



Table of Contents

Inbound Delegations	2
Q4 2023:	2
Lord Mayors Meeting with Leipzig Delegation	2
Lord Mayors Meeting with Delegation from Valletta, Malta	2
Lord Mayors Welcome Address at UCLG Culture Summit	2
Lord Mayors Meeting with Delegation from Vietnam	2
Q1 2024:	3
Lord Mayors Meeting with Mayors for Peace	3
Joining the Dots Conference	3
Incheon City – Korean Delegation	4
European Capital of Smart Tourism Launch	4
Nanjing – UNESCO City of Literary	5
Outbound Delegations	6
San Jose – Sister City with Dublin City Council - February 2024	6
Friendship Agreements:	8
Dublin City & Ramallah Friendship Agreement	8
Seoul Friendship Agreement	9
Networks:	10
Strong Cities	10
European Activities:	10
EU Youth Parliament in Ireland	10
Operations	10
International Procedures	10
Staff Changes	10
Schedule – Dates for your Diary:	11
Contact Details:	11

Inbound Delegations

Q4 2023:

Lord Mayors Meeting with Leipzig Delegation

On the 3rd October Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste hosted the Burkhard Jung Mayor of Leipzig & president of Eurocities for Lunch in the Mansion House. The Delegation also included Dr. Gabriele Goldfuss – Office International Affairs – Leipzig & Dr. Heiderose Hebke – Deputy Head – Leipzig. The delegation were in the City for Day of German Unity which is a nationwide public holiday in Germany. The delegation was given a short tour of the Mansion House & talk on the History of the House. Lunch was served & informal discussions about various topics including history and experience of reunification of Germany. Later that evening the Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste attended & spoke at a formal event hosted by Ambassador Meier-Klodt's in the German Ambassador's Residence.

Lord Mayors Meeting with Delegation from Valletta, Malta

On the 20th October the Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste hosted a Delegation from Valletta, Malta. The Delegation included representation from the local government, police, public welfare organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders. The delegation chose Dublin for a practice exchange on a project of social mapping of their city, focusing on citizens' participation to promote inclusivity and talents, empowering locals and entities through collaboration. Meetings were with various counterparts in Dublin including DCU, Department of Social Protection. The aging population and gentrification of Valletta was also discussed.

Lord Mayors Welcome Address at UCLG Culture Summit

On 28th November 2023; the Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste spoke at the 5th UCLG Culture Summit hosted in Dublin city; and organized by the Dublin City Culture Company. During his welcome address he highlighted the significant Culture offering Dublin City has to offer to the 500 delegates from 30 nation states. Dublin City hosted the UCLG Summit from 28th November – 1st December 2023 in the capital. The Summit heard from 100 speakers at the global forum for knowledge-sharing, peer-learning and networking among cities, local governments and civil society networks on cultural offerings.



Lord Mayors Meeting with Delegation from Vietnam

On the 29th November 2023, a delegation of the Committee of Financial and Budgetary Affairs of the National Assembly of Vietnam, headed by the Vice Chairwoman H.E. Mrs. Pham Thuy Chinh met with Lord Mayor of Dublin Daithí de Róiste and Ms Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance, with responsibility for Information Communication Technology Dublin City Council.

Discussions took place around the following topics including City's budget planning, allocating and public investment (process/steps), and implementation of fiscal and monetary policies to promote socio-economic development after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vietnam Delegation included:

- Mrs. Pham Thuy Chinh, National Assembly Delegate, Vice-Chairman of The Committee of Financial and Budgetary Affair, The National Assembly of Vietnam;
- Mr. Vu Tuan Anh, National Assembly Delegate, Standing member of The Committee of Financial and Budgetary Affair, The National Assembly of Vietnam;
- Mrs. Nguyen Thanh Trung, National Assembly Delegate, Standing member of The Committee of Financial and Budgetary Affair, The National Assembly of Vietnam;
- Mrs. Nguyen Thi Yen, National Assembly Delegate, Member of The Committee of Financial and Budgetary Affair, The National Assembly of Vietnam;
- Mr. Trieu Quang Huy, National Assembly Delegate, Member of The Committee of Financial and Budgetary Affair, The National Assembly of Vietnam;
- Mr. Bui Nhat Tan, Deputy Director General, Department of Financial and Budgetary Affair, The Office of the National Assembly;
- Mr. Do Manh Hung, Official, Department of Financial and Budgetary Affair, The Office of the National Assembly;
- Mr. Nguyen Quoc Anh, Official, Department of Financial and Budgetary Affair, The Office of the National Assembly.

Q1 2024:

Lord Mayors Meeting with Mayors for Peace

On Friday 23rd February, Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste hosted a meeting with Secretary General Kagawa of Mayors for Peace in the Mansion House.

Mayors for Peace is an international organization of cities dedicated to the promotion of peace that was established in 1982 at the initiative of then Mayor of Hiroshima Takeshi Araki, in response to the deaths of around 140,000 people due to the atomic bombing of the city on August 6, 1945. Dublin City has been a member of Mayors for Peace since 2008.



Previous Lord Mayors of Dublin City, Cllr Vincent Jackson; Cllr Cróna Ní Dhálaigh and Cllr Hazel Chu having involvement during their tenure. Previous Lord Mayors of Dublin City Cllr Cróna Ní Dhálaigh provided a Mayor for Peace Statement for presentation to the United Nations in September 2015.

During the February meeting discussions took place, with Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste and Secretary General Kagawa around the 80th anniversary of the Hiroshima tragedy and how Dublin City can support in marking the anniversary.

Joining the Dots Conference

Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste spoke at and attended the Joining the Dots Conference in Dublin on 11th and 12th March 2024. The Lord Mayor spoke on the brighter stories campaign, *Always be Kind*. The campaign encourages kindness across Dublin City. Dublin City hosted cities from across the UK and Ireland. The British Ambassador to Ireland, Paul Johnston also spoke with the Lord Mayor at the opening event in the Guinness Store House; which was hosted by the British Embassy. 16 Local Authorities were hosted in Dublin from Ireland and the UK. The event theme was ‘place branding’

and how the associated techniques and strategies can be applied to the economic, political and cultural development of cities and regions. .

‘Joining the Dots’ is a programme that promotes economic development in UK and Irish regions through the sharing of best practices by local policy experts. The aim being to identify common challenges, and then explore solutions and opportunities for growth. Beginning in 2018 the event has been hosted in over 10 different locations throughout the UK and Ireland. Along with a conference a reception took place at the Guinness Storehouse and a walking tour in the Liberties area with social enterprise ‘In My Shoes. The Lord Mayor provided the welcome address on each day of the Conference.



Incheon City – Korean Delegation

Following a request from the Peoples Republic of Korea Embassy; a Korean delegation was hosted on 15th March 2024. The delegation included senior civil servants from the city of Incheon with responsibility for Events, Arts and Parks within the city. The delegation heard on the variety of events held in Dublin City and an overview of the Asian focused festivals including the Lunar Festival, amongst others.

European Capital of Smart Tourism Launch

At the end of March, the official ceremony was held in Dublin to hand over the title of ‘European Capital of Smart Tourism’ to Dublin for 2024. Over 100 representatives from our staff and partners attended this ceremony. As part of the launch event, the Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste and Chief Executive Richard Shakespeare provided the welcome address and hosted 15 European Cities as part of the launch for development of the Smart Tourism network. The launch event opportunity to meet a wide number of stakeholders including Dublin Convention Bureau; South Dublin County Council, EU Commission, Seville City Council and Valencian City Council. Representatives from the European Commission presented the award to the Lord Mayor. The European Capital of Smart Tourism designation is awarded to cities by the European Commission in recognition of destinations which are leading the way in becoming more sustainable, accessible, cultural and digital tourism destination.



Nanjing – UNESCO City of Literary

The Lord Mayor of Dublin City hosted a delegation from Nanjing, China. Nanjing hold the designation of UNESCO City of Literature and is connected to Dublin city through the UNESCO network. Cllr Cat O’Driscoll attended in her role as Chair of the Arts, Culture, Leisure and Recreation SPC. The delegation heard on the wonderful developments within our Libraries and discussions took place regarding cross collaboration opportunities.



Outbound Delegations

San Jose – Sister City with Dublin City Council - February 2024

A delegation from Dublin led by Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste travelled to San Jose, California as part of the ongoing Twinning relationship between the two cities in February 2024. The delegates included Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste, Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Claire O'Connor, Cllr Anne Feeney, Anthony Flynn, Assistant Chief Executive; Eileen Quinlivan, Assistant Chief Executive and Dymphna Farrell, Executive Manager; Dublin City Council.



Dublin Delegation with Mayor Mahan and Council Members

Meetings and visits were held as follows:

- Mayor San José Matt Mahan
- City Manager Jennifer Maguire and Senior Management of San Jose City Council
- San Jose Community Energy Department
- San Jose Housing Department
- San Jose Budget Office, San Jose City Council
- San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs
- Meeting with Council Member Dev Davis with a focus on Blue Zones
- Meeting with San Jose Cultural/Arts Organizations
- Meeting with Team San Jose and San Jose Sports Authority
- Meeting with SMART Cities Deputy City Manager

Areas of interest and for possible further consideration and follow-up

- Youth Intervention and Neighbourhood services including Young Adult Work programmes both to give those who need work experience to get a job and also 6 month long term paid work experience training in natural resource management projects eg clearing land to reduce risk of fire. City of San Jose offer work under these programmes and in some cases the youth go on to permanent roles within the City Council.
- Youth Commission
- Hotel / Bed Tax – 10% in San Jose. 40% of the monies raised through this Hotel Tax is ring-fenced for Arts & Culture with the remainder for San Jose city's Convention and Visitors Bureau and Capital Expenditure for the City.

- Jennifer Maguire, San Jose City Manager, hosted a meeting with the delegation that included her senior leadership team. The One-Team Leadership Values and Expectations and Senior Staff City Councilmember Communication and Briefing Norms were among the issues discussed with the delegation and Jennifer wanted to share the documents with the delegation. Jennifer would be among the members of the San Jose delegation that would visit Dublin later this year.



Dublin Delegation with Lori Mitchell; director of the City's Community Energy Department and members of her staff.



Dublin Delegation with the director and staff from the City's Office of Cultural Affairs and members of the City's Arts Commission.

Friendship Agreements:

Dublin City & Ramallah Friendship Agreement

The Lord Mayor of Dublin Daithí de Róiste and Mayor Issa Kassis of Ramallah, Palestine formally signed a City to City Friendship Agreement on 2nd December 2023.

Following a report to the Dublin City Council Protocol Committee in June 2023; it was agreed to proceed with the signing of the Friendship Agreement. Subsequently the Breviate of the Protocol meeting was adopted at the 6th November 2023 Dublin City Council Meeting.

Areas of possible mutual interest between the two cities include:

- Climate Action
- Sustainable Transport / Active Travel
- Municipal Services in particular waste management
- Smart Cities

The Lord Mayor has very much welcomed the signing of this Friendship Agreement between our two cities. The cities of Dublin and Ramallah agree to work together to examine issues of common interest and to look for areas of future cooperation. The aim of this Friendship Agreement is to contribute to the strengthening of friendly relations between our two cities.

Ramallah is the 5th city that Dublin has a twinning agreement with. The others are San Jose in the USA (1986), Liverpool (1997), Barcelona (1998), Beijing (2010).



The signing of a formal Twinning agreement facilitates the setting up of a long term, trusting relationship. Its form and content are not fixed and may be amended depending on the specific nature of the partnership that is being set up according to partners' wishes. Twinning can seek to strengthen or develop common interests or express solidarity between the people of the two cities. There may be opportunities to work on problem solving or develop innovative solutions with partners around key challenges.

A number of visits to Palestine by Councillors and staff from Dublin City Council have been held over the past ten years including in 2017 by Lord Mayor Brendan Carr, in 2018 by Ardmhéara Mícheál Mac Donncha and in 2022 by Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland.

On 19th March 2024, an initial meeting took place between the Chief Executive of Dublin City and Ramallah to discuss and develop a work programme for the four years of the friendship agreement. The four areas of interest were discussed and it was agreed one area would be focused on each year of the agreement.

Dublin City & Ramallah Friendship Agreement – Contextual Background

At the meeting of the Dublin City Council Protocol Committee held on Thursday 26th January 2023, a Motion proposed by Councillor Daithí Doolan and seconded by Councillor Mannix Flynn was agreed “Organising a delegation from Dublin City Council to Ramallah,

Palestine”. This was agreed by Dublin City Council at its monthly meeting held on 6th March 2023.

In December 2022, the then Dublin City Council Chief Executive Owen Keegan met with Palestinian Ambassador to Ireland Dr. Jilan Wahba Abdalmajid to discuss potential for cooperation between the two cities. Following this meeting the Chief Executive wrote to Ramallah Municipality to ascertain the interest in developing the connection between Dublin City Council and the Municipality of Ramallah at both political and official level, based on sharing of knowledge / expertise in areas of mutual interest and benefit. The Chief Executive spoke to the Director of Ramallah Municipal Authority Mr. Ahmed K. Abulaban on 11th April and Mr Abulaban confirmed that Ramallah Municipal Authority were appreciative of the on-going political links with Dublin City Council, would be keen to develop the connection with Dublin City Council to cover areas of mutual interest and would be keen to enter into an agreement with Dublin City Council.

The Department of Foreign Affairs are supportive of the establishment of a Friendship Agreement as is the Embassy of the Palestinian Authority in Ireland.

The setting up of a Twinning agreement is a reserved function of a Local Authority and is agreed by the elected members under S75 of the Local Government Act 2001.

Seoul Friendship Agreement

Following a request from the Seoul Metropolitan Authority and as part of the City Council’s Friendship Agreement with Seoul; the City Council hosted a delegation from Seoul University in 9th February 2024. The delegation included 4 teams of Undergraduates and lecturers. The delegates presented on their subject matter expertise as part of a City Exchange programme. The delegation received presentations on the City Council’s Climate Action Plan; the City’s Nature Based Solutions, Age Friendly practices and the Active Travel Network.

Networks:

Strong Cities

Dublin City has signed up to the Strong Cities Network through the Lord Mayor of Dublin City Daithí de Róiste. Dublin City is now linked to the network across the globe.

Strong Cities' membership is global and includes cities in different geographic contexts. It is this diversity that provides a major strength of the Network; it means that wherever a city is located, whether urban or rural, there will be other cities that have similar interests, capacities and needs.

Not all aspects of our work will be relevant or needed for every city and cities are encouraged to self-select which aspects are most relevant. This is a Strong Cities core value: allowing cities with already quite advanced arrangements to interact at a level that suits them, while others may choose a deeper level of engagement relative to their needs.

European Activities:

EU Youth Parliament in Ireland

Lord Mayor of Dublin Daithí de Róiste delivered the opening speech and participated at the European Youth Parliament Ireland Conference in the Dáil Chamber in Leinster House on 7th April 2024. Seán ó Fearghail, An Ceann Comhairle was also in attendance.



Operations

International Procedures

Following an influx of International delegations, including European, American and Asian delegations during March and April 2024, we are currently developing our policy and procedures around in bound delegations. We will prepare a draft in advance of the next meeting of the Protocol Committee for review and consideration.

Staff Changes

International Relations has had a number of staff changes in recent months. We would like to thank our previous colleagues for their commitment and dedication to delivering International Relations for the City Council and wish them well in their current roles:

Ms. Gráinne Kelly; International Relations Officer	up to June 2022
Ms. Fanchea Gibson, International Relations Officer	June 2022 – September 2023
Ms. Alice Boardman, Acting International Relations Officer	September 2023 – January 2024

Schedule – Dates for your Diary:

Dates	Delegation Types	Details
Q2 2024	Denver, USA Delegation	Celebrating the new direct flights between Dublin and Denver
Q2 2024	EU Day	Celebration for EU Day in the Mansion House
Q2 2024	Beijing Delegation	Twinned City Relationship
Q2 2024	New Zealand Delegation	Infrastructure Focus
Q2 2024	Ambassador to Canada	National Famine Way
Q2 2024	Outbound Delegation – Vienna	Housing Peer to Peer learning
Q3 2024	Sister City Delegation – San Jose	<p>San Jose most recent visit to Dublin was in 2018. Prior to the pandemic, our Sister City San Jose delegation would generally schedule a mission to Dublin every two or three years.</p> <p>San Jose twinning delegation proposed for September delegation. This is after the June elections in Dublin and the summer holiday and prior to November elections in San Jose and the U.S.</p>
Q3 2024	Friendship Delegation	Belfast City
Q3 2024	Seoul Delegation	Smart Cities Awards & Friendship Agreement

Contact Details:

Ciara O hAodha

Head of International Relations / Senior Executive Officer

Culture, Recreation and Economic Services Department

2nd May 2024