

Q.33 COUNCILLOR DARRAGH MORIARTY

CRES To ask the Chief Executive to outline what further efforts are being made by Dublin City Council to develop links with other European capitals within the EUROCIITIES framework. Now that Brexit is a reality, every extra effort has to be made to connect Dublin with continental Europe, both in terms of keeping up to date with best practises and from an economic perspective. Dublin is currently ‘twinned’ with Liverpool and Barcelona; neither are capital cities, and one is no longer in the EU. Can the Chief Executive outline DCC’s plans to address these shortcomings?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPLY:

Multi-lateral relationships with organisations of common purpose help develop and enhance relationships with other international cities. Dublin is a member of EUROCIITIES which is a network of major European cities whose members are the elected local and municipal governments of major European cities. The network brings together 140 local governments of Europe’s largest cities and over 45 partner cities that between them govern 130 million citizens across 39 countries. EUROCIITIES works in all areas of interest for cities from culture to mobility, environment to social affairs, economic development to smart cities and the network offers a wealth of opportunities for shared learning and international best practice and provides a high profile international platform which enables cities to showcase their achievements to peers as well as to influential stakeholders. Dublin faces many of the same challenges to growth and prosperity that many other cities across the globe face. Membership of organisations such as EUROCIITIES provide city to city peer learning opportunities that can yield novel approaches.

EUROCIITIES business is conducted through six thematic forums: Culture, Environment, Economic Development, Knowledge Society, Mobility and Social Affairs. Dublin City Council participates in EUROCIITIES with executive representatives on these forums. Executives are also members of a number of working groups established under the forums and they participate in areas such as air quality, climate change and energy efficiency, noise and waste, entrepreneurship and SME’s, innovation, resources for culture and access, creative industries, knowledge, smart cities, housing and homelessness.

All members receive the newsletter EUROCIITIES Insider, updates on all funding and financing opportunities of interest to them, funding programmes and events being organised by EUROCIITIES. Projects are a key part of their activities in terms of policy work and exchanges between its members. Dublin is currently involved in a number of projects under the various funding programmes, but primarily under H2020 and officials in the Environment & Transport, Housing Architects and Chief Executives Departments are partners in these projects.

As a result of the pandemic, the business of the EUROCIITIES network continued virtually through webinars and online conferences. City officials continue to take an active part in many events organised through this network.

International Relations also manage requests from cities globally, embassies and government departments to host inward delegations to Dublin to meet with the city leaders, officials and city stakeholders to share knowledge and best practice.

As a result of the pandemic and the impact on international travel, virtual meetings are facilitated when requested.

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