

Dublin City Council

Commemorations and commemorative naming policy

(Revised 2025)

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1. Context

1.1 The Dublin City Development Plan recognises that the city’s heritage contributes significantly to the collective memory of its communities and to the richness and diversity of its urban fabric. It is key to the city’s character, identity and authenticity and is a vital social, cultural, and economic asset for the development of the city.¹

1.2 Dublin City Council acknowledges that the city’s heritage is part of our identity and contributes significantly to our wellbeing and our sense of place.

1.3 Public commemoration and memorials offer opportunities to promote public engagement with the city’s heritage, and to honour, celebrate, or remember a person, group of persons, events, or locations, of significance.

1.4 Commemoration provides an opportunity for the City to highlight important social, cultural and economic contributions to society, to celebrate the uniqueness of the City, and to create a ‘sense of place’ which is identified as being of great importance to citizens and visitors.

1.5 This policy sets out the criteria and process by which Dublin City Council will consider the commemoration of persons, organisations, locations, or events, which have contributed to the shaping of the city, either by the naming of infrastructure or by the installation of plaques, memorials, and monuments in the public realm.

1.6 It is important for the City Council to establish a policy on this matter for a number of reasons, including:

- The need to have clarity regarding the policy and procedures for the consideration of proposals from individuals and interest groups.
- The high level of demand for the naming of infrastructure and the erection of plaques and memorials.
- The emotive nature of requests where people are recently deceased or events have recently occurred.
- The need to ensure that a proliferation of plaques and memorials does not detract from the wider amenity and enjoyment of public spaces.

2. Scope

2.1 This policy does not cover the erection of memorials, e.g. trees and benches, in city parks. The erection of memorials in city parks is subject to a separate policy.

2.2 This policy does not cover the erection or installation of public art works which are not primarily commemorative. Public art is a matter for the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee.

2.3 This policy does not cover the naming of new streets and developments. The naming of new streets and developments is done as part of the planning process.

3. Inclusion and diversity

¹ *Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028*, section 11.1.

3.1 In commemorating persons, organisations, locations, and events, the Council will take an inclusive and respectful approach.

3.2 In keeping with the aims of the City Development Plan, in considering proposals for commemoration, the Council will seek to redress the lack of balance as regards the memorialisation of women in the City.²

4. Procedures for naming and for plaques, memorials, and monuments.

4.1 The Commemorations & Naming Committee

4.1.1 Proposals for the naming of infrastructure, the renaming of streets, and the dedication of plaques and memorials, will be considered by the Commemorations & Naming Committee.

4.1.2 Such proposals must be made through the formal processes as adopted from time-to-time by the Committee.

4.1.3 In considering whether to commemorate a person, organisation, location, or event, the Commemorations & Naming Committee will take into account a number of criteria (see below).

4.2 Commemorating people

4.2.1 The Council may commemorate a person(s) who was born, or lived, in Dublin, or who had strong and/or enduring connections with the city.

4.2.2 The person(s) must have made an outstanding contribution to their own community, to their field of activity, or to the life or history of Dublin.

4.2.3 Proposals to commemorate living persons will not be considered. The person(s) must have died at least twenty years previously, or must have passed the centenary of their birth.

4.2.4 The extent to which the person is already commemorated in the city will be taken into account.

4.3 Commemorating groups or organisations

4.3.1 The Council may commemorate organisations or groups which were based in, or were active in, Dublin, or which had strong and/or enduring connections with the city.

4.3.2 The organisation or group must have made an outstanding contribution to their own community, to their field of activity, or to the life or history of Dublin.

4.3.3 The extent to which the organisation is already commemorated in the city will be taken into account

4.4 Commemorating events

4.4.1 The Council may commemorate events of significance to the city and its citizens, or

² *Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028*, objective CU059.

to a community within the city.

4.4.2 Except in exceptional circumstances, the event must have occurred at least twenty years previously.

4.4.3 The extent to which the event is already commemorated in the city will be taken into account

4.5 Commemorating locations

4.5.1 The Council may commemorate locations, or buildings, of significance to the city and its citizens, or to a community within the city.

5. The Commemorative Plaques Scheme

5.1. The Council operates a formal scheme under which it may erect commemorative plaques.

5.2 Proposals for the erection of plaques will be considered by the Commemorations & Naming Committee.

5.3 The Committee will only consider proposals for the erection of plaques under its own scheme and will not consider proposals for the erection of any plaque under any other scheme.

5.4 The plaques are designed to be affixed to a building/structure: the Committee will not consider proposals for these plaques to be embedded in the pavement.

5.5 The Council has commissioned a bespoke design, including layout and character count, for the plaques.

5.6 All commemorative plaques erected by the Council will use that design.

5.7 The wording of the plaque will be in Irish and English.

5.8 The final decision as to the wording that appears on the plaque will be made by the Committee.

5.9 Members of the public, and organisations and groups, may propose that a plaque be erected, such proposals to be made on the official website/form.

5.10 Proposals may also be made by elected members of Dublin City Council by way of motion adopted by the City Council, or by an area committee.

5.11 In cases where the person to be commemorated has living relatives, the agreement of those relatives to the erection of the plaque may be required.

5.12 In all cases the proposer is responsible for securing the written permission of the owner of the building on which the plaque is to be erected and the Committee will not

formally consider a proposal unless such permission has been submitted as part of the application.

5.13 The building/structure on which the plaque is to be erected must be easily accessible (without charge) by the public.

5.14 The facade of the building proposed for the plaque must be in appropriate condition and decorative order and should allow for the display of the plaque at a height which is readable.

5.15 All proposals to erect monuments, memorials or plaques will have to comply with planning regulations. The erection of a plaque on a protected structure requires written permission from Dublin City Council's Conservation/Planning Property Development Department.

5.16 Any proposal to erect a plaque on a building that is not protected but that is located within an Architectural Conservation Area will be referred for consultation to the Conservation Office (Planning Department) for clarification.

5.17 In cases where an application is made for the erection of a plaque on a building which has multiple historical associations, the extent of those associations may be taken into consideration when considering the application.

5.18 The Committee may seek further information from the proposer and in such cases will only formally consider the proposal when such information has been submitted.

5.19 The Committee may, as it sees fit, seek the advice of experts when considering proposals.

5.20 The Committee will consult the proposers as to the arrangements for installing and unveiling the plaque, but the final decision as to the arrangements will be made by the Committee.

5.21 In cases where the Committee has rejected a proposal, the proposer may appeal the decision only on the grounds that the Committee's consideration of a proposal was procedurally unfair, unreasonable, or inadequate.

5.22 Any such appeal must be made in writing to the Chairperson of the Committee within four weeks of issue of the decision of the Committee.

6. The erection of a memorial or a monument

6.1 Proposals for the erection of memorials and monuments will be considered by the Commemorations & Naming Committee.

6.2 A monument is deemed to be a three-dimensional structure of a high and low relief, of architectural or sculptural design.

6.3 The Council may accept for consideration proposals for the erection of commemorative monuments made through its formal application process.

6.4 Except in exceptional circumstances, the Council will not consider proposals for the erection of monuments which have already been designed and/or manufactured.

6.5 If the Council approves the erection of a monument, it will engage in a commissioning process for the design and manufacture of the monument.

6.6 Proposals for monuments which are approved by the Commemorations & Naming Committee will be referred to the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group for consideration and recommendation on their artistic merit and technical feasibility.

6.7 Except in exceptional circumstances, a person(s) should be commemorated with only one monument.

7. The naming of infrastructure

7.1 Proposals for the naming of major infrastructure will be considered by the Commemorations & Naming Committee.

7.2 For the purposes of this policy, infrastructure includes buildings, and bridges, and other structures.

7.3 Civic offices, civic utility facilities, fire brigade stations, and public libraries, will not be named after individuals or events, but will be named to reflect the locality.

8. Programmes of public engagement

8.1 The City Council may commemorate a person, organisation, location, or event, through programmes of public engagement.

8.2 Such programmes include those delivered by various sections of the Council (e.g. libraries, heritage services, archaeological services, Arts Office).

8.3 The Council may also, through a commemorative grants scheme, support organisations and groups to deliver commemorative projects and publications.

9. Revision of the policy

The Council may review and revise this policy as it may decide from time-to-time, but will do so at least once every five years.

10. Adoption

This policy was approved by Dublin City Council at its meeting held on 3 November 2025.