

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2026

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir F. Dennehy.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, 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 C. Kelleher, 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. Mr. R. Loughry, Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs. Mr. N. Ó Donnabháin, Director of Services, Planning & Integrated Development. Ms. 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. Ms. E. Roberts, Senior Engineer, Capital Projects, Infrastructure Development. 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'Donovan family on the death of Donal (Don) O'Donovan.
- The Traynor family on the death of Mary Traynor.
- The Connolly family on the death of Margaret Connolly.
- The O'Sullivan family on the death of Gerald (Ger) O'Sullivan.
- The Daly family on the death of Deirdre Daly.

- The O’Hea family on the death of Abina O’Hea.
- The Falvey family on the death of Kathleen (Kitty) Falvey.
- The Allen family on the death of Tom Allen.
- The Bowen family on the death of Shay Bowen.
- The Cooper family on the death of Martha Cooper.
- The Harvey family on the death of Pearse Harvey.
- The Whyte family on the death of Sean Whyte.
- The Ho family on the death of Maureen Ho.
- The Ó Sé family on the death of Seán Ó Sé.
- The O’Brien family on the death of Michael O’Brien.
- The Foley family on the death of Ger Foley.
- The Deegan family on the death of Maura Deegan.
- The Neville family on the death of Daniel (Dan) Neville.
- The Crowley O’Mahony family on the death of Christine Crowley O’Mahony.
- The Powell family on the death of Anne Powell.
- The O’Donovan family on the death of Mary Elizabeth O’Donovan.
- The Mackesy family on the death of Catherine (Kay) Mackesy.
- The O’Connor family on the death of Ann O’Connor.
- The Cronin family on the death of Eleanor Cronin.
- The O’Brien family on the death of Brigid O’Brien.
- The Barron family and the O.L.A. Sisters on the death of Sr. Mary Barron.
- The Jeffery family on the death of Noreen Jeffery.
- The Ring family on the death of Hillary Ring.
- The Daly family on the death of John E. Daly.
- The Buckley family on the death of Gerard Buckley.
- The Walsh family on the death of James A. Walsh.
- The Dennehy family on the death of Maurice Dennehy.
- The Gabriel family on the death of Geraldine Gabriel.
- The O’Donovan family on the death of Michael O’Donovan.
- The White family on the death of Anne White.
- The McGrath family and the Society of African Missions on the death of Rev Fr Michael McGrath.
- The Donovan family and the O.L.A. Sisters on the death of Sr. Katherine Donovan.
- The Higgins family on the death of Julie Higgins.
- The Lee family on the death of Terence (Terry) Lee.
- The Shalloe family on the death of Liam Shalloe.
- The Kelly family on the death of Alice Rose Kelly.
- The Carman family on the death of Edith Carman.
- The Coppinger family on the death of Fergus Coppinger.
- The McGinn family on the death of Ronnie McGinn.
- The Murphy family on the death of Marie Murphy.
- The Byrne Coughlan family on the death of Veronica Byrne Coughlan.
- The O’Mahony family on the death of Joe O’Mahony.
- The Lotti family on the death of Tom (Thomas) Lotti.
- The Quirke family on the death of Thomas (Tommy) Quirke.

- The Sheehan family on the death of Paul Sheehan.
- The Dorgan family on the death of Michael Dorgan.
- The Harrington family on the death of Mary Harrington.
- The O’Shea family on the death of Brian O’Shea.
- The Hitz family on the death of Catherine (Kay) Hitz.
- The Pretti family on the death of Alex Pretti.

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

- Iarlaith Long on qualifying for the Millrose Games in New York at 8 years of age and coming fifth place in the Fastest Kid in the World Boys’ 55m Final.
- Father Mathews Premier Ladies team on winning the club’s first ever NICC National Cup title.
- Rebel Wheelers on winning the IWA National Cup for the seventh year in a row.
- Ballincollig Basketball Club on winning the club’s first ever MSL National Cup title.

3. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**

3.1 **UCC CAMOGIE**

An tArdmhéara extended congratulations to Comhairleoir M. Gould and her management team who managed the UCC camogie team to win the Ashbourne Cup for the first time in 20 years.

3.2 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR APPLE**

An tArdmhéara reminded members that a Civic Reception for Apple would be held on 19th February 2026 at 6pm.

3.3 **LORD MAYOR LED DELEGATION TO SAN FRANCISCO**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir F. Dennehy; Chair of the International Relations & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee, Comhairleoir T. Shannon and Comhairleoir N. O’Flynn to San Francisco as part of a Lord Mayor led delegation from 2nd to 6th March 2026.

As part of the delegation, An Chomhairle also considered and approved the travel of An tArdmhéara to New York from 7th to 9th March 2026.

3.4 **CLIMATE NEUTRAL BLUE CITIES CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy to Limassol, Cyprus from 19th to 20th March 2026 to deputise for An tArdmhéara at the Climate Neutral Blue Cities Conference.

3.5 **LORD MAYOR'S VISIT TO SHANGHAI**

An Chomhairle considered and retrospectively approved the participation of An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir F. Dennehy and Comhairleoirí C. Kelleher, D. Boyle and K. McCarthy in the Lord Mayor's visit to Shanghai from 15th to 22nd November 2025.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir K. Collins to address An Chomhairle on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council notes the contentious elements of the Knockpogue/Knockfree Avenues Active Travel Scheme and agrees to engage with residents to appoint an agreed, qualified and independent mediator.’

An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the motion at the end of the meeting.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, seconded by D. Boylan, the following motion was withdrawn:-

‘That Cork City Council engage with the local residents of Knockpogue Avenue and Knockfree Avenue through the North West Local Area and Committee and other avenues to discuss:

The legal status and process of the scheme as it now stands.

The clarity, transparency and community engagement of the detailed plans with representations of the residents, business and service users so that all voices are heard. To consider improvements to the scheme that will ease the genuine concerns of the residents.’

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss motion 22 on Appendix 1, Works along Knockfree Avenue and Knockpogue Avenue, at the end of the meeting.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss motion 23 on Appendix 1, Knockfree and Knockpogue Avenues, at the end of the meeting.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

4.1 **PROPOSED HOLDING OF AN EVENT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Chief Executive on the proposed holding of the St. Patrick's Day Parade on 17th March in Cork City centre.

5. MINUTES

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

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 12th January 2026.

6. QUESTION TIME

6.1 CAPITAL PROJECTS IN CORK CITY FROM 2019 TO DATE

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a list of government capital projects delivered in Cork City from 2019 to present date, cost of each project and the names of such projects that applied for the 1% arts scheme & an inventory of artwork delivered, in tabular form?

REPLY

	Project	Per Cent for Art Budget	Directorate	Commission Status
1	Douglas (including Togher) Flood Relief Scheme (completed 2022)	€125,000	Infrastructure Development	Phase One: The Story Swap, community engagement completed. Brief for commission in development.
2	Glashaboy (Glanmire/Sallybrook) Flood Relief Scheme (Close to completion)	€125,000	Infrastructure Development	Liaising with OPW on establishing steering group and MOU
3	Morrisons Island Public Realm & Flood Relief Scheme (Close to completion)	€ 125,000	Infrastructure Development	Liaising with OPW on establishing steering group and MOU
5	Deanrock (Completed 2019)	€ 64,000	Housing + Regeneration	Programme of commissioning in early development
6	Boyces St Phase 2 Cattle Market St Housing (Completed 2023)	€ 36,824.23	Housing + Regeneration	Programme of commissioning in early development
7	Shandon St John Philpott Curran St (Completed 2020)	€ 24,121.30	Housing + Regeneration	Programme of commissioning in early development
8	St John's Well (Completed 2019)	€ 12,819.38	Housing + Regeneration	Programme of commissioning in early development
9	Glanamoy Lawn (Completed 2023)	€ 8,987.00	Housing + Regeneration	Programme of commissioning in early development
10	Foyle Avenue (Completed 2023)	€ 6,870.26	Housing + Regeneration	Programme of commissioning in early development

11	Poulavone, Ballincollig (Completed 2024)	€ 125,000	Housing + Regeneration	Programme of commissioning in early development
12	Slí Gartan, Mayfield (Completed 2023)	€ 2,770.00	Housing + Regeneration	Programme of commissioning in early development
13	Madonna House Phase 2 (Completed 2024)	€14,466,54	Housing + Regeneration	Programme of commissioning in early development

The national per cent for art scheme allows for the allocation of 1% of public capital project budgets to be allocated to the commissioning of public art, subject to thresholds and adherence to national guidelines. As per the table, significant per cent for art budgets have been secured against completed infrastructure and housing projects. The Arts Office is coordinating with the relevant budget holders to roll out a programme of commissioning with the available funds. In 2024 a Public Art Manager was appointed in order to capacitate this work as well as to implement urgent restoration and maintenance of existing public art works. A Cork City Council Public Arts Policy is under development to provide a local governance framework to guide public art commissioning.

Not included in the above table is the per cent for art commission at the Dunkettle Interchange. This commission has a value of €370,000 + €70,000 for foundations and groundworks. The budget is managed by Cork County Council and the commission is a three-way collaboration between Cork City Council, Cork County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. After an international open competition, the proposed artwork will be subject to a Part 8 planning process through Cork City Council.

Also not included in the table is funding of the order of €80,000, which will be available to enable the delivery of a commemorative art project on foot of the regeneration works undertaken in the MacCurtain St and surrounding areas.

The following artworks have been commissioned since 2019 from funding sources other than the per cent for art scheme:

- Sentinels – Carey’s Lane (Commissioned 2022, completed June 2023)
- Boom Nouveau – Cook Street (Commissioned 2022, completed July 2023)
- The Face Cup – Princes Street (Commissioned 2022, completed October 2023)
- Urban Mirror – Cornmarket Street (Commissioned 2022, completed October 2023)
- Tempus Futurum (Digital Artwork) – Triskel (Commissioned 2023, completed December 2023)
- Winter Sun (Digital Artwork) – Triskel (Commissioned 2023, Completed October 2024)
- Marina Promenade Pavilion Mural (Completed 2025)

No commissioning was undertaken in 2020 and 2021 due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to the above commissions, the City Council worked with the Michael Collins 100 Committee, whom commissioned and gifted the commemorative sculpture now installed on the Grand Parade.

Significant works already in the public realm have also been completely refurbished in this period. These include *Kingfisher* by John Burke at the Wilton Roundabout; *Saurian* by Jim Buckley at the Lee Fields; *Reedpod* by Eilis O'Connell on Lapp's Quay and *The Swan Fountain* by John Behan at Bishop Lucey Park.

Further per cent for art funded opportunities are expected in the coming years in step with development across Housing and Infrastructure (including major roads projects such as the M20, Northern Distributor Road etc.) and provision is also made in the Docklands programme of works.

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

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

Nicky Carroll,
A/Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.2 **COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

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

Would the CEO outline for council how the new complaints procedure developed by the county and city management association in conjunction with the ombudsman will be implemented by Cork City Council.

REPLY

In July 2025, Cork City Council Corporate Services put in place a new procedure for complaints and appeals. Subsequently, nationally, a new Complaint Handling Procedure document, was officially co-launched with the CCMA and the Ombudsman's Office in January 2026. In the coming weeks Cork City Council will undertake a complete review of this document and make any, if applicable, amendments to the Cork City Council Procedure for Complaints & Appeals recent (July 2025) procedure. On an initial review of the new Complaint Handling Policy and Procedure provided by the CCMA and the Office of the Ombudsman, it is apparent that Cork City Council has already included the majority of the procedures outlined in this document.

Rebecca Loughry,
Director of Services,

Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs.

6.3 **FORMER TAX OFFICE SITE**

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

Can the CE notify Council if BAM construction were paying the derelict site levy on the former Tax Office site that is due to be developed on Sullivans Quay?

REPLY

The former Tax Office site on Sullivan's Quay is not on the Derelict Sites Register and therefore is not incurring the derelict sites levy. The site however has been identified as a site qualifying for Residential Zoned Land Tax and Cork City Council progressed its placement on relevant maps. The Residential Zoned Land Tax scheme is administered and operated by the Revenue Commissioners.

Niall O'Donnabhain,
Director of Services,
Planning & Integrated Development.

6.4 **MUNICIPAL CHANGING AREAS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive in an effort to attract more families to the city centre will she review and suggest areas that would work as municipal changing areas for children and families that can be delivered before the Summer.

REPLY

Municipal changing facilities are currently available at City Hall and the North Main Street carpark. The Council will assess the feasibility of providing additional facilities in other locations within the city centre.

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

6.5 **BREAKDOWN OF BUDGET ON HOMELESSNESS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a breakdown of this Council's budget on homelessness, detailing the distinction between capital and current expenditure, and what proportion is spent on administrative costs?

REPLY

The following is a breakdown of the budget for Homeless Services:

Capital Expenditure	€11,977,537
Current Expenditure	€38,641,319
Administrative Costs	€1,067,071

Nicky Carroll,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.6 **BARRIER FOB**

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

I write to ask if a barrier fob can be sited at the Welcome Inn on Parnell Place so as to provide easier access to Oliver Plunkett Street by Bands/Musicians/Roadies who play gigs in the various Licenced Premises on Oliver Plunkett Street. Accessibility to these premises by large bands who bring large quantities of expensive sensitive equipment to the venues are having extreme difficulties in transporting the said equipment from other parts of the City Centre in some cases they drag the said equipment up to 1, 1.5 and 2 kilometres away from the said venue/s.

I accept that this can only happen with the permission of the owner of the Welcome Inn whom I know and have spoken too and he has confirmed to me that he is very willing to accept a fob, do his part and do it responsibly to address the issue to hand.

I further understand that there is vehicular access to the said street up to 11am however we must keep in mind that these bands/musicians/roadies arrive in the late afternoon early evening to set up for the gig.

REPLY

Vehicular access to the wider Oliver Plunkett Street pedestrianised area for bands, musicians, and similar users during pedestrianised hours must be assessed in the broader context of how the space is used, with particular regard for the safety of pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. Permitting vehicles to enter the pedestrianised zone at times when people are not expecting traffic increases the risk of conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians. The request can be reviewed as part of the wider City Centre strategy.

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

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

6.7 **TRAVELLER SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION SITES**

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 Cork City Council's policy with regards to day-to-day maintenance on Traveller-specific accommodation sites; if this is happening as normal at all sites; and, if not, what steps are being taken to ensure that day-to-day maintenance happens at Traveller-specific accommodation sites as with any other tenants of Cork City Council.

REPLY

Cork City Council responds to all maintenance requests that are logged through the Customer Service Unit (CSU) or directly from the Traveller Accommodation Unit that relate to Traveller Specific Accommodation.

There is no specific policy around maintenance on Traveller Specific Schemes. The Council responds to maintenance requests as per the Tenant Handbook that outlines the type of maintenance issue that would fall under the responsibility of the Council and those which fall under the remit of the Tenant or Resident on each of the Traveller Sites in the City.

To ensure there is a clear understanding of responsibility for maintenance issues, the Traveller Accommodation Unit (TAU) in conjunction with the traveller community has developed a user-friendly traveller specific handbook that clearly outlines responsibility for maintenance issues. This is currently being finalised and will shortly be printed and circulated to all tenants.

It should be noted that there have been several challenges in delivering maintenance services as well as capital projects to the following Traveller Sites:

Spring Lane – Access is restricted on this site due to health and safety concerns. The Housing Directorate has made every effort to restore full service to this site which includes engaging with residents and Traveller Groups as well as engaging in the services of Traveller Mediation Services and engagement of An Garda Síochána when works have been blocked. This site is currently being maintained on an emergency protocol basis only due to health and safety issues which are present on this site.

Carrigrohane Road – Access is being blocked by residents to this site for caretaking services. Various measures have been taken to restore full service to this site which includes engaging with residents on a one-to-one basis, meeting with site representatives and engaging Traveller Mediation Services. To date, this site cannot be maintained as the residents are physically blocking the entrance to the site to the Council and our contractors. Contractors cannot attend this site without the caretaker being present under health and safety protocols.

St. Anthony's Park – Access has now been restored in full following on-going consultation with the families on this site. Due to this access issue, there is a backlog

of maintenance issues which are being worked through at present by Housing Maintenance, contractors and TAU staff.

The following sites receive a full maintenance service in line with the resources available in terms of available contractors who will take up jobs on Traveller Sites and budget available to the Housing Directorate.

- Meelagh Group Housing Scheme
- Hazelwood Grove Group Housing Scheme
- Nash's Boreen
- Corcoran's Quay

Nicky Carroll,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.8 **PEDESTRIANISATION OF DAUNT'S SQUARE**

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 consult the public about the pedestrianisation of Daunt's Square, as detailed in the Luas Cork Emerging Preferred Route, as soon as possible and in time to affect any changes well before the end of this Council's term in 2029.

REPLY

The City Centre Development & Operations Directorate is reviewing the current configuration and use of Daunt's Square with a view to bringing forward a package of measures to enhance same. The outcome of this process will be discussed with the City Centre Committee once complete.

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

6.9 **DORMANT CONSTRUCTION SITES**

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

Can the CE outline the construction sites currently dormant, on which a contractor is not currently on site or for which a tender is to be issued and planning has been approved, the cost of security on these sites, the status of these sites, the number of units which they would deliver and when construction is expected to complete on these sites.

REPLY

PROJECT	NO OF UNITS	SECURITY COSTS - CCiC	STATUS OF PROJECT	ESTIMATED COMPLETION
2 The Gardens, Rope Walk	3	Nil	Pre Tender	Q4 2027
11-13 Straw Hall	2	Nil	Pre-Planning	TBC
24 Thomas Davis St	2	Nil	Pre-Tender	Q3 2027
8 Bramble Cottages	1	Nil	Pre-Planning	TBC
Boyces St – Phase 3	37	Nil	Re-Tender	Q3 2028
Clanrickarde Lodges	4	Nil	Pre-Tender	Q4 2027
CNWQR Phase 1D(East)	17	Nil	Planning	TBC
CNWQR Phase 3A	15	Nil	Pre-Planning	TBC
CNWQR Phase 4A	43	Nil	Pre-Tender	Q4 2028
Corcoran’s Quay	3	Nil	Awaiting resolution by Traveller Accommodation Unit re the adjacent site	TBC
Gerald Griffin Street	67	Nil	Pre Planning/ Contract Award	Q2 2028
Grattan Street	TBC	Nil	Competitive Dialogue Procurement Process	TBC
Milestream, Blarney Road	TBC	Nil	Feasibility Study	TBC
Skehard Road	TBC	Nil	Competitive Dialogue Procurement Process	TBC
Woods Street	TBC	Nil	Competitive Dialogue Procurement Process	TBC

Nicky Carroll,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.10 **HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME – DISABLED APPLICANTS**

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

How does Cork City Council ensure that disabled applicants who require overnight or live-in personal assistance are properly accommodated within the Housing Allocations Scheme, particularly where this necessitates a two-bedroom dwelling despite the applicant being classified as a single person, and what engagement exists with the HSE and Department of Health to align housing provision with independent living supports?

REPLY

Cork City Council operate in accordance with the legislation and guidance provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. The current Guidelines for housing people with a disability came into effect from October 17th, 2017. These guidelines assist us with the management of the housing assessment and allocation process for people with disabilities, including those living in the community and those transitioning to the community from residential care.

As part of the assessment process which determines the property size that an applicant is approved for all the information provided in relation to the applicant's household is considered. If an applicant is seeking housing support on disability or medical grounds, they will submit a Disability and/or Medical Information Form (HMD Form 1). The form was designed in consultation with local authority and HSE representatives. The purpose of the form is to ensure that we are given the appropriate information in a more structured, uniform way to allow us to assess an applicant's needs. The form is used for all types of disability whether physical, intellectual, sensory or mental health. The decision made in relation to the applicant's housing need is based on the information provided on the form and considers both their current housing situation and their future accommodation needs. This would include an applicant's requirement to have an extra bedroom to accommodate live in or overnight carers or any other requirements supported by medical information.

It should be noted that if an applicant is engaged with the HSE or Service Provider, they will have a key role to play in ensuring that the individual is prepared for independent living and has the necessary personal and practical supports in place. This role shall include practical issues around living in the property and the training and support to be given shall form part of the person-centred plan prepared for the individual. It is of extreme importance that the supports are put in place to ensure that the person can sustain the tenancy and the resulting independence.

We engage on a regular basis with Enable Ireland, Horizons (Cope Foundation) and Cheshire Homes in particular in relation to applicants that they are supporting.

Within the Allocations Section priority cases of applicants with disability/medical needs identified through the HMD1 Form review can be referred to the Tenancy Welfare Officer for further review and engagement. This would involve liaising with social workers and services supporting the individuals to identify their housing needs.

Housing and Disability Steering Groups (HDSGs) were established in each local authority area under the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011 to 2016 (extended to 2021). The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2022-2027 follows on from the previous National Strategy with an aim to support people with disabilities in community-based living with maximum independence and choice. The steering group provides a forum for Cork City Council, Cork County Council, HSE Disability Services, HSE Mental Health Services, Approved Housing Bodies, Disability Groups and the Housing Agency to meet quarterly.

The setting up of the Regional Interagency Group is currently in progress. The role of this Group will be to bring together the local authority disability representatives and the HSE dedicated housing representatives for both Disability Services and Mental Health Services to allow for co-operation and collaboration at an operational level. The Group will be facilitated by The Housing Agency, who will chair and provide administrative support to the Group and will meet at least each quarter.

Nicky Carroll,
Acting Director of Services,

Housing Directorate.

6.11 **FIRE COVER REVIEW**

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

To ask the CE why - over six months since the publication of the city's Fire Cover Review - no suitable location for a new fire station to serve the south-west of the city has been identified; when the site identification process will be concluded; what engagements have been had with central government in respect of funding delivery of the project; and to set out a timeline for the delivery of a fully operational fire station.

REPLY

The process of selecting an appropriate site and evaluating the suitability of same is ongoing. It is not possible at this stage to put a definitive timeline on the completion of this very complex process but work will continue until a site has been identified.

Cork City Council has been in contact with the Department with regards to this project and we have impressed upon them that this is a priority infrastructural project for Cork City and will play an important role in the future of Fire Service delivery in Cork City as the City expands over time.

The funding for the project will be considered under the National Fire Services Capital Programme 2026-2030. Allocations under this programme are based on the totality of requests received from Fire Authorities countrywide and Cork City will insure that our capital funding request will be submitted for consideration as part of this programme.

David Joyce,
Director of Services,
Emergency Management & Climate Action.

6.12 **COUNCIL POLICY ON CCTV IN PARKS**

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

To ask the CE on the Council policy on using CCTV in parks and in public spaces and the work programme to implement same.

REPLY

The Parks & Recreation Department in conjunction with An Garda Síochána had sought to regularise the use of CCTV in parks, cemeteries, walkways and open spaces within Cork City in 2023, under S 38 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, but had to defer further progress until a Code of Practice for the operation of Community CCTV schemes required under Section 47 (3) of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act was in place. The LGMA has informed the City Council that the Gardai have

prepared a draft Code of Practice for Public Closed Circuit Television and when this is finalised, the S 38 process will be completed without delay

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

6.13 **PLANNING FOR SHORT TERM LETTING**

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 provide information regarding planning for short term letting in the city to including but not limited to the following; the number of complaints that have been received about properties operating as short term lets without permission and the status of those cases (whether a warning letter or enforcement notice has been issued and the outcome of same).

REPLY

As part of the measures to help address pressures in the private housing rental market, legislative reforms were introduced in 2019 to regulate the short-term letting sector.

In accordance with current planning legislation, i.e. the Planning and Development Act 2000 and associated Planning and Development Regulations 2001, short-term letting is defined as letting all or part of a property, where the property owner or 'host', may or may not be present, for periods of up to 2 weeks at a time. It is also defined as a material change of use that may, in certain circumstances, require planning permission.

At present, planning permission is not required for short-term letting use in any location where:

- a house or apartment that is a person's principal private residence (i.e. main home), is used for short-term letting for a cumulative period of up to 90 days per annum, where the host is not present; or
- a house or apartment that is a person's principal private residence, is used for short-term letting where the host also continues to reside, for any period; or
- a residential property already has planning permission for short-term letting use, which may include a hotel, aparthotel, tourist village or student accommodation, as well as any houses or apartments for which planning permission for short-term letting use has been granted.

There is currently no statutory national-level planning policy in place with regard to short-term letting.

In the period 2019 – 2025, Cork City Council received a total of 46 complaints from members of the public relating to properties operating as short-term lets. An additional 319 properties were identified as potentially engaging in short-term letting, as a result of proactive investigation by the local authority. A total of 147 warning

letters were issued on foot of these complaints and investigations. No enforcement notices have been served and all cases have either been dismissed or resolved through negotiation.

It is important to note that significant legislative changes are proposed at government level regarding the future responsibility for and management of Short Term Letting. These proposed changes have and will affect the resourcing and approach that the City Council can give to this issue. As such the Department have advised that the current STL Regulations will expire at the end of February 2026. Replacement legislation, the Short-Term Letting and Tourism Bill, involving the registration of short-term letting properties, which is under development by the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment and in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, is at an advanced stage and is expected to be in place in Q1 2026. The Council awaits further updates and details in this regard.

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

6.14 **SHARED BIKE SCHEME**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the expansion of the shared bike scheme across the city?

REPLY

The NTA operate and maintain the shared bike scheme in Cork City. Cork City Council is aware that the NTA are actively looking at improving the operational performance of the scheme, thereby enhancing its access and expanding its services. We understand from discussions with NTA they hope to carry out this upgrade work in 2026.

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

6.15 **HOMELESS DAY CENTRE FUNDING**

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

To ask the Chief Executive when the funding of the Homeless Day Centre was applied for from the government and the HSE, when was it approved, how much has been allocated, has a partner been found to come on board with this project and if yes, when will it be open. I have consistently advocated for the opening of such a vital facility the homeless people of Cork. For many of them they are not allowed remain in emergency accommodation during the day. Once again, homeless people are walking

the streets of Cork in freezing cold and wet weather conditions. I have previously looked for correspondence on this and I would respectfully request a full and comprehensive reply.

REPLY

A joint application for funding was sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government Heritage (DHLGH) and the Department of Health on the 3rd of October, 2024 as a joint partnership between Cork City Council and the HSE Social Inclusion Cork Kerry. The application is awaiting approval.

€912,000 was sought by Cork City Council in Section 10 funding from the DHLGH.

Following receipt of approval discussions will commence with partners for the delivery and operation of this facility.

An opening date is not known as it is dependent on clarification of answers given in this response.

Nicky Carroll,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

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

6.16 **MULTI PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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

In 2018 Cork County Council gave a commitment in principle to offer lands for the development of a multi purpose community centre. Will the chief executive honour this agreement and progress talks to making the multi purpose community centre a reality for the many organisations in Ballincollig.

REPLY

Cork City Council through the Community & Sports Team have been working with Ballincollig Community Forum for a number of years to support the development of a multi-purpose community centre and support the forum in the governance and management of same. To date, the forum have been supported to become a company limited by guarantee and consultations have been held to examine the number of community organisations who would avail of and benefit from the centre. Potential plans have been drawn up. Scoping works of potential sites have also been completed by the Community but to date no site has been deemed suitable. The Community & Sports Team will continue to engage with the Forum to scope potential lands and examine the development of a multi-purpose community centre for Ballincollig.

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

6.17 **NET COST TO CORK CITY COUNCIL FOR CORKMAS 2025**

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

Can the Chief Executive provide the **net cost** to Cork City Council for Corkmas 2025 (gross expenditure minus revenues from tickets, stall fees, sponsorships etc.), including a breakdown for the main elements (Parade, Lighting incl. energy, Markets, Ferris Wheel & Carousel, Santa Experience, Entertainment, Security, PR/Marketing/Advertising, Staff Overtime, Waste management/Clean-up, and others), and outline the metrics and data used to measure economic benefits to city centre businesses (e.g. footfall figures, estimated extra spend, surveys, or impact studies).

REPLY

The Corkmas took place from November 14th to December 31st, bringing over 6 six week of sustained Christmas activity and promotion to the City Centre this Christmas. The direct programme of delivery included the following:

- Corkmas Parade/Switch on of the Christmas Lights – Friday 14th November.
- Corkmas Markets at Emmet Place - Friday November 21 to Monday 22nd December, each weekend from 10am to 8pm.
- Ferris Wheel at Grand Parade – 28th November to December 31st
- Family Programming and Games in Bishop Lucey Park – Saturday and Sunday from December 6th to 19th, 12noon to 6pm.
- Concerts at Counting House – 6th, 7th, and 13th December

The total cost of the overall planning, programme, and delivery of the above was:

Corkmas Parade: €98,455

Corkmas Festival Programme and Delivery: €230,363

Communications promotion and marketing: €14,452

Total: €343,270

Income earned from the Ferris Wheel and the Christmas markets was €74,399.

The net cost to Cork City Council for Corkmas Festival 2025 was €268,871.

The metrics used to evaluate the economic value and impact to the City Centre include attendance and footfall to events, reach and value of PR coverage in promotion of the City Centre at Christmas and through direct feedback from business and social media.

The overall footfall at directly programmed Corkmas events above is approximately 185,000. This is calculated through counting footfall at events, calculating density of attendance per square meter and ticket sales.

A sustained eight-week PR campaign promoting Corkmas and come to Cork at Christmas was undertaken and the advertising value (AVE) of print and online coverage received is in the region of €340,000.

The final festival reconciliation and debrief with suppliers is still underway and a full report will be prepared and presented to the Arts Committee in due course.

Rebecca Loughry,
Director of Service,
Corporate, Community and Cultural Affairs.

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **NPF IMPLEMENTATION: HOUSING GROWTH REQUIREMENTS GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING AUTHORITIES (2025)**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir H. Kamegni, seconded by Comhairleoir C. Kelleher, An Chomhairle considered and noted the non-statutory Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with section 3.1 of the 'NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2025).

7.2 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the Chief Executive, dated 29th January 2026 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of Stall No. 16 Grand Parade Market to KWB Meat Centre Ltd. c/o Frank Buttimer & Company Solicitors, 19 Washington Street, 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 S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

2. Disposal of Stall No. 30A Grand Parade Market to San Thidar, c/o Best & Co. Solicitors, 3 Marlboro Street, Cork by way of lease for a term of 21 years from the 1st January 2024 at an annual rent of €2,636.07 plus rates and service charges.

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

3. Disposal by way of exchange of property known as No. 14 Oakpark, Ballyvolane, Cork to Patrick & Marie O'Sullivan, c/o Finbarr Murphy Solicitors, Lee White House, 8 Washington St, Cork in exchange for the property owned by the said Patrick & Marie O'Sullivan at No. 28 Dunmore Gardens, Knocknaheeny, Cork.

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

7.3 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT EVERGREEN ROAD, TURNERS CROSS.**

In accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, An Chomhairle considered the proposed residential development at Evergreen Road, Turners Cross, 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 14th January 2026.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir A. Deasy, seconded by Comhairleoir N. O’Flynn, a vote was called for on the approval of the proposed development at Evergreen Road, Turners Cross, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, O. Moran, N. O’Flynn, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, D. Boyle, N. O’Connor, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, J. Lynch, T. Coleman, C. O’Connor. (28)

AGAINST: Comhairleoir A. Deasy. (1)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried and the proposed development at Evergreen Road, Turners Cross approved. On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Boyle, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development at Evergreen Road, Turners Cross, 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 Evergreen Road, Turners Cross, 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 9th February 2026.”

7.4 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT ANGLESEA TERRACE**

In accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, An Chomhairle considered the proposed residential development at Anglesea Terrace, 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 5th February 2026.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir A. Deasy, seconded by Comhairleoir N. O’Flynn, a vote was called for on the approval of the proposed development at Anglesea Terrace, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, O. Moran, N. O’Flynn, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, T. Shannon, K.

McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, D. Boyle, N. O’Connor, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, J. Lynch, T. Coleman, G. O’Brien, C. O’Connor. (28)

AGAINST: Comhairleoir A. Deasy. (1)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried and the proposed development at Anglesea Terrace approved. On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Boyle, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development at Anglesea Terrace, 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 Anglesea Terrace, 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 9th February 2026.”

7.5 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT PHASE 1D EAST**

In accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, An Chomhairle considered the proposed residential development at Phase 1D East, 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 30th January 2026.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir A. Deasy, seconded by Comhairleoir N. O’Flynn, a vote was called for on the approval of the proposed development at Phase 1D East, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, O. Moran, N. O’Flynn, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, D. Boyle, N. O’Connor, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, J. Lynch, T. Coleman, G. O’Brien, C. O’Connor. (29)

AGAINST: (0)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoir A. Deasy. (1)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried and the proposed development at Phase 1D East approved. On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, seconded by Comhairleoir K. Collins, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development at Phase 1D East, 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 Phase 1D East, 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 9th February 2026.”

7.6 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: 2 THE STEEPLES, SILVERSPRINGS ROAD, MAYFIELD, CORK - COPE FOUNDATION CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 19th January 2026 in relation to a loan facility for Cope Foundation CLG in respect of the provision of 1 four bed house at 2 The Steeples, Silversprings Road, Mayfield, Cork.

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

“Resolved that, pursuant to the provision of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, a loan facility not exceeding €489,997.00 be granted to Cope Foundation CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of one 4-bed detached house at 2 The Steeples, Silversprings Road, Mayfield, Cork.”

7.7 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: 20 KINVARA AVENUE, BALLYVOLANE, CORK - COPE FOUNDATION CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 19th January 2026 in relation to a loan facility for Cope Foundation CLG in respect of the provision of 1 four bed house at 20 Kinvara Avenue, Ballyvolane, Cork.

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

“Resolved that, pursuant to the provision of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, a loan facility not exceeding €623,006.00 be granted to Cope Foundation CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of one 4-bed semi-detached house at 20 Kinvara Avenue, Ballyvolane, Cork.”

7.8 **DRAFT FRUGAL ENERGY EFFICIENT LIVING POLICY**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Boyle, seconded by Comhairleoir O. Moran, An Chomhairle agreed to adopt the Draft Frugal Energy Efficient Living Policy.

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 3rd FEBRUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 3rd February 2026.

8.1 **MOTIONS**

8.1.1 **EU PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 29th January 2026 on the following motion:-

‘In light of Ireland hosting the EU Presidency of the Council later in 2026, that Cork City Council takes an interest in hosting EU Council Presidency meetings.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 26/022)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Members will be aware that Ireland will host the Presidency of the European Council from July to December 2026.

Cork City Council has been engaging with various government departments, the Taoiseach’s Office, European as well as regional partners and the Office of Public Works with regards to hosting events as part of the presidency and other events aligned to the Presidency. Further information will be shared with members as events are confirmed.

8.1.2 **GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICYMAKING TRAINING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 29th January 2026 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council notes the publication of the Government’s *National Strategy for Women and Girls 2025–2030*, which commits to embedding gender equality across all areas of public policy, including at local authority level. The Council acknowledges that its policies, plans, projects and budgetary decisions can have different impacts on women and men.

In this context, Cork City Council calls on the Chief Executive to support the provision of gender-responsive policymaking training for councillors and relevant council staff, including training in gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting, in order to ensure that gender equality impacts are considered in council decision-making. The Council further supports the role of Cork City Council’s Women’s Caucus in advocating for and supporting this work.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. O’ Connor 26/057)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council through Human Resources will examine the provision of training on gender-responsive policymaking for both councillors and relevant council staff, including training in gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting.

9. **PARTY WHIPS – 26th JANUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 26th January 2026.

9.1 **MOTIONS**

9.1.1 **DESIGNATE THE NEW BRIDGE AS THE “FREDERICK DOUGLASS BRIDGE”**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Directors of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, and Infrastructure Development, dated 12th January 2026 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council, on the back of a previous motion I submitted to this Council in 2022, can look to name the new bridge in Cork City the “Frederick Douglass Bridge.”

Statement of Rationale:

Frederick Douglass, the eminent abolitionist, writer, and global advocate for human and civil rights, visited Cork in 1845 during his historic Irish tour. His lectures and engagements in the city had a lasting impact on Cork’s civic and cultural life and continue to form an important chapter in our shared history.

The proposal to name this bridge after Frederick Douglass carries additional significance. A major bridge in Washington, D.C. is already named the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, a landmark of national importance in the United States. During a previous visit by representatives of Cork City Council to Washington, D.C., it was suggested that should Cork choose to name its new bridge in honour of Frederick Douglass, there may be an opportunity to explore the twinning of the two bridges. Such a twinning arrangement would strengthen international civic relationships, highlight shared values of justice and equality, and deepen cultural and educational ties.

Naming the bridge after Frederick Douglass would therefore:

1. Honour a Historic Connection: Recognise the important relationship between Frederick Douglass and the people of Cork.
2. Continue the Work of the 2022 Motion: Build directly on the aims and principles of the motion I submitted in 2022, reaffirming Cork City Council’s commitment to inclusion, equality, and the recognition of figures who embody these values.
3. Promote International Civic Links: Provide the basis for exploring the potential twinning of Cork’s new bridge with the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge in Washington, D.C.
4. Enhance Public Awareness: Offer a meaningful civic landmark inspiring reflection on Cork’s role in global human rights history.
5. Celebrate a Shared Global Legacy: Align Cork with other cities that honour Frederick Douglass as a leader of enduring moral importance.

In light of the above, and in keeping with the objectives outlined in the 2022 motion, I request that the Council formally look at designating the new bridge as the Frederick Douglass Bridge, and undertake any necessary administrative or diplomatic steps to support this designation and explore opportunities for international bridge twinning.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Kelleher 26/001)

The report of the Directors of Services stated that a process for the naming of the new bridge was considered and approved by Party Whips at its meeting of 24th November 2025 and further adopted by Council on 8th December 2025. The process is similar to the process that saw the naming of both Mary Elmes Bridge in 2019, and Vernon Mount Bridge in 2023. Submissions from the public will be accepted until Monday 26 January 2026 at 4pm. The suggestion contained in the motion will be included in the list of suggested names to be shortlisted.

10. **ENVIRONMENT, WATER & AMENITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - COMHSHAOL, UISCE & ÁISEANNA – 20th JANUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 20th January 2026.

10.1 **MOTIONS**

10.1.1 **DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORK LUAS ACROSS THE RIVER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Integrated Development, dated 12th September 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That a comprehensive river uses feasibility study be carried out prior to any further development of the Cork Luas across the river.’

(Proposers: Cllr. K. McCarthy, Cllr. N. O’Connor 25/311)

The report of the Director of Services stated that it is acknowledged that the delivery of the proposed enabling infrastructure in the Cork Docklands must balance the demands of both existing and future river users and uses, and the integration of new bridge structures and quayside infrastructure. The Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 includes Objective 6.21, which sets out Cork City Council’s intention to commission a river use and management study to examine the commercial and recreational potential of the River Lee and Upper Harbour area for all users, and identify essential infrastructure and appropriate locations for the delivery of this infrastructure in partnership with key stakeholders. As confirmed to Councillors during the City Development Plan ‘Variation No. 2 (Cork Docklands)’ process in July, Cork City Council intends to commission this study, which will consider tourism, marine recreation and wider river use, as soon as possible. A brief is currently being prepared with the intention of progressing to tender as soon as possible.

10.1.2 **DOG PARK FOR MARINA PARK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 17th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council will report on the ongoing use of the dog park area in Ballincollig and seek to establish a similar set up for somewhere in Marina Park.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 25/419)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that the Dog Park in the Regional Park Ballincollig has proven to be a very well used facility with positive feed back from users. Given the availability of suitable land within the Regional Park this 1.2 acre site comprising 2 distinct areas separating large dogs from smaller dogs, made it feasible to locate a dog park here. The Park cost approximately €60,000 to provide.

The only large open space in the Marina Park has been designed as an ecological biodiverse amenity. It is therefore not a suitable location for a dog park.

A full report on the possibilities of establishing additional dog parks will be brought to Council early in 2026.

10.1.3 **PROVISION OF PUBLIC TOILETS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 17th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council as a matter of policy include the provision of public toilets when planning the development of public parks and public spaces.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Sheehan 25/440)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that it is the Policy of the Parks and Recreation Department, where possible, to provide public toilets at our major parks i.e. those with the highest footfall and where users stay for long periods. The provision and maintenance of toilets is costly and there is no budgetary provision to have toilets at smaller parks.

An Chomhairle further agreed to refer the motion to the City Centre Committee for further consideration.

10.1.4 **CLIMATE CRISIS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, Acting Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations and Director of Services, Corporate, Community and Cultural Affairs, dated 17th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘In recognition of the climate crisis, in advance of the crucial COP30 United Nations Climate Change Conference in November, and in honour of the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, that Cork City Council:

(a) Recognises road transport as Cork’s primary source of greenhouse gas pollution, recognises bus priority on Saint Patrick’s Street as the primary change it can make to cut this pollution, recognises Bus Éireann’s advice to extend bus priority hours there, will engage with Bus Éireann and the National Transport Authority to model the related improvements to bus reliability and footfall in the city centre, will engage with stakeholders about extending the hours and, on that basis, commits itself in principle to extending the hours to coincide with the introduction of the new Bus Connects network, due from April 2026, to collaboratively and successfully implement Cork’s greatest response to the existential crisis of climate change.

(b) Will join the worldwide movement of Earth Hour by switching off non-essential lights at City Hall for one hour from 8:30pm-9:30pm, on the last or penultimate Saturday in March that Earth Hour is held, every year, as a symbol of commitment to the planet.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 25/442)

The report of the Directors of Services stated that:

(a) Busconnects program is the national program for the upgrading of bus services, the new network was adopted by the NTA following public consultation and rollout is expecting to be commenced in 2026. This will include, frequency, routing and scheduling throughout the city centre. The new City Centre Directorate will also engage with Bus Éireann and NTA in relation to bus priority on St. Patrick Street as requested by Cllr Kamegni.

(b) While it is not possible to turn off all lighting due to Health and Safety Regulations, we will support by turning off all unnecessary lighting and promote Earth Hour with all City Council staff.

10.1.5 **WATER FOUNTAINS IN PUBLIC PARKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 17th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council as a matter of policy would aim for where practicable that every public park would have at least one water fountain. With the changing climate

and more usage of our parks with Parkruns etc this should enhance the usage of our parks.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Sheehan 25/445)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that a number of drinking water fountains have been installed by the Parks & Recreation Department across a number of parks in the past two years, it being the objective to continue this programme of installation to other parks on a rolling basis subject to it being feasible to connect to a suitable water supply.

10.1.6 **INSTALLATION OF PUBLIC WATER REFILL STATIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, City Centre Development, dated 17th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council, noting the success of the Refill Water Initiative in Dublin City Council and other local authorities, agrees to install publicly accessible water refill stations in Cork City Centre to reduce single-use plastic waste, promote sustainability, and provide a practical service for residents and visitors alike.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. O’Connor 25/457)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) encourages the recycling of plastic bottles and cans and has resulted in a significant decrease in waste of this nature in Cork City. Since it’s introduction in February 2024 Ireland’s recycling rate for plastic bottles and aluminium and steel cans has jumped from 49% to 91%, of this, 76% is directly captured via the scheme. This equates to 798 million more containers now being recycled annually in Ireland. Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) reports a 50% drop in litter from bottles and cans since the scheme launched. Notwithstanding that Cork City Council will review the potential for publicly accessible water refill stations to be installed in the city centre.

10.1.7 **WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE CITY CENTRE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 17th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council recognises:

- a. that the current system of waste management in the city centre and surrounds is not fit for purpose in areas of dense population where homeowners have nowhere to store bins but on the footpaths outside their homes;
- b. that the current system leads to vast tracts of footpaths in the city being rendered completely unusable and impossible to navigate if you are reliant on a mobility aid, pushing a buggy, physically impaired etc;
- c. that the current system poses a safety risk to walkers by rendering the said footpaths unusable and is incompatible with the city’s stated goal of being a city that encourages active travel;

d. that the current system materially detracts from the overall look of the city,

And recognising the foregoing that the City Council resolves to investigate alternatives to the current system including but not limited to investigating the possibility of moving to a similar system to that being currently rolled out by Dublin City Council i.e. the introduction of on street waste compactors.’

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O’Connor 25/472)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that Cork City Council is currently in talks with Dublin City Council and waste companies on the options available for the street waste compactors and accessing if this is a suitable option for residential waste collection.

10.1.8 **HOUSEHOLD AND COMMERCIAL REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 17th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would reinstate ownership and direct management of household and commercial refuse collection services, and that it would reintroduce a waiver scheme for pensioners, persons with disabilities, and other eligible individuals.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Gould 25/477)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that Dublin City Council commissioned the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) to undertake research in respect of the re-municipalisation of waste services in Dublin City Council. The results of this research were published in February 2023. The key finding of this report was that the re-municipalisation of waste services in Ireland (and thus the exclusion of private collectors) would require changes to the primary legislation i.e. to the Waste Management Act, 1996. The report was very clear that without said changes to the national legislation and re-municipalisation would be deemed anti-competitive by the Irish and European Courts. The report went further and stated that even if a Local Authority were to re-enter the market in competition with private operators, it is likely that the Courts could view its dual roles as both regulator and market operator as a conflict of interests and therefore also anti-competitive, unless legislative changes were introduced. It is thus clear from the above report that unless changes to national legislation are implemented, the re-municipalisation of waste collection services by Local Authorities is not permissible.

An Chomhairle further agreed to refer the motion to the Corporate Policy Group for further consideration.

10.1.9 **ANIMAL WELFARE CONCERNS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Housing, dated 17th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘Given the tremendous work undertaken by Council staff and other supports I wish to ask Cork City Council to prepare a report on:

1. The number of areas in the city where animal welfare issues have been highlighted.
2. The number of horses reported and taken into care.
3. What inter agency approaches have been undertaken in terms of animal welfare prevention.
4. What's the length of time taken from reporting the issue to collecting the animals and taking them into care.
5. To establish if those claiming they own the animals are capable of looking after the animals and in compliance with legislation.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 25/481)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that:

1. Animal Welfare issues are being highlighted in the suburban areas of the City on an ongoing basis.
2. In the first six months of the year 2025, there were 56 reports received in respect of horses. This resulted in 40 horses being seized in that six-month time period. There were 36 horses successfully re-homed and 4 horses remained in the Pound at the end of June 2025. No horses were euthanised.
3. Cork City Council interacts with the ISPCA, CSPCA and the Veterinary Service in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as required on an ongoing basis. There was also an Animal Welfare Day previously held at Spring Lane. The Housing Directorate is engaging with Corporate, Community and Culture Affairs regarding a further roll out.
4. The time taken from receiving a report to collecting a horse varies but in most cases the horse would usually be collected the next day once there is no danger to the public. Requests where horses are straying and posing an imminent danger to the Public which are deemed urgent would usually be dealt within an hour or so.
5. The requirement for the return of seized horses to owners is covered by the Control of Horses Act 1996. The requirements consist of: Evidence of a current horse passport, Evidence that the owner has the necessary facilities and lands for the proper upkeep and welfare of the horse, Evidence of an Equine Premises Number and Proof of ownership. Payment of the return fee for the horse is also required.

In the first six months of the year 2025, no horses were successfully reclaimed by an owner.

10.1.10 **CITY CENTRE STREET CLUTTER AUDIT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, City Centre Development, dated 17th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That a city centre street clutter audit be undertaken specifically on streets such as St. Patrick’s Street and the Grand Parade.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 25/509)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Centre Development and Operations Directorate has commenced a process of data collection which is identifying and quantifying street furniture in the city centre. Items being recorded in the survey include, but are not limited to, bollards, seating, plinths, planters, signage poles, traffic signals, etc.

10.1.11 **HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 17th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council supports the report and recommendations of the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission into The Operation of the Household Waste Collection Market.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 25/517)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that the 2018 Competition and Consumer Protection Commission recommendations aim to create a more efficient, competitive, and consumer friendly household waste collection market in Ireland. By addressing the structural issues and enhancing regulatory oversight, the commission seeks to improve service delivery and environmental outcomes in the waste management sector.

Although Cork City Council supports any improvements that can be made to the Operation of the Household Waste Collection Market its role is to implement any legislation created by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.

An Chomhairle further agreed to forward the motion to the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment.

10.1.12 **RE-TURN UNITS AT PUBLIC FACILITIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 17th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will add dedicated Re-turn units for bottles and cans at City Hall, libraries, and other public facilities and will consider the example of Cork

University Hospital (CUH) and Cork Airport in nominating charities to benefit from these deposits.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 25/525)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Council Services will examine the feasibility of this request for the provision of dedicated Re-turn units for bottles and cans in City Hall. An initial examination of the potential for locating the units in the Library Service indicated that the space required may be a challenge but this will be reviewed further. A further report will issue in relation to this motion once the feasibility study is complete.

10.1.13 **COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 17th November 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council commits to expanding the provision of community allotments across the city, recognising their value in promoting biodiversity, sustainability, mental and physical wellbeing, and social inclusion. The Council will identify suitable green spaces, including underutilised public parks and lands, for the development of accessible allotments, with particular consideration given to raised bed gardening for older people and those with disabilities. Furthermore, the Council will explore partnerships with community organisations, schools, and healthcare providers to maximise the social and educational benefits of allotment spaces.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. O’Connor 25/530)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that the Parks & Recreation Department have two large garden allotments in operation, one at Churchfield and the other at the Regional Park in Ballincollig. The development costs of these gardens is expensive, allowing for the provision of necessary fencing enclosure, water and sewage supplies, toilets and storage unit, site layout including top soil etc.

In recent years, the Department has with other agencies such as Green Spaces for Health and others, helped provide community gardens for growing vegetables across a number of parks and open spaces including at Clashduv Park in Togher , Murphys Farm at Bishopstown, Douglas Community Park, Ballinlough Park, Mahon, Ballyhooley Quarry, the Glen Resource Centre and work progressing for a new garden at the Fairfield at Fairhill. This model has proved to be very popular, effective and achievable, without a budgetary constraint preventing a local community from having a local community garden. We will continue to work with other agencies and communities to support further provision.

10.1.14 **TRIAL CONVERSION OF A STREET TO A PERMEABLE MATERIAL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 16th January 2026 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will trial conversion of a street to a permeable material to assist in relief from the impact of cloudbursts and other flash flooding situations.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 25/624)

The report of the Director of Services stated that permeable surface materials have not been a common feature of road/street construction in Cork City due to challenges presented by way of high installation cost, additional ground condition requirements, susceptibility to cracking in cold weather, potential for clogging/accumulation of fine material, additional maintenance requirements, structural limitations, groundwater contamination risks, installation susceptibility etc. The potential use of such materials will continue to be reviewed by Council having regard to future advances in materials and design solutions. In the meantime, the Council will continue to expand the use of other sustainable urban drainage solutions in the development of new works including rain gardens, swales, wetlands, trees/planting, soakways, rainwater harvesting, attenuation systems etc.

10.1.15 **GREENING PLAN FOR THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, City Centre Development, dated 16th January 2026 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council welcomes the opening of Bishop Lucey Park, particularly the removal of the railings, notes that its success will be measured by the number and variety of people enjoying it, and resolves to mark the occasion by deliberately greening the city, starting with restoring green space within the park and detailing a greening and de-paving plan for public space throughout Cork, starting in the city centre, noting the recent example of grasscrete for car-parking spaces at the Marina Promenade and the potential for the radical retrofit of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to manage surface water, mitigate flood risk and materially add to Cork’s appearance, colour, health and wellbeing.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 25/652)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the thematic objectives of the City Centre Development & Operations: Action Plan 2025-2030, which was adopted by Cork City Council at its December meeting, are consistent with the proposal set out in the Notice of Motion. It is noted in the Action Plan that “by enhancing key streets and public spaces, revitalisation will transform currently cluttered and underutilised areas into attractive, green and welcoming places that encourage community development, social interaction and increase footfall.” The actions referenced in the Notice of Motion can be factored into considerations in terms of enhanced streetscaping as projects are progressed under the Action Plan. In the meantime, it is confirmed that restorative and additional planting will be undertaken as necessary at the recently completed Marina Park and Bishop Lucy Park following the very high

levels of people using the new facilities along with the inclement weather of recent weeks.

10.1.16 **PLAQUE AT SPRIGGS ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 16th January 2026 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council in remembrance of Volunteer Denis Spriggs install a plaque at Spriggs Road, Gurrabraher to be included in the Revolutionary Trail.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 25/573)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that the committee refer this motion to the relevant Local Area Committee for further consideration.

11. **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - POBAL, CULTÚR & COMHFHORBAIRT ÁITE – 22nd JANUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 22nd January 2026.

11.1 **MINUTES OF THE ARTS COMMITTEE – 22nd OCTOBER 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Arts Committee meeting held on the 22nd October 2025.

11.2 **MOTIONS**

11.2.1 **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORK TRAUMA SENSITIVE CITIES STRATEGY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 18th December 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council supports the review and continuation of the Cork Trauma Sensitive Cities Strategy beyond 2025, and that the Council will work in partnership with the Community section and the Steering Group to develop the next phase of the strategy. The continuation of this work will ensure that Cork remains a leader in embedding trauma-informed principles across services, communities, and policy development.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. O’Connor 25/576)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council through the Community team engage a number of stakeholders and agencies across the city to facilitate an inter-agency steering committee which responds to our commitment to

making Cork a Trauma Sensitive City. In 2025, the steering committee was re-established and each partner agency signed a pledge, signalling their commitment to embed trauma-informed principles across services, communities, and policy development.

In 2026, the Community Team will lead the development of a Trauma Sensitive Cities strategy for Cork city from 2026-2029. This will involve a needs analysis and engagement with stakeholders and services across the city to ensure services, communities, and policy development are supported and informed in our joint commitment to being trauma informed.

11.2.2 **DEVELOPMENT OF A CORK CITY MUSEUM OF MUSIC**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 22nd December 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council explore the feasibility of establishing a dedicated Cork Museum of Music, reflecting the city’s rich musical heritage across two core themes:

1. Artists and Bands – documenting and celebrating the contributions of Cork’s musicians, bands, composers and performers across the decades; and
2. Iconic Venues – preserving the history, stories and cultural impact of the city’s legendary music venues, past and present.

That Council initiate the preparation of a preliminary business case to examine:

- suitable sites or existing buildings capable of accommodating the project;
- potential for phased development or partnership models (public, private, cultural, educational);
- visitor-attraction potential and projected footfall;
- operating costs, revenue opportunities and funding sources (local, national, EU cultural funding);
- integration with the city’s tourism strategy and night-time economy; and
- opportunities for digital archives, exhibitions, and educational or community programming.

That a report be brought back to Council outlining options, estimated costs and next steps.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boylan 25/614)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council operate a highly regarded Music Library (Rory Gallagher Music Library) as part of its City Libraries Service providing a unique musical resource in the city with free access to music materials in all formats including CDs, DVDs, streaming services, music books and scores in all genres; classical, choral, traditional, jazz, contemporary, rock and pop for lending and for reference and archival purposes. Our libraries are involved with many of the festivals and cultural events in the city, hosting events during the Jazz Festival,

Choral Festival, Folk Festival, Heritage Week, Lifelong Learning Festival, and Culture Night.

Cork City Libraries established The Cork Music and Performing Arts Archive the Cork Music Archive to give a permanent home to the wealth of music produced by Cork people. The collections held in the archive cover all forms of music. is an online resource dedicated to showcasing and preserving Cork's rich musical and performing arts heritage. It features a diverse range of collections which contain texts, sheet music, sound recordings, photographs, and scrapbooks filled with fascinating ephemera which offer a unique look at the lives and work of notable artists and musicians. Some of the Archive has been digitised and is available online. Developing this offering is actively pursued through the documenting and celebrating the contributions of Cork's musicians, bands, composers and performers and identifying and preserving the history, stories and cultural impact of the city's legendary music venues, past and present is a core aspiration of the Library Service along with its sister services in Cork Public Museum and Cork City and County Archives as resources become available.

The City Library will work on ways to celebrate and record Musicians and their impact on our city as part of this process. An example of this is the recent Cork Rocks for Rory celebration of the life of Rory Gallagher - which will further develop and be recorded in 2026. A podcast series is in planning for the coming years that will reach across musical topics including big bands, musicians and venues.

A report will be prepared for the committee in the first half of 2026.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

11.2.3 **PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE ADRENALINE AUTO-INJECTORS (EPIPENS)**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 16th January 2026 on the following motion:-

‘Can the Council assess the feasibility and governance requirements of providing publicly accessible adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens) alongside existing AEDs in the city, and of supporting community, sporting and voluntary groups to hold stock EpiPens for emergency use?’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Gould 26/024)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council through the Community Team and colleagues in the Health Service Executive will assess the feasibility and governance requirements of providing publicly accessible adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens) alongside existing AEDs in the city, and of supporting

community, sporting and voluntary groups to hold stock EpiPens for emergency use and revert with an update at the next meeting.

11.2.4 **FULL-TIME DISABILITY OFFICER**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 16th January 2026 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council fund and recruit a full-time Disability Officer, tasked with engaging with disability organisations and advocacy groups and to work across Council departments to help ensure that Cork is a disability-friendly city that is accessible and inclusive for all.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Gould 26/025)

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. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 13th JANUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 13th January 2026.

13. **CITY CENTRE COMMITTEE – 28th JANUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the City Centre Committee from its meeting held, 28th January 2026.

14. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 3rd FEBRUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 3rd February 2026.

15. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 26th JANUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 26th January 2026.

16. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 26th JANUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 26th January 2026.

17. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 26th JANUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 26th January 2026.

18. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 26th JANUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 26th January 2026.

18.1 **MOTIONS**

18.1.1 **ST. PATRICK'S HILL, AUDLEY PLACE, BELLS FIELD, LADY'S WELL, FEVER HOSPITAL STEPS AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, and the A/Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 9th and 22nd January 2026 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would hold an architectural competition for the redesign of St. Patrick's Hill, Audley Place, Bell's Field, Lady's Well and Fever Hospital steps, and surrounding areas. Engage consultants to oversee the redevelopment and enhancement of this historic area of Cork City.’

(Proposers: Cllr. N. O’Flynn, Cllr. O. Moran 25/606)

The report of the Directors of Services stated that Cork City Council will explore potential grant funding sources which could be used to further the appointment of a design team to prepare refurbishment proposals/plans for the Patricks’ Hill, Audley Place, Bells Field, Lady’s Well and Fever Hospital steps as suggested.

Parks & Recreation are currently preparing draft landscape drawings for the upgrade of Bells Field, to include footpath improvements, seating and soft landscaping to enhance biodiversity in the area. This landscape plan will then be costed and Capital funding will need to be secured, as there is no provision in the current budget.

In considering the report members noted the huge potential of the area, and also the need to look at short term improvements while identifying funding for a major refurbishment plan. A review of a 2007 report on the area would provide a useful starting point.

The A/Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations agreed to review the 2007 report with his team and report back to the Committee on possible short term actions.

19. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th JANUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th January 2026.

20. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

21. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoir T. Coleman at the Cork London Association Dinner, held at London, UK, 24th October 2025.
- Comhairleoir T. Coleman at the National Presentation of Fire Service Long Service Awards, held at Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath, 13th November 2025.
- Comhairleoir T. Coleman at the Deeds of Bravery Awards Ceremony, held at Leinster House, Co. Dublin, 5th December 2025.
- Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh at the LAMA Spring Seminar, held at Connacht Hotel, Co. Galway, 28th - 29th January 2026.
- Ardmhéara Comhairleoir F. Dennehy at the United Nations Mayors Forum, held at Geneva, Switzerland, 5th - 8th October 2025.
- Ardmhéara Comhairleoir F. Dennehy as part of the Lord Mayor's Delegation Visit to Shanghai, China, 15th - 22nd November 2025.
- Ardmhéara Comhairleoir F. Dennehy as part of the visit to Coventry, UK, 25th - 28th September 2025.

22. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

None received.

23. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

23.1 **ASSOCIATION OF IRISH REGIONS (AIR) TRAINING SEMINAR**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoirí D. Boyle, J. Kavanagh, T. Shannon and S. Martin at the Association of Irish Regions (AIR)

Training Seminar at the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal from 25th - 26th February 2026.

23.2 **'SAFER ROADS' CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoirí P. Horgan and O. Moran at the 'Safer Roads' national conference hosted by Kerry County Council at Gleneagle, INEC Arena, Killarney, Co. Kerry from 11th - 12th March 2026.

24. **TRAINING**

None received.

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

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive's monthly management reports for November and December 2025.

26. **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.

An Chomhairle noted that motions 22, Works along Knockfree Avenue and Knockpogue Avenue, and 23, Knockfree and Knockpogue Avenues, would be discussed under suspension of standing orders.

27. **MOTIONS**

27.1 **PROVISION OF IRISH-MEDIUM EDUCATION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That this Council / local authority call upon Government to enact legislation to systematically, sustainably and steadily increase the provision of Irish-medium education so that future generations of Irish children will have the opportunity to be educated through their national language, if they so desire.'

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy 26/067)

27.2 **TIGHTER RESTRICTIONS FOR SCRAMBLERS**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council write to the Taoiseach's office calling for tighter restrictions on the use of scramblers in public spaces.'

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 26/069)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle approved the motion revised to read as follows:-

‘That Cork City Council write to the Taoiseach’s office and the Garda Commissioner calling for tighter restrictions on the use of scramblers in public spaces.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 26/069)

27.3 **EARLY WARNING MOBILE ALERT SYSTEM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council calls on the Government and the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment to accelerate the development, strengthening, and full national implementation of a modern Early Warning Mobile Alert System capable of issuing immediate, location-based emergency alerts to all mobile phones across all networks during severe weather events and other major public safety emergencies. Similar to the Spanish alert system in Spain, called the ES-Alerts.’

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O’Flynn 26/070)

27.4 **DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT SCHOOL CAMPUS AT LISHEENS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council:

- Notes with concern the recent publication of the Department of Education's Sectoral Investment Plan and its failure to address the urgent need for new school buildings to be provided for Le Chéile secondary school and Gaelscoil an Chaisleáin in Ballincollig;
- Notes that both schools have been operating out of temporary premises since they opened in 2017 and 2021 respectively, with a suitable site for the development of a joint school campus at Lisheens, Ovens being identified in 2020;
- Recalls that this Council completed a compulsory purchase of this site in 2024 and that the land remains in Council ownership;
- Calls for this school building project to be afforded the priority it warrants and that it be delivered without delay - given the urgent need for school places in Ballincollig and surrounding communities;
- Shall write to the Minister for Education communicating the contents of this motion to her.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Lynch 26/079)

27.5 MAXIMISE SUPPORT TO UKRAINE

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That this Council, supporting the significant Ukrainian community living within our city, acknowledge the fourth anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the continuing assault of that country's democratic independent right to be, calling upon the Irish Government to continue and maximise support to Ukraine and its people.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 26/099)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir K. Collins to address An Chomhairle on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council notes the contentious elements of the Knockpogue/Knockfree Avenues Active Travel Scheme and agrees to engage with residents to appoint an agreed, qualified and independent mediator.’

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

FOR: Comhairleoirí N. O’Flynn, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, F. Kerins, J. Lynch. (6)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, P. Dineen, D. Boyle, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, T. Coleman. (13)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, O. Moran, D. Boylan, P. Horgan, N. O’Connor, A. Deasy, G. O’Brien, C. O’Connor. (8)

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir N. O’Flynn to address An Chomhairle on the following motion:-

WORKS ALONG KNOCKFREE AVENUE AND KNOCKPOGUE AVENUE

‘That Cork City Council would agree to temporarily suspend all ongoing and scheduled works along Knockfree Avenue and Knockpogue Avenue, Farranree.

This pause would allow for structured and community engagement, improved transparency, and the presentation of clear and comprehensive project plans to residents and elected members.

While a vast majority of residents welcome the principle of an improvement scheme for the area, they have clearly indicated that they do not support key elements of the current proposals. In particular, there is significant concern regarding the removal of mature trees, the introduction of cycle lanes in place of existing landscaping, and the associated reduction in on street car parking spaces. These aspects are viewed as having considerable environmental, visual, and practical impacts on daily life in the community.'

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O'Flynn 26/083)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir N. O'Flynn, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Dineen, a vote was called for on the approval of the motion where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí N. O'Flynn, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, F. Kerins, J. Lynch, A. Deasy. (7)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, O. Moran, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, P. Horgan, S. O'Callaghan, S. Martin, D. Boyle, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, T. Coleman, G. O'Brien, C. O'Connor. (18)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí P. Dineen, N. O'Connor. (2)

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir B. McCarthy to address An Chomhairle on the following motion:-

KNOCKFREE AND KNOCKPOGUE AVENUES

'In light of the significant community opposition to the plans for Knockfree and Knockpogue Avenues, this Council calls for an immediate temporary stoppage of work to allow space for the Council to seriously engage with residents who are calling for clarity, clear and full plans and better community engagement. The contractor should also be engaged with by the Council to allow for this temporary stoppage.'

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy 26/084)

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

FOR: Comhairleoirí N. O'Flynn, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, F. Kerins, J. Lynch. (6)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Fitzgerald, D. Boylan, J. Sheehan, T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, P. Horgan, S. O'Callaghan, S. Martin, D. Boyle, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, A. Deasy, G. O'Brien, C. O'Connor. (17)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, O. Moran, P. Dineen, N. O'Connor. (4)

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

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH