



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Dublin City Council
City Hall, Dublin 2, Ireland

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Minister Paschal Donohoe
Department of Finance
Government Buildings
Upper Merrion Street
Dublin 2, D02 R583

5th February 2021

Re: Reform of Local Property Tax

Dear Minister Donohoe,

At the meeting of Dublin City Council's Finance Strategic Policy Committee on 21st January 2021, the issue of the reform of the Local Property Tax was raised and debated. In particular, the members raised concerns regarding the lack of evident progress in implementing reforms set out in the review that you initiated in early 2019 in conjunction with the Department of the Taoiseach, Public Expenditure & Reform and Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

This Committee members agreed to correspond with you seeking a further update on the developments set out by you in your correspondence of 20th August 2019.

The reform of Local Property Tax is a priority issue for the Committee, more so now in the context of the economic and financial impacts of the pandemic. It is widely acknowledged that the introduction of public health measures requiring remote working and closing certain sectors of the economy such as hospitality and significant retail elements have had a disproportionate effect of Cities over rural or suburban areas.

The LPT allocation framework requires immediate reform, with the introduction of the retention by each local authority of 100% of LPT receipts received in that authority. Further the concept derived by the Department of Housing whereby Dublin City Council is termed as self-funding should be considered redundant. This approach has resulted in monies paid by householders in Dublin City in meeting their LPT liability substituted by Government for grants to DCC for services. In short the LPT has facilitated a lower government support for City services than previously.

The Finance SPC members ask that you consider this issue and would wish to consider your response as early as possible. The next remote meeting of the SPC is scheduled for 25th March 2021

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Séamas McGrattan
Chairperson
Finance Strategic Policy Committee