

QUESTIONS LODGED PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO.18 FOR REPLY AT THE MONTHLY MEETING OF DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER 2023.

Q.1 COUNCILLOR ALISON GILLILAND

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for a full maintenance, electrical, heating and plumbing report to be conducted with respect of **(details supplied)** so as to ascertain the liveability of this unit?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Housing Maintenance will arrange to gain access to the property at **(details supplied)** and assess any maintenance requirements within the unit.

Q.2 COUNCILLOR NOELEEN REILLY

To ask the Chief Executive what is the status of the pandemic payment to Dublin Fire Brigade workers, how many are eligible and how many have received the payment to date.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

To date, payment has been made to 842 staff members and the outstanding 157 staff will receive the payment in September 2023.

Q.3 COUNCILLOR NOELEEN REILLY

To ask the Chief Executive given the huge increase in abandoned dogs since the pandemic, has additional funding been sourced to the animal welfare unit and what is the current funding.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Council has increased staffing in the Animal Welfare Unit over the course of the past year. The posts of Administrative Officer, Animal Welfare Inspector and Assistant Animal Welfare Officer have all been filled and a competition for 5 Animal Welfare Wardens is currently being held. Additional back office support is also planned over the coming weeks.

In recent months DCC has also increased its capacity at the dog shelter to 25 spaces. The council is currently investigating a number of additional sites for kennelling. Funding for this facility will be included in the budget submission for 2024. Provision for a number of procurements, including veterinary services and horse seizures contracts, will also be included in next year's submission.

Details of the 2024 budget will be published shortly but additional monies will be made available to cater for Animal Welfare needs in the city including the increase in seized and surrendered dogs.

Further details are available from the Animal Welfare Section at animalwelfare@dublincity.ie

Q.4 COUNCILLOR NOELEEN REILLY

To ask the Chief Executive to look at putting a dog park in Dublin Northwest.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

This matter has been examined in the past on a number of occasions, with no viable location found within any NW Parks currently. This assessment has been made taking

into consideration amount of land required for such a facility; existing facilities and requirements and in the context of other planned development.

Dog parks can be successful if appropriately located and used responsibly but they require a significant land take with most international recommendations for at least an acre. However, there is also the potential for injury to dogs or owners if an aggressive or fearful dog feels under threat or trapped. As these facilities cannot be manned the Council must rely on visitors to use the dog park appropriately to avoid injury to either dogs or owners. Dog park facilities require high footfall and passive supervision to ensure that the facility could be successful and is safe and secure for potential users. Dog parks are not for every dog and many dog owners avoid them. It would be very difficult to justify giving over a significant quantum of the limited open space in the area to a dog run that would only be used by some of the dog owners visiting our parks and would severely limit the potential of the park to serve the wider community. The Parks Bye Laws currently allow dogs to be exercised off leads before 11am and in the last hour before the park is closed providing the dog is under effective control.

Q.5 COUNCILLOR NOELEEN REILLY

To ask the Chief Executive how many fines for illegal dumping have been issued in 2023 compared to 2022, 2021 and how many are outstanding.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Please see the table below outlining the number of fines issued for illegal dumping during the 2021, 2022 and 2023 (to date) calendar years along with the number of fines paid for those years.

Year	Fines Issued	Fines Paid
2023 (to 23/8/23)	970	480
2022	802	412
2021	907	514

Q.6 COUNCILLOR ANTHONY CONNAGHAN

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for the footpath at **(details supplied)** to be repaired. The path is in a poor state and shore is missing a cover close to number 219.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

An enquiry (Ref. 11143291) has been created for the footpath defects at the above location. This has been passed to the Area Inspector in Road Maintenance Services for inspection and the necessary repairs shall be carried out.

A crew from the Surface Water and Flood Incident Management Division checked this Road on 04/09/2023 and found no missing cover over any gullies or caps, and could find no defects to report.

Q.7 COUNCILLOR ANTHONY CONNAGHAN

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for an inspection of the footpaths along Cloonlara Road and St. Helena's Road (Tolka Valley Road to Tesco's). There are lots of elderly people in this area who use this way to access Tolka Valley Park and the local church and shops. The Footpaths are in a poor state and have several trips hazards.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

An enquiry (ref.11141196) has been created and forwarded to the Area Engineer for inspection of the footpaths along Cloonlara Road & St. Helena's Road (Tolka Valley Road to Tesco's). Any defects shall be logged and repairs carried out when a crew is available.

Q.8 COUNCILLOR ANTHONY CONNAGHAN

To ask the Chief Executive if it is possible to arrange a payment plan for footpath dishing as I have had several queries regarding people who would like to have the dishing put in at their properties but are not in a financial position to do so.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

It is not feasible to establish a 'payment plan' system for footpath dishing due to practical and administrative issues associated with managing such a payments system.

Q.9 COUNCILLOR ANTHONY CONNAGHAN

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a list of properties or sites which have been put forward for the derelict sites register in the North West area and how many have been pursued for financial penalties since the introduction of the scheme and if not, why not?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Register in the North West Area: 9 Fairlawn Park, Dublin 11.

This property was entered on the Derelict Sites Register in November 2016 and a derelict sites levy was applied and is demanded every year since 1st January, 2017.

The Derelict Sites Levy is 7% of market value and outstanding levies attract interest at the rate of 1.25% per month. Derelict sites legislation provides that unpaid levies, including interest, automatically become a charge on the land and will remain a charge until the full amount is discharged. The Council has prepared a formal procedure for registering the charge with Tailte Éireann (formerly the Property Registration Authority). If and when a derelict site with a charge is subject to a sale, purchasers will require vendors to have the charge removed as part of the conveyance process. The Council has experienced an increase in the number of derelict sites being brought to the market in recent years with a resultant increase in levy payments.

The Derelict Sites Section is currently carrying out a city-wide exercise with the local Area Offices to compile a list of properties which may be deemed derelict following inspection and therefore suitable for inclusion on the Derelict Sites Register. It is anticipated that additional properties will be included from the North West Area.

Q.10 COUNCILLOR JOHN LYONS

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the number of housing transfer applications made in each of the last five years (2018-2022), the length of time it took to process each application and inform the appellant of the decision, the decision made and the reasons why, the number of appeals and the result of each appeal.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

2018	840
2019	856
2020	738
2021	982
2022	674

We are unable to get figures for the other questions as this information is not recorded and the relevant data cannot be extracted from the system. The average waiting time for a Transfer Application to be processed is 12 weeks and the average waiting time for an appeal is 28 days.

Q.11 COUNCILLOR JOHN LYONS

To ask the Chief Executive for a full report on the housing file of **(details supplied)** but has a valid notice to quit in September. Report to include consideration of allocating one of the new Bunratty Road units or something similar in the general Coolock area.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The above applicant is on the Transfer HAP List with an application date of 15/9/2014, and the applicant holds the following positions on this list:

Area	Bedsizes	Position
Area B	2	143

Dublin City Council allocates properties based on time on the list and currently there are applicants of longer standing who have to be considered as suitable vacancies arise. It is not possible to indicate accurately the prospect of an offer for any applicant. The number of vacancies arising will be a determining factor in the length of time applicants could expect to be on the waiting list.

The applicants should keep checking the Dublin City Council website for any Choice Based Lettings that may become available in their area of choice.

Q.12 COUNCILLOR DERMOT LACEY

To ask the Chief Executive if he will explore the option of having an automatic “call back” facility installed in the Customer Services Department if a call is not answered within 20 minutes.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Corporate Services and Transformation Department will explore the option of a call back facility across all our services.

A report will issue to the elected members by the end of the year.

The Customer Services Centre processes 187,000 calls per year and the average wait time is just over 2 minutes.

When a customer experiences a delay time in excess of 20 minutes, it can usually be attributed to a technical issue or an external factor like a severe weather event.

We had one technical issue in 2023 - an electricity power-cut in the civic offices environs in July which curtailed some of our phone answering service during that event. Notwithstanding, a service was provided from our remotely based agents during that event.

In line with our Customer Channel Management Strategy and our customers' evolving expectations, we are rolling out more online services on Citizen Hub – our citizen engagement platform. We now have over 35 services and more than 23,995 registered users. The service is available to customers on a 24/7 basis.

We are also reviewing our website with regards enhancing our customer experience. A particular focus will be put on enabling our customers to find their required information more easily.

Q.13 **COUNCILLOR CHRISTY BURKE**

To ask the Chief Executive how many homeless hostels are at **(details supplied)**.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

PMVT manage two services at **(details supplied)**

A PEA operator manages **(details supplied)**

Q.14 **COUNCILLOR CHRISTY BURKE**

To ask the Chief Executive the foot path outside **(details supplied)** be reinstated.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

An enquiry (ref. 11141105) has been created & forwarded to the Area Inspector who will investigate this matter.

Q.15 **COUNCILLOR CHRISTY BURKE**

To ask the Chief Executive when will the barriers and other equipment from the new road design works going on for some time from the corner at **(details supplied)** be removed? As local residents have had the front to their homes near enough blocked off.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The *Clontarf to City Centre Scheme* Contractor has significantly progressed on the inbound side of the Scheme with a number of sections of footway and cycle-track opening in recent months. The section of footway between **(details supplied)** is one of the final sections of footway to be completed on the inbound side.

The Contractor is currently working in this area **(details supplied)** and it is anticipated that by end of September the footway shall be substantially completed which would facilitate the removal of railings.

The Clontarf to City Centre Project intends to deliver significant and enduring improvements to the North Strand Road area with the provision of new footpath, cycling and bus infrastructure. Impacts associated with the delivery of a large scale construction project are acknowledged by the DCC Active Travel Project Office and the Contractor, and we are extremely grateful to the local communities on North Strand and all along the route for their patience and cooperation. We have endeavoured to keep disruption to local residents and business to a minimum and we are available to address any concerns or queries as a result of the works.

Q.16 **COUNCILLOR CHRISTY BURKE**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the time scale when a housing applicant submits medical reports to get a medical priority. What is the time scale for a decision?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

It is currently taking approximately 16 weeks for applicants to receive a decision when an Application on the Exceptional Medical Grounds Scheme is submitted. There has been a 35% increase in applications on Exceptional Medical Grounds in the last six months which has increased the timeframe for a decision.

Q.17 **COUNCILLOR JOHN LYONS**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the remit, work and tangible outcomes of the Active Land Management section of the Planning & Property Development Department over the last three years, 2020-2022.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Active Land Management Section includes the Acquisitions, Derelict Sites and Vacant Sites/RZLT Units.

Strategic Property Acquisitions

The identification of strategic acquisition opportunities is an important key part of the Council's Active Land Management Initiative. The acquisition of property that is determined to be strategically important for the City to acquire enables the Council to take a leadership role in the type of development which occurs on the site and also act as a catalyst for further development.

Since 2020 a number of sites have been acquired either by agreement or compulsorily as per below –

Acquisition by Agreement

The acquisition of a 2.8 acre site at Bannow Road, Cabra D7 in 2020 for the development of public housing.

Compulsory Acquisition

Abbey Street Lower - Marlborough Street - Eden Quay - Old Abbey Street Area Compulsory Purchase (Abbey Theatre Redevelopment / Cultural / Amenity) Order, 2021

The Abbey Theatre, with the support of Government, has plans to construct a new National Theatre on a site extending southwards beyond its present location at the junction of Abbey Street and Marlborough Street, fronting onto the River Liffey. The proposals necessitated the acquisition of some surrounding properties and the Council supports the project.

Emmet Road, Saint Vincent Street West Area Compulsory (Renewal & Rejuvenation) Order, 2019.

Acquisition of the outstanding interest (Former Pigeon Club) completed in May, 2021 to facilitate the St. Michael's Estate redevelopment project.

11-14 Exchange Street Lower & 11 Essex Street West Area Compulsory Purchase (Residential/Commercial Development) Order 2022

This prominent site will be developed for residential and commercial purposes.

Main Street Chapelizod Area Compulsory Purchase (Residential / Commercial Development) Order 2018.

These lands in the heart of Chapelizod have been underutilised for many years, the purpose of the CPO enabled to assemble a site for a residential/commercial development.

Ryder’s Row / Parnell Street / Capel Street Area Compulsory Purchase (Residential / Commercial Development) Order 2019

The acquisition of this land is an integral and central part of the continued regeneration of the Capel Street/Parnell Street Area with this site earmarked for residential and commercial development purposes.

Derelict Sites

The City Council, through the effective exercise of the legislative provisions in the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (the Act), proactively strives to achieve the eradication of dereliction in the City and the return of derelict sites to active use. The implementation of an ongoing acquisition strategy since 2017 is another key part of the Council’s Active Land Management Initiative.

The Derelict Sites Unit adopts a collaborative approach in the City Council and works closely with the Area Offices, Conservation Section and the Vacant Homes Unit. The power to acquire derelict sites is a key part of the Council’s strategy to eradicate underutilised, vacant and derelict lands and buildings in the city. The table below provides information on the levels of activity undertaken by the Unit –

Action	Number *annual average
Sites on Derelict Sites Register	110
Active case files	400 (circa)
Site Inspections	434 *
Section 10 Warning Letters	114 *
Section 8 (2) Notices of intention to enter on the Register	31 *
Section 8 (7) Notices of Entry on the Register	14 *
Sites removed from the Register	12 *

It should be noted that the City Council will only acquire compulsorily, as a last resort, in circumstances where all efforts to secure the carrying out of improvement works by property owners have been exhausted. In determining what sites to acquire, the Council prioritises those properties which can be most readily re-instated to active residential use. All sites entered on the Register can be considered for acquisition and sites do not have to have been entered on the Register for a particular time before they can be considered for acquisition.

Thirteen (13) sites were acquired from 2020 – 2022 i.e. (1 in 2020, 1 in 2021 and 11 in 2022). One of these sites was an unfinished development which had planning permission for the construction of 48 apartments and will now be developed for social housing. All sites were retained by the City Council under the control of the Housing & Community Services to be used for social housing purposes. This brings the total of derelict sites acquired since 2017 to 42 (36 by compulsory acquisition and 6 by agreement). In addition the City Council is also awaiting the consent of ABP to a further acquisition since 2022. Nineteen (19) sites have been identified for potential acquisition in 2023.

The number of derelict sites acquired compulsorily is just part of the story, the City Council has experienced that in the face of compulsory acquisition some sites have been 1) rendered non-derelict and removed from the Register, 2) owners are actively seeking planning permission or have obtained planning permission for redevelopment, 3) derelict sites have been placed on the market and are at varying stages in the sales process, which offers the very real prospect that they will be redeveloped and returned to active use.

Q.18 COUNCILLOR JOHN LYONS

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed update report on the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. The information should include details of the number and location of homes insulated to date and the number and location of homes yet to be insulated under the programme.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme commenced in 2013. Phase One targeted houses with cavity wall construction and involved the following upgrade measures:

Cavity Wall Fill Insulation
300mm Attic, Tanks and Pipes Insulation
Roof and Wall Ventilation
Draught Proofing
Cylinder Lagging Jackets
Phase one is now complete.

Phase Two commenced in 2018 in the absence of Departmental funding and targeted houses of solid wall/hollow block construction and involves the following upgrade measures:

External Wall Insulation
300mm Attic, Tanks and Pipes Insulation
Roof and Wall Ventilation
Draught Proofing
Insulated Cylinders
Windows and Doors
Heat Pumps

Phase Two is currently ongoing.

The following is a breakdown of the number and location of homes upgraded to date under the programme:

Approximately 80% of our houses have now been upgraded under the programme with an estimated €73.6 Million saved in energy bills to our tenants (*Source: Codema).

We estimate that there are 2,387 houses remaining citywide which are eligible for upgrade works under this phase of the programme. The programme has proved hugely successful to date and will run for a number of years, subject to continued Departmental funding support, until it reaches its conclusion. The timeframe for this will be dependent on the annual allocation of funding received.

Appendix A – Questions & Replies September City Council Meeting

Area/Year	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
North West Area	85	43	9	208	136	17	125	166	783	337
North Central Area	10	5	3	89	116	15	160	401	1143	653
Central Area	16	3	1	15	8	8	198	352	375	120
South Central Area	68	29	15	154	92	16	21	783	426	824
South East Area	22	1	1	15	9	12	46	108	252	543
Total	201	81	29	481	361	68	550	1810	2979	2477

Approximately 80% of our houses have now been upgraded under the programme with an estimated €73.6 Million saved in energy bills to our tenants (*Source: Codema).

We estimate that there are 2,387 houses remaining citywide which are eligible for upgrade works under this phase of the programme. The programme has proved hugely successful to date and will run for a number of years, subject to continued Departmental funding support, until it reaches its conclusion. The timeframe for this will be dependent on the annual allocation of funding received.

Q.19 COUNCILLOR LARRY O'TOOLE

To ask the Chief Executive for an update as to when the applicant (**details supplied**) will be offered alternative accommodation.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The above applicant is on the Transfer Welfare Priority List with an application date of 15/9/2014, and the applicant holds the following positions on this list:

Area	Bedsizes	Position
Area B	3	30
Area E	3	35

Dublin City Council allocates properties based on time on the list and currently there are applicants of longer standing who have to be considered as suitable vacancies arise. It is not possible to indicate accurately the prospect of an offer for any applicant.

The number of vacancies arising will be a determining factor in the length of time applicants could expect to be on the waiting list.

The applicants should keep checking the Dublin City Council website for any Choice Based Lettings that may become available in their area of choice.

Transfers are subject to a clear rent account.

Q.20 COUNCILLOR RACHEAL BATTEN

To ask the Chief Executive to ensure that there is good communication with the ESB in relation to dangerous trees being maintained, such as the tree that is growing through the power lines at **(details supplied)**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The ESB's responsibility relates in such cases to an obligation to clear vegetation from around the power lines only. The safety and any necessary maintenance of the tree is a matter for the Parks Service. An inspection will be arranged in the coming weeks as local schedules allow and any works deemed necessary will be listed for inclusion in the prioritised tree care programme for the area

Q.21 COUNCILLOR LARRY O'TOOLE

To ask the Chief Executive to set up a meeting with a small number of local Entrepreneurs in the Cromcastle Green, Dublin 5 area that wish to set up vendor stalls to sell their wares.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Area Office will meet with the Councillor to discuss.

The Local Enterprise Office of Dublin City Council has experience in assisting micro to small businesses sized (0 – 50 employees) in Dublin City to plan, start, sustain & grow their business. Inclusive supports available are as follows:

- Initial advice & sign posting to the most relevant supports & / other state agencies e.g. Revenue, company registration office etc.
- Business Advice Clinic: a free workshop detailing the essentials of company formation
- Start Your Own Business Programme: suitable to test the feasibility of your business
- Training: an array of short training courses in essential skill areas such as business, marketing & financial strategy
- Management Development training / leadership management programmes
- 1 to 1 mentoring: each trader could meet with a mentor & receive one to one direction in relation to their business opportunities & challenges
- Consultancy services in the areas of green, competitiveness/lean, digital & export, suitable for established business i.e. +18 months
- Networking & collaboration opportunities
- Grants e.g. feasibility & staffing. Please note criteria applies.

Full details of all services can be viewed on www.localenterprise.ie/Dublincity

All services can be booked online or by calling (01)222 5611 / info@leo.dublincity.ie
Opening hours 9am – 1pm, 2pm – 5pm Monday through Friday.

For this specific cohort of traders, should a representative of the group wish to make contact with the Local Enterprise Office, we would be happy to design a bespoke

business advice clinic to advise the group. Alternatively traders can contact us directly and we will assist them on a case by case basis.

Q.22 COUNCILLOR LARRY O'TOOLE

To ask the Chief Executive that provision is made for a recycle bin for plastic bottles etc. at Priorswood Shopping Centre, Dublin 17.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

While Waste Management Services provides glass recycling facilities at Priorswood Shopping Centre, servicing of these banks is carried out by a third party contractor. As centre is privately owned, Dublin City Council will not be in a position to install or maintain any type of bins here.

National legislation will bring about the introduction of a deposit/return scheme in early 2024. The onus for recycling of plastic bottles will be on the producers to enter agreements with property owners such as shopping centres and retail outlets to provide receptacles for the recycling of plastic bottles from this time.

Q.23 COUNCILLOR DERMOT LACEY

To ask the Chief Executive what policies cover the publication on the Council website submissions on planning matters that make or may appear to make racist and or other unacceptable insinuations about an application and the reasons behind such an application.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

All submissions on planning matters must submit name, address and statutory fee. If the submission appears to make racist or other unacceptable insinuations, a staff member from Planning Decisions will contact the individual to resubmit the observation in accordance with the Privacy Statement. The privacy statement clearly outlines that all submissions must relate to the planning application only.

If the timeline for observations does not allow for re-submission, then the content is redacted prior to publishing on the website. The individual will be contacted by Planning Decisions and informed of this action.

Q.24 COUNCILLOR LARRY O'TOOLE

To ask the Chief Executive to have a study carried out with a view to installing traffic signal lights at junction of **(details supplied)**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY

The request for junction upgrades at the aforementioned location was added to the list of future civil works programme along with other requests from members of the public/elected officials throughout Dublin North Central.

Whether any future junction upgrades/new signalised pedestrian crossings are recommended depends on future funding/increase in annual budget afforded to the Area Engineer for the remainder of 2023 and for 2024.

Q.25 **COUNCILLOR JANET HORNER**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the following long-term vacant sites in the north inner city, including the length of time vacant, vacant site levies collected, engagement with owners, current plans and expected timelines: site between Abbey Street and Strand Street, opposite 31/32 Strand Street, Hammond Lane and Church Street site and site at 24 Bolton Street.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

1. Site between Abbey Street and Strand Street, opposite 31/32 Strand Street (VS 0076 and RZLT000171)

A notice of Proposed Entry on the Vacant Sites Register issued to the owners of this site in June 2017 and in July 2017 the site was added to the Vacant Sites Register. The site was subsequently removed from Vacant Sites Register in July 2018 following a site inspection which confirmed that construction works were underway. The site continued to be monitored and following an inspection in October 2021 it was reported that the site was vacant and not actively under construction and therefore suitable for inclusion on the Vacant Sites Register. A notice of Proposed Entry on the Vacant Sites Register issued to the owners of this site in January 2022. The Council received and reviewed a submission from the owners of the site against the entry of the site on the Vacant Sites Register and following an inspection of the site it was confirmed that it was appropriate not to enter the site on the Vacant Sites Register.

No Vacant Site Levy Demands were raised in respect of this site as Vacant Site Levy Demands only apply to sites that are entered on the Vacant Sites Register for one full calendar year i.e. from 1st January – 31st December of any given year.

This site has since been included on the RZLT supplemental map published in April 2023 which has replaced the Vacant Sites Register. A submission was received from the landowner. On 14th July 2023 the Council determined that this site was suitable for the Residential Zoned Land Tax. The owner has until 1st September to appeal this decision. On 1st December 2023, Local Authorities will publish final maps which reflect outcomes of submissions and appeals and any zoning or servicing changes which have taken land out of scope or brought land within the scope of the tax. The final map will form the basis for the administration of the tax measure by the Revenue Commissioners.

2. Hammond Lane and Church Street site (VS 0060)

A notice of Proposed Entry on the Vacant Sites Register issued to the owners of this site in October 2019. The Council received and reviewed a submission from the owners of the site against the entry of the site on the Vacant Sites Register and following an inspection of the site it was confirmed that it was appropriate not to enter the site on the Vacant Sites Register.

Vacant Site levies were not applicable to this site.

This site was included on the RZLT supplemental map published in April 2023. No submission was received from the landowner.

3. Site at 24 Bolton Street

This site was not on the Vacant Sites Register but was included on the RZLT draft map published in November 2022. No submission was received from the landowner.

Q.26 **COUNCILLOR JANET HORNER**

To ask the Chief Executive Whether DCC have a process of ensuring that all Council tenants have an appropriate bin contract in place and for pursuing enforcement with Council tenants where they are without one?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

As Dublin City Council no longer provide a waste collection service we engage a registered waste collector to service their flat schemes/ older persons' complexes with segregated bins for the disposal of the waste.

Tenants occupying a house must engage a registered waste collector to dispose of their waste responsibly. Please see section 9 of the Dublin City Council Housing and Community Services Tenant Handbook.

'DCC tenants occupying a house must engage a contractor to collect their waste.
Dublin City Councils Housing Department can interview the tenant and detail their responsibilities regarding the disposal of their waste. If the issue continues, Housing can take appropriate action to remedy the situation.

The Bye-Laws for the Storage, Presentation and Segregation of Household and Commercial Waste 2018 state a person has an obligation to participate in a Waste Collection Service. The Local Area Offices request the name (through the appropriate channels) of the tenant through the Housing Department. A letter is then sent to that person giving them a certain amount of time to provide proof of a waste collection service being in place at the property. If no proof is provided, a fixed penalty notice of €150 can be issued. If no payment is made and a conviction is granted in court, a fine of up to €500 can be issued for each day the contravention continues.

The Litter Wardens also conduct door to door enquires on a regular basis to ask people for proof that a registered waste collector is in place to remove their waste. If no proof is provided, the same fines as described above are applied.

Q.27 **COUNCILLOR RACHEAL BATTEN**

To ask the Chief Executive to explore the feasibility of designation of lands in Dublin 9 and 17 as health research innovation hubs.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The LEO Office will carry out the relevant analysis and will report back to Cllr Batten at a later date.

Q.28 **COUNCILLOR RACHEAL BATTEN**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a detail of the cost saving that arose from reducing services from not cutting grass and maintaining council owned land over the last 2 years and provide details of where those funds have been re-allocated too.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Parks Service continues to maintain the parks and open spaces of the City to a good standard and no council owned lands in the charge of the Parks Service have been left unmaintained in the last two years. Dublin City Council has been successful in achieving 11 Green Flag awards for its parks in recent years and we have put new parks forward in 2023 for the Green Flag award.

There has been a reduced number of cuts per year in the maintenance of roads environs to facilitate wildflower establishment and to enhance biodiversity. Additional bulb planting has also been incorporated along many roads to create a more colourful display in the spring and summer.

The cost of landscape maintenance in general and of road environs in particular has increased significantly in recent years due to fuel and other cost increases such as traffic management and health and safety requirements so there is no budget saving from the reduced mowing regime on roads.

Q.29 COUNCILLOR DERMOT LACEY

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the serious concerns contained in the email submitted with this Question outlining the difficulties in registering to vote and to report on what measures will be taken to improve the situation.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

There are a number of online options available in order to register to vote as outlined below. If a citizen requires in person assistance they can also drop into the Civic Offices and collect a form. Forms are also available in area offices and libraries.

Online

For electors within the Dublin area only (the 4 Dublin Local Authorities) there is www.voter.ie

For electors nationally www.checktheregister.ie. Is the relevant online platform. If a member of the public logs onto [checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) and they select a Dublin Local Authority they will be redirected to www.voter.ie this was designed to help electors to go on the correct path.

Application Forms

Available on both the above mentioned websites there is the facility to download hardcopy forms if the elector prefers to complete a form by hand. Alternatively applicants can contact this office to receive a form in the post or by email – Telephone 01 222 5010

E. franchise@dublincity.ie

Contact details for all Local Authorities are available on www.checktheregister.ie via the home page.

Recently the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage launched a campaign which ran for two weeks in June 2023 promoting www.checktheregister.ie on radio stations, television, newspapers and across all social media.

The four Dublin Local Authorities are currently preparing a communications campaign that will be launched late September 2023 for www.voter.ie. This will also be promoted through the same channels as mentioned above.

With regard to the links provided for www.vote.ie, please note that this is a website run by The Dublin Adult Learning Centre and not affiliated with any Local Authority or Government Department and information currently provided there is no longer up to date.

Finally if any constituent is having difficulty navigating either website or has difficulty completing hardcopy forms, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the

Franchise Team by telephone 01 222 5010 E: franchise@dublincity.ie and we will be happy to assist.

Q.30 **COUNCILLOR DERMOT LACEY**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update in relation to the Dog Shelter on the dogs in their care, including, Date of arrival / Breed / Details (relinquished / stray) / Microchip? / Age / Requirements (No Dog, No Cats, No Children, Experienced) / Still In care? Or date rehomed.

Also, number of dogs that came in/ number of dogs rehomed per month (last 6 or 12 months) and any matter that the chief executive feels is relevant

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The following tables are compiled from data supplied by our Shelter provider at Hollygrove Kennels, Newcastle, County Dublin. Table 1 shows the totals available for the year to date as at 21st August 2023. Table 2 is an individual breakdown of the dogs that have been in situ at the Shelter since comprehensive records have been collected over the past 12 months. Should you require any further information please contact the Animal Welfare Section at animalwelfare@dublincity.ie and we will endeavour to provide the information that you require.

Breed	Sex	Age	Markings	Date In	Reason for entry	Exit	
Pitbull X		1 year	black/brown	18/01/2023	Surrender/stray		
GS				30/01/2022	Surrender/stray	rehomed	
Rhodesian	F		Brown	22/08/2022	Seizure	rehomed	
Husky X	F			14/03/2022	Seizure	rehomed	
Pitbull X	M			14/03/2022	Seizure	rehomed	
pitbull			Fawn/White	06/01/2023	Surrender/stray	rehomed	
American Bully	M	2 years	Blue/white	05/04/2023	Seizure	PTS	
Belgian Shep	M	1 year	black/brown	17/01/2023	Seizure		
Boxer X	M	3 years	Brown	20/02/2023	Surrender/stray		
Husky X lab	M	1 year	Golden	25/01/2023	Surrender/stray		
Husky X lab	M	1 year	Golden/white	25/01/2023	Surrender/stray		
Husky X lab	M	1 year	Golden/black	25/01/2023	Surrender/stray		
Lab X	F	1 year	Black	28/02/2023	Surrender/stray		
Pitbull X		1 year	brown	09/03/2023	Surrender/stray		
Chihuahua	F	1 year	brown/tan	05/04/2023	Seizure		
Chihuahua	F	1 year	brown/tan	05/04/2023	Seizure		
Staff X	F	2 year	brown/tan white	05/04/2023	Seizure		
Staff X	F	5 months	black/white	05/04/2023	Seizure		
Pocket Bully	M	3 years	Blue/white	12/04/2023	Surrender/stray		
Mali X	F	1 year	Brown	01/05/2023	Surrender/stray		
GSD	F		Black/Tan		Seizure	PTS	
JRT	M	1 year	Tan/White	16/05/2023	Seizure	PTS	
Pitbull	M		black	17/05/2023	Surrender/stray		
XL bully	M			17/05/2023	Surrender/stray	rehomed	
Springer Spaniel	F		White/Brown	25/05/2023	Surrender/stray		
Staff	F	3 years	Black	02/06/2023	Surrender/stray		
XL Bully	M			07/06/2023	Surrender/stray	PTS	
XL Bully	M		Tri Colour	16/06/2023	Surrender/stray	rehomed	26/07/2023
GSD	M	3 years	Black/Tan	09/07/2023	Surrender/stray		

Appendix A – Questions & Replies September City Council Meeting

JRT X	M		Brown	12/07/2023	Surrender/stray	rehomed	16/08/2023
JRT X	M		Black	12/07/2023	Surrender/stray	rehomed	
Boxer X	M	3 years	Black	14/07/2023	Surrender/stray		
whippet	m		white/grey	17/07/2023	Surrender/stray		
JRT	m	4 years	Tan	24/07/2023	Surrender/stray		
Pitbull	F		White/Brown	27/07/2023	Surrender/stray		
Frenchie	F			29/07/2023	Surrender/stray	rehomed	16/08/2023
Terrier	M		red	09/08/2023	Surrender/stray	rehomed	18/08/2023
Bichon	F		white/brown	09/08/2023	Surrender/stray		
Shitzu	F		white/brown	09/08/2023	Surrender/stray		
Shitzu	M		white/brown	09/08/2023	Surrender/stray		
Pug	F		Black	10/08/2023	Surrender/stray	rehomed	16/08/2023
Pug	F		Fawn/White	10/08/2023	Surrender/stray	rehomed	16/08/2023
Staff	M		Black	14/08/2023	Seizure	returned to owner	15/08/2023
Mali X	M		Tan	14/08/2023	Surrender/stray		
Pocket Bully	F	1 year	White	16/08/2023	Surrender/stray		
Cava Poo	M	6 months	black/white	17/08/2023	Surrender/stray		
JRT	M		white/brown	17/08/2023	Surrender/stray	rehomed	22/08/2023
Pocket Bully	m		brown/white	17/08/2023	Surrender/stray		
Golden Lab	F		Fawn/White	18/08/2023	Surrender/stray	returned to owner	21/08/2023
lurcher	m		brown	18/08/2023	Surrender/stray		
XI Bully	F	5 years	champagne/white	20/08/2023	Surrender/stray		
Labradoodle	F		white	21/08/2023	Surrender/stray		
XI Bully	M			21/08/2023	Surrender/stray		
staff	F			21/08/2023	Surrender/stray		
staff	F			22/08/2023	Surrender/stray		

Table 1.

	Year to Date 21/08/2023
Number of dogs to enter the shelter	100+11 pups
Number of dogs rehomed to charities	56
Number of dogs euthanised (court order / medical recommendation)	21 & 11 pups
Number of dogs on hand	25
Number of dogs returned to owners	22

Q.31 COUNCILLOR ALISON GILLILAND

To ask the Chief Executive to a) outline the individual/family consultation process/guidelines with regard to allocating a housing unit to a disabled person/family with a disabled member so as to ensure the unit is appropriate and fully suitable to needs including the making of physical changes to accommodate specific requirements/needs eg for a wheelchair user or someone who is blind or deaf; b) outline how this process/guidelines is communicated to housing managers and staff at local area office level; c) outline how it is ensured that these guidelines are followed/upheld by staff and d) how and when the process/guidelines are reviewed/evaluated?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Housing Allocations section has a standing request with Housing Development to make provision for UD and UD+ for all areas and unit sizes.

The assessment process includes the identification of specific accommodation needs arising from a disability. Any applicant with a disability that may require specific accommodation is advised to submit a HMD1 form including an OT report where possible.

The needs of the applicant are recorded on the IT system.

When properties come in that meet the needs of the applicant with a disability they are offered accordingly. That is the standard for all staff, central or area offices, involved in the allocation of properties.

Q.32 COUNCILLOR ALISON GILLILAND

To ask the Chief Executive to a) outline the footpath and road median works planned for the Malahide Rd for the stretch from the junction with Collins Ave and Griffith Ave; b) indicate how these works will integrate into the upcoming Bus Connects Core Corridor works on this route (ie how these works will not have to be re-done during the Bus Connects Core Corridor works) and c) if greening the median of this stretch of road is not included, why it is not being done? Note in response to a motion in my name the North Central Area Committee agreed to greening works along this median, however the response from management was that such greening could not be completed until it could be incorporated into the Bus Connects works.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Road Maintenance Services has no proposed works at this locus.

BusConnects plans for this area are awaiting the decision of An Bord Pleanála. Once the plans are finalised we will follow up directly with the Councillor.

Once the plans are finalised we will follow up directly with the Councillor.

All details of the greening proposed along this route are available at <https://clongriffinscheme.ie/> in the landscaping report and show the proposals for the median between Griffith Avenue and Collins Avenue.

Q.33 COUNCILLOR DEIDRE CONROY

To ask the Chief Executive regarding an enquiry from Dublin City resident about the parking permit costs in Dublin City.

Enquiry detail: **Cost Disparities**

Enquirer is looking for clarity regarding the stark disparities in residential parking permit costs across the 4 councils. Enquirer currently resides in the South East area. Enquirer requests on what basis are these costs derived?

Dublin city : 80 for 2 years
Fingal : 30 for 2 years
DLRC : 75 for 2 years
SDCC: 40 for 2 years

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Each Local Authority is responsible for setting the costs of residents parking permits in their own area.

Dublin City Council sets the cost of the residents parking permits in the Dublin City Council area by determining what value it sets for use of its on street space and associated services e.g. introduction of pay and display/permit parking schemes, provision of lines and signs and ticket machines and administration fees. The value of a two year permit in the Dublin City Council area is effectively €40 per year, this fee, compared to parking all day for 1 year in even the lowest tariff location represents a significantly lower fee. The permit fee will be reviewed in the next iteration of the Parking Bye Laws.

Q.34 COUNCILLOR RAY MCADAM

To ask the Chief Executive whether his officials are aware that the tenant of **(details supplied)** has sublet the property; what action will be taken to address this situation and if he will make a statement on the matter.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

This issue came to the attention of the area office recently. Housing management are investigating this matter under Dublin City Councils Anti- Social Behaviour Strategy and section 8 of the Tenancy Agreement.

Q.35 COUNCILLOR RAY MCADAM

To ask the Chief Executive if the Derelict Sites Section will investigate and inspect **(details supplied)** to ascertain whether the property can be CPO'ed under the terms of the Derelict Sites legislation or to be actioned under the auspices of the Vacant Sites legislation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Derelict Sites Unit will arrange to have the site inspected and will take action as appropriate following the assessment of its condition. A full report on the findings of the inspection will issue to the Councillor.

Q.36 **COUNCILLOR RAY MCADAM**

To ask the Chief Executive to begin the process of acquiring **(details supplied)** under the auspices of the Derelict Sites Act; the actions that have been attempted to date by the City Council to secure these buildings and how soon can the Derelict Sites Section undertake an investigation of both buildings; and if he will make a statement on the matter

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The site located at **(Details Supplied)** has been identified as a strategic site for redevelopment by the Council. In order to enhance the site and maximise development potential the Council has in recent years endeavoured to acquire lands adjacent to land already in its ownership. It has now acquired by agreement the site at **(Details supplied)** and **(Details supplied 2)** and is endeavouring to acquire **(Details supplied 1)**. In the event that attempts to acquire all outstanding interests by agreement are unsuccessful consideration will be given to acquisition by way of Compulsory Purchase Order and in the interim the Derelict Sites Unit will inspect **(Details supplied 1)**.

Q.37 **COUNCILLOR RAY MCADAM**

To ask the Chief Executive to ensure that the attached documentation is added to the file of **(details supplied)** as part of his application for alternative housing and to provide me with an update on the status of his application.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

This document has been added to the applicant's file. If the applicant wishes to be considered on Exceptional Medical Grounds Scheme they must have the attached HMForm1 filled in by 2 healthcare professionals and returned to Housing Allocations.

Q.38 **COUNCILLOR MAIRE DEVINE**

To ask the Chief Executive if the Planning Enforcement section has vacancies and to assess the number of WTE posts with a view to increasing same?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

There are currently 5 vacancies in the Planning Enforcement Section. One Executive Planner, One Planning Enforcement Officer and three Assistant Staff Officer Positions. These positions will be filled in the coming months following the completion of relevant recruitment competitions

Q.39 **COUNCILLOR MAIRE DEVINE**

To ask the Chief Executive that Planning Enforcement follow up on the illegal operation of a food business that was refused permission some months back. Application 3669/23.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Following the refusal of planning permission in respect of the change of use of the above premises an enforcement notice is being served in relation to this property requiring the cessation of the unauthorised use concerned. Further specific details of same will be sent directly to the Councillor once the notice has been formally issued.

Q.40 **COUNCILLOR MAIRE DEVINE**

To ask the Chief Executive to support the NCBI's successful "Clear Our Paths Campaign" which took place in August, and to liaise with them to progress accessibility for everyone.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Waste Management Services will review the "Clear our Paths Campaign" and focus on the key priorities raised related to waste, this will include liaising with NCBI to support improved and clearer paths.

Parking Policy and Enforcement will liaise with the NCBI in relation to this campaign and assist where possible.

The Active Travel Programme Office (AcTPrO) was established in February 2022 in order to deliver a transformative 210km network of active travel infrastructure, which includes improved walk-wheel-cycle facilities, in Dublin City during the lifetime of the programme.

In order to facilitate modal shift from reliance on the private car to more active travel modes, AcTPrO is providing infrastructure that prioritises people who actively travel including people with visual impairments - for instance, through the provision of segregated cycle paths and by widening and decluttering footpaths.

Key to the success of AcTPrO's work is that people, including those who are visually impaired, feel safe when using its infrastructure. The office supports the "Clear our Paths Campaign" and is liaising with the NCBI as part of ongoing stakeholder engagement on the rollout of the Dublin City Active Travel Network.

Q.41 **COUNCILLOR MAIRE DEVINE**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the effectiveness of the non-herbicide weed control programme at roadside verges/footpaths and request that resources be significantly increased for next year's programme

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Note the contract for the control of weeds in the Dublin City Council Administrative area is not complete for 2023 so it not possible to provide a review of the effectiveness of the current method utilised. The bad weather in July and August has curtailed the contractor in carrying out weed spraying.

In general in 2023 we are using 'New Way Spray' for the control of weeds which contains acetic acid. This is the first time we have used this product on a wide scale.

In 2023 the budget for weeds in Road Maintenance was €550,000 excluding VAT which covered approximately **300**km of the city.

In addition in August 2023 Road Maintenance have provided an additional €75,000 excluding VAT to enable the manual removal of weeds.

(Note in 2018 the budget for weeds in Road Maintenance was €285,000 excluding VAT when using glyphosate which covered **1131**km of the city)

Q.42 **COUNCILLOR DANNY BYRNE**

To ask the Chief Executive to explain the huge disparity between Dublin City council and other local authorities in approving applications under the Croi Conaithe.

How can an approval rate of 3.7% rate be stood over particularly when the comparable rate is 80%? (Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Council)

Please outline what efforts are being made to better expedite applications in a timely and efficient manner.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Dublin City Council has received a large number of applications and expressions of interest from members of the Public for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. The

City Council where possible has been processing applications however due to the expansion of the Scheme in May 2023 (amended terms and conditions), Applicants changing their applications and resubmitting a new application and or applicants failing to engage with the City Council in a timely manner has resulted in unforeseen delays in the processing of applications for this scheme.

The City Council has received over 200 applications for this scheme, 68 number applicants have received correspondences with regard to their inclusion (56) and or refusal (12) for entry into the scheme. This represents a current approval rate of 28% for applicants.

It should also be noted that the City Council has encountered a large number of incomplete applications whereby applicant(s) failed to supply the necessary supporting documentation and this has led to additional delays in helping the City Council make decisions whereby approval correspondences are issued for the grant to applicants.

The City Council has a dedicated team of staff who are proactively engaging with applicants to advise them how best they complete their applications and submit a fully completed application form with the said necessary supporting documentation to avoid unnecessary delays as regards the City Council's administration of said scheme.

Q.43 COUNCILLOR NIAL RING

To ask the Chief Executive: I refer to Checklist Item 3 on the application form for Social Housing Support (i.e. to be accepted onto the Housing List). Documentation required in relation to separation/divorce includes the following: "if there is no (separation/divorce) agreement, a letter from the applicant's solicitor or a legal affidavit signed by a practising solicitor must be included with the application".

Can the Chief Executive detail when this requirement came into force? Surely the fact that someone is receiving One parent family benefit, which they had to be assessed and prove their eligibility for, should be enough to prove they are a lone parent. Given that the application is just to be put on the waiting list for social housing, why would this level of evidence be required, when to be fair they will most likely be on the waiting list upwards of 12 years? This requirement seems unnecessary and could be construed as stigmatising lone parents, as other applicants are not required to give sworn affidavits to prove their status.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The current requirement came into force with the S.I. NO./84/2011 – Social Housing Assessment Regulations in 2011 and is in place for every local authority in the country. This requirement was also there under previous regulations but the wording may have been different. This requirement only concerns applicants that have been married where they are stating they are now separated/ divorced and no Separation/Divorce agreement exists. This document is important in assessing an Applicant's eligibility for Social Housing Support. It should outline if there was property ownership or if the applicant received any money during a separation and if any maintenance payments are being paid/received. This information is used to determine if an applicant can provide accommodation from their own resources. The assessment of Housing Need does not currently rely on an assessment carried out by another Government Department.

Q.44 COUNCILLOR NIAL RING

To ask the Chief Executive to commit to the provision of full recycling facilities in the Grangegorman/Stoneybatter area equivalent to those currently being provided at the Grangegorman Bring Centre which is required by the Grangegorman Development

agency. In particular, can the Chief Executive clarify the following issues which have been circulating in the area by way of rumour, hearsay and innuendo.

1. Can the Chief Executive confirm that there is a legally binding obligation on the GDA to provide a replacement site within the boundaries of Grangegorman campus of equal size and with similar services being provided?

2. Can the Chief Executive provide a copy of this legal agreement or outline the main provisions thereof?

3. Can the Chief Executive confirm that it is Dublin City Council's absolute position (as stated in a response to my question to the CAC) that "waste management services have now adopted the position of NOT vacating the existing Bring Centre until a replacement site within the boundaries of Grangegorman campus has been identified and developed".

4. Can the Chief Executive confirm that the GDA identified a new interim site and stressed that "this is the only option available" and that this offered "solution" is a smaller site, would be unmanned and would not provide the range of services currently on offer?

5. Can the Chief Executive unequivocally and clearly confirm that this "offer" of a smaller site has been rejected by him on behalf of DCC and that he never suggested (without recourse to the local councillors or the local community) that this derisory and insulting offer be accepted?

6. Can the Chief Executive further confirm the role of local councillors in this process and confirm that we have, since this issue was raised, completely rejected any compromise which does not leave the community in exactly the same position vis a vis a bring centre in the area?

7. Does the Chief Executive agree that GDA is legally obliged to provide equivalent services to the community and that, in view of the fact that the GDA has been given of over 70 acres of public lands, will spend up to €1billion of taxpayers money on educational, health and community facilities, this legal obligation must be fulfilled and that he will ensure (with the support of local councillors) that this will happen?

Finally, can the Chief Executive confirm that this will be resolved as quickly as possible and not, like the Shamrock Terrace Recycling centre, require a protracted campaign by me which involved, inter alia, my tabling emergency motions, questions, ordinary motions, motions to the Development plan etc. which eventually resulted in the centre being saved.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Waste Management Services are aware of the valuable resource that the existing Grangegorman Bring Centre provides to the local community and have been exploring a number of possible alternative sites in this part of the city on learning of the requirement to vacate the current site. Unfortunately we have not been able to source a suitable site at this moment, and so cannot commit to offer the recycling services that the existing site provides. Notwithstanding, the GDA have committed to provide some recycling services albeit on a smaller site adjacent to the existing site, which we deem acceptable as an interim solution at this time.

The following replies relate to the queries raised by Councillor Ring.

A licence agreement was entered into between Dublin Institute of Technology and Dublin City Council in relation to the use of the land on which Grangegorman Bring Centre is currently located in 2013. At the time of the first review of this licence in 2014 an additional clause (18) was inserted to the agreement which stated “The Parties hereby acknowledge that the Grangegorman Development Agency have made a commitment to accommodate a Bring Centre facility within the Grangegorman campus should the Council be required to vacate the Licenced Area.” No specifics were agreed in relation to the size or the services provided in any such site. Clause 17 states – During the currency of this Licence, the Licence shall be a bare Licence only and this Agreement is not intended, nor shall it operate or be deemed to operate otherwise, either at law or in equity.

In response to Central Area Committee Question 15 of May 2023, Waste Management Services stated “Waste Management Services have now adopted the position of not vacating the existing Bring Centre until a replacement site within the boundaries of the Grangegorman campus has been identified and developed.” Subsequently, Grangegorman Development Agency identified a new interim site directly adjacent to the existing bring centre facility.

The proposed new site will have a much smaller footprint than the existing bring centre, and will be an unmanned facility on GDA owned land. The site will however be locked and secured outside of the hours of operation. At present, an agreement is in place to offer glass and textile recycling on site as previously reported. However, there has been some flexibility agreed with the GDA and we are now jointly exploring the potential to offer mixed dry recycling (plastic, paper, cardboard, tetrapack) on site. There have also been discussions around the potential to find a space on the Grangegorman campus for the annual Christmas tree recycling scheme. We will not be in a position to offer WEEE recycling within the confines of the proposed interim facility due to the risk of fire hazard caused by batteries and the risk of scavenging/theft of WEEE materials from an unmanned site. There will unfortunately not be sufficient space to include a compactor/container for garden waste within the proposed interim facility. However, this service will continue to be available in the Central Area at Shamrock Terrace Recycling Centre, and will also be accepted at the newly constructed Ballymun Recycling Centre upon opening in August 2023.

Senior Management have agreed to accept the offer of this proposed interim facility. However, Waste Management Services intend to develop a new permanent facility within the locality to provide a similar level of services as the existing facility in Grangegorman following the development of a strategy for the next five to ten years in line with the move to a circular economy and the 15 minute city concept, while also taking into consideration the city’s anticipated population growth and the rezoning of industrial lands. Waste Management Services intend to commission such a report later this year.

Waste Management Services acknowledges the numerous objections raised by a variety of Councillors in relation to this issue. We have been working to ensure delivery of the best possible interim replacement site for Grangegorman Bring Centre in so far as possible. However, as we do not own the land in question, nor do we currently own a suitable alternative site we will regretfully not be able to provide the full range of services currently available at this site until such time as a suitable permanent site has been identified, purchased, and developed.

Waste Management Services is not in a position to comment on this point. With respect to the Chief Executives decision to retain the full range of services at North Strand Recycling Centre, the land on which the North Strand facility is situated

is in the ownership of the Council whereas the land on which Grangegorman Bring Centre is situated is not. At this time, Waste Management Services considers this situation to be resolved as outlined above.

Q.45 COUNCILLOR NIAL RING

To ask the Chief Executive to commission a report on the viability and appropriateness of having the Molly Malone Statue returned to its original site at the bottom of Grafton Street as this was supposed to be examined and undertaken after completion of the Luas Line works which was the reason for her "temporary" relocation to Suffolk Street nearly ten years ago. In light of the recent vandalism to the statue does the Chief Executive agree that the more prominent position of the statue in Grafton Street/College Street would reduce the opportunity for mindless vandalism as well as attract much more visitors and admirers given the huge footfall in the Grafton Street/College Green area.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The statue of Moly Malone was removed to St Andrew Street to keep the statue on display during the Luas Cross City works. One consideration regarding the return of the statue to its original location on Grafton Street is the proximity to the trams lines passing by that location. Since the relocation to St Andrew Street numbers of tour groups and individual visitors congregating around the statue have greatly increased. Therefore, it is considered that the present location is more suitable and safer for the public.

Q.46 COUNCILLOR NIAL RING

To ask the Chief Executive to clarify and update the situation vis a vis the misclassification of employees PRSI status and the ramification and implications thereof, and to assure members that each and every solution to the problem is being explored. To ask the Chief Executive to further commit to deliver a solution which will entitle all affected staff members to the pension arrangements and entitlements specified and agreed in their contracts of employment.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

This matter is being treated with the utmost importance by the City Council. Engagement and communication with the Trade Unions has been ongoing since the issue emerged, and the City Council is continuing to pursue the matter with the Department of Social Protection and other relevant stakeholders.

The City Council remains committed to its resolution in the best interests of the City Council's employees.

Q.47 COUNCILLOR DAITHÍ DOOLAN

To ask the Chief Executive what progress has been made in resolving DCC's staff PRSI A1/D1 misclassification.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

This matter is being treated with the utmost importance by the City Council. Engagement and communication with the Trade Unions has been ongoing since the issue emerged, and the City Council is continuing to pursue the matter with the Department of Social Protection and other relevant stakeholders.

The City Council remains committed to its resolution in the best interests of the City Council's employees.

Q.48 COUNCILLOR DAITHÍ DOOLAN

To ask the Chief Executive to outline what works have been carried out in Davitt House, Drimnagh and what is the timeframe to carry out the remaining agreed maintenance work.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

DCC have repaired the foul and surface lines in the complex and installed rat flaps. We have installed two new down pipes on two of the blocks.

We fixed 3 number gully lines and installed new manhole covers and gully pots where required. The drain lines in the balconies have been cleared.

DCC have carried out conditional surveys on 54 of the properties. We have installed mechanical ventilation in over 40 properties and are working through the remaining properties as required.

We have begun carrying out maintenance repairs on individual apartments as requested.

We are carrying out temporary window repairs as required.

DCC are looking at a programme to upgrade the single glazed windows into double glazed.

Discussions are on-going with contractors for the works in the Davitt House Complex

- We are going to cut back the trees and bushes that are at the front of the complex and take the level down to the height of the railings
- A couple of the trees in the complex will have to be removed and we hope to plant a few trees if there are any gaps in the tree lines at the front of the complex resulting
- At the back of the complex we will cut back the trees that are growing towards the buildings and leave them in a manageable state,
- We will re-establish the footpaths around the green areas
- We need to reengage with the residents about the green space between the blocks or any additional works

Once we have engaged with the residents and agreed the additional works we can begin negotiations with our contractor. In addition while the works are being carried out we will be identifying an appropriate site for the secure bin areas for this complex.

Q.49 COUNCILLOR DAITHÍ DOOLAN

To ask the Chief Executive are they aware that a tree was cut down outside (**details supplied**), who authorised it and why was it cut down

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Parks removed two trees at this location as one was decayed that had a wasp nest living in the cavity and the other was dead

Q.50 COUNCILLOR DAITHÍ DOOLAN

To ask the Chief Executive to outline in tabular form;

- a) the quantity in tonnes of illegal dumping gathered and disposed of by DCC for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and so far in 2023;
- b) How much did this cost DCC;
- c) How many perpetrators was charged and brought to court for the same years;

d) How many fines were issued and paid for the same years?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Please see below reports requested from Waste Management Services:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 Q1/Q2
Tonnes of Illegally dumped household waste removed by the City Council	4430.19	3215.52	3298.37	3214.70	1658.28
Cost of removal including labour fleet and disposal	€ 1,158,636.23	€ 984,939.51	€ 904,620.22	€ 997,784.62	€ 483,519.95

Year	Issued	Paid	Cancelled on Appeal	Prosecutions initiated For non payment of fines	Direct Prosecutions initiated	Convictions obtained in court	Out of Court Settlements
2019	820	377	80	252	0	22	0
2020	763	302	114	136	0	7	15
2021	914	481	147	310	0	23	6
2022	806	468	87	<u>170</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
2023 (to July)	940	474	91	185	0	31	0

N.B. Please note the Courts were closed from March 2020 to July 2021 due to Covid 19.

Please see below reports requested from Waste Management Services:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 Q1/Q2
Tonnes of Illegally dumped household waste removed by the City Council	4430.19	3215.52	3298.37	3214.70	1658.28
Cost of removal including labour fleet and disposal	€ 1,158,636.23	€ 984,939.51	€ 904,620.22	€ 997,784.62	€ 483,519.95

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2023 (to July)	940	474	91	185	0	31	0

Q.51 COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON

To ask the Chief Executive to look at the issue of WEED proliferation at local open space and Parks around the South Central Area just to give an example Spiddel Park Ballyfermot which is surrounded by Claddagh, Oranmore and Spiddel Road in in a disgraceful state with stingers all growing out onto the public footpaths , Drumfinn Park is similar can I ask we cut these weeds back on a regular basis and it leaves a very poor impression of the area on local residents and visitors alike litter etc. becomes embedded in this heavy growth.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

2019 Parks, Biodiversity & Landscape Services eliminated the use of chemical-based glyphosate as a herbicide by implementing a combination of alternative methodologies for weed control using manual methods, electric trimmers, mulching, and plant-based products for spraying such as concentrations of vinegar at hard surfaced areas.

Where feasible, mowing regimes are being adjusted to allow the grasses and suppressed wildflower species to grow and provide habitat and food for insects. This regime change will be particularly noticeable along walls which would traditionally have been sprayed. The areas mentioned above have been inspected and where nettles are protruding onto footpaths or litter accumulations have been identified these will be tended to as soon as possible.

Q.52 COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON

To ask the Chief Executive to look into the serious on going issues with the operation of the following premises (**details supplied**). Can DCC indicate is there any condition attached to the opening / closing of the said premises, neighbours are fed up with large groups hanging around the shop and with litter, noise it is having a serious effect on their quality of life despite talking to the operators they have had no positive improvements during the poor summer we just had a party with music etc. was held outside the shop disturbing the quality of life for those living along the busy Road on one occasion a serious argument arose with a person using the shop parking in front of a neighbour's house leaving them wait 25 minutes to exit there home upon asking the said person responsible to please move their car they was showered with verbal abuse. I would ask the planning Dept. to look into the above and advise me what people who bought their homes have to do to stop this practice.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

There are no conditions on any permissions for this location relating to hours of opening. Therefore there is no enforceable issue from a planning perspective. The antisocial issues raised are a matter for An Garda Siochana to consider

Q.53 COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON

To ask the Chief Executive that the following be looked into: Can DCC please indicate where a **(details supplied)** is on the housing list.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The above applicant is on the Older Persons Housing List with an application date of 25/5/2020, and the applicant holds the following positions on this list:

Area	Bedsizes	Position
Area J	1	30
Area K	1	54
Area L	1	50

Dublin City Council allocates properties based on time on the list and currently there are applicants of longer standing who have to be considered as suitable vacancies arise. It is not possible to indicate accurately the prospect of an offer for any applicant. The number of vacancies arising will be a determining factor in the length of time applicants could expect to be on the waiting list.

The applicant should keep checking the Dublin City Council website for any Choice Based Lettings that may become available in their area of choice.

Q.54 COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON

To ask the Chief Executive to repair the loose paving slabs outside the main entrance of the Roma Fish and Chip Shop at Grange Cross Le Fanu Road Ballyfermot Dublin 10 some of these slabs are a serious trip hazard as they go down 2 to 3 inches when stepped upon.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Road Maintenance visited this location today and noted a number of loose paving slabs present outside the Roma fish and chip shop and also outside the premises next door, Kiely's Pharmacy. These defects have been added to our works list for repair and will be allocated to a crew to deal with as soon as possible. A further defect was noted to the surround of the existing ESB utility cover, this defect has been forwarded to our Infrastructure Management Unit (IMU) to notify the ESB.

Road Maintenance visited this location today and noted a number of loose paving slabs present outside the Roma fish and chip shop and also outside the premises next door, Kiely's Pharmacy. These defects have been added to our works list for repair and will be allocated to a crew to deal with as soon as possible. A further defect was noted to the surround of the existing ESB utility cover, this defect has been forwarded to our Infrastructure Management Unit (IMU) to notify the ESB.

Q.55 COUNCILLOR DARRAGH MORIARTY

To ask the Chief Executive for Dublin City Council to install a 'Children at Play' sign at **(details supplied)**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Based on the assessment of the Transport Advisory Group engineer the appropriate signage is already in place:-

The sign provided for in the Government of Ireland, Department of Transport, Traffic Signs Manual is the 'Children Crossing' sign. A 'Children at Play' sign is not provided for.



W 142:
Children Crossing

A more comprehensive sign than the 'Children Crossing' sign is the '30kph Slow Zone' sign. There are '30kph Slow Zone' signs located at the junctions of Donore Avenue with South Circular Road and Donore Avenue with Cork Street. This sign indicates to motorists that they are entering a residential area, and it applies to all roads within that area. It informs the motorists to be vigilant of children playing and that the speed limit is 30kph.



Sign F 403:
30 km/h Slow Zone

Due to St. Catherine's National School being located off Donore Avenue, appropriate signage is already in place to warn motorists of the presence of children, these include a 30kph Roundel, a 'Children Crossing' sign, 'School Warden Crossing' signs, 'School Zone' markings and coloured circle markings on the road, 'School Keep Clear' markings and pencil bollards in front of the school.

Once appropriate signage has been erected on the main thoroughfare and/or a '30kph Slow Zone' has been erected at the major junctions, it is not Dublin City Council's policy to erect additional signage on the minor roads. Therefore the Transport Advisory Group does not recommend erecting additional signage on Donore Road or Donore Avenue.

If motorists are driving over 30kph or are driving irresponsibly and are not heeding the signage or road markings, it is a matter for An Garda Síochána to enforce penalties.

Q.56 **COUNCILLOR DARRAGH MORIARTY**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on DCC's plans for regeneration of Tyrone Place, Inchicore, Dublin 8. Since May 2022, the Social Housing Delivery Report provide to each monthly council has had the following line copy and pasted into it:

A review of the development options for the regeneration of Tyrone Place is currently being undertaken by Housing Management, the Local Area Office and City Architects. All are cognisant that redevelopment options will need to take into consideration the large social and cost rental housing scheme that is planned for the adjacent site at Emmet Road.

Can the Chief Executive confirm if the review has concluded, what the preferred option is and whether a timeline for completion of 2026, as stated in the report, is still realistic?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

All complexes are currently being examined as part of a housing regeneration programme review with the aim of recommending a strategic regeneration plan for the next 30 years. Tyrone Place is under consideration as part of this review.

An overview of the regeneration plan was presented at a workshop with the Housing Strategic Policy Committee on Friday 19th May 2023. Following on from this meeting, a commitment was made to follow with proposal in due course. This will be discussed and shared with the local elected representatives.

Q.57 COUNCILLOR DARRAGH MORIARTY

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on the status of delivery of the 'Liberties Creative Campus' at Merchant's Quay and Bridgefoot Street.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

All complexes are currently being examined as part of a housing regeneration programme review with the aim of recommending a strategic regeneration plan for the next 30 years. Tyrone Place is under consideration as part of this review.

An overview of the regeneration plan was presented at a workshop with the Housing Strategic Policy Committee on Friday 19th May 2023. Following on from this meeting, a commitment was made to follow with proposal in due course. This will be discussed and shared with the local elected representatives.

Q.58 COUNCILLOR KEITH CONNOLLY

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for the inspection of the tree at **(details supplied)** with a view to a severe prune. It is very overgrown and the sap drops down onto the pavement, cars and wall etc causing damage. The resident would like it to be severely pruned.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Pruning of trees severely or pruning of trees solely to remove or reduce honeydew or other sticky residue is not the practice or policy of Dublin City Council Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services, as the tree will often outgrow the pruning back within 2-3 years. Park services will arrange for an inspection of these trees in the coming weeks as local schedules allow and any works deemed necessary will be listed for inclusion in the prioritised tree care programme for the area.

Q.59 COUNCILLOR KEITH CONNOLLY

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for the inspection of the tree at **(details supplied)** with a view to a severe prune. The tree is very overgrown.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Park services have inspected the tree outside (**details supplied**) and it has been listed on our 2023/24 Tree care programme for pruning work. Please note all tree works are carried out on a prioritised basis, subject to available budget.

Q.60 COUNCILLOR KEITH CONNOLLY

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on man power planning a recruitment for Dublin Fire Brigade for this year and next year.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Following on from a comprehensive recruitment campaign in 2023 for Dublin firefighters, there was a panel of 216 created. The first class of recruit firefighters from this panel will pass-out in September next and a second class of recruits will commence training in October. Discussions on required manning levels into the future are ongoing between management and unions. Additional recruit classes have been budgeted for next year.

In 2023, there was a recruitment campaign for Emergency Service Controllers (ESC's). A panel of 52 ESC's was subsequently created. The first class is due to start in September with the second class due to commence before the end of 2023. Additional ESC classes have been budgeted for next year.

Q.61 COUNCILLOR KEITH CONNOLLY

To ask the Chief Executive to provide and update on his plans to repair the pathways at (**details supplied**)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Road Maintenance has inspected this area under Enquiry No. 11142823. There are no planned resurfacing works for footpaths on (**details supplied**) in 2023 as part of the works programme as the budget has been fully allocated. A significant number of repairs have been carried out in the adjacent areas, associated to the 2022 & 2023 Works Programmes, to reduce the number of defects. This area will be considered for the 2024 Civil Works Programme.

Q.62 COUNCILLOR MANNIX FLYNN

To ask the Chief Executive to give a full report as to the progress of upgrading the hybrid facilities at Dublin city council at City Hall and Civic offices and other such locations used for zoom and Teams meeting with Councillors.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Dublin City Council recently published a tender for the provision of audio visual and microphone conference system for the Council Chamber and AV system for the Political Party Rooms. It is expected that a contract will be awarded this month and once awarded an update will be given to Members.

Q.63 COUNCILLOR MANNIX FLYNN

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a full report as to how much money Dublin city council has spent on private security in the past five years throughout its infrastructure. Further, that this report cite where private security have been used and its effectiveness and the cost for each location or building.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Over the period the City Council has spent €28m on private manned security across all its assets. The corporate security contract was publicly procured by the Finance

Department during this period and responsibility for the contract management transferred to Corporate Services and Transformation Department in 2021.

Bi-vest Noonan was the successful tenderer for the corporate contract. The Corporate Property Manager manages the security contractor on behalf of the city council. All departments can avail of the corporate contract. Performance issues are generally managed locally by building owners within each department. Any issues that are not resolved locally are escalated to the Corporate Property Manager who addresses them directly with the contractor.

It is endeavoured that a more detailed report on location will issue to the councillor as soon as possible.

Year	Overall Expenditure by all departments on Manned Security August 2018 - August 2023
2018	€3,653,073
2019	€4,169,520
2020	€4,410,478
2021	€5,936,641
2022	€5,749,713
2023	€4,244,432
Over all total	€ 28,163,859

Q.64 COUNCILLOR MANNIX FLYNN

To ask the Chief Executive to have the planning department investigate the Russell Court Hotel at Harcourt Street for breaches of planning. Also, can the planning department make available to me all the files associated with this premises planning applications and planning exemptions.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Planning Enforcement Section does not appear to have any live active files in respect of this property. Should the Councillor wish to make any planning related complaint details of same should be sent to planningenforcement@dublincity.ie and any such complaint will be investigated pursuant to Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Response from Planning Decisions re planning applications lodged:

Set out below are the planning applications lodged regarding the Russell Court Hotel, Dublin 2. These planning references relate to files dating from 1992 – 2014. Details of the most recent application in 2008 are listed below and are then followed by details for earlier applications dating back to 1992.

Planning Ref: 2770/08

Location: Rear of Russell Court Hotel, 21-25 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2

Proposal: PROTECTED STRUCTURE-Permission for an extension to rear of Russell Court Hotel. The proposed development will take place on a site area of c.0.1135ha (0.28acres) to rear of existing Russell Court Hotel, 21-25 Harcourt Street, at site nos. 3, 4 & 5 Camden Place and at an adjoining site to the rear of no. 26 Harcourt Street all

in Dublin 2. The proposed development consists of a new 3 storey building with penthouse setback all over basement levels at nos. 3, 4 & 5 Camden Place which will be linked to the rear of existing modern extension at rear of Russell Court Hotel. The development will also include for the demolition of an existing 2 storey dwelling located at the rear of no. 26 Harcourt Street, to be rebuilt to 2 storeys and connecting into the rear of the Russell Court Hotel. The proposed development consists of the construction of a 3 storey building with penthouse setback consisting of (a) reception area, banqueting hall, ancillary service areas including store rooms, holding kitchen, toilet facilities, lifts, ESB substation and external access to car lift at ground floor level, (b) 20 no. guest bedrooms, associated toilet facilities, lifts and stairs at first and second floor level and (c) entertainment lounge, holding kitchen, toilets and associated lifts and stairs at penthouse level, (d) back-of-house facilities at 1st basement level & underground car parking at 2nd & 3rd basement levels (38no. spaces in total). There are 4 no. balconies on eastern elevation, 2 no. balconies on south-west corner & 1 no. balcony in north-western section of this building all at 2nd floor level, with a screened off roof garden at first floor level in the western section of the site. The penthouse level is setback to front (south) & rear (north east corner) of proposed block accommodating roof terraces all at nos. 3, 4 & 5 Camden Place. The development also includes for all stairs, lobbies, fire access points, ancillary areas, lift and mechanical shafts, ESB sub station and all associated site development and infrastructural works, drainage and underground services and protection of adjoining properties. The proposed development also includes for works to existing modern extension to rear of Russell Court Hotel comprised of extension to existing banquet hall and associated service lift, stairs and pantry at ground floor level, to be extended into new build at rear of no. 26 Harcourt Street and provision of 2 no. private lounges, 1 no. guest bedroom and a lounge/dining room with associated toilets, stairs, service lifts etc at first floor level and new link connecting same to proposed 4 storey block at rear at nos. 3, 4 & 5 Camden Place. Pedestrian access to the proposed development will be from Russell Court Hotel on Harcourt Street, existing access off Camden Place and from proposed block on Camden Place with vehicular access relocated from existing car park to proposed underground car park via car lift from Camden Place. The Russell Court Hotel and curtilage is a Protected Structure and the proposed extension will link into existing modern extension to rear of same and will not interfere otherwise with the protected structure.

Decision: DCC Granted

An Bord Pleanala (APB) Appeal: Third party appeal to the Bord – Granted permission

Extension of Duration application: Planning Ref: 2770/08/x1 - Applied for and granted in 2014 – Permission extended to 2nd May 2019.

2224/92 – Grant Permission 16th Dec 1992

1152/94 – Refuse Permission 28th July 1994 – Appealed to APB and refused

2561/95 – Decision deferred 20th Feb 1996 – Additional Information sought

3800/98 – Decision deferred 19 Feb 1999 – Additional Information sought

4318/05 – Refuse Permission 7th Oct 2005 - Appealed to APB and granted

1173/07 – Refuse Permission 9th March 2007 – Appealed to APB and refused

There are a number of historic applications which relate to 3-5 Camden Place however specific reference to the Russell Court Hotel is not made in the proposals.

The above listed application and the associated conditions are available to review online at www.dublincity.ie/residential/planning-applications for applications from 2007 onwards or by making an appointment at the public planning counter at the Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8 to view all hard copy files for the more historical applications. Please note that it is recommended to make contact with the staff at the public counter in the first instance to ensure that the files are available on site and are

not required to be retrieved from off site storage. The phone number for the public counter in order to make an appointment is 01 222 3114.

Q.65 **COUNCILLOR MANNIX FLYNN**

To ask the Chief Executive to have available in a written report, all evaluations and inspections and meetings and discussions around, DCC taking in charge of Werburgh Street Church. Also, this report to include the details, financial implications and cost to ready this building fit for purpose and where this money will come from and the plan for the buildings future use.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Project was endorsed by the South East Area Committee at its meeting on 10th July. The estimated cost of the proposed works is €5m. An application will be made for URDF funding.

Negotiations are ongoing between the City Valuer and Christchurch Cathedral in relation to the terms of the license /lease. This will be brought back to the South East Area Committee for approval before proceeding.

Q.66 **COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WATTERS**

To ask the Chief Executive to examine the road as per **(details supplied)** and say if he will arrange the installation of a traffic calming ramp/measure as residents are concerned about the speed of motorists on this road.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

(Details supplied) is short in length this road has a raised table on aforementioned road junction with **(Details supplied)**. It is good practice to space vertical deflections as regularly and frequently as practicable. Introducing additional ramps would not comply with current design standards and would encourage harsh braking and consequent heavy acceleration.

It is not recommended to introduce any additional speed ramps, as the warrant has not been met.

Q.67 **COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WATTERS**

To ask the Chief Executive to please refer to **(details supplied)** and say if he can please accede to request from residents association and install a pedestrian crossing at this point.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Transport Advisory Group has a very limited budget for 2023; providing a pedestrian crossing on **(details supplied)** Home would lead to exceeding the Annual Budget for Dublin North Central.

The area engineer will add the aforementioned junction to the list of pedestrian crossings requested throughout Dublin North Central.

If funding becomes available later in the year the Area Engineer will look at this junction and other junctions where pedestrian crossings have been requested.

Q.68 **COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WATTERS**

To ask the Chief Executive to please arrange for gully at location as per **(details supplied)** to be cleared.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

2 of 2 gullies at the address above were cleaned by the gully cleaning crew on 25/08/2023. The gully outside the first location requires further high pressure jetting and this will be carried out in the coming weeks.

Q.69 **COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WATTERS**

To ask the Chief Executive In relation to **(details supplied)**, say if he can:

1. Install traffic calming measures at details (a) attached and
2. Install footpath buildout at details (b) attached
3. Increase green light time at junctions (c) attached - from approx 3.30 to 7.30 pm
As residents are concerned about pedestrian safety at this location

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The area engineer has assessed the Councillor's request. **(details supplied)** is approximately 85m in length, therefore does not meet Dublin City Council's criteria for providing traffic calming. The road should have a straight run of at least 200m. No other engineering measures are recommended at this time.

Transport Advisory Group have a finite budget and must make very difficult decisions on where and how to best allocate these funds. Unfortunately, footpath buildout at **(details supplied)** junction did not make the shortlist for our 2023 capital works scheme.

We will reconsider this location when making our next shortlist for improvements when more funds come available either from the discretionary fund, or the budget for 2024 or any other source

In relation to part 3 of this question which relates to pedestrian crossing timings at the junctions of **(details supplied)** please note that the Intelligent Transportation Systems team have reviewed the timings at these junctions and they meet or exceed the standards required. For your information these timings are calculated as follows – 6s for the pedestrian green aspect which is the pedestrian invitation to commence crossing the road and 1s of amber for the pedestrian amber aspect for each 1m of crossing.

Q.70 **COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE HENEY**

To ask the Chief Executive to refer to **(details supplied)** and arrange to have the owner cut back hedge/brambles as local residents say same are causing a safety hazard for vulnerable pedestrians, and also blocking view of pedestrians and motorists.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

An enquiry (ref.11142889) has been created and assigned to the Area Inspector who will write to the resident concerned instructing them to cut the hedge/brambles accordingly.

Q.71 **COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE HENEY**

To ask the Chief Executive to refer to trees at **(details supplied)** and agree to seriously lop same as they have grown to a huge size and residents are concerned for the safety of pedestrians, particularly vulnerable persons, and also the possibility of trees falling

down during stormy weather, similar to the weekend of 19th August last when we experienced a large number of fallen trees in the area.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Arrangements are being put in place to have the trees in this estate formally inspected. Any necessary works identified in this independent survey will be programmed as per the recommendations of the survey

Q.72 **COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE HENEY**

To ask the Chief Executive to refer to location at **(details supplied)** and say if he can arrange to have traffic calming i.e. ramps or cul de sac system installed as there is concern locally that the C2CC road works is causing the road to be further used as a "rat-run" since Fairview roadworks began; and as there are quite a few elders, children and dogs living along this road, local residents are concerned one of them is going to get knocked down and seriously injured someday.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Clontarf to City Centre Scheme;

The Active Travel C2CC Project Office shall liaise with the local area traffic engineer and investigate the issue.

Q.73 **COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE HENEY**

To ask the Chief Executive in relation to **(details supplied)**, say if he will examine same with a view to:- (a) installing reduce speed signage/school signage/school zone signage as residents feel there is a need to take some measures that would reduce the speed limit considerably and bring more awareness motorists of the need to reduce speed for pedestrian safety purposes

(b) installing protected cycle lanes each side of the road to link up with the cycle lane at junction as per details supplied, making it a more pleasant journey for children/parents cycling to the schools and childcare facilities.

(c) Installing some other measure to reduce the speed significantly

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

This request (Enquiry Ref: 7034777) will be referred to the Area Engineer for assessment and report to the Transport Advisory Group for their consideration.

The Councillor will then be informed of the final recommendations of the Transport Advisory Group.

In relation to the installation of protected cycle lanes along **(Details Supplied)**, this matter *is being investigated a reply will issue to the Councillor in advance of the October meeting of the City Council

Q.74 **COUNCILLOR BRIEGE MACOSCAR**

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange manual removal of weeds on the road surrounding **(details supplied)** green similar to that which was done last year as the regrowth has been strong.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The **(details supplied)** request will be sent to Road Maintenance Inspector to see if it can be added to their work schedule. I will update Councillor MacOscar with any available updates.

Q.75 COUNCILLOR BRIEGE MACOSCAR

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for more regular emptying of bins in **(details supplied)** and cleaning of dumped rubbish in the park.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Parks services carry out regular emptying of bins at **(details supplied)**. The park is cleaned and checked by staff on a daily basis. Parks will arrange a follow up inspection of the park to determine if there is any obvious maintenance issues that should be addressed in the coming week.

Q.76 COUNCILLOR BRIEGE MACOSCAR

To ask the Chief Executive to inspect the lay by at **(details supplied)** as the surface is in poor condition and difficult to navigate for pedestrians. Can it be modified to make a route for pedestrians easier and clearer as it is often completely blocked by cars.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

An enquiry (ref. 11142886) has been created & forwarded to Area Engineer for inspection. Road Maintenance Services & Traffic Advisory Group (TAG) will review this section of footpath/layby area and propose a solution.

Q.77 COUNCILLOR BRIEGE MACOSCAR

To ask the Chief Executive to outline if any pavement repairs are due on **(details supplied)** particularly the even number side of the road as there are several stretches which are in poor condition.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Road Maintenance has inspected this area under Enquiry No. 11142823.

There are no planned repair works for footpaths on Grove Park Avenue in 2023 as part of the current works programme as the budget has been fully allocated. This area will be considered for the 2024 Civil Works Programme.

Q.78 COUNCILLOR DECLAN FLANAGAN

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the following regarding a wall: The residents of **(details supplied)**, knocked down next doors wall which was leading to a lane which is now blocked off. The residents did this with the permission of the Council as the lane was not in use. The residents have been told in order to sell their property they would need to rebuild the wall. The residents are now in their 80s and need some help considering Dublin City Council gave permission for the knocking down of this wall.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

This matter needs further investigation. A response will issue to the Councillor as soon as possible.

Q.79 COUNCILLOR DECLAN FLANAGAN

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the following regarding traffic lights: that the necessary funding be made available by the CEO to provide a full set of Traffic Lights at the Junction of **(details supplied)**. I am told that extra funding is required to allocate for these Traffic Lights and that is what I am requesting.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Area Engineer has no budget for any civil works at aforementioned junction. The requested junction upgrade was added to the waiting list for future civil works programme along with other locations throughout Dublin North Central where crossings signalised / traffic lights have been requested.

The locations (including the aforementioned) will be reassessed at the end the year with the aim of including them on 2024 Capital Works Programme depending on whether there is an increase in the annual budget afforded to the Area Engineer.

Q.80 COUNCILLOR DECLAN FLANAGAN

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the following regarding parks **(details supplied)**.

- a) Can I get the sports and leisure equipment hire box into the above Parks?
- b) Can I get an autism board and a swing suitable for children with a disability into **(details supplied)**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Box-Up initiative announced last month is not a Parks Programme.

The City Play Development Officer was working on a design for such signage to be installed in all existing playgrounds before their departure. Inquiries will be made to ascertain where this project now rests. There are no current proposals to upgrade the playground at **(details supplied)** nor install play equipment in **(details supplied)**.

Q.81 COUNCILLOR DECLAN FLANAGAN

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the following regarding an estate **(details supplied)**:

- a) Can the gullies be cleaned on these roads **(details supplied)?**
- b) Are there any plans to replace the old lighting with new LED lighting on these roads **(detail supplied)?**
- c) Also, can all the roads and footpaths on these roads be repaired and the trees pruned **(details supplied)**.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Can the gullies be cleaned on these roads (details supplied)?

(details supplied 1) 7 of 8 gullies cleaned on 28/08/2023, one covered by a parked car. No defects found.

(details supplied 2) All 10 gullies cleaned on 28/08/2023. No defects found.

(details supplied 3) 60 of 67 gullies cleaned on 28/08/2023, 5 gullies were covered by parked cars. Defects encountered during this cleaning relating to 2 gullies have been reported to Drainage Services for repair.

(details supplied 4) 11 of 14 gullies cleaned on 28/08/2023, 3 gullies covered by parked cars. No defects found.

(details supplied 5) 11 of 12 gullies cleaned on 25/08/2023, 1 gully covered by a parked car. No defects found.

(details supplied 6) 11 of 12 gullies cleaned on 28/08/2023, 1 gully covered by a parked car. No defects found.

(detail supplied 7) All 11 gullies cleaned on 28/08/2023. No defects found.

(details supplied 8) 14 of 15 gullies cleaned on 29/08/2023, 1 gully covered by a parked car. No defects found.

(details supplied 9) 13 of 15 gullies cleaned on 29/08/2023, 2 gullies covered by a parked car. The gully at House No. 5 requires further high pressure jetting and this will be carried out in the coming weeks.

Q.82 COUNCILLOR NAOISE O’MUIRÍ

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on the recent housing adaptation grant application for **(details supplied)** as referenced in the correspondence attached.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPLY:

The Housing Grant Section administers three Housing Grants Schemes designed to provide assistance to people making adaptations to their privately owned homes to meet their medical needs and to older people in poor housing conditions carrying out essential repairs to their owner occupied homes. These measures enable people to stay in their own communities and prevent or delay their placement in residential care thereby reducing social segregation, assisting their carer’s and strengthening families.

I wish to confirm that an Application Form for a Housing Adaptation Grant was received in the Housing Adaptation Grants Section on the 7th July 2023.

An initial inspection of the property was scheduled for Monday 21st August 2023 however when the Inspector contacted the Applicant to arrange an inspection, the Inspector was informed by the applicant that he had Covid19 and therefore the inspection could not be carried out.

When the applicant has made a full recovery, I will arrange for the Inspector to reschedule the initial inspection.

Q.83 COUNCILLOR NAOISE O’MUIRÍ

To ask the Chief Executive organise for an assessment of the following tree in Grace Park Heights **(details supplied)** as it is causing issues for residents there.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPLY:

A formal recorded inspection of all of the trees in this estate for inclusion in the digital inventory of street trees has been organised. All prioritised works recommended in this survey will be scheduled as per the recommendations of the independent survey.

Q.84 COUNCILLOR NAOISE O’MUIRÍ

To ask the Chief Executive please organise for (a) removal of the hogweed growing down by the river in Gairdíní Léin as set out in the correspondence below **(details supplied)** and (b) tackle the edges of the roads in the estate where the weeds have grown out of control as also set out below **(details supplied)**.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPLY:

We are aware of the location and will be cutting back the vegetation as soon as possible.

Q.85 COUNCILLOR NAOISE O’MUIRÍ

To ask the Chief Executive the following:

Charlemont Road is on the roads maintenance programme for 2023 for both footpath and carriageway works. Can the CEO confirm the approx. timing of each element and

the planned sequencing i.e. which will be done first? There has been extensive rehab work carried out there on behalf of Irish Water – will DCC also await completion/reinstatement of these before undertaking own works?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Road Maintenance Services (RMS) has been advised that Irish Water have now completed their works on Charlemont Road. The contractor is due to commence road resurfacing works on 31st August 2023 and the works will be completed within 1 week. The footpath works are due to commence circa late September 2023.

Q.86 **COUNCILLOR SÉAMAS MCGRATTAN**

To ask the Chief Executive to consider an upgrade to the playground in **(details supplied)**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Parks services have appointed a playground company to install a number of new play items at **(details supplied)** playground. These works will commence as soon as equipment orders are secured and contractor scheduling is finalised.

Q.87 **COUNCILLOR SÉAMAS MCGRATTAN**

To ask the Chief Executive is **(details supplied)** on the list to sell back to DCC.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Dublin City Council is not currently engaged on an acquisition of this property.

Q.88 **COUNCILLOR SÉAMAS MCGRATTAN**

To ask the Chief Executive does DCC have any input into the running or ownership of **(details supplied)**.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

This matter will need investigation the area office will revert once the information has been confirmed.

Q.89 **COUNCILLOR SÉAMAS MCGRATTAN**

To ask the Chief Executive could DCC allow **(details supplied)** as their current premises is due to be knocked down

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Unfortunately there are no rooms available. The facility has limited space and is made up of one sports hall downstairs and one space upstairs currently licenced out to Smithfield Boxing Club and set out as a boxing facility. It is hoped that future development will allow for additional space to provide community space.

Q.90 **COUNCILLOR TERENCE FLANAGAN**

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the following regarding a Tree/wall **(details supplied):**

- A) Tree needs to be pruned outside house
- B) Cracked footpath outside his house, can it be fixed?
- C) A legal query. The land to the side of his house. Do DCC own title and can it be bought out

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

An enquiry (ref. 11142880) has been created & assigned to Area Inspector for review. DCC has not title over the plot of land to the side of **(details supplied)**.

Q.91 **COUNCILLOR TERENCE FLANAGAN**

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the following regarding a footpath **(details supplied)** were fixed by the Council weeks ago (a great job done) and in the process they cut the underground phone wires. Residents do not have internet access since then, due to this. Can this please be rectified?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

An enquiry (ref.11142881) has been created & forwarded to Area Inspector for inspection. Any necessary repairs will be carried out thereafter. This will then be added to a list & necessary repairs carried out when a crew is working in the locus.

Q.92 **COUNCILLOR TERENCE FLANAGAN**

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the following regarding traffic lights **(details supplied)**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Area Engineer has a finite budget for any civil works for 2023 the requested junction upgrade was added to a list for future civil works along with other locations throughout Dublin North Central where crossings signalised / traffic lights have been requested.

The locations (including the aforementioned) will be reassessed at the end the year with the aim of possibly including them on 2024 Capital Works Programme depending on whether there is an increase in the annual budget afforded to the Area Engineer

Q.93 **COUNCILLOR TERENCE FLANAGAN**

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the following regarding a pothole **(details supplied)**.

There is a very bad drop / pothole / dip in the road as you drive into Grangemore Lawn, Donaghmede. Can this please be repaired?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

An enquiry (ref. 11142883) has been created for this defect and assigned to the Area Inspector for inspection & repair.