

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Economic Development & Enterprise

Meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2016 at 15.30pm

In the Council Chambers, City Hall, Dublin 2

Members Present:

Cllr. Paul McAuliffe (Chair), Cllr. Paddy Bourke, Cllr. Gaye Fagan, Cllr. Deirdre Heney, Cllr. Alison Gilliland, Cllr. Noeleen Reilly, Cllr. Greg Kelly, Cllr. Greg Kelly, Mr. Martin Harte, Ms Denise Brophy, Evanne Kilmurry, Geraldine Lavine,

Officials:

Vincent Norton, Acting Assistant Chief Executive, Dublin City Council.

Greg Swift, Head of Enterprise, Dublin City Council.

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

Mary Foley, Senior Executive Officer,

Deirdre Scully, Senior Planner, DDDA

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

Norman Thompson, Assistant Staff Officer, LEO Dublin City.

External:

Yvonne Scully, Yvonne Scully & Associates

Minutes:**Minutes of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC 6th September 2016.**

- 1. Minutes of previous meeting not circulated with Agenda. To be adopted at end of the meeting.**
- 2. Café & Restaurant presentation: Yvonne Scully, Yvonne Scully & Associates**

A presentation on the Café & Restaurant report prepared by Yvonne Scully & Associates

The Committee thanked Ms. Scully for the report and proceeded to ask a number of questions:

Why is advertising on canopies and barriers an issue? If we decided to have summer licensing, it should be implemented and could result in an uptake and providing additional lingering spaces would be welcome.

There are issue with policing. E.g. board walk. There is also a negative perception of the city as being dangerous at night. In relation to inspection/compliance, they should be carried out when you're not expecting them! North side outside of the city centre nowhere to go and sit outside. Problem with business in those areas

Of the volume that has not applied for street furniture licences, realistically how many of those would actually be required and if the fees were lowered how many more applications would DCC get. Further consultation required with Garda is needed and it should be brought to the policing committee. Another group should be the chamber of commerce and the city centre business.

Many Councillors were not aware of the pricing structure and did not realise that license fees were perceived to be so expensive. What are the current opening hours permitted? Many people have experienced frustration looking for coffee after 6pm! The proliferation of chain-coffee shops may be playing a role in stifling the development of independent local coffee shops. The necessary balance of independent retailers is missing from the mix.

Planning issue about the definition of restaurant/cafe/pub... needs to be addressed. Non compliance issue and regulations should be with the planning department as the enforcement would become a criminal conviction rather than a civil conviction. Funds collected for each street should be reinvested in that street.

This sector is becoming an increasing part of the Dublin City tourism offering; discuss more about the opening times. Great report but needs to address disability sector, cost of licensing may be too high and possibility to avoid inspection during busy hours. Please clarify how the advertising restrictions work.

In response, Ms Scully made the following points;

Security is a huge issue and policing is critical. Advertising, changes the terms of use under planning. This happens in other cities. No legislation restricting opening hours but need to apply but not all businesses want to be open for longer. Take-up and renewal of licenses is an administrative issue and enforcement powers need to be addressed.

In relation to the Public Realm, some opinions were that Garda would welcome it in some areas and not in other. Parklets have been successful in some area. Inspections should be somewhat issue with litter wardens. Issue with the north and south of the City Centre

In order to identify the numbers that would potentially take up licences requires further study but some streets cannot have these as the pedestrian footfall density is too high or streets are not suitable for street furniture.

In relation to transparency on revenue and spending, this is similar to rates, how DCC spends fees. Dublin chamber submission was reviewed and it might be worthwhile to engage with them for final report.

Ms. Scully provided clarification on the administration of Fats Oils and Grease (FOG) inspection system and said that DCC is under service level agreement (SLA) with Irish Water. There is actual a high volume of independent cafes and restaurants in Dublin.

Planning issues about Public Houses vs Cafes & Restaurants outside this report requires further study. Compliance & enforcement issues could be addressed by showing how money is spent.

Management Response:

Vincent Norton, Yvonne has dealt with most of the points but DCC require significant management input to respond to the issue. The streets belong to the people and revenues generated from advertising could have a kickback to the LA. Licensing needs to be addressed though. Studies are already being undertaken and we are well aware of the issues. Policing authority meeting happening on Thursday and level of policing particularly around popular tourist areas will be discussed. Regard must be given to disability access to the footpath.

3. Mary MacSweeney gave an update on the LECP

The point was raised that Cllrs. Should be involved in the process. The Chair clarified that the original consultation process of the LECP included all councillors in establishing the goals. If Councillors have any specific actions they would like included they should engage with the LEO for the 2017 Action Plan.

(Cllr. McAuliffe left the meeting and Cllr Kelly took over the Chair.)

4. Deirdre Scully, Senior Planner DCC/DDDA presented on Dockland SDZ

The Committee thanked Ms. Scully for the presentation and proceeded to ask a number of questions:

How will the new docklands format work and how will it integrate into DCC and the SPC. In establishing the SDZ's hotel accommodation in Dublin is critical, high density was called for.

Further questions were raised about the provision of housing in the area and if so when could it be expected to be available to the market. Questions were also raised about the new district heating system provided by the Waste2energy project and how would that work. A specific question was asked in relation to Mayor Street and had planning permission been granted? How high is the planning permission there and what is allowable?

In Response Ms Scully said:

The new structure, new SPC for Docklands has been established by the act dissolving the DDDA and it is a combination of the functions of the Area office and SPC. Requires engagement from existing SPC's to deliver more for Dublin.

In relation to Hotel accommodation, permission for 1 hotel has already been granted and permission for a 2nd hotel of 13 stories has been granted. However, it is expect that demand for Hotel Accommodation will increase. In relation to the number of houses to be delivered, this is a private development so not sure but indications are that they will be coming on stream soon.

Ms Scully said that she could not provide specific information on the district heating system as she was not connected to the project and it might be worth the committee consulting the project engineer, however, the majority of power for district heating plant will be coming from the waste to energy plant but they are getting builders to include suitable connections for new scheme.

Planning for Mayor Street has been granted but area change hands and need clarity on the project. Vincent Norton provided some clarification on the structure of the Docklands Forum.

5. A.O.B

6. Minutes Adopted