

Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held On 15th March 2018

1. Minutes – January 18th 2018

Noted

2. Correspondence:

Correspondence Items a) – e) were noted.

Matters Arising:

- Cllr. Bourke requested that it be noted that Dublin has become a more expensive city to live in than London.
- E. Fleming thanked the assistance of the Head of Finance with his query on property disposal.
- Depot Consolidation Project – it was noted that the Chief Executive will make a presentation to the CPG on 27/4/2018 in advance of the May City Council meeting.

3. Local Property Tax Review – draft submission for consideration

Pat McCloughan, PMCA Economic Consultants, presented the draft submission to the Committee. The presentation gave an overview of the background to the current review being undertaken by the Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight and provided conclusions and proposals for consideration.

The following issues were noted in the presentation:

- LPT was generally motivated on economic grounds with its genesis during the economic emergency;
- Successful compliance and the self assessment model used;
- LPT has not been successful as a new source of funding for local authorities, in particular in the Dublin City area;
- Specific needs of the capital - socio-economic deprivation and its effects, economic and tourism are particular needs;
- This review provides a unique opportunity to amend and improve the system for the benefit of local communities and local authorities.

The following proposals were recommended in the report for inclusion in the submission:

- An independent appraisal of local authority needs and resources in advance of the revaluation in 2019;
- Individual local authorities should retain all their LPT revenues;
- Cessation of equalisation with local authorities with weaker tax bases receiving supplementary funding from the Exchequer
- Openness/transparency of how LPT receipts are spent
- Cessation of exemptions as they are no longer warranted;
- Maintain deferrals;
- Adjustment to the timing of the next revaluation in 2019.

Following this presentation the following points were noted and requested for inclusion/amendment within the final submission and/or additional information:

- Impact of the lack of liability for commercial rates on government buildings;
- Ability to pay the LPT is not taken into account for those in negative equity or those who may be asset rich but cash poor such as the elderly;
- Recognition of the economic significance of Dublin city as the Capital and economic driver;
- Consideration of alternative funding models such as site valuation tax;
- Consideration of seeking a Disadvantage Area Fund or Social Deprivation Fund;
- Analysis of the housing mix in Dublin city;
- Analysis of the infrastructural needs of Dublin City Council e.g. roads and footpaths;

Agreed: It was agreed that the report would be finalised and contact would be made with government officials to arrange a meeting with the Oversight Group to advance this submission's proposals.

4. Rates Debtors report at 31st December 2017

Fintan Moran, Head of Management Accounting, presented the annual Rates Debtors report for the year end 31st December 2017. This report covered areas such as:

- The Debt Management Group targets set and achievements over the year;
- Commercial Rate funding;
- Rate collection levels and percentages over the period 2013-2017;
- Age profile of the debts with analysis of 2017 arrears accounts and rate description categories;
- 2017 arrears schedule status and analysis by electoral areas.

It was noted that the opening arrears figure of €32.4m had reduced to €26.85m by 9th March 2018.

Issues noted during the discussion that followed included:

- Acknowledge of the efforts to reduce the arrears figures;
- Acknowledge that the dependence on commercial rates as a major source of funding had dropped from approx. 40% to 35%;
- Acknowledgement of the significant efforts of the rate collectors working with rate payers in arrears;
- Noted that the reduction in arrears can also be indicative of an improving economy;
- Query on the number of vacant properties that will come back into commercial use –v- domestic use and the impact in any;
- Concerns about the impact the current issue with traffic plans and luas cross city operations are having on the rate base at present and into the future;
- Impact of online shopping on the rate base.

5. IT infrastructure – Waste Systems as part of ICT Supporting DCC's Service Plan and Service Delivery

Brian Curtis, ICT Manager and Eithne Gibbons, Waste Management Division, attended the meeting. The Waste Management Project undertaken has introduced of a complete E-Business solution which has improved customer interaction and

provides improvements to operational efficiencies. The presentation demonstrated the operational management of the system with workflow data and CRM interactions. It has provided waste information reports for management showing the number of incidents and call-out resolution statistics.

This presentation also reported on the IS systems currently used for managing services plans which include:

- Oracle eBusiness Suite CRM operational system,
- Traffic Asset Management System (TAMS)
- OHMS Integrated Housing System
- Overview of 156 Corporate ICT systems in general use in departments

Agreed: It was agreed that a request would be made to the Chief Executive for headline statistics to be made available from the Waste IT system to the Area Committees.

6. EURO 2020 Presentation

Paul Clegg and Don Daly jointly presented a report to the committee on the EURO 2020 tournament and Dublin's successful selection as one of the 13 host cities.

The presentation covered the team approach taken in the organisation of this event with Dublin City Council, FAI and Government working together on the successful delivery of the project. It was noted that the financing of the tournament will be covered by the main stakeholders.

Dublin City Council has been assigned responsibility for Fan Festival and viewing areas outside the stadium events, city dressing, commercial signage, city promotion and legacy issues and city support.

The current estimated working budget for Dublin City Council is €3.75m however a significant number of variables are at play with the overall event budget such as whether or not the Republic of Ireland will qualify, the allocation of the 16 games and the selection of training grounds etc.

At the conclusion of the presentation, among the issues noted were:

- The extent of the engagement with businesses
- Figures to be spent by the FAI and Government bodies
- TV rights and revenues
- Whether a cost benefit has been carried out on this event from a Dublin City Council perspective;
- Whether Dublin City Council will receive anything from the revenue generated on TV and advertising rights;
- Acknowledgement that whatever will be left from the overall budget will be allocated to the Dalymount Project;

Agreed: It was agreed that the FAI would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Finance Strategic Policy Committee to discuss their input and expenditure on this event.

7. Audit Committee – agreed minutes from 7th December 2017

Minutes Noted - It was further noted that significant work is being undertaken by the Committee.

8. 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 to the next meeting on May 17th 2018 at the request of Cllr. T. Brabazon.

Signed: Councillor Ruairi McGinley
Chairperson

Date: 15th March 2018

Attendance:

Members

Councillor Ruairi McGinley (Chairperson)
An tArdmhéara Micheál MacDonncha
Councillor Paddy Bourke
Councillor Tom Brabazon
Councillor Dermot Lacey
Councillor Paddy McCartan
Councillor Noeleen Reilly
Councillor Nial Ring
Eric Fleming, ICTU
Dr. Caroline McMullan, DCU
Aidan Sweeney, IBEC

Guest Speakers

Dr. Pat McCloughan, PMCA Economic Consulting

Non-Members

Councillor John Lyons

Officials

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance
Fintan Moran, Head of Management Accounting
Brian Curtis, ICT Management
Paul Clegg, Executive Manager, Planning and Property Development Department

Don Daly, Project Manager, Dalymount Park & Euro 2020 Event
Eithne Gibbons, Senior Executive Officer, Waste Management Division
Fiona Murphy, Senior Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat
Lisa Nolan, Staff Officer (Secretarial)
Fiona Collins, Assistant Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat

Apologies

Cllr Brendan Carr

Councillor Ray McAdam

Councillor Larry O'Toole

Aebhric McGibney, Dublin Chamber of Commerce

Morgan O'Regan, Docklands Business Forum

Joanna Piechota, Irish Polish Society

Media

Zuzia Whelan, Dublin Inquirer

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