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Report to the Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Report on Real Time Spending Data in Dublin City

The Smart Cities Unit and the Economic Development Office have recently issued a PIN notice on eTenders (attached for your information). This is a market consultation to ascertain the type of economic data that is available at a local level that could help inform local authorities in their decision making. We are collaborating with the LGMA with a view to setting up a national framework of data providers that all local authorities can avail of. The evaluation meeting of the responses were held on the Tuesday, 9th of May 2023. The panel consisted of representatives from LGMA, Dublin City Council, Waterford City & County Council, Limerick City & County Council, National Town Centre and Mayo County Council. The market engagement notice will hopefully help us to better understand the type of offerings that are available on the market. We hope to initiate a procurement process in the coming months to progress. We will keep the SPC updated on the progress.

Background:

Local Government across Ireland plays an important role in the delivery of public service at a local level, and leads economic, social and community development. Across Ireland there are 31 Local Authorities providing hundreds of services ranging from roads; planning; housing; economic and community development; environment, recreation, and amenity services; libraries and fire services.

Local Government shapes development through the following plans:

- 1) Development Plans which set out how the Local Authorities will develop to meet the needs of all residents, workers and visitors.

- 2) Local Economic and Community Plans which set out six-year plans with the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant Local Authority area, both directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.
- 3) Regional Enterprise Plans which contain agreed 'Strategic Objectives' for enterprise development, accompanied by a time-bound set of actions to deliver the objectives.

Local economic development decisions and plans should be evidence based and data driven. For example the [Dublin Economic Monitor](#) - a joint initiative on behalf of the four Dublin local authorities, uses local level data to track Dublin's economic performance in retail, hospitality, the labour market, the property market, transport & travel and business sentiment on a quarterly basis

There is an increasing need for timely data to measure, plan and monitor economic development at a local authority level. This data is not limited to but may include

- Historic and real-time economic performance data on retail spend by sectors, tourism vs non-tourism spend, footfall, sentiment analysis, event analysis, local employment & sectors/clusters, skills, wage data, commute methods/distances, business demography, venture capital, start-ups, deprivation, concert tickets etc.

On behalf of the sector and in partnership with the LGMA, Dublin City Council is leading an engagement process to assess the nature of market data offerings that can enhance our understanding of the performance of local economic development across Ireland.

Jamie Cudden
Smart Cities Programme Manager
Dublin City Council

11th May, 2023.