



ICMA 2026 Global Exchange March 22-27, 2026 | Ireland Agenda Overview

Day	Date	Activity	Page(s)
1	Sunday, March 22	Evening Reception	2
2	Monday, March 23	Visit to Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay	3-5
3	Tuesday, March 24	Visit to Limerick City and County	6-8
4	Wednesday, March 25	Visit to County Longford	9-10
5	Thursday, March 26	Visit to Croke Park (Dublin) ICMA Executive Board Meeting Open Global Engagement Committee Meeting	11-12
6	Friday, March 27	Visit to Northern Ireland (Newry, Mourne and Down District Council)	13



Day 1 – Sunday, March 22 – Evening Reception The Mansion House – Lord Mayor’s Residence

Attire: Business leaning – blazers/suits for men and dresses/pant suits for women

Time	Activity
4:45 pm	Depart from Alex Hotel
5:00 pm	Welcome Reception in the ‘ Oak Room ’ of the Mansion House , hosted by the Lord Mayor of Dublin (Ray McAdam) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Lord Mayor has kindly offered to provide canapes/bar/wine for the Reception The Lord Mayor and ICMA President to speak at this event.
8:00 pm	Guests depart from the Mansion House by bus and return to Alex Hotel

Day 2 – Monday, March 23 – Full Day Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay

Attire: Business casual with comfortable shoes and rain jackets/umbrellas

Time	Activity	Lead/DCC
8:30 am	Depart from Alex Hotel	
9:00 am	Guest arrival and registration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tea/coffee 	
9:20 – 9:30 am	Welcome by Anthony Flynn, <i>Assistant Chief Executive, Dublin City Council</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host introduction and overview of event 	Mary Mac Sweeney, <i>Executive Manager, Economic Development</i>
9:30 – 9:40 am	Introduction to Dublin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile of Dublin 	Ross Curley, <i>Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development – MC</i>
9:40 – 9:50 am	Evidence base Dublin Economic Monitor-Data Tools	Juliet Passmore, <i>Economist, Economic Development</i>
9:50 – 10:35 am	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dublin Transportation Plan • Public Realm Upgrades - Grow College Green • Active Travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brendan O’Brien, <i>Executive Manager, Traffic</i> • Marie Gavin, <i>Senior Executive Engineer</i> • Chris Manzira, <i>Director, Active Travel Programme</i>
10:35 – 10:45 am	Q&A	Facilitator TBC
10:45 – 11:05 am	Coffee break	
11:05 – 11:50 am	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Centre Regeneration • Dublin Economic Monitor • Festivals and Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karl Mitchell, <i>Executive Manager, City Co-ordination Office</i> • Darach O’Connor, <i>Executive Manager, Property Management,</i>



		<p><i>Vacancy and Dereliction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marese Feeney, Senior Executive Officer, Urban Regeneration & Development
11:50 am – 12:00 pm	Q&A	Ross Curley
12:00 – 12:45 pm	<p>Panel Discussion – Shaping Healthy and Resilient Towns and Cities</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cindy Steinhauser, Deputy City Administrator, City of Rochester, Minnesota, ICMA Midwest Regional Vice President • Dennis Keeley, Assistant Chief Executive, Climate & Urban Resilience • Celina Barrett, Assistant Chief Executive, Transportation and Public Realm 	Moderator: Tony Flynn
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Closing Remarks – Ray McAdam, Lord Mayor, Mike Land, ICMA Board President	
1:00 – 1:20 pm	Travel by bus to Smart Docklands	
1:20 – 2:00 pm	<p>Lunch at the Docklands- Liffey Room, CHQ Building</p> <p>Networking with Smart Cities and Smart Docklands Team</p>	
2:00 pm – 2:40 pm	Presentation on Smart Docklands and Academy of the Near Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary MacSweeney, Executive Manager, Economic Development • Nicola Graham, A/Senior Executive Officer, Smart Cities • Karolina Anielsky,

		<i>Programme Manager, Smart Docklands</i>
2:40 – 3:15 pm	Smart Docklands Innovation Walk (split into two groups)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claudia Bailey, <i>Technology and Engagement</i> • Karolina Anielsky, <i>Programme Manager, Smart Docklands</i>
3:15 – 5:00 pm	Tour of EPIC Emigrant Museum and Jeanie Johnson (split into two groups)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary MacSweeney, <i>Executive Manager, Economic Development</i> • Joanna Travers, <i>Administrative Officer, Economic Development</i>
5:00 pm	Delegation returns to Alex Hotel	

Day 3 – Tuesday, March 24 – Full Day Limerick City and County

Attire: Weather-ready smart casual – comfortable shoes with rain jackets/umbrellas

Time	Activity	Lead									
7:30 am	Meet in Alex Hotel lobby for bus pick-up										
10:30 am	Arrive at Limerick City and County Council, Merchants Quay, Limerick V94 EH90	Ciara Farrell, <i>Head of Corporate and Governance</i>									
10:30 – 10:45 am	Welcome remarks by Mayor John Moran, Príomh Chomhairleoir Councillor Catherine Slattery and Director General Dr. Pat Daly										
10:45 – 11:00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limerick City and County Council Overview – Change and Collaboration in Local Government 	Dr. Pat Daly, <i>Director General</i>									
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Discussion roundtables led by Senior Staff of Limerick City and County Council <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">Topic</th> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">Lead</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Council Budget and Expenditure *2 tables</td> <td>Finance Team led by <i>Matthew White, Head of Finance</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local Government role in Economic Development *1 table</td> <td rowspan="2">Brendan Troy, <i>Head of Economic and Tourism Development</i> and Mike Cantwell, <i>Head of Enterprise</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Economic Development through Designated Activity Companies (DACs) *1 table</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Housing *2 tables</td> <td>Housing Team led by <i>Vincent Murray, Director of Housing</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Topic	Lead	Council Budget and Expenditure *2 tables	Finance Team led by <i>Matthew White, Head of Finance</i>	Local Government role in Economic Development *1 table	Brendan Troy, <i>Head of Economic and Tourism Development</i> and Mike Cantwell, <i>Head of Enterprise</i>	Economic Development through Designated Activity Companies (DACs) *1 table	Social Housing *2 tables	Housing Team led by <i>Vincent Murray, Director of Housing</i>	
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	Infrastructure and Public Realm *1 table	Public Realm Team led by Patricia Liddy, <i>Director of Transportation, Mobility & Placemaking</i>
	Limerick Regeneration Framework *1 table	Led by Brian McCarthy, <i>Director of Regeneration, Community, Sport & Rural Development</i>
	Town Centre First – Rural Development *1 table	
	Climate Change *1 table	Kieran Lehane, <i>Director of Environment, Climate Action & Fire</i> and Aidan Finn, <i>Senior Engineer</i>
12:00 – 12:30 pm	Presentation and Q&A – Ryder Cup Project	Elaine O’Connor, <i>Ryder Cup Coordinator</i>
12:30 – 12:45 pm	Walk to King Johns Castle V94 FX25	Accompanied by Matthew White, <i>Head of Finance, Board member of Discover Limerick (DAC)</i>
12:45 – 2:00 pm	Lunch and tour of King John’s Castle – thank you/remarks by Mike Land, ICMA Board President	Accompanied by senior members of staff



2:30 – 3:45pm	Presentations on theme of inter-agency collaboration followed by Q&A in roundtables											
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Rural Development	Karen Burke, <i>Town Centre First Officer, Rural Development</i>											
3:45 pm	Closing Remarks – thank you/remarks by Betsy Keller, Chair, GEC											
4:00 ~ 6:10 pm	Return to bus and depart to Dublin											
	Dinner on Own											

Day 4 – Wednesday, March 25 – Full Day County Longford

Attire: Weather-ready smart casual – comfortable shoes with rain jackets/umbrellas

Time	Activity
7:30 am	Depart from Alex Hotel
10:00 am <i>Tearoom & Rotunda</i>	Arrive at Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre (N39 XT18) Uilleann pipes playing on arrival by local guide Noel Carberry Welcome Refreshments: <i>Locally produced scones/preserves with tea/coffee</i>
10:30 am <i>Rotunda</i>	Meet & Greet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal address by the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment Peter Burke TD & Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalization with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Kevin Boxer Moran TD & Cathaoirleach Longford County Council Cllr Garry Murtagh. • Remarks by Mike Land <p>Famine way – guides will lead the group to the rural banks of the Royal Canal/National Famine Way (1 kilometre /.6 miles walk) or to view the rewetted Corlea Bog (approx. 500 meters walk/.3 miles).</p>
11:00 am <i>For activities, party must divide into two groups</i>	Activity: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guided Tour of Interpretive Visitor Centre and viewing of Iron Age Trackway 2. Guided Walk or e-bike on looped trail around rewetted bog (stroll to edge/viewing area or full loop 4.5 km) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guide to bring to life the artifacts and the history that lives under the peat, explaining the industrial heritage and the diversification to tourism from burning of fossil fuels. <p><i>(E-bikes available from Just Transition Grant Aided Businesses for a guided loop of the rewetted bog with local guides for anyone able/interested)</i></p>
11:30 am	Time to swap to alternate activity if participants wish to do both
12:00 – 12:10 pm	Depart on bus for Ballymahon
12:10 pm	Arrive at Ballymahon Library (N39 E5C7) Goldsmith Room (1st floor – lift available)

12:15 pm	<p>Panel Discussion facilitated by Tina Dwyer, The Tourism Space On Just Transition and the local authority role as fulcrum between state agencies, local stakeholders, private and community interests.</p> <p><i>Participants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Marie Fitzgerald, EU Just Transition Fund Grant Recipient TBC • Michael Nevin, Head of Enterprise & Tourism, Longford County Council • Tad McGalliard, ICMA Managing Director, Innovation and Research • Failte Ireland: Grainne Cornally, Head of EU Just Transition Fund) • Bord na Móna: Lisa Kealy, Program Manager - Public Good Projects <p>Format: Introduction from Tina, 1-2 questions to each panellist followed by interaction from the floor.</p>
1:15 pm	Address by Daragh Feighery, Center Parcs – Tourism development
1:25 – 1:30 pm	Walk to Cooney’s Hotel, Lower Main Street, Ballymahon N39 C3X4
1:35 pm	Lunch – Cooney’s Hotel – remarks from Mike Land
2:35 pm	Depart on bus for drive to Longford
3:00 pm	<p>Arrive at St Mel’s Cathedral, Longford N39 PC58</p> <p>Activity: Guided Tour <i>Tour Guide:</i> Eamon Brennan, Longford Age Friendly Ambassador and Fr James (TBC) with meet and greet from elected representatives of Longford County Council. Some officials might join for the guided tour if they couldn't be present in the morning.</p>
4:00 pm	Presentation of gift packs and photo opportunity
4:15 pm	Depart for Dublin
~7:00 pm	Arrive in Dublin
	Dinner on Own

Day 5 – Thursday, March 26 – Full Day Croke Park (Dublin)

Attire: Business – blazers/coat and tie for men and dresses/pant suits for women

Time	Activity – Global Exchange	Activity – ICMA Executive Board	Activity – CCMA Board
8:15 am		Depart from Alex Hotel	
9:00 am		ICMA Board Meeting ⁱ – Heroes Suite (6th floor)	CCMA Executive and Board Meetings – Cusack Suite
9:30 am	Depart from Alex Hotel		
10:00 – 10:45 am	Tour of museum		
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Open Global Engagement Committee Meeting – Ashe Suite		
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Combined group lunch		
2:00 – 4:30 pm	<p>CCMA & ICMA Global Exchange Seminar – MC Jonathan Healey</p> <p><i>Key themes:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Local Democracy Taskforce – Presentation and Panel Discussion <p>On 4 June 2025, the Irish Government approved the establishment of a Local Democracy Taskforce which will finalize a program for the reform and strengthening of local government in Ireland. The establishment of the Taskforce is a key commitment in the Programme for Government. The Terms of Reference for the Taskforce, agreed by Government, set out an ambitious and detailed work program, which it is expected will give rise to a series of reforms in the local government sector.</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICMA Board President, Mike Land, City Manager, City of Coppell, Texas • Lungile Dlamini, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council of Manzini, Eswatini, ICMA International Regional Vice President • AnnMarie Farrelly, CCMA Nominee on Local Democracy Taskforce & Chief Executive Fingal County Council • Pauline Mulligan, Chief Executive, Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) 		



	<p>2. Mastercard Geo Insights Platform for Local Government Sector – Presentation and Panel Discussion – Presentation and Q&A</p> <p>Mastercard under the provisions of a Framework established through the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) have been working in collaboration with the Local Authorities in Ireland to develop a Local Government Retail Spend Data Platform. This platform leverages the power of Mastercard data and advanced modelling techniques to report on total retail spending across all payment types which will provide transformative insights into the retail economy at National, Regional and local level across Ireland. This data can be utilized to better plan and inform our Tourism offerings, Placemaking, Night-Time Economy, Town Centre development and other key strategic areas.</p> <p>3. IPB/Risk Framework</p> <p>Insurance provider for local authorities for 100 years. Fireside chat on risk management and mitigation in a complex and evolving environment.</p>
~5:00 pm	Arrive back at Alex Hotel
7:15 pm	Dinner hosted by CCMA/IPB – Alex Hotel – remarks by Mike Land

Day 6 – Friday, March 27 – Full Day Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Northern Ireland

Attire: Weather-ready smart casual – comfortable shoes and rain jackets/umbrellas

Time	Activity
7:30 am	Depart from Alex Hotel
9:30 am	Arrive Killeavy Castle Estate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tea/Coffee and scones on arrival
10:00 am	Presentation/Open discussion Local Government in Northern Ireland: The role of the Local Authority Cross Border Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing how cross-border activity has developed over time; how councils have worked together on economic issues and lessons-learned for bringing communities together Roundtable Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtables with chief executive officers and local government staff led by Solace Northern Ireland (NI) branch on shared challenges and solutions across local governments in Northern Ireland, in the US, and beyond
12:00 pm	Light lunch in Killeavy Castle
12:30 pm	Depart for visit to Cross border Greenway and Narrow Water Bridge Site (TBC)
1:00 pm	Site visit and presentation on Narrow Water Bridge and Cross Border Greenway
2:00 ~ 2:30 pm	Depart for Killeavy Castle
3:00 pm	Garden and Estate Tour – Head chef from Killeavy Castle The Castle menus make extensive use of foraged ingredients from woodlands on the estate, as well as flowers and herbs from our Walled Garden. They even blend their own Killeavy Estate tea, which is a firm favourite with guests.
3:30 pm	Tea/Coffee prior to departure – Thank you remarks by Betsy Keller, GEC Chair
4:00 pm	Depart Killeavy Castle to Dublin
	Dinner on Own



INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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ⁱ Unique to the Ireland exchange as it was also a full ICMA Executive Board meeting.