



MINUTES OF THE PROTOCOL COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2017

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd December 2016 and matters arising
Order: Agreed
- 2 Lord Mayor's Receptions and Engagements of the Deputy Lord Mayor
Order: Noted and Recommend to Council
- 3 Motion in the name of Councillor Paul McAuliffe

"Inspired by the Accenture Ireland #WomenonWalls project which seeks to address the lack of portraits of historical female leaders in Ireland. Dublin City Council will seek sponsorship for and commission a portrait of the first female Lord Mayor of Dublin Kathleen Clarke framed to a size and scale that will allow it to replace one of the current portraits that hang in the Council Chamber alongside that of Daniel O'Connell."
Order: Agreed
- 4 Motion in the name of Councillor Michael O'Brien

"To request that the practice whereby a written explanation would be circulated to councillors when emergency motions were ruled out of order, which was agreed at the Protocol Committee meeting last October and subsequently put into practice, be reinstated.

When I raised the discontinuation of this practice at January's Council meeting, the Lord Mayor informed me that this was because the newly adopted standing orders did not contain a provision for such a circulation. I am requesting that a further amendment to standing orders be drafted to incorporate this measure."

Order: Agreed and Recommend to Council. The Members stipulated that the written explanation as to why an emergency motion was not taken did not have to be circulated until the day after the Council meeting.
- 5 Request for use of the Council Chamber on Thursday 9th February 2017 by Enterprise Europe Network in conjunction with the LEO Office in support of Local Enterprise Week
Order: Agreed
- 6 Draft Training Programme for Members 2017
Order: Agreed

7 Update on the Working Group on Parental Support

The Manager reported that the Working Group met in January and came up with a number of options including:

- The provision of a parenting room in City Hall
- The provision of Childcare during City Council Meetings
- Remote attendance at Council meetings for initial months

Following a review of City Hall, the City Architects Section determined that there was suitable space for a parenting room on the 1st floor. This would involve converting the existing Gents toilets located on the west side of the building.

All Councillors would be surveyed with regard the provision of Childcare for City Council meetings to determine if there was demand for such a facility.

The Members were concerned that older children would not be permitted in the Council Chamber and asked the Manager to clarify the position.

Order: The Manger to revert back to the next meeting with a final report from the working group.

8 Appointment to the Board of Beaumont Hospital

Order: The members agreed that Fingal County Council would nominate a candidate for the position for the remainder of the current Council term and that Dublin City Council would nominate a candidate after the next Local Election.

9 Improved support resources for Councillors - Expenses Incurred

The Chair reported that the proposed changes to the Expenses Scheme would favour Councillors from outside of Dublin disproportionately and that it was opposed by both LAMA and the AILG.

Oonagh Casey explained that the new scheme allowed for an increase in expenses from €2,667 per annum up to €5,000 per annum. However, the new scheme would operate on a fully vouched basis. Councillors would have the option of remaining on the current scheme or moving to the new one when it came into effect from July 2017.

Order: Noted

10 Freedom of Information Request - Benefit in Kind

The Chair reported that he had circulated the response to his FOI request into Benefit in Kind for the Members information.

Order: Noted

11 Tracking system for Legislative Change

The Members agreed that it would be beneficial if there was a mechanism by which they could be made aware of proposed legislation that directly affected the Local Government sector.

The Manager reported that An Taoiseach's website publishes biannually a list of the proposed legislative programme for government.

Order: The Legislation Programme to be listed and circulated as part of the Protocol Agenda for the purposes of noting only.

12 Provision of Facilities in Civic Offices for Councillors

The Members asked the Manager to investigate the possibility of providing a room with office facilities, e.g. telephone, PC and printing - in the Civic Offices, for use by Councillors.

Order: The Manger to investigate and report back to the Committee

13 Managers Report

- The Members agreed that Council question replies should be released at the commencement of the City Council meeting and be accessible through the Modern Gov system. The procedure whereby hard copies of the replies are also provided would discontinue when this facility became available.
- The Members agreed with the Managers suggestion that the Monthly Management Report would be more beneficial to Councillors if it were abridged. The effectiveness of the change in format would be reviewed by this committee in three months.
- Members agreed that the Protocol Committee continue be counted towards their attendance for the calculation of their monthly expenses.
- The Manager reported that an internal steering group had been set up to oversee the implementation of Public Reps system. She also highlighted to the Members that new European Data Protection legislation was in the pipeline which would have a serious effect on how the organisation handles personal information. The Manager will continue to update the Committee on the progress of the new system.
- The Members agreed the use of the Council Chamber on 26th August 2017 for the seminar on 'Living in Victorian Dublin' as part Heritage Week 2017.

14 A.O.B.

- The Lord Mayor requested that the Manager investigate the procedures surrounding the support for the Office of Deputy Lord Mayor. There have been issues with allowing the DLM to use the LM car for official functions and also with the transfer of the Chain to those who are deputising for him.
- The Chair requested a report on the role of the Law Department and the Law Agent as there was a perception that they were there to support the Executive and not the elected Council.

15 Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 2nd March at 8am in the Richard O'Carroll Room

Order: Agreed

Councillor Dermot Lacey
Chairperson
Thursday, 2 February 2017

Attendance:

Members:

Brendan Carr
Teresa Keegan
Michael Mullooly

Members:

Patrick Costello
Ray McAdam
Naoise O'Muire

Members:

Deirdre Heney
Ray McHugh

Officers

Oonagh Casey

Michael Gallagher

Deirdre Ni Raghallaigh

Apologies:

John Lyons

Ciaran O'Moore

Sonya Stapleton