

Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held On 20th September 2018

1. Minutes – May 17th 2018

Agreed

2. Matters Arising:

Liffey Boardwalk Extension – there is currently a feasibility study being carried out. K. Quinn confirmed that she will report back on this item at a later date.

Local Property Tax – clarification was given that the 20% equalisation fund allocation deducted from Dublin City Council comes off the base figure and not from the reduced 15% figure decided for 2019 by Dublin City councillors.

3. EURO 2020 – delegation

A presentation was made to the members by the team involved in the EURO 2020 event. This presentation covered the following:

- The scale of the event and the international exposure;
- The legacy of the event with the correlated economic gain to Ireland
- The Dalymount Park redevelopment
- Project breakdown between DCC, FAI and DTTAS
- Budget assumptions on funding
- Successful bid to host the TV qualifying draw in Dublin Convention Centre

During discussions that followed the presentation, the following items were raised:

- Update on the Dalymount Park redevelopment and any potential delays as a result of this event.
- Fanzone locations to be identified.
- Impact of whether Ireland will qualify or not.
- School Leagues development and opportunities to engage with schools
- Engagement with residents in the areas around the Aviva Stadium
- Concerns over bed capacity in the city
- Input from UEFA - €4.1m underwritten by them

4. Housing Rents Arrears

Tony Flynn, Executive Manager, Housing and Community Services Department gave a presentation on Housing Rents and Arrears to the members. This presentation covered the following areas:

- Background to housing rents identifying the number of tenancies, differential rent scheme, average rent charge and minimum rent charge;
- Annual Rent Charges from 2014-2017;
- Annual Rent Collection Rates;
- DCC adopted budget objectives for 2018;
- Arrears and Aged Debt Analysis showing that the current Net Rent Arrears figure is €25.5m;

- Key Arrears points showing 54% of total tenancies are in arrears with 43% of these owing less than €500;
- Change in legislation regarding tenancy warnings and repossessions;
- Work of the Arrears Management Section detailing early intervention, promotion of direct debits/household budget payments, advising of debt solutions and provision of an online portal to allow tenants to view their accounts;
- Routine Repairs and Transfer Applications will not be processed if a tenant is in arrears or has not adhered to a repayment plan.

Members had a number of queries and points to raise at the conclusion of this presentation and they are summarised as follows:

- Introduction of an online housing management system to alleviate the build up of arrears when there is a change in financial circumstances;
- Explanation of the spikes in the arrears figures as indicated on the Aged Debt Analysis slide;
- Level of repossessions was questioned by members in particular with reference to anti-social behaviour;
- The need to increase the supply and therefore the social mix of tenancies;
- The average rents do not match the levels charged in the private sector;
- Difficult for DCC to maintain, repair or replace and maintain a sinking fund with these payment charges.
- Need to expand the payment options to include deductions from social welfare payments.

Agreed: It was agreed that correspondence would issue to the Secretary General of the Department of Social Protection to introduce the inclusion of deductions at source for household rents from social welfare payments.

5. Homeless Report

Eileen Gleeson, Director, Dublin Region Homeless Executive made a presentation to the members on the finances of the Homeless services provide across the Dublin Region.

This presentation covered the following:

- National Homeless figures at June 2018
- Quarter 2 – Adult Emergency Use in the Dublin Region
- Family Accommodation type and monthly family presentations
- Homeless Finance
- Growth of the Homeless Budget from 2011-2018
- Claims update to the DHPLG
- Analysis of Homeless Expenditure

At the conclusion of this presentation, discussions took place on the following issues:

- Complexity of recoupment process
- Procurement – complex procedural issues
- Inflow from the private sector
- SPC members acknowledged the difficulties faced by persons experiencing homelessness and it's impact on their lives.
- The need to increase Hub Stock
- The need to increase single bed accommodation
- HAP scheme

6. North City Operations Depot

Agreed: This item was deferred until the next Finance Strategic Policy Committee Meeting on November 15th 2018.

7. Services Delivery & Resources Working Group – draft minutes of meeting 24th May 2018

Noted

8. Audit Committee Meeting – March 8th 2018 – Agreed Minutes

Noted

9. Motion in the name of the Fianna Fail Group:

“To establish an affordable housing capital fund through borrowing from the Housing Finance Agency”

Agreed: The motion was agreed. It was further agreed that correspondence would issue to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and Minister for Finance.

10. Motion in the name of Cllrs. Rebecca Moynihan and Emma Murphy

“Dublin City Council recognises that period poverty is a very real issue for women in low income households. As a City Council we have a responsibility to break down the stigma around periods and tackling period poverty. Dublin City Council agree to have free sanitary products available in the toilets of all Dublin City Council buildings, including community centres, swimming pools and libraries”.

Agreed: The motion was agreed.

Signed: **Councillor Ruairi McGinley**
Chairperson

Date: 20th September 2018

Attendance:

Members

Councillor Ruairi McGinley (Chairperson)
Councillor Paddy Bourke
Councillor Tom Brabazon
Councillor Dermot Lacey
Councillor Ray McAdam
Councillor Paddy McCartan
Councillor Micheál MacDonncha
Councillor Séamas McGrattan
Councillor Larry O’Toole
Councillor Noeleen Reilly
Aidan Sweeney, IBEC

Non Members

Cllr. Mary Freehill
Cllr. Rebecca Moynihan

Guest Speakers

Eamon Breen, Finance Director, FAI

John Kelly, Principal Officer, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
John Lawlor, EY DKM

Officials

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance
Richard Shakespeare, ACE, CRES Department
Tony Flynn, Executive Manager, Housing and Community Services Dept.
Eileen Gleeson, Director, Dublin Region Homeless Executive
Eileen Quinlivan, Executive Manager, Transformation Unit
Ruth Dowling, Administrative Officer, Transformation Unit
Fiona Murphy, Senior Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat
Lisa Nolan, Staff Officer (Secretarial)

Apologies

An tArdmhéara Nial Ring
Cllr Brendan Carr
Eric Fleming, ICTU
Aebhric McGibney, Dublin Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Caroline McMullan, DCU
Joanna Piechota, Irish Polish Society