

Motion received from Aidan Sweeney on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020 - Agenda item SPC 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021:

*The below motion was received for the September 2020 SPC but was outside the time limit for receipt of motions for the September meeting and so progressed to the November SPC. As it was not heard at the Nov meeting; it progressed to the Jan 2021 meeting.*

### **Motion for the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC**

*That Dublin City Council immediately develops a strategy to support urban recovery, regeneration and revitalisation of Dublin city. The strategy would be an important pathway securing funding through the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility; identify priority projects that could access the new EU Cohesion Programmes 2021-2027; and locate other potential sources of finance. Dublin City Council should work with the European Investment Bank and State bodies to develop projects, which could leverage or blend EU and national funding to support the reboot and reimagining of Dublin city.*

### **Management Response: January 2021:**

#### **Urban Regeneration and Revitalisation of Dublin City:**

Dublin City Council is actively engaged in supporting urban recovery and regeneration with many committed projects that are already underway and plans for new projects under development that are designed to improve Dublin city. The Dublin City Council **Capital Programme 2020 to 2022** sets out a programme of work that has an estimated value of €2.647Billion. Many of the projects contained in the capital programme will address identified deficits in housing provision, flood relief infrastructure, the public realm and culture and recreation facilities across the city.

52% of the planned expenditure relates to Housing and Building, reflecting the ramping up of actions under the national **Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homeless**. The delivery of these projects is significantly dependant on grant funding from government sources and state agencies making up 77.1% of identified expenditure. Pursuing this level of grant funding is the only way to ensure the successful delivery of this ambitious programme. There is a limited lending envelope available to local authorities. The Capital Programme seeks to borrow 4.8% of the funding required. The CEB, EIB, HFA or other relevant lenders may be consulted with a view to securing the necessary borrowings at an attractive rate. All borrowings are subject to approval of the elected members, the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government. These areas falls within the Housing Department.

### ***New EU Cohesion Programmes 2021 – 2027***

A significant level of work was completed in Q4 2020; as highlighted throughout this SPC to put a process and procedure in place, in relation to examining opportunities within the upcoming EU Funding Programmes 2021-2027.

In September 2020, the SPC Working Group on European Affairs and International Relations supported a submission on the national and regional dissemination of the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) for the next programme period (2021 – 2027).

The Working Group members agreed a three-step approach to developing and fostering increased engagement/participation in EU projects by the City Council. This ***involved a 3 stage approach as follows:***

<b><i>Stage</i></b>	<b><i>Process</i></b>	<b><i>Timeframe</i></b>
Stage 1	Internal Organisation Survey on EU Project Participations	October 2020
Stage 2	Develop & Deliver Staff and Councillor Info. Sessions	November 2020
Stage 3	Develop European Programme Participation Strategy	December 2020

#### ***Stage 1: Internal Organisation Survey – October 2020***

In the first week in October 2020, a survey questionnaire was issued to all Departments and Sections across the organisation. Submissions were received from 8 Departments and 14 Sections. All data was collated, reviewed and presented to the SPC Working Group on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

#### ***Stage 2: Information Sharing Sessions - November 2020***

European Programme information sharing sessions were scheduled and held with speakers from National Contact Points for key EU Programmes and staff who had participated in projects under these themes. Four information sessions, focusing on Urban & Regional Regeneration, Horizon Europe, Smart & Green and Social & Cultural themes, were delivered for Dublin City Council staff on 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November and a full overview information session was held for all Councillors on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

<b><i>Info Session</i></b>	<b><i>Theme</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>
Session 1	Urban & Regional Regeneration	10 November 2020
Session 2	Horizon Europe	12 November 2020
Session 3	Smart & Green	17 November 2020
Session 4	Social & Cultural	19 November 2020
Session 5	Full Council Briefing	25 November 2020

### **Stage 3: Dublin City Council EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027 - December 2020**

Following the data gathering and information sharing process stages, an EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027 document for future participation for Dublin City Council was developed. In addition to maximising the City Council’s participation in EU programmes, the Strategy aims to ensure that the City Council benefits from the movement for a stronger partnership between the European Commission and city authorities to enable city authorities to shape programme priorities based on local development needs.

The draft EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027 was presented to Senior Management on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and to the SPC Working Group on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The Strategy was considered and approved by the SPC at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021. A key recommendation is the establishment of an EU Programmes Office in the City Council. Work is now underway to implement the strategy recommendations. The Economic Development & Enterprise SPC will monitor progress in implementing the Strategy.

The Strategy and preparatory process is being presented to each SPC as per the schedule below:

<b>No</b>	<b>SPC</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Economic Development & Enterprise	12 Jan 2021
2	Planning	23 Feb 2021
3	Finance	25 Mar 2021
4	Climate Action, Environment & Energy	31 Mar 2021
5	Housing & Community	14 April 2021
6	Traffic & Transport	5 May 2021
7	Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation	17 May 2021

### **Reboot and Reimagine Dublin City**

As an initiative of this SPC we held the **Dublin Reset Summit** in November of last year. This event allowed us to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to share views and insights into what Dublin needs to set us on a path to developing our capacity and resilience as a Capital city in the face of challenges presented by the Covid 19 pandemic, Brexit and the Climate Crisis. An outcomes report from the Reset Summit has been finalised and will be shared with the members of this SPC and with key stakeholders who have a shared interest in promoting and championing a strong and resilient Dublin city.

### **EU Recovery and Resilience Facility Fund**

It is our understanding that decisions on the apportionment of EU Recovery Funds will be made by Government. DPER have been working with the regional assemblies to capture the requirements of the local authorities and this work along with inputs from the Regional

Enterprise plans has informed the development of the National Economic Plan. The Chair of this SPC wrote to DPER in October 2020, on behalf of the members of the International Relations and EU Affairs Working Group, seeking further information on plans for how these funds will be accessed by the Dublin region. We have not received a response to date, however our understanding is that the government will announce its Economic Plan shortly which will include the recovery plan and how EU funding will be accessed.

**Update April 2021:**

**Access the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility**

The EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) aims to mitigate the economic and social impact of the pandemic and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions. The RRF is the key element of the €750bn Next Generation EU/Recovery Plan.

Ireland is expected to receive €853m in grants under the RRF in 2021 and 2022 (further grants will be allocated in 2023, taking into account economic development between now and then). In order to access funding, Ireland must develop a National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) for approval by EU. The NRRP Public Consultation outlines the timeframe and requirements for plans and projects that may be included. The NRRP is being developed as part of a broader exercise undertaken on the development of a new National Economic Plan - a medium term roadmap for economic recovery and renewal, which will include economic priorities and policy objectives at a national level.

On 2 February the Department of An Taoiseach launched a public consultation process on the National Recovery & Resilience Plan, with a very tight deadline of 22 February for the receipt of submissions. The intensive process pursued in preparing the Dublin City Council's submission to the National Recovery & Resilience Plan 2021 resulted in a comprehensive submission by Dublin City Council to the National Recovery & Resilience Plan within the deadline. The final submission contained 7 sections within a 37 page document highlighting 6 proposal areas (Energy Efficiency, Digital Transformation, Greening & Biodiversity, Flood Defences & Resilience, Public Realm and Wellbeing) including 13 potential projects to the value of €464.2M.

A presentation on the City Council's draft submission to the NRRP was considered by the CPG at its meeting on 19 February 2021, in advance of submission. '**Rebuilding Dublin: a Resilient Capital City**' was submitted to the Department of An Taoiseach on 22 February 2021. A presentation on Dublin City Council's submission to the Recovery and Resilience Plan will be provided at the SPC meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### **URDF Funding**

In March 2021, Dublin City Council has been allocated €174.3m for projects under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). €121.3m of this allocation will be used to help fund projects in the North Inner City, with €53m going towards projects in the South Inner City. The funding allocation is provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Since the arrival of Covid-19 in particular we have all seen the hugely important role played by libraries, parks, and the public realm in general. Investment in social infrastructure is vital for the post-Covid future and this funding allocation is particularly welcome in these difficult times. Dublin City Council's aim is to make Dublin a more liveable City and this URDF funding is a huge investment by the Government in that direction. Dublin City Council looks forward to putting this funding allocation to the best possible use on behalf of the citizens of Dublin.

### **Office of City Recovery**

Dublin City Council remain committed to the continued response of the impact of Covid 19 to the cities citizens, businesses and economy. The recovery and resilience of the city is key for future proofing and therefore the City Council is proposing to establish a City Recovery Office, which was approved by Senior Management on 6<sup>th</sup> April. This is following the establishment of Dublin City Council's City Recovery Task Force to shape a physical, economic, social and cultural recovery strategy for the city post Covid-19. The overall objective is to contribute to the recovery of the city centre by creating a roadmap for the delivery of the City Council's vision in line with the Government's plans for relaxing Covid restrictions and for reopening the economy. There will be extensive stakeholder engagement during the process. The primary focus of the initiative will be on non-residential areas between the Canals to the North and South and stopping at Heuston Station in the West. It is proposed that the Task Force will have an internal focus dealing with City Council services and those matters that the City Council specifically controls and, an external focus dealing with stakeholders and addressing their needs post COVID. The initiative will continue until 31 December 2021, at which stage it will be subject to review.