

Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held 21st September 2023

1. Draft minutes of the Finance SPC meeting of 18th May, 2023.

The draft minutes were proposed by Cllr Dermot Lacey and seconded by Cllr. Christy Burke.

The minutes were adopted.

2. Matters Arising.

3. Correspondence.

Noted.

- a. Reply received from Fiona Quinn, DHLGH, re Baseline Review TOR request.
- b. Reply from Fáilte Ireland follow May SPC presentation.

- a. Members commented on the membership of the Local Government Funding Review committee as per the letter from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage and commented that the membership consisting of 9 officials from the Department and chaired by an official in the Department discredits the process. They commented that no official in the Department responsible for the funding should be chairing an independent committee.

4. Presentation on Data Innovative Economic Measurement - Jamie Cudden, Smart Dublin programme Manager.

Noted.

The committee welcomed the attendance of Jamie Cudden who gave a comprehensive presentation on data innovation analytics relating to economic measurements and the work of Dublin's Smart City Programme.

Jamie's focused on the work around the Economic Monitor and how Dublin City Council communicates economic data.

- Data insights into the value of retail spending in Dublin and
- Why we need to measure and understand tourism and how we do that
- Data insights around hotel data, citywide footfall and visitor spend
- Next step being a tender to acquire more timely economic retail spend data which can be used for all local authorities for the purpose of sharing information
- Smart Dublin plans to do more work on insights into the night time economy, the impact of Covid on city trends in retail and services and what we can predict into the future.
- Your Dublin Your Voice panel – most recent topic was on the night time economy – results to be available soon

Members discussed the presentation and congratulated Jamie on the partnerships he has created across the city.

5. Report on Outcome of the National Review of the LPT Baseline – Kathy Quinn

Noted.

Kathy discussed the key outcomes of the National Review of the LPT Baseline:

- Total LPT yield (at full base rate values) for 2024 €96.97m representing an increase of €2.4m on 2023
- The movement in discretionary funding moves from €7.09m to €8.77m, an increase of €1.68m, of which €1.5m is an increase in baseline funding and €180k is due to LPT buoyancy.
- A 1% movement in the LPT base rate represents €969k in funding
- The value of a potential 15% reduction / increase of the LPT base rate is €14.54m

The national review of the LPT baseline has been concluded and the financial impacts published. The key points of Dublin City Council's Finance SPC are not referenced in the Departments circular.

Outlook for 2024:

- Dublin City Council, as for all local authorities, will receive additional LPT receipts of €1.5m
- The buoyancy in LPT receipts of €180k and the movement in discretionary funding to €8.77m will benefit Dublin City Council which will be very helpful in the provision of services in 2024
- Changes locked in for 5 years

Members discussed the report with Kathy and commented:

- The Review doesn't recognise the role of Dublin as the Capital City, the high number of events held in the city and the footfall in the city from visitors/residents.
- What we submitted in our submission to the review was not taken into consideration where it comes to the benefits of more funding to Dublin City Council
- The Review is not acceptable
- No Government properties are subject to property tax yet Dubliners are starved of the right to services
- Equalization Fund is self-evidently unfair

Agreed to: Reiterate the points we made during meetings with other local authorities and councillors and make another submission to the Department.

6. Report on Visitor Levy Tax Update – Kathy Quinn

Report noted.

Kathy presented the report focusing on the Visitor Tax movement in Scotland, Wales, Amsterdam and Edinburgh. Kathy advised that there is no indication that enabling legislation is planned by Government so as to enable local authorities to introduce a Visitor Accommodation Tax. The Economic SPC agreed to write to Minister Martin to say a visitor tax would be helpful for the provision of cultural events across the city which would be very valuable. Members discussed the report and thanked Kathy for the research put into it.

Agreed to:

- Request Government to commence a process to consider the implement of a Visitor Accommodation Tax in Dublin City

- Write to the Ministers (as previously discussed with the committee) mentioning the recent increase in vat for hospitality and seeking that the differential between the previous rate of 9.5% and the current rate of 13% be assigned as a local accommodation tax to support projects that would boost local environments for residents and tourists.
- Write to the hospitality industry including the hotel federation seeking a meeting to meet with nominees from the SPC to discuss this issue.

7. Report on Crowdfund Dublin City – Kathy Quinn

Kathy presented the report and thanked Mary, Zoe and Sophie for the work involved in getting the project to the launch stage at the Mansion House on 3rd October following meetings with internal and external stakeholders. Kathy asked members if they might encourage people to apply if they have a project idea. The Chair thanked the team for their work on the project.

Report noted.

8. Audit Committee Minutes of meeting of 16th March and 15th June 2023.

Noted.

9 A.O.B.

Members discussed the possible introduction of congestion charges which is currently being discussed nationally.

- the significant implications on the funding of the city
- how we can examine the effects on the city to try and shape any decisions so the city is not adversely impacted
- possible involvement of the Transport SPC.
- early intervention required

Kathy advised that we had written to Transport SPC but got no formal response.

Agreed to: Approach the Transport SPC again with a request to meet

Next meeting on Thursday, 16th November at 2.30pm.

Signed: **Councillor Séamas McGrattan**
Chairperson

Date: **21st September, 2023**

Members Present

Cllr Séamas McGrattan
Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Mary Callaghan
Cllr Anthony Connaghan
Cllr Fiona Connolly
Cllr Christy Burke
Cllr Paddy McCartan
Cllr Darcy Lonergan
Alan Robinson, Docklands Business Forum
Aidan Sweeney, IBEC
Philip O'Callaghan, PPN
Sohini De, Dublin Chamber of Commerce

Officials

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance
Mary Curran, Finance Secretariat
Sophie Kelly, Finance Secretariat
Zoe Flood, Finance Secretariat
Fintan Moran, Management Accounting Unit
Enda Currid, Management Accounting Unit

Apologies

Cllr Daryl Barron
Dr. Caroline McMullan
Lord Mayor Daithi de Roiste
Cllr Nial Ring
Eric Fleming, ICTU

Others

Jamie Cudden, Smart Dublin Programme Manager

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