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## **Report to the Chairperson and members of the Finance Strategic Policy Committee**

### **Dublin City Council's Charging Policy**

## **1.0 Background**

Report no 09/2022 was considered by the Finance SPC at the May 2022 meeting. The report followed consideration by the Budget Consultative Group (BCG) of the report on the Review of Local Government Funding as applies to Dublin City Council which specially referenced Dublin City Council's Charging Policy. The issue under discussion has been to examine how Dublin City Council's charges are set with view to establishing the best policy to safeguard Dublin City Council's resource base while applying fair and appropriate charges. Finance SPC members agreed that this matter required the advice of the Law Agent and would be considered again at a subsequent meeting. Dublin City Council's goods and services income is budgeted at €329m in 2022.

## **2.0 Report Focus**

The key areas of focus of this report are:

1. Summary of consensus achieved to date.
2. Charges set under byelaws.
3. Proposed recommendation to the City Council.

## **2.1 Summary of consensus achieved to date**

Income through charges for goods and services is a key resource for DCC in supporting service provision. Dublin City Council applies a range of charges, some, but not all, of which the proposed Charging Policy will apply. It should be noted that Commercial Rates are determined by the Elected Members at Statutory Budget Meeting and are not considered. Charges that the policy will not apply to are:

- Nationally set charges such as planning application fees.
- Housing rents which are set by a separate differential rents scheme and
- Charges already determined through another mechanism

### *Reduced Inflation Rate*

Dublin City Council provides a wide range of services and for some of those services, charges apply. The nature of the service for which charges are made is a key determinant of the

approach taken by Dublin City Council to setting that charge. Dublin City Council provides many services of a leisure / amenity / sporting nature. Dublin City Council promotes and encourages participation in sporting and recreational activities at all levels and the use and enjoyment of the many amenities within our City. It is a key aspect of service provision that the charges applied for these services recognise the social connections and public health benefits accruing. It is proposed that such charges would move in line with inflation / cost of provision at a rate of 50%. That is for every 2% movement in inflation and or cost of provision, charges will move by 1%.

#### *Increased Inflation Rate*

Dublin City Council provides services which can trigger a shift in behaviour yielding positive environmental impacts. One such service is on-street parking in the City Centre zone. There is an acknowledgement that a modal shift from private to public transport supports efforts to address climate change. The benefits of such a change are at a global and local level, through improved local air quality. It is appropriate to apply a charging regime for this service that prompts users to seek other, more environmentally beneficial options. It is proposed that parking related charges move in line with inflation / cost of provision at a rate of 150%. That is for every 2% movement in inflation and or cost of provision, charges will move by 3%.

#### *Unadjusted Inflation Rate*

It is proposed that all other charges would be set with regard to inflation as previously discussed i.e. for every 2% movement in inflation and or cost of provision, charges will move by 2%.

## **2.2 Charges set under byelaws**

The policy refers to the consideration of inflation and stepped increases in cost in the setting of charges. It recommends that movements in inflation / costs be reflected in charges using the three bands referenced above. The policy in no way impacts on the capacity for Elected Members to review any base charge or to determine that in specific cases charges will be set without reference to inflation / costs.

It is proposed that as part of the setting of charges, including those under byelaws, that each Department would have due regard to the inflation rate and the cost of provision of the service. The appropriate charge band (increased, reduced, unadjusted) for each specific service would be applied to the charge. As part of the report on increases / decreases to a charge made by DCC brought for the consideration of the City Council, attention would be drawn to the incorporation of inflation / cost trends to the charge setting process. It is important that reference is made to the requirements of the specific byelaw in question as any amendment of byelaws is a reserved function and thus required to be voted on by the elected members. It should also be noted that Section 206 (1) of the Local Government Act, 2001 relating to Fixed payment notices states that "*A bye-law may provide for a person to be served with a notice, specifying a fixed payment, not exceeding such amount as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Minister...*" i.e. changes in the charge applied may also need to be considered in the context of relevant Ministerial regulations. Charges should be reviewed on an annual basis where possible.

## **2.3 Proposed recommendation to Dublin City Council**

It is proposed that the Finance Strategic Policy Committee recommend to Dublin City Council that

- it's charging policy be revised.
- all charges in scope be set having considered the relevant inflation / cost trends.
- all charges in scope of this policy be considered under the three charge bands of increased (for every 2% increase in inflation / costs, 3% increase in charge is applied),

reduced (for every 2% increase in inflation / costs, 1% increase in charge is applied) or unadjusted (for every 2% increase in inflation / costs, 2% increase in charge is applied).

- changes to all charges made under byelaws will be brought individually before the City Council with reference made to the consideration given to movements in inflation / costs in setting the charge.
- all charges should be reviewed annually where possible.

**Kathy Quinn**

**Head of Finance**

**With responsibility for ICT**

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Appendices****Schedule A:**

	<b>Goods and Services Income Streams</b>	<b>Y2022 €</b>	<b>Y2021 €</b>	<b>Y2021R €</b>
	<b>Schedule A: Highest Twenty</b>			
1	Rents from Houses	93,000,000	92,000,000	92,400,000
2	LAContrib_Fire Service	62,171,326	60,740,734	62,044,722
3	Irish Water	44,780,198	44,073,310	39,333,899
4	Parking Fines & Charges	30,765,000	36,260,000	23,260,000
5	Pension Contrib	10,232,000	10,911,000	10,635,900
6	Agency Services & Repayable Works	9,944,500	10,078,000	9,895,535
7	LAContrib_Homeless Voluntary	7,250,000	7,250,000	7,250,000
8	Housing Loans	6,697,194	7,748,600	6,587,376
9	OtherInc_Bridge Tolls	6,686,824	5,578,900	5,036,824
10	OtherInc_Contrib from Capital	5,341,524	2,214,875	2,540,620
11	OtherInc_Enforcement of Waste	5,185,000	4,185,500	5,171,323
12	Recreation, Amenity, Culture	4,782,609	6,328,079	1,986,992
13	OtherInc_RAS Tenant Contrib	2,911,966	2,995,000	2,911,966
14	NPPR	2,500,000	2,500,000	4,500,000
15	Sale/Leasing of Property/Industrial Sites	2,419,173	2,322,338	2,508,487
16	Planning Fees	2,405,250	2,887,500	1,924,200
17	LAContrib_Building Control	2,164,170	1,600,000	1,600,000
18	OtherInc_Section 89 Licences/Hoarding	2,100,000	1,300,000	2,100,000
19	OtherInc_Bike Scheme	2,000,268	2,569,448	1,739,767
20	OtherInc_Derelict Sites Levy	2,000,000	1,300,000	1,768,894

**Schedule B:**

	<b>Goods and Services Income Streams</b>	<b>Y2022 €</b>	<b>Y2021 €</b>	<b>Y2021R €</b>
	<b>Schedule B: Not in Scope</b>			
1	G+S_ Rents from Houses	93,000,000	92,000,000	92,400,000
2	LAContrib_ Fire Service	62,171,326	60,740,734	62,044,722
3	G+S_ Irish Water	44,780,198	44,073,310	39,333,899
4	G+S_ Pension Contrib	10,232,000	10,911,000	10,635,900
5	G+S_ Agency Services & Repayable Works	9,944,500	10,078,000	9,895,535
6	LAContrib_ Homeless Voluntary	7,250,000	7,250,000	7,250,000
7	G+S_ Housing Loans	6,697,194	7,748,600	6,587,376
8	OtherInc_ Contrib from Capital	5,341,524	2,214,875	2,540,620
9	OtherInc_ Enforcement of Waste	5,185,000	4,185,500	5,171,323
11	OtherInc_ RAS Tenant Contrib	2,911,966	2,995,000	2,911,966
12	G+S_ NPPR	2,500,000	2,500,000	4,500,000
13	G+S_ Sale/Leasing of Property/Industrial Sites	2,419,173	2,322,338	2,508,487
14	G+S_ Planning Fees	2,405,250	2,887,500	1,924,200
15	LAContrib_ Building Control	2,164,170	1,600,000	1,600,000
16	OtherInc_ Derelict Sites Levy	2,000,000	1,300,000	1,768,894
17	OtherInc_ Rental Income	1,610,000	1,698,240	1,040,830
18	OtherInc_ IPB Dividend	1,465,195	3,855,211	3,855,211
19	LAContrib_ CAMP	1,411,000	1,411,000	1,411,095
20	OtherInc_ Public Bodies	1,022,982	1,001,827	1,561,603
21	OtherInc_ Building Control	785,500	863,000	626,500
22	LAContrib_ Air & Noise	726,147	0	177,565
23	LAContrib_ Valuation Fees	600,000	600,000	600,000
24	OtherInc_ ServiceChargeRecoup	568,598	624,475	519,261
25	OtherInc_ Travellers Rents	565,000	565,000	512,050
26	LAContrib_ Civil Defence	503,000	503,000	507,210
27	G+S_ Civic Amenity	500,000	500,000	595,000
28	OtherInc_ Entry Year Levy	500,000	1,000,000	300,000
29	LAContrib_ Waste Management Plan	492,612	612,612	352,612
30	OtherInc_ Internal Receipts	415,282	497,782	620,650
31	LAContrib_ Traffic	380,000	380,000	380,000
32	OtherInc_ Recycling Services	365,000	459,785	400,000
33	LAContrib_ Enforcement of Waste	355,000	250,000	355,071
34	OtherInc_ IPB_(JtoH)	350,000	350,000	589,675
35	OtherInc_ Library Council	313,500	313,500	354,500
36	OtherInc_ LEO	295,000	344,000	330,000
37	OtherInc_ Homeless Services	272,371	386,132	272,371
38	LAContrib_ Franchise	260,293	200,000	209,060
39	LAContrib_ Central Lab	220,000	220,000	270,000
40	OtherInc_ HGV	200,000	200,000	200,000
41	LAContrib_ Smart Dublin	198,000	198,000	198,000
42	OtherInc_ AreaOfficeContrib	194,900	202,500	211,810
43	LAContrib_ WTE	150,000	150,000	176,448
44	Otherinc_ Contrib from Capital_(JtoH)	148,900	53,963	370,636

45	OtherInc_Parking	144,700	144,700	117,000
46	OtherInc_Internal Receipts_(AOtoH)	142,084	6,500	203,097
47	OtherInc_Market Income	117,292	79,923	175,744
48	OtherInc_Public Bodies_(JtoH)	87,000	67,000	87,000
49	LAContrib_Landfill	85,110	0	0
50	LAContrib_LEO	75,000	75,000	75,000
51	LAContrib_Covid Homeless	71,664	0	1,360,131
52	LAContrib_Dublin Bay Biosphere	60,000	60,000	60,000
53	OtherInc_Misc_(JtoH)	56,757	81,500	132,363
54	LAContrib_Cost Of Management_(JtoH)	54,794	52,048	54,794
55	G+S_Library Fees/Fines	30,650	29,770	9,950
56	OtherInc_BIDs	30,000	30,000	30,000
57	LAContrib_Libraries	20,000	30,000	20,000
58	OtherInc_Sponsorship	20,000	60,000	426
59	OtherInc_Misc_(AOtoH)	10,400	10,400	49,253
60	OtherInc_Housing Receipts	8,000	6,000	10,526
61	LAContrib_Heritage	5,000	15,000	55,000
62	OtherInc_Contribution Prior to Letting	2,500	200,000	5,000
63	G+S_Commerical Waste Water	0	0	0
64	LAContrib_Coroners Court	0	30,000	0
65	OtherInc_Contrib from Capital_(AOtoH)	0	0	13,864
66	OtherInc_Covid Homeless	0	0	73,900
67	OtherInc_Public Bodies_(AOtoH)	0	0	6,930
68	OtherInc_Street Furniture	0	500,000	18,000

## Schedule C

	Goods and Services Income Streams	Y2022 €	Y2021 €	Y2021R €	Proposed rate of increase		
					Schedule C: Charges in scope	Reduced	Unadjusted
1	Parking Fines and Charges	30,765,000	36,260,000	23,260,000			X
2	Bridge Tolls	6,686,824	5,578,900	5,036,824			X
3	Recreation, Amenity, Culture	4,782,609	6,328,079	1,986,992	X		
4	Sale/Leasing of Property/Industrial Sites	2,419,173	2,322,338	2,508,487		X	
5	Section 89 Licences/Hoarding	2,100,000	1,300,000	2,100,000		X	
6	Bike Scheme	2,000,268	2,569,448	1,739,767		X	
7	Fire Charges	1,600,000	1,500,000	1,578,245		X	
8	Civic & Amenity	500,000	500,000	595,000	X		
9	Recycling Services	365,000	459,785	400,000			
10	HGV	200,000	200,000	200,000			X
11	Markets related rental and parking income	117,292	79,923	175,744			X
12	Other Parking	144700	144700	117000			X

