

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 10th MARCH 2025

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

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The Murray family on the death of Graham Murray.
- The Collins family on the death of Finbarr Collins.
- The Barrett family on the death of Agnes Barrett.
- The Couch family on the death of Margaret Couch.
- The O'Mahony family on the death of Deirdre O'Mahony.
- The O'Regan family on the death of Tim O'Regan.
- The Higgins family on the death of Breda Higgins.
- The O'Driscoll family on the death of Shirley Warrington O'Driscoll.
- The O'Driscoll family on the death of Oliver O'Driscoll.

- The O'Donnell family on the death of Alma O'Donnell.
- The Parkes family on the death of Amanda Parkes.
- The Harrington family on the death of Joan Harrington.

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

- Jim Ryng on being named Bishopstown GAA Member of the Year and services to HSE Air Ambulance.
- Ballincollig AFC on securing title to land at the Landing Field, Ballincollig.
- Deaglán Ó Deargáin on organising Ceolchoirm na Scoile.
- Peter O'Mahony on retiring from Irish International Rugby.
- Conor Murray on retiring from Irish International Rugby.
- JP McNamara on finishing up as producer of 'Cork Today' on C103 after 16 years.
- All five of Cork City Council's LAMA nominations and the three successful winners.

3. **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

3.1 **WELCOME TO UCC STUDENTS**

An tArdmhéara welcomed UCC students present in the public gallery.

3.2 **LORD MAYOR LED DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES**

An tArdmhéara noted the success of the recent Lord Mayor led delegation to the United States.

3.3 **BRUSSELS ST. PATRICK'S DAY PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of An Leas-Ardmhéara H. Kamegni to Brussels from 14th - 16th March 2025 to participate in the Brussels St. Patrick's Day programme and support the Cork – Charleroi Flight Route.

3.4 **CIVIC RECEPTION**

An tArdmhéara reminded An Chomhairle that a Civic Reception for Martin A. Harvey would take place on Wednesday 12th March at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber.

3.5 **COMMEMORATION OF THE CORK WAR MEMORIAL**

An tArdmhéara reminded An Chomhairle that a commemorative ceremony would be held on Sunday 16th March at 1.30pm at the Cork War Memorial, South Mall, to mark 100 years since its unveiling.

3.6 **ST. PATRICK'S DAY ARRANGEMENTS**

An tArdmhéara reminded An Chomhairle of the St. Patrick's Day arrangements which have been circulated.

3.7 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

An tArdmhéara proposed a trial of new speaking times at the end of the meeting for non-statutory items.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

None received.

5. **MINUTES**

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

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

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **FENCE & GATE AT ARDPATRICK AVENUE**

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

Can the CE please advise and provide an update on the current status of the proposed and approved status on the installation of the Fence and Gate at the cul de sac at the end of Ardpatrik Avenue in Blackpool.

REPLY

A referral under Section 5 of the Planning Act in April 2024 was made to An Bord Pleanála in April last year as to “whether the proposed erection of a fence and gate is, or is not, exempted development within the meaning of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 (as amended) (PDA) and the PDR, whether such development would result in the segregation of the estate, and the control, and or prohibition, of access through Ardpatrik, and whether this would represent development that would materially alter the terms of the parent planning permission, as amended, and the interruption of a recreational amenity currently enjoyed by residents and members of the public.”

A decision on the referral is awaited. Once the decision is made it will be advised to the Local Area Committee for consideration.

Paul Moynihan,
Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.2 **FOREIGN TRAVEL 2024**

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

Can the CE confirm the total sum expended by Cork City Council on all foreign travel in 2024, such sum to include the cost of transport, accommodation and sustenance, and under the same expenditure headings to specify the total sum expended on the Lord Mayor led delegation to Shanghai, China, in November, 2024.

REPLY

- (a) The total sum expended by Cork City Council for foreign travel in 2024 including transport, accommodation, and subsistence (excluding delegation to Shanghai – November 2024) - €218,345.35
- (b) The total sum expended by Cork City Council for the Lord Mayor led delegation to Shanghai, China – November 2024 including transport, accommodation and subsistence € 25,870.02

Valerie O’Sullivan,
Chief Executive.

6.3 **LA NA GAELGE**

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

I wish to ask the CEO what actions the Council intends to take to promote La Na Gaeilge (Irish Language Day) on March the 16th 2025. An Annual La Na Gaeilge day was agreed by Cork City Council in 2022. The reason for the motion behind La Na Gaeilge Day on the 16th of March is to ensure that it coincides with Saint Patrick’s Day each and every year and that we Cork City Council would do what is deemed necessary to promote La Na Gaeilge (Irish Language Day) through our media presence and a press release for same.

I fully appreciate that much is done through (Seachtain na Gaeilge) during the month of March however the spirit of the said motion when submitted in 2022 was/is to encourage the people of Cork to use the Irish Language when and where possible or appropriate beginning on the Eve of the Saint Patrick’s Day Festivities thereby revitalizing the Irish Language overall and over time and to date we have in my view failed to promote La Na Gaeilge and the spirit of the said motion which is now 3 years in the making.

REPLY

There is a comprehensive programme of events for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025.

As 16th of March falls on a Sunday this year, Friday 14th March has been designated Lá na Gaeilge in 2025. Cork City Council will deliver and support a range of events including but not limited to the following:

- Distributing an information card with Irish language proverbs (seanfhocail) and commonly used phrases to the public through Cork City Council's library network, public offices as well as the business community via partners in Cork Chamber, the CBA and Local Enterprise Office. This will be promoted on the City Council's social media platforms.
- Delivering over 35 bilingual or Irish language only events throughout the network of 10 libraries during Seachtain na Gaeilge.
- Facilitating an Céilí Mór on Saturday 15th March in the Millennium Hall.
- Supporting a bilingual Quiz in the Clayton hotel on St Patrick's Eve.
- Supporting the relaunch of Gradam Padraig Uí Chuanacháin (recognising businesses who promote the further use of Irish) by Gael Taca with the support of the business community.

Within Cork City Council, Seachtain na Gaeilge, as well as our commitment to the Irish language in general, continues to be enhanced by:

- Our staff subsidy scheme to encourage staff to send children on residential Irish language gaeltacht courses (running since 2005). This is also available to elected members of council.
- An Irish language competency survey to establish training needs to meet our commitments under the Official language (amendment) Act of 2021.
- Seanfhocal an lae - daily proverb in Irish as part of the internal daily global e-mail from the communications section.

Catherine Kelly,
A/Director of Services,
Corporate & Community Affairs.

6.4 **O'GROWNEY CRESCENT**

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

Can the CE update the council as to when insulation works will be carried out on properties at O' Growney Crescent, Pearse Road.

REPLY

The properties at O'Growney Crescent have been surveyed for inclusion in the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. The requisite works were put out to tender with a number of tenders received thereafter.

It should be noted that the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme provides funding for properties to be upgraded to a B2 energy rating with a set maximum funding level available per property. The tendered costs of the necessary upgrades at O'Growney Crescent, to achieve a B2 energy rating, are well in excess of the funding available per property at this time.

Survey details from O'Growney Crescent are being retained with a view to progressing works as soon as funding allows.

Martina Broderick,
A/Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.5 **COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 2040 PLAN FOR COUNTERBALANCE CITY OF CORK**

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

Would the Chief Executive of Cork City Council engage with key stakeholders, including the Port of Cork, Cork County Council, and relevant community representatives, to collaboratively develop a comprehensive program of five strategic points aimed at effectively realizing the objectives of the Government's 2040 Plan for the Counterbalance City of Cork.

****Objectives:****

The proposed collaborative program should encapsulate the following five critical areas of focus:

1. ****Economic Development:**** Identify strategic initiatives that will stimulate economic growth, job creation, and entrepreneurial activities within both the city and county, ensuring that we leverage our unique assets and resources.
2. ****Cultural Enrichment:**** Foster a rich cultural landscape by promoting initiatives that enhance the arts, heritage, and community engagement, reflecting the diverse identity of Cork and enhancing the quality of life for all residents.
3. ****Educational Advancement:**** Collaborate with educational institutions to address and enhance educational opportunities and accessibility, thereby supporting lifelong learning and the development of a skilled workforce.
4. ****Infrastructure Enhancement:**** Assess and prioritize infrastructural needs that will facilitate sustainable growth and accessibility, including transportation, public amenities, and digital connectivity, ensuring our infrastructure meets the demands of a growing population.
5. ****Community Engagement and Inclusiveness:**** Develop mechanisms for ongoing dialogue with residents and stakeholders from both Cork City and County, ensuring their voices and needs are integral to the planning and implementation process.

This question calls for a proactive approach to aligning our efforts across municipal and regional lines, ensuring that all stakeholders work collaboratively towards a shared vision for the future of Cork as a counterbalance city, promoting a unified and comprehensive strategy to communicate our needs and aspirations to the government

and ensuring that the voices of both city and county residents are heard in the realization of the 2040 Plan.

I ask that the Chief executive to undertake immediate steps to initiate discussions with aforementioned stakeholders, with a report on progress to be presented to the Council within three months and would she make a reply to my question?

REPLY

As Chief Executive. I have recently initiated a decisive reorganisation of the Council's senior management team and related Directorates, including new senior appointments to deliver on the strategic pillars of the National Planning Framework as they relate to Cork City to make it a long-term counterbalance to Dublin. Already considerable progress is being made, and it is the City Council's policy to firstly identify and conduct effective stakeholder engagement with all the key stakeholders. As part of this engagement I have already been in contact with my counterparts in Cork County Council and the Port of Cork to explore how we might all work together to promote Cork as a counterbalance to Dublin.

I will be updating the Council on plans, progress and outcomes regularly as matters progress. In the interim, achievements on the journey towards 2040 will be very visible across the city, month by month. These are exciting times for Cork with so much investment and opportunities abounding.

Valerie O'Sullivan,
Chief Executive.

6.6 ROAD SAFETY MEASURES ON EGLANTINE PARK

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

To ask the Chief Executive to state what stage of the process the proposed road safety measures on Eglantine Park for Eglantine National School are currently at. Specifically, please clarify whether they are:

- (I) at design stage only? If so, what are the next steps?
- (II) at the stage where design has been selected and is awaiting approval? If so, by whom and what is the approximate timeframe in respect of same?
- (III) at the stage where design has been approved and is awaiting funding? If so, by whom and what is the approximate timeframe in respect of same?

REPLY

The NTA have provided funding to look at the feasibility and options of providing a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Scoil Bhríde Eglantine as part of a wider active travel project at a number of locations citywide. A consultant has been appointed and has carried out surveys and is assessing each location to inform an options report and

cost estimate. When this work is completed, the NTA and Cork City Council will agree a programme to deliver pedestrian crossings at these locations, based on priority and subject to funding.

Paul Moynihan,
Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.7 **SOCIAL HOUSING 2024**

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

To ask the Chief Executive how many social, affordable and cost rental properties were delivered/ allocated in 2024 with these figures broken down by unit size/type ie. 1-bed, 2- bed, 3-bed, 4-bed and how many new individuals and families were added to the Cork City Council social housing list in the same period 2024.

REPLY

Cork City Council's delivery figure for social, affordable and cost rental properties for 2024 is still awaiting validation by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. This figure will be made available once confirmation of same is received from the Department.

The following social housing units were allocated in 2024.

Properties Allocated

| Property Type | Number of Social Housing Units Allocated |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 Bed | 224 |
| 2 Bed | 274 |
| 3 Bed | 206 |
| 4 Bed | 21 |
| 5 Bed | 1 |
| Total Units Allocated | 726 |

Number of New Households Approved for Social Housing Supports in 2024:

774 households.

Brian Geaney,
Assistant Chief Executive.

6.8 **FIREMAN'S HUT**

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

To ask the CE the initial tender price/budgeted cost of the Fireman's Hut, whether a Value for Money exercise was undertaken and if so at what stage and the expected cost of the installation of interpretive panels and whether a tender has been awarded for this project.

REPLY

The breakdown of costs is set out below. The project was subject to a competitive tendering process and therefore prices are reflective of the market prices for such skills and experience.

| Item | Item breakdown | Cost |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Enabling/site works | | €112,000.00 |
| Conservation consultants | | €18,988.38 |
| Photography | | €908.00 |
| Roof Leading | €12,000.00 | |
| Roof Structure | €3,000.00 | |
| Metalwork repair restoration and recasting | €143,750.00 | |
| Limecrete floor | €5,500.00 | |
| External Doors | €4,500.00 | |
| Ceiling | €2,500.00 | |
| Scaffold | €4,600.00 | |
| Prelims | €25,500.00 | |
| Limestone plinth and steps | €13,200.00 | |
| Total for Restoration contractor | | €214,550.00 |
| Alterations to create hanging gable for cresting | | €15,000.00 |
| Total construction costs | | €361,446.38 |

The project was based upon a competitively tendered works package and involved the careful, skilled dismantling of the existing structure, transport for stripping, blasting and casting of new panels, extensive repair of cracked cast iron panels, working with wrought iron, lead roofing and stonemasonry to the new cut limestone plinth to replicate the initial scheme. The refurbishment of the Fireman's Rest necessitated a standard of conservation craftsmanship that most general construction contractors do not possess.

An in-house team brought the project forward. The team was responsible for the surveys involved, the scoping of work and the appointment of the specialist contractors needed. Procurement requirements were followed throughout.

The refurbishment of the Fireman's Rest / Hut is now complete and it will be opened up to the public during scheduled events. The interpretation of the history of the

building, including its history as a fire-fighting asset and later as a base for city bus services, will form an important element of the project and discussions have already taken place with stakeholders. At this stage, this is a work in progress and there is no design or format for the content or its final interpretation.

Valerie O'Sullivan,
Chief Executive.

6.9 **CORK WATERWORKS EXPERIENCE**

The following question submitted by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy was deferred to the next meeting of An Chomhairle to be held, 14th April 2025:-

To ask the CE on the progress of reinstating the playground at the Old Cork Waterworks Experience and the fixing of the roof within the visitor experience building?

6.10 **HOUSING DELIVERY ACTION PLAN 2022-2026**

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

That the CE provide an update on Cork City Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan (2022- 2026); that targeted delivery versus actual output be set out under the headings 'new build', 'acquisition' and 'leasing' for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024; and that targeted delivery versus projected output be set out for the years 2025 and 2026.

REPLY

Cork City Council's (CCC) overall delivery programme is outlined in its Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP).

The total delivery output of social & affordable housing for 2022 & 2023 for CCC and its delivery partners is 1819 homes. The housing delivery figures for 2024 still await validation by the Department and at stage, the Council will update you with this information.

The City Council is on course to meet the targets with a strong pipeline of social & affordable projects across the City.

Brian Geaney,
Assistant Chief Executive.

6.11 **ILLEGAL DUMPING CLEAN UP COST**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the amount it has cost Cork City Council financially to clean up illegal dumping within the city limits for the years 2023 and 2024 and the status of CCTV facilities to catch illegal dumping in all forms.

REPLY

Cork City Council Cleansing section spends approx. €630,000 annually on clean up of illegal dumping with costs for the 2 years of 2023 and 2024 coming in at approximately €1,260,000 this figure includes wages, disposal of waste and Plant & Machinery.

There are stringent Guidelines in place for CCTV and it is no longer possible to install cameras without adhering to prescribed processes. There is now a Code of Practice for the Operation of CCTV for the Purposes of Prevention, Detection & Prosecution of Litter and Waste Offences as required by the Circular Economy & Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022. There is now a requirement for a location specific DPIA as well as business case and suite of SOPs so as to ensure compliance with the new Codes of Practice. There is also a requirement of public consultation and approval by a Council oversight group for any new installation of CCTV.

In accordance with the above approval for CCTV has been sanctioned for one and the necessary documentation and processes will be put in place for another 8 sites where it is considered that the introduction of CCTV would help to prevent illegal dumping.

Paul Moynihan,
Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.12 **BENCHES/SEATING AT ENTRANCE TO TRAMORE VALLEY PARK ON GRAND ROAD**

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

Can the manager confirm that following discussions at the South Central Ward Meeting a process has commenced to install seating at this location as agreed by members and management.

REPLY

The provision of seating along the pedestrian/cycle connection from Grange to Tramore Valley Park is being examined as agreed at the recent South Central Area Committee Meeting.

The approval for the original works package did not allow for such measures. However, having regard to the successful operation of the new facility and with the passage of time it has been agreed that the matter be revisited with a view to the provision of some seating along the route.

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

6.13 **LEHENAGHMORE / TOGHER ROAD UPGRADE SCHEME**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the Lehenaghmore / Togher Road upgrade scheme in terms of where the project is with timelines, budget and anticipated start date?

REPLY

As part of the 2025 funding allocation process, Cork City Council secured an initial grant of €5.2m in respect of next phase of the Lehenaghmore Road Improvement Scheme. This phase involve the procurement of a contractor and commencement of construction works. Subject to the normal approvals, the construction tender process is scheduled to commence in the coming weeks and it is anticipated that process will be completed over the coming months so as to enable the appointment of a contractor to commence construction works in early July 2025. A construction period in excess of 12 months is anticipated. Members will continue to be updated on related progress over the coming months.

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

6.14 **EV CHARGING POINTS**

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

Could you provide and update on the progress of EV charging points accessible to public installation across the city? Specifically, I would appreciate details on the number of new charging points installed to date with their location, any planned expansions, and the timeline for future developments.

Additionally, are there any barriers delaying the rollout, and how can we work to address them?

REPLY

The recently completed Cork City Council Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy allows for the planned delivery of both fast and normal speed charging options.

There are currently approximately 50 locations through the city where EV drivers can avail of charging facilities with 9 different Charge point providers. The majority of these are destination charging but the provision has increased somewhat from the original 13 sites which were provided in the city by ESB E-cars which included locations at the Park and Ride and Paul St Carpark.

Cork City Council is actively engaging with Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEVI) with respect to the implementation of the Cork City Council Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy.

Cork City Council recently received confirmation from the Department of Transport of approval to a new post to steer the implementation of the electric vehicle charging strategy. The Council will now seek sanction for this post through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and following recruitment an implementation plan can commence which will set out the delivery pathway.

It is estimated that a capital investment of approx. €17million will be required to undertake the programme, including procurement of specialist contractor/s to operate the service. Delivery of charging points will require availability of energy capacity and connections to enable the sites, the availability of civil/electrical contractors to complete the works and stakeholder engagement on a site specific basis.

Paul Moynihan,
Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

6.15 VULNERABLE ANIMALS ON NORTH RING ROAD

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

To ask the Chief Executive, what actions have been carried out to protect the vulnerable animals that are seeking refuge on the North Ring Road?

Has a head count of the animals been neglected taken place?

Have the owners been identified?

How many animals have been rescued?

What types of animals have been rescued?

What sanctions have been imposed on those who have neglected the animals?

What is the cost associated with this rescue operation?

Are all the animals now safe?

REPLY

The Council in recent months has appointed a specialist Contractor to deal with the issue of goats grazing on public lands adjoining roads including the North Ring Road. The work involved is necessarily time consuming involving many man hours, as successful removal involves being able to work very closely near the goats and establish their trust prior to capture, any stress to the animals resulting in unpredictable flight, possibly on to a nearby road.

The primary responsibility for animal welfare lies with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013) whose authorized officers have responsibilities in relation to the enforcement of animal welfare legislation.

Any person who holds goats in the State, must apply for registration to the Department, all goats being required to be double tagged under the National Goat Identification System (NGIS), a tag in each ear with a 12 digit number which includes the goat owner and an individual goat ID number. To date, nine goats have been removed, with an estimate that there are at least another eight still to be removed. The captured goats have no tags, making it impossible to identify owners.

The Council will continue with the operation and liaise with the Department.

Paul Moynihan,
Director of Services,
Local Area Development & Operations.

7.16 NORTH WEST PARK

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

To ask the chief executive for an update on the plans for the North West Park and confirm the time frame for the proposed consultation process.

REPLY

In 2024 the City Council appointed a multi-disciplinary Design Team to prepare a draft masterplan and implementation strategy for the North West City Park. The Team is currently concluding the baseline assessment for the project. This assessment includes a preliminary habitat survey, heritage and archaeological studies, accessibility reviews, etc. As part of the process for preparing the draft masterplan, the design team will also be engaging widely with elected members and the communities of the North West Local Area. This engagement will commence in April and continue over the following months. It will include workshops with local primary and secondary schools, local youth groups, walking groups and senior citizens, as well as meetings with local historians. It is also intended to engage directly with sports clubs and other interest groups. The Team is seeking to ensure that the engagement undertaken at this early stage of the project is as extensive and far-reaching as possible and Members will be kept informed of all related arrangements. The information

arising will inform the ongoing masterplan design process and it is envisaged that the draft Masterplan will be ready for presentation to Members in Q4 2025 following which it will be the subject of public consultation and Council approval. Area Members will continue to be updated on progress on the emerging proposals over the coming months.

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

7.17 **PLANNING PERMISSION POLICY**

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 the planning permission required (or otherwise) for the retrofitting of external wall insulation to existing buildings?

REPLY

Cork City Council fully supports the retrofitting of existing housing stock, including insulation of external walls of existing dwellings. With regard to the question of whether planning permission is required, in general external wall insulation does not require planning permission and is exempt from the need for planning permission under Section 4 1(H) of the Planning and Development Act as amended, where it does not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render its appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures.

Site specific issues such as, but not limited to, its status as a Protected Structure, location within an Architectural Conservation Area or where the work does materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures, would require planning permission for external wall insulation.

Niall O’Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Planning & Integrated Development.

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

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

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

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Maher, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Horgan, An Chomhairle considered and approved the nomination of Ciara O’Connor to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Comhairleoir L. Harmon.

7.1.2 **VACANCIES ON BOARDS/COMMITTEES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Maher, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Horgan, An Chomhairle approved the nomination of Comhairleoir C. O'Connor to the following Boards/Committees arising from the resignation of Comhairleoir L. Harmon.

Housing Strategic Policy Committee / Coiste Beartais Straitéisigh - Tithíocht
International Relations and Tourism Strategic Policy Committee / Coiste Beartais Straitéisigh - Caidreamh Idirnáisiúnta & Turasóireacht
South West Local Area Committee
Joint Cork City Council/Cork County Council Committee
School Meals Committee
An Grúpa Forbartha Gaeilge
Cork Area Strategic Plan Committee (CASP)
Board of Cork Film Festival
Cork Education and Training Board
RAPID ABC - City Wide Steering Committee

7.1.3 **VACANCY IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF CORK CITY COUNCIL**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the nomination of Gary O'Brien to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Comhairleoir G. Kelleher.

7.1.4 **VACANCIES ON BOARDS/COMMITTEES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Boylan, An Chomhairle approved the nomination of Comhairleoir G. O'Brien to the following Boards/Committees arising from the resignation of Comhairleoir G. Kelleher.

Transport & Mobility Strategic Policy Committee / Coiste Beartais Straitéisigh - Iompar & Soghluaisteacht
International Relations and Tourism Strategic Policy Committee / Coiste Beartais Straitéisigh - Caidreamh Idirnáisiúnta & Turasóireacht
South West Local Area Committee
Finance and Estimates Committee
Climate Action Committee
Joint Cork City Council/Cork County Council Committee
Southern Regional Assembly
Association of Irish Local Government
Board of Leisure World
An Grúpa Forbartha Gaeilge
Cork Regional Athletics Stadium Management Committee
Sports Committee

An tÁrdmheara invited Comhairleoirí C. O'Connor and G. O'Brien to address An Chomhairle.

The Chief Executive welcomed Comhairleoirí C. O'Connor and G. O'Brien on behalf of the Executive.

7.2 **EXTERNAL NOMINATIONS TO STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir P. Horgan, seconded by Comhairleoir O. Moran, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Public Participation Network's nominations to Cork City Council's Strategic Policy Committees.

7.3 **EMMET PLACE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 179 (4) (a) of Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed Emmet Place Enhancement Project and the report of the Director of Infrastructure Development thereon, as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

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

"Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development viz. the Emmet Place Enhancement Project and the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, Cork City Council, dated 24th February 2025, it is hereby resolved pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that the Emmet Place Enhancement Project be carried out as recommended in the said report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, Cork City Council."

7.4 **ANGLESEA STREET CONTRAFLOW BUS LANE - SECTION 38 APPROVAL**

An Chomhairle considered the report and recommendation of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 21st February 2025, following public consultation, on the proposed Anglesea Street Contraflow Bus Lane pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir P. Dineen, seconded by Comhairleoir A. Deasy, a vote was called for on the approval of the proposed Anglesea Street Contraflow Bus Lane, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Tynan, O. Moran, 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, F. Kerins, D. Boyle, N. O'Connor, J. Lynch, T. Coleman, G. O'Brien, C. O'Connor. (25)

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

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried. On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. O'Callaghan, seconded

by Comhairleoir O. Moran, An Chomhairle approved the proposed Anglesea Street Contraflow Bus Lane.

7.5 **PART 8 REPORT ON THE WEIGHTMASTER'S HOUSE, SHANDON, CORK**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 179 (4) (a) of Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed Weighmaster's House Refurbishment and the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Integrated Development, dated 16th January 2025 thereon, as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

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 and the report of the Director of Planning & Integrated Development, 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 refurbishment, alterations and change of use of the Weighmaster's House be carried out as recommended in the said report, which was put before Council on 10 March 2025."

7.6 **SHANDON INTEGRATED URBAN STRATEGY**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Shandon Integrated Urban Strategy, dated March 2025 as proposed by the Director of Services, Planning and Integrated Development.

7.7 **COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANT SCHEME**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the Director of Services, Planning and Integrated Development, dated 17th February 2025 on the Community Heritage Grant Scheme.

7.8 **ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION AREA GRANT SCHEME**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the Director of Services, Planning and Integrated Development, dated 12th February 2025 on the Architectural Conservation Area Grant Scheme.

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 3rd MARCH 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 3rd March 2025.

8.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31/01/2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 31/01/2025.

8.2 **MOTIONS**

8.2.1 **USE OF AI**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Chief Information Officer, dated 27th February 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council will:

Limit the use of AI and ensure no jobs are replaced by this technology including but not limited to the areas of finance, communications, customer service and public works and will write to all other local authorities and the Minister for Local Government to advise and encourage those local authorities to do the same.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 25/053)

The report of the Chief Information Officer stated that Cork City Council recognises the many potential opportunities for improved customer service, efficiencies and innovation due to new AI technologies. The AI domain is evolving rapidly and the unanimous adoption of the EU AI Act by all members states last February 2024 was welcomed by the Irish government. This is the first regulation of its kind in the world however it has yet to be transposed into Irish law. It is anticipated that all EU states will adopt this into their national legislation by 2028.

Cork City Council anticipates sectoral guidance at a national level on the use of AI will be published by the LGMA to encourage a uniform approach to the adoption of AI across all 31 local authorities. In the interim Cork City Council ICT has prepared a draft amendment to the Information Systems Acceptable Usage Policy governing the use of all cyber assets by staff and external parties, which caters for the use of AI in a way that is reasonable and minimises any risk of data leakage, data loss or other unintended consequences.

The ICT department is working on a draft plan to develop ‘safe spaces’ where AI can be used to tackle current dilemmas as per recent highly successful pilots, recently demonstrated by some larger local urban local authorities at the recent e-Gov conference in Dublin.

Simultaneously the organisation has advised all staff that external organisations should not use AI to take minutes of meetings with council staff without prior consent of all attendees and in some cases should not use AI under any circumstances. The latter context relates directly to planning meetings with external third parties for example.

AI is at a very early stage of adoption by the public sector in general and a cautious approach within the existing and new legal framework will be adopted in line with best practice. Last year the CIO of UCC Dr Gerard Culley was invited by the CIO of Cork City Council to provide the senior management team with an overview of their approach to AI. We will continue to consult with others and ensure the city council keeps abreast of new developments regarding AI through the sharing of experiences

with colleagues across the government sectors and prioritizing the training and development of staff.

8.2.2 **VICE CHAIRS OF SPCS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate & Community Affairs, dated 27th February 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That consideration be given to having Vice Chairs of SPCs, who can represent the Chair when missing at the SPC and at the Corporate Policy Group meeting.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 25/069)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Standing Orders for the regulation of Council business do not currently provide for the election of a Vice Chair of Strategic Policy Committees. The established practice is that in the absence of the Chair, the members of the committees elect one member from the Committee to chair the meeting. A review of Standing Orders is currently underway. Any proposal to amend standing orders to provide for the election of Vice-Chairs should be considered as part of that review process.

8.2.3 **CORK CITY SPECIFIC ISSUES**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That this Council will seek to invite the Ministers for Transport Darragh O’Brien, Justice Jim O’Callaghan and Housing James Browne for engagement on Cork City specific issues in the areas of public transport, infrastructural investment, Gardaí support and housing provision amongst other areas as a matter of urgency.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 25/055)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir P. Horgan, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Lynch, a proposed amendment to the motion was tabled to read as follows:-

‘That this Council will seek to invite the Ministers for Transport Darragh O’Brien, Justice Jim O’Callaghan and Housing James Browne for separate engagement on Cork City specific issues in these specific areas:

The Minister for Transport:

Bus Connects update

Cork Luas update

Funding for roads and footpath repairs

The operation of Cork based Transport Police

Funding and issues associated with major road projects in the city

The Minister for Justice

The number of Gardaí in Cork

The operation of the replacement of the Joint Policing Committees

The capital Infrastructure of An Garda Síochána stations in cork city and suburbs

The future of the Cork Transport Police

The Minister for Housing:

Housing targets for Cork City

Issues with infrastructure impacting the Docklands

Tenant in Situ Scheme

Vacancy and Dereliction Powers and Supports to City Council on Staffing.'

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 25/055)

A vote was called for on the approval of the amendment where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, K. McCarthy, D. Cahill, P. Horgan, S. O'Callaghan, F. Kerins, N. O'Connor, J. Lynch, G. O'Brien, C. O'Connor. (15)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí M. McDonnell, N. O'Flynn, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, T. Shannon, M.R. Desmond, P. Dineen, A. Deasy, T. Coleman. (9)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, H. Kamegni, D. Boyle. (3)

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

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

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

9.1 **MOTIONS**

9.1.1 **MEMORIAL STONE AT CURRAGHKIPPANE, ST. MARY'S GRAVEYARD**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the A/Director of Services, Corporate & Community Affairs, dated 20th February 2025 on the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council would erect a memorial stone along with a seating area in memory of those who were victims of mother and baby homes, and industrial schools who are buried in Curraghkippane, St. Mary's Graveyard.'

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Gould 25/098)

The report of the A/Director of Services stated that the HSE own the Right of Burial for a section of plots at St Mary's Cemetery where the remains of those who died in mother and baby homes are interred. Discussions are taking place by Council officials in our Parks and Recreation Section, with members of the Survivors Group through Cork Kerry Outreach Care, and the HSE, with a view to providing an appropriate

memorial at the graves.

10. **TRANSPORT & MOBILITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - IOMPAR & SOGHLUAISTEACHT – 17th FEBRUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Transport & Mobility Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 17th February 2025.

10.1 **MOTIONS**

10.1.1 **DISABLED ON-STREET PARKING BAYS**

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

‘That Cork City Council will provide a policy for the addition or removal of disabled on-street parking bays outside private residences that are no longer needed (e.g. when a new occupant moves into a house); that there will be a published way for residents to request their addition or removal; and that parking fines will be waived for residents where a bone fide request to remove a disabled parking bay has been agreed but not yet implemented.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 24/599)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a request to install or remove a disabled bay outside a private residence on a public street can be submitted using a Disabled Bay Request Form which can be requested from and submitted to trafficrequests@corkcity.ie. The established policy and disabled bay application form will be published on the website imminently.

In relation to the removal of a Disabled Parking Bay outside a private residence on a public street, once the above form is submitted, the location is assessed and if it is deemed that the space is not needed on that street, it will be added to the works programme for removal. In the event that a need for a disabled parking bay is identified based on the location of the bay, the bay will not be removed and will remain for general public use.

To qualify for a new Disabled Parking Bay the applicant must satisfy the following criteria:

1. The applicant must hold a valid and in date Disabled Persons Parking Permit (issued by either the Irish Wheelchair Association or the Disabled Drivers Association);
2. The applicant must have a vehicle registered to the address that the application refers;
3. The applicant must have no off-road parking i.e. private grounds for parking/private driveway at the address that the application refers.

- Once the above information is submitted and deemed to meet the requirements, the request will be added to a list for assessment and a site visit conducted by Cork City Council.
- Installation of a space is not guaranteed even if the above criteria are met as other factors must be considered e.g. road width, proximity to junction, sight lines, etc.
- While disabled bays in residential areas are primarily installed to facilitate the holder of the permit who is resident at the premises and who has requested the installation of the bay, it should be noted that any holder of a valid Disabled Parking Permit may legally park in any designated on-street disabled parking bay.
- In the event, that there is a disabled parking bay(s) already provided in the vicinity of the address, you may be advised to utilise this space(s). Please note that disabled parking bays are for the use of any vehicle displaying a disabled person's parking permit.

Enforcement of all parking offences is governed by national and local legislation. A disabled parking bay is not intended for the sole use of one individual. It is provided for the use of anyone who has a valid Disabled Persons Parking Permit (blue badge). Once the appropriate signs and lines are in place the Parking Enforcement team must issue Fixed Charge Penalty Notices for any instances of illegal parking. There is no discretion in this matter. Cork City Council cannot operate a system whereby Fixed Charge Penalty Notices are issued for some, but not all parking offences.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders to continue the meeting past 8pm to consider statutory items only, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, T. Shannon, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, T. Coleman. (8)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, N. O'Flynn, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, K. McCarthy, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, S. O'Callaghan, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, N. O'Connor, J. Lynch, A. Deasy, G. O'Brien, C. O'Connor. (18)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoir D. Boyle. (1)

As those voting against the proposal to suspend standing orders was greater than those voting for, An tArdmhéara declared the proposal defeated.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir B. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Gould, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders to continue the meeting past 8pm to consider all remaining items on the Agenda, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, K. McCarthy, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, S. O'Callaghan, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, N. O'Connor, J. Lynch, A. Deasy, G. O'Brien, C. O'Connor. (17)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, N. O’Flynn, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, T. Shannon, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, T. Coleman. (9)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí D. Boyle. (1)

As those voting in favour of the proposal to suspend standing orders did not meet the 2/3 majority required in accordance with standing orders, An tArdmhéara declared the proposal defeated.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to continue the meeting 1 hour past 8pm.

10.1.2 **FOOTPATHS ACROSS CORK CITY**

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

‘That this Council will draft up a document on funding required to fix the footpaths across Cork City and write to the new Minister for Transport requesting that this be made available to us through new active travel funding’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Harmon 24/619)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Members would be aware that as part of the process of preparing Budget 2025, it was agreed that the City Council would raise a loan of €4 million to increase the investment in footpath renewal. The approval process for this loan is now in train. When loan approvals are in place a plan will be formulated for the carrying out of works which will include an assessment of the overall investment requirement for full footpath renewal. At that stage, and with the commitment and intent of the City Council demonstrated, options to pursue additional central funding can be pursued.

10.1.3 **LITTER BINS AT BUS SHELTERS**

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

‘That Cork City Council engage with Bus Éireann and put a plan in place ensuring that the inclusion of litter bins be included in all future specifications on the installation of new bus shelters across the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 25/004)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council have engaged with Bus Éireann in the past for any areas where there are problems with litter, and we have installed bins at several of these locations.

Currently we don’t have major littering issues at the 184 bus stops in the city and when issues do arise, we investigate and monitor the area to see if a bin is required.

Cork City Council is currently monitoring a number of locations that may require bins.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle further agreed to refer the motion back to the Transport & Mobility Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

10.1.4 **FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS**

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

‘That funding and construction for pedestrian crossings be fully devolved from the NTA to Cork City Council directly to deploy on a multi annual basis with staff complements to match the number of crossings required, regardless of Bus Connects proposals.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 25/016)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a significant capital investment has been committed to under the Bus Connects programme and other infrastructural schemes, which will deliver significant safety improvement benefits to communities through the roll-out of the schemes which includes pedestrian crossings and other measures. It would not represent best practice to frontload developments and may prove to be inefficient to deploy infrastructural solutions in isolation to the overall Bus Connects Programme and other infrastructural schemes.

Any change in the established mechanisms for NTA funding and construction of pedestrian crossings would be a matter for that authority and any move to full devolvement should include for all the required financial and human resources necessary for any substantial multi-annual programme.

10.1.5 **UPDATE ON THE NORTHERN DISTRIBUTOR ROAD**

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

‘That Cork City Council update on the Northern Distributor Road including details on route selection and timeline for completion.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 25/040)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the proposed Cork Northern Distributor Multi-Modal Road (CNDMR) is a critical enabler for the planned growth of Cork City and the wider Cork Metropolitan Area. The proposed new transport corridor will provide access to key residential lands in the northern part of Cork City, support and encourage greater use of sustainable transport (via bus lanes, cycle lanes and pedestrian infrastructure), facilitate orbital movements and reduce traffic flows on existing routes, create high-quality public realm zones and enhance access for both existing and new communities as well as local employment centres. The proposed

new transport corridor will prioritise sustainable transport movement and will comprise of 2 footpaths, 2 cycle lanes, 2 bus lanes, 2 traffic lanes and planting/landscaping areas.

With support from the National Transport Authority, the City Council appointed a dedicated design team for the project 2021. The strategic assessment process for the scheme was then undertaken and approved by the National Transport Authority in December 2023. This included an assessment of the rationale for investment of public funds in the project. It also established the schemes objectives and confirmed its alignment with government policy, in particular the National Planning Framework, the National Development Plan, the Climate Action Plan and the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland. The route options assessment process was then progressed, and the related approval was issued by the National Transport Authority in December 2024. This process included the identification of key constraints, feasible route options and the completion of a systematic assessment of each. Analysis of the best performing options led to the identification of an emerging preferred corridor and the most recent NTA approval enables the process of finalising the preferred route in advance of preliminary design and planning approval.

The project team is currently finalising the relevant drawings and will be holding a detailed briefing for Elected Members in advance of a non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred route. It is anticipated that this consultation process will commence later this month and will be supported by a number of public open days, dedicated website, brochures/ drawings/image and other documents as well as presentations by and meetings with the project team with opportunities for questions and discussion.

While the consultation process is non-statutory, it is an important step in the development of the scheme and will assist in securing insights/ knowledge/ expertise from individuals, communities and other stakeholders. This supports improved decision-making and the refinement of plans leading to the confirmation of the preferred route for the scheme. Following confirmation of the preferred route, the Council will procure a Design Team to prepare the preliminary designs and in due course a planning application for the scheme. This appointment is likely to occur in Q3 2025 and Members will be further updated on timelines at that stage.

The initial cost estimate for the project will be confirmed following completion of the preliminary design process and further updated as detailed design are developed. The project has been funded to date by the NTA and it anticipated that continued funding will be made available in 2025 for the preparation of preliminary designs.

10.1.6 **PV SOLAR CAR PARK CANOPIES**

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

‘That Cork City Council will install PV solar car park canopies at scale at the Black Ash Park & Ride, connecting with the existing electricity generation infrastructure at Tramore Valley Park.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 25/033)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Council are currently investigating the feasibility and potential layout options for this proposal. We aim to seek further clarity regarding the connection point for the solar car ports — whether they would be for behind-the-meter consumption or export, depending on grid connection possibilities. Additionally, the potential crossing of the N27 for connection requires further examination in relation to private wire connection and additional infrastructure requirements.

We will continue to assess these factors and coordinate with the appropriate stakeholders.

10.1.7 **APPLICATION PROCESS FOR RESIDENTIAL CAR-PARKING PERMITS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the accompanying report of the Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 12th February 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will review the application process for residential car-parking permits, including that a landlord's Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) registration number would be optional instead of required.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 24/572)

The report of the 16th of December stated that the Parking Permit Policy 2022 and Parking Permit Scheme 2022 set out the requirements that must be fulfilled for an application for a residents permit to be considered. Revisions were made in 2022, and one measure was to provide that applicants in rented accommodation must submit proof that the property is registered with the Residential Tenancies Board. This was introduced by the Elected Members to make the Scheme more robust and less likely to abuse. Any changes to the Policy & Scheme are a matter for the Elected Members.

The members also considered the attached report dated 12th February 2025.

11. **STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - STRAITÉISEACHT, FORBAIRT EACNAMAÍOCH, FIONTAR & PLEANÁIL – 17th FEBRUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Strategic, Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 17th February 2025.

11.1 **MOTIONS**

11.1.1 **SUPPORT THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Integrated Development, dated 17th February 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council will convene a meeting of hospitality representatives and businesses along with workers representative groups in hospitality to identify specific Cork issues and opportunities that can be resolved from Cork City Council’s remit to support the hospitality sector.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 25/054)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council is currently in the process of establishing the City Centre Development and Operations Directorate. Once the associated structures are finalised and positions filled Members will be advised accordingly. In the meantime, the Council will continue to engage with representative associations and individual business through the established communication processes & Committees such as CORE where the hospitality sector is represented.

11.1.2 **CPO / DEVELOP / CLEAN UP OF LAND**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Integrated Development, dated 17th February 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council consider a CPO / develop / clean up the land in front of the Bridewell Garda Station in Cork City and the plot of land in front of the Tax Office in Blackpool.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 25/087)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council completed a Compulsory Purchase Order via the Derelict Sites Act 1990 in respect of land north of the Bridewell Garda Station.

The Property Department is finalising a schedule of works to address reinstatement of sections of the existing hoarding and clean-up of the site. A working group is currently considering development options for the land.

Land north of the Revenue Commissioners building on Assumption Road, Blackpool, is in private ownership and recorded on the Vacant Sites Register by Cork City Council.

Cork City Council Planning & Integrated Development Directorate will contact the registered owner to request clean-up of the site, establish any development proposals they may have for the site and upon receipt of information assess the options available.

11.2 **PAINTING GRANT SCHEME**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir O. Moran, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report on the Painting Grant Scheme 2025.

12. **HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - TITHÍOCHT – 18th FEBRUARY 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 18th February 2025.

12.1 **HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Housing Progress report for December 2024.

12.2 **MOTIONS**

12.2.1 **FIREPLACES IN CITY COUNCIL-OWNED PROPERTIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 13th February 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will remove or close open fireplaces in City Council-owned properties as part of routine refurbishment between tenancies; and offer to do so as part of energy upgrades.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 24/568)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Housing Directorate’s Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme includes for the removal/close up of fireplaces as part of the energy efficiency upgrade works and this programme has been very successful to date and is proposed to expand in the future.

With regard to vacant properties, and their refurbishment, this is assessed on a case-by-case basis and will depend on the level of works required, ventilation requirements and the suitability of the proposed works to any individual property.

An Chomhairle further agreed to refer the motion back to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

12.2.2 **KNOCKNAHEENY REGENERATION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 13th February 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would apply to the Government for funding to include Courtown Drive, Courtown Park, Kilkieran Close and Coolmaine Crescent in the Knocknaheeny Regeneration with regards the installation of new windows and doors and where relevant porches along with the installation of solar panels and updated heating systems similar to the retrofitting of the houses that took place on Harbour View Road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Gould 24/615)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council is currently engaged in the delivery of the Cork City Northwest Regeneration Masterplan & Implementation Report (‘Masterplan’), which was adopted by Council, with funding being made available for the delivery of the contents of the Masterplan only by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

Notwithstanding the above, Cork City Council is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of its existing housing stock. To that end it has embarked on a thirty year program to ensure that all of its housing stock has an energy rating of B2 or better by 2050.

The program known as the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program (EERP) phase two commenced in 2021 and has two milestones:

- a. 25% completion by 2030
- b. 100% completion by 2050

The program is funded by the DHLGH, Cork City Council and the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme. The measures funded or part funded by the DHLGH include roof Insulation, wall insulation, windows and doors, heat pump installation, LED lighting, project management and building energy rating certificates (BER).

In 2024 the Council was allocated funding to complete one hundred and sixteen houses. The Council exceeded this target by completing one hundred and twenty three houses. The Council has a current pipeline of two hundred and ninety houses which will be progressed in 2025.

Courtown Drive, Courtown Park, Kilkieran Close and Coolmaine Crescent are not included in the present pipeline but will be considered for future years of the programme.

An Chomhairle further agreed to refer the motion back to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

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

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

14. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th FEBRUARY 2025**

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

15. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th FEBRUARY 2025**

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

16. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th FEBRUARY 2025**

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

17. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th FEBRUARY 2025**

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

18. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th FEBRUARY 2025**

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

19. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – SPECIAL MEETING 3rd MARCH 2025**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its special meeting held, 3rd March 2025.

20. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

21. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh and S. Martin at the LAMA Spring Seminar, held at Kilford Arms Park Hotel, Co. Kilkenny, 30th - 31st January 2025.
- Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh and S. Martin at the Association of Irish Regions Training Seminar, held at Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, 5th - 6th February 2025.

- Comhairleoir S. Martin at the AILG Module 1 Training, An Overview of Wind Energy, held at Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth, 20th February 2025.

22. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

An Chomhairle noted section 141 reports as follows:-

- Comhairleoir P. Dineen – Cork International Film Festival – January to June 2024.
- Comhairleoir P. Dineen – Cork Local Drug Task Force – January to June 2024.
- Comhairleoir P. Dineen – CORE – January to June 2024.

23. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

24. **TRAINING**

None received.

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

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive’s monthly management reports for January 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.

27. **MOTIONS DEFERRED FROM MEETING OF AN CHOMHAIRLE HELD ON THE 10th FEBRUARY 2025**

27.1 **CONTROL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (OCCUPIED TERRITORIES) BILL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That this Council registers its concern at recent indications from the Government that they will not follow up on their election commitment to enact the Control of Economic Activities (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018 and opposes any attempts to row back on enacting the bill in full.

This important bill was introduced in the context of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion from July 2024 which deemed Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land illegal and stated that all countries were obliged not to trade with them.’

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy 25/067)

27.2 **UPGRADE OF THE R624 ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will write to the Government to emphasise the strategic priority and urgent upgrade of the R624 road to unlock the brownfield urban regeneration of the Cork docklands through the development of 1,325 homes with planning permission.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 25/079)

27.3 **TFI 90-MINUTE LEAP CARD FARE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will write to the Government and the National Transport Authority to ask them to make the new bus network for Cork a national priority and bring the TFI 90-Minute Leap Card Fare to Cork.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 25/081)

27.4 **ONGOING ISSUES WITH WATER QUALITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will write to the Chief Executive of the EPA, Uisce Éireann and the HSE to request their urgent attendance at a special meeting of Cork City Council to discuss ongoing issues with water quality in Cork City and the potential public health risk of same.’

(Proposers: Cllr. K. Collins, Cllr. M. Gould, Cllr. F. Kerins 25/090)

28. **MOTIONS**

28.1 **DEVOLVE ACTIVE TRAVEL BUDGET TO TARGET EXISTING FOOTPATHS**

An Chomhairle agreed to defer the following motion to the next Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle to be held, 14th April 2025:-

‘That Cork City Council call on Government to devolve at least 10% of the Active Travel Budget to target old and existing footpaths and bring them up to a safe and healthy standard. The practice of insisting on the inclusion of a cycle lane or nothing happens needs to stop. Walking is the most popular and efficient means of active travel and needs to be encouraged and facilitated more.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 24/344)

28.2 **LICENCING OF QUADRICYCLE DRIVERS**

An Chomhairle agreed to defer the following motion to the next Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle to be held, 14th April 2025:-

‘This Council calls on the Government to:

1. Introduce legislation to allow individuals aged 16 and over to drive light quadricycles (such as the Citroën Ami) on Irish roads, following the example of several European countries.
2. Establish a clear framework for driver training and safety requirements to ensure young drivers are adequately prepared, potentially through a modified version of the Essential Driver Training (EDT) scheme.
3. Recognise light quadricycles as a safer and more environmentally friendly alternative to scooters and motorcycles, offering increased protection and zero emissions for young drivers.

Rationale:

Ireland is one of the few European countries that does not permit teenagers to drive light quadricycles, despite their availability and affordability. Countries such as France, Spain, and Italy allow 14 to 16-year-olds to operate these vehicles under specific training and licensing schemes. Introducing similar legislation here would promote safe, sustainable mobility options for younger people and reduce reliance on higher-risk two-wheeled vehicles.

This motion calls for modernisation of road traffic laws to reflect advancements in light vehicle technology and provide practical transport solutions for young people across Ireland.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boylan 25/107)

28.3 **DISTRICT COURT FAMILY LAW**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Public Expenditure Jack Chambers and the Minister for Justice Jim O’Callaghan calling on them to increase the legal aid fees payable to solicitors on the District Court Family Law Solicitors Panel so as to ensure that more solicitors are able to do family law legal aid work and with a view to clearing the backlog in family law applications in the District Court in areas such as applications for domestic violence orders, disputes regarding custody and access to children and maintenance applications.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 25/115)

28.4 **EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Education urgently calling on her to:
(i) immediately expand the number of special school places, special classes and

special education teaching hours in Cork and across the State; (ii) ensure that every child currently without a suitable school place for the 2025/26 school year gains access to a school place within a reasonable distance from their home; and (iii) radically overhaul an education system that fails to uphold the rights of children with additional needs.'

(Proposers: Cllr. J. Lynch, Cllr. K. Collins, Cllr. M. Gould 25/124)

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH