

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar,  
Department of the Taoiseach,  
Government Buildings,  
Upper Merrion Street,  
Dublin 2.

9<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

RE: Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund

Dear Taoiseach,

I write to you with regard to the Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund, an annual fund established in 2012 and administered by Dublin City Council. The Fund enables the delivery of a consistent and measureable suite of programmes and services to meet the needs of, and enhance the lives of, all people living in the Ballymun area.

The Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund supports the achievement of the objectives for Ballymun, as set out in the document *Sustaining Regeneration, A Social Plan for Ballymun*. It is widely acknowledged that the physical landscape of Ballymun has changed considerably in recent times, and as such, full social regeneration through a wide range of public, private and community interests requires a longer term horizon to secure.

The Fund gives focus to seven themes, as follows:

1. Placemaking
2. Education, Lifelong Learning and Training
3. Community Safety
4. Health and Wellbeing
5. Child Development and Family Support
6. Arts and Culture
7. Recreation and Sport

In 2012 The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government fully funded these services to the value of €2.4m, reducing to €1.8m in 2014 and further reduced to €1.7m in 2015. In 2017, the Department notified Dublin City Council that it would incrementally reduce the fund by 25% annually from 2018.

- 2017 – 100% Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government / 0% sourced from Dublin City Council
- 2018 – 75% Department of Housing Planning and Local Government / 25% sourced from Dublin City Council
- 2019 – 50% Department of the Housing, Planning and Local Government / 50% sourced from Dublin City Council
- 2020 – 25% Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage / 75% sourced from Dublin City Council
- 2021 to date - 0% Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage – 100% sourced by Dublin City Council.

This shift in the funding demand from Central to Local Government has caused budgetary pressures for Dublin City Council, in the context of an increasing demand across communities for services and the limited resources to support these. It goes without saying that the Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund is subject to Dublin City Council's budgetary process which must recognise the quantum of funding available.

The administration of the Fund involves the identifying of lead partners and community based networks who will co-ordinate the delivery of the plan across each of the chosen seven themes, identifying needs and gaps in current service provision. Projects and Groups that provide for additional or new community services, that can be accessed by different sections of the community and that address the initiatives outlined in the seven themes above, are encouraged. These services are well established and used by the Ballymun community. The services are viewed as core to Ballymun and require core funding from the parent Department to which the service relates.

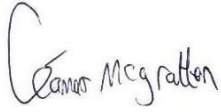
While a fund of €1,725,000 has been approved by Dublin City Council for 2023, I must emphasise to you that securing these funds occurred at the eleventh hour of Dublin City Council's budget deliberations. While the services in questions provide real benefit to the Ballymun community, there can be no expectation that Dublin City Council will have the capacity to continue this level of funding for future years in the context of ever increasing demands and static or reducing resources.

I ask that you agree, as a priority, the provision of core funding for the Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund, to assist Dublin City Council in continuing the provision of programmes and services needed to enrich the lives of those living in the area.

I attach, for your information, particulars of the fund recipients to this letter which details the services provided.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seamas McGrattan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

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**Cllr Seamas McGrattan**  
**Chairperson of the Finance SPC**  
**Dublin City Council**