

## Finance Strategic Policy Committee

### Minutes of Meeting Held On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017

1. At the request of the Chairperson Cllr Ruairi McGinley, the meeting commenced in his absence. It was chaired by Cllr Paddy McCartan until Cllr McGinley's arrival.

Cllrs Carr and Reilly noted objections to the clash of this meeting with a meeting scheduled to discuss the North West Area discretionary fund. Both Councillors left the SPC meeting to attend the area meeting. It was agreed that the Head of Finance would discuss the issue with the Area Manager.

2. **Minutes agreed:**

- a) Minutes of meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 – **Agreed**
- b) Minutes of meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – **Agreed**

3. **Correspondence:**

- a) Letter from Cllr. R. McGinley, Chair re Revenue Grant Funding Report to Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government - 10/10/2017 – **Noted**
- b) Letter from Cllr. R. McGinley, Chair re Revenue Grant Funding Report to Minister for Finance – 10/10/2017 – **Noted**
- c) Letter from Cllr. R. McGinley, Chair re Revenue Grant Funding Report to Opposition Spokespersons on Local Government – 10/10/2017 – **Noted**
- d) Letter to Paul Clegg re Community Group lettings/licences – follow up queries – 23/10/2017 – **Noted**
- e) Letter from Cllr. R. McGinley, Chair re LPT exemption for new and unused properties to Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government – 10/10/2017 – **Noted**
- f) Letter from Cllr. R. McGinley, Chair re LPT exemption for new and unused properties to Minister for Finance – 9/11/2017 – **Noted**
- g) Correspondence to Paul Kelly, Chief Executive, Fáilte Ireland -27/10/2017 – **Noted**

4. **Digital Economy – Presentation from Stephen Brennan, Chief Digital Advisor**

Stephen Brennan gave a presentation to the Committee. His presentation was to show the significance of the digital economy. Among the items noted from his presentation were:

- Digital equates to 7% of the EU economy

- It amounts to 33% of GDP Growth
- It has grown from nowhere over the past ten years with the advent of social media and apps
- 80% of the most valuable brands are digital

Mr Brennan noted that Ireland's digital economy has grown by 40% since 2012. It is expected to grow by a further 25% over the next 3-5 years. Ireland currently ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in on-line shopping across Europe. There are major opportunities to transform the economy and society by supporting new business and unlocking creative potential.

It was further noted that digital can be an enabler by:

- Supporting innovation
- Increasing operational efficiency
- Becoming a hub for services.

Following the presentation, there was a discussion among the members, including issues such as:

- Using digital media to communicate with millennials
- The impact of the shift from physical trade to virtual trade on commercial rates
- The need to promote opportunities for social interaction
- The future move to 5G broadband.

The Chairperson thanked Stephen Brennan for his presentation and the time he gave to come to the committee.

#### **5. Social Inclusion Clause in Public Procurement – Presentation from Jeanne Copeland, Greenville Procurement Partners Limited**

Jeanne Copeland gave a presentation to the committee. Some of the topics she covered were:

- Dublin City Council is a major user of public procurement
- It needs to be understood why an organisation is interested in tackling this issue
- There is the issue of Corporate Social Responsibility
- There are enablers from Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU which Dublin City Council can enforce e.g. Recital 25 – Sheltered Workshops, or Article 74 – Award of Contracts for social and other specific services

In concluding her presentation, Ms Copeland summarised as follows:

- There is an opportunity to develop a working policy which should be proactive.
- Dublin City Council should produce a report detailing what exactly the Council does. It can be compared with other public bodies
- A suggestion was made to hold open days with the market prior to implementing contract award procedures.

A discussion took place following the presentation, including the issues of:

- The importance of ensuring that contractors comply with wage and pension related obligations
- The importance to local communities of social inclusion measures such as local employment clauses and community gain
- The opportunity to review changing practices in other countries, including the UK.

It was agreed that this matter would be reviewed in 2018 as part of the SPC work programme.

#### **6. Service Delivery Plan and Resources Working Group – Update**

The Chairperson, Cllr R McGinley updated the Committee. He noted that the Working Group had made considerable progress. There are plans to hold two 2-hour meetings which will allow 1 hour to each Service Delivery Manager. The plan will be customer demand led. Cllr Lacey noted that he has some reservations around the Area Management structure, TAG and park wardens.

#### **7. Draft Schedule of Meetings for 2018**

**Agreed.**

#### **8. A.O.B.**

The Chairperson thanked the Head of Finance, Kathy Quinn and her staff for their work during the year. He noted that a Work Programme for 2018 will be presented to the January 2018 meeting.

**Signed:** Councillor Ruairi McGinley  
Chairperson

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Attendance:**

#### **Members**

Councillor Ruairi McGinley (Chairperson)  
An tArdmhéara Micheál MacDonncha  
Councillor Tom Brabazon  
Cllr Brendan Carr  
Councillor Dermot Lacey  
Councillor Ray McAdam  
Councillor Paddy McCartan  
Councillor Noeleen Reilly  
Councillor Nial Ring  
Eric Fleming, ICTU  
Aebhric McGibney, Dublin Chamber of Commerce  
Aidan Sweeney, IBEC

### **Guest Speakers**

Stephen Brennan, Chief Digital Advisor, Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment

Jeanne Copeland, Greenville Procurement Partners Limited

### **Officials**

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance

Fintan Moran, Head of Management Accounting

Deirdre Murphy, Senior Executive Officer, Rates Office

Lisa Nolan, Staff Officer (Secretarial), Finance Secretariat

Fiona Collins, Assistant Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat

### **Apologies**

Councillor Paddy Bourke

Councillor Hazel De Nortúin

Councillor Larry O'Toole

Dr. Caroline McMullan, DCU

Morgan O'Regan, Docklands Business Forum

Joanna Piechota, Irish Polish Society

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