

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 13th APRIL 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, 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, 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. Ms. D. Murphy, A/Director of Services, Emergency Management and Climate Action. Mr. J. Stapleton, Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations. Mr. C. Ó Súilleabháin, Director of Services, City Centre Development & Operations. Mr. J. Hallahan, Head of Finance. Ms. N. Stewart, Meetings Administrator. Ms. R. Lynch, Administrative Officer, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs. Ms. V. Keating, Staff Officer, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The Hegarty family on the death of Anthony (Tony) Hegarty.
- The Jones family on the death of Peter Jones.
- The Bamidele family on the death of Ganiyu Ishola Bamidele.
- The Roberts family on the death of Jim (Jimmy) Roberts.

- The O'Brien family on the death of Colm O'Brien.
- The O'Neill family on the death of Eileen O'Neill.
- The Daly family on the death of Cathy Daly.
- The O'Leary family on the death of Noreen O'Leary.
- The Carlile family on the death of Janet Carlile.
- The Moody family on the death of Marie Rosaleen Moody.
- The Nolan family on the death of Edward Nolan.
- The Barry family on the death of Tom Barry.
- The Smith family on the death of Deirdre Smith.
- The Lambe family on the death of Tadhg Lambe.
- The Shields family on the death of Michael Shields.
- The Banks family on the death of William Banks.
- The Deane family on the death of Valerie Deane.
- The Moynihan family on the death of Frank Moynihan.
- The McCarthy family on the death of Sheila McCarthy.
- The Quinlan family on the death of Jim Quinlan.
- The Delea family on the death of Sheila Delea.
- The Murphy family on the death of Kathleen Murphy.
- The O'Shea family on the death of Veronica O'Shea.
- The Frawley family on the death of Thomas (Tom) Frawley.
- The Kennedy family on the death of Nuala Kennedy.
- The O'Callaghan family on the death of Eve O'Callaghan.
- The Walsh family on the death of Hannah Walsh.
- The McCarthy family on the death of Charles McCarthy.
- The Cremin family on the death of Kelly Cremin.
- The Conway family on the death of Abina (Benny) Conway.
- The O'Riordan family on the death of Gerard (Ger) O'Riordan.

2. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS/BEST WISHES

- Scoil Mhuire on winning the Munster Senior Schoolgirls Cup, the Munster Senior Schoolgirls League and the Daphne Hall All-Ireland Hockey Cup.
- UCC Glanmire Ladies Basketball Club on reaching the Women's Super League Final, playing Trinity Meteors on 12th April 2026 in Dublin.
- Gaelscoil Uí Riada on competing as Cork Champions in the Cumann na mBunscol All-Ireland Sports Quiz Final 2026.
- Highfield Rugby Club on winning their first Munster Senior Challenge Cup Title in 58 years.
- Bishopstown Pitch & Putt Club and the Junior A team on their County Winter League Final win.
- Keith Ricken on receiving a special recognition award for his 20 years of service to third-level GAA at the Rising Stars Awards ceremony.
- Cork Deaf Team Pool on being crowned winners of the inaugural Inter Pro Pool Tournament.
- Ballincollig Basketball Club on being crowned 2025/26 Domino's Men's Super League Champions.
- Rory McIlroy on back-to-back Masters wins.

3. **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

3.1 **CIVIC RECEPTION FOR THE BAND 1 BRIGADE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of a Civic Reception for the Band 1 Brigade, Collins Barracks, on its centenary year.

3.2 **WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald to Geneva from 18th to 23rd May 2026 for the 79th World Health Assembly.

3.3 **IDAHOBIT DAY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of An tArdmhéara to Rennes from 16th to 19th May 2026 to participate in programming around IDAHOBIT day. The visit would take place under an Erasmus funded programme.

3.4 **LORD MAYOR'S VISIT TO LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the travel of An tArdmhéara to Lowell, Massachusetts from 5th to 10th May 2026, to participate in the 200th anniversary of the founding charter of the city and mark the success of the city becoming the first UNESCO Learning City in the USA.

3.5 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir A. Deasy to address An Chomhairle on motion 51 on Appendix 1, Urgent Rehousing – Rat Infestation at Togher Flats:-

‘That Cork City Council notes with grave concern the severe and ongoing rat infestation in the Togher Flats complexes, caused by structural defects such as collapsed sewers and defective underground pipes.

This situation has led to at least one tenant being hospitalised with suspected Weil’s disease (leptospirosis), a serious and potentially life-threatening illness, and continues to endanger the health of multiple families.

Cork City Council is called upon to immediately rehouse all affected families to good quality, suitable accommodation in the immediate area.’

(Proposer: Cllr. A. Deasy 26/248)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir A. Deasy, seconded by Comhairleoir N. O’Flynn, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, O. Moran, N. O’Flynn, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, K. McCarthy, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, F. Kerins, N. O’Connor, J. Lynch, A. Deasy, C. O’Connor. (14)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, T. Shannon, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, D. Boyle, C. Kelleher, T. Coleman, G. O’Brien. (13)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoir F. Dennehy. (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.

An Chomhairle noted that the motion will be considered, as referred by the Meetings Administrator, by the South West Local Area Committee.

3.6 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir H. Kamegni to address An Chomhairle on motion 38 on Appendix 1, Douglas Library:-

‘That Cork City Council will urgently reinstate the open library service at Douglas Library on an interim basis until the Leaving Certificate examinations conclude in June, recognising its vital role as a safe, quiet study space for young people; will work with local councillors, Douglas Village Shopping Centre security, An Garda Síochána, and its own CCTV evidence to identify those responsible for anti-social behaviour and restrict their access accordingly; and will subsequently review the service to determine a fair, long-term solution that does not penalise the wider community for the actions of a minority.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 26/231)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir H. Kamegni, seconded by Comhairleoir O. Moran, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, O. Moran, N. O’Flynn, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, K. McCarthy, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, F. Kerins, D. Boyle, N. O’Connor, J. Lynch, A. Deasy, C. O’Connor. (15)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, T. Shannon, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, T. Coleman, G. O’Brien. (13)

ABSTAIN: (0)

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.

An Chomhairle noted that the motion will be considered, as referred by the Meetings Administrator, by the South East Local Area Committee.

3.7 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir N. O’Flynn to address An Chomhairle on his and Comhairleoir P. Dineen’s motion as follows:-

‘That Cork City Council agrees to suspend Standing Orders to allow for consideration of a request to convene a Special Meeting of Council to examine the design, compliance, and implementation of the pedestrian and active travel scheme at Knockfree Avenue and Knockpogue Avenue.

In seeking this Special Meeting, the Council notes:

- Concerns raised by residents on local radio regarding pedestrian safety, accessibility, and local impact.
- Observations from the Irish Wheelchair Association highlighting potential accessibility issues, including footpath widths below best-practice guidance and risks for wheelchair users and other vulnerable road users

The purpose of the Special Meeting shall be:

- 1- To receive a detailed technical briefing on the scheme design, including compliance with all relevant national accessibility and active travel design standards
- 2- To assess whether the scheme, when completed, as currently designed, provides safe and accessible infrastructure for all users, including people with disabilities, older persons, and families and children, in particular children with special needs.
- 3- To review the governance and oversight arrangements in place between Cork City Council and the National Transport Authority
- 4- To inform the members of council on the legal liabilities if any on the organisation is in whole or in part with other third parties involved in the scheme,

The meeting shall invite relevant officials and stakeholders, including:

- Senior officials from Cork City Council
- Representatives of the National Transport Authority
- Design and engineering consultants involved in the scheme
- Representatives from relevant accessibility advocacy organisations.’

On the proposal of Comhairleoir N. O’Flynn, seconded by Comhairleoir A. Deasy, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, O. Moran, N. O’Flynn, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, K. McCarthy, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, F. Kerins, D. Boyle, N. O’Connor, J. Lynch, A. Deasy, C. O’Connor. (15)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, T. Shannon, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher T. Coleman, G. O’Brien. (13)

ABSTAIN: (0)

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.

3.8 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

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

‘That Cork City Council agrees that central government must take all action available to support ordinary workers, families, carers, those with disabilities and pensioners who are struggling with the cost of living. This must include the reintroduction of energy credits and the full reduction of excise on fuel and home heating oil.’

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

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, O. Moran, N. O’Flynn, M. Gould, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, K. McCarthy, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, F. Kerins, D. Boyle, N. O’Connor, J. Lynch, A. Deasy, C. O’Connor. (15)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, T. Shannon, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, T. Coleman, G. O’Brien. (13)

ABSTAIN: (0)

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.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S ITEMS**

4.1 **PROPOSED HOLDING OF AN EVENT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Chief Executive, dated 7th April 2026 on the proposed holding of Cork Carnival of Science on 6th and 7th June 2026 in Fitzgerald’s Park.

4.2 **STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AT BLOCK 8003, BLARNEY BUSINESS PARK, SHEAN UPPER, BLARNEY, CORK, T23 EYH5**

Members considered and approved the Chief Executive Report to An Coimisiún Pleanála under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the application for permission to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a Strategic Infrastructure Development at Block 8003, Blarney Business Park, Shean Upper,

Blarney, Cork, T23 EYH5. In accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The views of the following members were heard:- Comhairleoirí J. Sheehan, K. Collins and A. Deasy.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir F. Kerins, seconded by Comhairleoir K. Collins, An Chomhairle considered the following recommendation:-

*I believe the planning process has been completely disregarded in this instance.
CCC were notified of this proposal just two days before public consultation closed.
CCC received an extension but the community did not.
The deadline to notify council was missed and people missed out on making submissions with regard to this proposed facility.
Councillors are a vital source of information in the community and failing to inform them means the community were not informed of this proposal.
There were small advertisements but no social media or word of mouth - it is clear that the community were not aware as there was not one single submission received by the public.
The process was flawed and CCC should call for the immediate reopening of submissions.
They should recognise that their role in this process was diminished and their hands were tied.
They should recognise that the councillors play a key role in the process and that was taken from them because of the failure of ACP to notify council.*

An Chomhairle agreed that those views would be submitted as an addendum to the report of the Chief Executive by way of a Meetings Administrator's Report.

Comhairleoir Deasy further requested that his dissension to the development be noted in the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting.

4.3 **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Horgan, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Draft Annual Report 2025.

5. **MINUTES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir M.R. Desmond, An Chomhairle considered and approved the minutes of:-

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 9th March 2026.

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **STATUS OF DERELICT SITE AT FORMER KEATINGS FURNITURE BUILDING**

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

Can the CE please advise on the ownership status of the currently derelict Site at the Former *Keatings Furniture* building on Ballyhooly Road and if Cork City Council have plans to purchase this site to develop as a Community asset?

REPLY

Cork City Council Property Department engaged with the selling agent in respect of the above referenced property it made available for sale to the market.

As part of that process, consideration is given to potential use for the entirety of the lands on which the property is constructed, with input from the Director of Services for both the Housing Directorate and the Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs Directorate. Engagement is ongoing between interested parties, the outcome of which will dictate any future use. An update will be provided in due course on conclusion of the process.

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

6.2 **NORTH MAIN STREET**

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

Given the strategic importance of the site, and in the context of the compulsory acquisition of Nos 62-65 inclusive, can the CE outline if No 61 North Main Street is being considered for purchase as part of the regeneration of this historic part of the city which would open up the entire block to mixed use development and become a new gateway along the historic spine of the city?

REPLY

Cork City Council Property Department did explore the acquisition of 61 North Main Street for inclusion in the redevelopment proposal for adjoining properties at 62-65, North Main Street, which will go to tender in Q2, 2026. The acquisition was not viable due to potential 3rd party interests which could not be confirmed, and which would delay the redevelopment of the adjoining properties. 61, North Main Street remains in private ownership.

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

6.3 **FESTIVALS - FOOTFALL RECORDED**

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 footfall recorded at each of festivals supported by Cork City Council in 2025 and 2026 year to date in tabular form with an estimation on the economic benefit of such festivals?

REPLY

The table below sets out the footfall for 2025 at festivals supported by Cork City Council.

Footfall figures are not yet available for 2026.

While the economic value of some of the festivals can be estimated e.g. Cork City Marathon estimated at 5 million per annum based on a study that was undertaken at similar event in Limerick, data in relation to economic impact from funded festivals is not captured specifically. Feedback from the CBA and Cork Chamber of Commerce can give an indication of economic value but a specific tool is not currently in place to gather this information. A review of same will be undertaken with key stakeholders with a view to establishing a process for gathering economic value.

FESTIVALS SUPPORTED BY CORK CITY COUNCIL			
Festival	Organisation	Footfall 2025	Economic Value
Funded Festivals			
Cork Folk Festival	Cork Folk Festival	7,056	
Cork International Choral Festival	Cork International Choral Festival	34,849	
Cork International Film Festival	Cork International Film Festival CLG	20,000	
Cork International Short Story Festival	Munster Literature Centre	1,100	
Cork Jazz Festival - The Big Fringe	Cork Jazz Festival Committee	4,350*	
Dragon of Shandon	Cork Community Art Link	20,000	
East Cork Early Music	East Cork Early Music CLG	325	
Cork Midsummer Festival	Midsummer Festival	80,572	

Pitch'd Circus & Street Arts Festival	Circus Factory	8,500	
Quiet Lights	Islander Music	1620	
Sounds From a Safe Harbour	Sounds From a Safe Harbour	20,000	
The Cork International Poetry Festival	Munster Literature Centre	1,300	
Cork City Council Festivals			
Cork St. Patricks Festival	Arts & Events Section	48,643	
Culture Night	Arts & Events Section	27,076	
Corkmas	Arts & Events Section	185000	
European Maritime Days (EMD) to Play	Arts & Events Section	11,000	€2million for accompanying EMD conference
Marathon	Community & Sport Section	36,000	Estimated at €5million per annum based on a study of Limerick Marathon which is a similar sized event.
Cork Learning City	Community & Sport Section	39,000	
Non-Fire Night:	Community & Sport Section		
Mayfield (<i>estimate</i>)		2,970	
The Glen (<i>estimate</i>)		900	
Pophams Park (<i>estimate</i>)		1,404	
Nu Farm (Clicker)		792	
Mahon (<i>estimate</i>)		816	
Togher (<i>estimate</i>)		1,820	
Gurrabraher Fun Day (Clicker)		2,486	
NON-FIRE NIGHT TOTAL (<i>estimate</i>)		11,188	
Cork on a Fork	City Centre Development & Operations Directorate	17,000	

*audience for aspect of the festival funded by Cork City Council

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

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

6.4 **DERELICT SITES LEVY**

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

To ask the Chief Executive, by site in tabular form;

- the sites that have had a derelict sites levy waived or reduced in each of the last 10 years and the amount that was received by Council in each instance and the amount that was waived or reduced and the amount that was owed.
- how long levies went unpaid for and whether the site currently has outstanding levies and the amount of same and whether the site is currently in use or remains derelict
- whether Council was in receipt of proof of 'undue financial hardship' in payment of outstanding levies

REPLY

Derelict Sites legislation requires Cork City Council to take all reasonable steps to ensure land in their area does not become or continue to be derelict. This includes the requirement to maintain a public Derelict Sites Register, impose a 7% annual market value levy, undertake activities to encourage the removal of dereliction, consider the compulsory acquisition of sites, etc.

The focus of all actions undertaken is to return properties to use and remove dereliction. Placement on the Register and Levy collection do not in themselves remove dereliction as it requires constant engagement and concerted pressure to get action and have dereliction meaningfully addressed. The Derelicts Sites team engage with owners in multiple ways to outline works necessary to remove dereliction, to advise owners of grants that may be availed of to remove dereliction, to inform owners of other available schemes.

The success of these actions is confirmed by the rate of engagement from owners of properties that are on the Register:

- Presently Engaging / Acquired / In acquisition schedule / Other engagement: **87%**
- Not engaging / No known owner / Acquisition underway without owner engagement: **13%**

Of those not engaging Compulsory Acquisition is being considered to ultimately resolve the problem.

The Derelict Site Levy is intended as a stimulus and tool for returning a property to use. Cork City Council forward charge the derelict sites levy for sites on the Derelict Site Register for the full year ahead on an annual basis, in line with good debt collection practice. Owners of derelict properties which make contact and undertake works in a prompt manner qualify for a write off of forward charged levies, provided works are completed in a timely manner. This is backdated to the point meaningful works commenced, in recognition of the effort and related costs and to incentivise owners to speed up commencement of a return to use. As a result, annual levied figures are not necessarily an accurate reflection of anticipated collection. A significant number of site owners in any given year will engage with Cork City Council on notice

of levies and commence and complete works. This creates the necessity for a write off of forward charged levies.

Other actions likely to lead to a removal of dereliction, like seeking and obtaining planning permission, application and award of a vacant homes or other grant/tax incentive and in some instances a commencement of a sale can be considered as activity towards a removal of dereliction. Reductions in levies in each instance are site specific and only considered following satisfactory demonstration of meaningful activity towards a return to use.

Write offs implemented since 2016 breakdown as follows:

- 79% of write offs were completed as dereliction had been removed by the property owner or the property was vested/ acquired by Cork City Council
- 8% of write offs were completed as a result of a vacant property refurbishment grant/ as a result of a determination by the Valuation Tribunal/ the properties were occupied and levies are not applicable
- 5% were completed to assist a sale and redevelopment of a site &
- 8% of levies were uncollectable

It should also be noted that Cork City Council while facilitating a write off of derelict sites levies in appropriate circumstances do not remove a property from the Derelict Sites Register until such a time as the dereliction is removed. In cases, for example, where properties are sold levies are collected from existing owners and new owners are clearly informed that they are liable for the derelict property in terms of future levies and ultimate removal of dereliction.

An overview of the levies invoiced, receipts and write offs for 2016 to 2026 (as of 20/3/26) is outlined in the table below. The highlights from this table over the period include:

- 203% increase in the number of sites invoiced (2016 to 2025)
- 1,533% increase in value of invoices (2016 to 2025)
- 1,182% increase in receipts (2016 to 2025)
- Highest income year to date of €925,016

Year	Total sites Invoiced	Total Amount Invoiced	Receipts	Write Offs	Total Sites with Write Offs
2016	31	€131,294.00	€31,680.00	€9,300.00	2
2017	30	€110,250.00	€15,928.00	€0.00	0
2018	62	€460,350.00	€43,300.00	€0.00	0
2019	92	€630,128.00	€189,975.57	€11,400.00	4
2020	67	€1,739,640.00	€163,231.00	€233,810.48	8
2021	61	€1,908,225.00	€570,143.73	€0.00	0
2022	59	€1,694,531.00	€281,564.99	€1,269,625.95	19
2023	63	€1,109,324.00	€148,656.00	€200,979.67	10
2024	92	€2,065,637.00	€477,604.51	€599,585.61	26
2025	94	€2,144,376.00	€406,182.00	€1,285,858.19	22
2026 at 20/03/26	0	€0.00	€925,016.00	€62,686.00	8

Despite the complexity of addressing dereliction, nearly 600 properties in Cork City have been returned to use since 2023 – with half of those returned to use last year alone. The number of properties returning to use has shifted from dozens to hundreds per year – increasing from 57 in 2023, to 231 in 2024, and to 301 last year.

The figures show that grants and incentives, combined with increased engagement and enforcement from the City Council’s Derelict Sites Team, are yielding positive results that are being felt in the form of reduced dereliction, increased vibrancy on city streets and new homes in the suburbs.

Cork City Council, through the Derelict Sites team, is committed to addressing dereliction as expeditiously as possible. The Derelict Sites Team will continue to engage constructively with owners to find the optimal route to continue this positive trend in tackling dereliction in Cork City.

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

6.5 **COMMUNITY CENTRE – BALLYVOLANE**

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

Can the CEO advise on proposals to build a community facility in Ballyvolane? Has a site been identified, and has any funding application been made to the government for this much-needed community facility.

The senior minister has confirmed in the Dail that no application is currently in place for Ballyvolane, but funding streams remain available for appropriate community infrastructure projects. Will the CEO now initiate a funding application for this long-overdue community centre.

REPLY

Cork City Council through the Community Team actively supports the community in the Ballyvolane area. Along with colleagues in Parks and partners in HSE Community Work Department, the team is aware of the need for community infrastructure to serve the growing population locally.

At present, there is no live funding stream from Central Government to fund new build community centres, with the recently announced Community Centres Investment Fund stream earmarked for refurbishments only. Cork City Council will continue to support efforts locally to identify a suitable premises or site for consideration.

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

6.6 **FUNDING**

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 detail the total funding received from Cork City Council (including, but not restricted to, community grant funding, arts grant funding and heritage grant funding) received by each individual community group, community association, advocacy group and non-governmental organisation in 2024 and 2025.

REPLY

Cork City Council administers a range of grant schemes which support a broad range of organisations to delivery a broad range of activities including community, arts, sport, heritage and environmental initiatives.

Cork City Council does not retain one single database of grants awarded, therefore it is possible that not all schemes have been included in the reply, although every effort has been made to capture all schemes, within the timescale for reply. Sports grants are not included.

The reply to the question includes a large volume of individual tables. For ease of reference these have been added to sharepoint under a folder marked 06.2 Reply to Cllr Shane O'Callaghan'.

The following grant schemes are detailed: -

1. Arts Grant recommendations for 2024
2. Arts Grant recommendations for 2025
3. Artist and the Community Awards for 2024 and 2025
4. *Cork City Council Creative Ireland Programme Funding for 2024*
5. *Cork City Council Creative Ireland Programme Funding for 2025*
6. Arts and Cultural Services Grants for 2024 and for 2025
7. Circular Economy Grant Scheme
8. *Community Climate Action Fund.*
9. *Local Enhancement Programme funding 2024 and 2025*
10. Cork City Council Community Development Grants 2024 & 2025.
11. Local Community Heritage and Biodiversity Grant Scheme (2024 and 2025)
12. Heritage Week Grant Scheme (2024)
13. Architectural Conservation Area Grant (2024 and 2025) (note – the reason why there is only 1 entry for each year in this scheme is because all the other beneficiaries were individuals or companies that are not community groups / associations or NGOs).

It should be noted that the schemes highlighted in *italics* are not funded by Cork City Council but are administered by Cork City Council on behalf of Government Departments and/or other bodies.

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

6.7 **FORMER CORNMARKET GATES**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the location of the ornate top halves of the former corn market gates at Grand Parade, which were removed during restoration; and if these can be restored to the gates?

REPLY

The archways currently located at Grand Parade were moved to this location from Anglesea St in circa 1985 (from the former Anglesea Cornmarket and later Council Depot). The metalwork at the archways consisted of two separate components: a lower gate section, which is original and has been restored following appropriate repair, and an overthrow (the arched top), which was a later addition installed in more recent times.

As part of the recent regeneration project, the metalwork at the archway was assessed by the Cork City Council Heritage Officer and the Project Design Team at both the design and construction phases, following which the historic gates were repaired and presented without the addition of the more recent overthrows. In this regard it was noted that, apart from being a recent addition, the overthrows were found to be in very poor condition and were not of heritage significance. They did not form part of the original design/construction and were not manufactured using traditional methods. They were constructed from steel rather than iron, and their method of fabrication was not consistent with that of the original lower gate sections. In light of the foregoing, the archway gates have been repaired and are now presented in the original format.

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

6.8 **NUMBER OF VACANT CITY COUNCIL HOUSES**

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

To ask the Chief Executive how many Cork City Council-owned housing units are currently vacant or boarded up, and what is the current average turnaround time to bring these properties back into active use for tenants.

Could this information be provided in a tabular format, broken down by each Local Electoral Area/Ward of the city, and include the longest recorded vacancy period for any such property.

REPLY

Vacant dwellings and average turnaround times are reported each month in tabular format, broken down by each Local Electoral Area, under the Housing Directorate section of the Chief Executive Monthly Report.

For ease of reference details of February 2026 report are outlined in the table below, with the average turnaround time of 36 weeks. The longest recorded vacancy period for a property was 52 weeks while the shortest was 21 weeks.

It is important to note that the reletting time includes the time taken to both repair and upgrade vacated properties to an acceptable letting standard and to relet those properties in line with the City Council's scheme of lettings.

As such, the time taken to relet a property is dependent on the condition of a property at the time of return and how long it takes to relet a particular property depending on uptake and acceptance by applicants on the social housing list. Cork City Council prioritises those with the least amount of work, with a view to getting the maximum number of properties returned to use as quickly as possible.

In relation to the longest period of vacancy, the property in question was offered for tenancy on two occasions.

Vacant Dwellings by Local Area

Description	SC	NE	NW	SE	SW	Total
Under Repair	33	63	97	29	14	236
Allocations/Area Management	15	29	39	9	15	107
Total	48	92	136	38	29	343

Nicky Carroll,
Acting Director of Services,
Housing Directorate.

6.9 UNUTILISED GREEN SPACES

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

To ask the CE if Cork City Council has procedures in place to permit the conversion of unutilised green space in housing estates to parking spaces; how residents can apply for same; and if no procedures are in place, if they will be established.

REPLY

Converting public green space in housing estates to car parking spaces constitutes a material change of use where in addition the area of green space within the estate may be governed by conditions attached to the governing planning permission. In the case of private housing estates, such a material change of use requires planning permission, which is a public process subject to third-party submissions and appeal. All planning applications are assessed against the current Cork City Development Plan, which contains a number of objectives that protect green areas in residential estates from being used for other purposes, including zoning objective “ZO 1.7” which states that there will be a presumption against development on all open space in residential estates and that such lands shall be protected for recreation, open space and amenity purposes. The City Development Plan also applies to Council-owned or taken in charge estates. There is no procedure in place for such changes of use from open space to car parking. If a case arises that may have merit, the Council will have to determine on a case-by-case basis whether such a proposal would be supported by the City Development Plan and all other on site specific issues, and determine the appropriate course of action.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Planning and Integrated Development

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

6.10 **CLIMATE NEUTRAL / SMART CITY**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if she, and Cork City Council, has considered The Supreme Court judgment in [Coolglass Wind Farm Limited v An Bord Pleanála](#)[1] of 4 February 2026, on whether it will assist this City on commitments it has given to become an European Union Climate Neutral/Smart City by 2030?

REPLY

The Council is aware and has reviewed the decision of the Supreme Court in this Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) case. The decision redefines the role of section 15(1) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021) (Climate Act). It confirms that climate obligations now impose real, enforceable requirements on public bodies, beyond mere procedural obligations.

The Supreme Court firmly however rejected the High Court’s expansive approach, which had effectively created an almost automatic presumption in favour of renewable energy projects.

By order of the Supreme Court the matter has now been referred back to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) who must now reconsider whether to grant permission for this SID, exercising the discretion afforded under section 37G (6) of the Planning and Development Act 2024, to properly engage with its obligations under section 15(1) of the Climate Act.

In essence the substantive planning decision remains outstanding and the matter ongoing in so far as no final planning decision on this SID has issued. The Council awaits the determination of ACP in this regard and will thereafter take account of any outcome, as relevant and appropriate, both in terms of the planning and climate implications from a Council perspective.

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

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

6.11 **PARKING**

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 detail how much Cork City Council pays to private car parks and foregoes in revenue at its own car parks, for free staff parking, the exact source of these resources, whether, how and how soon these could be redirected to free TaxSaver tickets or direct payments to staff, and to ask the Government for its full support with any issues?

REPLY

The City Council does not currently pay private car parks for staff parking. The North Main Street and Park and Ride car parks are not operating at full capacity therefore the use of these facilities by staff does not result in any loss of revenue. As previously advised, the provision of parking to staff is the subject of a WRC conciliation agreement and therefore any change, including any incentives to make greater use of public transport, will be subject to negotiations with staff representatives.

Mike Larkin,
Director of Services,
People & Organisation Development.

6.12 **BUS CONNECTS CORRIDORS**

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

To ask the CE for an update on the Bus Connects corridors.

REPLY

The BusConnects programme for Cork is managed by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and includes a range of measures to significantly improve bus services within the City. The proposed upgrade of the Strategic Bus Corridors is a key element of the overall programme and it will make public transport journeys faster and more reliable.

The proposals for the Strategic Corridor upgrades were published in 2022 and were thereafter the subject of three rounds of non statutory consultation as part of an extensive public engagement process. Across the three rounds of consultation, the NTA received more than 9,800 submissions and these have informed the design development.

The improvements proposed along the strategic transport corridors include circa 90km of dedicated bus lanes, 95km of cycle paths and significant pedestrian and public realm improvements. In early 2025, the NTA submitted the Preliminary Business Case (PBC) to the Department of Transport and this was approved by Government in October 2025.

The NTA has confirmed that it has organised the proposals for the eleven corridors into three major schemes (North, South East and South West). The NTA is currently preparing three corresponding applications with a view to seeking the necessary statutory consent from An Coimisiún Pleanála. These submissions will be managed on a phased basis throughout 2026. Further updates and timelines will be provided to Members over the coming months as the applications are finalised by the NTA for submission An Commission Pleanala.

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

6.13 **COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDERS**

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 list, in tabular form, all properties subject to Compulsory Purchase Orders by Cork City Council in the last five years and the current status of those properties.

REPLY

The following table is reflective of the number of properties acquired by the Property Department, Cork City Council from calendar year 2021 to 9th April 2026 utilising the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

No. of Acquisitions	Properties Sold/For Sale via the Open Market	Properties in process of redevelopment
25	7	23

Schedule of Properties

Nr. of Properties	Address of Property acquired via Derelict Sites Act 1990 January 2020 – October 2025	Current Status of Property
2	118 Barrack St & 119 Barrack Street, Cork	Property sold privately for redevelopment.
4	62, 63, 64 & 65 North Main Street, Cork	Property Department advancing redevelopment.
1	1 Elizabeth Terrace, Cork	Housing Directorate advancing refurbishment.
1	4 Gerald Griffin Avenue, Cork	Housing Directorate advancing refurbishment.
1	'Greystone Cottage', Cois Coilte, Mahon, Cork	Housing Directorate advancing refurbishment.
1	5, Prosperous Place, Blackpool, Cork	Housing Directorate advancing refurbishment.
1	20, Muskerry Terrace, Blarney, Cork	Housing Directorate advancing refurbishment.
2	23, Lower John St & 24 Lower John St, Cork	Housing Directorate advancing redevelopment
1	49/50, Old Market Place, Cork	Housing Directorate advancing refurbishment.
1	14, The Grove, Shanakiel, Cork	Private sale agreed. Conveyance advancing.
2	15/16, Kyle Street, Cork	Private sale agreed. Conveyance advancing.
3	21, 22 & 23 Thomas Davis Street, Cork	Housing Directorate advancing a development process
1	7 St Patricks Terrace, Lower Glanmire Road, Cork	To be placed for sale on the open market
1	3 Ardcairn Villas, Churchyard Lane, Cork	Housing Directorate advancing refurbishment
1	"Levista", 25 Bernadette Way, Boreenmanna Road, Cork	Housing Directorate advancing refurbishment
1	115 Gardiners Hill, Cork	To be placed for sale on the open market
1	5 & 6 Woods Street, Cork	Housing Directorate advancing redevelopment

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

6.14 DERELICT/VACANT SITES

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 following derelict / vacant sites:

- 62 to 65 North Main Street
- Keatings Fitted Furniture
- Kyrll's Quay - The site of the Cork Timber Slate & Cement Company & old toilets
- site adjacent to tax office in Blackpool

REPLY

Please see as follows response to the respective properties referenced in the question of Councillor John Maher.

- 62-65, North Main Street, Cork: The project information documentation to support advertisement of a tender for the redevelopment of the above

referenced City Council owned properties is being finalised to inform interested parties when advertised in Q2, 2026.

- Keatings Fitted Furniture: Cork City Council Property Department continues to engage with the selling agent in respect of the above referenced private property which has been made available for sale to the market. Due diligence in respect of a possible acquisition is ongoing and consideration is being given to potential use for the entirety of the lands on which the property is constructed, with input from the Director of Services for both the Housing Directorate and the Corporate Community & Cultural Affairs Directorate. A further update on this matter will be provided when available.
- Kyril's Quay Site: Site clearance and stabilisation work on this City Council owned property is nearing completion, which will facilitate access to undertake a series of site surveys and investigations to inform project information documents and enable advertisement of a tender process seeking redevelopment proposals. It is envisaged this tender will be advertised in Q2/Q3, 2026.
- Site adjacent to tax office in Blackpool: This privately owned site at Revenue House, Blackpool, adjacent to the tax office, was recommended for placement on the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) map by Cork City Council. This took place in 2023. The RZLT is a Revenue administered scheme which collects a tax on the site value of 3% of the market value. Cork City Council do not have access to amounts levied or collected.

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

6.15 **SABOTAGE OF SUBSEA CABLES**

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

Given the Department of Communications' warning this week that coordinated sabotage of subsea cables could disconnect the entire island of Ireland from the global internet, what specific actions will Cork City Council take if international connectivity is lost for a prolonged period and what contingency plans are in place to maintain essential services such as citizen portals, emergency response coordination, planning systems, and Smart City operations during such a disruption?

REPLY

Cork City Council is part of the national government virtual private network which is the backbone for connectivity across the public sector in Ireland. There are several alternate routes for international connectivity, these are managed by central government departments including the Department of Communications. The majority of local applications are hosted in Ireland and require local connectivity.

The emergency response service providers can use a national tetra radio satellite system when traditional communications networks fail (as per recent national weather events). This system has been recently launched by national government as a country wide system.

It is difficult to predict the impact of such a cataclysmic event whereby all international connectivity was indefinitely suspended; however, Cork City Council is part of the LG-Core cyber group and Gov-Core cyber group where local government and government departments share active threat intelligence with the NCSC (national cyber security centre). Cork City Council also has invested in off site redundancy, cyber insurance and third party clauses to provide contingency measures in the event of a targeted cyber disruption.

Cork City Council has invested in a significant digital transformation however it provides its customers with a multi-channel service offering which includes our customer service call lines operated by 7/8 staff daily and walk in counters at city hall. These are alternative service channels which can be expanded in the event of such a national emergency where the digital alternative is not available for a length of time.

Ruth Buckley, DEng.
Chief Information Officer & Head of Information Systems

6.16 **DRONE FOOD DELIVERY SERVICE**

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

To Ask the Chief Executive:

To report to City Council on the recently introduced drone food delivery service operating from the vicinity of the Marina Market, specifically what if any engagement has taken place with the operator. Under what legislation / regulations are they permitted to operate in the City / Suburbia, regarding security, health & safety, planning, privacy and the impact on birds and other wildlife in the area specifically around the Marina and Atlantic Pond. What other drone operators are there in the city and what impact will these new drones have on existing drone operators.

REPLY

Cork City Council is aware of this drone delivery operation, and the City Council is currently exploring the wide range of issues associated with a project of this kind.

The City Council notes the Government's recently published (August 2025), Ireland's National Policy Framework for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) (or "drones"), which sets a ten-year strategy to manage drone growth, focusing on the use of airspace and planning, compliance and enforcement, and enterprise and innovation. One of the actions in the National Policy Framework for UAS seeks the Irish Aviation Authority to support the training and capacity building of local authorities and planners on the use of airspace and planning. Any changes to policies or regulations in relation to UAS that may be required in future will be considered by Cork City Council in consultation with the IAA.

Drone infrastructure such as drone bases or drone delivery hubs may require planning permission, while the flying of drones is regulated by the IAA. In relation to drone infrastructure, there is currently no specific guidance for drone hubs in current planning legislation. As drones, or UAS, is a new and evolving technology, the Cork City Development Plan does not have any specific land-use policies regarding the use of drones. However, existing planning legislation and development plan policy (e.g. zoning, etc) applies to drone infrastructure and at present this is being considered in the context of the referenced drone delivery operation.

It is understood that the IAA are due to meet with the Roads and Transport SPC on this issue shortly where relevant issues and questions in respect of this matter can be tabled for discussion. The Planning Department will also reach out separately to the IAA to determine how they propose to regulate and manage this activity going forward clarifying the role of the local authority in the process.

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

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the Chief Executive, dated 2nd April 2026 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of ground (7.48m² approximately), together with a wayleave (167.38m approximately by 2.55m approximately) on land located at Estuary Way, St. Michael's Drive, Mahon, Cork, to ESB Networks, for a nominal sum of €1.00.

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

2. Disposal of the freehold interest in two areas of ground (15.6m² approximately and 14m² approximately), together with a wayleave (176.97m approximately by 3.39m approximately) on land located at Clover Hill Court, Bessboro Road, Mahon, Cork, to ESB Networks, for a nominal sum of €1.00.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir H. Kamegni, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

3. Disposal by way of exchange of property known as No. 3 Mount St. Joseph's Avenue, Gurrabraher, Cork to Rachel Allen, c/o Frank Nyhan & Associates LLP, 11 Market Square, Mallow, Co. Cork in exchange for the property owned by the said Rachel Allen at No. 31 Killala Gardens, Knocknaheeny, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir H. Kamegni, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

4. Disposal by way of exchange of property known No. 36 Bantry Park Road, Fairhill, Cork to Paul & Mary Fennelly, c/o Matthew Bermingham & Company Solicitors, 2 Terence MacSwiney St., Fermoy, Co. Cork in exchange for the property owned by the said Paul & Mary Fennelly at No. 82 Killala Gardens, Knocknaheeny, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. Collins, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

7.2 **SECTION 85 AGREEMENT FARM INSPECTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Local Area Development and Operations, dated 24th March 2026 in relation to a Section 85 Agreement with Cork County Council with regard to Farm Inspections in the Cork City Council administrative area.

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

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE:

to enter into this agreement pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 for the purposes of the exercise by Cork County Council on behalf of Cork City Council of its powers, functions and duties as a Local Authority insofar as they relate to, concern and/or involve the performance of farm inspections under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme in respect of those farms now situated in the City of Cork.”

7.3 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT STRAW HALL, FARREN STREET, CORK**

In accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed development at Straw Hall, Farren Street, 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 8th April 2026.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. Collins, 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 Straw Hall, Farren Street, 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 Straw Hall, Farren Street, 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 13th April 2026.”

7.4 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT LAUREL HEIGHTS PHASE 2, SHANAKIEL, BLARNEY STREET, CORK**

In accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed development at Laurel Heights Phase 2, Shanakiel, Blarney Street, 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 8th April 2026.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution, noting the dissention of Comhairleoir A. Deasy:-

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development at Laurel Heights Phase 2, Shanakiel, Blarney Street, 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 Laurel Heights Phase 2, Shanakiel, Blarney Street, 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 13th April 2026.”

7.5 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT 12 GERALD GRIFFIN STREET, CORK**

In accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed development at 12 Gerald Griffin Street, 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 8th April 2026.

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 12 Gerald Griffin Street, 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 12 Gerald Griffin Street, 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 13th April 2026.”

7.6 **BIODIVERSITY FORUM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Integrated Development, dated 23rd March 2026 regarding the nomination of two Elected Members to the Biodiversity Forum.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir P. Horgan, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle considered and approved the nomination of Comhairleoir N. O’Connor to the Biodiversity Forum.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir O. Moran, seconded by Comhairleoir C. O'Connor, An Chomhairle considered and approved the nomination of Comhairleoir D. Boyle to the Biodiversity Forum.

7.7 **2026 COMMUNITY GRANTS**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs on:-

- Recommended Community Associations Capital Grants 2026.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs on:-

- Recommended Community Development Small Scale Programme Grants 2026.

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

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

8.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 28th FEBRUARY 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 28/02/2026.

8.2 **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

An Chomhairle considered the following reports from the Audit Committee in pursuance of the provisions of the Local Government Audit Committee Regulations, 2014:

1. On the proposal of Comhairleoir P. Horgan, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Audit Committee Work Programme 2026
2. On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Audit Committee Charter 2026
3. An Chomhairle considered and noted the Audit Committee Annual Report for year ended 31/12/2025
4. An Chomhairle considered and noted the Audited Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31/12/2024

5. An Chomhairle considered and noted the Audit Committee Report on the Annual Financial Statement 2024.
6. An Chomhairle considered and noted the Statutory Audit Report for year ended 31/12/2024.

8.3 **MOTIONS**

8.3.1 **HOUSEHOLD AND COMMERCIAL REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES**

In the absence of the proposer, the following motion was withdrawn:-

‘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)

9. **PARTY WHIPS – 23rd MARCH 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 23rd March 2026.

9.1 **MOTIONS**

9.1.1 **UPLOADING OF COUNCIL MEETING VIDEO FILES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community and Cultural Affairs, dated 9th March 2026 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council agrees to amend Standing Orders to allow the uploading of Council meeting video files and retention of these for 12 months in a publicly accessible forum to increase transparency and accountability of Council meetings.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 26/170)

The report of the Director of Services stated that further to previous reports to Party Whips, members will be aware that the new electronic meeting infrastructure was installed for the November 2025 meeting of council. Party Whips previously agreed that the approach should be to introduce the system on a step-by-step basis, with the initial focus being on improving the livestream output, organising speakers and e voting.

Whilst there was a technical issue with the system at the December meeting of Council, in general the system is working extremely well and feedback has been extremely positive. The number of viewers has increased significantly, with around 150-250 viewers per meeting.

The Public-i system has the technical capacity to record and archive meetings and there would certainly appear to be a demand for this from the public, elected members and the media. However, this may require an amendment to standing orders required, through the formal statutory process and guidelines for the use, recording and archiving of meetings.

The Meetings Administrator is currently researching different approaches with other Local Authorities and public bodies, and a proposal will be brought to Party Whips for consideration.

9.2 **NAMING OF BRIDGE AT PROBY'S QUAY**

An Chomhairle considered the following shortlist of names regarding the naming of the new bridge at Proby's Quay:-

Recommended Shortlist – Bridge at Proby's Quay

1. Proby's Bridge
2. Brewery Bridge
3. Frank O'Connor Bridge
4. Seamus Murphy Bridge
5. Wallace Bridge

A vote was called for to identify the two preferred nominations, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR PROBY'S BRIDGE: (0)

FOR BREWERY BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, O. Moran, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, D. Boyle, N. O'Connor, C. O'Connor. (7)

FOR FRANK O'CONNOR BRIDGE: Comhairleoir B. McCarthy. (1)

FOR SEAMUS MURPHY BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, T. Shannon, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, S. O'Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, A. Deasy, T. Coleman, G. O'Brien. (14)

FOR WALLACE SISTERS BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí N. O'Flynn, K. Collins, K. McCarthy, F. Kerins, J. Lynch. (5)

An tArdmhéara declared Brewery Bridge and Seamus Murphy Bridge to be the two nominations with the highest number of preferences. A vote was called for to approve the name of the bridge as Brewery Bridge or Seamus Murphy Bridge, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR BREWERY BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, O. Moran, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, F. Kerins, D. Boyle, N. O'Connor, J. Lynch, C. O'Connor. (11)

FOR SEAMUS MURPHY BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, N. O’Flynn, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, A. Deasy, T. Coleman, G. O’Brien. (16)

As those voting for Seamus Murphy Bridge were greater than those voting for Brewery Bridge, An tArdmhéara declared that the new bridge would be named Seamus Murphy Bridge.

9.3 **NAMING OF BRIDGE AT LAMBLEY’S LANE**

An Chomhairle considered the following shortlist of names regarding the naming of the new bridge at Lambley’s Lane:-

Recommended Shortlist – Bridge at Lambley’s Lane

1. Crosses Green Bridge
2. Cumann na MBan Bridge
3. Frederick Douglas Bridge
4. Sir Henry’s Bridge
5. Joan Denise Moriarty Bridge
6. Mother Jones Bridge
7. Richard Beecher Bridge

A vote was called for to identify the two preferred nominations, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR CROSSES GREEN BRIDGE: (0)

FOR CUMANN NA MBAN BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, N. O’Flynn, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, J. Lynch, A. Deasy, T. Coleman, G. O’Brien. (19)

FOR FREDERICK DOUGLAS BRIDGE: (0)

FOR SIR HENRY’S BRIDGE: (0)

FOR JOAN DENISE MORIARTY BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, O. Moran, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, D. Boyle, N. O’Connor, C. O’Connor. (7)

FOR MOTHER JONES BRIDGE: Comhairleoir B. McCarthy. (1)

FOR RICHARD BEECHER BRIDGE: (0)

An tArdmhéara declared Cumann na MBan Bridge and Joan Denise Moriarty Bridge to be the two nominations with the highest number of preferences. A vote was called for to approve the name of the bridge as Cumann na MBan or Joan Denise Moriarty Bridge, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR CUMANN NA MBAN BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, N. O’Flynn, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, M.R. Desmond, D. Cahill, S. O’Callaghan, S. Martin, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, C. Kelleher, J. Lynch, A. Deasy, T. Coleman, G. O’Brien. (19)

FOR JOAN DENISE MORIARTY BRIDGE: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, O. Moran, B. McCarthy, H. Kamegni, P. Horgan, D. Boyle, N. O’Connor, C. O’Connor. (8)

As those voting for Cumann na MBan Bridge were greater than those voting for Joan Denise Moriarty Bridge, An tArdmhéara declared that the new bridge would be named Cumann na MBan Bridge.

10. **ENVIRONMENT, WATER & AMENITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - COMHSHAOL, UISCE & ÁISEANNA – 18th MARCH 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 18th March 2026.

10.1 **MOTIONS**

10.1.1 **DOG FOULING FINES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 19th May 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council will establish a new byelaw that will ensure dog fouling fines can be levied against those who do not clean up after their dog with a provision that those in control of a dog must have items to clean up the dog with; and that this Council will in tandem seek to provide dog bags at high footfall locations and public parks to support this measure.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 25/114)

The report of the Director of Services stated that there is currently primary legislation in place addressing the substantive issue outlined in the motion.

The Litter Pollution Act 1997 provides the legal basis for the issuing of litter fines for dog fouling. Section 22 of the Act states that “where faeces has been deposited by a dog, the person in charge of the dogs shall immediately remove the faeces and shall ensure that it is properly disposed of in a suitable sanitary manner.” Accordingly, this firmly places the responsibility on the dog owner/ person in charge to clean up after their dog. Enforcement of the provisions of the Act requires that Litter Warden must actually witness both the dog depositing faeces and the person in control of the dog neglecting to remove the faeces.

There is no budget in place to install, maintain and service dog poo bag dispensers and the resourcing of bins and dispensers at any significant scale would not be inconsiderable. It is worth noting that as with all forms of littering a degree of personal

responsibility must be taken by dog owners and the cost to individuals purchasing their own dog poo bags is not prohibitive.

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

10.1.2 **COFFEE CUP DEPOSIT SCHEME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Emergency Services and Climate Action, dated 12th September 2025 on the following motion:-

‘Further to motion 24/048 this Council will begin a consultation period to introduce a Coffee Cup Deposit scheme in a move to eliminate single use takeaway coffee and teacups in the city. In doing so the Council must ensure that all coffee shops, cafes and hotels are contacted, and their agreement sought to work together in order to reduce the huge number of tonnes of rubbish from the local municipal waste network. This Council will also explore options of reusable cups including the plastic free options.’

(Proposers: Cllr. C. O’Connor, Cllr. N. O’Connor 25/246)

The report of the Director of Services stated that coffee cup deposit schemes have been trialled in some areas in Ireland with mixed success. Killarney offers an example of a successful reusable coffee cup scheme, where almost 50 businesses have replaced single-use cups with a deposit and return scheme for takeaway drinks. This initiative is led by the local business community and is a voluntary initiative, requiring individual businesses to opt to sign up to the scheme. Such initiatives have to be business led and require significant support and commitment from businesses in order to succeed. Schemes which are not business led tend to be the ones which fail or are less successful. Thus, the success of a reusable coffee cup scheme in Cork city would depend on the voluntary widespread participation from local businesses. As per the reply to Motion 24/048 the City Council and the Environmental Awareness Officer stand ready to support business representative organisations or groups of businesses who wish to lead this type of initiative.

I would also draw Members attention to past initiatives undertaken in Cork City Council with respect to disposable cups on the City Hall Campus. In 2018 Cork City Council was the first local authority in the country to stop supplying single use disposable tea and coffee cups in their offices. All disposable cups were removed from the campus and staff were encouraged to bring their own reusable cup, mug or travel container. In our canteen disposable cups were removed and replaced with mugs which can be used by staff consuming tea or coffee within the canteen.

10.1.3 **BAN DOGS FROM CORK CITY’S CEMETERIES**

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

‘That Cork City Council introduce a byelaw which prohibits dog owners from bringing dogs into Cork City’s cemeteries. The byelaw should provide for a ban on all dogs entering any cemetery in Cork City and provide that any dog owner who causes or permits their dog to enter a cemetery within the city boundaries can be issued with an on-the-spot fine.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 25/355)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that in general there is not a problem with dogs in our burial grounds. People living close to cemeteries enjoy daily walks in the grounds or making time to visit the graves of loved ones, often bringing a family dog with them. The current Cork City Parks, Cemeteries and Open Spaces Byelaws specify that a dog must be kept on a lead in public parks and cemeteries. There is signage in the cemeteries reminding people to keep dogs on a lead and to clean up dog litter. Where a specific problem arises, we can get the Dog Wardens to do inspections. It is not considered necessary to prohibit dogs.

10.1.4 **PLANT BASED TREATY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs and Acting Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 12th September 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council endorses the Plant Based Treaty to support a transition towards a plant-based food system in Ireland; and shall identify actions within the city that support this, such as supporting community gardens and the development of a city market garden, providing plant-based options at hospitality events, and the inclusion of related goals in the Sustainable and Healthy Food Policy for Cork.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 25/384)

The report of the Directors of Services stated that the Plant Based Treaty “aims to put food systems at the forefront of combating the climate crisis to halt the widespread degradation of critical ecosystems caused by animal agriculture and to promote a shift towards healthier, sustainable plant-based diets”.

It is recommended that the members of the committee review the treaty and give further consideration to the endorsement of it given that the scope of the “demands” outlined in the treaty are far reaching. It would be important for all Directorates of the Council to do their due diligence and review the treaty fully to evaluate if it aligns with their work plans and strategies should the committee choose to recommend it for endorsement. It is important to note Cork City Council through several Directorates and sections including Community, Climate and Parks & Recreation support many community gardens and food initiatives across the city as well as the Cork Food Policy Council.

10.1.5 **REVOKE INDIVIDUAL'S STREET PERFORMER AND AMPLIFICATION PERMIT**

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, noting the dissatisfaction of Comhairleoir O. Moran with regard to the naming of an individual:-

‘That Cork City Council revoke the street performer permit and the amplification permit issued under the City Council bye-laws to the street performer who calls himself “Bubba Shakespeare” (who operates mainly on Oliver Plunkett Street). Both the street performer permit and the amplification permit should be revoked as a result of the repeated failure by “Bubba Shakespeare” to keep his noise levels below the permitted 75 decibel limit despite numerous requests for him to do so and his consistent disregard for the concerns expressed by local business owners who find it extremely difficult to work and do business due to level of noise being generated by him.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 25/627)

The report of the Acting Director of Services stated that Cork City Council’s Street Performer Byelaws set out clear requirements relating to sound levels and the conduct of permit holders. Under Section 8 – Sound Levels, performers using amplification must ensure that sound does not exceed 75 dB, measured in the immediate vicinity of the performer.

While concerns have been raised by businesses in the Oliver Plunkett Street area regarding noise levels associated with this performer, Cork City Council has not received any verified measurement, monitoring record, or other independent evidence confirming that the 75 dB limit has been exceeded. Officers from Cork City Council have engaged with the performer on multiple occasions to remind him of the requirements and encourage compliance, but no sound-level assessment has confirmed a breach of the limit set in the byelaws.

With respect to your request for revocation, Section 15 – Revocation of Permits provides that a permit may only be revoked where:

- the permit holder has contravened or failed to observe the Byelaws on three or more occasions,
- the Council has issued written notice of the alleged breaches, and
- the performer has been given an opportunity to reply before any revocation decision is made.

These procedural steps form a mandatory part of the revocation process, and any decision must be supported by appropriate evidence and documentation as required under the byelaws.

Cork City Council will continue to monitor the area and engage with affected stakeholders.

10.1.6 **'NO WAIT CARDS' FOR URGENT TOILET ACCESS**

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

‘That Cork City Council:

- Supports equal access to toilet facilities for people with chronic and invisible illnesses
- Recognises the need for ‘No Wait Cards’ to be placed on a statutory footing for people with chronic and invisible illnesses who require urgent access to toilet facilities.
- Develops a voluntary ‘No Wait’ initiative, which invites local businesses to participate by allowing urgent toilet access to people who hold a valid a ‘No Wait Card.’
- Provides recognition or incentives to business for their participation in the ‘No Wait’ initiative, through promotional material such as window stickers, or through advertising in local business networks.
- Works with the relevant health organisations and disability groups to raise awareness of the initiative with retail businesses.
- Undertakes to ensure toilets are provided as a standard service in parks and areas under Council control.’

(Proposers: Cllr. P. Horgan, Cllr. C. O'Connor, Cllr. J. Maher 26/014)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the voluntary ‘No Wait’ initiative, which invites local businesses to participate by allowing urgent toilet access to people who hold a valid a ‘No Wait Card" is delivered by the registered charity [Crohns & Colitis Ireland](#).

Cork City Council will examine the implementation of the 'No Wait' initiative, through our Age Friendly programme within the Community Team of the Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs Directorate in collaboration with Crohns & Colitis Ireland. As an immediate measure, the Community Team will disseminate information regarding the 'No Wait' Scheme to Cork Business Association, Cork Chamber and other members of our Age Friendly Alliance. Furthermore, the Community Team will circulate information on the 'No Wait' initiative to our community partners via the Cork City Age Friendly Older Persons Council to raise awareness of the scheme as well as inviting a speaker from Crohns & Colitis Ireland to address an Age Friendly public Forum Meeting in City Hall.

10.1.7 **RODENT COMPLAINTS**

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

‘That this Council would undertake a publicity campaign to notify residents across Cork City, regardless of rental or ownership model, of the measures involved in addressing rodent complaints with the National Environmental Health Service (EHS) in accordance with the provisions of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919 and that this Council would establish a dedicated email for rodent complaints.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 26/016)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Health Service Executive (HSE) National Environmental Health Service is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919.

Environmental Health Officers as authorised officers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919, investigate complaints regarding rodents and take appropriate action as required.

Cork City Council’s Environment Section is responsible for investigating and addressing waste complaints within the City that can lead to rodent issues.

Cork City Council will refer this motion to the National Environmental Health Service for their consideration.

10.1.8 **STRATEGY FOR THE GLASHEEN RIVER**

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

‘That a strategy for the Glasheen River be advanced as per the recommendations of the 2025 presentation to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 26/020)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the outcome from the presentation to the SPC in May 2025 was that stakeholders would come together and agree a realistic, cost-effective plan for the Glasheen River.

The Planning & Development Management Directorate have identified several possible nature-based projects for the Glasheen River and submitted funding applications to LAWPRO for the implementation of these projects. This process is currently ongoing.

In recent months the Local Area Development & Operations Directorate has undertaken significant maintenance works along the Glasheen River which required engagement with ecological specialists, Inland Fisheries Ireland and local residents. The maintenance works undertaken have restored the capacity and conveyance along the watercourse resulting in improved flow and water quality. The work also included clearing and cleaning bridges and culverts along the watercourse. A new trash screen was also installed to prevent illegal dumping getting lodged under Clashduv Bridge which previously created blockages, increasing water levels and flood risk. All trash screens are checked and maintained routinely and in advance of rainfall events.

Cork City Council has also secured funding to carry out a survey and investigation of all storm sewers and private outfalls discharging to the Glasheen River to locate and identify any foul misconnections. This survey will require the City Council to hire specialist contractors. The tender documents for this work are currently being prepared. It is expected that the procurement process and the survey work will be completed this year. Once the survey is complete, a plan will be put in place and funding sought for the remediation of any misconnections identified.

The measures and plans outlined above will improve the Glasheen River from an environmental and capacity perspective. The Committee will be kept informed as these plans are progressed.

10.1.9 **IDENTIFY ROUTES FOR GRITTING**

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

‘That Cork City Council will identify key commuter pedestrian routes, such as Kent Station to the city centre, and significant arterial commuter pedestrian routes; and ensure that these are added to gritting routes in icy conditions.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 26/035)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council identifies and treats priority pedestrian routes during periods of freezing conditions, with particular emphasis on areas around hospitals, schools, bridge crossings, hills, and high demand routes. Secondary routes are then treated as resources allow.

The route between Kent Station and the City Centre is considered a high demand route and is therefore included as a priority pedestrian route.

The Roads Operations Department reviews its Winter Service Operations Plan annually and will continue to seek opportunities to expand treatment routes within the limits of available resources

10.1.10 **WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE PICNIC BENCHES**

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

‘That the Council will install wheelchair accessible picnic benches at Marina Park and look to rolling out wheelchair accessible benches to all parks going forward.’

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O’Connor 26/109)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council ordered a wheelchair accessible picnic table for the Marina Park earlier this year. The table is expected to be installed in the coming weeks.

The trial of the Marina Park bench will inform decisions for similar measures in other high demand parks subject to the availability of required funding.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

11. **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE / COISTE BEARTAIS STRAITÉISIGH - POBAL, CULTÚR & COMHFHORBAIRT ÁITE – 19th MARCH 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 19th March 2026.

11.1 **MOTIONS**

11.1.1 **ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 2nd March 2026 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council, considering the views of the Public Participation Network, reviews and then adopts the following when engaging with community groups or the public:

- “A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making”, 2nd Edition, October 2023, Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht
- “A Vision for Community Well Being in Cork City”, Public Participation Network Cork City 2024
- Aarhus Convention Directive 2003/35/EC on Public Participation

And that this Council support and monitor these activities through the Community Section of Corporate, Community and Cultural Affairs Directorate.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 26/096)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council through the Community Team continue to work closely with the Public Participation Network, administering funding available through Government as well as supporting the Secretariat and co-ordinator with developmental projects, governance and finance. The Community Team will link with the co-ordinator of the Public Participation Network to support the adoption of and examine mechanisms in monitoring the utility of:

- “A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making”, 2nd Edition, October 2023, Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht
- “A Vision for Community Well Being in Cork City”, Public Participation Network Cork City 2024
- Aarhus Convention Directive 2003/35/EC on Public Participation.

11.1.2 **NEW CITY CENTRE LIBRARY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 19th March 2026 on the following motion:-

“That the Council will give a detailed update to members on progress being made on the new City Centre library as soon as ever possible.”

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O’Connor 26/108)

The report of the Director of Services stated that providing a new City Library of scale and substance is one that is a priority for Council. The whole City Library Service is a key component of the cultural, literary, and recreational infrastructure of Cork City and it is an important element in the wider community now and into the future.

Work is ongoing to make this happen and there is a standing commitment to communicating updates as this matter progresses. Cork City Council has submitted a preliminary business case to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for the delivery of a world-class library for Cork city.

It involved a robust examination of several options including the use or reuse of existing buildings and new-build options to deliver a new flagship city library in the Grand Parade area in a timely and cost-effective manner.

The City Council awaits a decision on the PBC and looks forward to moving to the next stage in the process.

As has been flagged previously a briefing of members will take place at the appropriate juncture.

11.1.3 **VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTER**

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

‘That the Council examines the feasibility of establishing a Vulnerable Persons Register for Cork City, on an opt-in basis and in compliance with GDPR (Data Protection), to support emergency planning and coordinated responses during extreme weather events or other emergencies, in collaboration with relevant statutory and community agencies.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 26/138)

The report of the Directors of Services stated that Cork City Council, through the Community Team in the Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs and the Emergency Management & Climate Action Directorates currently oversee the Community Response Forum. This Forum will be stood up when required, in response to an emergency situation, to deliver on the Council’s commitment to supporting communities across our city. Its membership includes other state bodies including but not limited to the Health Service Executive and Tusla.

Vulnerable Persons Registers are presently held by member organisations of the forum e.g. the HSE and Tusla. Other organisations also hold Vulnerable Persons Registers e.g. The Gardai, Electric Ireland, Uisce Eireann, other Utility Companies etc. The forum will work with these partner agencies to support vulnerable person in our city and ensure coordinated responses during extreme weather events or other emergencies. Other members of the Forum e.g. Community Groups, also have local communication networks which can also be utilised during an emergency response to maximise information dissemination and support to communities.

Finally, Cork City Council also have an ICT system in place (MapAlerter) which can be used by all, including vulnerable persons, to keep themselves informed of events which may impact on them. Users register with this system (www.mapalerter.ie/signup) and can chose what types of alerts to receive and how they wish to receive same e.g. SMS or email.

11.1.4 **CORK CITY CENTRAL LIBRARY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 19th March 2026 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council agrees with the 10 "Must Have" points put forward by the voluntary Cork Library Action Group, namely:

1. **Ample physical space** to meet the needs of a world class, 21st century library befitting a modern European city. This must be no less than the 7,700m² envisioned in the URDF funding application. A building of stature. The new library must be a landmark location. A building of style and scale. A cathedral of learning with architecture in keeping with surrounding buildings.

2. **An accessible city centre location.** The library is the most used cultural building in Cork and must remain in a location that is widely accessible to all, both day and night. It should be connected to at least two streets and have a large public façade. The design should be neurodivergent friendly and include a sensory space.
3. **Different spaces to meet different needs.** The best modern libraries provide three distinct environments, spread across interconnected floors.
 - a. An entrance floor that acts as a new enclosed City Square and connects to the public realm at the front of the building. This space will allow people to meet, chat and connect.
 - b. A middle floor designed to feed and spark the imagination with dedicated spaces for children and young people that can host workshops/clubs (e.g. Lego clubs, art clubs, computer clubs etc)
 - c. A top floor with a focus on life and learning with space for workshops, classes, study rooms, project rooms and at least 175 study spaces.
4. A mix of **cultural spaces** to include a lecture and performance space, exhibition space, meeting rooms for bookclubs and other cultural groups.
5. An enhanced **Rory Gallagher Music Library** with sufficient space for collections, recitals, rehearsal and recording.
6. An enlarged **Centre for Cork Local Studies** that holds the collective memory of the people of our city.
7. **Sustainability at its heart.** This includes effective use of natural light, a reduced environmental impact and a green rooftop garden. It should also include floor to ceiling windows that take in views of the river.
8. More than a collection of books; it should be **a library of things**. A place where you can borrow a guitar, a sewing machine or a chessboard.
9. **Facilities for all.** This means accessible baby changing facilities, toilets, a small kitchen, a breastfeeding room and places for people to sit and relax in warmth. A space for all.
10. The **support of the people** therefore we call on Cork City Council to urgently undertake a public consultation on this important project.

Cork City Council therefore agrees to write to the Minister with responsibility for libraries to seek his urgent engagement on making these calls a reality as part of a new world class city library, befitting the republic's second city.'

(Proposers: Cllr. N. O'Connor, Cllr. D. Boyle, Cllr. B. McCarthy, Cllr. J. Sheehan, Cllr. J. Maher, Cllr. F. Kerins, Cllr. C. O'Connor 26/169)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council has the provision of a New City Library of scale and substance at the centre of Cork as a priority. The aim has always been to provide a space and facilities to the best standard, and to have

the City Library as a key component of the Cultural and Literary life of the city and its people.

Many of the points that are highlighted in this motion have been considered within the scope of the design and project work that will be part of the provision of the new City Library once approval is forthcoming from the Department. A business case has been lodged and a decision is awaited.

As has been flagged previously a briefing of members and consultation as required will take place at the appropriate juncture.

11.1.5 **UPGRADE OF MACCURTAIN STREET**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 21st January 2026 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council apply to the Government for the Per Cent for Art Scheme from the upgrade of MacCurtain Street, Bridge Street and Harley Street. That Cork City Council install a statue of Tomás MacCurtain on the foot of St. Patrick’s Hill along with an information plaque to honour Tomás and his family.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 25/574)

The report of the Director of Services stated that we will query with the National Transport Authority whether a budget for public art can still be accessed now that the MacCurtain Street scheme is complete.

A new Public Art Policy is in development and will be brought forward to Council in the first half of 2026. A Commemorations policy will be included in this, and the Arts Office will report to the Arts Committee in the development of a proposed policy on acquiring, commissioning and funding public commemorative sculpture.

Noting that two separate motions are before the committee - each proposing sculptures of two individuals for the same location - this policy should also include a process for agreeing individuals and events to be commemorated.

A mural honouring Tomás MacCurtain was installed on the corner of Bridge Street and Coburg Street in 2023. It was painted by Peter Martin and Shane O’Driscoll of Ardú Street Art Initiative and designed in collaboration with students at St. Angela’s and Christian Brothers Secondary Schools.

11.1.6 **CITY WIDE CORK CITY TIDY TOWNS UMBRELLA GROUP**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the A/Director of Services, Local Area Development & Operations, dated 11th September 2025 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council put plans in place to facilitate the setting up of a city wide Cork City Tidy Towns Umbrella Group under the Community, Culture and Placemaking SPC.

Community Tidy Towns Groups right across the City would be invited to join this Umbrella Group which should help them grow through the sharing of ideas, initiatives and strategies currently being undertaken by the wide variety of individual Community Tidy Towns Groups across the city. Cork City Council can, through this group, advise on various opportunities for funding, grants and any other opportunities for shared development.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 25/232)

The report of the A/Director of Services stated that Tidy Towns groups are independent organisations established across the city, that work closely with Cork City Council. Last year, a South City Tidy Towns group was established, which is an umbrella group for the voluntary organisations in this section of the city, with a view to shared learning, equipment, and training. It is intended to widen participation shortly to include other groups across the city.

11.1.7 **RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate, Community & Cultural Affairs, dated 19th March 2026 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council will produce a Residents Association Handbook and compile a centralised list of recognised residents associations in the administrative area of the local authority.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Horgan 25/229)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council through the Community Team will work with the SICAP Programme through Cork City Partnership to develop a Residents Association Handbook for use across Cork city.

12. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 10th MARCH 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 10th March 2026.

13. **CITY CENTRE COMMITTEE – 25th MARCH 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the City Centre Committee from its meeting held, 25th March 2026.

14. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 7th APRIL 2026**

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

14.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

14.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF FEBRUARY 2026**

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

14.2 **MOTIONS**

14.2.1 **ONLINE SYSTEM FOR CLAIMS**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council develops an online system for people who wish to make claims against Council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 26/161)

An Chomhairle agreed to refer the motion back to the Finance & Estimates Committee for further consideration.

15. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 23rd MARCH 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 23rd March 2026.

16. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 23rd MARCH 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 23rd March 2026.

17. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 23rd MARCH 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 23rd March 2026.

18. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 24th MARCH 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 24th March 2026.

19. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 30th MARCH 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 30th March 2026.

20. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – SPECIAL MEETING 31st MARCH 2026**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its special meeting held, 31st March 2026.

21. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

22. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh and S. Martin at the AILG Training Seminar, Module 2, Housing for All, held at Radisson Blu Hotel, Co. Limerick, 19th March 2026.

23. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

None received.

24. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

24.1 **NATIONAL HEALTHY CITIES MEETING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the National Healthy Cities Meeting, taking place on Friday 8th May 2026 in SETU Arena, Waterford.

25. **TRAINING**

None received.

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

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive’s monthly management report for February 2026.

27. **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.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Boyle, An Chomhairle approved motion 31, Drug Dealing in the Inner City/South Parish Area, amended to read as follows:-

‘That concern be expressed about the growth of open drug dealing in the inner city/South Parish area and Turners Cross, and seek a co-ordinated inter agency approach to undermine its occurrence.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 26/223)

28. MOTIONS

28.1 STATUTORY WAIVER OR EXEMPTION SCHEME FOR LOCAL PROPERTY TAX

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council calls on the Minister for Finance, Deputy Simon Harris TD, to introduce a statutory waiver or exemption scheme for the payment of Local Property Tax (LPT) for households located in residential housing estates that:

- Have been fully completed for a period exceeding five years; and
- Have not yet been formally taken in charge by the relevant local authority.’

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O’Flynn 26/187)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir P. Horgan, seconded by Comhairleoir S. O’Callaghan, a vote was called for on the approval of the motion where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí N. O’Flynn, K. Collins, K. McCarthy, J. Lynch, A. Deasy. (5)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. McDonnell, O. Moran, M.R. Desmond, P. Horgan, S. O’Callaghan, D. Boyle, N. O’Connor, T. Coleman, G. O’Brien, C. O’Connor. (11)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoir F. Dennehy. (1)

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

28.2 PROVISION OF FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS IN SCHOOLS

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion, requesting that a report prepared by the Women’s Caucus also be included in the letter:-

‘That Cork City Council: Recognising that access to period products is a basic matter of dignity, health and equality, and that no child should miss school due to lack of access;

Noting Cork City Council's Period Dignity Project success. Calls on the Chief Executive to:

Write to the Minister for Education requesting a fully funded, universal scheme to provide free period products in:

- All post-primary schools, and
- Senior classes in primary schools (from 4th class upwards),

Delivered in a stigma free manner.'

(Proposer: Cllr. C. O'Connor 26/192)

28.3 **TOURIST TAX**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council write to An Tánaiste and Minister for Finance Simon Harris, the Minister for Public Expenditure Jack Chambers and the Minister for Housing & Local Government James Browne calling on them and the Irish government to introduce legislation which permits local authorities to levy a "tourist tax" on hotels within their respective local authority areas, and which:

- makes it the responsibility of the elected members of each local authority to decide on whether to introduce such a levy in their local authority area;
- makes it the responsibility of the elected members of each local authority to decide on the rate of any such levy on an annual basis;
- ensures that the entirety of funds raised from the "tourist tax" is allocated to the local area committees or municipal district councils of the relevant local authority; and
- ensures that it is the responsibility of the local councillors on those local area committees or municipal district councils to decide on how the funding is to be spent within their local electoral area or municipal district.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O'Callaghan 26/193)

28.4 **CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, DIGITALISATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion, noting the dissention of Comhairleoirí A. Deasy and P. Horgan:-

'That Cork City Council will write to the Taoiseach, the Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Chair of the AI Advisory Council, supporting the recommendation of the first interim report of the committee to establish

a Citizens' Assembly on Artificial Intelligence, Digitalisation and Technology to facilitate inclusive public dialogue and democratic input on AI policy and ethics.'

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 26/205)

28.5 **NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY THAT PROMOTES RENEWABLE ENERGY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion, noting the dissention of Comhairleoir A. Deasy:-

'That ongoing global instability affecting the cost of, and access to fossil fuel based energy, obliges us to follow and strengthen a national energy policy that promotes renewable energy through the appropriate taxation of fossil fuel use; while also placing investment priority to an even greater extent towards public transport.'

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 26/224)

28.6 **REVIEW OF THE VACANT HOMES TAX**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council will write to the Government, including the Ministers for Housing and Finance, seeking a review of the Vacant Homes Tax: to increase the rate from 0.7% to the typical rate of 5% in other countries; address the gap between liable properties and vacancy data from the Census, GeoDirectory and ESB; make sure it applies to all vacant homes; establish a clear public reporting mechanism beyond the current self-declaration model; and create a single, integrated national dataset on buildings, covering ownership, usage, condition and vacancy/dereliction.'

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Kamegni 26/233)

28.7 **MONEY COLLECTED VIA VACANT / DERELICT PROPERTY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Finance asking him to instruct revenue to repay any monies collected via vacant / derelict property to each local authority and allow each local authority to spend the collected monies to improve their respective areas.'

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 26/236)

28.8 **REVIEW OF DELIVERY DRONES**

In the absence of the proposer, the following motion was withdrawn:-

'That this Council expresses its concern at the hundreds of complaints made by the public over Manna delivery drones in recent weeks, especially since this is just the testing phase for expansion across the entire T2 geozone. This Council demands that Manna conduct a full review of the impact of these drones on the public, the

environment and the impact of the IAA restrictions on other drone users in the testing phase be done before any further expansion of the service.’

(Proposer: Cllr. B. McCarthy 26/238)

28.9 **UNAUTHORISED GRAFFITI ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council:

- Acknowledges the growing problem of unauthorised graffiti on public and private property in Cork City.
- Commends the National Transport Authority (NTA) for keeping bus shelters under its management free of graffiti and calls on ESB Networks, Eir, and all other telephone, broadband and utility providers to pursue a similar policy by keeping their poles, cabinets and street furniture graffiti-free.
- Calls for stronger enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 to tackle this issue.’

(Proposer: Cllr. A. Deasy 26/244)

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH