



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Oifig an Cheannasaí Airgeadais, An Roinn Airgeadais,
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Éire

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Professor Niamh Moloney,
Commission on Taxation and Welfare,
Department of Finance,
Government Buildings,
Upper Merrion Street ,
D02 R583

22nd November, 2021.

Dear Professor Moloney,

I write to you with regard to your work on the Commission on Taxation and Welfare (COTW), established as an action under the Programme for Government. The work of the COTW was discussed by Dublin City Council's Finance Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting held on 18th November. It was welcomed that the COTW initiated a public consultation process on 20th October, seeking views and comments on its work.

The COTW Terms of Reference, as noted, is '*...to review how best the taxation and welfare system can support economic activity and income redistribution, whilst promoting increased employment and prosperity in a resilient, inclusive and sustainable way and ensuring that there are sufficient resources available to meet the costs of public services and supports in the medium and longer term...*' Dublin City Council is largest local authority in the State. The preparations for the Budget for the financial year 2022 point to an operational budget of €1.13bn and a three year capital programme over the period 2022-2024 of €2.4bn. Notwithstanding the large scale and quantum services and activities, Dublin City Council's funding arrangements are precarious. There has been marginal net inflow of resources to Dublin City Council through the LPT arrangements. Dublin City Council is termed 'self-funding' by the Department of Housing and consequently does not receive funding from the exchequer as in the past.

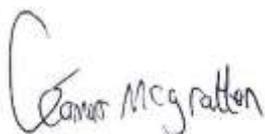
Dublin City is the most socio-economic diverse area in the State, with areas of significant wealth and deprivation living closely together. The presence of significant wealth within a community cannot be assumed to mean that all within that community benefit. Services are required to support those living with deprivation and at the margins of the economy and society. Without consistent services and funding over time, targeting the evident disparate nature of our communities, a risk presents that social tensions and fragmentation will increase which can itself bring further risk of severe anti-social behaviour and crime related activities. It is much more costly for society to redress these situations after they have developed, both in terms of cost, life experiences for those involved and social fabric, than to fund and support communities steadily over time.

The members of Dublin City Council's Finance Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) ask that you consider the role and impact of local authorities and in particular Dublin City Council's, in your work.

On another point, the Finance SPC has recently recommended to Dublin City Council that Community Wealth Building (CWB) be adopted as an approach to building communities, giving opportunities for employment and considering economic and social impacts of services from a generative rather than extractive perspective. This was agreed at a recent meeting of the Elected Members of Dublin City Council and measures are underway to examine how Dublin City Council will implement CWB. I suggest that this approach (CWB) would be complimentary to and supportive of the objectives of the COTW.

Dublin City Council's Finance Strategic Policy Committee would be very happy to engage further with the COTW, by way of remote meeting for example, in the event that you wished to explore issues further.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Séamas McGrattan
Chairperson
Finance Strategic Policy Committee
Dublin City Council

