Report to the Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Area Discretionary Funding

1. Introduction

Dublin City Council is Ireland's largest local authority. The Council comprises an area of 114.99km^2 (44.40sq miles), with a population of 527,612 persons (2011 census) resident. Many people travel to Dublin from other local authority areas to work, study or visit. There are 5 areas within Dublin City Council, each of which is managed through an Area Committee and Area Management. Appendix A is a map of Dublin City Council's Area Structure.

2. Background

Dublin City Council determines it's budget for the forthcoming financial year in the preceding November, in line with the budgetary format and cycle as prescribed by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government. The City Council budget for the financial year 2017 was adopted at the Statutory Budget meeting held on 14th November. At that meeting, it was agreed to refer an issue raised by Councillor Tina MacVeigh regarding the basis of allocation of Area Discretionary Funding to the Finance Strategic Policy Committee for consideration. The intention would be that the outcome of the Finance SPC's consideration would be reported back to the full City Council for decision. The determination by the City council will form the basis of allocation of area discretionary funding in the 2018 Budget.

3. Basis of Allocation of Area Discretionary Funding

Area funding is provided to each area committee based on available resources. Since the 2015 Budget, area funding is allocated equally across the five areas. Prior to that, area funding was allocated pro rata to the number of elected members in each area.

At the Statutory Budget meeting held on 14th November, Councillor Tina MacVeigh raised the issue of "*the application of the Pobal deprivation index to the Area Discretionary funding so that it is allocated to each area on that basis. In this way, areas with greater socio economic need would obviously receive a larger amount*".

It was agreed that this matter would be considered by the Finance SPC at its meeting scheduled for 21st January 2017.

4. Pobal Deprivation Index

The Pobal deprivation index refers to the Pobal Haase-Pratschke Deprivation index based on the Population Census 1991 – 2011, funded by Pobal and developed by Trutz Haase and Jonathan Pratschke.
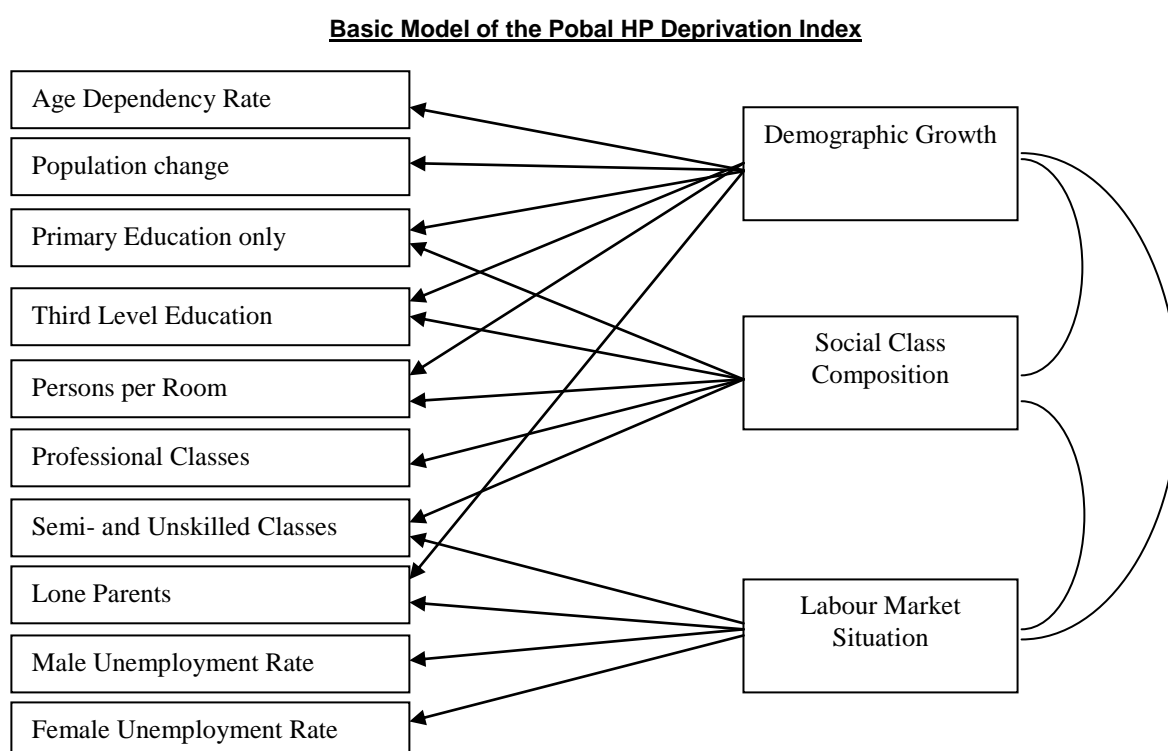
Pobal is an agency which works on behalf of the Government supporting programmes that seek to improve outcomes for persons who experience disadvantage and social exclusion. Pobal promotes the use of the Pobal HP Deprivation Index as an understood measure of tracking changes in communities across variables and over time.

An overview of the Pobal HP Deprivation Index is attached at Appendix B, containing:

- Introduction and Reference Tables
- Overview
- Map of Dublin City Council area

5. Variables impacting on Pobal HP Deprivation Index

The variables tracked as part of the Pobal HP Deprivation framework are set out in Figure 1.

Basic Model of the Pobal HP Deprivation Index

Each variable is calculated in the same way in respect of each distinct census. Subsequently an absolute index score and a relative index score is derived. The Index is a method of measuring the relative affluence or disadvantage of a particular geographical aea using data compiled from the census. Comparison between census data of 2006 and 2011 is facilitated. The index can now be produced at small area level, having a minimum of 50 households and a mean of under 100 households. The index spans a seven point scale from extremely disadvantaged to very affluent.

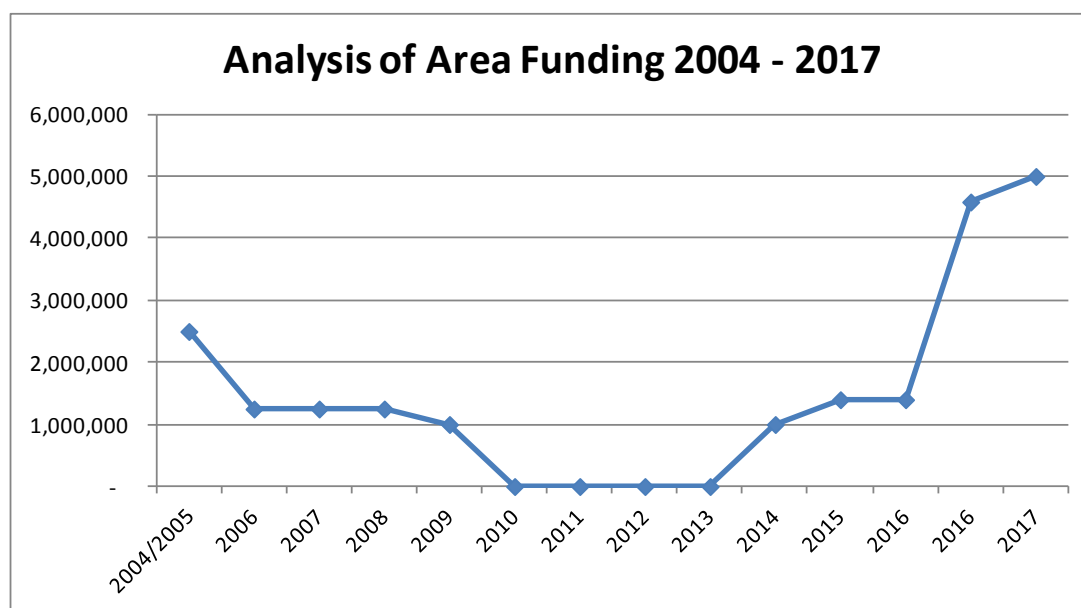## 6. Trends in Area Discretionary Funding

The value of funds allocated to the area structure is a decision made by the elected members as part of the budgetary process. It is influenced by the level of demand for local initiatives in each area, value of resources available, and other factors.

Funding allocated to Area Committees over the period 2004 – 2017 is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: **Area Funding**

Year	2004/2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 - 2013	2014	2015	2016	2016**	2017
									Adopted	Revised	Adopted
Actual or Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual		Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget
Central Area	500,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	200,000	-	200,000	280,000	280,000	917,642	1,000,000
North Central	500,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	200,000	-	200,000	280,000	280,000	917,642	1,000,000
North West	500,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	200,000	-	200,000	280,000	280,000	917,642	1,000,000
South Central	500,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	200,000	-	200,000	280,000	280,000	917,642	1,000,000
South East	500,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	200,000	-	200,000	280,000	280,000	917,642	1,000,000
Total	2,500,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	4,588,210	5,000,000

Analysis of Area Office Funding for the Years 2004 to 2017

*** Includes once off grant of €3.4m re Global Revaluations received after the adoption of the budget.*

Analysis of Area Funding 2004 - 2017

It is proposed that the Finance SPC give consideration to Councillor MacVeigh's proposal and report, in time, to the City Council with recommendations.

Kathy Quinn
Head of Finance
With Responsibility for Information & Communications Technology

Appendix A: Map of Dublin City Council Administrative Area

Dublin City

BEAUMONT - DONAGHMEDE (9)

BALLYMUN (7)

CABRA - FINGLAS (7)

CLONTARF (6)

NORTH INNER CITY (8)

PEMBROKE - SOUTH DOCK (8)

BALLYFERMOT - DRIMNAGH (6)

CRUMLIN - KIMMAGE (6)

RATHGAR - RATHMINES (6)

Electoral Area
Electoral Division
Recommended LEA Name and Number of Members:
Cabra - Finglas - 7
Ballymun - 7
Beaumont - Donaghmede - 9
Clontarf - 6
North Inner City - 8
Pembroke - South Dock - 8
Rathgar - Rathmines - 6
Crumlin - Kimmage - 6
Ballyfermot - Drimnagh - 6
ED Names: ASHTOWN A

Kilometers
0   1   2   4