



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

**Report to Arts, Culture, Leisure
and Recreation SPC**

15th February 2021

Item No. 12

**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group
Breviate of draft Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 5th
October 2020, 12.30 p.m.
The Arts Office, Foley Street, Dublin 1**

Present: Deirdre Scully, Erika Casey, Ray Yeates, Cllr. Cat O’Driscoll; Cllr. Claire Byrne, Cllr. Dearbhail Butler, Ruairí Ó Cuív, Sunil Sharpe, Adekunle Gomez, Ross Keane, Willie White.

Apologies: Tony Flynn, Brendan Teeling, Barbara Dawson, Charles Duggan.

In Attendance: Paula Farrell

Chair: Cllr Cat O’ Driscoll.

1. Minutes of previous meeting held on Monday 31st August, 2020

The minutes of the last Arts & Cultural Advisory Group meeting were deferred.

2. Draft Purpose and Terms of Reference of ACAG

‘To understand and consider how the Development Plan for Dublin City is formed and how Arts and Culture is treated in the Plan and how implementation of the Plan occurs’.

3. Stages of the Development Plan

Deirdre Scully, Dublin City Planner, opened the discussion by explaining the steps in the Development Plan process that will consist of 4 key stages:

- Pre Draft
- Draft
- Submissions
- Material Amendments

It is envisaged that review of the plan will commence in mid-December 2020 and will continue for 99 weeks in total. The legislative changes on foot of the Covid 19 pandemic will allow for a slightly later commencement date.

The following issues are deemed to be of high importance to be considered in the Development Plan going forward:

- Climate Change
- Implementing the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

- Balancing the need for compact growth with need to protect amenities
- Delivering high quality mixed use new neighbourhoods in key growth areas
- Housing Supply – Social, Affordable, Market provided
- Regeneration of key communities
- Community & Culture
- Compliance with Section 28 Guidelines as well as height and densification
- Protecting the heritage of Dublin city
- Supporting and expanding green infrastructure and biodiversity in the City
- Employment and Retail
- Planning for a post Covid environment
- Movement, public realm and quality public spaces

The process will be mindful of the key shortfalls culturally in the process and protecting Culture and the Arts in a post Covid world. Large areas of the city will change in time. Particular reference in this regard was made to the Naas Road as well as industrial estates in Glasnevin and Finglas.

Questions and concerns were raised among the external members of ACAG. These questions pertained to the following topics:

1. What is the overarching ideology of the strategy?
2. How will ACAG feed in to the process, as a collective, through the SPC or through individual members of the ACAG.
3. Is there an existing appetite for the development of new cultural spaces within Dublin City Council

It was confirmed that the ideology of the strategy will be that of the Council. There will be many opportunities to address cultural issues within the plan. Presentations to the SPC will follow and the input of the SPC will be sought in due course. Individual organisations will be asked to make their own submissions to the Planning team. Experience of previous plans will be considered.

A discussion followed regarding who will form the Cultural view of Dublin, what tools will be used in its formation and what its ambition will be. It was felt that there is a need for more Culture given the growing population of the city and a working definition of cultural spaces and their plurality is required. A city should have a diversity of cultural forms. This was acknowledged as being a great challenge. The significance of the cultural offering of the city and its role in it creating an attractive city centre is enormous.

It was confirmed that due to the limitations of the budget, the input of external experts on culture will not be sought for the plan. Resources of this nature will be limited to seeking expert input on a Strategic and Environmental assessment and a study of the retail sector. The City Planner will work with the Arts Office and the ACAG as much as possible for expertise and guidance relating to the cultural sphere. All relevant Council Sections will provide expertise and information pertaining to their area of the Plan. The Arts Office will be the conduit for the consultations regarding the cultural aspect of the Plan.

Ray spoke about lack of understanding among developers about their cultural obligations when building new developments in the city. There is a lack of rigour in the system and many developers need assistance in this specific area. Furthermore, there is a lack of unity in the Arts coupled with its wide geographical spread. He suggested that a position paper is required to address these issues.

Councillor Claire Byrne suggested that there needs to be an Arts and Infrastructure Strategy for the city with co-creation and co-design at its core. Specific planning tools are required such as policies and objectives setting out Dublin City's stall with clear and actionable goals. It is also important that any policies should be linked to a national plan and the Covid task force.

Reference was made to the current 'ghost town' nature of Dublin city. Ray confirmed that he would be happy to receive any suggestions from members of the AGAC with concerns / ideas about this and confirmed that he would meet informally with people or groups to discuss actions for 'Covid Dublin'. There is currently a Covid Recovery Group in development to address these concerns which will also look at potentially changing the use of buildings in the city.

AOB: Deirdre Scully confirmed that she would circulate a link to the 2016 – 2020 City Development Plan to all for their information.