



Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held 21st November 2019

1. **Draft Minutes of Finance SPC Induction day on 24th October 2019**

The draft minutes were proposed by Cllr. D. Lacey and seconded by Cllr. P. McCartan. The minutes were agreed.

2. **Draft Terms of Reference of the Finance SPC**

An overview of the Terms of Reference of the Committee was given, incorporating all the amendments suggested from the document previously circulated to committee members.

Agreed: The draft document was adopted as the Terms of Reference of the Committee for the term of the council.

3. **Draft Work Programme 2019-2024**

An overview of the draft Annual Work Programme for the period 2019-2024 was presented.

Following this presentation, the following comments were noted for action:

Stakeholders - Additions were suggested to the relevant stakeholders for each work programme item.

Work Programme Item 3 – suggested wording changes were made to this item to include Climate Action and Biodiversity. In addition, inclusion of gender proofing, poverty proofing and child equality were to be added to the possible actions in 2020.

NOAC report – request that published reports are circulated to committee members when available.

Procurement Compliance – request for an item on procurement compliance to be included. Following a comprehensive discussion, it was agreed that the Chair would meet with E. Fleming to formulate this item on to a future agenda.

Review of Local Property Tax - it was noted that the review of Local Property Tax should remain on the work programme agenda.

Programme Group Overview - include an item providing an analysis of Programme Groups and expenditure in each group.

Sustainable local government funding – a request for the inclusion of an international dimension to be added to the stakeholders on this programme item. In addition, suggested contact to be made with relevant Departments within UCC and DCU for research purposes. A request for a strategic review of sustainable expenditure was also noted.



Debtors – housing rents arrears to be reviewed and the committee were in agreement that a joint meeting with the Housing SPC should be arranged. It was noted that changes have been made to the enforcement procedures for ongoing arrears cases. In addition, a review of the enactment of legislative powers under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 to allow deductions from social welfare payments should be undertaken.

Agreed: Joint meeting to be held between Housing and Finance SPC

Agreed: Joint letter from both SPCs to seek enactment of the legislation.

Agreed: A copy of the Budget Queries 2020 document should be circulate to all committee members for information purposes.

Transient Visitor Levy – the issue of the legislative change which would be required was raised. It was agreed that the Committee should lobby for the introduction of the necessary legislation and examine where it has been successfully introduced in other cities. In addition, it was noted that the possibility of including student accommodation, in particular during summer time, should be considered. Monies raised could be invested in tourist related initiatives.

Agreed: it was agreed that the process currently being pursued by Edinburgh City Council should be tracked.

Work Programme Priorities for 2020 – Members were asked to consider prioritisation of work programme items for 2020. The following items were considered for next year:

Item 4 – This committee will develop and support a campaign for sustainable local government funding, involving stakeholders across the local government sector and business.

Item 3 - This committee will make contributions to the development of rating policy regarding environmental factors around the Climate Action Plan and biodiversity and will recommend policies to assist businesses.

Item 8 - The Finance SPC will periodically review, as a work programme item, all debt areas including Commercial Rates, housing rents, housing loans, development contributions and government debtors.

It was further noted that the Finance SPC should consider pursuing items that they currently have control/legislative powers to change/improve. The Committee should also take on the role of lobbying for relevant legislative changes required.

Agreed: At the conclusion of the agenda item, it was agreed that a list of the acronyms used within the Work Programme would be circulated to all committee members.

4. Agreed Audit Committee Minutes – 14th March 2019 Minutes noted.



5. AOB

Cllr. P McCartan asked that all councillor members of the Committee should ensure that the Transient Visitor Levy is included in all parties general election manifestos.

Signed: **Councillor Séamas McGrattan**
Chairperson

Date: 21st November 2019

Members

Cllr Séamas McGrattan (Chairperson)
Cllr. Daryl Barron
Cllr Mary Callaghan
Cllr Anthony Connaghan
Cllr. Daithí De Róiste
Cllr. Alison Gilliland
Cllr James Geoghegan
Cllr. Neasa Hourigan
Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr. Paddy McCartan
Cllr. Noeleen Reilly
Cllr. Nial Ring

Jack Daly, Docklands Business Forum
Eric Fleming, ICTU
Tara Lillywhite, Dublin Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Caroline McMullan, DCU
Philip O'Callaghan, PPN

Apologies

Aidan Sweeney, IBEC

Officials

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance
Fiona Murphy, Senior Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat
Sophie Kelly, Asst. Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat
Mary Curran, PA to the Head of Finance, Finance Secretariat