



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 Monday 13th January 2025

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir Seosamh Ó Cearbhaill, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri: Uí Bhambaire, Ó Colmáin, Ó Coileáin S, Uí Chochláin G, Ó Foghlú, Uí Shúilleabháin M, Ó Coileáin D, Ní Chróinín, Ó hArrahtáin, Ó Murchú PG, Uí Bhuachalla A, Daltún, Ó Súilleabháin, Ó Fathaigh Ní Charthaigh U, De Faoite, Mac Iorlla, Ó Finn, Ní Cheallacháin, Rasmussen, Mac Coitir, Uí Bhriain, Ó Donnchú, Ó Floinn, Ó Laoghaire, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Muineacháin B, Ní Mhurchú T, Ó Cochláin M, Críod, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Luasa, Uí Loinsigh, Muineacháin G, Ó Haodha, Ó Madaoin, Ó Murchú G, O Sé T, Ní Heachthigheirn, Ó Buachalla S, Cocking, Ó Héighheartaigh, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó Maolchathaigh, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Seasnáin, Towse.

PRESENT

Councillor Joe Carroll, County Mayor, presided.

Councillor: Bambury, Coleman Collins J, Coughlan G, Foley, O'Sullivan M, Collins D, Cronin, Harrington, Murphy PG, Buckley A, Dalton O'Sullivan, Fahy, McCarthy U, White, Curley, Finn, O'Callaghan, Rasmussen, Cotter, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Flynn, O'Leary, Doyle, Moynihan B, Creed, Looney, Lucey, Lynch, Moynihan G, Hayes, Madden, Murphy G, O'Shea T, Ahern, Buckley J, Cocking, Hegarty, Linehan Foley, Mulcahy, Kelly, O'Donovan, Sexton, Towse.

Chief Executive, Divisional Managers, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ

1/1-1

*Proposed by Cllr. Martin Coughlan
Seconded by Cllr. Michael Hegarty*

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 20th December 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY RÚN CHOMHBHRÓIN

2/1-1

TO: Councillor Michael Hegarty on the death of his Brother in Law Ted Manning.

TO: Eillen Manning on the death of husband Ted Manning.

TO: The Walsh Family on the death of Willie Walsh.

TO: Maura O'Grady on the death of her husband Des O'Grady.

TO: Brian Mackey on the death of his brother Paul Mackey.

TO: Brian Mackey on the death of his Brother in Law Billy Scully.

TO: Marcella O'Neill on the death of her Mother Catherine O'Neill.

TO: Gavin O'Dwyer on the death of his Father William O'Dwyer.

[c] **STATUTORY BUSINESS**
GNÓ RÉACGTÚIL

3. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY
SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001:

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KANTURK MALLOW

3/1-1

Disposal of land at Dromineen, Kanturk, Co. Cork

3(a)/1-1

Situation: Disposal of land at Dromineen, Kanturk, Co. Cork

Area: 0.0027 hectares.

From whom acquired: Unknown. In CCC ownership since 1910.

Consideration: €1.00

Disposal of site No. 8 at Ballysallagh Industrial Park, Charleville, Co Cork

3(b)/1-1

Situation: Disposal of site no. 8, Ballysallagh Industrial Estate, Charleville, Co. Cork.

Area: 0.67 hectares as per attached map.

From Whom acquired: Cork County Council Economic Development land.

To Whom It Is Proposed To Dispose: BCD Engineering Ltd.

Consideration: €110,000.00

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MACROOM

Disposal of Land at Masseytown, Macroom, Co. Cork

3(c)/1-1

Situation: Disposal of land at Masseytown, Macroom, Co. Cork

Area: 0.7530 hectares.

From Whom Acquired: McInerney Homes Ltd.

To Whom It Is Proposed To Dispose: Tuath Housing Body.

Consideration: €1.00

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COBH

3(d)/1-1

Disposal of Property at 3 Connolly Street, Cobh, Co. Cork

Situation: Disposal of 3 Connolly Street, Cobh, Co. Cork

Area: 0.0088 hectares.

From Whom Acquired: Unknown.

Consideration: €31,000.00

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF FERMOY

3(e)/1-1

Grant of Wayleave at Uplands, Fermoy, Co. Cork

Situation: Grant of Wayleave at Uplands, Fermoy, Co. Cork measuring 153m linear distance.

From Whom Acquired: Registered to Cork County Council since 2018.

To Whom It Is Proposed To Grant: Uisce Eireann.

Consideration: €1.00

4. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

4/1-1

Committee	Vacancies
Chair of Housing SPC	1 Member
Chair Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC	1 Member
Housing SPC	1 Member
Roads & Transportation SPC	1 Member
Planning & Strategic Development SPC	2 Members
Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity SPC	1 Member
Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC	1 Member
Arts, Culture & Languages SPC	2 Members
Historic Monuments Advisory Committee	1 Member (East Cork Municipal District)
Commemorations Committee	2 Members
LCDC South	1 Member
Cork Education Training Board	2 Members
Southern Regional Assembly	3 Members
Regional Health Forum	1 Member
CASP	2 Members

Regional Health Forum

Councillor Finbarr Harrington proposed Councillor Ann Bambury for a position on the Regional Health Forum, seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed the position on the Regional Health Forum is filled by Councillor Ann Bambury.

Members agreed to defer the filling of the remaining committees to the next meeting.

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

5. CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

5(a)/1-1

Approval of attendance by Members at Conferences/Training on the Conference list for January 2025

Proposed by Cllr. Gillian Coughlan

Seconded by Cllr. Anthony Barry

5(b)/1-1

Approval of civic reception for James Deane, World Drift Champion

Proposed by Cllr. Frank O'Flynn

Seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien

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

6. REPORT ON SEVERE WEATHER EVENT

6/1-1

Pádraig Barrett, Director of Service, Roads & Transportation presented the below report and invited queries from members.

1. Background / Context

Met Eireann issued weather alerts on Friday 3rd January 2025, notifying the public of forecasted severe weather conditions in the period ahead. This commenced with a Status Yellow Rain warning, followed by a Status Orange Rain / Snow warning, which applied to Cork County from Saturday 4th January 13:00 hours to Sunday 5th January 17:00 hours. Daily alerts were issued over the following days which advised the public of forecast conditions which included a Status Yellow, and subsequently a number of Status Orange, low temperature warning.

2. Initial Focus of Preparedness

The weather warnings forecast a multi-hazard event for Cork County. The Council had to prepare for a heavy rainfall event on 4th/5th January, as well as an associated snow/ice event and extreme cold weather immediately thereafter. This proved particularly challenging. As a result of the briefings, and the weather warnings Cork County Council activated its Severe Weather Plan and put in train a range of measures to guide and direct the response. During the event, a subgroup of the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) was established to assist the most severely impacted counties of Cork, Limerick and Kerry and this subgroup met on 2 occasions to assist with local issues and to provide additional resources and these resources are described in more detail hereunder.

The Council's main focus in this preparation stage was:

Rainfall - extensive public messaging, conducting preparatory checks of drains/gulleys/known flooding hotspots, deploying pumps at usual locations, deploying sandbags, making sandbags available for collection by the public, filling, and replenishing sandbag stocks.

Snow/Ice - extensive public messaging, implementing the Winter Service Plan for gritting of P1/P2/P3 routes, placing crews on standby over the weekend, monitoring, and replenishing salt stocks on an

ongoing basis in Council yards, replenishing grit/salt stocks for community groups, placing snow ploughs on standby etc.

3. Meetings

National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM)

The NDFEM works with other government departments and the Local Authorities to plan how to deal with major emergencies like severe weather or flooding. The NDFEM coordinates the resources of all state bodies to ensure that responses are directed to where the need is most and also facilitates communication with and between all agencies, such as Met Eireann, Gardai, DoT, HSE, ESB Networks, Uisce Eireann and the Local Authorities. The NDFEM met each day from the 3rd of January.

Cork County Council Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT)

This team reviews the weather forecasting, ensures preparedness by Council Areas/ Directorates, as well as directing the range of actions required and communicates the necessary public safety messages. The SWAT Team has met on a daily basis since Friday 3rd January, and this has continued throughout the event.

Cork County Council Crisis Management Team (CMT)

This team manages and oversees the priority actions across the organization and is comprised of the Senior Management Team of the Council and other key staff. CMT has met on at least a daily basis from Friday 3rd January, and met more regularly as required. A total of 9 no. CMT meetings took place over the period up to Thursday 9th of January.

Cork County Local Coordination Group (LCG)

A Cork County Local Coordination Group was formed to plan ahead for the prolonged weather event. It convened on 5th January and again on the 8th of January. The group comprises senior representatives from Cork County Council, An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Defence Forces, ESB Networks and Uisce Éireann.

The Coordination Group members liaised throughout the extended weather event. The Group collaborated on the deployment of resources, planning and organising support interventions, and identifying priority tasks.

Cork County Community Response Forum

A meeting of the Community Response Forum was convened on Monday 6th January to coordinate the response of agencies and community groups to welfare needs. This grouping included HSE, An Garda Síochána, Local Development Companies, Alone, Rural Link, Udarás and IFA as well as elected members.

4. Key Actions by Cork County Council

The following is an overview of the key activities:

- Flooding – 4th of January: Reports of spot flooding were reported in the initial stages of the warning, as a result of a Status Orange rainfall event. This impacted the south and west of the

county in particular. Pumps were deployed in Bantry, crews were on the ground monitoring high tides over the duration of the rainfall warning. No incidents were reported. Approximately 71mm of rainfall was recorded at a weather station at Sherkin Island over the weekend, while 47mm was recorded at Moore Park over the same period.

- The flood barriers were erected in Mallow to Mode 2 and Fermoy to Mode 3 as a precautionary measure in preparation for the event. These remain in place until the thaw has concluded and risk of flooding passed.
- The weather had been below freezing since 1st of January, so the roads had been gritted on a daily basis each day up to the current weather warning. Since the 4th of January, gritting / salting of routes has continued on a daily, twice daily or thrice daily basis as and when required. The Council's focus was on ensuring that Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes (as defined in our Winter Maintenance Plan for 2024/2025) were prioritized. This proved to be extremely challenging in the context of the heavy snowfall that was experienced throughout the county on the 4th & 5th of January, and in particular in north Cork, north west Cork, and mid Cork, though all parts of the county were impacted.
- Since Saturday 4th of January up to 50cm of snow fell in parts of the county with the Kanturk Mallow Municipal District being severely impacted though all parts of the county were impacted by snowfall.
- The weight of snow contributed to a considerable number of fallen trees across the county which the Council had to deal with in addition to clearing the snow.

Critical Utilities and Health/Welfare Issues

The initial focus of the crews was on the maintenance of the national route network (P1 routes), thereafter P2 routes and P3 to provide critical access throughout the County. There were a considerable number of calls for assistance from ESB Networks, Uisce Eireann, HSE, Gardai and members of the public that required assistance for essential services, medical, or welfare issues and these were prioritised during the initial days on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th. Through the NDFEM contact was made with the IFA and Animal Welfare issues that had arisen during the event were addressed.

- Snow Ploughs have been deployed throughout the county since Sunday 5th of January. These were targeted initially on national primary and secondary routes, as well as regional routes (P1 & P2 routes). Snow ploughing was extremely challenging during snowfall on Sunday 5th, especially with the high volume of commuter traffic on that day (post-Christmas holidays), impeding progress and effectiveness. Since then, the ploughing of snow was also challenging due to the effect of the exceptionally low temperatures which meant that lying snow subsequently froze and compacted.
- Cork County Council crews have been treating all town centres and Priority 3 routes as resources have allowed.

By Wednesday 8th January essential services such as electricity and water were largely restored (through ESB Networks and Uisce Eireann) by the end of that day, and then the focus turned to assisting communities and isolated members of the public with clearing the buildup and accumulations of snow and ensuring safe access can be provided as quickly as possible.

- Since Monday 7th of January, aside from using all snow ploughs and salting vehicles at our disposal through our own fleet and area resources, the Council have been using multiple local contractors to assist with the clearing of roads, towns, and villages.
- From Thursday 9th of January, the Army have made 2 snow ploughs available, and these have proven invaluable throughout the Kanturk Mallow Municipal District providing access on

routes where there are known welfare issues and assisting with accessing vulnerable members of our community for essential services.

- Cork County Council has also availed of the assistance of TII National Road Maintenance Contractors Egis Lagan who provided Gritting Trucks, and these have been deployed on National Routes normally undertaken by Cork County Council and freed up our own resources to focus on P3 routes and local communities.
- Cork City Council provided vehicles and equipment on Friday 10th.
- The cleanup operation will continue well over the coming days with snow accumulations persisting on our roads and these may need to be removed where they create dangers for traffic, pedestrians, or impact on communities. Council crews and contractors will continue with this work over the coming days.
- It is certain that the roads of the county will have been severely damaged due to the level of rainfall, snow, freezing temperatures and the fact that compacted snow has been lying on the surface for over 7 days. There is already some evidence of this on surfaces that have been cleared. This will be assessed over the coming weeks once the thaw has concluded, and we will be engaging with DHLGH and DoT in this regard.

Communications / Public Messaging

This has been a key element of the Council's response. Extensive use was made of press releases, media engagement, social media etc. in firstly alerting the public to the detail of the weather warnings, the expected impacts, as well as providing critical updates with regard to travel disruption, road closures, gritting / ploughing activities etc.

Emergency Contact number – this remained in place 24/7 for the duration of the event. A total of 372 no. calls were received from Saturday 4th January, a considerable proportion of which related to issues on the roads (up to time of writing on 10/01/2025 – 7 days). This is in addition to the calls that would have been received at Area Office level throughout the county.

During the course of the event approximately 4,500 Tonnes of Salt were used to treat the roads around the county. This equates to approximately 450 separate treatments across the county (based in 10tonne per lorry). Much of this was spread during night time leading to a 24/7 operation.

5. Acknowledgements

The staff of Cork County Council at every level have worked tirelessly on the response to this event over the last 10 days. The response of our drivers, out-door crews, area staff, line managers and engineers, was excellent as was the work of our communications and customer service teams and this is acknowledged and appreciated. Their work ensured that our public services were maintained to the maximum extent possible. Additionally, Cork County Council acknowledges the assistance from the Army, An Garda Síochána, TII and Cork City Council that made plant, staff, and equipment available and thanks all of the other statutory undertakers that assisted us with the response to this weather event.

The work of the many voluntary emergency service providers across the length and breadth of the county is recognised in particular. These voluntary agencies including the Civil Defence – and their volunteer membership – were invaluable as part of the response effort. Their dedicated and tireless work greatly assisted communities in coping with the severe weather conditions and must be commended and is acknowledged. The local development companies have also played a key role in bringing welfare support to isolated households and communities throughout this event.

During the discussion members made the following points:

- Response from Cork County Council couldn't have been any better.
- The constant communication was much appreciated.
- Fire Service, Garda Síochána and first responders were outstanding.
- Farming community deserve immense credit for the role they played during the severe weather.
- The work carried out by voluntary groups was exceptional.
- A letter should be sent to the farming community thanking them for their work.
- A letter should also be sent to all outdoor staff for their immense work.
- Would it be possible to get a storage of grit in certain local areas?
- Can an information campaign be organized regarding salt bins.
- Financial remuneration from central government is needed to cover the cost of the expenditure on the severe weather event.

Chief Executive thanked members for their words adding that she will convey them to staff. She also acknowledged the response at all levels including the huge interagency co-operation & collaboration during the severe weather event.

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

MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE

7/1-1

Correspondence received 5/12/2024 from Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in response to the Council's letter dated 12/11/2024 in relation to Incremental Purchase Scheme.

Members noted the response.

CHILDRENS HEALTH IRELAND

8/1-1

Correspondence received 16/12/2024 from Childrens Health Ireland in response to the Council's letter dated 12/11/2024 in relation to Scoliosis Surgery.

During the discussion members made the following points:

- Response is lacking in detail.
- Response received is not good enough.

MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE

9/1-1

Correspondence received 18/12/2024 from Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in response to the Council's letter dated 15/04/2024 in relation to wastewater connections.

Members noted the response.

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT

10/1-1

Correspondence received 13/12/2024 from the Minister of State for Transport in response to the Council's letter dated 30/05/2024 in relation to onshore facilities to progress offshore wind energy.

CORK GAA

11/1-1

Correspondence received 13/12/2024 from Cork GAA in response to the Council's letter dated 31/10/2024 in relation to cash payments at GAA games.

During the discussion the members made the following points:

- The GAA should advertise that nobody will be turned away for paying with cash.
- The situation is continuously being reviewed.
- One turnstile for cash should be made available.

**[h] NOTICES OF MOTION
FOGRAÍ RÚN**

NEWTOWN COBH

12/1-1

Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen proposed, seconded by Cllr. Ger Curley

“That a report be given on what plan is there for the 37-acre plot of land in Newtown Cobh and what progress has been made on the planned master plan for the area as was discussed many months ago”

Members noted the response from Kevin Morey, Divisional Manager, as follows:

Response:

This relates to land owned by Cork County Council within the Ballynoe Urban Expansion Area (UEA) in Cobh. The Ballynoe UEA comprises approx. 72 hectares to the north of the town which is intended to provide mixed use residential growth area, delivering a minimum of 1,366 units. Cork County Council owns 11.7 hectares of residential land as well as 9.6 hectares of adjoining lands for amenity and green infrastructure provision.

The existing local road network serving Ballynoe close to or at capacity. To ensure proper planning and sustainable development, a masterplan for the UEA should be developed, to ensure development is coordinated and sequenced in a manner to optimise the delivery of the overall landbank and to protect existing and future amenities.

To progress the development of the UEA, significant investment is envisaged in the County Development Plan, including the following:

- R624/Belvelly Bridge upgrade.
- Water services.
- Connectivity to rail services and consideration of the future Ballynoe Rail Stop.
- New roads and upgrade of existing roads infrastructure.
- Surface water drainage.

Based on the County Development Plan and to address the significant topographical and environmental constraints associated with this land bank, the following steps would be required:

- Ecological and topographical studies, surveys, and assessments.
- Preparation of an infrastructure framework plan containing the designs and details of the on-site infrastructure interventions required for servicing the lands.
- Identification of dependency of the development on off-site infrastructure interventions.
- Development of a landscape strategy.

Enabling infrastructure was provided for the Water-Rock and Carrigtwohill UEAs through funding under LIHAF and URDF respectively.

Previous Funding Applications (Cork County Council to DHLGH)

Cork County Council sought funding for the upgrade/realignment of Tay Road under LIHAF in 2017, but this bid was unsuccessful. Funding under URDF Call 2 was also sought by the Council in 2020 to progress design of infrastructure at Ballynoe UEA, but this too was unsuccessful.

The successful implementation of Ballynoe UEA, in accordance with the County Development Plan, will require multi-annual funding support, and engagement with other State Agencies and Government Departments to deliver other associated and required infrastructure investment.

Cork County Council has undertaken infrastructure scoping surveys and engaged with landowners and other stakeholders within the Ballynoe UEA. In the immediate term, Cork County Council will continue to advance early-stage surveys at the Ballynoe UEA while engaging with DHLGH to advocate for funding to prepare a comprehensive masterplan and address infrastructure challenges.

A more detailed briefing can be arranged for Cobh MD members in the coming weeks.

During the discussion members made the following points:

- A plan needs to be developed.
- The site is suitable for housing & amenities.
- Action needs to be taken.
- The R624 is causing issues with planning for sites in Cobh.

Kevin Morey, Divisional Manager responded as follows:

- The members comments are noted.
- Cork County Council has sought national funding for the site and will continue to do so.
- Limited by costs & resources/
- Will revert at MD level with updated report.

HOUSING AID FOR OLDER PEOPLE GRANT

13/1-1

Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien proposed, seconded by Cllr. Peter O'Donoghue

“That this Council would call on Minister Darragh O'Brien, Department of Housing and Local Government to reconsider the newly updated Housing Aid for Older People Grant where the grant is now not available for to applicants to buy new fossil fuel boilers e.g. oil or gas boilers.”

During the discussion the members made the following points:

- An issue effecting many elderly constituents.
- The grant is very popular but is disappointing that fossil fuel boilers are not included.
- Air to water systems are not suitable for older homes.

Members agreed to write to the Department of Housing and Local Government to include Fossil Fuel boilers in the newly updated Housing Aid for Older People Grant.

[k] **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**
RÚN CHOMHGHAIRDIS

14/1-1

TO: Chris Bateman & Lucy Laughton on winning the Sailing B14 World Championship in Sydney.

TO: Watergrasshill on winning the All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship.

TO: Youghal GAA on winning the East Cork and County Under 21B Hurling Championship.

**[1] ANY OTHER BUSINESS
AON GHNÓ EILE**

MAYORS COMMUNITY AWARDS

15/1-1

Mayor, Councillor Joe Carroll thanked Members for submitting nominations for the Mayors Community Awards.

ROAD LINING MACHINE

16/1-1

Members asked would it be possible for Cork County Council to purchase a road lining machine. Chief Executive, Moira Murrell responded by saying that this can be kept under review.

BOTTLEHILL

17/1-1

Members asked was there any update on Bottlehill. Chief Executive, Moira Murrell responded by saying that an update can be given at Development Committee.

EUROPEAN OFFICER

18/1-1

Members asked was there an update on a European Officer for Cork County Council. Chief Executive, Moira Murrell responded by saying that Cork County Council have not yet been notified of an appointment.

~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~