



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Culture, Recreation & Economic Services, Dublin City Council,
Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8
T. 01 222 5099

Áineasa & Eacnamaíochta, Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath,
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Éire
T. 01 222 5099

08th November 2022.

Ruth Dowling,
Senior Executive Officer,
Chief Executives Department.

Dear Ruth,

I am bringing to your attention a proposal to transfer a number of functions/services currently provided by DCC staff in City Hall to Dublin City Council Culture Company.

Dublin's City Hall is one of Dublin city's most historic buildings with its origins as the Royal Exchange, the epicentre of trade in Dublin city for the latter part of the 18th century. In 1852, Dublin City Council bought the building and it was used as the Council Chamber and staff offices. It had a role in the events of 100 years ago as one of the garrison buildings of the Easter 1916 Rising and venue of historic events including the lying in state of Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins in 1922. As one of the millennium projects undertaken by Dublin City Council, it was restored to its original state and included a public element with the Story of the City exhibition in the basement.

City Hall is currently home to the Council Chamber used for meetings of Dublin City Council and related committees. The exhibition in the basement did not re-open after the Covid19 pandemic and the area was restructured to allow for additional Councillor Party Rooms and Councillor areas where they can meet with constituents. The circular room will be available for hire for small receptions and will include display cases incorporating some of the civic regalia. An additional room in the basement will also be available for hire as a small conference/meeting room. The café did not reopen after the pandemic. The Rotunda is in demand as a venue for events and weddings and is available for hire 6 days a week Monday to Saturday, excluding times of Statutory Council meetings. The practice for Civil weddings taking place in City Hall dates back to 2009 following a decision of Dublin City Council, with Secular Ceremonies being introduced in 2013. The number of weddings in City Hall has increased year on year and it is the leading venue in Leinster after the HSE Registry Office which hosts multiple weddings per day. In 2022 City Hall will host 222 weddings and 30 events. There are 160 wedding bookings in place for 2023 and 50 wedding bookings in for 2024. Enquiries are being

made for subsequent years though bookings have not opened. Bookings are taken with a view to the pre-booked statutory meetings of Dublin City Council and its committees to ensure there is limited noise overflow to the Chamber.

Management of City Hall falls under two Departments with Culture, Recreation and Economic Services responsible for the basement and Rotunda areas and Chief Executive's Department responsible for the first floor area which includes the Council Chamber and Party meeting rooms. There are five staff ranging from Clerical Officer to Senior Staff Officer who manage the public areas of City Hall including bookings for weddings and events and one staff member, a General Operative, from Chief Executive's Department who assists the Elected Members in the building.

Dublin City Council Culture Company was established in March 2018, and runs cultural initiatives and Dublin City Council owned buildings across the city including 14 Henrietta Street and Richmond Barracks. I am of the opinion that it would be appropriate to transfer responsibility of a number of functions/services currently provided by DCC staff in City Hall to Dublin City Council Culture Company as I believe the company would have the expertise and experience to enhance the use of the building.

I am proposing that responsibility for the following functions/services will transfer with an appropriate budget.

1. Hospitality
2. Tours/Visits by public
3. Venue Hire/ Weddings/Events
4. Event Management
5. Catering
6. Media/ Promotion of venue/Communications/Marketing
7. Development of protocol with Chief Executive/Elected members
8. Customer Services
9. Health & Safety
10. Administration / Services City Hall Rotunda

In relation to DCC staff currently operating services in City Hall, as outlined above Management of City Hall falls under two Departments with Culture, Recreation and Economic Services (CRES) responsible for the basement and Rotunda areas and Chief Executive's Department responsible for the first floor area which includes the Council Chamber and Party meeting rooms. The proposal will not have any impact of staff assigned by Chief Executive Department carrying out services in City Hall.

The five administrative Staff under the control of CRES Department will be impacted if this proposal is agreed and I propose that staff will be offered opportunities in CRES Department. I intend to make contact with the following interested parties to commence a dialogue and seek their comments on the proposal, and I will be in contact with you to discuss in the coming weeks.

1. Staff City Hall
2. Trade Unions
3. Chief Executive
4. Human Resources
5. Protocol Committee
6. Dublin City Council Culture Company
7. Corporate Services.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony Flynn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke under the "y" in "Flynn".

Anthony Flynn
Executive Manger