

NOTIFICATION TO ATTEND MEETING OF THE PROTOCOL COMMITTEE

TO BE HELD BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY 29 JULY 2021 AT 8.00 AM

AGENDA - THURSDAY 29 JULY 2021

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Deirdre Ni Raghallaigh
Senior Executive Officer
23rd July 2021

**MINUTES OF THE PROTOCOL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2021**

1 **Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2021 and matters arising.**

Order: Minutes Agreed.

2 **Discussion with Chief Executive, Owen. P. Keegan**

5 - 10

The Chairperson, Cllr. Anne Feeney welcomed the Chief Executive and thanked him for taking up their invitation to attend the meeting. The Chair outlined the following issues that the Members wished the Chief Executive to address:

- 1.) Eurocities Network and other special interest and European networks
- 2.) Council Meetings; hybrid/in-person meetings.
- 3.) Provision of administrative Support for Councillors and Access to City Hall and Civic Offices
- 4.) Improved communication with works Departments; the need for better engagement and clarity in relation to who is responsible for different aspects; consistent, timely and meaningful responses and regular updates; more meaningful responses to questions and motions.
- 5.) Issues with the 30kph non-statutory consultation and the related report to the Strategic Policy Committee.
- 6.) Greater use of Press Statements and the website to inform the public

The Chief Executive thanked the Members for the invitation to address the Protocol Committee and for bringing to his attention those issues over which they had concerns. He informed the Councillors that he would respond to these concerns during the meeting but that he would also circulate a more detailed report following the conclusion of meeting which he hoped would clarify his position and identify possible actions to address the concerns of Members.

- 1.) The establishment of the new European Office would help co-ordinate and promote the involvement of both Councillors and Officials in the Eurocities and International Networks. A dedicated official will be appointed to provide support and information to Members on these matters. The Chief Executive confirmed that he was committed to supporting Councillor involvement in European and International linkages both digitally and in-person when the public health situation allowed.
- 2.) The Annual City Council Meeting which will be held in the Round Room on 28th June will be a hybrid meeting subject to COVID restrictions (max 2 hour duration, physical distancing, limit of 50 persons etc.). Unfortunately, the Round Room is not available in July but the Chief Executive will investigate the availability of other locations. The Round Room is booked for September to December so facilitating hybrid meetings will not be an issue. It is proposed that all other meetings will continue to be held remotely including the Development Plan meetings in June. The matter will be reviewed in September in light of the public health advice.

- 3.) The capacity for the City Council to provide administrative support to Members is restricted due to the political nature of the role. However, under the vouched scheme of expenses Councillors can recoup up to €5,000 per annum for administrative support. City Hall is open to Councillors subject to them ringing ahead to gain access. The Civic Offices are open to Elected Members by prior appointment.
- 4.) The Chief Executive agreed in principle that responses to questions and motions should be more meaningful and include indicative times for delivery. He has requested each Head of Department to consider how this could be implemented and he will bring a report back to the next meeting of Protocol on this matter.

The Chief Executive reported that while the Traffic Department had delivered significant improvements to the City through the Covid Mobility schemes he acknowledged that communication and engagement between Councillors and the Traffic Department was not what it should be. He had asked John Flanagan to review this matter and to bring a report to the next Protocol Committee meeting on how he plans to address the issue.

- 5.) The Chief Executive accepted that the concerns of members regarding the impartiality of the non-statutory public consultation on the 30kph Bye-Laws were legitimate. He confirmed that the report on the matter to the Traffic and Transport SPC acknowledged the failings in this regard and committed the Council to a fully impartial process if statutory consultation was required. He was disappointed that the verbal report given to the SPC meeting did not reference these facts and asked John Flanagan to pursue the matter further.
- 6.) The Chief Executive reported that the Council website was designed to improve accessibility to services for the public and not as a general interactive news site. More complex and interactive press statements would in time impact negatively on the sites functionality. However, social media could be used to disseminate information more quickly and provide Councillors with a means to promote activities in their areas.

3 **Motion in the name of Cllr. Dermot Lacey:**

"This Committee requests a report using some case studies on the implications for Councillors of the new Remuneration rates and expense allowances for Councillors."

Ruth Dowling informed the Members that the impact of the new remuneration rates and expense allowances for Councillors could only be fully understood once the administration had received the relevant circulars from the Department. Following consultation with the Department it would most likely be July before such circulars were issued. The Chief Executive's Office would carry out an assessment of the changes and inform Members on how it would impact them.

Order: Motion agreed.

4 **Managers' Report**

a) **Councillor Support Services**

Order: The report outlining the process on how Members can access the support services was noted and agreed. The report would be circulated to all Members.

- b) **Upgrade of Wi-Fi Broadband in the Mansion House**
The Manager reported that works to upgrade the Wi-Fi connection in the Mansion House would be undertaken at the beginning of July 2021. This would entail some disruption for the new Lord Mayor.

5 **A.O.B.**

Cllr. Nial Ring asked that an official policy be established regarding the attendance of the Lord Mayor or their Deputy at the funeral of someone closely connected with Dublin City Council. He referenced the sad passing of Donal Barron who was a long serving employee of the City Council, like his father before him, as well as being the father of a current Councillor. Having representation from the Lord Mayor's Office would have been appropriate on such an occasion.

Order: Agreed.

6 **Proposed date of next meeting: 24th June 2021 or 29th July 2021**

Order: It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 29th July 2021.

Councillor Anne Feeney
Chairperson
Thursday 3 June 2021

Attendance:

Members:

Anne Feeney (Chairperson)
Racheal Batten
Mannix Flynn
Darcy Lonergan
Naoise Ó Muirí
Noeleen Reilly

Members:

Anthony Connaghan
Deirdre Heney
Micheál MacDonncha
Cat O'Driscoll

Members:

Joe Costello
Dermot Lacey
Briega MacOscar
Michael Pidgeon

Officers

Ruth Dowling

Michael Gallagher

Owen P. Keegan

Apologies:

Lord Mayor Hazel Chu

Report to Chair and Members of the Protocol Committee

3 June 2021

Responses to Issues Raised by Elected Members

My responses to the issues raised are set out below:

1. Eurocities Network and other Special Interest and European Networks

Future attendance and representation to include Elected Members as well as Council Officials.

This is agreed. The current position in relation to a number of major European networks is as follows:

Eurocities

Participation in Eurocities is currently through the use of digital tools, which are opening up new opportunities for all its members to engage more with the Eurocities Team in Brussels. These digital tools are now fully active and operational and there is no issue with accessing and using these tools as the way forward. Training can be arranged if necessary.

In April, all City Councillors were e-mailed with details of the Call for Candidates for the Eurocities Executive Committee including the application form for the elections. Elections which will take place at the General Assembly in November 2021. Having an Elected Member on the Executive Committee will give the city the opportunity to steer the work of the organisation, giving us a stronger voice in the network and a greater visibility in Europe.

The Lord Mayor has been invited to have a direct one-to-one conversation with Eurocities Secretary General, Anna Lisa Boni and members of the Team in the Brussels office on 9 June to discuss Eurocities work and priorities for the next months, and how we can make the most of all the networks it has to offer, especially now that the digital tools are opening up new opportunities for participation.

Cities Fortifying Democracy Project

Dublin City has been invited to participate in Cities Fortifying Democracy Project which will bring together a cohort of participants from 12 cities across the EU and U.S. to identify and explore some of the best local innovations that empower their cities to further and fortify democracy. Four “pillars” have been identified, that with action and intention by local communities can strengthen the institutions of democracy. These are: voting and elections, governing, public safety and justice, and local media. The Chairs of the SPC's are participating in this project which will be launched on 23 June and will run until March 2022. (The German Marshall Fund of

the United States (GMF) is a non-partisan policy organization committed to the idea that the United States and Europe are stronger together).

European Metropolitan Authorities (EMA)

Councillor Alison Gilliland, Chair of SPC for Housing/Member of the Committee of the Regions, CIVEX Commission, Brussels Member of the Eastern Midland Regional Assembly will participate in the EMA on-line political meeting on 14 June along with political representatives from 17 European city regions highlighting the role of metropolitan areas in the preparation of national programmes of the European Recovery and Resilience Facility and future Cohesion Policy Programmes 2021-2027. (Barcelona Metropolitan Area will facilitate the communications).

Calendar of events/meetings

Details of all the latest news, opinions, press releases, publications and events are on the Eurocities website: <https://eurocities.eu/> and on the Eurocities Collaboration Platform: <https://eurocities.sharepoint.com/sites/MyEurocities>

Nominated Council official to provide support, information and co-ordinate

A dedicated official will be nominated once the European Office is established (by end June 2021).

The relevant communication structure is through the International Relations Unit, CRES Department. A dedicated email account internationalreltions@dublincity.ie can be set up if necessary

Collaborative Approach by Councillors and Officials in representation

This collaborative approach takes place when strategies, policies, etc. are discussed, debated and agreed at Strategic Policy Committees meetings.

Updates from all relevant fora provided to members

A new heading 'Eurocities/International Networks' will be placed as a Standing Item on the Culture, Recreation & Economic Services Management Update to City Council monthly meetings, setting out details of Eurocities activities across all Departments, implementation of any strategies and policies, webinars, updates, events and other relevant information.

2. Meetings

Plan to return to in-person or hybrid Council meetings.

Provision has been made for a hybrid Annual Council Meeting in the Round Room on 28 June. The meeting will be subject to COVID restrictions (max 2 hour duration, physical distancing, limit of 50 persons etc.) The Round Room is booked for September to December. Unfortunately, it is not available in July. It is proposed that all other meetings will continue to be held remotely. The matter will be reviewed in September.

Times of meetings, particularly SPC and Special Meetings presenting a problem for members who also have another job.

Meeting times are generally agreed between the relevant Manager and the Committee Chair. While I am keen to facilitate the requirements of Elected Members there is a difficulty

requiring staff to conduct meetings after 17.30hrs. In any event, late afternoon/evening meeting do not generally suit Elected Members with family commitments.

Need for Reports/Replies to Motions and Queries submitted by members to Area Committee meetings and Council meetings to include an indicative date for delivery i.e. (Q1, Month or Year).

Agreed in principle. I have asked each Department Head to consider this and report back to me. I will report to the next Protocol committee meeting on the matter.

Trend developing where Council officials don't attend meetings as they did heretofore.

I have asked Area Executive Managers to report to me when relevant officials do not attend Area Committee meetings. I will follow up with the relevant ACEs.

3. Support for Councillors

Administrative support in line with that provided by other Councils.

There are difficulties with this, given the political role of Elected Members. I am happy to consider examples of other Councils, if details are provided. I checked with other Dublin local authorities and was advised that no administrative support was provided. Elected Members can claim vouched expenses of up to €5,000 per annum in respect of administrative support.

Traffic Department - need for better engagement and communications; clarity in relation to who is responsible for different aspects; consistent, timely and meaningful responses; regular updates.

I have raised this matter with John Flanagan, Assistant Chief Executive. He will report to the next Protocol Committee meeting on how he plans to address the issue.

Access to City Hall and Civic Offices

City Hall is open to Councillors subject to them ringing ahead to gain access. The Civic Offices are open to Elected Members by prior appointment.

4. Issues with the 30kph non-statutory consultation and the related report to the Strategic Policy Committee.

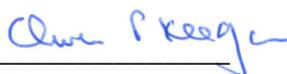
The report to the SPC contained a detailed response to the key concerns raised by the particular Councillor – essentially accepting that the concerns he raised were valid and committing to take these concerns into account if there is a statutory public consultation process. (Copy attached). I was disappointed to hear that the verbal presentation made at the SPC meeting made no reference to this statement and did not address any counter arguments to the proposed default 30kph speed limit. I am meeting John Flanagan, ACE to pursue the matter.

5. Press Statements

Regularly we get details of the various press statements we release as a Council, many of which showcase DCC work. It would be worthwhile including in these e-mails a link to

the press statement on the website and that when the press statement goes on the website that it would be made more visually attractive with relevant photos or maps. We do this well for social media but not ordinary press statement. If there was such a link Cllrs would easily promote activities on their social media. See for example the Capel St consultation feedback - a map of the area would greatly enhance this statement.
<https://www.dublincity.ie/news/85-public-favour-plans-capel-st>

More images and embedded videos can be added to the website. However, the site was developed so people could access services as quickly as possible via predominately mobile devices and not as a news website, so we are limited in terms of functionality. The website is never going to be very visual or interactive like a news website such as rte.ie for example. The objective is to get people to the services they require as quickly and as hassle free as possible. If we were to attach images to every press statement we are quickly going to impact on the speed of the website and over time it will become less responsive when people need to search the website for information on our services. We could look at something in terms of social media playing a role or maybe reducing the length of time a press statement stays on the website.



Owen P Keegan
Chief Executive

Concerns re Media Campaign and Information Presented as part of the Public Consultation Process

Concerns were raised by some Elected Members in relation to the public consultation process in particular that the information presented was pro 30 km/h and did not provide members of the public with the full picture and also that the running of a 'Love 30' media campaign during the public consultation process introduced a degree of bias. The issues are considered below:

'Love 30' Campaign

The decision to run a 'Love 30' media campaign at the same time as the public consultation process was unusual, and does not accord with normal Council practice. The Council was open to the charge that it was seeking to unduly influence the outcome of the public consultation process.

On balance it is considered that in any future 30 kph speed limit public consultation the 'Love 30' media campaign should not be run.

Information Presented/Messaging

We have examined the information presented as part of the speed limit public consultation process. It is evidence based and derived from the sources listed below.

- Hard and Fast Fact pedestrian hit by a car from the Road Safety Authority
- Survivability at 30km/h v 40km/h from the European Commission Mobility and Transport Road Safety, 2021.
- The Department of Transport "Guidelines for setting and managing Speed Limits in Ireland" (March 2015)
- The stopping distance in an emergency braking from the Source of World Health Organization Speed management a Road safety manual for decision maker and practitioners.

The information was posted as part of the process to make members of the public aware both of the consultation and to explain the rationale for the speed limit review was being undertaken and the benefits of the 30kph speed limit. However, it is accepted that the case against the adoption of a 30kph default speed limit was not set out in the information presented.

On balance it is considered that in any future 30 kph default speed limit campaign the Council should set out the arguments both for and against the adoption of a default 30kph speed limit to allow participants in the public consultation process make a more informed decision on the matter.

Motion in the name of Councillor Dermot Lacey:

Dublin City Council,

- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
 - having regard to Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU),
 - having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights and the related case-law of the European Court of Human Rights,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament on the declaration of the EU as an LGBTIQ Freedom Zone,
 - having regard to the council resolution of the City of Lisbon on the declaration of the city as an LGBTIQ Freedom Zone,
- a) whereas LGBTIQ rights are human rights and the right to equal treatment and non-discrimination is a fundamental right enshrined in the EU Treaties and in the Charter, and should be fully respected;
- b) whereas since 2019, over 100 regions, counties and municipalities across Poland have adopted resolutions declaring themselves free from so-called LGBTI ideology or have adopted 'Regional Charters of Family Rights';
- c) whereas in November 2020, the Hungarian town of Nagykáta adopted a resolution banning the 'dissemination and promotion of LGBTQ propaganda';
- d) whereas these resolutions discriminate directly and indirectly against LGBTIQ people and have as direct consequence the increase in acts of violence, intolerance and hate speech directed against LGBTIQ persons or against persons who are considered to be LGBTIQ, according to a study conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in May 2020;
- e) whereas the Commission has rejected applications for EU funding under its town twinning programme from Polish towns that had adopted LGBTI-free zones or family rights resolutions; whereas all EU funds managed under the Common Provisions Regulations 2021-2027 must respect the principle of non-discrimination and respect fundamental rights as set out in the Treaty, including on the basis of sexual orientation;
- f) whereas while LGBTIQ persons in Poland and Hungary face systematic discrimination, this is also an issue across the EU, with little to no progress being made in alleviating the persistent discrimination, hate speech, hate crimes and harassment against LGBTIQ people; whereas LGBTIQ persons in every Member State still face a higher rate of discrimination in all areas of life, including at work and at school, and a high prevalence of physical, emotional and sexual attacks, both online and offline, which leads to a worrying suicide rate among young LGBTIQ people, and especially among young transgender people;
- g) whereas combating inequality in the EU is a shared responsibility, requiring joint efforts and action at every level of government, and especially by local and regional authorities, which have a key role to play in this, being responsible for implementing three quarters of EU legislation and fostering equality and diversity;
- h) whereas recognition, protection and advancement of the human rights of LGBTIQ people in Western Balkans is a crucial step in the EU accession process for the

countries in the region, and considering that local LGBTI initiatives in fighting everyday discrimination and hate crime are key to raising awareness and fostering compliance;

- i) whereas the Party of European Socialists Group in the European Committee of the Regions, together with the Renew Europe, European Alliance and the Greens, have called on the Committee to take a strong stance against breaches of LGBTIQ people's rights, such as the development of zones free from so-called LGBT ideology;

In view of the above, Dublin City Council deliberates:

- 1.) to declare Dublin City as an LGBTIQ Freedom Zone, following the European Parliament's declaration for the European Union of 11 March 2021, and commit to public policies promoting and protecting LGBTIQ rights on the one hand, and explicitly sanctioning structural discrimination mechanisms on the other;
- 2.) to condemn the action of the Polish and Hungarian governments against LGBTIQ rights, in clear disregard of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and every other form of discrimination against LGBTIQ persons;
- 3.) to fly the Rainbow flag on the City Hall for one week during Pride Month.

Request to light up City Hall on 7th October for International Trigeminal Neuralgia Awareness Day 2021

My name is Sarah and I have a condition known as Trigeminal Neuralgia. This is a very rare neurological condition and the pain has been documented as the worst known to humankind. Despite the rarity of Trigeminal Neuralgia, we have established a successful support group, especially through Facebook and word of mouth.

Here is some information about the condition. [Trigeminal Neuralgia Definition - The Mayo Clinic](#)

There is a serious lack of awareness in Ireland, and around the world. In 2019, the last International Trigeminal Neuralgia Awareness Day was held, with over 200 buildings, monuments and stadiums lighting up in teal around the world, with over 30 of those here in Ireland including Dublin City Hall. Other places include; The Mansion House, The CHQ Building, Shannon Airport and The Rock of Cashel.

[Trigeminal Neuralgia Ireland](#)

It would be amazing and inspiring if Dublin City Hall could once again “Light up Teal” (or closest to it) for just one night, October 7th, 2021. It would help us to spread the word and raise awareness. Due to our efforts last year our support group has expanded and we are now providing help, information and support to hundreds of people across Ireland.

Living with Trigeminal Neuralgia can be debilitating, lonely and agonizing. There is a lack of understanding and frequent mis-diagnosis. Unfortunately, there is no cure, and the usual pain killers have little or no effect on our condition. There are some surgical and radiation procedures that can help and improve the quality of life of sufferers. These can be expensive and risky, but making Trigeminal Neuralgia known, will encourage the main hospitals to provide these procedures to everyone who needs them. The Trigeminal Neuralgia Ireland Support Group, along with the global Trigeminal Neuralgia community, are also petitioning the World Health Organisation to add Trigeminal Neuralgia to their “Health Topics List” which will increase awareness and provide the funding needed to research for a cure.

All approvals will be mentioned on the [TNnME](#) websites, both Irish and worldwide social networks, press releases, newspaper articles and blog posts.

Kindest regards,

Sarah Heavey,
Trigeminal Neuralgia Ireland.

UPDATE REPORT
SCULPTURE DUBLIN: CITY HALL - O'CONNELL PLINTH COMMISSION
July 2021

For the attention of the City Hall Protocols Committee

ABOUT SCULPTURE DUBLIN

Sculpture Dublin aims to raise awareness of the Dublin's sculptural heritage and to create a series of ambitious new sculptures in parks and public spaces city-wide. It is a Dublin City Council initiative developed by Parks and Landscape Services and the Arts Office and supported by the Hugh Lane Gallery. Permanent sculptures are being commissioned in Ballyfermot, Finglas, Raheny, Terenure and Smithfield Square Lower and a temporary artwork is being commissioned for the O'Connell Plinth at City Hall.

ABOUT THE O'CONNELL PLINTH COMMISSION

The O'Connell Plinth was originally constructed to support the monumental statue of Daniel O'Connell by John Hogan, that is now located in the Rotunda in City Hall. The plinth is located at street level in a paved area leading to the main entrance of City Hall. This commission invited artists to respond to a historical plinth that has stood empty in the centre of Dublin city for over 150 years. Commissioning a new artwork for the O'Connell Plinth is an opportunity to restore to it its original function: the public display of sculpture.

Artist, Alan Phelan has been commissioned to create and install a temporary sculpture on the O'Connell Plinth, and to de-install and remove the artwork after a period of one year. Phelan is creating a large scale scone (or candle holder), a symbol of hope that is richly layered in reference; including the image of the Acanthus flower, a popular motif in Georgian stucco architecture, and the RGB colour code of the Joly Screen Photography printing process (invented in Dublin). The work also references queer and social histories, including the Dublin Castle Scandal of 1884.

The proposed artwork represents a different monumental sculpture to 'The Liberator' that stood there 150 years ago. The flamboyant scone in bright colours draws its context from the building and nearby histories. These stretch over that same time period, celebrating different kinds of emancipation, moving through Irish independence, EU Presidencies, tribunals of inquiry, and important civic events related to marriage equality and reproductive choice.

PRODUCTION UPDATE

The artwork will be 5metres high and made of paper-covered, 3D printed thermoplastic polyester forms and steel. The artist is working with two main contractors: 3D Printing Ireland and Prism Engineering. 3D Printing Ireland has produced and delivered the 3D printed sections that will make up the main sculptural form. Prism Engineering has produced and delivered the steel support structure for the sculpture.

The artist gained access to Fire Station Artists' Studios in May, following the easing of restrictions and is working on the assembly, modification, papering and finishing of the final piece. The work is scheduled for completion in September with a launch date in September to be confirmed. Prism Engineering will prepare the method statements for installation. The artist will be responsible for the dismantling/removal of the artwork from the plinth after 1-year.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

All of the new commissions will benefit from local engagement programmes designed to raise awareness, provoke conversations about sculpture and involve people in discussing how public art can enhance their neighbourhood. Local engagement will take the form of online surveys, public meetings, artists' cafes and culture clubs, as well as opportunities to participate in the creation of some of the new commissions and get involved in local art projects through schools and community organisations. <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/sculpture-in-your-area/>

In relation to public engagement activity around the O'Connell Plinth commission, an **online café** with the commissioned artist, historians and public art curators was hosted by Visual Artists Ireland earlier in the year. The Sculpture Dublin **City Hall Lectures** by Professor Paula Murphy have been screened online monthly since January. The series was filmed in City Hall and explores historic public sculpture in Dublin from a range of perspectives. The screenings, including a Q&A with Paula Murphy, were very popular with approximately 100 people tuning in to each one. The recordings are available at <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/city-hall-oconnell-plinth-2/>

In partnership with the Hugh Lane Gallery, Sculpture Dublin has been running a monthly VTS **Sculpture Club** exploring the Hugh Lane's sculpture collection. VTS (Visual Think Strategies) is an innovative, fun way to look at art and make meaning out of artworks collectively. <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/city-hall-oconnell-plinth-2/>

Following the launch of the commissioned artwork in September, Visual artist, Renata Pekowska will facilitate a series of sculpture workshops with students in **Presentation Secondary School** and curator and art historian, David Archbold is developing a programme of **public talks** around the new commission.

Sculpture Dublin is working with the city's cultural institutions to draw attention to sculpture in their collections and temporary exhibition programmes. Through a city-wide programme of talks and workshops, online presentations and publications, and a number of exciting new initiatives, including International Sculpture Day and the Experiment! Sculpture Award (developed in partnership with The LAB Gallery and Fire Station Artists' Studios), Sculpture Dublin will encourage people to rediscover their city through sculpture – imagining new possibilities for art in the public realm and engaging in shared processes of learning and making. <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/sculpture-in-the-city/>