



Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held On 24th October 2019

1. Welcome

Cllr. S. McGrattan welcomed all members to the inaugural meeting of the Committee.

2. Members Information Pack

K. Quinn, Head of Finance, gave an overview of the information pack, highlighting the following issues:

- Definition of a Strategic Policy Committee
- Structure of the City Council
- Ethics, Conflict of Interest, Code of Conduct and Lobby requirements
- Schedule of meetings
- Standing order requirements for Motions, Agenda, Minutes and Breviates
- SPC Work Programme

3. Work Programme

On the issue of the work programme of the Committee, the following contributions were made and proposed as possible items:

- Sustainable Local Government Financing – proposed establishment of a National Forum on Local Government. It was referenced that Dublin City Council should become leaders/champions for the City.

On the issue of specific rural local government funding, the importance to effectively communicate on behalf of the City Council on this sensitive urban/rural issue was noted.

- Transparency of how monies are spent by the City Council – request for the circulation of a leaflet/document.
- The work of the National Oversight and Audit Committee was raised and the potential for the submission of some of their special reports to the Finance SPC.
- Development opportunities for the regeneration of areas through financing from the European Investment Bank and other financing institutions.
- The implications of the new rating legislation, The Rates Act 2019.
- The implications of any proposed amendments to the Local Property Tax
- The implications for Budget 2020 and future years of the global valuation of rates on Irish Water and the shortfall on rates revenue, the need to broaden the
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- revenue base not just for ratepayers and the implications of the LPT equalisation fund on Dublin City Council's revenue.
- The examination of staff Costs and the impact of outsourcing on services to establish if this is the best use of monies. The potential for the carrying out of a cost benefit analysis of the process and the added costs to departments through additional procurement implications was raised.
- The possible examination of services that would allow a useful comparison could be developed. In addition, the issue of contract management and the enhancement of the skill set required was discussed.
- The development of information sharing initiatives across all local authorities was discussed, as was the development of a network of meetings with the larger Local Authorities on common issues.
- The impact on the rates base, the physical trading environment and the opportunities for on line trade through e-retailing was discussed.
- The issue of Participatory Budgeting for the City Council will be considered for feasibility for the 2021 Revenue Budget
- The examination of the potential funding options available through crowd funding was raised. Examples of projects undertaken by UK local authorities in this area was discussed. It was noted that this is an area that would attract both private and commercial interest across the city.
- It was agreed that potential funding options available through Urban Regeneration Funding should be examined.
- The implications of potential changes in the rating framework regarding the impact of environmental factors on commercial ratepayers arising through the Climate Action Plan will be monitored.
- The feasibility of developing a monitoring system for of legislation going through the Dáil will be carried out.

4. Schedule of Meetings

An annual schedule of meetings for 2020 was circulated and it was noted that the next meeting in 2019 is scheduled for Thursday 21st November 2019 at 2pm. This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

Signed: **Councillor Séamas McGrattan**
Chairperson

Date: 24th October 2019



Members

Cllr Séamas McGrattan (Chairperson)
Cllr Mary Callaghan
Cllr Anthony Connaghan
Cllr James Geoghegan
Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr. Paddy McCartan

Jack Daly, Docklands Business Forum
Tara Lillywhite, Dublin Chamber of Commerce
Aidan Sweeney, IBEC

Apologies

Cllr. Daryl Barron
Cllr. Daithí De Róiste
Cllr. Alison Gilliland
Cllr. Neasa Hourigan
Cllr. Noeleen Reilly
Cllr. Nial Ring
Eric Fleming, ICTU
Dr. Caroline McMullan, DCU
Philip O'Callaghan, PPN

Officials

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance
Fiona Murphy, Senior Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat