

Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Draft Minutes of Meeting Held 19th January 2023

1. Draft Minutes of the Finance SPC meeting held on 17th November 2022.

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

2. Matters Arising.

- a) Report to query raised at November SPC in relation to Penalty Clauses that apply in cases of default on rent payment with Dublin City Council tenants.
Report from Ursula Donnellan, SEO, Housing and Community Services.
Noted.
- b) Resignation of Cllr. James Geoghegan from Finance SPC.
Nominations for replacement of Cllr Geoghegan will be brought to the Elected Members at the February Council Meeting.
Noted.
The Chair thanked Cllr. Geoghegan for his contribution to the Finance SPC.
- c) Chair to contact Cllr. Noeleen Reilly, Chair of Transport SPC re possibility of joint meeting on Congestion Charge.
Noted.

3. Correspondence.

- Noted
- a) Letter to Chairs of the 5 Area Committees requesting Community Wealth Building presentation be made to Committees in 2023.
 - b) Letter to minister O'Brien re Enactment of Section 53 of Housing Provisions Misc. Act 2014.
 - c) Letter to Attorney General requesting attendance at next SPC to discuss rent collection and arrears relating to social housing tenant.
 - d) Letter to Minister Donohoe re plans to implement Recommendations of the Report of the Commission on Taxation and Welfare.
 - e) Acknowledgement from Minister McGrath (who replace Minister Donohoe from 171222) re plans to implement Recommendations of the Report on the Commission on Taxation and Welfare.
 - f) Reminder email issued to Donohoe.
 - g) Reminder email issued to Attorney General.

4. Report on the Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund. – Jackie O'Reilly, Senior Executive Officer, North West Area, Ballymun.

Noted.

Jackie updated the Committee on the fund administered by DCC to enable service providers deliver a number of programmes and services to meet the needs of and enhance the lives of the residents of Ballymun. Jackie advised the Members that the fund had been incrementally reduced since 2018 and since 2021 100% funding has provided by Dublin City Council subject to the Dublin City Council budgetary process. She advised that it was a full time job to source funds from other agencies e.g. Tusla.

Members commented on the great work being done by the North West Area Office with the Fund.

Agreed to

- write to An Taoiseach and relevant Ministers to avoid funds being cut and request a 10 year plan for funding
- arrange meeting of SPC members with projects/groups benefiting from the fund

5. Report on Accommodation Charges – Kathy Quinn

Noted.

The Report examined an estimate of the potential yield from an Accommodation Charge in the Dublin City Council area.

- a potential yield of €10.2m from an Accommodation Charge based on 1% of the cost of accommodation, using data from year to date January to October 2022, a ten month period
- a potential yield of €11.1m from an Accommodation Charge based on 1% of the cost of accommodation, using data from a running twelve month period from November 2021 to October 2022. (The difference between the data for each period can be related back to the impact of the pandemic.)

The Committee agreed to proceed with pursuing this further.

Agreed to:

- compile a draft plan of engagement and consultation with various Ministers, circulate to the members and agree an approach to include:
 - sending report to each political party in the Dail and invite comments
 - request breakdown of all investments made from Dublin tourism promotion in relation to Dublin and compare with other counties

6. Report on the Application and Use of Development Contributions – Kathy Quinn

Noted.

The Committee had queried the viability/feasibility of introducing a provision to the Development Contribution Scheme that would retain a specified portion of development levies for capital projects for the area in which the development related to the levies charged is located.

Kathy advised that the level of funding from Development Levies does not adequately address the financing of the infrastructural deficit given that the funds provide an annual fund of approximately €40m. Therefore the proposed ring-fenced allocation to the area where the development takes place would have a significantly negative impact on Dublin City Council's ability to achieve greater equity and consistency in infrastructural provision throughout Dublin. She advised that Development Contributions are for Capital and not day to day spend and used for public assets to support the local environment – roads, parks, libraries etc.

The Committee made the follow comments:

- Some Areas see no local benefit from the Contributions
- New model needed where 5% goes directly to the local area where collected

- Some community gain but developers not keeping the site area clean
- Development varies year to year – not consistent funding

Agreed to:

- Refer report to the Planning SPC for consideration
- Circulate report to the Local Area Committees

7. Report on update of work of the Local Government Funding Sub-Committee – Kathy Quinn.

Noted.

8. Report on update on Community Wealth Building and the development of a Social Value Framework – Kathy Quinn

Noted.

The City Council wishes to spend and get community principles back for its spend by developing a Social Value Framework by

- Development of a draft plan for members to discuss/amend etc.
- Arrange for a workshop for all Elected Members will be arranged
- Approach external organisations to work with us
- Compile a Social Value Framework policy document to go to the Council

Members commented that this was an exciting proposal and that it was a very interesting opportunity to frame tenders around better social value.

9. Signed Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of 15th September 2022.

Noted.

10. A.O.B.

Discussion around O’Connell Street and city centre in general including:

- The need to establish a Taskforce for the City, to focus on job losses and anti-social behaviour
- This may be more appropriate at a Regional Forum
- Dublin must provide for everyone.

Agreed to: Chair to bring this discussion to the CPG next week (Friday 27th January)

Next meeting **Thursday 16th March, 2023 at 2.30pm.**

Signed: **Councillor Séamas McGrattan**
Chairperson

Date: **25th January 2023.**

Members Present

Cllr Séamas McGrattan
Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Daryl Barron
Cllr. Mary Callaghan
Cllr Anthony Connaghan

Cllr Alison Gilliland
Cllr Christy Burke
Cllr Paddy McCartan
Cllr. Nial Ring
Alan Robinson, Docklands Business Forum
Sohini De, Dublin Chamber of Commerce
Aidan Sweeney, IBEC
Dr. Caroline McMullen, DCU
Philip O'Callaghan, PPN

Non Members Present

Cllr Mary Freehill

Officials

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance
Jackie O'Reilly, North West Area Office
Mary Curran, Finance Secretariat
Sophie Kelly, Finance Secretariat
Christian Kavanagh, Finance Secretariat

Apologies

Cllr Daithí de Roiste
Cllr Darcy Lonergan
Eric Fleming, ICTU