

Background

The Community team works across the city on programmes including RAPID, Age Friendly and Learning Cities, and in close cooperation with Healthy Cities and the Public Participation Network amongst others. The work of the team is guided by the Local Economic and Community Plan and supports work on integration, community development, inclusion and diversity and on the basis of social determinants of health. This submission touches on elements of many of these. The team looks forward to working closely with the Planning Policy team to further the development of this plan, in the interests of all communities of Cork.

Strategic Objective S.O. 1: 2.10 and 2.18, 2.22, 2.23 and 2.24, 2.31

Shared Community Spaces and Community Hub

The Community Team urges that in all new development, 25% of the footprint be designed in such a way as to permit and facilitate off peak usage by the community and voluntary sector, i.e. halls, meeting rooms, sports facilities and equipment, for use on evenings and weekends. This is very much in line with best practise in e.g New build libraries, to extend the offering which infrastructure and development has for communities.

In regards to existing infrastructure, the Community team calls for a scoping exercise of existing spaces, locations and buildings in pilot areas to determine

- Demands for space in which areas of City and which fields of professionalism
- Underutilised space
- Barriers to accessing these spaces

What Spaces should we look at?

- Cork City Council Spaces
- Community Spaces – Community centres, sports centres, schools, etc.
- Business Spaces – in particular New Developments – empty lots – Industrial Estates

Potential Benefits

- Create more access to spaces for Community Organisations
- Support groups around inclusion and increasing connections
- Improve the utilisation of spaces in the City
- Improve connections between local and national government, communities and business interests
- Create connections across all sectors to harness solutions focused responses to social issues by utilising property, space and goodwill.

Objective 3.1

Planning for Sustainable Neighbourhoods

e. Undertake a Cork City Neighbourhoods Strategy during the lifetime of the Plan to identify strategic gaps in the provision of services / infrastructure / resources within neighbourhoods;

The Neighbourhoods Strategy should be given highest priority for completion, to ensure that all developments are informed, as soon as practicable, by the findings thereof. This strategy is instrumental in establishing a baseline of community needs, and identifying where community facilities, infrastructure and services can be most effective. The Community team is mindful that this strategy will also have many synergies with the new Local Economic and Community Plan, and so would recommend that these strategic documents be cohesive.

Objective 3.2 A Diverse, Inclusive and Equal City

Including within this Objective a broader approach creating diverse communities by also promoting measures that reduce the potential for ghettoization, based on class or creed as we develop and grow into more dynamic multi-cultural neighbourhoods.

3.28 Neighbourhood Recreation and Amenity

The Community team notes the proposed development of a Neighborhood Recreation and Amenity Strategy. This has considerable significance for the quality of life of communities across the city and as such the Community team has a keen interest in this. The team asks that such a strategy would take into account the need for spaces for play for all ages and abilities. In particular, we ask that this be grounded in the principals espoused in the 'Playful Paradigm' approach, and as such that the focus not be placed on installing conventional playgrounds, but rather that spaces be made welcoming and safe for play, both formal and informal, in the heart of communities.

There should be a particular interrogation of how the city creates and maintains spaces for older children (teenagers) and adults to be playful and gather for recreation purposes. This should include consideration of covered, weather proof spaces, and seating in public realm so that Age Friendly activities and pastimes are supported.

From a health perspective, this strategy also needs to be cogniscent of the implications of vehicular traffic near to recreation and amenity spaces.

Finally, the strategy needs to take due account of the need for public toilet and changings facilities across the city so that recreation and amenity spaces are accessible to all.

Objective 3.12 Special Categories of Housing

In regard to the provision for housing for Cork's travelling Community, the Community team urges that this be deemed suitable on lands zoned beyond what is provided for in the current draft plan, notably ZO2 and ZO3, and outlined under Residential Uses in Chapter 12.

3.48 Housing for the Traveller Community

The Community section notes the intention to develop Traveller accommodation site in line with the provisions of the Traveller Accommodation Plan. Cork City Council works closely with representatives of the Traveller community and the Community team would strongly encourage a continuation of the shared approach to the important issue of Traveller Housing, and in particular joint working with community representatives on the Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Committee.

We note that the 5 sites for New and Extended Traveller Accommodation sites , while outlines in the Traveller Accommodation Plan, are not represented in Volume 2 mapped objectives

Chapter 5

5.21 A Just Transition

The Community team supports the holistic consideration being given to A Just Transition to a climate aware city, and would welcome a particular focus on sustainable transport infrastructure to RAPID areas in the city and the focus on sustainable economic growth. While the acknowledgement that the impacts of climate change are frequently most keenly felt by vulnerable communities is welcome, medium to long term investment in these areas is fundamental to ensuring a Just Transition.

Recommendation: That within the Framework plans in particular, A Just Transition be given specific and named consideration for the areas in question.

Chapter 6

6.49 Open Place Strategy

We note the mention of the intended development of a Play Strategy as required by planning guidelines. Given the inter-agency work which has been undertaken on Play in the City, in particular since 2018 and for the lifetime of the Playful Paradigm project, we welcome the further enshrining and prioritization of play for all ages in Cork City. We would be keen that such a strategy would be based on principles of play as espoused by the Playful Paradigm project in specific there be a presumption in favour of making spaces safe and welcoming for play, rather than prioritizing the development of standard playgrounds as such.

Chapter 10

Section 10.334

Northwest Regeneration Area

In 2018 Cork Healthy Cities commissioned **A Cork City Profile** – a statistical and geographical profile of **Cork City Local Authority area** focused on health and inclusion. The profile provided an in-depth resource and insight into the factors that influence the health of citizens. Further analysis from POBAL Maps identified that **29%** of the 519 small areas in Cork City are defined as being **disadvantaged** or **very disadvantaged**. The 4 designated **RAPID** areas in the city have a DP score between **-13.2 and -16.6**. (Cork City LECP).

Geographical disadvantage continues to be a key issue facing Cork City. Despite improvements in outcomes across a range of measures, there remains a **distinct spatial component to the distribution of disadvantage within the city**; with a concentration of deprivation and associated factors in the RAPID areas of the City and in particular north of the river.

Therefore development 10.334 of a NW regional Park is essential to the continued wellbeing and growth of communities in the NW of the city, having access to quality, safe outdoor spaces to play, grow and learn is essential for our overall wellbeing.

10.332

Regeneration needs to focus on more than merely building with a social, economic and environmental element to the regeneration being essential to allow for the growth and betterment of communities, simply building houses will not impact the spatial component to disadvantage in Cork City

10.330

At a national level, the preference is for dual use facilities when funding is sought for new library facilities. Best practice in this respect has seen libraries pair with youth facilities, community hubs, multiple uses within library complexes, including but not restricted to provision for health facilities and meeting rooms. Local authorities are also encouraged to extend access hours in line with 'My Open Library'.

In light of this, the community team is strongly of the view that the proposed Mahon library should be a pilot site for extended community access to a community hub and library facility. The text in this paragraph should also state

'The objective below supports the principle of a new dual purpose city library and youth facility within Mahon /Blackrock area. This development should be undertaken in consultation with the community, and network of community stakeholders, and within the structure of the RAPID Area Based Committee.'

Chapter 11: Placemaking and Managing Development

The Community Section of CCP Directorate have initiated and developed a Placemaking Tool Kit as a resource for new and existing community groups. A Placemaking Tool Kit Working Group has been established. This group is in its infancy and in need of focus on establishing internal Placemaking Champions in each directorate/section. It has drafted a Tool Kit and connected to groups who can critique the Tool Kit and also pilot it in specific areas. A Placemaking Tool Kit Web-page linked to the CorkCity.ie website is currently under construction with a view to seeking support from SMT to launch it. International best practice is being sought through Place Standard Scotland connections. This will inform training and additional resourcing. As a start off point this work will connect well with relevant section of SO 9 and it will operate on the basis that “Community Knows Best”, bring a localised solution focus which empowers Place Leaders to drive their quality of life outcomes which will come from a Placemaking local informed strategy development. (11.1, 11.7, and includes Neighbourhood & Community Development, (Community Facilities 11.159, page 492) Public Art 11.209, page 504.

Objective 11.6

The Community team objects to criterion G under this section

‘The proposed development will not cause any adverse visual impacts.’

This is so broad as to have the potential to frustrate any development which underpins the provision of Traveller accommodation in the city.