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF SEPTEMBER 2023**

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

#### 14.2 **MOTIONS**

##### 14.2.1 **AMENDED TARIFF SCHEME IN BUDGET 2024**

An Chomhairle considered the report prepared by John Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer, on the following motion:-

‘The elected representatives of Council resolves that Budget 2024 will reflect an amended tariff scheme for local business rates building on the previous year's stratification to introduce an additional discount band.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 23/457)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir L. Bogue, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, a vote was called for, for or against the report of the Chief Financial Officer, where there appeared as follows:-

**FOR:** Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, D. Forde, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, T. Moloney, O. O’Leary. (18)

**AGAINST:** Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, O. Moran, B. McCarthy, L. Bogue, D. Boyle, C. Finn. (6)

**ABSTAIN:** Comhairleoir J. Maher. (1)

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

The report of the Chief Financial Officer stated that Cork City Council increased Commercial rates by 3.8% for the 2023 budget. In addition, an enhanced second tier rates incentive scheme was introduced which resulted in over 80% of commercial rate payers becoming eligible for a rate rebate provided they meet certain criteria.

A rate increase of 3.8% is a significant rate increase and it is not the intention to either increase rates further or to introduce an additional tier to the rebate scheme for the 2024 budget.

#### 14.2.2 **BUSINESS RATES CONTRIBUTIONS FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS**

An Chomhairle considered the report prepared by John Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer, on the following motion:-

‘Noting that Cork Pride has had to approach the Council for funding in lieu of corporate funding, Cork City Councillors resolve that the top 50 businesses in the City should pay through business rates contributions towards community events and activities such as Cork Pride.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 23/458)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Canty, a vote was called for, for or against the report of the Chief Financial Officer, where there appeared as follows:-

**FOR:** Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, D. Forde, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, T. Moloney, O. O’Leary. (18)

**AGAINST:** Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, O. Moran, B. McCarthy, L. Bogue, D. Boyle, C. Finn. (6)

**ABSTAIN:** Comhairleoir J. Maher. (1)

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

The response of the Chief Financial Officer stated that increase in the Annual Rate of Valuation, ARV is levied across all businesses in the administrative area of Cork City Council. The City Council does not have the power to select a certain cohort of businesses to fund specific events and activities within it’s administrative area. Rate increases contribute to all services that the City Council provide including contributions towards community activities and events.

#### 15. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its special meeting held, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

#### 16. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

#### 17. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

18. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

19. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

19.1 **MOTIONS HELD IN COMMITTEE**

19.1.1 **FOOTPATH REPAIR AT SILVERHEIGHTS AVENUE**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Operations, dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would include the footpaths in the upper part of Silverheights Avenue in Mayfield (up to and including the cul de sac) for urgent refurbishment and replacement as they have significantly deteriorated and are currently quite dangerous underfoot for any pedestrians that currently use them on a daily basis.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 23/290)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the location will be considered for footpath replacement when funding is available.

An Chomhairle agreed that this motion would be referred back to the North East Local Area Committee.

19.1.2 **PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY AT SILVERHEIGHTS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Operations, dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would install a pedestrian walkway with public lighting around the outer perimeter of the green area known as "The Corn Field" at the top of Silverheights. Many residents currently use this green area for recreational and leisure purposes with the pitches being extensively used by local sports clubs. The installation of this new pedestrian walkway would greatly enhance this area and provide a much-needed facility for the local community.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 23/291)

The report of the Director of Services stated that there is currently no funding available for this project. The installation of a footpath and public lighting would be significant.

An Chomhairle agreed that this motion would be referred back to the North East Local Area Committee.

19.1.3 **PEDESTRIAN FOOTPATH AT LOWER GLANMIRE ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Operations, dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would put in place planning and the necessary funding to reinstate the pedestrian footpath in place of the "set down area" which is currently in situ on Lower Glanmire Road outside houses numbers 146 to 150 inclusive.

This "set down area" is currently being used as a long-term parking area for a wide variety of vehicles hence, creating significant issues for the residents living in the adjacent properties on an ongoing basis.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 23/294)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the set down area is required by residents of Castleview Terrace for service vehicles (e.g. refuse trucks etc.) The footpath is of adequate width. It is not intended to alter the layout here.

19.1.4 **RESTORE AND REFURBISH THE FEVER HOSPITAL STEPS, BLACKPOOL**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Operations, dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council implement a plan for restoring and refurbishing the Fever Hospital steps in Blackpool, so that they can be easily accessible to all as well as preserved for future generations. These historic steps in Blackpool are currently in urgent need of significant restoration works.

The Fever Hospital steps in Blackpool is a major part of Cork City's history and is located in one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Cork City. However, in recent years they have been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair and neglect and are in danger of being lost forever.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 23/306)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the area will be inspected and the cost of restoration assessed. It is likely to require significant investment.

19.1.5 **CALL FOR SPEED CONTROL MEASURES**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Operations, dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 on the following motion:-

‘I am calling on Cork City Council Roads Department to consider the installation of one speed ramp for Silversprings Lawn, and three speed ramps for Silversprings Court.

There is a fair distance from the entrance to Silversprings Court where there are two ramps, and the ramp at South Ridge also.

The road running from Silversprings Court to Silversprings Lawn is badly needing speed control measures, as some drivers do not obey the 30 km/h speed limit.

The case for reducing the speed limit to 30 km/h is a strong one. Studies by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (via Cork City Council) found that:

- If hit by a car at 60 km/h, 9 out of 10 pedestrians will be killed.
- If hit by a car at 50 km/h, 5 out of 10 pedestrians will be killed.
- If hit by a car at 30 km/h, 1 out of 10 pedestrians will be killed.
- Reducing traffic by 40% makes our cities calmer and quieter, as well as reducing air pollution.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 23/384)

The report of the Director of Services stated that requests for traffic calming are recorded by Traffic Operations and Silversprings Lawn and Silversprings Court have been added to the list of requests. Annually Roads Operations bring forward to the Members of the Area Committees all requests for traffic calming and locations are selected by the Members subject to funds being available. The speed limit on Silversprings Lawn and Silversprings Court is 30 km/hr.

An Chomhairle agreed that this motion would be referred back to the North East Local Area Committee.

20. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

21. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

22. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoir S. Martin at the NOAC Financial Management and Performance, Audit Workshop, held at Portlaoise, Co. Laois, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- Comhairleoir S. Martin at the Audit Committee Southern Network, held at Brú Ború Cultural Centre, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- Comhairleoir S. Martin at the AILG Module 5 training, Elected Member Personal Security, held at Kilmore Hotel, Co. Cavan, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network Meeting, held at LGMA, Co. Dublin, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- Comhairleoir D. Boyle at the Irish Council for Social Housing Conference, held at Clayton Whites Hotel, Co. Wexford, 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- Comhairleoir M. Finn at the UNESCO Learning Cities Global Network Event, held at Shanghai, China, 30<sup>th</sup> October - 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.
- Comhairleoir S. Martin at the LAMA Autumn Seminar, Climate Action, Sustainable Business and Balanced Regional Development, 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

23. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

None received.

24. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

24.1 **MODULAR HOUSING CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoir D. Forde at the Modular Housing Conference, to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

24.2 **AILG TRAINING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh at the AILG Module 6 Training, Road Safety: New Speed Limit Policy and Safeguarding Road Users, to be held at the Tower Hotel, Co. Waterford, on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

25. **TRAINING**

None received.

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

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

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 **RETENTION OF VAT AT 9% FOR FOOD RELATED BUSINESSES**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council support the retention of VAT at 9% for the food related businesses and we are calling on the Minister for Finance to extend the 9% VAT rate to the end of 2024.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 23/368)

In the absence of the proposer of the motion, An Chomhairle did not approve the motion.

### 28.2 **IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN GAZA**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘In line with its consistent solidarity with the Palestinian people expressed most recently in October 2022 by declaring itself an Apartheid Free Zone, in September 2022 by the civic reception given to the young musicians and dancers from the Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem and lamenting the killing of 4,000 similarly aged children in Israeli attacks on Gaza, and furthermore responding to the clearly expressed concerns of the residents of Cork to the ongoing slaughter in Gaza, expresses its utter horror at the continuing Israeli onslaught on the Gaza Strip, the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe and the intensification of the ethnic cleansing in the Palestinian West Bank, Cork City Council therefore calls on the Irish Government to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and an end to Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and urgently work to ensure that the EU adopts a similar policy.

And furthermore, demands the suspension of diplomatic relations between Israel and Ireland until a ceasefire is declared, humanitarian aid facilitated, war crimes against the Palestinian people investigated, the illegal occupation ended in accordance with UN Resolutions and the commencement of negotiations for a long-term peace settlement which recognises an independent State of Palestine and the legitimate rights and demands of the Palestinian people.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 23/500)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Tynan, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, 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, O. O’Leary. (8)

**AGAINST:** Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, D. Forde, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, F. Dennehy, D. Cauty, C. Finn. (13)

**ABSTAIN:** Comhairleoir T. Moloney. (1)

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

### 28.3 **LOCAL PROPERTY TAX (LPT) FUNDING 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, in circumstances where we are now aware that the housing and climate criteria used to determine the allocation was out of date and thus flawed and in circumstances where it is clear that 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 not taken into consideration, either adequately or at all, 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 23/503)

### 28.4 **BUS SERVICE FOR CHURCH HILL, GLANMIRE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would write to Bus Éireann with a view to providing a regular bus service for Church Hill in Glanmire. This is an area with a very fast growing population and it currently has no bus service at all.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 23/506)

### 28.5 **CEASEFIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council calls on the Irish Government to use all diplomatic and political options to achieve a ceasefire in the Middle East, the immediate release of all hostages and the provision of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people and strive to play a vital role in the development of an international peace and conflict resolution initiative for Palestine.’

Council believes the Irish position of upholding international humanitarian law must guide the actions of the Government noting the Taoiseach's comments setting out the gravity of Israeli actions.

Therefore, while Israel refuses the imperative for ceasefires with the suffering and death toll growing daily Council believes the position of the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland is untenable and should no longer enjoy diplomatic status.'

(Proposers: Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. K. Collins, Cllr. F. Kerins, Cllr. O. Leary 23/513)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir Nugent, seconded by Comhairleoir K. Collins, 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, T. Moloney, O. O'Leary. (9)

**AGAINST:** Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, D. Forde, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn. (13)

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

## 28.6 **IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council recognises that:

- Significant change is needed to improve accessibility and inclusivity for those with disabilities in Cork City
- The City is not currently compliant with the UNCRPD and specific work by Council could improve compliance with Articles 9, 19, 20, 28, 29 and 30
- The current 'Access Group' are not empowered as a decision-making body within the Executive
- The existing role of 'access officer', while important, is not fully meeting the needs of those with disabilities
- The partnership of Wicklow County Council and the Disability Federation of Ireland, and particularly the establishment of a Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee, employment of a Disability and Inclusion Officer and publishing of a Disability and Inclusion Strategy, should be replicated in Cork City

And agrees to:

- Write to Wicklow County Council and the Disability Federation of Ireland commending them on their achievements and seeking a meeting before the end

of Q1 2024 to explore the process behind this and how this could be replicated in Cork City

- Report back to Council at the first full Council session after the meeting with a plan to implement a similar partnership and strategy.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 23/515)

An Chomhairle agreed to refer this motion to the Community Culture & Placemaking SPC.

## 28.7 **END TO ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council has shown consistent solidarity with the Palestinian people, expressed most recently in October 2022 by declaring itself an Apartheid Free Zone and in September 2022 by the civic reception given to the young musicians and dancers from the Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem. In light of that, and lamenting the killing of 4,000 similarly aged children in Israeli attacks on Gaza and furthermore responding to the clearly expressed concerns of the residents of Cork to the ongoing slaughter in Gaza, Council expresses its utter horror at the continuing Israeli onslaught on the Gaza Strip, the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe, and the intensification of the ethnic cleansing in the Palestinian West Bank.

Cork City Council therefore calls on the Irish Government to:

- demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and an end to Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people
- urgently work to ensure that the EU adopts a similar policy.’

(Proposers: Cllr. B. McCarthy, Cllr. D. Boyle, Cllr. L. Bogue 23/522)

## 28.8 **IMMEDIATE EXPULSION OF THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘Council demands that the continuing failure of the Israeli Government to halt the atrocities it is imposing on the Palestinian people and declare a ceasefire must be met by the immediate expulsion of the Israeli Ambassador.’

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy 23/523)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir B. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, 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, O. O’Leary. (8)

**AGAINST:** Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, D. Forde, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, F. Dennehy, D. Cauty, C. Finn. (13)

**ABSTAIN:** Comhairleoir T. Moloney. (1)

28.9 **URGENT SPECIAL SITTING OF THE JOINT OIREACTHAS COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council demands the Irish Government utilise all diplomatic leverage it has to insist upon a ceasefire in Gaza; condemns the attacks by Hamas on October 7<sup>th</sup>; calls for the release of all hostages by Hamas and for Israel to lift the blockade to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza and for Irish nationals to leave Gaza; that this Council condemns all war crimes being carried out on an hourly basis in Gaza; and further demands the Government to bring Ireland's Commissioner and the President of the European Commission into an urgent special sitting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs to account for the Commissions' actions to secure a ceasefire and condemn the war crimes being perpetrated by Israel on the people of Gaza.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/534)

28.10 **CEASEFIRE, PEACE AND A LASTING SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to call on the Government to enact the Oireachtas votes in 2014 to recognise the State of Palestine as a fundamental requirement for bringing about a ceasefire, peace and a lasting settlement between Israel and Palestine.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 23/535)

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir K. Collins to address the meeting on the switching on of the Christmas lights, after which a discussion took place.

This concluded the business of the meeting

**ARDMHÉARA**  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**