

Finance Strategic Policy Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held On 16th June 2016

Cllr. Paddy Bourke stood in as chair of the Committee at the commencement of the meeting awaiting the arrival of Cllr. Ruairi McGinley who was delayed.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2016

Minutes agreed. Minutes proposed by Cllr. P McCartan and seconded by Cllr. M. MacDonncha.

2. Matters arising

Acquisitions Committee

Cllr. M Flynn raised the issue of the establishment of an Acquisitions Committee and expressed his dissatisfaction that this was not being established. Following discussions, it was agreed as follows:

Agreed: K. Quinn would raise item further with the Chief Executive conveying views of Cllr. Flynn.

Agreed: This issue would be raised again at the CPG meeting for discussion.

Pyrite Works

Update report from P. Finnegan, City Architects, was circulated to the members.

Agreed: Report to future meeting detailing the additional costs from the loss of housing income, removal costs, rentals and staff costs etc. as a result of this issue.

WtoE Project - Community Gain Fund

Further information provided by Environment & Transport Department was noted and a comprehensive discussion took place.

Ringsend Toll Bridge Designated Activity Company

Report Noted.

Agreed: A report to be prepared detailing the income to Dublin City Council prior to the transfer of the bridge.

Agreed: Further report on the €12m assigned from income for capital purposes on the bridge.

Introduction of new Committee Member.

Cllr. McGinley introduced and welcomed Morgan O'Regan, Bank of Ireland representing the Dublin Docklands Business Forum. He takes up the vacancy left by David Brennan of the Dublin City Business Association.

Resignation of G. Quin, Dublin Chamber of Commerce

The members were informed that G. Quin will be stepping down from the Committee to take up a new position as President of the National Colleague of Ireland. She was sincerely thanked for her commitment and dedication to the work of the Dublin Chamber and the Finance Strategic Policy Committee over many years.

3. Hotel Bed Tax

A report relating to a similar proposal from Galway City Council was circulated. It was noted that there is currently no active proposal.

A report from the Law Agent was circulated showing the lack of current legislative powers to introduce this tax.

Agreed: Clarification would be sought regarding the wording of the Law Agent's report noting that co-operation of the Hotel Industry would be required to introduce this tax.

Agreed: It was agreed that this item would be returned to at a later date.

4. City Centre Trading Environment – Presentation from DublinTown

R. Guiney, CEO, DublinTown made a presentation to the Committee covering topics such as the decline in footfall, Luas cross city works, transport proposals, anti-social behaviour, perception of safety, vacancy rates, the next generation, social aspects of shopping, international experiences and planning and partnership. The presentation was given an overall positive welcome by the Committee Members present. Some objections were raised by others present.

5. Annual Financial Statement 2015

A presentation on the Annual Account of Dublin City Council for 2015 was made to the Committee. The presentation was noted. During discussions that followed the following items were agreed:

- Write to Department of Finance re Pensions Liability issue
- A report to be prepared on the list of Assets that did not transfer to Irish Water

6. Development Contributions Scheme report

Report noted.

Agreed: A website link to Development Contributions would be included under Trends in Business on the Dublin City Council site.

7. Work Programme 2016-2017

Committee Members had been asked at the previous meeting for items to be included on the Work Programme of the Committee. A report was circulated and noted.

In addition to the items submitted by members, it was agreed that the following additional items would be included:

- Overview of the accounts of the Homeless Agency would be included in the work programme.
- Key performance indicators by area

A preliminary work programme for the coming months was discussed and it was agreed that R. McGinley and K. Quinn would meet to discuss and prioritise the programme.

8. Referral of Emergency Motion 2 – Irish Water Rates

Agreed: It was agreed, during the discussions on Item 5) AFS 2015 above, that this motion would be dealt with.

Agreed: It was agreed that correspondence would issue to the Secretary General of the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government on this matter.

Agreed: It was suggested that correspondence should issue to the Oireachtas Committee on Water Charges.

9. Lobbying Act – Transparency Code & Requirements

- Note of meeting with BID Company

A briefing note of a meeting held on 14th April 2016 between R. McGinley and K. Quinn with representatives from Dublin BID Company was circulated and the contents were noted.

10. Audit Committee – agreed minutes of 10th December 2015

Cllr. M. Flynn reiterated his objections to the delay in the release of Audit Reports to Council Members in a timely manner once published and not have to use the powers of the FOI legislation. Cllr. McGinley asked that when reports do become available that they are circulated to council members.

Agreed: It was agreed that a copy of the Protected Disclosures document circulated to staff would be circulated to all council members and committee members.

11. A.O.B.

Dublin Enterprise Board – allocation of grants

Following a request from Cllr. M Flynn, it was agreed that K. Quinn would contact the LEO to request a presentation outlining the grants structure in place for a future meeting. The last available public document could be circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr. N Reilly noted that, in her opinion, there could be duplication of reports as this report has already been presented to the Economic SPC. Cllr McGinley noted that the topic was of interest to members.

Signed: **Councillor Ruairi McGinley**
 Chairperson

Date: 16th June 2016

Attendance:

Members

Councillor Ruairi McGinley (Chairperson)

Councillor Paddy Bourke

Councillor Tom Brabazon

Councillor Brendan Carr

Councillor Ray McAdam

Councillor Paddy McCartan

Councillor Micheál MacDonncha

Councillor Noeleen Reilly

Councillor Nial Ring

Eric Fleming, ICTU

Morgan O'Regan, Docklands Business Forum
Gina Quin, Dublin Chamber of Commerce
Aidan Sweeney, IBEC

Councillors – Non Members

Cllr. Mannix Flynn
Cllr. Mary Freehill

Officials

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance
Antoinette Power, Head of Financial Accounting
Fintan Moran, Head of Management Accounting
Fiona Murphy, Senior Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat
Fiona Collins, Assistant Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat
Lisa Nolan, Staff Officer (Secretarial), Finance Secretariat

Guest Speaker

Richard Guiney, CEO, Dublin Town

Apologies

Councillor Dermot Lacey
Councillor Hazel De Nortúin
Councillor Larry O'Toole
Dr. Caroline McMullan, DCU
Joanna Piechota, Irish Polish Society