

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Economic Development & Enterprise

Meeting held on Tuesday 29th September 2015 at 3.30pm

In

Council Chambers, City Hall, Dublin 2

Members Present:

Cllr. Paul McAuliffe (Chair), Cllr. Alison Gilliand, Cllr. Deirdre Heney, , Cllr. Gaye Fagan, , John Lompard, Denise Brophy, Evanne Kilmurray, Martin Harte.

Apologies:

Cllr. Brendan Carr, Cllr Kate O’Connell, Cllr. Tina MacVeigh , John Lompard, Geraldine Lavin, Kieran Rose, Jamie Cudden. Cllr. Gary Gannon, Cllr. Noel Rock

Officials:

Jim Keogan, Assistant Chief Executive, Planning, Property, Enterprise and Economic Development.

Greg Swift, Head of LEO Dublin City.

Kieran Rose, Senior Planner, Planning, Property, Enterprise and Economic Development.

Michael Galvin, Administrative Officer, Property, Enterprise and Economic Development.

Mary Mac Sweeney, Senior Executive Officer, LEO Dublin City.

Bryan Coughlan, Assistant Staff Officer, LEO Dublin City.

Steven O’Gara, Staff Officer, LEO Dublin City.

Minutes of meeting:

1. Chairman Cllr. Paul McAuliffe asked if there were any matters arising from the SPC meeting of 14th July 2015. The minutes of that meeting were adopted and there were no further matters arising, other than those that are listed on the agenda of this meeting.
2. Chairman Cllr. Paul McAuliffe thanked the staff of the Local Enterprise office (LEO) for their efforts and hard work in assisting the SPC with their work and invited Ms. Mary McSweeney (SEO, LEO) to give a report on the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 -2021

Ms. McSweeney gave a detailed update on the status of the Local Economic and Community Plan, providing details on the plan to date, work to be completed and advised of the key dates. A draft version of the plan is being compiled and will be sent to the Councillors on the

14th October followed by an Information Briefing for Councillors scheduled for the 15th October at 12.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall. Following the LECP being assessed by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly the draft LECP will be adopted by this SPC and the LCDC in November. The draft LECP will be presented to the full Council at its monthly meeting on the 7th December 2015 to be adopted.

Cllr. Allison Gilliland asked for clarification on the powers of the regional assembly to amend or veto elements of the plan. Ms. McSweeney clarified role of the regional assembly in confirming that the plan was consistent with the Development Plan and regional spatial and economic strategies.

Chairman Cllr. Paul McAuliffe highlighted the mechanism for submissions on the draft plan and that this mechanism was chosen to offer the most efficient method for councillors to make submissions or amendments on the draft plan.

3. Mr. Greg Swift (Head of LEO) gave a detailed overview of the role, remit and function of the LEO office in supporting, developing and facilitating the emergence of new enterprise in the Dublin City region. The presentation included an overview of the individual and group training supports, financial supports and co-operative networking activities engaged in by LEO.

Mr. Martin Harte (The Temple Bar Company) was very impressed with the work of the LEO to date and said his members were likely, unaware of the services offered by LEO. Mr. Harte suggested that LEO participate in a networking event such as a working breakfast. Mr. Harte also questioned the apparent high rate of interest charged on microfinance loans.

Mr. Swift welcomed Mr. Harte's idea of a working breakfast and said it merited further discussion. Mr. Swift also clarified the microfinance interest rate is set in the context of the risk presented by those applying for funding. The LEO promotes MFI to clients who would benefit from raising finances to assist with the development of their businesses.

Cllr. Deirdre Heney Asked for Clarification of the JobsPlus programme and the nature of the payments. Mr. Swift confirmed that payments under this scheme were made directly to employers.

4. Mr. Jim Keogan (Assistant City Manager, DCC) gave an overview on the status of the review of the Draft review of Section 48 Development Contributions Scheme 2016-2020.

Mr. Michael Galvin gave a detailed report on the effect of changes to the contribution calculation in relation to public policy and infrastructural planning. Mr. Galvin said the draft report and contribution rates were the result of recommendations of an external consultants report commissioned by the four Dublin Local Authorities. Chairman Cllr. McAuliffe clarified that the adoption of the report was a reserve function of the elected Council.

Cllr. Heaney asked for clarification on the cost of the consultants report. Mr. Keogan said that a compressive examination of development contributions had taken place in 2010 and

the current review did not require as extensive examination to bring the issues up to date. It was estimated that the cost of the report was in the region of €4-5k for each LA.

Cllr. Gilliland asked if Mr. Keogan expected an increase in planning application in the run up the end of the current contribution scheme. Mr. Keogan said the purpose of the plan was to offer market certainty in advance and did not envisage a rush of applications.

Cllr. Fagan asked how the contributions were allocated to projects and why flood defence funding in Fairview & Irishtown were not listed while projects in Clontarf were. Mr. Keogan clarified that the resources allocated to critical flood defence in Clontarf and Eastwall had had a significant cascade effect on the defence in Fairview and Irishtown. It was also clarified that the list was not exhaustive.

Cllr. Noleen Reilly asked about the oversight of contribution payments to Irish Water for infrastructure projects. Mr. Keogan stated that the Council and other regulatory bodies worked closely with IW to ensure infrastructure commitments were completed.

Mr. Harte asked about the impact of a shortfall in contributions income, for the level of rates paid by business. Mr. Keogan clarified that commercial rates would not be impacted by any capital budget shortfall and that alternative income streams would make up any shortfall.

Cllr Gilliland asked about the allocation of contributions in light of the legacy issues relating to unfinished/non-maintenance of green spaces in housing developments and apartment complexes. Mr. Keogan said that the weightings in the allocations had changed significantly from previous schemes and that weightings of class 3, 4 & 5 had increased significantly.

Chairman Cllr. Paul McAuliffe asked if the contributions scheme could be used as a mechanism to incentivise development and how could Cllr's influence spend. Mr. Keogan responded that the report would be presented to the Council meeting in December and their thoughts and input would be sought, further, DCC has already offered significant incentives for developers by reducing the unit rates per m² of commercial and residential development and no further interventions by DCC are under consideration.

5. Mr. Kieran Rose presented a report to the Council on DCC controlled Vacant Land. Mr. Rose emphasised a policy of Active Land Management as a current element of the Local Development Plan, and that DCC had indentified 12 "high profile" sites for which he proposed to carry out work to prepare an assessment and present a report to the SPC.

Clarification was sought about the sale by DCC of a site zoned for residential housing, rather than DCC building social houses itself. Mr. Rose responded that the site in question had been sold to NABCO, a social housing cooperative for the purpose of constructing housing.

Chairman Cllr. Paul McAuliffe asked if a comprehensive list of vacant sites controlled by DCC could be provided to the SPC. It was also clarified that the SPC had previously asked for "high profile" sites to be examined.

Mr. Rose said that the current list would need to be updated and Mr. Keogan added that a list could be provided but that it would not reflect the real time interest of various stakeholders involved in the Active Land Management policy and may not include various sites earmarked for specific projects.

6. Chairman Cllr. McAuliffe discussed the current position on the Café/Restaurants Working Group and that more time was needed to consult with various stakeholders who wished to be involved in the process. This work is being coordinated by Ms. McSweeney and was ongoing.
7. Ms. Brophy presented on the Tourism working group, highlighting the objectives of the group and suggesting the setting up of a permanent core membership consisting of:

2	Assistant Chief Executive's
2	Internal SPC committee members
2	external SPC committee members
1	representative of Failte Ireland
1	representative of Irish Tourist Industry Federation (ITIC)

Ms. Brophy and Mr. Harte requested to be the nominated as external representatives on the group and this was agreed. Chairman Cllr. Paul McAuliffe said that interest from Cllr's would be sought to fill the two vacancies.

8. Chairman Cllr. McAuliffe concluded meeting by confirming date on next SPC on 22nd October 2015. The next meeting will be a Joint SPC/LCDC meeting and it will be held in the Wood Quay Venue. The November meeting date requires to be clarified as a further joint meeting is due to be scheduled for the week commencing the 16th November 2015. Cllr. Reilly asked if the committee members could be provided with copies of reports prior to meetings.
9. No items were raised under A.O.B.