

Finance Strategic Policy Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held On 18th January 2018

1. Minutes – November 16th 2017

Noted

2. Correspondence:

Letter from the Private Secretary of Minister of State for Local Gov. and Electoral Reform John Paul Phelan dated 21st December 2017 re: Revenue Grant Funding.

Correspondence noted

3. Fáilte Ireland – Presentation from Keelin Fagan, Head of Dublin (Fáilte Ireland)

Keelin Fagan made a presentation to the members and the following areas were highlighted:

- 10 Year Vision for Tourism in Ireland
- Dublin Update including the Industry Engagement Programme, Dublin Champions, Annual Festivals, Self Guided Walking Trails, Talking Statues, Dublin Capital Funding Projects (Dublinia, Smock Alley, Dublin) and development of the Overseas Shoulder Season Campaign.
- New Governance Structure relating to the Grow Dublin Task Force
- 2018 Key Priorities – capacity, navigation/infrastructure/transport, attractions/festivals and marketing will all work towards enhancing the trade capabilities, developing the visitor experiences and establishing and improving the awareness of Brand Dublin.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the members had queries on the following issues impacting on the work of Fáilte Ireland:

- Impact of increasing hotel prices on tourism in Dublin and perception of complacency in the industry;
- 13 dedicated staff working on this strategy in Dublin in conjunction with Dublin Tourism staff;
- Impact of Brexit on the tourism industry in Dublin and the diversification strategy with China becoming increasingly important;
- Observation of there being a lack of representation by city councillors in this strategy;
- Unawareness of any involvement or otherwise of Fáilte Ireland in a youth programme;
- It was noted that the of 25% is the figure for repeat visitors and Fáilte Ireland is constantly looking to grow the national figure;
- Employment opportunities and comparisons with past work opportunities;
- Temple Bar – perception of a Dublin free zone;
- Commercial rates and the impact on the finances of the hotel industry.

The following motion was taken during the discussions on the Failte Ireland presentation.

Motion from Cllr Noeleen Reilly:

“That the Finance SPC set up a sub group to plan and organise for Dublin's hosting of the EURO 2020 Tournament”

Order: At the conclusion of the debate, it was agreed that the motion would be adopted and that Richard Shakespeare as ACE with responsibility for this event would be asked to attend the next meeting of the Finance Strategic Policy Committee. In the interim, the Committee proposed that a mechanism be established by Richard Shakespeare to involve the relevant SPCs in the process.

4. Review of Local Property Tax

A summary report on the Local Property Tax framework and the recent press release from the Minister for Finance setting out that a review of the Local Property Tax would be undertaken was circulated to members. It was noted that this review will involve a public consultation of all interested parties. It is anticipated that the review will be completed by the end of August 2018.

It was noted that Dublin City is a net contributor to the LPT 20% equalisation fund and there is unfairness with this situation as Dublin as its own specific issues around homelessness and social deprivation. It was further referenced that the people of Dublin had expectations of improved services for their LPT payments and that has not been the case due to reductions in other grant funding.

Agreed: It was agreed that a copy of the report presented to the last SPC meeting on Revenue Grant Funding would be circulated to Cllr. P. McCartan for information purposes.

Agreed: It was agreed that a meeting would be sought with either the Minister or the Review Group to discuss the impact of the LPT on Dublin City Council.

Agreed: It was agreed that a submission would be prepared on behalf of the Committee for submission to the review group established.

5. Finance Strategic Policy Committee Work Programme 2018

The work programme was noted.

Additional items to be added were agreed as follows:

- Details of progress on disposals by Dublin City Council to social housing bodies.
- A report on the IT infrastructure in place within the Environment & Transport Department to communicate with other public bodies/utilities in order to ensure that a co-ordinated programme of works is carried out.
- Maintenance Depots Project – it was agreed that the financial business case for this project would be presented to the Committee.

Agreed: It was agreed that this report would be requested for the next meeting in March 2018.

6. Service Delivery Plan and Resources Working Group:

- a) Minutes of meeting held on 1st November 2017 – **Minutes noted**
- b) Minutes of meeting held on 6 December, 2017 – **Minutes noted**

7. Schedule of Meetings for 2018

Schedule noted.

8. Audit Committee agreed minutes of 14th September 2017

Minutes Noted

9. Motion from the Fianna Fail Group

“Budget 2018 Meeting – to establish an Affordable Housing Capital Fund through borrowing from the Housing Finance Agency”

Order: Motion deferred at the request of Cllr. T. Brabazon.

10. AOB

E. Fleming requested information on the contact details of the appropriate person to discuss a property disposal by an organisation e.g. a Trade Union for social housing purposes. K. Quinn will establish the appropriate contact and communicate this with E. Fleming.

Signed: Councillor Ruairi McGinley
Chairperson

Date: 18th January 2018

Attendance:

Members

Councillor Ruairi McGinley (Chairperson)
An tArdmhéara Micheál MacDonncha
Councillor Paddy Bourke
Councillor Dermot Lacey
Councillor Ray McAdam
Councillor Paddy McCartan
Councillor Noeleen Reilly
Councillor Nial Ring
Eric Fleming, ICTU
Aidan Sweeney, IBEC

Guest Speakers

Keelin Fagan, Head of Dublin (Fáilte Ireland)

Officials

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance

Fiona Murphy, Senior Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat

Fiona Collins, Assistant Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat

Apologies

Councillor Tom Brabazon

Cllr Brendan Carr

Councillor Hazel De Nortúin

Councillor Larry O'Toole

Aebhric McGibney, Dublin Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Caroline McMullan, DCU

Morgan O'Regan, Docklands Business Forum

Joanna Piechota, Irish Polish Society

DRAFT