

Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held 16th September 2021

1. Draft Minutes of the Finance SPC meeting held on 20th May 2021

The draft minutes were proposed by Cllr. D. Lacey and seconded by Cllr. N. Reilly. The minutes were adopted.

2. Matters arising

Cllr. S. McGrattan advised members that J. Daly, representing Docklands Business Forum and T. Lillywhite, representing the Dublin Chamber of Commerce had stepped down from their roles on the Committee.

Agreed: The Chairman will send a letter of thanks to both.

3. Correspondence

- a) **Housing Rent Arrears – K. Quinn letter to Darach O’Connor 27/05/2021**
Correspondence noted
- b) **LPT Reform – Cllr S. McGrattan to Minister P Donohoe – 24/05/2021**
Correspondence noted
- c) **LPT Reform – Cllr S McGrattan to Minister McGrath – 27/05/2021**
Correspondence noted
- d) **LPT Reform - Cllr S McGrattan to Minister O’Brien 27/05/2021**
Correspondence noted
- e) **LPT Reform – Minister P. Burke’s response – 15/06/2021**
Correspondence noted. Cllr D. Lacey made reference to the contents of Minister Burke’s letter regarding the 100% local retention of LPT funds. He sought assurances that this €16m would be reflected in the DCC budget as additional funding and not to replace previous grant subsidies.
- f) **LPT Reform – Minister P. Donohoe response – 09/07/2021**
Correspondence noted

4. Community Wealth Building – Presentations

The Committee welcomed the attendance of Sarah Longlands, CE of CLES (Centre for Local Economic Strategies), Sarah McKinley, Director of European Programmes, The Democracy Collaborative and Stuart MacDonald, CLES

S. Longlands made a presentation entitled Community Wealth Building to the Committee:

- About CLES – the national organisation for local economies
- Our economic approach isn’t working – child poverty, zero hours contracts, necessity for food banks.
- What’s going wrong – inequalities in society, focus on economic growth. These existing inequalities have been exposed by the Covid pandemic.
- Community Wealth Building - Uses, Aims, Working towards delivering better social and economic outcomes for people and planet.
- Five key principles – Finance, Workforce, Spending, Land and Property and Inclusive Ownership.

- Scotland and Scottish Government experience – examples areas, legislation and new Scottish Minister for Community Wealth.
- Preston Model – complete example
- Birmingham Anchor Network – example areas, CWB in Residence, action plan, expansion into other areas
- Sources of support and information

S. McKinley made her presentation to the Committee entitled “Democratizing the Economy through Community Wealth Building”. This presentation dealt principally with the ownership element of CWB and gave an example from Cleveland, Ohio summarised as follows:

- Background to The Democracy Collaborative
- Community Wealth Building is the building of new generative local economies in place from the ground up
- Wealth in the local economy rooted in the economy and not extracted from communities. Recirculates in the community and benefits the people there. Examples given included community banks, community owned utilities, energy providers and co-operatives.
- Cleveland, Ohio – in the mid-2000s had vacant land, unsound building conditions, high foreclosure rates, 24% unemployment rate however with a largely untapped core of hospitals, universities, museums within the city spending \$3bn on procurement each year.
- Collaborative effort between intuitional leaders, government officials, residents and community activists established the Evergreen Co-operatives providing employee-owners opportunities in hydroponic greenhouses, co-operative laundry and energy solutions through procurement openings from anchor institutions.
- Evergreen Co-operatives created to hire the disadvantaged, do green development and model the role of anchor institutions.
- The Cleveland Model - to reverse the long term economic decline of the city

Following both presentations, the following issues were discussed and/or clarification was sought by the committee members:

- Regeneration Projects incorporating social clauses and EU directives – use procurement in an imaginative and creative way by stipulating criteria in the tender documents, disaggregating large contracts, communication of tender opportunities and the forming by small businesses of consortia to tender for large contracts.
- Docklands Development Authority – provided for flexibility for social clauses and other social housing clauses in their area.
- Constraints of a centralised local government structure – local government in the UK see benefits in CWB to counter central arrangements and reference was made to the sections of the Social Value Act.
- The legislative basis for introducing a CWB initiative – legislation changes around procurement, planning and public assets provide a lot of scope.
- The fit into DCC structures to allow this to happen in Dublin City Council – the Chairman sought from the committee whether they wished to agree to this as a policy that should be pursued. This would then require further discussion and development.

- Funding of both TDC and CLES – CLES is a charity and limited company. Income also comes from consultancy work and partnership opportunities. TDC get their funding from charitable and philanthropic donations. The Evergreen Co-operative in Cleveland was funded by charitable and philanthropic donations, state funds, equity and debt, federal funding etc. The preference would be to develop existing companies instead of seeking significant funding to build from the ground up.
- Barriers to setting up projects – barriers identified are asset transfers, centralisation of government and change in mindset/thinking.
- Lowering of recidivism rate is welcomed and how can DCC set up a pilot to do something similar to take people out of the cycle of crime.
- CWB in Residence in Birmingham – this role is funded from charitable donations and contributions from anchor institutions in Birmingham.
- Breaking up of contracts cost more to DCC – this may not necessarily be the case as bigger corporations have bigger overheads. In addition, if contracts do not remain in the community then there are unemployment and housing cost implications for the government and DCC. Examples of cost savings were given for the laundry co-operative in Cleveland.
- Budget expenditure – redirecting budgets to the appropriate communities.
- It was noted that to develop this as a policy within DCC the resources would be required and an analysis of the skill sets within a community would need to be undertaken. Initiatives can be worked through within EU guidelines. Areas to be researched would be recruitment, influencing other organisations and impact on planning.
- Development Plan – it was noted that a council motion went through recently as part of the development plan and it was agreed in principle by the Chief Executive to include community wealth building in the Development Plan which would be channelled through the LECP and LEO.
- It was noted that TASC AND NESAC are involved in CWB related projects.
- Data was sought to see where DCC contracts are currently being awarded and how that maps in terms of flows of wealth.
- Procurement in the public sector militates against small organisations with their qualifying requirements.
- DCC must become a leader and advocate in this space and analysis of current procurement contracts is required.
- Manchester City Council has details on their website showing the flows of wealth within their city.

Agreed: Following the earlier discussions on this item, Cllr. S. McGrattan recommended that this policy initiative would be raised both at the next Corporate Policy Group meeting and under the Breviate item for the October City Council meeting. It was agreed that this recommendation would be followed.

5. Cyber Security

Brian Curtis, Head of ICT presented a detailed report to the committee covering the following areas related to cyber security:

- Recent Cyber Attacks impacting on Government Agencies
- Dublin City Council Response to these Attacks
- Current Security Profile in Dublin City Council
- NIST Framework
- Future Impacts of Cyber Security

The Committee thanked B. Curtis for his presentation.

6. Draft 2022 Schedule of Meetings

The schedule of dates for 2022 was agreed by members.

7. A.O.B.

Dublin Fire Brigade – C. McMullan raised the issue of the Fire and Emergency Services committee which had previously been dealt with through the Finance and Emergency Services SPC but was then split into a separate committee. It was noted that the committee would appear to be defunct.

Agreed: It was agreed that Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland would pursue the follow up on this item.

Funding for All - Housing Strategy and National Development Plan - Cllr. S. McGrattan advised that A. Sweeney had requested that a report on the funding impact of both of these issues would come to the committee.

Agreed: It was agreed that these items would be listed on a future Finance SPC agenda

Signed: **Councillor Séamas McGrattan**
Chairperson

Date: **16th September 2021**

Members Present

Cllr Séamas McGrattan (Chairperson)
Lord Mayor Cllr. Alison Gilliland
Cllr Daryl Barron
Cllr Mary Callaghan
Cllr Anthony Connaghan
Cllr. Daithí De Róiste
Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr. Darcy Lonergan
Cllr. Noeleen Reilly
Cllr. Nial Ring
Eric Fleming, ICTU
Professor Caroline McMullan, DCU
Philip O'Callaghan, PPN

Guest Speakers updated

Sarah Longlands, CLES
Sarah McKinley, The Democracy Collaborative
Stuart McDonald, CLES

Non Committee Members

Cllr. Janet Horner

Officials

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance
Brian Curtis, ICT Manager

Claudio Libanori, Assistant ICT Manager
Fiona Murphy, Senior Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat
Mary Curran, PA to Head of Finance, Finance Secretariat
Brendan Dorney, IS Department

Apologies

Aidan Sweeney, IBEC
Cllr James Geoghegan
Cllr. Paddy McCartan

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