

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8th DECEMBER 2025

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir F. Dennehy.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Tynan, O. Moran, N. O'Flynn.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, 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 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. Murtagh, A/Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations. Mr. N. Ó Donnabháin, Director of Services, Planning & Integrated Development. Mr. N. Carroll, A/Director of Services, Housing. Mr. G. O'Beirne, Director of Services, Infrastructure Development. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Emergency Management and Climate Action. 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 O'Farrell family on the death of Tony O'Farrell.
- The Ahern family on the death of Muireann Ahern.
- The Brett family on the death of Nuala Brett.
- The Britton family on the death of Maura Britton.
- The O'Mahony family on the death of Margaret O'Mahony.

- The Sydenham family on the death of Elizabeth Sydenham.
- The Connolly family on the death of John Connolly.
- The Burkley family on the death of Joseph Burkley.
- The Gallagher family on the death of Stella Gallagher.
- The Higgins family on the death of Marie Higgins.
- The Foley family on the death of Noreen Foley.
- The McKeown family on the death of Gordon McKeown.
- The McCarthy family on the death of Margaret McCarthy.
- The Murray family on the death of Dave Murray.
- The Morrissey family on the death of Angela Morrissey.
- The Murphy family on the death of Jeremiah (Dermot) Murphy.
- The Sheehan family on the death of Pdraig Sheehan.
- The Sheehan family on the death of Kieran Sheehan.
- The O'Callaghan family on the death of Statia O'Callaghan.
- The Leahy family on the death of Mary Leahy.
- The O'Brien family on the death of Liz O'Brien.
- The Casey family on the death of Betty Casey.
- The Drumm family on the death of Vincent Drumm.
- The Kelliher family on the death of Gerry Kelliher.
- The Barrett family on the death of Charlie Barrett.
- The Hogan family on the death of Pat Hogan.
- The Coughlan family on the death of Tom Coughlan.

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

- Ballincollig Camogie Club on winning the 2025 Premier Intermediate County Championship and Munster Intermediate Championship.
- Ballincollig GAA on reaching the final of the Premier Intermediate Hurling County Championship.
- Ballincollig Tidy Towns on winning a gold medal at the 2025 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition.
- Ballincollig GAA on winning the 2025 Premier 1 Minor Football Championship.
- Michael Moriarty (The Baldy Barber) on his retirement following his family's 87 years trading in Cork City.
- Anthony O'Sullivan on his retirement following 34 years trading in Ballincollig.
- Theresa Lucey on the occasion of her 100th birthday.
- Bridie O'Connell on 35 years of hosting coffee mornings for Marymount Hospice.
- 17th/51st Blackrock Scout Group on their fundraiser for Gaza and UNICEF.
- Friends of Ballintemple on their fundraiser for Lavanagh Centre and Rainbow Club.
- Douglas Tractor Run on their Christmas Tractor Run in aid of Cork City Missing Persons Search and Recovery.
- Cork City Partnership on their conference held in the River Lee Hotel - Changing Landscapes: Immigration, Integration and Resources.
- Lottie O'Driscoll Murray on representing Ireland in the Junior Eurovision.

- Gaelcholáiste Mhuire AG on winning the Dr. O’Callaghan Cup.

3. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**

3.1 **MS IRELAND CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

An tArdmhéara thanked members present wearing Christmas attire at the Council Meeting in aid of MS Ireland.

3.2 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR PATRICK HORGAN**

An tArdmhéara reminded members that a Civic Reception would be held Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 6pm for Patrick Horgan.

3.3 **AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVE AWARD**

An tArdmhéara noted the recent success of Cork City Council at its winning of the Age Friendly Initiative Award at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards and congratulated all staff involved.

3.4 **CORKMAS PARADE**

An tArdmhéara noted the success of the Corkmas Parade and thanked all the staff involved and members of the public that attended.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S ITEMS**

4.1 **LORD MAYOR’S GALA CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

The Chief Executive noted the success of the Lord Mayor’s Gala Christmas Concert which took place on Saturday 6th December 2025. A fantastic night was had by all.

4.2 **BISHOP LUCEY PARK**

The Chief Executive spoke of Cork City Council’s pride following the recent reopening of Bishop Lucey Park after its redevelopment, and thanked all involved.

4.3 **REFLECTION ON 2025**

The Chief Executive praised the collaborative spirit between elected members and the executive during 2025, and wished members a happy and peaceful Christmas.

5. **MINUTES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the minutes of:-

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 10th November 2025.

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

- Budget Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 12th December 2025.

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **ARTS OFFICE – FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the number of applications for funding received by the arts office under the heading of Comedy for 2023, 2024 and 2025 year to date and if she will make measures available to ensure that Comedy is recognised as a legitimate art form for the purposes of grants administered by this local authority arts committees into the future despite the Phraseology contained in the Arts Act 2003.

REPLY

No applications for funding were received by the arts office under the explicit heading of Comedy in 2023, 2024 or 2025.

One Bursary application by an artist identifying as a comedian was received in 2025, this was labelled by the applicant under the artform headings of: Film & Video; Other; Traditional Arts; and Multidisciplinary.

Comedic artworks under the heading of other artforms such as theatre have been applied for and funded in that period, such as the comedy play, *Taboo* by Dylan Kennedy, which was funded in 2023 under the Arts Project Scheme.

The Everyman Theatre and Cork Opera House are funded by Cork City Council annually and both offer a considerable programme of comedy as an intrinsic part of their public offer.

We are guided by the Arts Act (2003) in terms of the definition of arts, which is broad in definition:

“arts” means any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and includes, in particular, visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture, and includes any medium when used for those purposes;

When making an application for Cork City Arts Funding, applicants are invited to select all that apply from the following list:

- a) Architecture
- b) Arts and disability
- c) Circus
- d) Community arts

- e) Dance
- f) Digital arts
- g) Festival
- h) Film and video
- i) Literature
- j) Multidisciplinary
- k) Music
- l) Opera
- m) Theatre
- n) Traditional arts
- o) Visual arts
- p) Youth arts
- q) Other

So long as the application meets the criteria of the awards and the project / organisation is a not-for-profit, all applications are assessed. Comedy as a distinct label can currently be included under 'Other', and we can include it explicitly in the list of art forms in future years.

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

6.2 **LANDS IN MAHON**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to address whether Cork City Council is, or has recently been, in the process of selling land it owns in Mahon, and to address whether any such sale of land may prioritise the local people of Mahon?

REPLY

Cork City Council is not currently engaged in the sale of land in the city suburb of Mahon.

As part of the governance process involved in the sale of any City Council owned land, a recommendation may, following consultation with all internal Directorates, be progressed by the Director of Services, Planning and Integrated Development Directorate, to the City Council Strategic Property Group, chaired by the Assistant Chief Executive for consideration for sale on the Open Market. Should it be agreed by the Executive to sell any land on the Open Market the normal statutory 183 Disposal process would be followed which involves and requires the approval of Council.

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

6.3 **EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION RULES**

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

I write to ask the CEO if there is a pathway for families and or individuals who avail of emergency accommodation to take some approved time out for short periods of time from their emergency accommodation to attend family events, visit family (ie. Christmas etc.) if in another jurisdiction or any other event held by family members and friends.

REPLY

All residents in Emergency Accommodation are automatically permitted to 2 nights per month leave from their accommodation. They are required to notify the Accommodation Placement Office APS should they wish to avail of this provision. If residents require additional nights away from the emergency accommodation provided to them this is examined on a case-by-case basis. In relation to the 24th, 25th and 26th of December, the APS office has approved absences for this period should residents wish to stay elsewhere but they are still required to notify the APS office of such absences in advance.

Nicky Carroll,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.4 **LANDSCAPING POLICY**

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 current status of a Landscaping policy for this Council, and whether plans exist to review, update or put in place such a policy?

REPLY

As per Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 Objective 6.10, Cork City Council will undertake a City Landscape Strategy during the life of this Plan to ensure the management of development throughout the City and will have regard for the value of the landscape, its character, distinctiveness and sensitivity.

In consultation with Planning Policy, Parks & Recreation aim to commence preparing this Landscape Strategy in Q2 of 2026.

Noel Murtagh,
A/Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.5 **CNWQR REGENERATION PROJECT**

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

To ask the chief executive how much government funding was secured for 2025 for the CNWQR Regeneration Project under the construction programme including:

1. 1D East, 3A, 3C, 4F, 3B, 4A, 4C West highlighting new approvals, contract award and those going to tender.

and how much SEEP funding was received since its inception 2018 to date.

REPLY

Pre-tender Project Approvals have been received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for the following key construction programme projects as part of the City Northwest Quarter Regeneration (CNWQR).

Phase	Stage	No of homes	Project Cost
1D East	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 Pre-planning submitted to DHLGH.	17	To be confirmed
3A	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 Pre-planning planned Q1 2026.	15	To be confirmed
3B	Stage 4 Construction approved. Contract Awarded and started on site.	62	€33,169,694
3C	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 Pre-planning planned Q1 2026.	12	To be confirmed
4A	Stage 3 pre-tender approved. Planned Tender Q1 2026.	43	To be confirmed
4C West	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 Pre-planning planned Q2 2026.	20	To be confirmed
4F	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 Pre-planning planned Q1 2026.	22	To be confirmed
Total		191	

As the projects are at pre-tender stage, the financial cost of each project is not yet confirmed, but the total projected cost will be in the region of €90 million.

From 2018 to 2025 (inclusive) the CNWQR was granted €3,207,871 in SEEP funding from DHLGH to support the delivery and co-ordination of community initiatives.

Nicky Carroll,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.6 **EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION**

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

To ask the CE the number of adults, children and families who will face their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th etc Christmas in emergency accommodation in Cork city this Christmas and the total cost spent to date in 2025 on emergency accommodation?

REPLY

1. Please see below the data relating individuals and the period spent consecutively in Emergency Accommodation

Families

- 1st Christmas: 67
- 2nd Christmas: 21
- 3rd Christmas: 3
- 4 or more: 2

In relation to single households, please note as follows:

- 1st Christmas: 307
- 2nd Christmas: 131
- 3rd Christmas: 33
- 4 or more: 25

Please note the above figures are based on the most recent reported figures.

2. On the most recent published financial report the spend was reported at €21,020,740 on Emergency Accommodation.

Nicky Carroll,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.7 RIVER USE STUDY

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 for an update on the river-use study, including the proposed Cork Lido, specifically:

1. The status and expected timeline for issuing the brief and tender.
2. The planned stakeholder and public consultation process associated with the study.

REPLY

The brief has been developed and a specialist consultant team appointed to undertake a River Use Study for the River Lee.

The study area will extend from the City Centre to Tivoli and Blackrock Castle. It will include an assessment of swim access and the potential for a LIDO with cognisance of potential demand, local conditions (e.g. tide/flow, water quality), scale, accessibility and ancillary requirements.

The project will take approximately 6 months to complete with initial engagement with key stakeholders is planned before Christmas. The engagement plan will be undertaken with existing commercial and recreational river users (to include Cork LIDO Group, sailing/ rowing clubs, and Water Transport Providers) via 1 to1 engagement and workshops (online & in-person).

The final output will consolidate all findings, analyses, and stakeholder inputs into a comprehensive River Use Study Report, providing clear recommendations aligned with the Cork Docklands Framework Plan.

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

6.8 **REPLACEMENT OF “KISSING GATES”**

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 progress on the replacement of ‘kissing gates’ at the entrances to the Glen River Park (see report to motion 21/390); and if this is dependent upon progress of the Mayfield to Glen walking and cycling scheme?

REPLY

Parks & Recreation in conjunction with Infrastructure Development Directorate are reviewing the upgrading of these kissing gates as part of the Glen to Mayfield Walking and Cycling Route proposals.

Noel Murtagh,
A/Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.9 **LANDS AT LISHEENS**

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

To ask the CE why lands acquired by Cork City Council at Lisheens, Ovens via Compulsory Purchase Order in May 2024 - for the purposes of developing a new shared education campus to accommodate Le Chéile secondary school and Gaelscoil an Chaisleáin - remain in Council ownership; why the land has not yet been transferred to the Department of Education; what engagement there has been with the Department of Education to advance the design, planning and construction phases of the project; and when it is anticipated the school campus will be operational.

REPLY

The land, the subject of the query, remains in City Council ownership awaiting completion of the formal vesting process which will subsequently enable advancement of the formal disposal process to the Department of Education and Youth.

The design of the intended education campus and facilities thereon, rests solely with the Department of Education and Youth to advance. Cork City Council does not contribute to the design stage, beyond pre-planning consultation and ultimately performing its role as the planning authority.

The Department of Education and Youth would be the appropriate government department to contact to provide response to the details sought.

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

6.10 **PHASE 2C – NWQR**

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

To ask the CE the amount spent to date since re commencement of works on Phase 2C of the NWQR, the expected timeline for completion, whether any delays have occurred and if so what these are, the expected additional cost to Council from initial costing and whether any costs will be recouped from the initial contractor.

REPLY

The value of the works undertaken on site in 2025 is of the order of €3 million.

It is anticipated substantial completion of the works will be achieved in Q1 2026.

No significant delays have occurred. The Contractor confirms he intends to use the full 12 month target programme to ensure remediation and completion works are delivered to the highest standard. There is no additional cost to the Council.

Cork City Council concluded its contractual arrangement with the initial Contractor in 2024.

Nicky Carroll,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.11 **PLAYGROUNDS – FUNDING**

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 much funding each of the City Council Playgrounds have received over the past ten years to include the purpose of the funding (maintenance/upgrades) and to include the source of those funds.

REPLY

Playgrounds are funded through several finance streams.

- External Grants which include The Community Recognition Fund, The Department of Children, Disability and Equality grants and The Town and Village Renewal Scheme grants
- Parks Revenue Code – for repairs and maintenance of playgrounds
- Matching or specific project funding from Development Contributions

LOCATION	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total per Park
Ballycannon Park, Kerrypike										€299,923.97	€299,923.97
Blarney Children's Playground							€45,841.52			€17,352.84	€63,194.36
Grange MUGA									€85,450.45		€85,450.45
John O'Callaghan Park, Glanmire								€90,797.28			€90,797.28
Ballincollig by Lidt Innismore(2026 installation)										€149,958.92	€149,958.92
Ballincollig Regional Park							€26,579.15				€26,579.15
Bishopstown Park (Murphy's Farm)			€600,000.00				€26,579.15				€626,579.15
Clashduv Park		€9,017.57	€28,463.52			€16,957.52	€17,533.52				€71,972.13
Douglas Swimming Pool , Ballinlough								102302.94			€102,302.94
Gerry O'Sullivan Park		€19,143.91	€22,651.20	€19,363.33		€16,837.52				€12,221.00	€90,216.96
Glenamoy Park , Mayfield		€7,295.55	€35,389.07				€24,987.31				€67,671.93
Lough Mahon Park		€3,403.58				€16,888.52				€166,138.98	€186,431.08
Meelick Park , Ballyvolane		€5,584.20			€10,823.64	€16,885.52				€26,910.85	€60,204.21
Pophams Park		€1,191.75				€16,813.52	€21,273.90				€39,279.17
Railway Park, Grattan Hill										€29,880.17	€29,880.17
Shalom Park					€10,990.33						€10,990.33
St. Johns Well / Bridevalley Park , Fairhill			€7,400.00								€7,400.00
The Foyer , Assumption Road										€22,075.18	€22,075.18
The Lough , Togher					€24,588.00						€24,588.00
Tory Top Park								€55,386.64			€55,386.64
Marina Park										€489,694.00	€489,694.00
Lotabeg , Mayfield (2026 installation)										€149,947.81	€149,947.81
Ballinlough MUGA									€66,623.42		€66,623.42
Playground Repairs -old city	€18,202.72	€27,591.87	€6,177.24	€19,287.95	€13,447.54	€16,655.22	€21,160.49	€41,476.57	€57,986.21	€80,710.60	€302,696.41
playground Repairs - Douglas , Glanmire, Rochestown and Blarney				€3,112.37	€8,652.54	€24,867.28	€12,811.00	€19,600.05	€17,996.75	€22,628.53	€109,668.52
										Total Spend	€3,229,512.18

External Funding Sources

LOCATION	TVRS Projects	DCDE	Community Recognition Fund	
Blarney Children's Playground		€16,541.00		€16,541.00
Grange MUGA				
John O'Callaghan Park, Glanmire	€90,797.28			€90,797.28
Ballincollig by Lidl Innismore(2026 installation)			€83,740.00	€83,740.00
Gerry O'Sullivan Park		€12,221.00		€12,221.00
Lough Mahon Park			€70,000.00	€70,000.00
Meelick Park , Ballyvolane		€5,000.00	€25,000.00	€30,000.00
Pophams Park				
Railway Park, Grattan Hill		€14,741.79	€10,000.00	€24,741.79
Shalom Park		€5,000.00		€5,000.00
The Foyer , Assumption Road			€15,000.00	€15,000.00
The Lough , Togher		€5,000.00		€5,000.00
Tory Top Park		€16,793.00		€16,793.00
Marina Park				
Lotabeg , Mayfield (2026 installation)			€73,500.00	€73,500.00
Ballinlough MUGA				
		Total Grant Funding		€443,334.07

Noel Murtagh,
Acting Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.12 ALLOCATION SCHEME DOCUMENT

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

Referring to Allocation Scheme Document In Accordance with Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 198 of 2011) Point 3.3 wherein ‘*Cork City Council may from time to time, as it considers fit, reserve and designate for particular categories of households a particular number or proportion of dwellings becoming available for allocation and where a particular number or proportion of dwellings becoming available for allocation is set aside or designated for a particular category or categories of households, priority shall be accorded to households of that particular category in the allocation of those dwellings, etc*’ can the Chief Executive provide details of the breakdown, as of month ending 31st October, 2025, of the particular number or proportion of dwellings available for allocation that were reserved and/or designated for particular categories of households under CE order/orders, and detail what categories of households were included under each of such order/orders?

REPLY

There are currently a number of properties reserved as being suitable for Elderly Persons. The list of properties was prepared as part of a report of the Director of Services dated 28th October 2004 and was approved at the Ordinary Meeting of Cork City Council on 8th November 2004. The list includes developments such as Barretts Buildings, Suttons Buildings, Roches Buildings, Horgans Buildings, Maddens Buildings, O'Growney Crescent, Ryans Buildings and Kellehers Buildings. It also includes all units managed by SHARE. There are a number of other units across the city also reserved as part of this list. Details of properties are listed below.

Please note the current list is being reviewed and a revised listing will be presented for approval by Council in 2026.

Location	No. of Properties
Share Properties	All
Barretts Buildings	89
Bellevue Crescent	6
Boyces Street	29
Cassidy's Avenue	2
Church Avenue	3
Churchfield Avenue	11
Churchfield Hill	7
Clarkes Road	13
Closes Road	2
Coyle Square	1
Doyle Road	3
Easons Avenue	2
Evergreen Street	3
Fairfield Avenue	1
Fairfield Green	1
Fairfield Road	4
Fairhill	1
Farranferris Park	2
Friars Walk	2
Green Street	2
Griffin Court	1
Hillview Estate	3
Horgans Buildings	126
Ilen Court	5
Inniscarra Rod	3
Iona Green	4
Iona Place	4
Kellehers Buildings	50
Kerry Lawn	10
Kileenreendowney Avenue	1
Kileens Green	5
Knockpogue Park	5
Lios Ard	4

Loretto Park	1
Maddens Buildings	76
McDermot Place	8
McDonagh Road	4
Michael Fitzgerald Road	1
Middle Glanmire Road	1
Monalodge Court	4
Murphy's Gardens	16
Noonan Road	6
O'Growney Crescent	22
Old Youghal Road	3
Parklea Court	2
Parkowen	4
Plunkett Road	1
Post Office Avenue	1
Pouladuff Place	2
Rathmore Park	4
Rockwood Estate	1
Roches Buildings	128
Rock Steps	2
Ryans Buildings	16
Springfield Close	5
St. Ann's Mews	1
Suttons Buildings	46
The Dell	2
The Green	10
Upper Fairhill	13
Vicars Court	4
Willow Park	4

Nicky Carroll,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.13 **MOUNT ST JOSEPHS**

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

Can the Director of Services please give an update on the plans for the survey, inspections and maintenance work for Mount St Josephs and the timeframe for these to be carried out? This was agreed to at the October LAC as a result of a motion I submitted and it was also agreed that council officials would make themselves available to meet with a delegation of the residents.

However there has been no communication or updates since despite an email to the Director of Services on 19/11/25 and it being raised at November's LAC meeting of the North West ward. The residents are understandably very anxious for this process to begin as the weather continues to get worse.

REPLY

Cork City Council's Housing Directorate has committed to carrying out a stock condition survey at Mount St. Josephs.

Cork City Council staff will be making appointments with residents for the initial batch of surveys over the coming days. It is expected this initial batch of surveys will be carried out within the next fortnight.

In addition to addressing any issues that may be identified in the surveys, the Housing Directorate is also prioritising any outstanding job requests.

The Housing Directorate is presently liaising with the Parks and Environmental Management Sections to look at general upkeep issues highlighted in the vicinity of the houses in Mount St. Josephs.

Nicky Carroll,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

7. STATUTORY ITEMS

7.1 PROPERTY DISPOSALS

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the Chief Executive, dated 27th November 2025 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of land (264.8 m² approximately) situated at and known as "Clochan", Carriganarra, Ballincollig, Cork to James Finbarr O'Connor c/o Frank Buttmer & Company Solicitors, 19 Washington St, Cork, for a nominal fee €750.00 together with costs in the sum of €1,500.00 plus VAT.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Lynch, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Horgan, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

2. Disposal of Stall No. 27 Grand Parade Market to Mary Rose Daly t/a Coffee Central c/o Galvin Donegan LLP, 91 South Mall, Cork by way of lease for a term of 21 years from the 1st January 2024 at an annual rent of €2,125.89 plus rates and service charges.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

3. Disposal of Stall No. 35 & 36 Grand Parade Market to O'Mahony's The Market Limited c/o Galvin Donegan LLP, 91 South Mall, Cork by way of lease for a term of 21 years from the 1st January 2024 at an annual rent of €6,930.35 plus rates and service charges.

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

4. Disposal of Stall No. 37 Grand Parade Market to O'Mahony's The Market Limited c/o Galvin Donegan LLP, 91 South Mall, Cork by way of lease for a term of 21 years from the 1st January 2024 at an annual rent of €3,741.60 plus rates and service charges.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir H. Kamegni, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

5. Disposal of Stall No. 9 Princes Street Market to The Chocolate Shop Limited c/o BDM Boylan Solicitors, Clarkes Bridge House, Hanover Street, Cork by way of lease for a term of 21 years from the 1st January 2024 at an annual rent of €2,338.56 plus rates and service charges.

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

6. Disposal of Stall No. 10 Princes Street Market to G.D.G. Foods Limited c/o Comyn Kelleher Tobin Solicitors, 2 Georges Quay, Cork by way of lease for a term of 21 years from the 1st January 2024 at an annual rent of €4,464.45 plus rates and service charges.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

7.2 TAKING IN CHARGE OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE BOROUGHS, MONEYGURNEY, DOUGLAS, CORK

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the A/Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations Directorate, dated 18th November 2025, in relation to the proposed taking in charge of roads serving the development at The Boroughs, Moneygurney, Douglas, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Horgan, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Having considered the Report of the A/Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations Directorate, dated 18th November 2025, and the provisions of Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act 1993, it is now hereby declared by this Order that the said roads serving The Boroughs, Moneygurney, Douglas, Cork, are public roads.”

7.3 PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT SKEHARD ROAD

In accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed residential development at Skehard Road, Mahon, 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 3rd December 2025.

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

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development at Skehard Road, Mahon, 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 Skehard Road, Mahon, 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 8th December 2025.”

7.4 **ROAD UPGRADE SCHEME AT HAZELWOOD ROAD, GLANMIRE - SECTION 38 APPROVAL**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, following public consultation, on the proposed Upgrade Scheme at Hazelwood Road, Glanmire pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009.

7.5 **PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING WORKS AT BALLYHOOLY ROAD – SECTION 38 APPROVAL**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, seconded by Comhairleoir H. Kamegni, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the A/Director of Services, Local Area Development and Operations Directorate, dated 18th November 2025, following public consultation, on the proposed pedestrian crossing works on Ballyhooly Road at Gordons Hill, pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009.

7.6 **PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING WORKS AT GRANGE ROAD TRAMORE VALLEY PARK – SECTION 38 APPROVAL**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. O’Callaghan, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Boyle, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the A/Director of Services, Local Area Development and Operations Directorate, dated 18th November 2025, following public consultation, on the proposed signalised crossing at Grange Road by Tramore Valley Park, pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009.

7.7 **PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING WORKS AT LOWER FRIARS WALK BY LORETTO PARK – SECTION 38 APPROVAL**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Boyle, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the A/Director of Services, Local Area Development and Operations Directorate, dated 18th November 2025, following public consultation, on the proposed signalised crossing at Lower Friars Walk by Loretto Park, pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009.

7.8 **PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING WORKS AT EGLANTINE PARK BY ARDFALLEN ESTATE – SECTION 38 APPROVAL**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the A/Director of Services, Local Area Development and Operations Directorate, dated 18th November 2025, following public consultation, on Pedestrian Safety Improvement works at Eglantine Park by Ardfallen Estate, pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009.

7.9 **PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING WORKS AT BLACKROCK ROAD BY CHURCHYARD LANE – SECTION 38 APPROVAL**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the A/Director of Services, Local Area Development and Operations Directorate, dated 18th November 2025, following public consultation, on Pedestrian Crossing Safety Improvement works at Blackrock Road by Churchyard Lane, pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009.

7.10 **PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING WORKS AT BLACKROCK ROAD BY BARRINGTONS AVENUE – SECTION 38 APPROVAL**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir P. Horgan, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the A/Director of Services, Local Area Development and Operations Directorate, dated 18th November 2025, following public consultation, on Pedestrian Crossing Safety Improvement works at Blackrock Road by Barringtons Avenue, pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009.

7.11 **VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Maher, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Horgan, An Chomhairle considered and approved the nomination of Comhairleoir N. O'Connor to the Board of the Everyman Theatre following the resignation of Comhairleoir M. Gould.

An Chomhairle considered the vacancy on the Holding Committee of Wandesford Quay Arts Centre following the resignation of Comhairleoir F. Kerins. It was agreed to discuss this matter further amongst Party Whips.

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 1st DECEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 1st December 2025.

8.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31/10/2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 31/10/2025.

8.2 **MOTIONS**

8.2.1 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREGNANCY LOSS RESEARCH GROUP**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, HR, dated 27th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council will adopt the recommendations of the Pregnancy Loss Research Group at University College Cork as a measure to implement for our own workforce and write to the leaders of all political parties in Dáil Éireann encouraging them to adopt a cross party approach to implementing leave in this area.’

(Proposers: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, Cllr. P. Horgan 25/559)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Human Resources Directorate undertakes to examine the recommendations of the Pregnancy Loss Research Group at University College Cork to establish if they can be adopted within Cork City Council and to bring a report to the Senior Management Team by June 2026.

An Chomhairle further agreed to refer the motion to the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee and Women’s Caucus for information.

8.2.2 **INDEPENDENT REVIEW BODY OF CORK CITY COUNCIL'S EXPENDITURE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 30th January 2025, and report of the Director of Services, HR, dated 2nd October 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That the Chief Executive provides a report on the findings of the processes that were initiated in February 2025 in response to my subject motion.’

(Proposer: Cllr. A. Deasy 25/463)

The report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 30th January 2025, stated that the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage requires Local Authorities to carry out a workforce plan process. This

process commenced in Cork City Council during 2024 and is continuing in line with the Strategic Framework for Workforce Planning adopted by the local government sector. The plan will reflect the priorities that the Chief Executive has highlighted to Members. This process equates effectively to the independent “review” contained in the motion as it will be subject to approval by the Department once considered. A review of staffing should not only focus on numbers of staff, but also on types required to deliver programmes, policy, strategy and services – all of which are subject to change as the economic and political landscape changes. However, the core business of local government should be resourced constantly from a staffing perspective.

The report of the Director of HR, dated 2nd October 2025, stated that the development of the Council’s Strategic Workforce Plan is a central element of the proactive management of our workforce and will ensure the most effective and efficient deployment of people, skills, and experience. Following the adoption by Members of the Council’s Corporate Plan on 14 July 2025, a further round of detailed workshops have been conducted to identify the staff resources required to deliver on the strategic priorities set out in the Plan. A draft Strategic Workforce Plan will be considered by Senior Management in the coming weeks following engagement with staff representative groups. The Plan will then be submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for consideration.

8.2.3 **INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 30th October 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council seek from the Government legislative change that would increase the membership of this Council to better reflect increased population, added land area and greater responsibilities brought about by the 2019 city boundary extension.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 25/526)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the responsibility for determining the number of councillors per Local Authority area rests with the Minister for Local Government.

The Programme for Government 2025 provided for the establishment of the Local Democracy Taskforce for the reform and strengthening of local government in Ireland. The Local Democracy Taskforce was indeed established in June 2024, and it is currently progressing with its work schedule with the aim of delivering recommendations to Government in the first half of 2026. In relation to councillor numbers, the Taskforce has been asked to: -

“examine how the current number of councillors is determined and explore proposals for a framework for amendments including taking into consideration population growth since the 2014 reforms and the consequent need for an increase in the numbers of councillors to ensure appropriate representation of citizens.”

Taking an evidence informed approach, the Taskforce will finalise a programme of recommendations for the reform and strengthening of local government in Ireland, which will include recommendations in relation to the framework for determining councillor numbers; these will be considered by Government following reporting by the Taskforce. Elected members are represented on the task force through the AILG and Cork City Council agreed to include the Taskforce as a standing item at CPG whilst the taskforce is continuing its work. It is recommended that CPG consider the recommendations of the taskforce and any proposal to increase the number of Councillors is predicated on those recommendations.

9. **PARTY WHIPS – 24th NOVEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 24th November 2025.

9.1 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE ITEMS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 24th November 2025 outlining a process for the naming of new bridges at Lambleys Lane and Proby's Quay.

9.2 **MEETING SCHEDULE 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed Meeting Schedule for 2026.

10. **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & TOURISM STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - CAIDREAMH IDIRNÁISIÚNTA & TURASÓIREACHT – 17th NOVEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the International Relations & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 17th November 2025.

11. **ENVIRONMENT, WATER & AMENITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - COMHSHAOL, UISCE & ÁISEANNA – 18th NOVEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 18th November 2025.

12. **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - POBAL, CULTÚR & COMHFHORBAIRT ÁITE – 20th NOVEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 20th November 2025.

12.1 **MINUTES OF THE ARTS COMMITTEE - 18th JUNE 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Arts Committee meeting held on the 18th June 2025.

12.2 **MINUTES OF AN GRUPA FORBARTHA GAEILGE - 28th APRIL 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of An Grupa Forbartha Gaeilge held on the 28th April 2025.

12.3 **MOTIONS**

12.3.1 **YOUTH SURVEY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 28th October 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council carry out a youth survey to gain a better understanding of what young people want and need in our city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 25/535)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council through the Community team engages with youth forums and youth service agencies to understand young people’s needs and challenges.

Recent consultations, surveys and engagements include:

- Comhairle na nÓg and its coordinators (based in the YMCA), in turn, is supported by the Community team in pursuing their interest areas.
 - This October, Cork City Comhairle na nÓg – the city’s Youth Council – hosted their annual Youth conference in Millennium Hall.
 - Four Comhairle na nÓg members are members of the Cork City Climate Neutral Leadership group. They have contributed to the application by Cork to become a Mission City.
 - The Comhairle met with The Night Time Economy officer and contributed to the development of the Night Time Economy Strategy.
 - Cork City Comhairle received funding from the Cork City Council Arts Office and Creative Ireland to design a Youth-led, Inclusive Pop Up Youth Space in the Marina Market, as part of Cruinniu na NÓg.
- The Northside and Southside Youth fora are supported by the Community team in pursuing their interest areas. The forums are actively supported by Cork City Council, Cork City Partnership, schools and Youth Services.
 - The Cork City Youth Forums develop a priority list of issues that matter to them each year. The forums then pick one or two items to actively work on each year. Previous examples include provision of sheltered seating, removing stigma or perceived barriers with older members of the community, awareness of sport activities in the community, vaping, Racism, Bullying, etc.

- The Comhairle and the Northside Youth Forum engaged in specific Youth consultation sessions with city planners, regarding plans for the North-West Regional Park.
 - The Northside Youth Forum engaged in consultation workshop around the Shandon Area Plan in Oct 2024.
 - The Southside and Northside Youth Forums, and the Comhairle na nÓg, all made substantial qualitative and quantitative submissions to the development of the Cork City LECP.
- The Council are now working on a document that lists the steps they took to make the event inclusive for their peers with disabilities, the document will be shared through the Cruinniu network with other event organisers ahead of next year's free day of Creativity.

In addition, Cork City Council through the Community Team:

- Provides substantial financial support to the Young Social Innovators programme. Members of Cork City Council staff are also often on the judging and assessment panel, hearing directly from Young People and issues that matter to them.
- Is a lead partner in the Cork Child Friendly Cities InterAgency steering group. The stated aim of this initiative is to impact systems and structures to better encourage and Facilitate the voices of children and young people in governance and decision making. This work also involves the youth voice through its Young Person's Council.
- Supports International Children's Day annually, and this year will collaborate with Cork ETB to host a concert and exhibition in City Hall on November 18th- 'Voices in Harmony'- 'a celebration of creativity, unity, and the power of young voices advocating for a kinder, more peaceful world. Through music and art, we'll share a universal message of hope and harmony. We're especially proud to feature performances from young people involved in the IPAS Centre and UBU projects'

In order to build on this work the Senior Social Inclusion Specialist will propose a youth survey to the Masters of Public Health Programme in University College Cork to engage young people, particularly seldom heard groups, as to want and need in our city.

12.3.2 **CORK CITY COUNCIL ACCESS OFFICER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 28th October 2025 on the following motion:-

'To make sure that disabled people have full and equal access to their communities, that Cork City Council calls for the Access Officer role to be elevated to a full-time Grade 7 position, and requests funding from the Government to pay for the role.'

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 25/522)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council through the Community Team and colleagues in Operations, Infrastructure and ICT Services have worked in collaboration with disability groups for a number of years in a variety of areas across a number of Directorates. In 2021 the Community Team were awarded a ‘Disability Participation Awareness Fund’. As part of this fund it completed an access audit of six council owned properties, including Leisureworld, St Peters Church, Glanmire Library and the city centre Library. Cork City Council has worked with the Cork City Access Group for over 10 years. This is a group of volunteers. Cork City Council Operations Directorate, specifically Roads Operations, meet the Cork City Access group to take feedback from them on issues arising with regards to access in the city. This includes staff from Traffic Operations and Infrastructure Development and focus on accessibility of the Roads infrastructure for use by people with disabilities in and around Cork city. The aim is to accommodate requirements to improve the quality of life and access of these users of the public asset by improving existing facilities, considering requests for new facilities and consultation on planned works around the city. The Community Team within Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs attend the Cork Access Group including for the organisation of Make Way Day in Cork City.

The Community Team will review this matter with colleagues from other directorates with a view to developing a funding bid around implementation.

12.3.3 **CORK 800 PILLAR**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 5th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council will undertake a process to examine, with the Arts Office, the potential use of the Cork 800 pillar as a template of The Fourth Pillar in Trafalgar Square to give a unique Cork stage to art, determined by the Arts Office, within their current programmes.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 25/488)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the memorial stone sited at Cork City Hall at Angelsea Street was erected in 1985 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the grant of a Charter to Cork City. It was unveiled on 1st January 1985 by the 6th President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery.

The ‘Fourth Plinth’ is a major durational contemporary art project sited on a colonial pillar in London’s Trafalgar square, ongoing since 2005.

While the scale, cost and context of the ‘Fourth Plinth’ project is not feasible to emulate, the Arts Office will undertake to devise an alternative proposal for how the monument could be activated for an arts purpose should Council deem it appropriate and in-keeping with the commemorative nature of the monument.

12.3.4 **GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSION IN CORK CITY FIRE SERVICE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Emergency Management & Climate Action, and the Director of Services, People & Organisation Development, dated 29th August 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council:

1. Acknowledges the under-representation of women in the Cork City Fire Service, with only 2 female firefighters out of a workforce of 140, and recognises that we can explore efforts in achieving gender equality.
2. Notes the recommendations of the Crowe Report (June 2022), in particular Recommendation 17, which calls for Cork City Council to:
 - Review recruitment processes to increase gender and ethnic diversity;
 - Ensure equal opportunity for all candidates;
 - Modernise operational practices and contemporary thinking to support inclusion.
3. Mandates Cork City Council to take the following actions.
 - a. Establish a Gender Equality Action Plan specific to the Fire and Building Control Department, with measurable targets, published timelines, and transparent monitoring.
 - b. Undertake a full audit of fire service infrastructure, including facilities, equipment, and uniforms — noting that firefighting protective clothing already adheres to the highest national and international safety standards — with particular attention to day-to-day uniforms and ancillary equipment, to ensure they are comfortable, fit-for-purpose, and inclusive for all personnel, in line with best practice across comparable emergency and civil services.
 - c. Develop and publish a robust Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) policy for all emergency services, clearly outlining a commitment to equitable recruitment, promotion, and working conditions.
4. Calls on the Chief Executive to report to Council on the implementation progress of the above actions, and to engage external equality consultants if necessary.’

The report of the Directors of Services stated that Cork City Council has undertaken many initiatives in order to promote diversity in the Cork City Fire Service, including:

- Increased use of social media platforms to promote a career in the Fire Service to a diverse audience of job seekers.
- The use of promotional videos which were broadcast on social media platforms and which were specifically designed to encourage applications for past fire service recruitment campaigns from a diverse backgrounds, including specifically females.

Links to sample recruitment information:

- [Cork City Fire Brigade launches new recruitment drive](#)
- [JoinOurTeam. In 1995 Irene Wallace joined ccfb. A station officer in Ballyvolane today, this is her story. #BeTheDifference](#)
- [Cork City Fire Brigade Recruitment](#)
- [WATCH: Training to be a firefighter; Cork City Fire Brigade recruit new members for first time in eight years](#)
- [Cork city to hire 20 firefighters in new recruitment drive – The Irish Times](#)

The numbers of female Fire Fighters within the Fire Service is dependent on many factors (many of which are outside of the control of Cork City Council) and include:

- Number of applicants – which remain low despite the initiatives undertaken by Cork City Council (see above)
- Successful progression through each phase of the competitive recruitment process
- The attractiveness of such a physical role with unsociable hours in an economy with extensive employment opportunities across many different disciplines and work areas
- The requirement to meet all of the qualifications for the role and achieve minimum standards in the required testing process.

Cork City Council is an equal opportunities employer and takes our responsibilities in this area very seriously. Under no circumstances are there any artificial barriers put in place to negatively impact on the recruitment of female firefighters. A career as a firefighter makes exceptionally high physical demands in respect of certain operations involving firefighting and rescue duties. Employees of the fire service must be capable of performing these tasks at all times, as failure in the performance of such tasks could have fatal consequences for either the firefighter, their colleagues or members of the public. It is also a matter of fact that the roles and functions of a firefighter are not defined on gender grounds and that all firefighters are required to carry out the same duties. Cork City Council is required to:

- Protect the firefighter from harm/risk of harm (by protecting the individual's health and complying with its health and safety obligations)
- Protect the firefighter's colleagues and/or members of the public from harm/risk of harm
- Ensure that Firefighter is sufficiently fit to and capable of carrying out their duties
- Maintain an efficient and effective fire service, including mutual assistance to other emergency services when requested

Modern firefighting PPE and equipment is ergonomically designed around all genders and is not specific to one gender. Fire Service infrastructure, facilities, equipment, and uniforms are also gender appropriate, inclusive and safe for all personnel.

Cork City Council's has a Dignity at Work Policy in place and our People Strategy contains specific strategies and objectives in relation to Diversity & Inclusion. Additionally, The National Directorate for Fire & Emergency management (NDFEM) have recently carried out research with all Fire authorities on the topic of diversity in

the Fire Services. It is expected that this research will be used to produce guidance documentation that will be issued to fire authorities.

12.3.5 **ACCOMMODATION CENTRES FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 11th September 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council recognises the eviction of families, including those with children going to school, from Designated Accommodation Centres for International Protection in Cork, and supports, including by practical measures, their continued accommodation, at least until alternative accommodation is available.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 25/241)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council through the Community Team facilitate and have representation at the Community Response Forum. This platform allows for discussion on various aspects of integration in Cork City including challenges faced by this client group. However, responsibilities relating to accommodation are with the Department of Justice, who appraise all accommodation settings based on criteria outlined by the International Protection Procurement Service (IPPS). Predominately, these criteria are drawn from the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) National Standards. When assessing accommodation, there is a minimum bed space requirement per person.

All offers are subject to full compliance with requisite statutory legal regulations. HIQA has now assumed responsibility for monitoring the quality of IPAS centres and all inspection reports are published on their website.

13. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 11th NOVEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 11th November 2025.

14. **CITY CENTRE COMMITTEE – 13th NOVEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the City Centre Committee from its meeting held, 13th November 2025.

15. **CITY CENTRE COMMITTEE – 3rd DECEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the City Centre Committee from its meeting held, 3rd December 2025.

15.1 **DRAFT CITY CENTRE ACTION PLAN**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, An Chomhairle considered and approved the City Centre Development & Operations Directorate: Action Plan 2025 – 2030.

15.2 **CITY CENTRE FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2026**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M.R. Desmond, seconded by Comhairleoir H. Kamegni, An Chomhairle considered and approved the City Centre Façade Improvement Grant Programme 2026.

16. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 1st DECEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 1st December 2025.

16.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

16.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF OCTOBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Financial Statements to the end of October 2025.

17. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th NOVEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th November 2025.

17.1 **MOTIONS**

17.1.1 **HGV RESTRICTION FOR LOWER KENT ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the A/Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 20th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Lower Kent Road become restricted for the movement of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and that signage be put in place to reflect such a restriction.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 25/359)

The report of the Director of Services stated that any proposed ban of heavy vehicles cannot be considered as a solution for one street only but a city-wide approach and the impacts of same on businesses and the operation of the city would need careful consideration. Such a proposal could only be considered in the context of CMATS and / or a HGV Movement Strategy.

An Chomhairle further agreed to refer the motion to the Transport & Mobility Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

17.1.2 **LOWER KENT ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the A/Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 20th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council engage with the residents of Lower Kent Road, Ballyphehane who have witnessed increased levels of traffic using the road due to many factors in the area including changes to the junction at Curragh Road. The proposed developments at the former Vita Cortex and CMP sites will no doubt exacerbate the situation and a traffic management plan needs to be put in place. This must include signage and traffic calming measures.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Kerins 25/367)

The report of the Director of Services stated that traffic calming ramps have been in place on Lower Kent Road for a number of years. Two out of the three ramps were replaced in 2024 due to deterioration. Ramp ahead signs and a Children at Play sign are also in place.

There is a National Speed Limit Review currently being rolled out. The first stage of this was the reduction of the default speed limit on Rural Local Roads from 80 km/hr to 60 km/hr on the 7th February of this year.

The second stage of the National Speed Limit Review will look at reducing speed limits in Urban areas from 50 km/hr to 30 km/hr, however we are still awaiting guidance from the Department in relation to this. Lower Kent Road can be considered for a reduced speed limit as part of this review.

The October 2025 update on request for traffic management plan during and after completion of development stated that during the construction phase of any development, where the use of any public road is required, the contractor shall submit a construction traffic management plan outlining any temporary traffic management plans required for the development. This is immediately prior to commencement of the developments.

In relation to traffic management for completed developments, the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy is the overall transport plan for the Cork Metropolitan Area. CMATS represents a coordinated land use and transport strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area to cover the period up to 2040. One of the objectives of CMATS is to increase uptake of active travel and sustainable modes of transport through the provision of infrastructure which will have the result of reducing the number of private vehicles in the city in the long term. BusConnects forms part of the strategy which looks at the overall city in terms of the enhancement of bus services. As part of BusConnects, Kinsale Road forms part of the Cork City South East Sustainable Transport Corridors Scheme where major improvements to the route and bus services will be rolled out to minimise reliance on the private car in this area.

In relation to the review of urban speed limits, the Department of Transport issued guidance on the 16th October 2025 with regard to the implementation of 30 km/hr speed limits in urban areas with a view to having the changes implemented by the 31st March 2027.

The updated response in relation to the request for a defined area plan for the area in the vicinity of Lower Kent Road stated that Kent Road is in an established residential suburb developed around the middle of the last century. While there are a number of sites being developed in the area, this is true for many parts of the city. The City Development Plan provides a land-use planning framework for this area and there is no real benefit in preparing an additional planning-led area plan for this area. In the longer term, the wider surrounding area has regeneration potential and the Cork City Development Plan makes reference to a potential future strategy for the area.

The particular matters raised by Members in the motions in relation to HGVs and traffic management fall under the wider transport strategy CMATS for the Cork Metropolitan Area. As outlined previously, the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy is the overall transport plan for the Cork Metropolitan Area. CMATS represents a coordinated land use and transport strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area to cover the period up to 2040. One of the objectives of CMATS is to increase uptake of active travel and sustainable modes of transport through the provision of infrastructure which will have the result of reducing the number of private vehicles in the city in the long term. BusConnects forms part of the strategy which looks at the overall city in terms of the enhancement of bus services. As part of BusConnects, Kinsale Road forms part of the Cork City South East Sustainable Transport Corridors Scheme where major improvements to the route and bus services will be rolled out to minimise reliance on the private car in this area.

An Chomhairle further agreed to refer the motion to the Transport & Mobility Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

18. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th NOVEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th November 2025.

19. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th NOVEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th November 2025.

20. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th NOVEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th November 2025.

21. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th NOVEMBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th November 2025.

22. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

23. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the National Healthy Cities Meeting, held at Carlow Town, 7th November 2025.
- Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the Irish Network Learning Cities – Signing of Memorandum of Understanding, held at Waterford City Hall, 16th October 2025.
- Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, S. Martin and D. Boyle at the AILG Training Module 6, Section 28 – Planning and Development Act, held at Ravenport Resort, Curracloe, Co. Wexford, 13th November 2025.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the LAMA Spring Seminar, held at Kilkenny, 30th - 31st January 2025.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the AILG Training Seminar, held at Ennistymon, Co. Clare, 20th March 2025.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the AILG Spring Seminar, held at Strand Hotel, Co. Limerick, 2nd - 3rd April 2025.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the MacGill Summer School, held at Glenties, Co. Donegal, 17th - 19th July 2025.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the AILG Autumn Training Seminar, held at Westport, Co. Mayo, 17th - 18th September 2025.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the LAMA Autumn Seminar, held at Gorey, Co. Wexford, 16th - 17th October 2025.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the AILG Training Seminar, held at Athlone, Co. Westmeath, 15th November 2025.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the MacGill Summer School 2024, held at Glenties, Co. Donegal, 18th - 20th July 2024.
- Comhairleoir S. Martin at the IPB EGM, held at Athlone, Co. Westmeath, 21st November 2025.

24. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

None received.

25. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

25.1 **SUMMIT OF MAYORS**

An Chomhairle considered and retrospectively approved the attendance of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Health in preparation for the Summit of Mayors, held 27th November 2025.

26. **TRAINING**

None received.

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

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive's monthly management report for October 2025.

28. **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.

29. **MOTIONS**

29.1 **DIGITALLY BASED PAY ON BEHALF SYSTEM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That this Council calls on the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment through the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment to introduce a digitally based pay on behalf system where large scale, multi national distribution companies pay on behalf of their suppliers and then subsequently invoice them back, to help meet recycling and circular economy targets more directly and quickly.'

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 25/584)

29.2 **COMMUNAL EV CHARGING STATIONS IN HOUSING ESTATES**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne and the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment, Darragh O'Brien to amend the relevant national legislation so as to provide that local authorities can work with local residents associations and groups to install and maintain communal EV charging stations in the public areas of housing estates that request them and are willing to maintain them.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O'Callaghan 25/611)

An Chomhairle agreed to refer the motion to the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Group for consideration.

29.3 **NEW BUS STOP LOCATIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council would write to BusConnects to arrange an urgent meeting with Cork City Council to discuss and consult re the location of the new bus stops throughout the city. Given the extensive consultation period re the proposed quality bus corridors, it is equally important to consult re the bus stop locations.'

(Proposers: Cllr. J. Sheehan, Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 25/615)

29.4 **AMUSEMENT ARCADE DEVELOPMENT IN BALLINCOLLIG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council:

- Notes the serious concern there is amongst the community in Ballincollig in respect of a casino-style amusement arcade development in the town and the strongly held belief amongst local residents that this development will be injurious to the family-orientated nature of the village;
- Acknowledges the recent community demonstration held in Ballincollig - at which approximately 500 local residents were in attendance - and further acknowledges the community petition against the proposal; which has been signed by almost 2,000 residents;
- Agrees with the community's call for those behind this proposal not to proceed with the development.
- Shall write to Coalquay Leisure Limited to communicate the contents of this motion to them.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Lynch 25/623)

29.5 **BUS SERVICE IN CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would write to Bus Éireann, the NTA, and Garda Síochána to hold an urgent meeting due to the crisis in the bus service in Cork as a result of inconsistencies in buses being late and in some cases not turning up at all.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Gould 25/648)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Maher, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to continue the meeting past 8pm.

29.6 **ABOLISH DIRECT PROVISION**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council supports the campaign to abolish direct provision, including the closure of all International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) centres and granting residents the right to work so that they can look after themselves and their families and make a contribution, will in the interim engage with the relevant authorities to relocate residents to maximise the more spacious existing centre near

the Kinsale Road Roundabout, and will write to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to request the Government's full support.'

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 25/650)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir A. Deasy, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Lynch, a vote was called for on the approval of the motion where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, T. Tynan, O. Moran, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, B. McCarthy, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, S. O'Callaghan, D. Boyle, N. O'Connor, F. Dennehy, T. Coleman, G. O'Brien, C. O'Connor. (18)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí M. Gould, K. Collins, F. Kerins, J. Lynch, A. Deasy. (5)

ABSTAIN: (0)

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

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH