MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2026

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir D. Boylan.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, N. O'Flynn, J. Struthers.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí T. Shannon, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí S. O'Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, D. Boyle, N. O'Connor.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, J. Lynch, A. Deasy, T. Coleman, G. O'Brien, C. O'Connor.
ALSO PRESENT	Ms. V. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive. Mr. B. Geaney, Assistant Chief Executive. Ms. R. Loughry, Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs. Mr. N. Ó Donnabháin, Director of Services, Planning & Integrated Development. Mr. G. O'Beirne, Director of Services, Infrastructure Development. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Emergency Management and Climate Action. Mr. J. Stapleton, Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations. Mr. C. Ó Súilleabháin, Director of Services, City Centre Development & Operations. Mr. J. Hallahan, Head of Finance. Ms. N. Stewart, Meetings Administrator. Ms. R. Lynch, Administrative Officer, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs. Ms. V. Keating, Staff Officer, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The Humphreys family on the death of Phyllis Humphreys.
- The MacGruairc family on the death of Uinsin MacGruairc.
- The Behan family on the death of Patrick Behan.
- The Fitzpatrick family on the death of Denis Fitzpatrick.
- The Nunn family on the death of Frank Nunn.

- The Cunnane family on the death of Patricia Cunnane.
- The O'Leary family on the death of Gerard (Ger) O'Leary.
- The Allander family on the death of Kathleen Mary Allander.
- The Mitchell family on the death of Sheila Mitchell.
- The Desmond family on the death of Dermot Paul (Derry) Desmond.
- The Irwin family on the death of Barry Irwin.
- The O'Connell family on the death of Linda O'Connell.
- The MacCarthy family on the death of Dairine Enda MacCarthy.
- The Carroll family on the death of Denis (Dinny) Carroll.
- The Ruddock family on the death of Patricia (Gwen) Ruddock.
- The O'Keeffe family on the death of Marie O'Keeffe.
- The Hurley family on the death of Frances Hurley.
- The O'Shea family on the death of Kathleen O'Shea.
- The O'Callaghan family on the death of Maura O'Callaghan.
- The Murphy family on the death of Gerard Murphy.
- The O'Sullivan family on the death of Marilyn O'Sullivan.
- The Kirstein family on the death of Noel Kirstein.
- The Dullea family on the death of James Dullea.
- The O'Donovan family on the death of John O'Donovan.
- The O'Neill family on the death of Michael O'Neill.
- The Lane family on the death of Pat Lane.
- The O'Leary family on the death of Donal O'Leary.
- The O'Reilly family on the death of Mary (Patsy) O'Reilly.
- The McMullen family on the death of Billy McMullen.
- The O'Shea family on the death of Barry O'Shea.
- The Desmond family on the death of Finbarr Desmond.
- The O'Sullivan family on the death of John O'Sullivan.
- The Sharkey family on the death of James (Jim) Sharkey.
- The Solan family on the death of Sean Solan.
- The McDade family on the death of Dymphna McDade.
- The Whelan family on the death of Marie Whelan.
- The Sheehan family on the death of Marie Sheehan.
- The O'Leary family on the death of John O'Leary.
- The Galvin family on the death of Siobhán Galvin.
- The Greene family on the death of Noreen Greene.
- The Mullins family on the death of Ellen Mullins.
- The Walsh family on the death of Eoin Walsh.
- The Mangan family on the death of Marie Mangan.
- The Flanagan family on the death of Tracy Flanagan.
- The O'Mahoney family on the death of Mick O'Mahoney.
- The Noonan family on the death of Liam Noonan.
- The Henchy family on the death of Aislinn Henchy.
- The Tallon family on the death of Elmarie Tallon (née Mawe).
- The Forde family on the death of Mary (Georgina) Forde.
- The Lahiff family on the death of Joan Lahiff.

2. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS/BEST WISHES

- Kevin Sheehan on celebrating 100 appearances in championship hurling with Mallow GAA.
- Mahon Point Shopping Centre on the successful holding of National Services Day.
- Diarmuid Ó Drisceoil on the launch of his book 'Blúirí Oileánda – Island Pieces.'
- Blackrock Village Festival on holding a successful event.
- Ballinlough Summer Festival on holding a successful event.
- National Beauty Distribution on celebrating 15 years in business.
- Katie Taylor on her historic final win in Croke Park and her retirement.
- SMA Wilton Parish Centre on holding of Wilton Family Fun Day.
- Glasheen A.F.C. on celebrating 100 years in existence.
- Wilton United F.C. on winning the FAI Women's Amateur Shield.
- Bishopstown GAA on winning the Cork City Council Muirgheal MacSwiney Cup.
- Clara O'Neill on being appointed the new president of Cork Business Association.
- Holy Cross Church on celebrating 40 years of service to the residents of Mahon / Blackrock.

3. LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS

3.1 CIVIC RECEPTION FOR MAGS CREMEN

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception for Mags Cremen on her success at the recent World Rowing Championships.

3.2 CIVIC RECEPTION FOR CORK CAMOGIE

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception for Cork Camogie on winning the All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship.

3.3 CIVIC RECEPTION FOR THE PRESENTATION NUNS

An tArdmhéara reminded members that a Civic Reception for the Presentation Nuns would be held Thursday 17th September 2026 at 6pm.

3.4 CULTURE NIGHT

An tArdmhéara reminded members that Culture Night would take place Friday 18th September 2026 with a lot of great events planned.

3.5 PLACEMAKING EUROPE

An Chomhairle considered and retrospectively approved the travel of Comhairleoir D. Boyle to the Hague for the Placemaking Europe seminar on 11th and 12th February 2025.

3.6 **WHO ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

An Chomhairle considered and retrospectively approved the travel of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald to the WHO Annual Business meeting in Vianna Do Costello and the SDSN Portugal Conference from 14th to 19th June 2026.

3.7 **UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald to Antalya Turkey to attend and moderate at the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference from 9th November to 20th November 2026.

3.8 **COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM AWARDS AND SYMPOSIUM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Deputy Lord Mayor Comhairleoir G. O'Brien at the Communities in Bloom Awards and Symposium in Montreal from 14th to 17th October 2026.

3.9 **IV LATIN AMERICAN LEARNING CITIES FORUM 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of An tArdmhéara as a keynote speaker at the IV Latin American Learning Cities Forum 2026: Place-Based Learning: Urban Innovation for Smart and Resilient Communities, which will take place in the city of Córdoba, Argentina, from 16th to 18th November 2026.

3.10 **UN FORUM OF MAYORS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of An tArdmhéara to Geneva for the sixth meeting of the UN Forum of Mayors. "Cities Delivering for a Sustainable Future", to be held in Geneva, at the WIPO Headquarters, on 12th and 13th October 2026.

3.11 **TOWNS AND CITIES REGENERATION INVESTMENT FUND**

An tArdmhéara welcomed the announcement of significant funding allocations for a number of Cork projects under the Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund. The funding was also warmly welcomed by the Chief Executive who described it as fantastic news for the city.

3.12.1 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle that notification had been received from Comhairleoirí K. Collins and M. Gould of their intention to suspend standing orders, and called on them to read their motion:-

'That Cork City Council notes that:

- The community on, and surrounding, Knockfree Avenue oppose the felling of trees for the delivery of an Active Travel Scheme

- Multiple motions and suspensions of Standing Orders have been proposed on this
- Ward Councillors have tried to engage constructively with the Executive
- The project, as proposed on Knockfree Avenue, remains highly contentious and subject to strong opposition

And recognises that:

- Residents, and Ward Councillors, have proposed a number of alternatives or compromises to allow the project to progress
- The Executive have engaged on these but with no successful outcome
- Communities deserve a voice at all stages of the planning and construction processes

And agrees that:

- The project as proposed on Knockfree Avenue cannot proceed until agreement is reached with local residents
- Compromise is the only way forward to ensure that the project goes ahead but the tree-lined avenue retains as many trees as possible and keep its character.'

An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the motion at the end of the meeting, noting the objections of Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, S. Martin and T. Shannon to the suspension.

3.12.2 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoirí B. McCarthy and J. Struthers to address An Chomhairle on the following motion:-

KNOCKPOGUE AVENUE AND KNOCKFREE AVENUE

'That this Council is opposed to the plans to cut down 22 mature trees on Knockfree Avenue as part of the Knockpogue Avenue and Knockfree Avenue Active Travel Improvement Works.

The community have made it clear over the last 12 months with numerous well-attended protests and public meetings along with continuous engagement with the Council that they welcome the majority of the plan but they do not want the trees cut down.

The local residents organising the campaign have now presented a possible alternative, shared pathways along the section of the avenue where the 22 trees are located. This would allow the cycle lane to be put in without the trees needing to be cut down. They have been successfully used in other places, including locations where the available space is even narrower.

With an alternative option available there is now no excuse for the Council to continue with this unnecessary environmental destruction. The trees should be retained through the use of a shared pathway and the trees that are planned to replace them should still be planted to really benefit the local environment and biodiversity.'

(Proposers: Cllr. B. McCarthy, Cllr. J. Struthers 26/424)

An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the motion at the end of the meeting, noting the objections of Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, S. Martin and T. Shannon to the suspension.

3.12.3 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir P. Dineen to address An Chomhairle on the following motion:-

'Dear Lord Mayor.
I wish to inform you that it will be my intention to request a suspension of standing orders in order to discuss the situation at Knockfree Avenue and the proposed felling of 22 mature healthy trees. I am dismayed that over the past 8 months and particularly during the nesting season that no resolution to the proposed felling of the trees has been reached accepted or quite possibly even discussed with good intentions. I have a proposal that I wish to bring to Council this evening.

My proposal will require the agreement of..

1, the Elected Members
2, the Director (Infrastructure Development),
3, the Residents to whom I have already spoken to.

My proposal is one that makes sense, easy to implement and will save approximately 1.8 million euros from the cost of the overall scheme. It will also allow the works to continue albeit with this little tweak. It will save the trees which will provide a shaded cool cycleway for cyclists during the summer months.

Furthermore my proposal is one that is steadfastly implemented in the Utrecht so therefore it has a proven track record when it comes to implementing sustainable travel solutions that yield results for all and most importantly Save the Trees.

My proposal is as follows.
That we the Elected members of Cork City Council discuss and seek to acquire approval by those mentioned above to agree/accept that Knockfree Avenue be designated as a No Through Road i.e. (become a Quiet Road) by installing build outs with bollards with an opening for cyclists to use. This will ensure that the cycleway is safe and continuous thus allowing connectivity and most importantly will ensure that the mature healthy trees remain in situ on Knockfree Avenue.'

An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the motion at the end of the meeting, noting the objections of Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, S. Martin and T. Shannon to the suspension.

4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS

4.1 TOWNS AND CITIES REGENERATION INVESTMENT FUND

The Chief Executive welcomed the allocation of €20.45 million to projects across Cork City, which was announced that morning by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne.

The successful projects include:

- Douglas Village Renewal Strategy (Urban Town) - **€150K**
- North Main Street – Heritage led Design Concept & Implementation Strategy - **€150K**
- Cook Street, Marlboro Street, Princes Street, Grafton Street and Rochford's Lane Renewal Scheme (CMPGR) - **€150K**
- English Market Regeneration & Enhancement Project - **€7.5m**
- Douglas Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme - **€7.5m**
- Blarney Civic Centre - **€5.0m**

5. MINUTES

An Chomhairle considered the minutes of:-

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 13th July 2026.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir A. Deasy, seconded by Comhairleoir N. O'Flynn, a vote was called for on sending the minutes back for amendment, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí N. O'Flynn, P. Dineen, A. Deasy. (3)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, J. Struthers, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, T. Shannon, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, S. O'Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Kerins, D. Boyle, N. O'Connor, F. Dennehy, J. Lynch, T. Coleman, G. O'Brien, C. O'Connor. (25)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting against were greater than those voting for, An tArdmhéara declared the vote failed. On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, An Chomhairle approved the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 13th July 2026.

6. QUESTION TIME

6.1 PUBLIC LIABILITY CLAIMS

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

To ask the Chief Executive, in light of recent figures released under the Freedom of Information Act showing that Cork City Council has paid out more than **€2 million** in public liability claims since June 2025, with footpath-related incidents accounting for the single largest share of compensation paid (52 claimants receiving a combined **€1,362,775.04**, at an average of approximately **€26,200** per claim), whether a full audit of the condition and safety of the city's footpaths has been carried out; if such an audit has been completed, to set out when it was conducted, its principal findings, and the remedial programme arising from it; if no such audit has been carried out, to confirm whether the Chief Executive will now commit to commissioning one, together with an indicative timeframe for its completion; and, if no audit is to be undertaken, to state the reasons why.

REPLY

Cork City Council is responsible for approximately 2,000km of public footpaths, representing an estimated 3 million square metres of infrastructure with a replacement value of approximately €375 million.

A single comprehensive citywide audit of all footpaths has not been undertaken. However, the Council maintains a record of footpath defects through engineering inspections, public reports through the CRM system, representations from Elected Members, public liability investigations and condition assessments undertaken as part of annual maintenance and capital programmes.

This information informs a risk-based approach to footpath maintenance and replacement, with locations presenting the greatest risk or poorest condition being prioritised for intervention. Defects identified as posing an immediate safety concern are addressed as a priority.

The Council delivers annual footpath repair and replacement programmes, together with significant footpath improvements through Active Travel, public realm and transportation projects. In 2025, the dedicated footpath replacement budget increased by €4m, with additional funding of €160k per LEA provided through Local Area Committees.

Roads Operations remains committed to ongoing condition assessment surveys, engagement with stakeholder groups including the Cork Access Group, and the prioritisation of identified accessibility and safety issues. Area Engineers will continue to review principal pedestrian routes and implement remedial works as financial resources permit.

The Council will continue to develop its asset management systems and condition data to support future investment decisions and the ongoing improvement of the city's footpath network.

John Stapleton,
Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.2 **FLEADH CHEOIL NA HEIREANN**

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

To ask the Chief Executive, that following on from my visit to Fleadh Cheoil Na hEireann in Belfast recently Deputising on behalf of the Lord Mayor, where at a number of events over the course of the day the focused topic of discussion with the members of Comhaltas was Cork City Council making a submission to be the next host of the event in 2028, and with the subsequent visit of a delegation from City Hall on that same week.

As this is time sensitive, is Cork City Council now in a position to actively begin the process of implementing a plan to pursue the possibility and viability of making a submission to host Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann in 2028 and potentially also 2029?

REPLY

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann have issued application forms to Local Authorities inviting bids to host Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2028. This document specifies that the closing date for receipt of completed applications is 1st December 2026. Thus, sufficient time remains for the Council to submit a bid should this be desired.

Cork City would be a fantastic location to host the Fleadh in 2028 and Cork City Council is very strongly of the view that there is not a better location in Ireland. Indeed, given the growth in popularity of the Fleadh in recent years it is considered that Cork City is one of only a limited number of cities that could successfully deliver an event of this scale.

The Council is currently considering the feasibility of hosting Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in 2028. At this stage of the process two significant constraints have been identified:

- Significant cost will be incurred by Cork City Council in hosting the event with the significant economic benefit arising being realised by local businesses and the exchequer. This increase in exchequer return will not be available to the Local Authority to cover the considerable cost of hosting this international celebration of Irish culture.
- The Fleadh Cheoil is awarded through a competitive bid process with the successful applicant being informed at the end of Q1 in 2027. As Budget 2027 preparations progress, a clearer picture will emerge as to how and if the City Council can fund such a major event in the City. The required funding would

need to be budgeted for in a number of budget cycles. If successful, Cork City Council would incur not insignificant costs in 2027 including the payment of €450,000 to Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann – the first instalment of a €550,000 advance levy. Members will be advised by the Chief Executive of the outcome of this feasibility process once complete.

Cormac Ó Súilleabháin,
Director of Services,
City Centre Development & Operations Directorate.

6.3 **RAW SEWAGE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for an answer on what Cork City Council knew about raw sewage being pumped into the Butlerstown and Glashaboy river system for five months straight; to tell us the exact date Council staff or engineers first found out about this filth or the three times the Glashaboy Water Treatment Plant had to shut down over ammonia spikes in August; why it took media leaks and journalists asking questions before the EPA was finally told about a five month long pollution disaster; and what concrete action this Council is taking right now to pull Uisce Éireann into line so the public isn't kept in the dark about the safety of our local drinking water?

REPLY

Water and Wastewater infrastructure is now under the direct control and management of Uisce Éireann.

Local Authorities no longer have a role in monitoring or managing Uisce Éireann assets. The Environmental Protection Agency is the regulator for Uisce Éireann.

Cork City Council was made aware of the misconnection incident when the incident became public at which point the cause had been identified and correction measures were underway. The discharge appears to relate to a wastewater pipe from a development being incorrectly connected to a stormwater pipe that in turn was discharging into a watercourse.

John Stapleton,
Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.4 **TRAFFIC LIGHT SEQUENCING – LAVITT'S QUAY**

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

Can the Chief Executive advise:

Whether the traffic light sequencing and junction arrangements on Lavitt's Quay, particularly at the junction outside Cork Opera House and the right-turn arrangement onto Christy Ring Bridge, have been reviewed in light of recurring congestion during the morning peak, and whether any further review or adjustments are planned?

Whether traffic flow and delays at these junctions are actively monitored between approximately 7.30am and 9.00am, and what consideration is given to the sequencing of the signals where traffic is unable to proceed despite a green light due to congestion ahead?

REPLY

The traffic light sequencing and junction arrangements on Lavitt's Quay, particularly at the junction outside Cork Opera House and the removal of the right-turn movement onto Christy Ring Bridge were implemented as part of the MacCurtain Street Public Transport Improvement scheme under CMATS.

While these changes have altered historic traffic movements along the quays, they form part of the wider city centre traffic management strategy aimed at improving movement and promoting sustainable transport.

A broader review of city centre traffic operations will be undertaken as part of the BusConnects project design which is expected to require additional adjustments to prioritise and promote public transport in the city centre.

Cork City Council's Mobility Management Centre actively monitors and reviews junction performance across the network to identify incidents or operational issues requiring attention. This work is undertaken in the context of a constrained and frequently saturated road network.

John Stapleton,
Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.5 **TRAFFIC MOVEMENT – DOUGLAS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to note that the traffic movement management system for the Douglas area is at a knife edge and that emergency measures are required across all stakeholders that should be co-ordinated by Cork City Council in the area of school transport for all, road reallocation for public transport, an emergency provision of park

and ride at the outskirts between Douglas and Carrigaline in conjunction with the County and the NTA office and to seek investment in a new system for traffic light management with daylighting at corners in Douglas Village to allow enhanced pedestrian safety.

REPLY

Cork City Council's Traffic Division acknowledges the significant traffic pressures currently being experienced in the Douglas area and notes the concerns raised regarding congestion, public transport provision, school travel, pedestrian safety and traffic management.

The current temporary closure of the Ballinrea Road as part of the ongoing M28 works is placing additional pressure on the road network and contributing to increased traffic volumes and journey times in Douglas and the surrounding areas. Currently, this closure is causing a lot of traffic to funnel through various parts of Douglas village. The M28 works will require the implementation of several phases of traffic management to facilitate construction. It is anticipated, however, that traffic flow will improve once the temporary works on Ballinrea Road have been completed and the road has reopened.

It is acknowledged that traffic congestion in Douglas has been a longstanding issue that predates the transfer of the area to Cork City Council's administrative area in 2019. Since then, and indeed prior to the transfer, a number of studies and initiatives have been undertaken to optimise traffic movement and improve traffic management within the area.

Since assuming responsibility for the area, Cork City Council has reviewed and optimised the operation of signalised junctions across the network, and traffic signal phasing continues to be monitored to ensure movement is optimised to the greatest possible extent.

Real time monitoring of the area is undertaken to ensure any incidents on the network are actioned. Unfortunately, the seasonal traffic volumes, the current M28 works and the increased users on the network has saturated the current network. There are limited options for further traffic signal optimisation for the area.

It is essential the bus service improvements are promoted in the area to ensure that there is viable alternatives for commuters to travel to work and school.

In the longer term, the delivery of BusConnects Cork, together with ongoing investment in active travel and safe routes to school infrastructure, is expected to play a significant role in improving public transport accessibility, network efficiency and road safety in the Douglas area over the coming years. However, it is believed that increased bus services at peak times with targeted interventions in the area prior to BusConnects is essential towards alleviating the congestion in the medium term.

John Stapleton,
Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.6 **CAR PARKS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive how Cork City Council can incentivise surface car parks throughout Cork, particularly at our shopping centres and retail parks, to follow the example of Cork Airport's solar carport and the Marina Promenade's grasscrete car-parking spaces, and to outline how it will engage them to transform their car parks into green, solar, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)?

REPLY

As such surface car parks are predominantly privately owned and operated the Council has no direct control of these facilities or cannot specifically incentivise their upgrade given the likely significant costs involved. The Council can and does support and encourage private owners through the planning process to consider the use of appropriate, more environmentally sensitive paving, the installation of solar arrays, such as at Cork airport, and use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to comply with wider climate change and environmental policies within the City Development Plan. The City Council will continue to support and encourage such endeavours into the future.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Planning & Integrated Development Directorate.

6.7 **KNOCKFREE/KNOCKPOGUE ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME**

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

To ask the Chief Executive Officer if Cork City Council has obtained legal advice as to whether the approved Knockfree/Knockpogue Active Travel Scheme can be modified at detailed-design /construction stage, to retain the existing mature trees on Knockfree Avenue, and if so what extent of **modifications** can lawfully be made without recommencing the Part 8 process.

REPLY

As Members are aware, the construction of the Knockpogue/ Knockfree Ave Active Travel Improvement Scheme commenced earlier this year. With circa 60 % of the works now complete, the project is at an advanced stage of delivery. The scheme is funded by way of a grant from the National Transport Authority under the Active Travel Programme. The scheme represents an investment of €7m and is the first significant transport and public realm improvement scheme in the North West Ward for many years. The scheme is delivering safe transport facilities for all modes along with a full renovation of the public realm and the utility services (watermains, surface drainage, public lighting).

The scheme was approved by Council in accordance with the statutory provisions set out in the Part 8 Planning process. Extensive public consultation was undertaken in relation to the scheme proposals. The issues raised in the consultation process were fully considered resulting in a number of amendments which were supported by the Local Area Committee and approved by Council in April 2023.

In relation to the legal position, it is to be noted that full details of the statutory consent process as well as its scope, attendant procedures and the Council's decision-making authority are set out in sections Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Article 80-85 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In the delivery of approved schemes non-material changes can be made at detailed design or delivery stages and these are assessed having regard to the particular circumstances of project and nature and scope of the changes arising. It is to be noted that the Part 8 process does not provide for material amendments or repeated consultations after Council has deliberated and determined the matter. The works at Knockpogue/ Koockfree Ave are the subject of a legal contract for the delivery of the specific improvements which were approved in the Part 8 process and these improvements are, in turn, the basis upon which grant funding is being provided under the NTA Active Travel Programme.

In relation to trees, the scheme as originally published envisaged the removal /replacement of 10 trees. This number was increased to 22 in response to requests regarding on street parking received during the Part 8 public consultation process.

The removal and replacement of trees has, similarly, been necessary on most other infrastructure improvement schemes (eg Marina Promenade, Mahon Renewal Scheme, Marina Park Phases 1 & 2, Ballyvolane Road Improvement Scheme, Grange to Tramore Valley Park Active Travel Route etc). In all such schemes tree removal was followed by a comprehensive planting programme focusing on native species at suitable locations and completed schemes have significantly more trees and planting than existed beforehand.

It will be recalled that the issue of tree removal /replacement received extensive consideration in the Part 8 deliberations and that it was not possible to have a configuration at Knockfree Ave such that the 22 trees could be retained along with the required transport improvements and the requested on street parking.

Local Area Members and staff have engaged and continue to engage with various stakeholders and they have responded to any issues arising. The more recent queries have again focused on trees and a suggestion that the walking/cycling infrastructure on Knockfree Ave could be or could have been organised on a shared space basis with a view to avoiding the need for tree removal /replacement. While this suggested approach would have increased the space available for the improvement scheme, related tree removal and/or a reduction in road parking provision would still be necessary and the corresponding details have not been provided for feasibility assessment. Updates on the scheme are provided as part of the normal reporting arrangements and a meeting of the Local Area Committee has been scheduled in anticipation of same for later this month.

In the meantime, good progress is being made in the execution of the works and the focus of current construction activity is on the necessary renewal of underground services on Knockfree Ave (incl watermains, drains and electrical services) as well as the completion of footpath and carriageway improvements on Knockpogue Ave and progression of the removal of roundabouts in favour of signalised junctions along the scheme corridor.

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

6.8 **RESURFACING WORKS – N22**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to set out the details of upcoming resurfacing works to be undertaken on the N22 (Straight Road); including the details of required road closures, and the anticipated duration of works.

REPLY

In 2026, Transport Infrastructure Ireland allocated funding to Cork City Council to carry out resurfacing works on specific areas of the national road network in Cork City. This includes resurfacing works on the N27 (Penrose Quay to Ballintemple) and the N22 Carrigrohane (Grassland Agro to Leemount Terrace). Following a procurement process, Cork City Council appointed a contractor to carry out the resurfacing works at both locations as part of a single works contract. Resurfacing works commenced on the N27 on/around 01 September 2026 (including night works) and these works are ongoing at present. The N22 works are expected to commence in late September 2026 and last for approximately 4-6 weeks subject to agreement of traffic management plans including night works. Further updates can be provided to elected members as the works progress.

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

6.9 **COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION OFFICER**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm that the position of Community Climate Action Officer is fully-funded by central government; that the position is accompanied by additional funding to Cork City Council from central government relating to the post beyond the position's immediate salary; that Cork City Council is required to have a person in this position to access certain funding opportunities for the city from central government; and that the Chief Executive has identified a person who is confirmed

will be in this position and satisfies central government's criteria for the role after November 2026?

REPLY

The post of Community Climate Action Officer is fully funded by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.

A condition of the Community Climate Action funding received from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment is that the Council assigns a staff resource to undertake the functions of this role, which include financial management of the € 967,000 in Round 2 funding, support of the 29 communities who have been awarded funding and promotion of local community led initiatives across the City.

The Council intends to continue to assign a staff resource to the role until December 2027, which is the close out date for the second round of the Community Climate Action Programme Funding. At present, there is no confirmation from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment regarding a third round of the Community Climate Action Programme. Current indications are that any decision on future funding beyond the current programme is unlikely to be known until mid-2027. Consequently, Cork City Council will continue to engage with the Department and monitor developments in relation to future funding opportunities as they arise.

David Joyce,
Director of Emergency Management & Climate Action.

Mike Larkin,
Director of Human Resources.

6.10 **HOUSING CIRCULAR 07/2026**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm that the practical effect of the introduction of Housing Circular 07/2026 by Minister James Browne and the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage is to discontinue Department funding to Cork City Council for the purchase of eligible applicants' private dwellings under the Rightsizing Scheme resulting in previously eligible applicants aged 60 years and over who own their own private dwelling being excluded from the Rightsizing Scheme and that consequently no more properties will now be acquired by Cork City Council under the Scheme.

REPLY

The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage notified Local Authorities of the revised arrangements for the Social Housing Second-Hand Acquisitions Programme in February 2026. The circular does not explicitly state that the scheme is being discontinued as no national policy on Financial Contribution Downsizing Schemes currently exists; rather, it significantly narrows the scope of the programme

and limits acquisitions to specific priority categories, while emphasising a move away from reliance on acquisitions and towards new-build social housing delivery.

Currently, there are 63 applicants on the Financial Contribution Scheme list who have expressed a preliminary interest in selling their homes to the City Council in order to secure age-friendly housing. Not all applications necessarily result in the acquisition of private homes and rightsizing thereafter.

A National Policy on Rightsizing is being drafted to respond to Chapter 5 of the government's Delivering Homes, Building Communities Plan wherein the Government indicates how it will further support older households who choose to voluntarily rightsize through:

- Advance consideration of the availability of bridging finance to support rightsizing;
- A review of the operation of existing local authority financial contribution schemes;
- Supporting existing social housing tenants who wish to rightsize to accommodation more suited to their needs.

Martina Broderick,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.11 **HORGAN'S BUILDINGS – VACANT UNITS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to detail in tabular form how long each vacant unit in Horgan's Buildings has been vacant.

REPLY

Below in tabular form is detailed the number of properties vacant in Horgans Buildings with the time for which they have been vacant:

Vacant 0-6 Months	Vacant 6-12 Months	Vacant 12-18 Months	Vacant 18-24 Months	Vacant > 24 Months
3	6	1	4	2

Martina Broderick,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.12 **PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO TRAMORE VALLEY PARK**

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

Can the Chief Executive confirm whether contributions arising from the proposed development at Creamfields, Tramore Road will be ring-fenced specifically for improving pedestrian access to the Tramore Valley Park.

REPLY

In 2022, An Bord Pleanála (now An Coimisiún Pleanála) granted permission (Ref ABP-312866-22) for the *demolition of existing structures, construction of 609 no. residential units including 257 no. Build to Rent apartments, creche and associated site works*. As this was a Strategic Housing Development application it was made directly to and determined by An Bord Pleanála.

Condition No. 30 of the permission granted by An Bord Pleanála required the payment of "a financial contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the planning authority in accordance with the Development Contributions Scheme made under section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended".

No special development contribution condition was applied to the permission.

As the monies levied under Condition 30 were in respect of the General Development Contributions Scheme this money will contribute to a city-wide fund for capital projects ongoing across the city in accordance with the adopted Development Contribution Scheme 2022-2029. No general contributions from individual developments are ringfenced for any specific project.

In the context of improving pedestrian access to Tramore Valley Park the Infrastructure Directorate is currently preparing a brief with a view to the selecting a consultant to prepare a feasibility and options study along with necessary surveys on the establishment of a pedestrian/cycle connection between the Kinsale Road and Tramore Valley Park. It is anticipated that funding will be provided in support of same in the next round of the NTA active travel grant allocations and that the design consultant will be appointed in the first half of the new year.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Planning & Integrated Development Directorate.

Gerry O'Beirne
Director of Services,
Infrastructure Development.

6.13 **FREEDOM OF CITY REVOKED**

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

At the 11th May council meeting I had a motion passed by 19 to 9 votes calling for the Freedom of the City awarded to former US Senator George Mictchell in 1998 to be

revoked. Since then, despite this being clearly mandated by the elected councillors there has been no update on this and the emails I've sent have been ignored.

It is unacceptable that the Freedom of the City, the highest award this city can give is still awarded to a man who lied about his continuing friendship with Jeffrey Epstein after his conviction, was accused of raping Virginia Giuffre and whose name appears in the Epstein files more than 300 times. When is this going to be acted on and his Freedom of the City revoked?

REPLY

The Freedom of Cork was conferred upon former Senator George Mitchell in 1998, at the request of the then Lord Mayor, to recognise his role in the Northern Ireland peace process. The procedure for awarding the Freedom of the City is a reserved function of Council, directed through Party Whips. The decision requires at least 3/4s of the full membership of Council to proceed.

The current legislation makes no reference to the reversal of a resolution to bestow the freedom of an administrative area and therefore the normal statutory powers of the Local Authority will need to be invoked. However, Cork City Council has no established policy for revoking the Freedom of the City.

The Executive is currently considering the legislative framework and the approach of other Local Authorities and will bring a report to Party Whips for consideration.

Rebecca Loughry
Director of Services,
Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs.

6.14 **LEHENAGHMORE ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME — CITY GATEWAY ROUNDABOUT AT BARRETT'S CROSS**

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

The Part 8 scheme for the Lehenaghmore Road Improvement Scheme, approved by Cork City Council on 8 February 2021, included a new "City Gateway" Roundabout with controlled crossing facilities at Barrett's Cross.

That approved roundabout has now been removed and is being replaced with a T-junction / priority junction. This is a material alteration to the Part 8 scheme.

Will the Chief Executive please make a full statement answering the following:

- How and when was the decision made to remove the approved City Gateway Roundabout and replace it with a T-junction, and who authorised that change?
- Why was this change not the subject of public consultation and why was it not brought back to the elected members of Cork City Council for consent?
- What safety audits, traffic assessments and design reports justified abandoning the approved roundabout layout?

REPLY

By way of background, Lehenaghmore was transferred into the City Council's functional area under the Boundary Extension Process. Shortly thereafter, in 2020, the long standing deficiencies in the local road network were identified by Council as an area for prioritisation. In the following period, officials and elected members sought to secure the necessary grant funding for the execution of a significant road improvement scheme. They also sought to advance design solutions, secure the necessary statutory approvals and complete the extensive land acquisition required for the works. The improvement proposals were positively received and construction work commenced in August 2025.

The improvement works, including the updated arrangement at the L2454/ L2455 junction, were approved by Council in accordance with the provisions of the Part 8 Planning process. In this regard, Members will recall that the roundabout design/format originally proposed for the junction was raised in the public consultation process. In the post consultation LAC briefings and in the subsequent report/recommendation to Council, it was agreed that the proposed junction design would be treated as an interim solution pending further development of lands adjacent to this location. The approved report /recommendation also included an undertaking that that the scheme accommodation works would include for the construction of a signalised junction when the adjoining lands were developed. It was further confirmed that the proposed road layout including the provision of pedestrian crossings and road widths would be reviewed as part of the detailed design process aimed at improving safe transit throughout the scheme.

While the timeline for the development of the adjacent lands was not known at that stage, the development of these lands subsequently commenced and was progressed ahead of the road improvement scheme. Additional adjacent development is now underway and further lands may also be developed in the area pursuant to the recently approved variation to the Development Plan. The junction configuration has been established with due regard to the aforementioned development of the area in accordance with the scheme approval. It represents a more appropriate junction format given the growth in transport demand arising with the development of the area and its design has had has regard to the existing services, local ground levels, access requirements and the boundaries as set out in the Part 8 process.

As with the other elements of the scheme, this junction has been designed in compliance with applicable engineering standards. The works have been the subject of independent road safety audits as per the further commitments provided in the Part 8 process and the final audit will be submitted following completion of the scheme. The scheme is due for completion in the coming months and Members will be kept appraised of ongoing progress in the interim period.

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

6.15 **MARY HARRIS/MOTHER JONES STATUE**

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

Can the CE follow up on a previous motion and engage with the 'Spirit of Mother Jones Festival Committee' on a suitable location in the Shandon area for a Mary Harris/Mother Jones statue.

REPLY

Subject to identification by Operations Directorate of a suitable location, the Arts Office will engage with the Spirit of Mother Jones Festival Committee to review the proposed sculpture under the procedure for donations and gifts detailed in the forthcoming Public Art Policy and Procedures, which is currently moving through committee stages before coming to the Council for adoption.

Installation of a sculpture in the public realm will incur a cost, dependent on the nature and scale of the sculpture, and funding for this will need to be identified outside of existing budgets.

Rebecca Loughry,
Director of Services,
Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs.

6.16 **CRITERIA FOR ROAD WORKS/OPENINGS**

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 criteria that are in place that allow road works/openings by agencies such as Uisce Éireann, that allows for such work to occur throughout night time hours, and where such work has occurred without specified permission, what action can be taken by this Council?

REPLY

Road works and road openings undertaken by utility providers, including Uisce Éireann, are managed through a permitting/licencing process operated by Cork City Council. In locations where significant traffic volumes and congestion occur during normal daytime hours, works may be permitted to take place during night-time periods.

On heavily trafficked routes, undertaking works during daytime periods can result in increased interaction between construction activities, motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, thereby increasing risk. Night-time working can significantly reduce these interactions and provide a safer working environment while maintaining access on the road network and minimising disruption for road users.

When assessing applications for such works, Cork City Council considers the nature and urgency of the works, the classification and strategic importance of the road, traffic volumes, potential impacts on transport movements, pedestrian accessibility, and the proposed traffic management arrangements.

Where works are undertaken without the required permission, or where a contractor fails to comply with the conditions or permitted hours set out in an approved licence, Cork City Council investigates the matter and engages directly with the utility provider, contractor and/or client responsible for the works.

John Stapleton,
Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.17 **REMOVAL OF TREES – KNOCKFREE AVENUE**

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

Is the removal of mature trees on Knockfree Avenue necessary to achieve the climate, active travel and road safety objectives of the project, having regard to reasonable available alternative designs?

REPLY

The construction of the Knockpogue/ Knockfree Ave Active Travel Improvement Scheme commenced earlier this year and is now at an advanced stage of delivery. The scheme is funded by way of grant from the National Transport Authority under the Active Travel Programme. The scheme represents an investment of €7m and is delivering safe transport facilities for all modes along with a full renovation of the public realm and the utility services (watermains, surface drainage, public lighting).

In order to achieve the required standards for road infrastructure, the approved scheme necessitates the removal of a number of trees at Knockfree Ave. The removal of trees was similarly necessary on the other infrastructure improvement schemes (eg Marina Promenade, Mahon Renewal Scheme, Marina Park Phases 1 & 2, Ballyvolane Road Improvement Scheme, Grange to Tramore Valley Park etc). In all such cases, tree removal was followed by a comprehensive planting programme focusing on native species at suitable locations and completed schemes have significantly more trees and planting than existed hitherto.

The scheme as originally published for Knockpogue/Knockfree envisaged the removal /replacement of 10 trees. This was necessary to achieve the proposed new road layouts. This number was increased to 22 by way of amendment in response to submissions received regarding on street parking in the Part 8 public consultation process.

It will be recalled that the issue of tree removal /replacement received extensive consideration in the Part 8 deliberations and it was acknowledged that there was <u>not</u> sufficient space available to have a configuration at Knockfree Ave such that the 22

trees could be retained along with the required transport improvements and the parking requested.

Local Area Members and staff have engaged and continue to engage with various stakeholders and they have responded to any issues arising. The more recent queries have again focused on a trees and a suggestion that the walking/cycling infrastructure on Knockfree Ave could be or could have been organised on a shared space basis with a view to avoiding the need for tree removal /replacement. While more extensive use of shared active travel facilities could have increased the works space available at some locations and thereby created additional flexibility, it would not have avoided the need for related tree removal and/or a reduction in on road parking provision. This is because the suggested arrangement could not be accommodated within the available space and, as proposed, would have resulted in facilities that would be wholly deficient by reference to the current engineering standards for road infrastructure to which the Council is obliged to adhere.

Updates on the scheme are provided as part of the normal reporting arrangements and the next meeting of the Local Area Committee has been scheduled for later this month in anticipation of same and related discussions.

In the meantime, good progress is being made in the delivery of the scheme and the focus of the current construction works is on the necessary renewal of underground services on Knockfree Ave (incl watermains, surface drains and electrical services) as well as the completion of footpath and carriageway improvements on Knockpogue Ave and progression of the removal of roundabouts in favour of signalised junctions along the scheme corridor.

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

6.18 **NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to outline Cork City Council's plans to advance the Night-Time Economy Advisor role and the night-time economy to the end of 2026 and into Q1 2027, including under which Directorate this work will be led and whether the Council will continue to avail of central government funding opportunities to support the implementation of the Night-Time Economy Action Plan as approved by this Council?

REPLY

The Department of Culture, Communications and Sport have advised that the Night-time Economy (NTE) pilot project will end in 2027 and that they do not have any sanction for posts beyond June 2027. The funding package for 2027 will be submitted as part of the national budgetary process this year.

In the meantime, Cork City Council remains committed to the promotion of the NTE and, by extension, the NTE pilot. Subject to funding the pilot programme will continue to be delivered by City Centre and Tourism team within the City Centre Development and Operations Directorate until it concludes in June 2027. Additionally, the Council will continue to avail of central government funding where offered.

Cormac Ó Súilleabháin,
Director of Services,
City Centre Development & Operations.

6.19 **SOCIAL HOMES – CHURCHFIELD AREA**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the number of social homes in the Churchfield area, the number planned for retrofitting, if there is a discrepancy in these numbers to outline why and the timeline for full completion of retrofitting works in the area.

REPLY

The National Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme commenced in 2021 and targeted the retrofitting of 36,500 local authority homes across the country by 2030. Through this programme, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has funded more than 11,000 local authority retrofits to BER B2 level or cost optimal equivalent between 2021 and 2025, including the installation of some 9,300 heat pumps. This built on the 73,500 or so local authority shallow retrofits supported by the Department between 2013 and 2020.

There are 204 social homes in Churchfield, 201 of which are Council owned and 3 are long term leased properties. 55 homes in Churchfield have been retrofitted under the EERP programme to 2026. 48 homes in Churchfield are expected to be completed in 2026.

While over half the homes in Churchfield have already been retrofitted under this programme, Cork City Council continues to seek additional funding from the Department so that it can accelerate its delivery. The additional funding would help to ensure that all of Cork City Council's social housing stock achieves an energy rating of 125kwhr/m2/yr or better as soon as possible. Timelines and extents for further works are dependent on funding becoming available year to year.

Martina Broderick,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.20 **UNITARIAN CHURCH, PRINCES STREET**

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

To ask for an update on the dereliction and follow up on the historical Unitarian Church on Princes Street?

REPLY

The Unitarian Church on Princes Street, Cork is in the private ownership of the Unitarian Order. Engagement is ongoing with Directorates of Cork City Council and the Dublin & Munster synods of the Unitarian Order who have advised Cork City Council that it plans to refurbish the property for the benefit of their community. The City Council recognises the historical and architectural value of the Unitarian Church and will continue to engage with and provide the necessary advice and encouragement to the Unitarian Order to secure the future of this important building.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Planning & Integrated Development Directorate.

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT CITY NORTHWEST QUARTER REGENERATION, PHASE 3C**

In accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed development at City Northwest Quarter Regeneration, Phase 3C in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive thereon as required under Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, dated 15th July 2026.

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

"Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development at City Northwest Quarter Regeneration, Phase 3C, in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive, Cork City Council thereon, it is hereby resolved pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that the development at City Northwest Quarter Regeneration, Phase 3C, in the City of Cork be carried out as recommended in the said report of the Chief Executive, Cork City Council, which was put before Council on the 14th September 2026."

7.2 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Chief Executive, dated 3rd September 2026 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of the freehold interest in property known as 115 Gardiners Hill, Cork to Luciana Altoni & Ehud Elkabets c/o FitzGerald Law LLP, 6 Lapp's Quay, Cork, for the sum of €170,000.00.

   On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

2. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of ground (100m2 approximately) situated at the rear and south of the property known as 18 Argideen Lawn, Togher, Cork to Noreen O'Connell c/o Irwin, Kilcullen & Co. Solicitors, 56 Grand Parade, Cork for the sum of €250.00.

   On the proposal of Comhairleoir F. Dennehy, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

3. Disposal of No. 41 Hollymount, Hollyhill, Cork to Jim & Angela Kenny, c/o Edward O'Mahony & Co. Solicitors, Village Green House, Douglas West, Douglas, Cork, in exchange for the property owned by the said Jim & Angela Kenny at No. 49 Killala Gardens, Knocknaheeny, Cork.

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

7.3 **HOUSING ALLOCATIONS REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Cork City Council Social Housing Allocation Report for 2025.

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 7th SEPTEMBER 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 7th September 2026.

8.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31st JULY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 31/07/2026.

8.2 **MOTIONS**

8.2.1 **DELL PRODUCTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Head Of ICT, dated 28th July 2026 on the following motion:-

'Can Cork City Council report if it is using Dell products? Dell is on the Boycott, Disinvestment, Sanctions (BDS) list regarding Israel, Cork City Council has previously passed motions endorsing BDS.'

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Kerins 26/400)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council uses Dell, Intel, Microsoft, HP, Cisco and many other enterprise level products across a large ICT landscape which is comprised of 2400 user devices across 51 locations. These include laptops, mobile devices, drones, servers, routers, cameras, sensors etc.

These products and services have been purchased over many years, and most have a 4–7-year replacement cycle. They are embedded in our digital service offerings. They are replaced over time in line with best practice which considers procurement obligations, security, reliability, and other factors.

Cork City Councils avails of the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) frameworks which identify several preferred suppliers which have successfully met the requirements of a public tendering process governing by the OGP.

It also uses e-tenders and other government mandated portals in accordance with Irish and EU procurement legislation. These legally compliant procurement frameworks are an essential part of the transparent procurement cycles. These competitions are open to all suppliers and under procurement rules we cannot be biased for or against a specific technology or vendor, provided they meet the required specification.

Any attempt to deviate from these prescribed procurement practices may expose the City Council to accusations of malpractice and potentially incur significant costs.

8.3 **BANK OVERDRAFT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2027**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer, dated 4th September 2026.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, 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 2027."

9. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 14th JULY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 14th July 2026.

10. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 7th SEPTEMBER 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 7th September 2026.

10.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

10.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF JULY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Financial Statements to the end of July 2026.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

12. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the AILG Training Module 1, Disabled people and ageing population, held at Hotel Kilkenny, 21st February 2026.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the AILG Annual Training Seminar 2026, held at Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal, 25th - 26th February 2026.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the AILG Annual Training Conference 2026, held at Hotel Minella, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, 22nd - 23rd April 2026.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the AILG Training Module 3, Supporting Councillors, held at Whites of Wexford, Co. Wexford, 23rd May 2026.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the AILG Training Module 4, Planning, held at Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, 20th June 2026.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the McGill Summer School 2026, held at the Glenties Co. Donegal, 23rd - 25th July 2026.
- Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the WHO Healthy Cities AGM, held at Viana Do Castelo, Portugal and the SDG Conference, held at Porto, Portugal, 14th - 19th June 2026.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at Visit San Francisco, held at USA, 2nd - 8th March 2026.

13. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

An Chomhairle noted section 141 reports as follows:-

- Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald – Cork Healthy Cities – Q1 to Q2 2026.
- Comhairleoir D. Boyle – Southern Regional Assembly – Q4 2025 and Q1 to Q2 2026.
- Comhairleoir O. Moran – Cork ETB – Q1 to Q3 2026.
- Comhairleoir O. Moran – Local Drugs and Task Force – Q1 to Q3 2026.

14. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

15. **TRAINING**

None received.

16. **MOTIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoirí K. Collins and M. Gould to address An Chomhairle on the following motion, after which a discussion took place:-

'That Cork City Council notes that:

- The community on, and surrounding, Knockfree Avenue oppose the felling of trees for the delivery of an Active Travel Scheme
- Multiple motions and suspensions of Standing Orders have been proposed on this
- Ward Councillors have tried to engage constructively with the Executive
- The project, as proposed on Knockfree Avenue, remains highly contentious and subject to strong opposition

And recognises that:

- Residents, and Ward Councillors, have proposed a number of alternatives or compromises to allow the project to progress
- The Executive have engaged on these but with no successful outcome
- Communities deserve a voice at all stages of the planning and construction processes

And agrees that:

- The project as proposed on Knockfree Avenue cannot proceed until agreement is reached with local residents
- Compromise is the only way forward to ensure that the project goes ahead but the tree-lined avenue retains as many trees as possible and keep its character.'

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

KNOCKPOGUE AVENUE AND KNOCKFREE AVENUE

'That this Council is opposed to the plans to cut down 22 mature trees on Knockfree Avenue as part of the Knockpogue Avenue and Knockfree Avenue Active Travel Improvement Works.

The community have made it clear over the last 12 months with numerous well-attended protests and public meetings along with continuous engagement with the Council that they welcome the majority of the plan but they do not want the trees cut down.

The local residents organising the campaign have now presented a possible alternative, shared pathways along the section of the avenue where the 22 trees are located. This would allow the cycle lane to be put in without the trees needing to be cut down. They have been successfully used in other places, including locations where the available space is even narrower.

With an alternative option available there is now no excuse for the Council to continue with this unnecessary environmental destruction. The trees should be retained through the use of a shared pathway and the trees that are planned to replace them should still be planted to really benefit the local environment and biodiversity.'

(Proposers: Cllr. B. McCarthy, Cllr. J. Struthers 26/424)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

'Dear Lord Mayor.
I wish to inform you that it will be my intention to request a suspension of standing orders in order to discuss the situation at Knockfree Avenue and the proposed felling of 22 mature healthy trees. I am dismayed that over the past 8 months and particularly during the nesting season that no resolution to the proposed felling of the trees has been reached accepted or quite possibly even discussed with good intentions. I have a proposal that I wish to bring to Council this evening.

My proposal will require the agreement of..

1, the Elected Members
2, the Director (Infrastructure Development),
3, the Residents to whom I have already spoken to.

My proposal is one that makes sense, easy to implement and will save approximately 1.8 million euros from the cost of the overall scheme. It will also allow the works to

continue albeit with this little tweak. It will save the trees which will provide a shaded cool cycleway for cyclists during the summer months.

Furthermore my proposal is one that is steadfastly implemented in the Utrecht so therefore it has a proven track record when it comes to implementing sustainable travel solutions that yield results for all and most importantly Save the Trees.

My proposal is as follows.
That we the Elected members of Cork City Council discuss and seek to acquire approval by those mentioned above to agree/accept that Knockfree Avenue be designated as a No Through Road i.e. (become a Quiet Road) by installing build outs with bollards with an opening for cyclists to use. This will ensure that the cycleway is safe and continuous thus allowing connectivity and most importantly will ensure that the mature healthy trees remain in situ on Knockfree Avenue.'

The Chief Executive and the Director of Services responded to the three motions. On the recommendation of An tArdmhéara, it was agreed that the three motions be referred to the North West Local Area Committee for further consideration.

17. MOTIONS

17.1 LONG-TERM VACANT COUNCIL PROPERTIES

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Housing requesting additional ring-fenced funding to accelerate the refurbishment of long-term vacant Council properties in Cork City, with a view to eliminating vacancies of over 52 weeks within 24 months.'

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O'Flynn 26/360)

17.2 BAN ON SALE OF SCRAMBLERS

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council would write to the Minister for Transport and advocate our strong support for the complete ban on the sale of motorised scrambler bikes to the general public.

The recent introduction of "Graces Law" is proving to be a success with the enhancement of Garda powers but the introduction of a complete ban on the sale of these scramblers would certainly enhance further the effectiveness of this law as it would certainly limit the availability and easy access to these bikes.

Purchase of such a vehicle should be significantly restricted and only be permitted with a special permit issued only for use as a sporting scrambler bike for events such as motorcross and any other such racing events.'

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 26/407)

17.3 **BURIALS AT BESSBOROUGH**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That this Council writes to the Taoiseach, Tánaiste, Minister for Children and the Attorney General to demand that the Government acts without delay to

- Release the unpublished technical archaeological reports concerning burials at Bessborough
- Unseal all burial records held within the Commission of Investigation archive
- Direct the Attorney General to open an inquest as a matter of moral urgency.'

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 26/412)

17.4 **PROPOSED INCREASES IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That this Council calls on the Minister for Transport to reverse proposed increases in public transport fares, whose effect will be to undermine positive changes in public transport in recent years that has seen increased uptake in its use, helping in necessary movement away from car dependency, and assisting in progress of agreed strategies such as the Cork Metropolitan Area Transportation Strategy.'

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 26/447)

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH