

Agenda Item 3: Economic Development & Enterprise SPC 14th Sept 2021:

Motion received from Cllr Sophie Nicoullaud, Dublin City Council on 3rd September 2021 (13.49)

Deadline for receipt of Motions to SPC was 2nd Sept (COB).

Whilst the motion was received outside of the motion deadline (received 03.Sept.21; deadline 02.Sept.2021); in this instance, the chair has agreed to accept the motion as the Lord Mayor has referred this motion to the EDE SPC from the full council meeting.

Motion for the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC – 14th

Creation of a stakeholder forum based on the model of the Citizen’s Assembly to resolve the privatisation threat to the Local Employment Services & Jobs Clubs within our four Dublin Local Development Companies.

The elected members of Dublin City Council call on the City Manager to engage with the government to support the creation of a stakeholder forum based on the model of the Citizen’s Assembly to resolve the privatisation threat to the Local Employment Services & Jobs Clubs within our four Dublin Local Development Companies. That the City Manager engage with the Department of Social Protection to oppose the roll out of a publicly advertised tender on a cost bid model for 2022 of the Local Employment Services and Jobs Club Contracts and to support the Irish Local Development Network and their proposal for the rollout of a Local Development Company let employment services model as part of the response to the unemployment crisis arising from the Covid-19 pandemic

Reason:

The Department of Social Protection have advised that Local Employment Services and jobs club contracts for 2022 will be rolled into a publicly advertised tender on a cost bid model for 2022.

Dublin City Council has four Local Development Companies providing Local Employment Services and Job Clubs:

- Dublin North West Area Partnership in Finglas,
- Dublin South City Partnership in Crumlin,
- Dublin City Community Co-op in the inner city and
- Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership CLG in Ballyfermot.

This decision would have a devastating effect on already vulnerable communities. The elected members, the ILDN including the four LDC, the Unions and members of the Civil Societies are opposed to this proposition as it is a fundamental change to a cost met model of contract, which is what currently exists. If this Department of Social Protection’s policy becomes operationalised, it will be a serious risk to all four Dublin and all nationwide LDC’s financial stability.

Ireland is in the midst of a Covid-related employment crisis with the future economic outlook remaining uncertain. The Department of Social Protection will need to provide community-based employment services which provide certainty in service provision for all jobseekers, the capacity to cater for jobseekers in Dublin (and nationwide) and equity in access for jobseekers in all areas of the City (and across Ireland).

The ILD Network of the 4 LDCs in Dublin propose an area-based Employment Service model that is embedded in their community. This fits perfectly with the 15 minutes city Dublin is working to achieve and leaving only 2 agencies for jobseekers to go would contravene the urban plan we are working on in this council. In addition to career guidance expertise there include key capacities in mental health and wellbeing supports, family supports, education and self-employment expertise and LDCs have a key strength in addressing inequalities.

LDCs are currently closely engaged with jobseekers through the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme, Jobs Clubs, BTWEA and Tus. They benefit from best practice sharing and networking to existing Local Employment Services operators through the ILDN network. Through their strong linkages with employers, training agencies, community groups and state agencies, as well as their local community base and not-for-profit nature, LDC also adhere to the Guiding Principles of the Labour Market Advisory Council's Policy Paper 'Preparing for Economic Recovery.

What we need is a human and community based approach to the job market.