



**NOTIFICATION TO ATTEND MEETING OF THE PROTOCOL COMMITTEE  
TO BE HELD BY REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT  
8.00 AM**

**AGENDA**

**THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**PAGE**

1	Election of the Chair of the Protocol Committee	
2	Election of the Vice Chair of the Protocol Committee	
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2023 and matters arising	<b>4 - 6</b>
4	Lord Mayors Receptions and Engagements of the Deputy Lord Mayor	<b>7 - 8</b>
5	Request for retrospective approval for Councillor attendance at the Conference "Retrofitting Ireland: Building Resilience in Irish Homes" held on 28th July 2023 in Limerick.	
6	Conference Reports:	
	a) Councillor Declan Flanagan and Councillor Joe Costello: AILG Module 4 on 22nd July 2023 in County Sligo.	<b>9 - 11</b>
	b) Councillor Dermot Lacey: MacGill Summer School on 16th August 2023 in Glenties, County Donegal.	<b>12</b>
	c) Councillor Darcy Lonergan: Retrofitting Ireland: Building Resilience in Irish Homes" held on 28th July 2023 in County Limerick.	<b>13</b>
7	Attendance at Local Community Development Committee meetings	
8	Request from the Collections Registrar with the Office Of Public Works for a loan of three items from the Dublin Civic Regalia Collection to use in a 2024 exhibition at Dublin Castle entitled 'Dublin Gold and Silver Boxes, 1662-1830'.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thomas Bolton, The Williamson cup, silver, c.1696.</li><li>• Thomas Bolton, The Foynes cup, silver, c.1700</li><li>• Unknown artist, Portrait of Daniel Bellingham.</li></ul>	

9	Policy regarding Maximum / Minimum Temperatures in City Hall	14 - 16
10	Hybrid Meeting Facilities in the Richard O'Carroll Room	
11	Social Enterprises Guide for Councillors - Briefing form Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll	
12	St. Patrick's Festival	
	a) Correspondence from the Acting Chairperson of the St. Patrick's Festival	17 - 18
	b) Decision by the Office of the Information Commissioner in relation to the Governance Report on the Board St. Patrick's Festival	19 - 35
13	Lighting Requests for City Hall	
	a) Request from the Canadian Air Force to illuminate City Hall on 1st April 2024 to commemorate the Royal Canadian Air Force Centennial	
	b) Request from Charity Praxis Care to illuminate City Hall on 3rd July 2024 to commemorate the charities 40th Anniversary	
	<b>Following the Local Elections in June 2024 a new Protocol Committee will not be established in time to make a decision on this request.</b>	
	c) Additional requests to illuminate City Hall in September, October and November 2023	36

14 Motion in the name of Councillor Mannix Flynn:

That this Protocol Committee notes with concern two recent incidences where members of the press were effectively banned/censored from attending what are normally meetings open to the public and the press.

The first meeting was a meeting of the Protocol Committee with regards the nomination of Greta Thunberg for honorary freedom of the city. The press were instructed to leave the meeting. No particular reason was given and no prior warning was given to Councillors instead standing orders were ill-used in this instance bearing in mind that the group leaders who had been informed of nomination for the freedom of the city of Dublin such Duncan Stewart - why were they not informed of Greta Thunberg's nomination? instead this was done with cloak and dagger and secrecy at the Protocol committee. This has the potential to damage the integrity of the Protocol committee and its members by undermining its independence, its transparency and its support for Freedom of the press and most importantly of all- access for the public.

The second incident was regarding an emergency meeting of the Joint Policing Committee which was held on 23rd of June. Again in this instance for some odd reason the Press were locked out. Nobody was informed of this prior to the meeting and indeed a local community group representing City Quay residents, was also locked out of the meeting. In the 14 years i have been in DCC I have never witnessed to such erosion of public and press freedom. There seems to be a great lack of protocol and procedure as to how the public and press can be removed from what are essentially public meetings.

Therefore this committee noting these concerns, carry out a full review and

oversight of such procedures to make sure they are fit for purpose, democratic and fully transparent and are only executed in extraordinary circumstances.

It's important to note that in these two incidents it was the media outlet Dublin Live that was excluded and its reporter, Dan Grennan but I am sure if other media outlets turned up or other reporters they would have faced the same exclusion.

- 15        Manager's Report
- 16        A.O.B.
- 17        Proposed date of next meeting: 26th October 2023 at 8am

**Ruth Dowling**  
**Senior Executive Officer**