



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí

Cork City Council

Seomra an Ardmhéara, Halla na Cathrach, Corcaigh, T12 T997
Lord Mayor's Room, City Hall, Cork, T12 T997

Rt Hon, the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Deirdre Hargey,
Lord Mayor's Office,
Belfast City Hall,
Belfast,
BT1 5GS

8th May, 2019

**LETTER OF INVITATION TO JOINTLY SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN IRISH LEARNING CITIES**

Dear Lord Mayor,

I am writing to you following discussions between our cities, to propose that we jointly sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Learning Cities at a short ceremony at 10am in Portlaoise on May 13th next.

As you are aware, all our cities are members of an all island Network of Learning Cities and are committed to developing our cities and city-regions to be sustainable and inclusive, to respond to UNESCO Learning City development principles and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The proposed attached Memorandum of Understanding, through the support of our offices, will substantially strengthen the work of this Network to engage with each other, city-to-city, to share good practice and know-how. It will commit our cities to continue to work together on this important agenda over the next three years initially, with further extensions of our co-operation to be considered in due course. And it has the potential to forge new links and partnerships among our Learning cities and also among our Learning partners at local level.

In the context of current developments on the island of Ireland and across Europe, I believe you will share the view that this city-to-city co-operation is more important than ever, that lifelong learning is crucial to enable all citizens to respond to current and future challenges, and that learning has the potential to transform lives, communities and ultimately, achieve sustainable development in our cities.

I hope you can join us at this signing to help shape the future of learning cities on the island of Ireland. I look forward to meeting you on the day.



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Kindest Regards,

Is mise le mór mheas,

**CLLR. MICK FINN,
ARDMHÉARA CHORCAÍ,
LORD MAYOR OF CORK.**

CC Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Nial Ring
Mayor of Limerick, Councillor James Collins
Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Councillor John Boyle

“Learning Cities”
Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Dublin City, Cork City, Limerick City and County, Belfast City & Derry City and Region

Dublin City, Cork City, Limerick City and County, Belfast City & Derry City and Region, with a shared dedication to strengthening friendly relations and enhancing cooperation between the peoples of the cities and city regions, have agreed to carry out Learning City exchanges focused on the principles of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.

AREAS OF EXCHANGE

By way of this Memorandum of Understanding, the undersigned agree that it is of mutual benefit to promote collaboration between Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Belfast and Derry in the area of Lifelong Learning.

Through the cities’ and city regions’ participation in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities and through involvement in related activities, Dublin City, Cork City, Limerick City and County, Belfast City and Derry City and Region are committed to sharing best practices on matters of lifelong and life-wide learning.

Through this Memorandum of Understanding, each of the cities /city regions commit to support The Irish Network of Learning Cities for sharing support, inspiration, know-how and good practice.

Each city /city region commits to the implementation of UNESCO Learning City policies as defined in the Beijing Declaration on Learning Cities, the Mexico Statement on Building Sustainable Learning Cities, the Key Features of Learning Cities –

To effectively mobilize resources in every sector to promote:

- Inclusive learning from basic to higher education;
- Revitalize learning in families and communities;
- Facilitate learning for and in the workplace;
- Extend the use of modern learning technologies;
- Enhance quality and excellence in learning, and
- Foster a culture of learning throughout life.

And the Cork Call to Action on Learning Cities - to implement lifelong learning strategies pertaining to the personal, social, civic, environmental and economic dimensions of the SDGs that promote:

- Equitable and inclusive learning and living environments;
- Green and Healthy learning and living environments;
- Opportunities for decent work and entrepreneurship.

In identifying and carrying out exchanges in these areas, the cities and city/regions aim to enhance:

- Individual empowerment
- Social inclusion
- Economic and cultural prosperity
- Health and wellbeing and
- Sustainable development

with an approach based upon using learning as a tool to tackle inequalities and strengthening communities as the active foundation of a learning society.

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Each of the partners agree that the necessary expenses for mutual visits and exchanges of official projects under this Memorandum of Understanding will be decided through separate discussions between organizations concerning the areas of exchange and based on the differing conditions in the cities /city regions. If any side encounters financial difficulties in the course of carrying out an individual project, a suitable adjustment or postponement of the project will be decided upon by consultation between the cities.

ENTRY INTO EFFECT

The Agreement will enter into effect on the day of signature and remains in effect for three years. The Agreement may be extended for successive three years with the written consent of both parties hereto. The parties may agree to extend the Agreement for further periods. This Agreement may be amended or terminated at any time with the written consent of all parties hereto.

Done in multiple on this 13th day of May 2019, each text being equally authentic.

FOR THE CITY OF DUBLIN

FOR THE CITY OF CORK

Lord Mayor Cllr. Nial Ring

Lord Mayor Cllr. Mick Finn

FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF LIMERICK

FOR THE CITY OF BELFAST

Mayor Cllr. James Collins

Lord Mayor Cllr. Deirdre Hargey

FOR THE CITY AND REGION OF DERRY

Mayor Cllr. John Boyle