Senior Engineer
Infrastructure Department
City Hall
Cork City

18 August 2022

RE: Marina Promenade Part 8

To Whom It Concerns,

Cork Chamber represents 1,200 members together employing 100,000 people throughout Cork city, metropolitan area and county. Our vision is to be a world-leading Chamber of Commerce, delivering on a progressive economic, social and sustainability agenda at the heart of a vibrant business community.

As such, we are determined to ensure that our 203-year-old Chamber continues to create a positive legacy. Our direction is guided by our formal pledge to uphold the United Nations Sustainable Development (SDG) goals, five of which have been identified by the Chambers Ireland network, and stronger integration with our local community and the principles of sustainability, resilience, inclusion, equality and diversity. Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities and Goal 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth are specifically relevant to this consultation.

This Part 8 proposal to upgrade the Marina Promenade comes at a time of sustainable transformation for our city region. As our population is projected to more than double under Ireland 2040 and plans for the redevelopment of the South Docks coming to fruition, re-imagining our shared public spaces is essential fulfilling our economic and societal goals.

Placemaking, active travel and public realm

Covid-19 changed the way in which people view their towns and cities, as it brought to light the importance of place-making and need of green, public realms in our urban and community spaces. The prioritisation of this space for pedestrian and cyclist use will be beneficial for improving the quality of life and wellbeing of city centre residents. Cork Chamber as a representative voice of the

Cork business community greatly supports Cork City Council's efforts to invest in and provide these realms for our community, as they increase the overall attractiveness of our city region and will therefore play an important role in attracting talent.

Leisure and tourism benefits

Beyond talent attraction, the proposed Marina Promenade will further contribute to Cork's vibrant leisure and tourism sector, by way of the Greenway and onwards to the city centre. Directional signs towards the city centre would help attract more tourists into the city centre, increasing their contribution to our local economy. There are additional opportunities to utilise our natural tourism assets along the River Lee that should be encouraged for example through boat tours and water-based activities.

Active travel impact

Providing a well-connected and safe cycleway that connects to the Passage Railway Greenway will increase our regional connectivity and promote cycling as a mode of transport, not only for tourism and leisure purposes but also for commuters and everyday use. Thus, contributing to increasing Cork City's cycling modal share to 10%, a key component of the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy and the City Development Plan, and in support of Cork's recent designation to be a carbon-neutral city by 2030.

Biodiversity and Tree Planting benefits

The focus on protecting the park's biodiversity and tree planting is to be commended. The integration of trees throughout artificial design elements, in particular the tree benches designed for the Atlantic Pond Plaza and Eastern Plaza, are innovative and exemplary. The increased public lighting throughout the promenade is an essential factor contributing to the safety of the park users.

Cork Chamber fully supports the proposed Part 8 for the Marina Promenade. The overall design of the Promenade will enable the change that is needed to positively contribute to the South Dock's vibrant residential and business community. We commend the City Council and the architects behind the design, Okra Landscape Architects. We are available at all times for consultation, discussion and support.

Yours Sincerely,

Conor Healy
CEO