



Members Present:

Cllr. Claire O'Connor (Chair), Dublin City Council

Cllr. Rachael Batten, Dublin City Council

Cllr. Danny Byrne, Dublin City Council

Cllr. Niall Ring, Dublin City Council

Cllr. Donna Cooney, Dublin City Council

Cllr. Mary Freehill, Dublin City Council

Cllr. Michael MacDonncha, Dublin City Council

Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll, Dublin City Council

Cllr. Terence Flanagan, Dublin City Council

Cllr. Tara Deacy, Dublin City Council

Aidan Sweeney, IBEC; Sectoral Member (Business Rep)

Odran Reid, Northside Homecare Service; Sectoral Member (PPN Rep)

Evanne Kilmurray, Inner City Enterprise (ICE), Sectoral Member (PPN Rep)

Dr Sarah Ingle, Assoc. of Consulting Engineers in Ireland (ACEI), Sectoral Member (Development Rep)

Apologies:

Greg Swift, Head of Enterprise & Economic Development

Natalie McGuinness, Dublin Chamber of Commerce; Sectoral Member (Business Rep)

Officials Present:

Richard Shakespeare, Assistant Chief Executive

Anthony Flynn, Executive Manager

Mary MacSweeney, Deputy Head of Enterprise & Economic Development

Ciara O hAodha, Senior Economic Development Officer

Grainne Kelly, Head of International Relations

External Presenters:

Barry Rogers, Smart Tourism Programme Manager, SmartDublin

The Chair opened the meeting and advised the Members of the procedure and protocol of remote meetings and asked Members to note that the meeting would be recorded and live streamed on Public I, now that we have moved to the Zoom platform. Cllr. MacDonncha agreed to act as Deputy Chair, as a contingency plan if any technical problems arose.

1. Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting, which took place on 12th January 2021, were agreed by Evanne Kilmurray and seconded by Cllr. Deacy.

In relation to the point raised by Cllr. MacDonncha and Cllr. Deacy regarding the public consultation and Development Plan, the Chair advised that she had actioned that item and confirmed contacting the relevant Section.

2. Matters Arising

None.

Due to technical issues encountered by presenters, the items on the agenda were not presented in sequence.

3. Presentation - Dublin City Council Submission to National Recovery Resilience Plan 2021 – 2023

Anthony Flynn, Executive Manager, CRES Department

Copy of presentation was provided in advance of the meeting in the Mod Gov pack.

Anthony Flynn opened by informing Members that The National Recovery and Resilience Plan originates from the EU's Recovery & Resilience Facility (RRF). The RRF will make €672.5bn in loans and grants available to support reforms and investments undertaken by Member States. Ireland is expected to receive €853m in grants under the RRF in 2021 and 2022 with further grants allocated in 2023. In order to access funding, Ireland must develop a National Recovery Resilience Plan (NRRP) for approval by the EU. The Department of An Taoiseach launched the public consultation process on the 2nd February 2021 and the deadline for receipt of submissions was the 22nd February 2021, so turnaround was very tight. A submission was made by DCC by the deadline. Dublin City Council's submission to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan identifies challenges and opportunities to reimagine Dublin City and sets out how the City can be regenerated through investment, city greening and improved connectivity. Proposals in DCC's submission cover areas of energy efficiency, digital transformation, greening and biodiversity, flood defences and resilience, public realm and wellbeing with proposed projects across a number of Departments of the Council. The final submission contained 7 sections within a 37 page document highlighting 6 proposal areas (Energy Efficiency, Digital Transformation, Greening & Biodiversity, Flood Defences & Resilience, Public Realm and Wellbeing) including 13 potential projects to the value of €464.2M. The Council has written to the Dept of an Taoiseach and DPER in advance of 30th April deadline to seek a meeting to further discuss the Council's submission in advance of the National deadline of submission to the EU Commission by 30th April.

Headings presented and elaborated on included:

- DCC Submission to NRRP – Development
 - DCC Submission to NRRP – Context
 - DCC Submission to NRRP – 35 Proposals Across the Organisation
 - DCC Submission to NRRP – Evaluation Process: Prioritisation of Projects
 - DCC Submission to NRRP – Evaluation Process: Project Matrix
 - DCC Submission to NRRP – Final Submission Content
 - 7 sections
 - 37 page document
 - 13 potential projects to value of €464.2m
- NRRP – 2021 Timeframe
 - 30/04/21 – submitted to EU Commission
 - May-June 2021 – EU Commission assessment
 - July 2021 – EU Council assessment
 - August 2021 – Ireland’s NRRP published

Comments, Feedback & Questions:

The Chair thanked the presenter, commended the volume of work that had to be done in order to make submission by the deadline, and opened the floor for discussion. Cllr. MacDonncha thanked the Presenter and asked for clarification on €464.2m grants figure, timelines and availability of additional funding. Cllr. Deacy thanked the Presenter and asked if there would be/and had been consultation and conversation at local level with Local Area Managers / Local Area representatives. Cllr. Freehill put questions to the presenter on the establishment of the EU Programmes Office, who will man it, and when will it be established, who is dealing with BIDS and preparatory work in the interim period, and the issue of potential partnerships with Belfast was also raised, she also queried the Urbact & Interreg Funding Programmes. Cllr. Ring commented on the lack of time given to draft the submission, saying it was a disgrace and commended DCC on preparing and submitting the submission in such a short timeframe. He questioned if the €464.2m were all grant based or if any of it is loan based and questioned if all of what DCC have proposed in their submission will be included in the Ireland’s NRRP for approval by the EU. The issue of the government providing grants to the City Centre Recovery Task Force was also discussed. Evanne Kilmurray commended the work carried out by DCC and asked if there were synergies with other SPC’s in drafting DCC’s submission to the NRRP. The question of the status of 5G connectivity was also raised. Cllr. Cooney commended DCC and commented on the diversity of projects in the submissions and asked when we will know the outcome of DCC’s submission. Odran Reid put the question of how quickly can these projects commence if funding is made available. Aidan Sweeney commended DCC and commented on the slowness of Ireland to submit and asked are the same projects included in the NDP as in DCC’s submission to the NRRP.

Response:

The presenter advised that the sum of funding of €464.2m was made up of 13 potential projects that had been prioritised from DCC’s Capital Programme and which fitted into the conditions of the Recovery & Resilience Programme. This is upfront funding made available by the EU to kick start the economy and has to be advanced within the next 2 years. He advised that consultation had taken place with the Areas on priority projects and this can be an ongoing consultation process. **The** presenter confirmed that the organisation The Wheel has, since July 2020, been available to give support and advice to local government EU funding applications. The presenter advised that it was envisaged that the EU Programmes Office would be established by August/September 2021 and an operational steering committee were working

on its establishment. Regarding URBACT Funding Programme, the presenter advised that DCC were not eligible, as they availed of previously. The current call is for those who have not previously availed. He confirmed that other SPC's were consulted regarding DCC's submission to the NRRP and was unable to provide an update on 5G but advised that Smart Dublin would be able to and could provide further information on the matter. The presenter confirmed that DCC's preference is that the €464.2m is by way of grants. He advised that DCC had been advised by the Dept of an Taoiseach that the National plan would be published on their website following engagement with the EU Commission, expected to be by August 2021, and that DCC had been prepping in the background for some time to make the submission by the February deadline. He confirmed that some projects were the same that were included in the NDP and the NRRP submission and DCC are keen to keep Dublin and the City Centre as their primary focus for the next 2 to 3 years. He confirmed that if funding is provided, the projects listed in DCC's submission are ready to go and can be commenced quickly.

4. Presentation – Local Enterprise Development Plan 2021 – 2024

Greg Swift, Head of Enterprise & Economic Development

Copy of presentation was provided in advance of the meeting in the Mod Gov pack

Due to a family bereavement, Greg Swift was unable to attend the SPC Meeting and it was advised that he would present on this Item at a later SPC.

5. Presentation – Smart Tourism

Barry Rogers, Smart Tourism Programme Manager, Smart Dublin

Copy of presentation was provided in advance of the meeting in the Mod Gov pack

Barry Rogers presented to the Group on

- Smart Tourism Programme
- Smart Tourism Leaders
- Governance and stakeholders
- Definition of Smart Tourism
- Best practice
- Infrastructure – Micro/Macro
- Current work streams
- Mobile App for Heritage Trail(s) Dublin
- Digital Trails
- Orientation

Comments, Feedback & Questions:

The Chair thanked the presenter and thanked him for presenting to the SPC and also into the Tourism, City Markets and Night Time Economy Working Group previously, and opened the floor for discussion.

Cllr. Batten raised the question of vandalism of the kiosks. Evanne Kilmurray thanked the presenter and commented on how Dublinia were very happy to be a part of these digital / heritage trails, on how Malaga was an example of a very accessible city, and how Accenture are bridging digital divide and suggested that the Presenter should make contact with them. Cllr. O'Driscoll raised the question of the cultural aspects and how museums/institutions could be integrated into the mobile app for heritage trails. Cllr. MacDonncha commented on the work of the community and voluntary groups and could these groups become involved with the Digital Trails.

Response:

The presenter responded as follows. Anti-vandalism and anti-tampering of the kiosks have been taken into consideration and measures put in place to combat this. He agreed to contact Accenture. Regarding the mobile app for heritage trails,

data analysis is currently being carried out to work with Museums and Institutions. The presenter confirmed that the tender for Digital Trail would include community lead digital trail design and any contract awardee would need to engage with community groups as part of the remit of the tender. The presenter agreed to Cllr. MacDonncha advising any voluntary group to contact the presenter directly on the matter. The presenter posted his contact details in the chat function.

6. Presentation - Reset Summit Outcomes Report

Mary MacSweeney, Deputy Head of Enterprise & Economic Development

Copy of presentation was provided in advance of the meeting in the Mod Gov pack

Mary MacSweeney presented to the group on

- Outcomes reports of the Reset Summit held remotely on 26/11/20
- 25 speakers, 4 panel discussions, key note speaker, 300 attendees
- Contextual speeches
- Preparatory process
- Key insights and observations

Comments, Feedback & Questions:

The Chair thanked the presenter and opened the floor for discussion.

- None

7. SPC Working Group

a) Tourism, City Markets including Night Time Economy – Completion Report - Ciara O hAodha

Copy of the completion report was provided in advance of the meeting in the Mod Gov pack

Ciara O hAodha began by thanking the Chair and Members of this Working Group for their contribution and commitment during the term of the working group and presented the completion report of the Working Group including:

- Establishment of Working Group
- Duration and Reporting
- Terms of Reference
- Work Programme
- Membership of Working Group
- Meetings held to date
- Progress on Work Programme
- Proposals of Night Time Economy Strategy Implementation

Comments, Feedback & Questions:

Cllr. Cooney hoped that those proposals in the NT Economy Strategy Implementation which do not come under the remit of this SPC, will still be dealt with by another Department/Section/SPC

b) International Relations and EU Affairs – Extension Report – Mary MacSweeney

Copy of the extension request submitted by Cllr. Freehill and Aidan Sweeney were provided in advance of the meeting in the Mod Gov pack

Mary MacSweeney gave verbal update on the extension request submitted by Cllr. Freehill and Aidan Sweeney.

Comments, Feedback & Questions:

The Chair thanked the presenter and opened the floor for discussion.

Richard Shakespeare advised that he was not in favour of an extension, reasons being were work pressures being put on an already overstretched staffing team. Over 370 working hours, in addition to normal working day, have been spent working on the work programme of the working group including preparatory work in organising and preparing for 7 meetings and 5 workshops and the development of the organisations EU Programme Participation Strategy in a 3 month timeframe. Staff are currently focusing on providing support to businesses significantly impacted by the global pandemic and economic crisis; through the restart grants, business continuity vouchers, trading on line vouchers and the new Fáilte Ireland grants scheme. In addition to this the main priorities are the City Recovery Strategy and the setting up of the EU Programmes Office. Staffing resources are not in place to take on any further work.

Objections were made by Cllr. Freehill to this and a robust conversation took place. In addition, Cllr. Freehill commented on DCC's lost international contacts and connectivity and asked why there was no information on Dublin included in the Eurocities website. Anthony Flynn responded by confirming that DCC have very close albeit virtual contacts with San Jose and Barcelona and the International Office is in existence and operating at full capacity on international matters. Confirmation was provided on the Eurocities website which is currently being developed and is in beta form. Eurocities requested DCC this week to provide content, which is currently being prepared, and will be submitted shortly to Eurocities for uploading on their website; which is going live in August.

The following Councillors/Members were in support of the working group extension request: Cllr. MacDonncha; Cllr. Cooney; Cllr. Batten and Cllr. Deacy. Cllr. Ring was not in particular favour of the extension request; stressing that the economy recovery in the City is very important and suggested that when the new EU Programmes Office was established it could report to this SPC.

Cllr. MacDonncha referred to the Dublin/Belfast Economic Corridor launch which took place in March 2021 and said it was a disgrace that there was no Councillor participation or any Councillor invited to speak at it. The Chair agreed with this and asked for it to be recorded in the minutes and it was agreed by the Chair that an official complaint by the Councillors would be made to Owen Keegan, Chief Executive, DCC.

After further robust discussions, the Chair stated that one clear framework and one clear objective were required, commenting on the completion of the strategy document and the focus to now be pursuing and implementing the strategy. The Chair proposed that this item become a Standing Item on this SPC agenda and would be supervised on an ongoing basis and put this forward as a solution. Members were in agreement with ensuring work progressed on the recovery of the city post pandemic. The Chair moved forward on this basis.

8. Economic Development and Enterprise Management Reports

Copy of Management Reports were provided in ModGov pack for April SPC, circulated in advance of meeting

The Chair advised Members to email DCC Officials directly with any comments on the management reports.

9. Motion of Notice

a. Urban Recovery, Regeneration and Revitalisation of Dublin City Strategy

Copy of Aidan Sweeney's motion together with Management's Response Jan 2021 and Management's subsequent update April 2021 were provided in the ModGov pack, circulated in advance of the meeting.

Aidan Sweeney briefed the Members on his motion, and the Chair asked if he had any objections to Management's response. Aidan Sweeney did not but voiced concerns over what other cities recovery strategies are and the need for Dublin to analyse them also and capture relevant information.

10. A.O.B.

Next SPC Meeting: 14th September 2021 (3.30pm – 5.30pm)
Council Chamber, City Hall (In line with government guidelines operating at this time)

Action items for Progression:

Agenda Item:	Action:	Responsibility:
5	Circulate contact details of Barry Rogers, Smart Tourism Programme Manager, Smart Dublin to Members	Ciara O hAodha
6	Circulate Reset Summit Outcome Report to Members	Mary MacSweeney
7b	Official complaint to be made to Chief Executive, DCC, regarding lack of participation of Councillors in the Dublin/Belfast Economic Corridor launch which took place March 2021.	Cllr. Claire O'Connor
7b	This Item to become a Standing Item on Economic Development and Enterprise SPC Agenda.	Cllr. Claire O'Connor, Mary MacSweeney/Ciara O'hAodha