



Cork Healthy Cities
Eye Ear & Throat Hospital
Western Road
Cork
Denise.Cahill@hse.ie
www.corkhealthycities.com

To whom it concerns,

The way we plan and build our cities defines our quality of life, wellness and health. City planning impacts on the quality of our living spaces and our transport, the air we breathe, the water we drink, and our access to nutritious food, education, health care services and employment. Cork city has made an explicit political commitment to the principles and strategies of Cork as a WHO Healthy City. A commitment to developing a shared vision for the city is now required and this commitment is evident in the Key Objectives of the draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 and throughout in the objectives of each chapter.

Cork Healthy Cities seeks the inclusion of a commitment to reduce health inequalities in our cities with a core objective to include all citizens in the city's development with particular focus on vulnerable and marginalised groups and a life cycle approach to planning for children to older adults. The needs of citizens with a disability require consideration and there is a need to focus reference to the importance of designing urban areas, housing, infrastructure, recreation areas, citizen engagement, software and apps with accessibility in mind by default, to mitigate the need for retrofitting and extra costs.

These links below refer to various good practice methodologies and analyses of how health outcomes can be improved through modification of the physical fabric of towns and cities and discusses the role that urban planning can have in delivering health improvements.

- Shaping Cities for Health: complexity and the planning of urban environments in the 21st century” <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3428861/pdf/ukmss-49493.pdf>
- Integrating Health in urban and territorial planning <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240003170>
- Shaping Neighbourhoods for Local Health and Global Sustainability Hugh Barton, Marcus Grant, Richard Guise <https://www.routledge.com/Shaping-Neighbourhoods-For-Local-Health-and-Global-Sustainability/Barton-Grant-Guise/p/book/9780367336929>
- Urban Planning for Healthy Cities, A Review of the Progress of the European Healthy Cities Programme Hugh Barton & Marcus Grant <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3764272/>

We also endorse and fully support the objectives of the following key projects that we actively support and the submissions made by:

- Green Spaces for Health,
- Playful Paradigm URBACT Local Group
- Freedom of Our City
- Child Friendly Cities

Attached please find our list of suggested amendments to the current Draft Plan for your consideration in embedding Cork as an active, innovative, responsive, sustainable and inclusive World Health Organisation Healthy City into Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028.

Sincerely

Denise Cahill

Coordinator, Cork Healthy Cities on behalf of the Cork Healthy Cities Steering Group

Cork Healthy Cities Submission to the Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028

Cork Healthy Cities is supportive of the commitment in the Draft Cork City Development Plan to the development of Cork as a Child Friendly City and to the development of a Play Strategy for Cork City. Cork Healthy Cities seeks a commitment also to the development of a Sustainable Healthy Food Strategy for Cork.

The inclusion in the objectives of the development of a 'safe city' as this has clear health benefits for citizens

The inclusion in the objectives of Cork as a **Resilient City** in responding to threats that may emerge in the future as a result of climate change and public health.

Note the use of the word "the disabled" throughout the document should be re-written to 'people with disabilities' or other suitable terminology as suggested by Disability Groups and advocates.

The following suggested edits (highlighted in yellow) are proposed to incorporate a holistic healthy cities approach to the City Development Plan Objectives:

Core Strategy

SO1 p.61 Compact Liveable Growth

To increase the population of Cork City in line with national and regional growth targets. To develop Cork City as an international compact, sustainable **healthy** city of scale and the regional driver of growth by creating sustainable, liveable, integrated communities and neighbourhoods for all. To plan to deliver at least half (50%) of all new homes in the existing built-up footprint of the City. ...

Objective 2.8 p.63

The 15-Minute City

To support the delivery of a 15-Minute City delivering Compact Liveable Growth through walkable **and cycle-friendly** neighbourhoods, towns and communities with a mix of uses, house types and tenures that foster a diverse, resilient, **healthy**, socially inclusive and responsive city. Strategic infrastructure and large-scale developments shall demonstrate how they contribute to a 15-minute city and enhance Cork City's liveability.

Objective 2.11 p.63

Design-Led City

Follow a design-led approach that delivers sustainable, high quality placemaking. Development shall contribute positively to: the quality of the surrounding built and natural environment, **health** implications for future residents/occupants and shall be planned and designed with reference to climate change mitigation and adaptation. **Health Impact Assessments will be required for all development proposals above 50 houses or 1,000sqm non-residential uses.**

Objective 2.12 p.63

Walkable and **Cyclable** Neighbourhoods

New development shall be designed to make positive additions to their neighbourhoods, towns and communities by:

- a. Delivering the right mix of uses at a scale and design that creates high quality buildings and spaces.
- b. Creating attractive, safe and vibrant places designed at a human scale (i.e. places that relate to people, streetscapes and local character).
- c. Ensuring a child friendly and age friendly environment (**adopting Universal Design principles**) with a mix of household types.
- d. Designing a safe **and welcoming** place that enables access for all.
- e. Creating a healthy neighbourhood with direct access to high quality parks and public spaces, **schools, shops and local services.**

f. Being well-connected with easy access to public transport and active travel.

g. Providing enhanced permeability for walking and cycling.

Chapter 3

Strategic Objective 2

Delivering Homes & Sustainable Neighbourhoods

To increase the population of Cork City in line with the Core Strategy. To deliver sustainable, liveable, integrated **healthy and child-friendly** communities and neighbourhoods. To ensure that new homes are provided at appropriate densities in brownfield, infill and greenfield locations within and contiguous to existing City footprint identified in the Core Strategy, and aligned with transport, community and social infrastructure. To ensure that new homes are provided with a good mix of accommodation types and sizes to meet the needs **and abilities** of all members of society.

To achieve a higher quality of life for Cork City's communities, promoting healthy living, wellbeing and active lifestyles. To ensure that placemaking is at the heart of all development to create attractive, liveable, well-designed, **child-friendly, playful, and healthy**, safe, secure and welcoming, high-quality urban places. To promote the concept of a 15-minute city focused on inclusive, diverse, healthy and integrated neighbourhoods served by a range of homes, amenities, services, jobs and active and public transport alternatives. Proposals for new development will demonstrate how placemaking is at the heart of the development and how the development will contribute to the local neighbourhood.

Objective 3.1 p.92

Planning for Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Cork City Council will seek to:

b. Require development proposals to put placemaking at the heart of their design

concept and clearly demonstrate how neighbourhood integration, **health** and enhancement is central to this;

c. Plan for communities in accordance with the aims, objectives and principles of

'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas' and the accompanying 'Urban

Design Manual – A Best Practice Guide', **Universal Design principles** and any updates.

Objective 3.14 p. 97

Community Infrastructure and Services

To work with our communities **the Community & Voluntary sector** and infrastructure providers in facilitating the development and provision of a range of accessible, socially inclusive, multi-functional and diverse community facilities throughout the City. **All new (or extensions above 1,000sqm) public buildings shall be designed to ensure that a minimum of 25% of the overall footprint of the buildings (and external open space) can be physically separated from day to day operations, for community uses throughout the day, evening, and week. This can be achieved through security systems and design/layout.**

Objective 3.17 p. 97

Community **Activity** Hubs

To promote the co-location and sharing of community, enterprise, recreation and open

space infrastructure to create community **activity** hubs of scale at locations that can be accessed by

walking, cycling and public transport and subject to there being no significant adverse impacts on

local amenity.

Objective 3.19 p. 97

Planning for Children - Oriented Facilities

To progress preparation of a tool to provide greater clarity on likely childcare, education, **developmental** and open space needs arising from new development proposals in Cork City.

Objective 3.20 p.98

Cork City as a Child-Friendly City

To **develop** Cork as a child-friendly city by considering the needs of children in terms of **appropriate design when changes are proposed to the built environment and adopting the UNESCO Child Friendly Principles for the city.**

Add in – **All residential developments shall be designed and laid out to ensure 30km/h speed zones are in place.**

Objective 3.28 p.98

Neighbourhood Recreation and Amenity

c. To support the clustering **into Community Activity Hubs** of recreational facilities, particularly in locations that are well served by walking, cycling and public transport.

Objective 4.4 p. 138

Active Transport

Active Travel

To actively promote walking and cycling as efficient, healthy, and environmentally friendly modes of transport **taking into account the biodiversity** by securing the development of a network of direct, comfortable, convenient, and safe cycle routes and footpaths across the city **with lighting that is conducive to wildlife in the area.**

Objective 5.1 p. 158

A Climate Resilient City

To create a more climate resilient, low carbon and environmentally sustainable City where our stakeholders and communities participate in, and benefit from integrated climate and environment action measures which also offer other social, **health**, economic and biodiversity benefits.

Objective 5.3 p.158

International Climate Change Research, **Action** and Recognition

To promote Cork City as a location for **inter-agency** climate change **action**, research and investment.

Objective 6.2 p. 206

Accessibility to the Green and Blue Infrastructure

a. Cork City Council will work with stakeholders in ensuring that green and blue infrastructure networks and spaces **are made available**, accessible and safe for all. This includes seating, accessible toilet facilities, appropriate path gradients and surfacing, path widths and signage.

Objective 6.8 p.207

Community Food Growing

Additional Objective to be added - **Cork City Council will work with key stakeholders to develop a sustainable and health food policy for the city and region**

Objective 6.20 p.212

Active Recreational Infrastructure

- a. To ensure that all residents have access to neighbourhood scale outdoor and indoor active sports recreational **and play** infrastructure within their neighbourhood or in accessible locations.
- c. To support the development of active recreation **and play** infrastructure (including outdoor and indoor facilities) in Cork's City Parks while also ensuring the continued improvement of their passive recreational offer, natural setting and biodiversity credentials.
- d. Active recreation **and play** infrastructure should meet current and future growth needs of the City and shall incorporate universal design principles to ensure accessibility for all ages and abilities and which is designed in a manner to reduce anti-social behaviour and shall be accessible by sustainable means of transport such as walking, cycling, greenways and public transport.
- e. To develop a robust feasibility study to examine the provision of sports facilities including multi-use **Community Activity** hubs, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, indoor sports facilities and artificial grass pitches.

Objective 7.17 p. 248

Commercial Leisure

Encourage a broad range of commercial **and inclusive** leisure activities in key locations and in suitable locations throughout the city.

Objective 7.28 p. 251

District Centres and Ballincollig Urban Town Centre

To support the vitality and viability of District Centres and Ballincollig Urban Town Centre by enhancing their mixed-use nature and ensuring they provide an appropriate range of retail and non-retail functions appropriate to the needs of the communities they serve. In addition to retail, these centres must include community, **recreational, play**, cultural, civic, leisure, restaurants, bars and cafes, entertainment, employment and residential uses. In terms of retail, the emphasis should be on convenience and appropriate (lower order) comparison shopping, in order to protect the primacy of Cork City Centre. The development of District Centres at Ballyvolane, South Docklands and Hollyhill will also be supported to meet the day to day needs of their existing and or planned catchment populations.

Objective 7.34 p. 254

Assessing New Retail Development

Cork City Council **will carry out Health Impact Assessment** and have regard to the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) the accompanying Retail Design Manual in determining planning applications for retail development.

Objective 10.1 p. 309

Strategic City Centre Objectives

- a. To strengthen and build upon the potential of Cork City Centre as the vibrant heart of the City and region and as a great place to live, work, recreate and visit **for all age groups and abilities**.
- c. To continue to identify innovative solutions to the development and enhancement of the City Centre **for all age groups and abilities**.
- d. To encourage and provide for a mix of uses including residential, business and commercial, recreation and leisure, **play**, tourism, culture and the arts.
- e. To expand the range of services in the City Centre, ensuring that it can function both as the hub of activity for the metropolitan area, while also functioning as a meaningful neighbourhood for those who live there.

Strategic City Centre

Objective 10.2 Living in the City and Dereliction p.309

To increase the residential population of the City Centre and improve its potential as a desirable, **energy efficient, liveable and healthy place** to live that is socially inclusive and caters for a wide variety of age groups. Cork City Council will use its powers through active land management initiatives to address vacancy,

Dereliction, **provision of green spaces for recreation and play** and underutilisation of property in the City Centre. Incentives such as the Living City Initiative, the Repair and Lease Scheme and built heritage grants will be promoted to ensure older and historic buildings are brought back into use.

Objective 10.9 p. 311

City Centre Leisure and Entertainment

To support the development of leisure, **recreation, play** and entertainment facilities such as restaurants, public houses, concert venues, cinemas, visitor attractions and other leisure facilities and recognise the role that leisure plays in the vibrancy and attractiveness of the City Centre.

Such developments will be discouraged in areas where they are likely to impact negatively on the residential amenity and established character of the City Centre.

Objective 10.10 p.311

City Centre Night-time Economy

To fully engage with the government taskforce on the Night-time Economy (NTE) and play a leading role in promoting and developing the night-time economy through pilot projects and taking an active role in developing a vibrant, **safe and responsible** night time culture **that promotes diverse options and alcohol free entertainment** in the City Centre.

Objective 10.12 p. 311

City Centre Public Realm

a. To enhance and properly maintain the public realm and improve the pedestrian **access and** experience for all the city's users including children, families, the elderly the disabled.

c. To improve upon the existing provision of areas of amenity and public open space that are safe, secure, **playful** and well located and increase tree canopy cover **through the protection of urban green spaces and the planting of more trees in the City centre**

d. To enhance Waterfront Amenity Areas by providing accessible **safe, segregated** spaces for pedestrians and cyclists. Setbacks from the quayside should generally be considered as part of new development proposals in quayside locations.

Objective 10.13 p. 312

City Centre Maritime Heritage

To reinforce, celebrate, and protect the City's maritime heritage and improve its connection to the river **through the provision of greater access points on the river.**

Objective 10.16 p. 312

City Centre Heritage and Biodiversity

To strengthen and support the heritage and biodiversity of Cork City Centre **by planting native species.**

Objective 10.19 p.343

City Docks A Place for People

It is an objective of Cork City Council to ensure that the City Docks is developed as a place for people by ensuring that **healthy** placemaking is at the heart of all development proposals and that the needs of people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds are considered in development proposals.

Objective 10.20 p. 344

The River Lee

That Cork City will develop a Maritime Centre to support the recreational activity on the river

Objective 10.24 p. 345

City Docks A Climate Resilient **Healthy** Development

To ensure that the City Docks is developed as a climate resilient and **healthy** neighbourhood by:

- **Carry out a Health Impact Assessment** ensuring a mix of land uses and multipurpose community infrastructure to reduce the need to travel.

Objective 10.30 p. 346

Active Recreational Infrastructure

To ensure that the City Docks provides for the active recreational needs **of all ages and abilities** the living and working community.

To develop an ARI Strategy for the City Docks that ensures that active recreational **and play** need is met whilst optimising use of all assets for public usage in accessible locations, and to prepare feasibility studies for necessary infrastructure (e.g. swimming pools / leisure centre, sports halls and sports hubs).

To update the Docks Public Realm Masterplan with a view to integrate small-scale active

Recreational **and play** provision into the public realm to optimise the value of streets and spaces.

To encourage water-based leisure activities and land site facilities such as rowing, light craft and

Swimming **by proving public access to the river.**

Objective 10.42 p. 376

Tivoli Housing, Community and Culture

The delivery of housing shall be integrated with the delivery of community and cultural facilities and shall include for the provision of:

- Community hubs with multi-purpose facilities providing for **recreational activity, play**, social, cultural, creative and artistic spaces.

All developments over 100 residential units / 10,000 sqm shall undertake **a Health Impact Assessment** and community and cultural audit as part of the planning application process setting out facilities and supports for community and cultural infrastructure.

Objective 10.80 p.421

Douglas Sustainable Transport, Placemaking and Public Realm

To work in partnership with stakeholders in supporting and facilitating a more efficient and sustainable transport network for Douglas that provides an improved public realm, reduces congestion, encourages greater levels of walking & cycling, and improves the **health** and quality of life for the community.

Objective 10.93 p. 435

Protection of Natural Landscape

- a. Protect the visual and scenic amenities of the Hinterland's built and natural environment **by planting native trees and plants.**

Objective 11.1 p. 464

Sustainable & Healthy Residential Development

Residential developments shall be sustainable and create high quality healthy places which:

- a. Contribute to healthy placemaking and to the 15-minute city and walkable neighbourhood concepts.
- b. Prioritise walking, cycling and public transport, and minimise the need to use cars.
- c. Deliver a healthy quality of life which residents and visitors are entitled to expect, in terms of amenity, safety and convenience.
- e. Present an attractive, well-maintained (*replace well-maintained with 'natural'*) appearance, with a distinct sense of place and a quality public realm that is easily maintained.

Sustainable Healthy Community and Neighbourhood Development p.530

Development proposals in every zone must consider how they contribute to the development of sustainable healthy communities and neighbourhoods, with larger development proposals providing community uses or facilities commensurate with the scale of the development and the neighbourhood.

Urban and Town Centres p. 533

ZO6 Sustainable Healthy Residential Neighbourhoods

Zoning Objective 6: To consolidate and facilitate the development of the central area and to promote its role as a dynamic mixed used centre for community, economic, civic, cultural and residential growth.

Public Open Space p. 538

Zoning Objective 16: To protect, retain and provide for passive and active recreational and play uses, open space, green networks, natural areas and amenity facilities.