

8th June 2022

To the Chairperson and Members of  
The Central Area Committee

Meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Item No:

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**With reference to the proposed disposal of property at Railway Street / Sean MacDermott Street Lower, Dublin 1 to the Office of Public Works (OPW)**

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Dublin City Council is the owner of a site at Sean MacDermott Street Lower/ Railway Street which is shown outlined in red and coloured pink on Map Index SM 2016-0634-005. The site of the former Magdalen Laundry was located on part of the site. The OPW, on behalf of the Government, proposes to develop a National Centre for Research and Remembrance on this site which will stand as a National Memorial and will house an archive of records related to institutional trauma in the 20th century – Note from OPW attached. The OPW shall be responsible for obtaining planning permission and for funding the entire project.

The Centre will comprise the following core elements:

- ❖ A museum and exhibition space, the development of which will be led by the National Museum of Ireland
- ❖ An archival repository and research centre which will form part of the National Archives, and
- ❖ A place for reflection and remembrance.

To contribute to the social and economic development of Dublin's North East Inner City, the remainder of the site will also encompass:

- ❖ Social housing and local community facilities, and
- ❖ An educational and early learning facility.

While the Centre will be a national institution, it will be designed with a view to accessibility for all survivors, whether in other parts of Ireland or abroad. The Centre will, therefore, provide digital access to records and exhibits, as well as developing physical presences elsewhere to enable survivors to visit more easily. This will be done in partnership with local authorities and local museums in Ireland and in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs overseas. It is also proposed that the Centre will have a strong all-island dimension, working with the relevant authorities and institutions in Northern Ireland. In this way, the Centre will be a site of national conscience which achieves both a global reach and strong connections to, and benefits for, the local community.

Therefore, it is proposed to dispose of this property to the OPW subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The property at Railway Street / Sean MacDermott Street Lower, Dublin 1 is shown outlined in red on attached Map Index SM 2016-0634-005 with an area of approx. 0.83 ha (2.04 acres).
2. That Dublin City Council shall transfer its freehold title or equivalent to the OPW for the purpose of:

- a) Developing a National Centre for Research and Remembrance on this site which will stand as a National Memorial and will house an archive of records related to institutional trauma in the 20th century.
  - b) Developing part of the site for social housing and local community facilities either directly or in association with An Approved Housing Body, the details of which must be agreed with the City Council.
  - c) Developing part of the site as an educational and early learning facility either directly or in association with an Educational Authority.
3. That the purchase price shall be €1,000 excluding VAT payable on the transfer of title.
  4. The City Council shall provide good marketable title and unencumbered title and vacant possession of the site.
  5. That the OPW shall be liable for any VAT arising on the proposed transaction.
  6. That is the event that the OPW fails to substantially complete the development within eight years of the transfer of title, then the property shall revert to the Council free of charge.
  7. Each party shall be responsible for their respective legal and professional costs incurred in this transaction.
  8. That the City Council shall remove all building material stored on the site prior to the transfer of title.
  9. The City Council confirms it has title to all the fixtures, fittings and furnishings in the church and these shall be transferred to the OPW. An inventory of such items and their value shall be prepared by the City Council and agreed with the OPW for Stamp Duty purposes.

The dates for the performance of any of the requirements of the proposed agreement may be extended at the absolute discretion of the Executive Manager for the Property Development Department.

The disposal shall be subject to any such covenants and conditions as the Law Agent in her discretion shall stipulate.

No agreement enforceable at law is created or intended to be created until an exchange of contracts has taken place.

**Richard Shakespeare**  
**Assistant Chief Executive**

**9.6.2022**  
**Date**