



Report on Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding with City of Dublin, Ohio, United States of America

On 5th August 2017 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the cities of Dublin, Ireland and City of Dublin, Ohio for a 4 year term. Areas of co-operation outlined were Economy, Culture, Sports, Education, Youth and Smart City to promote common prosperity and development. The MOU was signed in Dublin, Ohio during a visit by Ardméara Mícheál Mac Donncha and Greg Swift. The delegation visited Dublin Irish Festival, one of the largest Irish musical and cultural events in the world, Dublin Ohio Fire Department, the Bridge Street District (Urban Planning) and discussions were held on The Global Island, Cardinal Health's 'Fuse' Centre, Columbus Ohio National Children's Hospital, The Ideas Foundary, Smart Cities and the new Library in Dublin Ohio. In his report following the visit Ardmhéara MacDonncha advised *This was a worthwhile and useful visit which, if built upon, can yield advantages for our City.*

In September 2019 a return visit to Dublin was made by the Mayor and Vice Mayor of Dublin Ohio and they visited The Liberties, Guinness Enterprise Centre, Guinness Storehouse and Gravity Bar and EPIC and meetings were held with the Economic and Enterprise Development Department, Smart Dublin & Smart Docklands and the Lord Mayor Paul McAuliffe and Chief Executive Owen Keegan.

The MOU expired on 5th August 2021 and due to the pandemic no travel was permitted in years 3 and 4 of the MOU.

2022 Request to renew MOU

A request was received by e-mail on 24th August 2021 from Dublin, Ohio to renew the MOU. They were advised of the new Dublin City Council protocols in relation to Friendship Agreements and on 25th August 2022 Mayor Jane Fox responded outlining areas where collaboration between the two cities may lead to a successful relationship.

The response was assessed in the Matrix agreed by this Protocol Committee. It outlined a number of areas where the objectives of Dublin City and the City of Dublin Ohio aligned. Following consultation with senior staff within Dublin City Council the following areas have been outlined as areas where immediate collaboration could begin:

- Culture including a link with the Dublin Irish Festival
- Smart Cities
- Citizen Engagement
- Decarbonizing zone as part of prioritising works on a green, low carbon city

Other areas of potential collaboration may arise following more detailed conversations with City of Dublin Ohio. If the members have any suggestions of other areas which would be beneficial to Dublin City, I would welcome their comments.

The Department of Foreign Affairs are supportive of the renewal of this MOU.

Recently Aer Lingus have announced a new transatlantic route for summer 2023 to Cleveland, Ohio direct from Dublin Airport operating from May 19th four times a week. Cleveland Ohio is 120 miles from Dublin Ohio (2 hours driving time). This could also be of benefit to any future collaborations between the two cities.

Recommendation

Following consideration of the objectives of Dublin, Ohio I am satisfied that any new MOU would align with the Dublin City Council's Mission Statement *To drive the sustainable development of the City through strong civic leadership and delivery of effective services that promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities.*

I would recommend the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Dublin Ohio, USA for a 4 year term. Areas of co-operation to include Culture, Smart Cities, Citizen Engagement and Green Cities. Other areas may be considered following more in depth conversations with City of Dublin Ohio.

Fanchea Gibson

International Relations

Culture, Recreation and Economic Services