



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork and by Microsoft Teams on 25th September 2023.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir Proinsias Ó Flíonn, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri: Uí Chochláin G, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú C, Ó Suilleabháin S, Uí Shuilleabháin M, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Coileáin D, Ó Conaill, Ó Murchú PG, Ní Chroinín, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, Uí Bhuachalla, De Faoite, Daltún-Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Ó Conbhubhair Sean, Ó Conchubair Alan, MacCarthaigh N, Uí Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, Dawson, De Róiste, Ó Muineacháin B, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé Sean Pól, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Críod, Uí Muineacháin G, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Luasa, Ó Haodha Padriagh, Ó Cinnéide, Ó Madaoin, Ó Sé Tony, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó hÉalaithe, Ó Héigheartaigh, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh Susan, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Uí Chaochlaoidh, Ó Haodha Pól.

PRESENT

Councillor Frank O'Flynn, County Mayor, presided.

Councillor: Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy K, O'Sullivan J, O'Sullivan M, O'Donovan, Collins D, O'Connell, Murphy PG, Cronin, McGrath, D'Alton, Buckley A, White, Dalton O'Sullivan, O'Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, O'Connor S, O'Connor A, McCarthy N, O'Brien, O'Leary, Dawson, Roche, Moynihan B, Doyle, O'Shea JP, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Kennedy, Madden, O'Shea Tony, Linehan-Foley, Healy, Hegarty M, Twomey, McCarthy S, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Coakley, Hayes Paul

Chief Executive, Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services.

[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor Noel McCarthy

1/9-2

Seconded by Councillor Seamus McGrath

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 11th September 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/9-2

TO: The O'Reilly family on the death of Cllr Damien O'Reilly, Meath County Council.

TO: Sharon Corcoran on the death of her father-in-law Joe Walsh.

TO: Richie Barry on the death of his mother Betty Barry.

[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001:

3/9-2

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF WEST CORK:

Disposal of land at Barnahulla, Drimoleague, Co. Cork

3(a)/9-2

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 15th September 2023.

Situation: Disposal of land at Barnahulla, Drimoleague, Co. Cork

Area: Area of land measuring c 0.27 acres.

Consideration: €10,000.00

**PART 8 MANAGER’S REPORT SECTIONS 179(3) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000
(AS AMENDED)**

4/9-2

RESOLUTION UNDER SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COBH:

Proposed by Councillor Alan O’Connor

Seconded by Councillor Anthony Barry

Members resolved to approve Part 8 Chief Executive’s report for Planning Application for Carrigtwohill URDF Initiative – Urban Expansion Area (UEA) Infrastructure.

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Members said this Part 8 in Carrigtwohill will facilitate development of many new homes and could be facilitating up to 10,000 homes.
- Said this location is ideal for such a development because of its rail connections.
- Said its likely the development would include a lot of high-density units and said they were pleased a number of green areas in and close to the town would be protected from building.
- Members thanked the Planning department for its hard work.
- Members said the N25 upgrade still needs facilitating between Water Rock and Carrigtwohill.
- Said the development in Carrigtwohill is essential but upgrade on the N25 is needed urgently as the site generate more cars in the area.
- Members said train services are needed to be improved dramatically and called for the N25 upgrade.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001

Proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath

5/9-2

Seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty

RESOLVED:

Members resolved that pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended Cork County Council hereby agrees to enter into an Agreement with Kildare County Council and Wicklow

County Council whereby Cork County Council will carry out all of the functions of these local authorities in respect of the Social Housing PPP (Bundle 6) Programme with the following exceptions:

- The nomination of tenants to be housed in the social housing development in the relevant local authority's functional area,
- The calculation of the tenants' differential rent,
- The role of landlord under the tenancy agreements and
- The obtaining the necessary planning approvals and undertaking the public consultation procedures in respect of the development as required under the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations.

**[e] REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES
TUAIRISCÍ AGUS MOLTAÍ Ó CHOISTÍ**

6/9-2

PLANNING & STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT SPC

Briefing on the Planning and Development (Land Value Sharing and Urban Development) Bill, 2022 was deferred to the next meeting of Development Committee taking place on 20th October 2023.

**[f] REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF OFFICERS
TUAIRISCÍ AGUS MOLTAÍ Ó OIFIGH**

7/9-2

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL:

7(a)/9-2

Quarterly report of the Economic Development Directorate for the 3-month period 30th June 2023

Members noted the Economic Development Directorate Quarterly Report.

7(b)/9-2

Quarterly report of the Finance Directorate for the 3-month period 30th June 2023.

Members noted the Finance Directorate Quarterly Report.

**[g] CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
COMHFHREAGRAS Ó RANNA RIALTAS**

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HERITAGE

8/9-2

Correspondence received 06/09/23 from Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage in response to Council's letter dated 15/08/23 in relation to review of the Domestic Waste Water Treatment system grants.

Members noted the correspondence from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HERITAGE

9/9-2

Correspondence received 19/09/23 from Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage in response to Council's letter dated 25/07/23 in relation to seeking clarity on the Ready to Build Scheme.

Members noted the correspondence from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENTS

10/9-2

Cllr. Marcia D’Alton proposed, seconded by Cllr Michael Hegarty

“That this Council would make a submission to the consultation on the proposed South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) asking that to minimise the visual impact on our coastline, to protect coastal biodiversity and to safeguard inshore fishing, all offshore wind developments would be constructed a minimum of 22 km from shore.”

RESPONSE:

Members noted the response from Mr. Michael Lynch, Director of Services, Planning & Development as follows:

The South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) Proposal, published in July 2023, puts forward an initial 'proposed' geographical area within which future off-shore renewable energy development may take place.

The current DMAPs proposal is high level and there is little detailed information in the public domain with which to assess it, however Cork County Council understands the geographical area of this initial proposal is approximately 8,600 square kilometres in size, extending from the High Water Mark on Ireland’s south coast to the 80-metre depth contour and/or the edge of the Irish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Cork County Council further understands it is intended the formal Draft Designated Maritime Area Plan will be published in the coming months; that same will include a more refined proposed map and supporting documentation outlining the issues to be considered as well as an explanation of the rationale behind the proposal (including details of potential impacts on visual amenity, biodiversity and marine activity including fishing).

At that stage in the process Council will be in a position to consider the detail set out in the proposed Draft DMAP, and will be better positioned to form a view as to the most appropriate locations for potential off-shore renewable development. Accordingly it is considered the motion specifying that all off-shore wind development should be constructed a minimum of 22Km offshore is premature at this time.

However it is intended the Cork County Council submission for this stage of the process (Closing date 6th October 2023) will advise the Officials in the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications with responsibility for making the DMAP; of the need to ensure there is a balance between maximising the opportunities for the production of off-shore renewable energy and wider matters of concern including protection of visual amenity, biodiversity and the interests of the inshore fishing sector in the preparation of the formal Draft DMAP.

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Some members said they are not in favour of offshore wind farms because there is a concern that locations that are rich in fishing will be affected.
- Said it is important that this does not impact the fishing industry.
- Members said that fisherman have suffered enough, and it is important to protect these areas.
- Members said there is a need to capitalise on offshore renewable energy resources but there is not a need to have the windfarms so near the coastline.

- Members said they are concerned about the lack of engagement with the public. Said there has been no public advertisements and no notice of the consultation process.
- Members said that public representatives are not being shown respect and the public must be brought along with these plans as it is important that this must be done correctly.
- Members said that utilising wind energy is important, but it is still important to protect marine life.
- Members said that there is a concern that 22km distance would be a long way from shore and a major examination is required.
- Members said that recent tendering in the UK failed to get any interest and there is a need to have experts involved in the process to look at what is best practice.
- Said Councillors are not qualified to suggest what distance would be best practice and experts are required to speak on this subject.

Members agreed that this Council would make a submission to the consultation on the proposed South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) asking that to minimise the visual impact on our coastline, to protect coastal biodiversity and to safeguard inshore fishing, all offshore wind developments would be constructed a minimum of 22 km from shore.

OVER REHABILITATION MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN CORK COUNTY

11/9-2

Cllr. Liam Quaide proposed, seconded by Cllr Marcia D’Alton

“That Cork Co. Council would write to the Safety and Quality Committee of the HSE Board and ask the following:

- That the SQC would request of the HSE a service provision plan for Rehabilitation Mental Health services in Cork county that accorded with *A Vision for Change* and the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.
- In so doing, that the HSE would reconsider a large scale capital project investment in a 50 bed continuing care and rehabilitation mental health service proposed on the grounds of St. Stephen’s Hospital, Glanmire and that investment would instead be directed to community-based 24-hour staffed residences as per those policy documents, with the current Rehabilitation Mental Health Service provision in the North Cork HSE catchment - where there are three community residences in the towns of Mallow, Fermoy and Kanturk and a full multidisciplinary team - being a model for how such provision would be pursued across the county.”

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Members said that people with severe and enduring mental health difficulties typically struggle with the most debilitating levels of distress and impairment of any cohort attending services and their difficulties often take the form of entrenched depressive or psychotic conditions.
- Said while some can live independently or with family support, others require intensive multidisciplinary therapies and residential placement, and sometimes life-long residential placement.
- Members said that they often have great difficulties in forming relationships, pursuing goals and sustaining involvement in training or employment if not in community based services.
- Said the North Cork HSE catchment is the only area who provides this service.
- Said that *A Vision For Change* involves significant capital investment for facilities for people with complex needs.
- Members said that community based mental health services are required to allow people to integrate into everyday life.
- Members said there is great work being done in Sarsfield Court Hospital.
- Members said more capacity is needed in our hospitals.

- Members said the World Health Organisation report outlines the need for community based services.

Members agreed to write to the Safety & Quality Committee in the HSE to request the HSE for a service provision plan for Rehabilitation Mental Health services in Cork County and to reconsider a large scale capital project investment in a 50 bed continuing care and rehabilitation mental health service proposed on the grounds of St. Stephen's Hospital, Glanmire.

[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

12/9-2

- TO:** Conor Shanahan on winning the Drift Masters European Championship in Warsaw.
- TO:** Bere Island Arts Festival committee on organising the first ever Arts Festival on Bere Island which took place the weekend of 21st – 24th September.
- TO:** Grainne O'Connor and her team on delivering a fantastic Culture Night.
- TO:** Kinsale GAA on their win against Ballygarvan
- TO:** Ireland Rugby team on their win on Saturday 23rd September 2023.
- TO:** Crosshaven Association after a successful fundraising event for the Community Center Roof.

[i] ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23/9-1

CIVIC RECEPTION

The Mayor informed the members that a Civic Reception will be taking place for the Under 20 Cork Hurling Team after the next Full Council Meeting on 9th October 2023.

BEST IN CORK AWARDS

Ms Mairead Lucey informed the members that Cork County Council recently launched the inaugural Best in Cork Awards which celebrate and recognise businesses across the county for their outstanding contributions and efforts in various categories. The awards afford us an opportunity to express gratitude and support for businesses that go that extra mile for their customers, employees, and communities. Businesses are the lifeblood of Cork County, providing essential jobs, services, and products. These awards offer an excellent opportunity for businesses to share their success stories. The closing date for applications is 5.00 pm on Sunday, 15th October, for Best Start-Up, Best Small, Best Medium, and Best Large Business, and Sunday, 12th November for the remaining categories. Council are asking members to encourage businesses in their Municipal Districts to participate free to enter via the Cork County Council website.

LEADER FUNDING

Members request an update on the timeline of when an announcement of the approved LAGs in Cork County will be made. Members expressed the need to have Leader monies available to communities as soon as possible. On the proposal of Cllr Bernard Moynihan, seconded by Cllr Gobnait Moynihan, the members agreed to write to the Minister for Rural and Community Development requesting an update.

PART 8

Members requested an update on a Part 8 for Public toilets in Kinsale. It was agreed to bring this to the attention of the Bandon/Kinsale Municipal District.

GREEN ENERGY EXCELLENCE IN CORK HARBOUR AND COASTLINE

Members requested an update regarding the press release on the Green Energy Excellence in Cork Harbour and Coastline. The Chief Executive responded that these development opportunities were outlined as a strategic objective in the County Development Plan in conjunction with green energy and it is a long term objective of the Council to support Ireland's green energy plan. The Hydrogen National

Strategy has gone out to tender and is currently at the early stages. The Chief Executive that a briefing would be brought to an upcoming Development Committee.

CASUAL TRADING BYELAWS

Members requested an update on Casual Trading Byelaws. The Chief Executive confirmed that an update on Casual Trading Byelaws will be brought to an upcoming Development Committee.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTURE

The Mayor took this opportunity to acknowledge the departure of the Chief Executive, Mr. Tim Lucey, and reflected on the remarkable changes he has delivered during his tenure.

He told the meeting that Tim Lucey joined Cork County Council on 12 July 1982 taking up the role of Clerical Assistant in the Motor Tax Office. In the intermittent years, he worked across the organisation, from the Finance Department in 1985, to Skibbereen Urban District Council in 1987 in the role of Town Clerk followed by a move to Cork Corporation, where he worked in the Housing Department in 1991, securing promotion at every move. In November 1994, he secured another promotion, this time to the Southern Health Board followed shortly after in 1996 with a return to Cork County Council as an Administrative Officer in the Finance Department.

In early 2001, Mr Lucey was appointed to an acting Financial Accountant role where he remained until he became the first Head of Corporate Affairs in January 2002. In February 2005 he became the substitute Divisional Manager for the Northern Division; on 1 March 2006 he was permanently appointed to the role of Divisional Manager. In July 2010 Tim resigned from Cork County Council, this time to take up the role of Cork City Manager, a role that he held for nearly four years until he returned to take up the post of Chief Executive at the authority when he had first started his career.

Throughout his time Mr. Lucey has exhibited exceptional dedication to public service, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the betterment of our County. His leadership, strategic vision and ambition have left a lasting impact on our county.

During his career in Senior Management culminating in the highest position of Chief Executive, Tim Lucey spearheaded several transformative initiatives and achieved numerous milestones that have significantly benefited the County of Cork.

The establishment of 8 Municipal Districts, guidance through and out of the Economic Downturn, oversight of the building in 2002, the expansion of the Economic Development & Tourism offering, the success that is Spike Island, best in class Health & Safety Section plus thousands of innovative projects and initiatives that have benefited the residents, communities and businesses of Cork County are thanks to his stewardship.

According to the 2022 Census, the population of Cork County is almost 359,000 people, equivalent to the combined population of the counties of Cavan, Roscommon, Sligo, Monaghan, Longford and Leitrim. Chief Executive Tim Lucy had led the executive in delivering services for this population, securing the very best value for money with billions of euro together with the management of over 2000 Council staff. This administrative oversight came to the fore during the covid pandemic where the Chief Executive led the covid response, managing staff and continuation of service delivery by adapting Cork County ways of working using transformative and innovative methods together with leading the Community Forum to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable members of society were met.

As Chief Executive, Mr Lucey has overseen some major infrastructural projects, such as the remediation of Haulbowline, the soon to be completed N22 Baile Bhuirne to Macroom Road Development and long term ambitions developments such as Water Rock which will deliver thousands of houses in areas where most needed.

The securing of a finance arrangement with the Council of Europe Bank and resulted in the development of a Social Sustainability Investment Programme (SSIP) for 2019-2029 which aims to maximise the potential for growth while ensuring sustainability. Chief Executive Tim Lucey has ensured that the foundations for success through this arrangement will develop a network of thriving towns supporting their hinterlands providing for sustainable future growth.

A strong focus on public realm development, micro economies all balanced against a climate change agenda is creating towns and villages that are not only providing the very highest quality of life offering but securing a economic future for the county by making Cork County a key destination to live, work visit and invest in.

The Mayor proposed to extend a heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Mr. Tim Lucey as he embarks on a new chapter in his career with Greyhound Racing Ireland.

Party Leaders and Members offered the following kind words and congratulations to the Chief Executive:

- Members thanked the Chief Executive for his extraordinary service over the last 40 years and recognised his huge achievements.
- Said that the Chief Executive is a robust defender of staff and has a huge respect for the political system.
- Members recognised the hard work done by the Chief Executive during the boundary transition between Cork City Council and Cork County Council, managing services during severe weather events and more recently the great work done during the Covid pandemic. During this time the Chief Executive showed great leadership throughout and did the utmost to provide and maintain critical and essential services.
- Members said that it was a hugely demanding role, and the Council wished to express huge respect for how it was carried out.
- Members wished the Chief Executive the best in his new role.
- Members said the Chief Executive never lost the view of public service during his time served and always committed to and focused on strategic objectives on a leadership level.
- Members said this was an emotional day and it is the closing of a long chapter of public service.
- Members said that the Chief Executive always showed professionalism and acumen.
- Members said the Chief Executive had a huge impact on rural communities
- Said he served Cork County with great distinction
- Said he took on issues both big and small and was a true decision maker
- Said he was respected in many circles both in Ireland and abroad
- A number of Members thanked him for his support during their terms as Mayor

The Chief Executive thanked the Councillors for their kind words and said that he loved working in the public service. The Chief Executive said it was an honour to be from Cork and to work as City Manager in Cork City Council and later as Chief Executive of Cork County Council. He said he loved working with communities over the years and upholding the reputation of Cork County Council. He has always been concerned about how Cork is portrayed and always wanted to put the best foot forward in this regard.

He said there was a lot of ambition and competitiveness shown in the Council Chamber and he was often not in an easy position but while the role between Council and the Executive is sometimes misunderstood, he has a massive respect for Members representing communities, culture and businesses across Cork County. He said he was lucky to be in service as Chief Executive for over a 13-year period and working directly with 16 political leaders in that time. He said there was a high level of reciprocated respect between the Mayor and the Executive, and it continues to be a very important relationship.

The Chief Executive said working through the recession and changes in the structure of Council, Municipal Districts and the Boundary has been challenging and demanding but Cork County Council

had come out stronger. During the Covid pandemic, this Council had been a constant and this Council is a stability in Cork County and responds to all forms of changes as currently evidenced in the Community Response Forum that continues to meet regularly.

He said there have been many projects and programmes completed in his time as Chief Executive through the Capital Investment Programme, but it is impossible to satisfy everyone. He thanked the Management Team for their work done in an equitable manner. He could go through every town in Cork County and point out the level of investment achieved by Cork County Council which was phenomenal and a testament to Council staff and Members.

The role of the Council is constantly changing as there is more asked of the Council all the time. The Council now works across all government departments and plays a much deeper role in delivering services. He said it is important to continue to ensure local participation and strengthen the work of local government.

He said the work in the Chamber has been challenging at times, but the core values are always the heart of the debate in the Council Chamber. He thanked the media for their part in the Council Meetings and noted that it is a crucial part of Council business.

The Chief Executive thanked each individual member of Council and noted that he thoroughly enjoyed the role and he is looking forward to the next chapter in his career.

~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~