



# A VISION FOR CORK CITY

Unlocking Cork City's  
local economy and building  
sustainable communities



Sinn Féin Chorcaí



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## Executive Summary

This document outlines Sinn Féin's vision for Cork city's economy. We believe there is a vast amount of unreached potential across the city that, if unlocked, could allow Cork city to become a world-leader in employment opportunities and sustainable communities.

Sinn Féin recognise that secure, quality employment is key to enhancing communities and creating cohesion. This document outlines how we believe Cork city's economy could be developed, and consolidated, to work for, and with, the people of the city and allow Cork to reach its full potential.

### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

**Cork City Council include a commitment to paying all workers a Living Wage as a requirement in all tenders and SLA negotiations**

**Cork City Council will aim to employ at least 20% from within the local community in areas that are identified on the Pobal Deprivation Index**

**Cork City Council draft a policy on meanwhile use**

**Cork City Council establish a forum whereby owners of commercial vacant units can engage with small businesses and community groups to form partnerships for meanwhile use**

**A strategic plan is implemented to resolve dereliction along the main spine of the city with prioritisation made for full collection of the Derelict Sites Levy on these units**

**A full-time Disability Officer is employed by Cork City Council**

# Job Quality

The number one priority for Cork city's economic team must be the creation of decent jobs with decent pay, and a real commitment to our SME sector. 70% of people employed in the private sector work for SMEs, and these businesses are the engine of our economy. Opening up public procurement, maximising the potential of ecommerce and abolishing upward only rents are just some of the ways government could and should make it easier to do business in Ireland.

In certain areas of the city, there are still high levels of unemployment. Thousands more young people are still leaving in their droves because of poor opportunities, low wages and a lack of access to housing and childcare. This is creating a skills crisis for the future, and families left devastated at home.

We believe that as an employer, Cork City Council have a unique opportunity to provide on-the-job training to develop skills and reach those who may not otherwise have access to upskilling and job development. We believe Cork City Council should consolidate their name as a decent employer who remove barriers to employment for people from all backgrounds.

We have one of the highest rates of low pay in the developed world. 20% of our workers are in low paid jobs and 50% of women are currently earning €20,000 or less a year. The Cost of Living Crisis has caused huge difficulty for those on lower pay and this is in turn impacting our local economy.

## Recommendations

1. Cork City Council implement a Living Wage minimum payment to all staff
2. Cork City Council include a commitment to paying all workers a Living Wage as a requirement in all tenders and SLA negotiations
3. Cork City Council explore ways to increase employment amongst those with disabilities and encourage entrepreneurship
4. Cork City Council will have a comprehensive Apprenticeship Programme across all trades and provide opportunities for staff at all levels to upskill
5. Cork City Council will aim to employ at least 20% from within the local community in areas that are identified on the Pobal Deprivation Index
6. Cork City Council will provide all staff with an opportunity for upskill and job development





## Community

Community wealth building has emerged as a powerful approach to local economic development. Through this approach local and regional economies are reorganised to ensure that wealth is not extracted from towns and counties but retained and recirculated. This development model aims to leverage existing local resources to meet local needs while promoting values of equity and sustainability.

Alongside this, we recognise that while there are large employers in traditionally disadvantaged areas in Cork city, many of these are not employing within the local community and are not integrating to the local economies. We believe that Cork City Council should support these businesses to employ within their communities and enhance local economies.

We call for targeted interventions to increase the opportunities for young people across Cork City and to address youth unemployment in areas. This must include the provision of positive educational and social opportunities for young people in addition to traditional learning opportunities.

We believe that a lack of third-level campus on the Northside of the city acts as a further barrier to young people from these areas in entering third level. We recognise the capacity issues currently experienced by third level in Cork city, particularly MTU, and would encourage these organisations to consider development of a campus on the Northside. The phrase 'if you can't see it, you can't be it' is often cited and we believe there is opportunity to increase third level uptake through this measure.

## Recommendations

7. Implement a Community Wealth Building strategy
8. Explore potential incentives for businesses that employ at least 20% from within their local community in areas that are identified on the Pobal Deprivation Index
9. Where Cork City Council disposes of land to, or receives development charges from, businesses or developments in areas identified on the Pobal Deprivation Index, that this funding is prioritised for improvement in the local area
10. A plan is developed for targeted interventions on youth unemployment and the development of positive education and social opportunities for young people
11. Cork City Council work with MTU and UCC to develop third-level campuses on the Northside of the city

# Childcare and Early Years Education

The shortage of Childcare & Early Years Education places in Cork City causes very severe problems for many young families. Not only is cost a huge burden on parents, it also creates a significant constraint on parents being able to return to work and what kind of jobs people can work at.

Awareness of these challenges, as well as the costs, can also discourage people from starting a family or having other children, as well as deterring investment and deterring people from moving to Cork to work here. The situation is particularly acute in terms of children under a year old, as well as in some localities afterschool places.

From 2017 to mid-2022, 73 childcare services have ceased business in Cork city and county. In the same period there was a steady decline in childcare places in the city each year, with 384 less childcare places currently available in mid-2022 in the city than there were in 2017, despite the increasing demand in that time.

This is not a challenge that the Council can disregard. It has significant social, and strategic economic implications. In addition to the childcare piece it should be noted that quality early years education is a key part in tackling disadvantage. Childcare and Early years education are not the same thing, however, there are similar solutions required in delivering sustainability to these settings that share this work.

The Council must develop a strategy along with TUSLA, the Department of Children, and with the Cork City Childcare Committee to ensure this shortage is redressed, focused on sustainable funding, perhaps to consider favourable approach to rates, and planning policies to ensure that this crisis is addressed.

## Recommendations

12. Cork City Council, TUSLA, the Department of Children and Cork City Childcare Committee convene a Working Group to develop a strategy to address the shortage in childcare places in Cork city





## Housing

We recognise that Cork City house prices are 98% higher than their lowest point. The average home in Cork city now costs €323,723<sup>1</sup>. Alongside this, the average rent is €1,768 a month in Cork city<sup>2</sup>. Taking the recommended 30% of a person's income as spent on rent, this suggests that to rent a home in Cork city a person should be earning €70,720. This is far beyond the reach of ordinary people.

We recognise that those in the business community are feeling these effects. High rents and unaffordable house prices are driving people out of our workforce, they are impacting our local economies and they are ultimately placing huge barriers in the way of those who want to start businesses or expand businesses.

We believe that the only way to change the tide in housing is to change government and change plan. We need to see public homes built on public land in Cork city. However, we believe the barriers caused by housing must be recognised and a plan devised to support businesses to address these.

## Recommendations

13. Cork City Council to work with the local business community to explore the impacts of the Housing Emergency on their operations and how this can be mitigated against

1 Daft Residential Price Property Report Q1 2023

2 Daft Rental Price Property Report Q4 2022





## Healthy Cities

We welcome Cork's designation as a WHO Healthy City and believe that this must be consolidated to ensure quality of life and access to supports and services are available for all residents. We recognise that low tree density, poor air quality and low incomes have direct consequences on the health of residents in Cork city and believe that income inequality must be addressed to improve public health. We recognise that areas of deprivation in the city experience worse health outcomes but also that the health system is struggling under current resourcing.

### Recommendations

14. Cork City Council to explore income inequality in the city and identify areas in need of intervention
15. Cork City Council to identify areas in need of a Clean Air Strategy
16. Tree planting is undertaken in areas of below average tree coverage



# Care at home, stepdown beds and Nursing Home beds

As our city ages, we need to take substantial action to ensure that our people can age in a way that is fulfilling, secure, happy and dignified. This will vary in many ways, and part of the solution is to facilitate as much activity as possible. We also need to continue to adapt our public realm, as well as our settlement patterns and development, in order to ensure we have an age friendly city.

While much of this relates to our planning policies, we also must look towards the part of the Department of Health and the HSE that is responsible for care. There are serious shortfalls in availability of care at home, in stepdown beds, and in nursing home beds – the latter a challenge that may in fact escalate in the coming period. This means that in a variety of different circumstances older people, or people recovering from illnesses or injury, are either receiving care that is not adequate, or are occupying a hospital bed, when another type of bed would be far more appropriate and such a transfer would free up a much-needed hospital bed. The Council must examine the shortfalls that exist here, and coordinate with the Department and with the HSE, and use its own planning policies to create additional community, step down and nursing home beds, as well as to push to facilitate residents to stay in their own home as long as possible, where that is what they and their family prefer.

## Recommendations

17. Cork City Council work with the HSE and the Department of Health to ensure planning policies and strategies are assisting in addressing the growing need for community, step down and nursing home beds
18. Cork City Council explore assistance they can provide in ensuring people can remain in their own home for as long as possible

## An Gaeilge

It is welcome to see the strength of the Irish language in Cork City, with over 85,000 expressing the ability to speak it according to the most recent Census. In the main, this is testament to the incredible work of Gaelscoileanna across Cork City over many decades.

However, we need to see this success built on. In many areas there are virtually no outlets for adults to speak Irish outside of the education system. We need to see that addressed and Cork City Council has a key role to play. The City Council should take the lead in developing a strategy to increase the use of Irish in the city and the Council must adequately provide its services bilingually; something it is supposed to be doing, but that it often fails to provide.

## Recommendation

19. Cork City Council develop a strategy to increase the strength of the Irish language in Cork City

# City Centre

Sinn Féin believes that Cork City Centre is not reaching its full potential. The City Centre could be an exciting, inviting area for people to visit and enjoy. Instead, high levels of vacancy and a lack of amenities sees many travel to other venues for retail and recreating.

## Amenities

We recognise the renovation of Bishop Lucy Park and we believe this could be an important asset to the city centre. However, we believe that more amenities are needed. Placemaking along the Quays, similar to that which is currently happening along Pope's Quay, could create recreational environments that people enjoy and travel to.

The historic character of the city should be amplified through well-placed amenities that improve the overall environment and recognise the rich history of Cork. Building on this, and enhancing these offerings, will allow a deeper sense of ownership over the city centre for all residents and improve their perception of the area. We believe Cork City Council should consider vacant spaces for an interactive, dynamic museum exploring this history and recognising the important role Cork has played in shaping the dynamic on this island.

We recognise the proposal for an Events Centre in Cork city centre and would call for this to be progressed. We would call for the redevelopment of the Shandon area to recognise its cultural heritage and redevelop the Butter Exchange.

We believe there is need for a plan to reduce street clutter with an initial phase focused on unused telephone boxes in the city centre. These are an eyesore that provide no meaningful function.

We believe Cork City Council should consider investing in "Free Walking Tours" in the city, these have proved very successful in other European cities. Cork has a rich and interesting history. We believe "free walking tours" would provide a great opportunity to showcase our city to visiting tourists and locals alike.

This could also be complemented with QR codes for 'living history' tours throughout the city that people could do independently with an interactive tour guide. We believe that QR codes throughout the city sharing public information, tourist information updates and community events would also be a great asset to the city and its people.

Consideration should also be given to providing more seating in the city centre. Action must be taken to address what is becoming a stark imbalance in the provision of opportunities to relax, to rest and to enjoy the city centre. The clustering of private, commodified seating on public footpaths not only decreases the affordability of the city centre but ultimately decreases the accessibility. Introducing barriers to people with particular vulnerabilities, including disabilities and older people, should be combatted through specific planning interventions.

The City Centre is comprised of a number of key routes and walkways. To enable pedestrian usage of the Core Retail centre and to make a reality the accessible city envisaged by the City Council, the City Council will adhere to the guidance provided by Age Friendly Ireland in their 2021 Age Friendly Seating Guide. This indicates that no frequently travelled pedestrian route should be without rest opportunities at the midway point and at the top and bottom of inclines. Seating should be 450mm high with a 500mm depth and a raised armrest. The City Council should map all frequently travelled pedestrian routes in the Core Retail Centre as a priority and make these interventions.

The city's amenities should meet the needs of all age groups. It should be an age friendly city environment. Vital to this is also the provision of adequate public restrooms throughout the city. There must be adequate access to non-commodified public resources for everybody.



## **Dereliction and Vacancy**

Commercial vacancy in the city centre is, we believe, the most obvious, and fixable, issue that is preventing an attractive and enticing environment. We would propose that Cork City Council include a provision in the document to enable and encourage meanwhile use. Meanwhile use is the temporary use of empty commercial buildings for free or a nominal fee. It gives buildings an opportunity to renew vibrancy and can often provide a chance for businesses and community organisations who couldn't viably rent in an area. Meanwhile use has been proven to be a key tool in regeneration in London and Paris and has allowed for positive relationships to develop between private property owners and communities. We believe Cork City Council should seek to incentivise meanwhile use and to create a forum whereby social enterprises and community groups can make contact with those in possession of vacant commercial buildings, particularly in the City Centre.

Above the shop vacancy in the City Centre is negatively impacting on the vibrancy of the area. We should be encouraging Living Above the Shop because when people live in the city, they will enhance the retail offerings and offer passive surveillance that will increase safety levels.

We believe that dereliction and vacancy through the main spine of the city, along North Main Street and Barrack Street particularly, is having a detrimental impact on the rejuvenation of the area post-Covid. We feel that a targeted strategy, aimed at bringing this stock back to use, will have a positive impact on the overall area.

We believe there is a need for an increased use of Compulsory Purchase Orders to tackle dereliction and vacancy. This could be made possible with the full collection of the Derelict Sites Levy by Cork City Council.

## Accessibility

Pedestrianisation has played a huge role in retaining a night-time economy in Cork city and boosted the hospitality sector during an economically difficult time. We believe that pedestrianisation of core city centre streets should be explored further as we see interventions to reduce car dependency. We would however emphasise that no public realm change can happen that places barriers in the way of those with disabilities or mobility issues. We believe that when the city centre can be fully accessed by the most vulnerable person, it can be fully accessed by everyone.

## Recommendations

20. Cork City Council draft a policy on meanwhile use
21. Cork City Council establish a forum whereby owners of commercial vacant units can engage with small businesses and community groups to form partnerships for meanwhile use
22. A survey is undertaken of all vacant Above the Shop Units and owners contacted to encourage activation
23. A strategic plan is implemented to resolve dereliction along the main spine of the city with prioritisation made for full collection of the Derelict Sites Levy on these units
24. Cork City Council implement a 'Use it or Lose it' policy and increase CPO of derelict sites
25. Placemaking is planned along the Quays
26. A public consultation is undertaken on the potential for increased recognition of the historic character of the city centre
27. A plan is put in place to reduce street clutter with an initial phase focused on telephone boxes
28. Consider developing a 'Free Walking tours' initiative in the city centre
29. Pilot placement of QR codes around the city for a 'living histories' initiative
30. A plan is put forward for increased installation of public toilets particularly Changing Places toilets
31. Provide more seating in the city centre
32. Accessible documents are made available ahead of all consultation on public realm
33. A full-time Disability Officer is employed by Cork City Council
34. Universal Design Checks are undertaken on all new public realm proposals
35. The Cork Access Group is formalised as a consultation body and opened for new membership

# District Centres and Areas

## Ballyvolane

Ballyvolane represents an exciting opportunity for consolidated economic growth within the existing city area that could transform the existing community and improve outcomes for future generations. The community in Ballyvolane are active and vibrant, they are in desperate need of further resourcing and support to consolidate their current growth and encourage sustainability and integration.

We recognise the proposed Economic Development Zone in Ballyvolane and believe that this needs to be a core element of a strategic approach to development in Ballyvolane. We note the Strategic Housing Development (SHD) and Large Scale Residential Development (LSRD) proposed in the area but would raise concern that this development is not happening strategically and needs to be better managed.

### Recommendations

36. Full redesign of the Fox and Hounds Junction
37. Engage with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to ensure investment in strategic employment lands improves employment outcomes in Ballyvolane
38. Focus on regional clustering in proposed economic development
39. Encourage the development of more convenience, family-run businesses within new communities in Ballyvolane to bolster local economy
40. Improve roads infrastructure in Ballyvolane
41. Plans are progressed for a North East Regional park with provision for increased playing pitches to recognise the increased growing young population

## Blackpool

Blackpool is a historic village in the heart of Cork City rich in character and history that has the potential to be a welcoming, sustainable and diverse community. Existing community services and businesses work hard to create this environment and intervention is needed by Cork City Council to support these efforts.

There is an existing strong business community in Blackpool that need to be supported and consulted. Public realm improvements would encourage increased comparison retail and retain economic activity within the village. Commercial dereliction in the village needs to be prioritised for resolution and aforementioned initiatives on meanwhile use could be piloted in the area. Kilbarry railway station must be developed to reach the full potential of Blackpool.

### Recommendations

42. Consult with the existing local business community to develop an economic plan that will retain the unique character of the business offering in the area
43. Develop public realm improvements to encourage longer engagement in the village
44. Pilot meanwhile use projects in the commercial buildings that are vacant or derelict
45. Develop Kilbarry Railway Station



## Hollyhill/Knocknaheeny

Apple operates as the largest employer in the Hollyhill area but there are questions as to whether the potential benefits of such large FDI are felt within the community. Cork City Council need to engage with Apple and develop a forum to strengthen relationships between the local community and large employers. There are a wide variety of SMEs within the community and these should be supported and consolidated.

The North West Quarter Regeneration (NWQR) represents an opportunity to transform Knocknaheeny and consolidate existing enterprise within the newly developed local economy. The Social Economic and Environmental Policy (SEEP) that accompanies the Regeneration Programme should be reviewed with consideration for modern economies and the role that these can play in providing convenience retail within the local community.

There should be targeted intervention in Hollyhill and Churchfield industrial estates to encourage and increase the business uptake in these. A skills training hub that focuses on apprenticeship training in this area could provide localised training and skills development opportunities for local youths in this area of high social deprivation. It would support the economy and have a wider and longer lasting impact by addressing unemployment in the area.

## Recommendations

46. Develop a consultation forum between the local community and Apple
47. Engage with existing businesses to develop pathways to support
48. Review the SEEP to ensure it is best building on the existing local economy and consolidating support for SMEs
49. Significant intervention is needed to resolve pedestrian inaccessibility on John F Connolly road
50. A North West Regional Park is progressed for the area
51. Targeted intervention in Hollyhill and Churchfield Industrial estates to encourage and increase the business uptake in these
52. City Council consider the potential of skills training hub in the Hollyhill or Churchfield industrial estates

## Douglas

Douglas is an area that has expanded rapidly in recent years, it is an area with great community spirit and various clubs and organisations who provide a great service to the community. However, there are some areas where further work and attention is required.

A great feature of Douglas is the market on a Saturday outside Douglas Village Shopping Centre. The market is well attended and similar opportunities would be really welcome throughout the general area, particularly in the summer. One option would be to have a market in Tramore Valley Park during the summer, which would provide an additional attraction to an already very popular amenity while also creating job opportunities and additional trading opportunities to interested market traders.

Traffic is an issue which many residents of Douglas have to face on a daily basis. It's crucial that this situation does not worsen, and much thought and action should be given to how Council alleviates this problem. One factor which could be key to rectifying this problem in the future is a well-developed Bus Connects project which if implemented and resourced correctly would lead to a significant decrease on people's reliance on cars while also contributing to a greener and cleaner environment, however that must happen in a spirit of collaboration with residents and taking on board their concerns.

There is also a shortage of playing pitches for sporting clubs, despite the young population in the locality.

The Douglas area also contains several localities that could be described as suburbs of their own, i.e. Grange/Frankfield, Donnybrook, and the Maryborough/Mount Oval conurbation. In these areas there is a need for greater amenities also, much leisure requires going to Douglas village, and too often this involves getting into the car. While improved access for pedestrians and cyclists to the village is part of the solution, additional recreational facilities in these communities, as well as playgrounds and so on for young people, as well as leisure opportunities for elderly residents, is important in these growing communities.

## Recommendations

53. Explore the opportunity for a market in Tramore Valley Park throughout the summer months
54. Develop initiatives to reduce traffic in Douglas Village in consultation with the existing residents and businesses
55. Explore potential for increased playing pitches for sporting clubs in Douglas
56. Provide additional sustainable transport routes from surrounding neighbourhoods to Douglas village
57. Provide additional recreational facilities and playgrounds in Douglas' surrounding neighbourhood



## Wilton/Bishopstown

MTU students represent a large portion of the demographic in Bishopstown but it is also home to many settled communities, some with aging populations that are in need of support. The existing local economy is thriving in many areas and must be consolidated to encourage further growth. These two objectives can be both met through enhanced public realm improvements with a focus on footpaths and amenities. Additional right sizing in this community would be very beneficial as it would facilitate young families to access a suitable property while allowing older residents to have a suitably sized and modern accommodation.

We recognise that a number of derelict buildings in the area cause frustration amongst residents and would call on Cork City Council to engage with these, particularly whereby these buildings were formerly owned by the Council. We believe that, in cooperation with the local community, there is an opportunity for the development of a community centre in one of these buildings or in another space.

The recent construction of the bridge over the South Ring Road was a project that was planned in the last LECP cycle. A similar bridge or another form of access from the area of the Mick Barry road would be a great addition to the area-particularly in light of additional housing and increased population in the area.

There is a foot/cycle route nearly the entire way from the Bishopston roundabout to Mick Barry road at the moment.

If this could be connected to Tramore Valley Park and onward to Douglas and the Rochestown Road, Passage West and Monkstown, it would be a fantastic asset for the community.

## Recommendations

58. A review is undertaken of all footpaths and a plan developed to ensure these are accessible for aging populations and encourage usage of existing businesses
59. Exploration is given to additional rightsizing schemes in the Bishopstown/Wilton area
60. Local businesses are supported and encouraged to employ within the community
61. Cork City Council to engage on dereliction and attempt to resolve this in key buildings
62. Cork City Council work to build a new community centre for Bishopstown
63. Connection from Bishopstown to Tramore Valley park





## Mahon

Mahon is a great community, however it is a community that successive governments have failed to prioritise, particularly in housing, failing to keep pace with the demand for social and affordable housing that is needed for the wider area. We believe targeted intervention is needed to increase housing stock sustainably in the Mahon area, through developments similar to that seen on Skehard road.

We have also been very vocal in raising the need for community investment in Mahon and we have been in contact with both the ETB and Cork City Council in relation to the new library that is so badly needed in Mahon, which we have been pushing for many years now and we hope to see further developments in relation to that.

We have also sought updates from the council in relation to the urgently needed regeneration of the Avenue De Rennes area which again is an issue that we have been pushing for many years. It is also vitally important that the community in Mahon gets the support it needs in terms of family support and community funding. We believe there is a need to support organisations locally that are involved in supporting families and communities, by way of direct investment.

## Recommendations

64. A specific plan is developed to address housing shortages in Mahon
65. Cork City Council and the ETB progress plans for a new library in Mahon as a priority
66. A regeneration plan is progress for the Avenue De Rennes Area
67. Existing, and potential, community and family support projects are funded in Mahon through direct investment

## Ballyphehane/Turners Cross

Both of these communities were among the most successful social housing projects of the last century in Cork and indeed across the state. While there were imperfections, these were well planned developments and led to communities with a strong sense of self and deep roots, and a very positive social mix. Currently the area is a mix of older residents and young families. In light of both older pedestrians and school children it is very important that the pedestrian infrastructure in the locality is adequate, and there is a need for more pedestrian crossings at Friars Walk and Tory Top road.

Additional right sizing in this community would be very beneficial as it would facilitate young families to access a suitable property while allowing older residents to have a suitably sized and modern accommodation. There are also city council houses in this area that need retrofitting and external insulating, having been bypassed because they were singular houses when the flats were worked on.

### Recommendations

68. A review of pedestrian infrastructure is undertaken in the Ballyphehane/Turners Cross area with potential for increased pedestrian crossings at Friars Walk and Tory Top road
69. Additional rightsizing schemes are explored in the Ballyphehane/Turners Cross Area
70. A scheme of retrofitting is drafted for the Ballyphehane/Turners Cross area focusing on singular houses

## Greenmount, Bandon Road and Barrack Street, and the Marsh

The historic spine of the city has in ways been neglected, and we need to be much more ambitious for these communities. Previously these were home to countless families who worked and socialised within walking distance. The future of this locality should not be focused on students alone, though undoubtedly they will continue to play a part in the local community mix – we need to ensure that it is possible for young families to again populate such areas. Part of this involves an aggressive approach to property, particularly derelict property, but not only that, vacant, and underutilised property as well. The council should seek to acquire and renovate properties in these areas, or to replace where appropriate and in keeping with good built heritage norms. These could then be provided as social and affordable housing, to rebuild a community.

In a related manner, some of the older Cork City Council properties are in urgent need of renovation and retrofitting, and in some instances, regeneration. Noonans road residents have seen false dawn after false dawn – they deserve a proper regeneration of the community.

Similarly there is a need for retrofitting in Desmond Square and the Mount Sion road area, and in some instances houses have been a lower priority than apartments for retrofitting because of the ease of doing many properties at once – however this locality and the properties of this era should be among the highest priorities for houses. This has health implications it should be noted and damp properties can contribute significantly to asthma, emphysema and other respiratory conditions.

### Recommendations

71. An aggressive approach is taken to derelict and vacant properties along the historic spine of the city with the goal of providing social and affordable homes
72. Renovation is undertaken of historic Cork City Council homes, including Noonan's road as a priority
73. Retrofitting is undertaken in Desmond Square and Mount Sion road area

## Togher

Togher was in the past crossed by several railroads. These offer an excellent opportunity for greenways, particularly to connect the area to the Bandon Railway and the viaduct, and to Tramore Valley park. Improving the existing pathways and tackling littering and vandalism here will be important. Delivery of the footpaths and lighting that are part of the L2455 project will be key to supporting the community in Lehenaghmore, as will ensuring that there are adequate childcare and school places locally. There is pressure on playing pitches for football, and consideration should be given to Astro turf surfaces here. As one of the suburbs at the edge of walking distance to the city, improved public transport will be key, as will extending buses to the remainder of the Lehenaghmore area that does not currently enjoy it.

### Recommendations:

74. The potential for disused railines in Togher to be used as greenways to be explored
75. Delivery of the L2455 scheme is prioritised with a view to further improving pathways and tackling littering and vandalism
76. Analysis is undertaken of the potential to provide increased playing pitches in the Togher area with Astro turf surfaces prioritised
77. Active travel routes are established in the Togher/Lehenaghmore areas

## Farranree/Fair Hill/Fairfield

We recognise the existing strong community within the Farranree/Fair Hill/Fairfield areas. This community have contributed hugely to recent improvements in the area but we recognise that they need the support of Cork City Council to reach their full potential. We believe that a previous plan for a Community Centre in the area should be progressed in Fair Hill in tandem with the local community association.

There is a large, formerly state-owned employer in the area, with a site in the heart of the community, and we would call on Cork City Council to work with these to ensure the community feel the benefits of their operations and the local economy is bolstered by their presence.

We believe that young people in the areas have so much to contribute to Cork City as a whole and would benefit from targeted intervention to address youth unemployment but also to provide recreational and social outlets within communities.

### Recommendation

78. A Community Centre is developed for Fair Hill in association with the local community association
79. Stronger ties are fostered between the local community in Farranree/Fair Hill/Fairfield and the large employer in the area
80. A targeted intervention is undertaken to provide young people in the Farranree/Fair Hill/Fairfield area with recreation and social opportunities



## Urban Towns

### Glanmire

Glanmire is a fast growing diverse town in Cork city. There are a number of indigenous businesses that are well-respected and contribute positively to the local economy. These must be supported and encouraged with plans to create a sustainable transport network between schools and businesses in the area vital. Current developments are heavily car dependent and the economy reflects this. There is a distinct lack of placemaking and no identifiable town centre. The area is in need of targeted intervention to build sustainable communities while recognising the important role existing businesses play in the area.

Local sporting clubs are in need of facilities, particularly Glanmire Ladies Football Club. The success of these clubs is a huge asset to Glanmire and to fostering the social cohesion needed in a rapidly expanding area however their future growth is currently hampered by a lack of capital investment and support in identifying suitable sites to meet the demand of current and future players.

We would like to see further development to meet the needs of business and business opportunities which will benefit the economic activity and growth in Glanmire and the surrounding areas. We call on the Local Employment Office to progress the concept of office and incubator starter up units for the Glanmire area. It would give greater opportunity for budding entrepreneurs as well as capitalising on social enterprise.

As Glanmire has expanded, and is continuing to grow, the time has now come for the establishment of a Community Safety Forum for the town. This will be a further opportunity to

increase social cohesion and provide a forum for the identification of trends and problems allowing a proactive response by Council and the Gardaí.

## Recommendations

81. A plan is developed to create a vibrant, identifiable Town Centre for Glanmire
82. Place making initiatives are undertaken in the area
83. A facility is developed for Glanmire Ladies Football Club and engagement with other sports clubs regarding their facilities is undertaken
84. Work is undertaken with Glanmire LEO to develop office and incubator start up units in the area
85. Establishment of a Community Safety Forum for Glanmire



## Blarney/Tower

Blarney/Tower represents a vital cog in the tourism offering in Cork city however it is much more than that. The bustling vibrant villages are developing at pace however there is still some concern about the role of certain stakeholders and their influence over this development. In 2016, 0.6% of the state's population were educated to Postgraduate level or above. This compared to 9.88% of Blarney's population. This highlights the important contribution Blarney and Tower's populations can make to the economy but, with poor public transport infrastructure, long commutes may pose a barrier to this. The introduction of remote and hybrid working post-Covid 19 are likely to have an impact on the behaviours of Blarney's workforce and this merits further exploration.

Land ownership queries must now be resolved with the aim of improving public space for all and delivering amenities for sustainable community. A recent Town Centre Health Check of the area found a vacancy level of almost 10% in Blarney. This is a worrying indication of a

trend that must be addressed swiftly. Other findings in the Town Centre Health Check must be acted upon.

With no Community Safety Forum for the Blarney/Tower area, it is difficult to identify trends in anti-social behaviour or other issues effecting the community. We would call for the full establishment of a Community Safety Forum for the area.

## Recommendations

86. A land ownership survey is undertaken of all public open space with a view to a plan to ensure Council ownership of this land
87. Engagement is undertaken with local residents to identify the needs of the local community and attempt to utilise currently vacant commercial sites to address these
88. The findings of the Town Centre Health Check must be incorporated into the future plans for the area particularly those concerning footpaths and other key areas
89. Establishment of Community Safety Forum for Blarney

## Ballincollig

We recognise the development of Ballincollig as an urban town with a relatively young and agile workforce. We note that this has happened rapidly and the area is now home to a large, and growing, population. We support the expanse of local businesses that offer opportunities and foster community within the area. In light of this rapid growth, it is essential that the resources keep pace with this growth. This includes youth centres, investment in the family resource centres and playing surfaces.

It should be noted that much of the commerce and infrastructure in the town is towards the east of the town, and that particularly the part of the town west of the White Horse has very little by way of services or shops, and that this area has grown enormously in recent years

We note the 'Growth Strategy' commissioned by the Ballincollig Business Association and call on Cork City Council to engage with this project and explore the potential of implementing the recommendations within.

We recognise that existing plans are focused on the long-term strategic vision for Ballincollig and would call for the development of a timeline for delivery of existing proposals with quantifiable objectives that can be tracked and reviewed by the local community.

We echo our call for the reopening of Ballincollig Fire Station with a full-time staffing cohort to ensure the continued safety of the community and Cork City as a whole.

## Recommendations

90. Youth centres, family resource centres and playing surfaces are invested in in Ballincollig
91. A commerce and infrastructure plan is developed for Ballincollig east and areas west of the White Horse
92. Cork City Council work with Ballincollig Business Association to review the 'Growth Strategy' commissioned for the area
93. A timeline for development, and consolidation, in Ballincollig is developed with quantifiable objectives
94. Develop a plan to reopen Ballincollig Fire Station with full-time staff

# Recommendations

<b>1</b>	Cork City Council implement a Living Wage minimum payment to all staff
<b>2</b>	Cork City Council include a commitment to paying all workers a Living Wage as a requirement in all tenders and SLA negotiations
<b>3</b>	Cork City Council explore ways to increase employment amongst those with disabilities and encourage entrepreneurship
<b>4</b>	Cork City Council will have a comprehensive Apprenticeship Programme across all trades and provide opportunities for staff at all levels to upskill
<b>5</b>	Cork City Council will aim to employ at least 20% from within the local community in areas that are identified on the Pobal Deprivation Index
<b>6</b>	Cork City Council will provide all staff with an opportunity for upskill and job development
<b>7</b>	Implement a Community Wealth Building strategy
<b>8</b>	Explore potential incentives for businesses that employ at least 20% from within their local community in areas that are identified on the Pobal Deprivation Index
<b>9</b>	Where Cork City Council disposes of land to, or receives development charges from, businesses or developments in areas identified on the Pobal Deprivation Index, that this funding is prioritised for improvement in the local area
<b>10</b>	A plan is developed for targeted interventions on youth unemployment and the development of positive education and social opportunities for young people
<b>11</b>	Cork City Council work with MTU and UCC to develop third-level campuses on the Northside of the city
<b>12</b>	Cork City Council, TUSLA, the Department of Children and Cork City Childcare Committee convene a Working Group to develop a strategy to address the shortage in childcare places in Cork city
<b>13</b>	Cork City Council to work with the local business community to explore the impacts of the Housing Emergency on their operations and how this can be mitigated against
<b>14</b>	Cork City Council to explore income inequality in the city and identify areas in need of intervention
<b>15</b>	Cork City Council to identify areas in need of a Clean Air Strategy
<b>16</b>	Tree planting is undertaken in areas of below average tree coverage
<b>17</b>	Cork City Council work with the HSE and the Department of Health to ensure planning policies and strategies are assisting in addressing the growing need for community, step down and nursing home beds
<b>18</b>	Cork City Council explore assistance they can provide in ensuring people can remain in their own home for as long as possible
<b>19</b>	Cork City Council develop a strategy to increase the strength of the Irish language in Cork City
<b>20</b>	Cork City Council draft a policy on meanwhile use
<b>21</b>	Cork City Council establish a forum whereby owners of commercial vacant units can engage with small businesses and community groups to form partnerships for meanwhile use
<b>22</b>	A survey is undertaken of all vacant Above the Shop Units and owners contacted to encourage activation



<b>23</b>	A strategic plan is implemented to resolve dereliction along the main spine of the city with prioritisation made for full collection of the Derelict Sites Levy on these units
<b>24</b>	Cork City Council implement a 'Use it or Lose it' policy and increase CPO of derelict sites
<b>25</b>	Placemaking is planned along the Quays
<b>26</b>	A public consultation is undertaken on the potential for increased recognition of the historic character of the city centre
<b>27</b>	A plan is put in place to reduce street clutter with an initial phase focused on telephone boxes
<b>28</b>	Consider developing a 'Free Walking tours' initiative in the city centre
<b>29</b>	Pilot placement of QR codes around the city for a 'living histories' initiative
<b>30</b>	A plan is put forward for increased installation of public toilets particularly Changing Places toilets
<b>31</b>	Provide more seating in the city centre
<b>32</b>	Accessible documents are made available ahead of all consultation on public realm
<b>33</b>	A full-time Disability Officer is employed by Cork City Council
<b>34</b>	Universal Design Checks are undertaken on all new public realm proposals
<b>35</b>	The Cork Access Group is formalised as a consultation body and opened for new membership
<b>36</b>	Full redesign of the Fox and Hounds Junction
<b>37</b>	Engage with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to ensure investment in strategic employment lands improves employment outcomes in Ballyvolane
<b>38</b>	Focus on regional clustering in proposed economic development in Ballyvolane
<b>39</b>	Encourage the development of more convenience, family-run businesses within new communities in Ballyvolane to bolster local economy
<b>40</b>	Improve roads infrastructure in Ballyvolane
<b>41</b>	Plans are progressed for a North East Regional park with provision for increased playing pitches to recognise the increased growing young population
<b>42</b>	Consult with the existing local business community to develop an economic plan that will retain the unique character of the business offering in Blackpool
<b>43</b>	Develop public realm improvements to encourage longer engagement in Blackpool village
<b>44</b>	Pilot meanwhile use projects in the commercial buildings that are vacant or derelict in Blackpool
<b>45</b>	Develop Kilbarry Railway Station
<b>46</b>	Develop a consultation forum between the local community and Apple

<b>47</b>	Engage with existing businesses to develop pathways to support their development in Knocknaheeny/Hollyhill
<b>48</b>	Review the NWQR SEEP to ensure it is best building on the existing local economy and consolidating support for SMEs
<b>49</b>	Significant intervention is needed to resolve pedestrian inaccessibility on John F Connolly road
<b>50</b>	A North West Regional Park is progressed for the area
<b>51</b>	Targeted intervention in Hollyhill and Churchfield Industrial estates to encourage and increase the business uptake in these
<b>52</b>	City Council consider the potential of skills training hub in the Hollyhill or Churchfield industrial estates
<b>53</b>	Explore the opportunity for a market in Tramore Valley Park throughout the summer months
<b>54</b>	Develop initiatives to reduce traffic in Douglas Village in consultation with the existing residents and businesses
<b>55</b>	Explore potential for increased playing pitches for sporting clubs in Douglas
<b>56</b>	Provide additional sustainable transport routes from surrounding neighbourhoods to Douglas village
<b>57</b>	Provide additional recreational facilities and playgrounds in Douglas' surrounding neighbourhood
<b>58</b>	A review is undertaken of all footpaths in Bishopstown/Wilton and a plan developed to ensure these are accessible for aging populations and encourage usage of existing businesses
<b>59</b>	Exploration is given to additional rightsizing schemes in the Bishopstown/Wilton area
<b>60</b>	Local businesses are supported and encouraged to employ within the Bishopstown community
<b>61</b>	Cork City Council to engage on dereliction in Bishopstown and attempt to resolve this in key buildings
<b>62</b>	Cork City Council work to build a new community centre for Bishopstown
<b>63</b>	Connection from Bishopstown to Tramore Valley park
<b>64</b>	A specific plan is developed to address housing shortages in Mahon
<b>65</b>	Cork City Council and the ETB progress plans for a new library in Mahon as a priority
<b>66</b>	A regeneration plan is progress for the Avenue De Rennes Area
<b>67</b>	Existing, and potential, community and family support projects are funded in Mahon through direct investment
<b>68</b>	A review of pedestrian infrastructure is undertaken in the Ballyphehane/Turners Cross area with potential for increased pedestrian crossings at Friars Walk and Tory Top road
<b>69</b>	Additional rightsizing schemes are explored in the Ballyphehane/Turners Cross Area
<b>70</b>	A scheme of retrofitting is drafted for the Ballyphehane/Turners Cross area focusing on singular houses

<b>71</b>	An aggressive approach is taken to derelict and vacant properties along the historic spine of the city with the goal of providing social and affordable homes
<b>72</b>	Renovation is undertaken of historic Cork City Council homes, including Noonan's road as a priority
<b>73</b>	Retrofitting is undertaken in Desmond Square and Mount Sion road area
<b>74</b>	The potential for disused railines in Togher to be used as greenways to be explored
<b>75</b>	Delivery of the L2455 scheme is prioritised with a view to further improving pathways and tackling littering and vandalism
<b>76</b>	Analysis is undertaken of the potential to provide increased playing pitches in the Togher area with Astro turf surfaces prioritised
<b>77</b>	Active travel routes are established in the Togher/Lehenaghmore areas
<b>78</b>	A Community Centre is developed for Fair Hill in association with the local community association
<b>79</b>	Stronger ties are fostered between the local community in Farranree/Fair Hill/Fairfield and the large employer in the area
<b>80</b>	A targeted intervention is undertaken to provide young people in the Farranree/Fair Hill/Fairfield area with recreation and social opportunities
<b>81</b>	A plan is developed to create a vibrant, identifiable Town Centre for Glanmire
<b>82</b>	Place making initiatives are undertaken in the Glanmire area
<b>83</b>	A facility is developed for Glanmire Ladies Football Club and engagement with other sports clubs regarding their facilities is undertaken
<b>84</b>	Work is undertaken with Glanmire LEO to develop office and incubator start up units in the area
<b>85</b>	Establishment of a Community Safety Forum for Glanmire
<b>86</b>	A land ownership survey is undertaken of all public open space in Blarney with a view to a plan to ensure Council ownership of this land
<b>87</b>	Engagement is undertaken with local residents in Blarney/Tower to identify the needs of the local community and attempt to utilise currently vacant commercial sites to address these
<b>88</b>	The findings of the Blarney/Tower Town Centre Health Check must be incorporated into the future plans for the area particularly those concerning footpaths and other key areas
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<b>94</b>	Develop a plan to reopen Ballincollig Fire Station with full-time staff



Cork North Central TD  
**THOMAS GOULD**



Cork South Central TD  
**DONNCHADH Ó LAOGHAIRE**



Local area rep Cork City  
North West  
**MICHELLE GOULD**



Cork City North West  
**CLLR. KENNETH COLLINS**



Cork City North West  
**CLLR. MICK NUGENT**



Local area rep Cork City  
North East  
**MANDY O'LEARY HEGARTY**



Local area rep Cork City  
North East  
**CHRISTA DALEY**



Cork City South Central  
**CLLR. FIONA KERINS**



Local area rep Cork City  
South Central  
**LUKE McGRATH**



Local area rep Cork City  
South Central  
**EOGHAN JEFFERS**



Cork City South West  
**CLLR ORLA O'LEARY**



Local area rep Cork City  
South West:  
**JOE LYNCH**



Local area rep Cork City  
South East  
**MICHELLE COWHEY-SHAHID**



Local area rep Cork City  
South East  
**CHRIS O'LEARY**

