



**NOTIFICATION TO ATTEND MEETING OF THE FINANCE SPC
TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
AND VIA ZOOM
ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2024 AT 2.30 PM**

WEBCASTING NOTICE

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014, the Data Protection Act 1988 and 2018, General Data Protection Regulations (EU) 2016/679 and the Defamation Act 2009. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the legislation.

Therefore, by entering the Council Chamber/Meeting Room and using the seats around the meeting tables, public gallery etc., you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Chief Executives Department on Extn. 2101 or DD (01) 222 2100.

AGENDA

THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2024

		PAGE
1	Draft Minutes of Finance SPC meeting held on 16th November, 2023.	3 - 4
2	Matters Arising	
3	Correspondence	
a)	Reply from Minister McGrath to Cllr McGrattan re Visitor Accommodation Charge 14th November 2023	5 - 6
b)	Memo to Frank D'arcy from Kathy Quinn re Report on Housing Rents and Arrears Management 27th November 2023	7
c)	Letter to Lord Mayor from Cllr Seamas McGrattan re availability of staff and information flow to Elected Members 20th November 2023	8
d)	Letter to Minister O'Brien from Cllr McGrattan re National Differential Rent Scheme 7th December 2023	9 - 10
e)	Reply from Minister O'Brien re National Differential Rent Scheme 15th December 2023	11 - 12

4	Presentation on Housing Rents Collection	13 - 21
5	Report on Update on Community Wealth Building	22 - 24
6	Report on Update on Crowdfund Dublin City	25 - 34
7	Audit Committee Minutes of meeting of 19th October 2023	35 - 37
8	A.O.B.	
9	Next meeting Thursday 21st March, 2024 at 2.30pm	

Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held 16th November 2023

1. **Draft minutes of the Finance SPC meeting of 21st September, 2023.**

The draft minutes were proposed by Cllr Dermot Lacey and seconded by Cllr. Paddy McCartan.

The minutes were adopted.

2. **Matters Arising.**

3. **Correspondence.**

Noted.

- Members discussed the correspondence received from Minister McGrath regarding the Visitor Accommodation Charge:
 - Dublin City Council is not looking for a diversion of funds from other areas but a new funding process which should have been taken into consideration
 - Agreed to keep pushing the issue with Government
- Members commented on the letter to the Secretary General re the LPT Baseline Review and noted with disappointment the failure to reply. Cllr Lacey advised that he will be attending a Seanad discussion on Local Government and will raise the issue.
- Regarding letter to Minister O'Brien re Review of Housing for All and proposals for a National Rent Scheme:
 - Members agreed there was no logic in having A National Rent Scheme in order to ensure the collection of rent and that a direct debit system would be beneficial to both the tenant and the Council.

Agreed to write to the Department and ask them to explain their rationale that a national rent policy is needed to introduce a system that enables a direct deduction system for rents.

4. **Report 18 – 2023 – Report on New Legislation governing the collection of Commercial Rates by Fanchea Gibson, Senior Executive Officer, Rates Office.** **Noted.**

The Committee welcomed the attendance of Fanchea Gibson who presented the report on the new legislation and the how it would affect the collection of rates. Members discussed the new changes and thanked Fanchea for the report.

5. **Report 19 – 2023 Presentation on the Changing Working Technology Environment by Brian Curtis, Head of IS.** **Noted**

The Committee welcomed the attendance of Brian Curtis who provided a presentation on the current desktop environment, drivers for change and the new technical environment and iCloud.

Members discussed the contents of the presentation and thanked Brian for his presentation.

6. **Audit Committee Minutes of meeting of 14th September, 2023.**
Noted.

7. **A.O.B.**

Accessibility and availability of information

Next meeting on Thursday, 17th January 2024 at 2.30pm.

This issue of accessibility to staff and information flow to Elected Members was discussed and considered to have reduced notably in recent years. This includes meetings with staff and delays with telephone calls and face to face meetings. The Civic Offices reception area was considered unsuitable being unwelcoming and sometimes crowded.

Agreed to: Write to the Lord Mayor requesting that this issue be considered at the next meeting of the Corporate Policy Group.

8. Next meeting Thursday 18th January 2024 at 2.30pm.

Signed: Councillor Séamas McGrattan
Chairperson

Date: 16th November, 2023

Members Present

Cllr Séamas McGrattan
Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Mary Callaghan
Cllr Anthony Connaghan
Cllr Fiona Connolly
Cllr Christy Burke
Cllr Paddy McCartan
Cllr Darcy Lonergan
Cllr Daryl Barron
Dr. Caroline McMullan, DCU
Aidan Sweeney, IBEC
Philip O'Callaghan, PPN
Sohini De, Dublin Chamber of Commerce

Officials

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance
Mary Curran, Finance Secretariat
Sophie Kelly, Finance Secretariat
Zoe Flood, Finance Secretariat
Fintan Moran, Management Accounting Unit
Fanchea Gibson, Rates Office
Brian Curtis, Head of IS

Apologies

Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste
Cllr Nial Ring
Eric Fleming, ICTU
Alan Robinson, Docklands Business Forum

Zoe Flood

From: Ministers Office <mo-finance@corr.cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: 14 November 2023 10:42
To: finoff@dublincity.ie
Subject: FIN-MO-05106-2023

Our Ref: FIN-MO-05106-2023

Cllr Séamas McGrattan
Chairperson Finance Strategic Policy Committee
Dublin City Council
[finoff@dublincity.ie]

Dear Cllr McGrattan

The Minister for Finance, Mr Michael McGrath TD, has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence in relation to a proposed Visitor Accommodation Charge.

As you will be aware there are a range of policy issues which arise from any new levy or charge which would need to be considered before a proposal could be discussed by Government.

Where a policy change in relation to Local Government Finances is sought by a local authority then in the first instance the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage would consider the need for such a proposal. As you will be aware, in terms of Local Government Finance, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has responsibility for the financial well-being and effective financial management and accountability of local authorities.

Any policy in this area would also need appropriate input from the Departments of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform and of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Officials in the Department of Finance will also provide any necessary input as a policy in this area was developed.

As you note in your correspondence, any change in this area would require legislation. If Government were to make a policy decision to proceed with a Visitor Accommodation Charge then the required legislation would form part of the normal Budget and Finance Bill process.

I hope this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely

Niamh Kavanagh
Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance

The information contained in this email (and in any attachments) is confidential and is designated solely for the attention and use of the intended recipient(s). If you are not an intended recipient of this email, you must not use, disclose, copy, distribute or retain this message or any part of it. If you have received this email in error, please notify me immediately and delete all copies of this email from your computer system(s). Please note that this email and any reply thereto may be subject to a request for release pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

Tá an fhaisnéis atá sa ríomhphost seo (agus in aon cheangaltáin) faoi rún agus is don fhaighteoir/do na faighteoirí beartaithe é agus é/iad sin amháin. Mura tusa an faighteoir beartaithe, níor cheart duit an teachtaireacht seo ná aon chuid di a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh ná a choinneáil. Sa chás gur trí earráid a fuair tú an ríomhphost seo, tabhair fógra dom láithreach faoi sin agus scríos gach cóip den ríomhphost seo ó do ríomhchóra(i)s. Tabhair faoi deara go bhféadfaidh an ríomhphost seo agus aon fhreagra air bheith faoi réir iarraidh ar a eisiúint de bhun an Achta um Shaoráil Faisnéise

Meamram

Memo



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Oifig an Cheannasaí Airgeadais, An Roinn Airgeadais
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Éire

Office of the Head of Finance, Finance Department,
Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Ireland
T. 01 222 2102/3 E. finoff@dublincity.ie

To: Frank D'arcy, A. Assistant Chief Executive, Housing and Community Services
Department

From: Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance

Re: Report on Housing Rents Collection and Arrears Management

Date: 27th November, 2023.

The Chairman of the Finance Strategic Policy Committee Cllr Seamas McGrattan has requested a report be provided to the next meeting of the Finance Strategic Policy Committee on the matter of Housing Rents Collection and Arrears management. The meeting is scheduled to held on Thursday 18th January at 2.30pm in City Hall. Please provide a report no later than Wednesday 10th January 2024.



Ardmhéara, Cllr Daithí de Róiste
Mansion House,
Dawson Street,
Dublin 2.

20th November, 2023.

Ardmhéara,

I write to you regarding a matter that was discussed at the meeting of the Finance Strategic Policy Committee held on Thursday 16th November.

It was broadly considered that accessibility to staff and information flow to elected members has reduced notably in recent years. It was held that it has become increasingly difficult to secure a meeting with staff. The experience of SPC members is that delays are routinely encountered, to a greater degree than is acknowledged by DCC. In particular it was expressed that the Civic Offices seemed impenetrable in terms of access for both elected members and the public. The area at the atrium, ground floor block 4 was rated as not welcoming, crowded for public waiting to be dealt with by staff at the reception desk.

The SPC members asked that this matter be considered by the Corporate Policy Group at its next meeting.

I am aware that the agenda for Friday's meeting has issued but would appreciate if you would agree to raise this under Any Other Business.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Seamas McGrattan

Cllr Séamas McGrattan
Chairperson
Finance Strategic Policy Committee
Dublin City Council

Oifig an Cheannasaí Airgeadais, An Roinn Airgeadais,
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Éire

Office of the Head of Finance, Finance Department,
Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Ireland
T. 01 222 2102/3 E. finoff@dublincity.ie

Minister Darragh O'Brien T.D.,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Custom House,
Dublin 1.

CC Graham Doyle, Secretary General, DHLGH

7th December, 2023.

RE: National Differential Rent Scheme

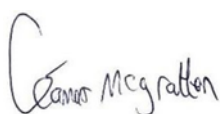
Dear Minister O'Brien,

I write to you on the matter of the deduction of differential rents from the social welfare transfer payments of social housing tenants. This provision is in place for some time in other jurisdictions, operating effectively. Supporting those living in poverty to avoid arrears and create a stable approach to personal financial management, thus avoiding debts, is documented to be beneficial in developing the life skill of personal budgeting. It has been a matter discussed over time by Dublin City Council's Finance Strategic Policy Committee. The discussion held by the SPC has focused on mechanisms and approaches that can be introduced to assist Dublin City Councils social housing tenants.

Previous correspondence on this matter from you and your Department referenced that the introduction of the facility for direct deduction of differential rents due from social welfare transfer payments of social housing tenants is dependent on the introduction of a national differential rents scheme. At the meeting of the Finance SPC held on 16th November, the SPC members sought to have an explanation for the rationale of the referenced dependency on a national differential rents scheme in order to introduce a direct deduction facility.

I look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Clr Séamas McGrattan,

Mary Curran

From: Minister O'Brien Office <ministerobrien-housing@corr.cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: 15 December 2023 11:28
To: finoff@dublincity.ie
Subject: HPLG-MOBO-04548-2023
Attachments: HPLG-MOBO-04548-2023.msg

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

15th December 2023

RE: HPLG-MOBO-04548-2023

Dear Ms. Curran,

I refer to your correspondence dated 8 November and 7 December 2023, and to previous correspondence regarding the issue of rent arrears being accrued by tenants of Dublin City Council.

Regarding your query concerning the rationale of the dependency on a national rent scheme in order to introduce a direct deduction facility, the uncommenced Section 53 of the [Housing \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2014](#) defines rent as:

“(a) rent payable by a tenant to a housing authority under section 31 of the Act of 2009, or

(b) rent contribution payable by a person to a housing authority under section 25 of the Act of 2009 or under section 44 ,

and references to rent arrears shall be construed accordingly;”

The uncommenced section 31 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 provides for the introduction of a standardised national scheme. Therefore, as it currently stands, any system of direct deduction under section 53 of the 2014 Act can only be made following the introduction of a national rent scheme made under section 31 of the 2009 Act.

The Programme for Government and Housing for All have committed to developing proposals for a standardised, national local authority social housing rent model. The objective is to develop and implement a model that provides the best blend between fairness, progressivity and sustainability.

The Department has completed an initial scoping exercise to determine the focus of the review, with an emphasis on achieving the best blend of equity, progressivity and sustainability and on protecting those on lowest incomes. This is a complex area and requires detailed and careful analysis. The Department's view is that further work is required to consider the practical application of such a scheme in the context of other reform package measures, as well as the broader circumstances of social housing funding programmes and the cost of living issues at this time. The [Housing for All Action Plan Update and Q3 2023 Progress Report](#) has a target completion date of Q4 2024 for the review of the differential rent system.

Proposals will be submitted for consideration by the Minister in due course and a decision to implement a standardised national rents scheme will be considered thereafter, as appropriate.

I trust this answers your queries.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Redmond
Private Secretary

PRESENTATION TO FINANCE SPC

Page 13

18th January 2024

Housing Rent Collection and Arrears Recovery

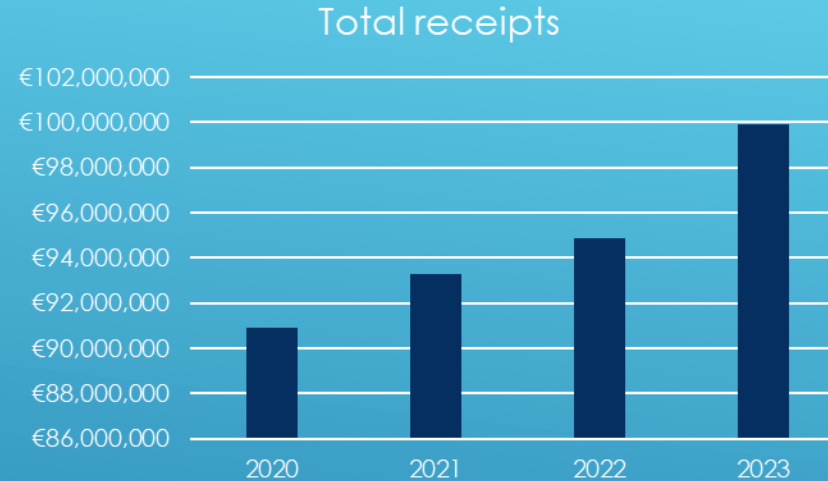
THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE RENT COLLECTION AND ARREARS RECOVERY SECTION IS TO MAXIMISE RENT COLLECTION AND MINIMISE RENT ARREARS

Overview as at 31st December 2023:

- ▶ Rent receipts increased by 10% between 2020 and 2023
- ▶ Number of tenancies: 25,742 (25,205 in 2022 and 25,024 in 2021)
- ▶ Total number of occupants housed in all properties: 64,995
- ▶ Average weekly rent charge: €79; single occupancy: €48.56; families: €94.00
- ▶ Total Rent arrears : €38,137,331.11
- ▶ Credit on accounts: €4,948,459.50

Rent Receipts Analysis 2020-2023

Year	Total receipts
2023	€99,912,582
2022	€94,871,927
2021	€93,288,484
2020	€90,896,920



10% increase in rent receipts over a four year period due to:

- ❑ Increase in tenancies from 24,700 (end 2020) to 25,742 (end 2023)
- ❑ Increase in average weekly rent from €70.41 (end 2020) to €79 at (2023)
- ❑ Focus on engaging tenants in paying weekly rent as a priority

Rent Assessment Overview 2020-2023

Year	Number of assessments
2023	36,653
2022	21,968
2021	23,229
2020	24,812

Achieved objective of reducing review cycle to one year by:

- Recruiting and upskilling new staff
- Accessing Local Authority Verification Application (LAVA)

Benefits:

- More efficient review cycle maximises debit
- Customer pays rent in line with recent income (affordability)
- Timely reviews benefit DCC and Customer

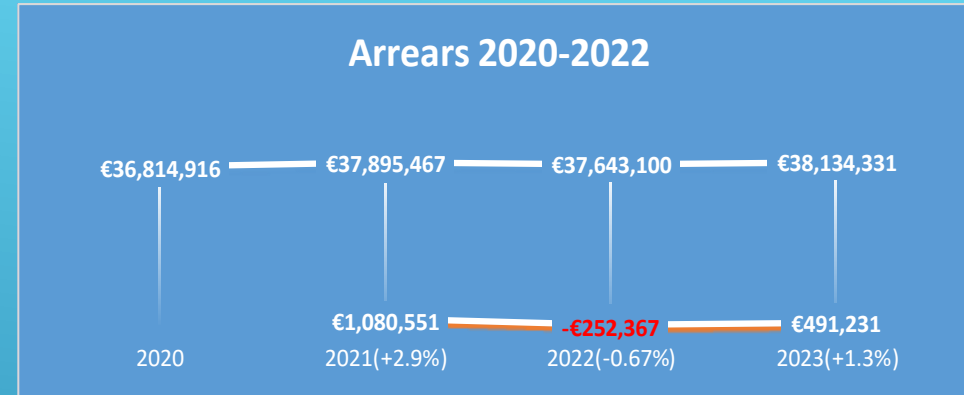
Payment method analysis

Method of payment	% of accounts 2023	% of accounts 2022
Bill Pay	52.3%	49.2%
Direct Debit	23.9%	25.7%
Household Budget	12.1%	10.7%
Internet payment	9.7%	12.4%
Wages/Salary	1.4%	2%
Customer Services call payment	0.6%	0.3%

- All new tenants must sign up to either household budget or direct debit and pay two weeks rent in advance
- All existing tenants in receipt of social welfare via An Post encouraged to pay via Household Budget
- Permission required to cancel Household Budget – withheld if tenant is in arrears

Analysis of Rent Arrears 2020-2023

Year	Balance	Variance	Percentage +/-
2020	€36,814,916		
2021	€37,895,467	€1,080,551	+2.94%
2022	€37,643,100	-€252,367	-0.67%
2023	€38,134,331	€491,231	+1.30%



Balance of arrears is cumulative over many years – significant legacy debt.

Status of rent accounts at end 2023:

- ❑ 69% compliant: Action – monitor and intervene early.
- ❑ 21% in rescheduling agreements: Action – monitor and intervene early. Tenants afforded multiple opportunities to engage in rescheduling agreements
- ❑ 10% irregular payments: Action - arrears recovery. Tenants who can pay and won't pay subject to legal proceedings as per Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014

Monitoring of accounts

Arrears band	Number of Accounts	% of overall accounts
€500 – €2,000	3,371	13.10%
€2,000 – €7,000	3,141	12.21%
€7,000 – €11,000	842	3.27%
€11,000 – €19,000	617	2.39%
€19,000 – €27,000	130	0.50%
€27,000 +	44	0.17%

- Monitor all accounts
- Early intervention when payments are missed
- Resume weekly payments/ Rescheduling Agreements
- Escalation – Arrears Recovery Process
- Legal Proceedings-Tenancy warning; Court; Repossession

Page 19

Legal Action taken 2023:	2023	2022
Number of Tenancy Warnings issued	193	189
Number of cases listed for court hearings	154	91
Number of Orders for Possession granted	34	17
Cases settled (Order for Possession granted – warrant not executed)	14 (6 by lump sum payments totalling €81,000 and 8 DRNs totalling €197,354.	7 lump sum payments - €65,000
No. of Evictions	5	3
2024:		
Number of files with Law Department	143	
Number of cases with Court dates (Law Dept will continue to request dates through the year)	93	
Number of Orders for Possession granted in 2023 that will expire in 2024	24	

Actions taken in 2023

- Comprehensive review of the Arrears Recovery Procedure completed.
- Debt management training delivered to Executive Housing Officers.
- Online self-service balance enquiry available via Citizen Hub.
- New staff recruited and upskilled
- Ongoing work on upgrade of Housing IT System to increase functionality and reporting capability (OHMS to NEC Housing Project).
- Close engagement with Allocations/Areas/Maintenance/Welfare to expedite issues
- New lettings: Rent Staff meet with all new tenants and inform them of their rent obligations, new tenants must sign up to household budget/direct debit and pay two weeks rent in advance.

Achievements 2023

- Target of 3% increase in rent receipts for 2023 was achieved and exceeded by 2.3% as increase was 5.3%
- Assessment/review cycle reduced from over 2 years to one year.
- Additional staff recruited and upskilled
- Strengthened relationship with MABs. MABs advise all tenants to pay rent as a priority. 38 Debt Relief Notices were issued in 2023 under the Personal Insolvency legislation 2012. Under the terms of this legislation, once a person qualifies for the DRN, the entirety of the debt is written off. Once in a lifetime access to DRN.

Measures to improve collection rates in 2024

- Deliver on IT upgrade to facilitate better monitoring, reporting and analysis
- Employ additional communication tools e.g. automatic, regular sms/e-mail reminders for tenants
- Professional analysis of information – recommendations for more effective use of resources
- Examine / learn from organisations with similar roles
- Continue to build on progress to date



Oifis an Cheannasaí Airgeadais, An Roinn Airgeadais
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Éire

Office of the Head of Finance, Finance Department,
Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Ireland

T. 01 222 2102/3 E. finoff@dublincity.ie

Report to the Finance Strategic Policy Committee Update on Community Wealth Building (CWB) Phase 2

Background

Community Wealth Building (CWB) was adopted by Dublin City Council at its meeting in October 2021. Community Wealth Building is an initiative of the Finance Strategic Policy Committee. Dublin City Council has engaged the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to assist in the implementation and mainstreaming of CWB. CWB is an approach to making changes which will result in wealth building opportunities for those individuals and communities who are marginalised with less options than others. Moving towards equity in opportunities for employment, access to facilities, lifestyle opportunities are all central tenets of CWB.

CWB Priorities for 2024

The CWB Steering Group, supported by CLES, identified five key priorities for 2024 as:

1. Deepening awareness and understanding of CWB
2. Engaging anchor institutions
3. Growing values-based recruitment
4. Supporting the implementation of social value
5. Piloting in Cherry Orchard

Deepening awareness and understanding of CWB

Deepening awareness and understanding of CWB across Dublin City Council is likely to support the delivery of deeper impact. It is planned to deliver a series of training workshops to Dublin City Council colleagues, tailored to individual Dublin City Council departments setting out the relevance of CWB to each departments work. This training may have more relevance in some departments than others, yet there is value in building awareness of the concept of CWB across all staff.

A set of resources will be developed to work with Dublin City Council's online training platform to be deployed as part of all new staff's on-boarding process. This online learning module will be an interactive, video and quiz-based learning module, building CWB understanding and awareness in all future recruits. A simplified version would be developed for frontline staff.

Departmental leads will be identified and supported to develop a deeper understanding of how CWB principles could be developed within each department. With support these leads will develop internal departmental plans and would then convene into a CWB departmental working group.

Dublin City Council Comms Team will be supported to understand the existing mechanisms for generating, presenting and sharing information about the activity of the council to both internal and external audiences, so that Dublin City Council can best share and build understanding of the impact of CWB.

Engaging anchor institutions

It is planned to take two approaches to engaging with anchor institutions. Firstly, Dublin City Council will identify two or three anchor institutions where it is considered there will be a positive reception to CWB principles. Dublin City Council will engage on CWB concepts and ideas, giving examples of where anchor institutions elsewhere have engaged in similar activity. It is likely that a repeat or cascade of this information to multiple contacts within the institution to develop sufficient buy in to progress the conversation.

Secondly, Dublin City Council will host an event for a large group of anchor organisations where they would learn of Dublin City Council's experiences to date, with CLES providing a presentation of examples from elsewhere, promoting collaborative approaches to tackling the challenges the City.

Once a group of interested anchor institutions is established, Dublin City Council will convene the group to develop an understanding of shared challenges and priorities, seeking to identify a space for collective action.

Growing values-based recruitment

Dublin City Council has successfully piloted a values-based and geographically targeted approach to the recruitment of general operatives. A second pilot programme is planned for Cherry Orchard. A number of Dublin City Council departments have expressed an interest in the approach, which may enable a scaling up of the second phase pilot.

Dublin City Council will be supported in 'telling the story' of this approach, why it's different and the impact it has on the lives of those it engages with (both from an employer and employee perspective). It is strongly believed there is value in documenting the approach qualitatively. This will demonstrate the impact of CWB quickly and also build understanding for wider anchor institutions seeking to adopt or engage with any future scaled up programme. Much of this work has been dependant on key individuals, and to sustain or embed this approach in policy will require a wider group of people to understand its value.

In addition to telling the human story of the approach, Dublin City Council will work to establish a quantitative approach to evidencing the impact of values-based recruitment over time. The HR department will be supported to develop a mechanism for tracking and monitoring staff recruited via this values-based approach vs general recruitment so that a measure of retention and progression can be developed. The development of a repeatable reporting process will support future evaluation.

Support implementation of social value

Dublin City Council has commissioned a spend analysis which will be reviewed so as to inform as to what the Dublin business base looks like, the relative contributions of the private sector/social economy, how procurement spend categories map onto the existing business base, in which sectors local businesses are and are not engaging with public procurement and any differences between departments in terms of local spend and support for the social economy.

It is accepted that public procurement processes can make access to supply chain opportunities difficult for small businesses and social economy businesses who often lack the

dedicated capacity for business development that larger businesses can draw upon. In understanding these barriers in greater detail, with a focus on sectors which emerge from the gap analysis, Dublin City Council will be supported to undertake a procurement documentation and process review, involving interviews with procurement and legal staff. Dublin City Council will engage with SME's and social economy representatives such as the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, IBEC, ICTU and social economy representation from support bodies such as Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, Irish Social Enterprise Network. Following this review and engagement process, Dublin City Council will take on new approaches on the demand side, providing advice to procurers and commissioners on how to address barriers to the engagement of SMEs and the social economy in public sector supply chains. Also Dublin City Council will support SMEs and social economy businesses to engage with public sector procurement, which could include a series of seminars, video guides, and written resources.

So as to progress the use of social value, Dublin City Council will support the Social Value Framework on three live procurement exercises. CLES will work with Dublin City Council to identify three appropriate live procurement exercises with which the Social Value Framework could be applied. This will involve working directly with commissioners to design the three services and with procurers to embed the most appropriate questions and clauses into the tender documentation. CLES will support Dublin City Council in providing advice around the evaluation of the tender responses and developing approaches to contract monitoring. Dublin City Council will also explore how other cities across the EU have embedded social considerations into the design and tendering of similar contracts.

Piloting in Cherry Orchard

Cherry Orchard has been identified as a pilot area in Dublin to bring together the pillars of CWB. The Cherry Orchard Implementation Board is tasked with delivering a focus on this community. This pilot focus will involve engaging key stakeholder groups already operating with a focus on Cherry Orchard such the Implementation Board, engaging with Cherry Orchard Anchors (e.g., Wheatfield prison, schools and Iarnród Éireann), engaging with Cherry Orchard local community groups and local businesses. A programme of targeted recruitment is already planned for Cherry Orchard and awareness of this will be developed with locally based anchors who may be able to support and/or join the programme.

Summary

There is a comprehensive programme of work planned for the next 12 to 18 months intended to increase awareness of, participation in and benefits of Community Wealth Building.

Kathy Quinn
Head of Finance
With responsibility for ICT

18th January 2024



Oifis an Cheannasaí Airgeadais, An Roinn Airgeadais
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Éire

Office of the Head of Finance, Finance Department,
Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Ireland

T. 01 222 2102/3 E. finoff@dublincity.ie

Report to the Finance Strategic Policy Committee Crowdfund Dublin City

Background

The Finance Strategic Policy Committee has championed and supported the introduction of Civic Crowdfunding to Dublin City Council over recent years. This has involved market engagement and evaluation, an open competitive tender process and selection. This project has been led by the Finance Department with a small group including staff from Procurement, Information Systems, Sports and Recreation and Housing and Community. Dublin City Council awarded a contract to Spacehive, a UK based provider of a civic crowdfunding platform. Crowdfund Dublin City went live in Q3 2023, accessed through a microsite on the Spacehive platform. Briefing sessions were held for the benefit of Elected Members, Dublin City Council staff, external stakeholders and potential project creators. Crowdfund Dublin City was formally launched by Ardmheara Daithi de Róiste on 3rd October in the Oak Room of the Mansion House.

Project Objectives

The primary objective of the introduction of civic crowdfunding is the creation of opportunities for community engagement at a local context. Building on connections made into the future is also a key aim. In addition to benefiting communities, the project must protect and safeguard pledges made of whatever value, during the crowdfunding process.

Crowdfund Pitches

The submission deadline for pitches for funding was 29th November. Applications were regularly assessed by Dublin City Council during the funding window. A social media campaign encouraged participation. Seven submitted projects are at the submitted for verification / verified / fundraising stages. The projects focus on a range of activities from gardening to bio-diversity to local history to community development to sports and healthy communities. (See Table 1).

Table 1 Projects and Purpose

	Project	Purpose
1	All Quiet in the Tents	Local History leading to a publication
2	Ballyrun	Encourage greater participation in running
3	Crumlin and the way it was	Local History account republished
4	Grow Food & Friendships	Food resilience and community development
5	Renovation of community garden	Bring existing community garden back to use
6	Swifties Tower Suites	Encourage bio-diversity through bird life
7	The Casual-TEE Ward	Clothing recycling

Locations of Projects

The seven projects are spread across Dublin City (See table 2). Four of the seven projects are located on the Northside while three are located on the Southside. The submission deadline for pitches was 29th November. Applications were regularly assessed by Dublin City Council during the funding window. A social media campaign encouraged participation. Seven submitted projects are at the submitted for verification / verified / fundraising stages. The projects focus on a range of activities from gardening to bio-diversity, local history to community development, sports and healthy communities. (See Table 2).

Table 2 Location of Projects

	Project	Location
1	All Quiet in the Tenters	The Tenters, Dublin 8
2	Ballyrun	Ballymun, Dublin 11
3	Crumlin and the way it was	Crumlin, Dublin 12
4	Grow Food & Friendships	Cabra, Dublin 7
5	Renovation of community garden	Donnycarney, Dublin 5
6	Swifties Tower Suites	Prospect Square, Dublin 9
7	The Casual-TEE Ward	Crumlin, Dublin 12

Proposed Dublin City Council Pledge

As part of the submission process, all pitches have identified the full expected incurred project costs. Full project costs range from €1,093.45 to €11,146.83. It is proposed that Dublin City Council will make a pledge of 50% of total costs to each project. Individual project values and the total Dublin City Council commitment at €16,719.40 is set out below (See Table 3). The awarding of grants is a Reserved Function. It is proposed that should the Finance SPC agree to the pledges from Dublin City Council (Table 3), a report be brought to the City Council seeking agreement to the payments as listed. Further detail of each project is provided in Appendix A to this report.

Table3 Proposed Dublin City Council Pledge

	Project	Total Cost	Dublin City Council Proposed Pledge
1	All Quiet in the Tenters	€ 5,098.90	€ 2,549.45
2	Ballyrun	€ 1,291.45	€ 645.73
3	Crumlin and the way it was	€ 5,650.87	€ 2,825.44
4	Grow Food & Friendships	€ 11,146.83	€ 5,573.42
5	Renovation of community garden	€ 5,740.08	€ 2,870.04
6	Swifties Tower Suites	€ 1,093.45	€ 546.73
7	The Casual-TEE Ward	€ 3,417.18	€ 1,708.59
	Total	€ 33,438.76	€ 16,719.40

Kathy Quinn

Head of Finance

with responsibility for ICT

18th January 2024

Appendix A – Confirmed pitches

1. All Quiet in The Tenters

About

The Tenters area is located in the south central inner city area of Dublin. Originally known as the Fairbrothers Fields Housing Scheme, this was the first Tenant Purchase housing scheme of the newly formed Free State, to be built by the Corporation of Dublin 1922-1924.

A heritage group of people who are interested in the social history of The Tenters will write, edit, compile and arrange printing of one thousand copies of a 28 page booklet. The booklets will be distributed by hand to each house in The Tenters area and selected adjacent streets, all within the Dublin 8 area.

We intend to produce a collection of these booklets, each one with a different theme. We will encourage participation from residents past and present to ensure an all-inclusive representation of the Tenters for all to enjoy. This will also provide a wider audience and reflect the changes throughout the 100 year lifetime of our area.

What we'll deliver:

- A 28 page booklet containing a number of short essays related to The Tenters.
- Contents will include contributions from local writers of all levels.
- A non-profit project: Project managed, edited, proofed and distributed by members of the Tenters Heritage group.

Why it's a great idea:

Increase awareness among residents of the rich and varied history and importance of The Tenters area. More personal, neighbour to neighbour communication will be encouraged to promote a sense of community and pride in The Tenters area as well as Dublin 8. The essays will inform and promote a greater sense of place.

As a group we have produced and distributed one booklet entitled "The Tenters Remembered" to great neighbourhood acclaim and cries for 'more'. (See https://issuu.com/thetentersremembered/docs/the_tenters_remembered_book_1_)

The Tenters Heritage group have the knowledge and experience to move on to another booklet with a different focus and a callout to other members of The Tenters community for essay contributions.

Steps To Get It Done:

- We already have a selection of essays.
- Secure funding.
- Edit, design and typeset entire booklet including covers etc.
- Oversee the printing process.
- Deliver the booklets.
- Promote awareness through Social media, posters etc.

The 'Tenters Celebrated' Heritage Group was formed following the success of the Tenters centenary in 2022. The Tenters centenary was celebrated in a variety of ways during 2022 with the support of Dublin Council Community Development Officers and Historian in Residence Cathy Scuffil.

Dublin City Council Conservation Section commissioned a short documentary about the origins of the area and also engaged a conservationist to undergo some works on our surviving Cló Gaelach street signs. While the original Tenters100 committee is now winding down, The Tenters Celebrated Heritage Group hopes to take up the baton and continue enriching the lives of the residents of the Tenters area by encouraging a greater sense of place and pride in our shared living environment.

Funding requested:

Item	Cost
Design and Printing	€4,670

2. Ballyrun

About

BAC plan to engage with local primary schools in the Dublin 11 & 9 catchment areas to work collaboratively to encourage juvenile athlete ages 8- 18 to engage in athletics. Athletics is viewed in our community as an inaccessible sport particularly for young people due to financial and social barriers.

This project is captures in two ways. Following recent consultation with local primary school principals, the roll out of a Homework pass initiative where by a juvenile will receive a homework pass for their particular school if they attend an initial athletics session. In BAC results have shown that 99% of initial attendees have stayed engaged with the club for longer the 12months.

The second part is by removing all financial barriers for juvenile athletes. BAC is the first athletics Ireland affiliated club that is completely free from registration, event fees, insurance and club gear. Crowd funding support would support the club to maintain this value and meet this need.

What we'll deliver:

- Increase juvenile athlete engagement in the club by 50 runners
- Deliver 50 additional sets of free club gear
- Increase number of Ballymun juvenile athletes Compete in local, regional and national athletics championships

Why it's a great idea:

The increase in Juvenile engagement will bring an improvement in areas of youth development (socially mentally and physically)

Ballymun has extremely high levels of deprivation on the deprivation index as well as high levels of childhood obesity and youth mental health disorders. Ballymun Athletics club is more than an athletics club when it comes to youth development.

Juvenile and parents feedback to date have included weight loss, improved mental health, significant improvement in focus both in school and at home and also significant improvement in pro social behaviours in the community.

Steps To Get It Done:

- Organize training sessions for the juvenile runners to enhance their coaching skills and build their knowledge
- Establish partnerships between Ballymun Athletics Club and primary schools in the community.

- Recruitment: Engage juvenile runners from the Ballymun Athletics Club to act as mentors for primary school students.
- Collaborate with primary schools to incorporate Ballyrun into their regular physical education curriculum.
- Raise awareness about Ballyrun through various channels, such as social media, newsletters, and community events
- Conduct periodic evaluations to assess the impact of Ballyrun on the participating children's levels of activity

Funding Request:

Item	Cost
50 x Athletics Ireland registrations	€750
50 x Singlets	€1,125
50 x ¼ Zip tops	€1,250

3. “Crumlin and the Way it Was” Republished

About

We're recreating Finola Watchorn's 250-page book "Crumlin and the Way It Was," last printed in 2009. The print files were discarded and there is no digital copy. With Finola's permission, our local society group, Crumlin & Walkinstown History Group, will retype, reformat, recreate, and publish the book. No copies are currently available in the library, and there's high local demand. We aim to make it accessible to all and ensure that the local historical content is available for future generations. The money will be used to reprint the book and promote and enable online sales of the book, with any excess to be reinvested into local history projects in Crumlin and Walkinstown.

What we'll deliver:

- Printing of 750 books
- Promotion and book launch
- Development of webpage to sell book

Why it's a great idea:

The project's benefits extend beyond the immediate goal of recreating a historical book, fostering community unity, educational opportunities, and sustainable practices while contributing to the broader cultural well-being of Crumlin.

Preservation of Local History

The project ensures the preservation of Crumlin's rich history by recreating and republishing an important historical reference book, making it accessible to both current and future generations.

Educational Opportunities:

Schools, researchers, and history enthusiasts will benefit from the recreated book, gaining valuable insights into Crumlin's past. The project promotes educational opportunities and fosters a sense of pride in local heritage.

Steps To Get It Done:

- Re-creating the book from scratch completed

- Sending book to print
- Launch Event
- Selling/Distributing copies of book

Suggested Backing options:

€20+: Book Enthusiast

- Free copy of the recreated book to be picked up at launch event.
- Invitation to the physical launch event.

€50+: History Buff

- All previous rewards.
- Signed copy
- Exclusive access to behind-the-scenes updates during the project.

€100+: Time Traveller

- All previous rewards.
- Limited edition hardback print copy of the recreated book in place of soft cover copy.
- Name mentioned in Acknowledgements section.

€500+: Heritage Guardian - All previous rewards.

- Special acknowledgment as sponsor in the book and on the project's - website.

Funding Request:

Item	Cost
Allowance for book launch	€250
Printing of 750 Books	€4,000

In Kind Funding:

Item	Cost
Editing, Proofreading 250 page	€2,500
Layout and design of 250 page book	€2,000
Archivist – Scanning 300 Photos	€2,000

4. Grow Food & Friendships in Dublin 7

About

Since 2022, Community Roots has been making successful garden-share pairings across Dublin 7.

In 2023, we received a Dublin City Council Neighbourhood Award for our work.

Our aim is to build both climate-resilient and connected communities - tackling social isolation, promoting skill-sharing and improving health and wellbeing for all.

OUR VISION:

We envision everybody being able to grow and share some of their own food.

We imagine flourishing partnerships and friendships forming within connected communities everywhere — ones that cross the generational divide, and socio-economic and cultural backgrounds — between neighbours who have called their place 'home' their whole lives and those who may have only recently moved in.

What we'll deliver:

- We'll make at least 10 garden-share pairings (10 garden owners matched with 10 budding growers)
- 2sqm raised bed supplied will be supplied to each pairing along with:
- Good quality compost
- A variety of seed packs
- Access to an online growing course for each participant
- An in-person growing workshop
- All guidance & support needed for the whole growing season

Why it's a great idea:

The benefits to this scheme are many and varied. Here are our top 5:

1. Learn how to grow food, sharing previous knowledge & experience.
2. Bond over a shared experience, nurturing community connection.
3. Enjoy mini harvests.
4. Reduce food waste and CO2 emissions.
5. Improve health and wellbeing

Steps To Get It Done:

- All the necessary equipment will be purchased in March 2024
- All pairings will be set up and growing food together by April 2024
- We will host a workshop for all our garden-share pairings during the summer

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Interested participants sign up via our online form (communityroots.ie), by calling us or at in-person information sessions.
2. We pair garden owners or budding growers living close by. All of our current garden-share pairings live within walking distance of each other.
3. Prospective garden-share pairings meet each other with our volunteer coordinator for a coffee (out treat!).
4. All going well, we then visit the garden to set up the raised bed in consultation with the garden owner.
5. Our pairings receive all equipment and resources free of charge.

SUPPORTS:

We have public liability insurance & safeguarding protocols in place.

Funding Request:

Item	Cost
Raised beds x 10	€1,800
Online GIY grow course x 20	€1,500
850l Compost x 10	€1,500
GIY Grow box x 10	€450

5. Renovation of Community Garden

About

Our community garden is a focal point at the top of our road and is the first thing that is seen as you access / pass Clancarthy Road. We are looking to get a landscape architect to help us draw up a plan to transform the community garden and have it more low maintenance without losing its character and retaining the beautiful silver birch trees.

At present the community garden has silver birch trees and perennial shrubs that bloom in summer and winter. However due to the natural shedding of the trees it is becoming more difficult to keep the garden maintained due to the age profile of our committee.

Once we have a design layout, we can then focus on implementing the design.

What we'll deliver:

- Design plan for the garden

Why it's a great idea:

There is a lot of footfall and traffic that pass by the garden on a daily basis. Turning the garden into a more manageable area will bring the following benefits:

People who live very close by will have pride in the area

Local children can see nature at its best with the trees and various plants that we have

It will be more manageable

Steps To Get It Done:

- Engage landscape architect to draft plan
- Receive design plan from landscape architect

Funding Request:

Item	Cost
Engage Landscape Architect	€1,000

6. Swifties Tower Suites

About

There are many reasons why Swifts & other magnificent birds are in decline, one we can all assist with is habitat. We can change this. Swifts can live for up to 20 years & like to return to familiar places, to holiday in well-known haunts- modern building techniques & renovations have left little or no space for these enthralling visitors let's change that, let's welcome them & give them a refuge. Their squeals & screams across a summer sky cause us to pause & take in the joy of their acrobatic dance, we stand in awe and for a few moments we pause, we take in the marvel of nature. 'It soared, a bird, it held its flight, a Swift pure cry, soar silver orb it leaped, serene-James Joyce. Prospect ACA nestled in Glasnevin is a haven in the heart of a bustling city. This oasis of green has lost its visiting Swift families, older neighbours share stories of long lost summers gazing at these enigmatic visitors, this little visitors can return & will return if we share we just need a Swift Tower.

What we'll deliver:

- Monitoring & Maintaining the location
- Taking part in any research or information gathering for organisations concerned with wild birds
- Updating & informing on progress

Why it's a great idea:

Nature & wildlife bring & give us all so much joy. Swift Towers create a welcoming habitat for endangered birds - it creates a generational link as older neighbour can share memories while new generation create new ones. Nature & wildlife help all of us to pause, to admire and give a respite from the noise if traffic & city life

Steps To Get It Done:

- A Swift Tower

Swifts offer a kind of hope. They endure miles of travel, they are like little messages of hope across nations, they don't see borders. They share the sky's & as we all gaze, listening out for the squeals & catching a glimpse, we pause we all stop they give us a cherished moment, who does not marvel at their beauty of flight, their determination of travel, the noise that is a promise of good weather. Swifts need a safe resting spot - like so many of us do.

Funding Requested:

Item	Cost
Swift Tower	€5,000
Transport	€250

7. The Casual-TEEWard Crumlin

About

The Change Clothes Crumlin 'Casual-tee Ward' will turn tired old printed t-shirts into, re-newed product for re-sale.

Here's how it will work:

1. T-shirts are received through our permanent swap shop
2. Print is removed by the CCC team using a non-toxic print dissolvent
3. The t-shirt is washed using a foot powered washing machine (zero energy used)
4. Our 'Second Hand is F****n Grand' slogan is screen printed onto the t-shirt using water soluble dyes
5. The t-shirt is air dried
6. And finally, listed for re-sale on our website
7. T shirt's will cost €10
8. All profits made will go towards Change Clothes Crumlin's local clothing reuse programmes (swap, rental, mending, upcycling)

We promise to do our absolute best to:

1. Ensure a wide range of sizes are available
2. Ensure a wide range of colours are available
3. Make sure the process is social - we will invite local people to take part in the production process
4. Let everyone in Crumlin know that second hand is f****n grand!

What we'll deliver:

- Backers will receive a 100% discount to choose their own t-shirt when they become available via our online store
- 100% circular, locally upcycled t-shirts will become available for public consumption via our online store

Why it's a great idea:

Our project will have a tonne of positive impacts for the Crumlin community, namely:

- > The provision of affordable, sustainable, locally upcycled apparel
- > Piloting of creative and social, first of its kind project supported by a community of local volunteers
- > Working towards creating a local circular economy where less clothing leaves the area for landfill and/or export
- > Profits made from the sale of t shirts going towards supporting a circular community enterprise in Crumlin
- > If this pilot is successful, there is great potential for job creation in a local circular economy initiative

Funding Requested:

Item	Cost
Selection of Water Based Dyes	€448
Screen printing supplies	€163
Screen printing supplies	€163
Non Toxic Print Dissolver x2	€150
Foot powered washing machine	€96
Fair Trade cotton aprons x10	€81
Environmentally friendly washing powder 5L	€42
Fair Trade rubber glove set x3	€20

Dublin City Council Audit Committee

**Minutes of Meeting held on 19th October 2023 at 9.00 a.m.
via MSTeams**

Attendance:

Members

Ms. Louise Ryan, Trinity College Dublin, Chairperson (LR)
Mr. Johnny McElhinney, Docklands Business Forum (JMCE)
Mr. Nathy Walsh, Institute of Public Administration (NW)
Prof. Diarmuid Hegarty Dublin Chamber (DH)
Councillor Naoise Ó Muirí (Cllr. NOM)
Councillor Daryl Barron (Cllr. DB)
Councillor Nial Ring (Cllr. NR)

Ms. Ita Howe, Local Government Auditor (IH)

Officials:

Ms. Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance (KQ)
Mr. Victor Leonov, Head of Financial Accounting (VL)
Mr. Paddy Brennan, Head of Internal Audit (PB)
Ms. Ailish McCarthy, Staff Officer, Internal Audit (AMcC)

Apologies

Mr. Richard Shakespeare, Chief Executive

1. **Minutes of Audit Committee meeting held on 14th September 2023 and update on Actions arising**
 - a. The minutes were agreed.
 - b. Update on Actions

Appendix A: Actions arising from Audit Committee meeting 14th September 2023

Action 1 - HOL will circulate the Risk Management Policy to the Audit Committee.
Emailed to AC on 6th October 2023.

Action 2 – Risk Management to provide update to the Audit Committee in 2024.

Action 3 – PB will provide an update on the progress of the implementation of recommendations from R15/22 – Review of CRES Capital costs at AC meeting in December.

Action 4 – The CE will issue a memo to each ACE requesting they prioritise the implementation of audit recommendations.

Memo issued on 20th September 2023 to ACE's

Appendix B: Actions arising from Audit Committee meeting 16th March 2023

Action 2 – Update report on recommendations from R06/14 and R02/18 to the AC before year end.

Action 3 – Update report on implementation of high-risk recommendations from R11/22 to the Audit Committee by year-end.

2. Conflict of Interest of A.C. Members.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Consideration of the Audited Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2022, and the Local Government Auditor's Report on the AFS.

The Chairperson welcomed the Principal Local Government Auditor, Ita Howe, to the meeting and invited her to present her report, which had been circulated to all members. The presentation referenced among other items, DCC's Financial Position, the collection of DCC's income across Rates, Housing Rents and Housing Loans. Monies outstanding in respect of vacant site levies was discussed as was DCC's bad debt provision.

Issues identified in the report by the PLGA including non-compliance with Procurement Directives and the significant annual shortfall in funding received by DCC for fire and emergency services were also covered.

Other Issues

All other queries raised by the Audit Committee were satisfactorily addressed by the Principal Local Government Auditor and the Head of Finance.

Actions arising from discussions:

Action 1

PB to request confirmation from the Planning and Development Department on the status of vacant site levy liabilities and debts when the RZLT comes into operation in February 2024.

Action 2.

KQ to confirm to the Audit Committee if the wording contained in note 4b is set nationally.

Action 3.

PB to request DFB provide the cumulative deficit in funding from the HSE to DCC since 2014 relating to the provision of fire and ambulance services.

Action 4

PB to advise the Chief Executive that the AC have requested quarterly updates on the progress of the implementation of recommendations contained in the PLGA's management letter.

Action 5.

KQ to provide a list and detail of capital income streams for the AC.

4. Preparation of the report of the Audit Committee to the City Council, following its consideration of the Audited AFS and Local Government Auditor's report in compliance with Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Action 6.

PB to prepare draft report on Audit Committee's consideration of the AFS and the Report of the Local Government Auditor for the Audit Committee and arrange for the report to go to the next meeting of the City Council.

5. A.O.B.

The meeting with the PLGA and AC has been postponed and is scheduled for after the AC meeting on the 7th December 2023.

Actions arising from this meeting 19th October 2023

Action 1 - PB to request confirmation from the Planning and Development Department on the status of vacant site levy liabilities and debts when the RZLT comes into operation in February 2024.

Action 2 - KQ to confirm to the Audit Committee if the wording contained in note 4b is set nationally.

Action 3 - PB to request DFB provide cumulative deficit in funding from the HSE to DCC since 2014 relating to the provision of fire and ambulance services.

Action 4 - PB to advise the Chief Executive that the AC have requested quarterly updates on the progress of the implementation of recommendations contained in the PLGA's management letter.

Action 5 - KQ to provide a list and detail of capital income streams for the AC.

Action 6 - PB to prepare draft report on Audit Committee's consideration of the AFS and the Report of the Local Government Auditor for the Audit Committee and arrange for the report to go to the next meeting of the City Council.

Signed

