



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Dublin City Council
City Hall, Dublin 2, Ireland

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Minister Eoghan Murphy
Department of Housing Planning & Local Government
Custom House
Dublin 1
D01 W6X0

4th June 2020

Re: Funding for Rates and Local Authority Services

Dear Minister,

The Covid 19 pandemic has changed the business environment in Dublin and indeed the State. The announcement made by Government on 2nd May 2020 of a Rates waiver scheme was well received, coming after many weeks of uncertainty for ratepayers and local authorities alike. Since then no information has been provided to ratepayers to confirm that their specific rates liability has been waived. Rates then continue to be a worry for businesses in this information vacuum. There are many issues requiring clarity, the waiver period, waiver entitlement, the alignment of the waiver period to the Government's road map for reopening being just some.

I know also that you are acutely aware of the additional costs being incurred by Local Authorities and Dublin City Council in particular. These include Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Fire and Emergency services provided by DFB, services for persons presenting as Homeless, IT equipment and devices and costs relating to the operation of the Government's Restart Grant Scheme. All of these services are important and necessary at this time. However each comes with an additional cost beyond that provided for.

The next meeting of the Finance Strategic Policy Committee is scheduled for 24th June 2020 at 2.30pm. The meeting will be held remotely using MS Teams. I wish to extend an invitation to you to join the meeting remotely as an opportunity to give clarity on these two key funding issues. I am mindful of your time so that you may wish to read from a statement and that no questions would follow. I am confident that the SPC members would understand your time pressures should this be your preferred option. I believe that engagement from you will be welcomed from all SPC members as these uncharted economic waters are navigated.

I will arrange for an invitation to the meeting to be issued to you shortly and look forward to hearing from you at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Séamas McGrattan
Chair of Finance Strategic Policy Committee