

## Finance Strategic Policy Committee

### Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 24th March 2022

#### 1. Draft Minutes of the Finance SPC meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022

The draft minutes were proposed by Cllr Dermot Lacy and seconded by Cllr Paddy McCartan. The minutes were adopted.

#### 2. Matters Arising.

a) Update on the issue of funding of roads maintenance.

- Meeting with the Department of Transport and DCC team was held on 24/02 and issues discussed. A representative from Mary Hurley's Office, DHLGH, was asked to attend but a nominee was not provided.
- Second meeting to be arranged only if a DHLGH representative can attend.

b) Update on CWB

- Internal Group set up and Workshop has taken place to devise an implementation plan for DCC. To be discussed at next meeting.

#### 3. Correspondence.

a) Email to Dominic Mullaney DOT from Kathy Quinn re Roads Funding Meeting and proposed meeting dates 020222

**Correspondence noted.**

b) Email to Mary Hurley DHLGH from Kathy Quinn re Roads Funding Meeting and proposed meeting dates 020222

**Correspondence noted.**

c) Letter to Minister O'Brien DHLGH from Cllr. McGrattan re Housing Rent Arrears and Section 53 140222

**Correspondence noted.**

d) Reply from Minister O'Brien DHLGH to Cllr. McGrattan re Housing Rent Arrears and Section 53 080322

**Correspondence noted.**

Discussion around the €38m of rent arrears due to Council. Kathy advised the she is working closely with Housing Team on this matter.

#### Agreed to:

- Write to the Minister and request representation of the Elected Members of Finance SPC on the Working Group being established by the DLGH in relation to introducing a system to arrange for direct deduction of rents at source.
- Seek a report on the breakdown of housing rent arrears by electoral area.

- Seek a report on how often DCC has approached the Courts to make an Order to deal with problematic tenants with rent arrears deducted at source.

e) Letter to Minister O'Brien DHLGH from Louise Ryan, Chair of Audit Committee re Housing Rent Arrears and Section 53 070222  
**Correspondence noted.**

f) Reply from Minister O'Brien DHLGH to Louise Ryan, Chair of Audit Committee re Housing Rent Arrears and Section 53 240222  
**Correspondence noted.**

4. Report 03/2022 Review of Local Government Funding as applies to Dublin City Council.

Lindsay Bell, Grant Thornton Consulting Ltd. gave a PowerPoint presentation on a Review of Local Government Funding as applies to Dublin City Council.

- Overview of current Local Government funding model
- Challenges of the existing funding model – income, expenditure, LPT
- Impact of COVID 19
- The unique role of Dublin City Council
- Summary

**Actions to be taken following discussion held:**

***Nature of funding issues:***

1. Consider the impact on funding of Dublin City across two strands. Firstly issues arising from the Covid 19 Pandemic and secondly issues that existed before the pandemic and remain following it.

***Communicate and engage with others:***

2. Commence a discussion with parties having an interest in an improved model of Local Government funding. This would include business groups, other Local Authorities, voluntary sector, etc. to develop an awareness and understanding, through open debate, of the gaps in the current local authority funding model.

***Local Property Tax:***

3. Submit the report on the review of Local Government Funding to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage as part of its review of funding.
4. Specifically seek an outcome from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage from the LPT review that 100% of LPT receipts will be assigned to the Local Authority of origin and that the 2014 arbitrary baseline and associated self-funding categorisation be removed.
5. Commence a discussion among DCC Elected Members on additional services / service improvements that could be provided through future

upwards variations to the LPT Local Adjustment Factor.

**DCC Funding principles:**

6. Commence a discussion among DCC Elected Members to consider a policy that all charges should be reviewed on a regular basis (annual / bi yearly etc.) to keep pace with inflation so that the current level of service provision is not eroded as has been the case historically.

**Services with external funding shortfalls:**

7. Funding for the ambulance service provided by DFB to be provided, in full and immediately through the Department of Health. In current terms there is an *annual* lost income of €16.5m due to DCC for these services. The HSE having failed to honour various commitments to paying for the services received.
8. Funding for road, carriageway, and footpath maintenance to be provided by the Department of Transport as against current arrangements. This issue has been raised by the SPC and should be kept on the agenda until resolved.

**5. A.O.B**

- The Chair mentioned that condolences were offered to the family of former Councillor and TD Dermot Fitzpatrick on his recent passing.
- Members agreed to debate and discuss the issue of an allocation of a percentage of the proceeds from both land disposals and development levies in a specific area be retained for allocation to that area.

**Agreed to:**

It was agreed to raise this at a future meeting and that a report would be prepared to demonstrate the application of funds across areas in recent years.

- Members pointed out that there was a low level of awareness of the upcoming vote of the Business Improvement Districts and it was suggested that a campaign would be useful to update businesses. It was clarified that DCC, through the CE's office manage the BID plebiscite. An email address has been provided for BID related queries. DCC is neutral to the plebiscite process and as such information is provided to all, as against specific groups.

**6. Next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 2.30pm.**

**Signed:** Councillor Séamas McGrattan  
Chairperson

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

**Members Present**

Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland  
Cllr. Anthony Connaghton  
Cllr Daithi De Roiste

Cllr Darcy Lonergan  
Cllr Dermot Lacey  
Cllr Mary Callaghan  
Cllr Nial Ring  
Cllr Noeleen Reilly  
Cllr Paddy McCartan  
Cllr James Geoghegan  
Cllr; Seamas McGrattan (Chair)  
Aidan Sweeney, IBEC  
Ellen McGrath, Dublin Chamber of Commerce  
Alan Robinson, Dublin Docklands Business Forum  
Eric Fleming, ICTU

**Officials**

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance  
Mary Curran, A/Senior Staff Officer  
Lisa Flanagan, Senior Staff Officer  
Sophie Kelly, A/PA to Head of Finance  
Enda Currid, Senior Executive Officer

**Guest**

Cllr. Deirdre Heney

**Apologies**

Prof. Caroline McMullan, DCU  
Philip O'Callaghan, PPN  
Cllr Daryl Barron

**External**

Lindsay Bell, Grant Thornton  
Brendan Foster, Grant Thornton