

Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Draft Minutes of Meeting Held 18th May 2023

The Chair welcomed Cllr. Fiona Connolly to the SPC following the move of Cllr. Gilliland to the Planning and Urban Form SPC. The Chair thanked Cllr. Gilliland for her contribution to the Committee over the years.

1. Draft minutes of the Finance SPC meeting of 16th March, 2023.

The draft minutes were proposed by Philip O'Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. Anthony Connaghtan.
The minutes were adopted.

2. Matters Arising.

Members enquired if there was a response to letter enquiring about the ToR and membership of the Review Group for Local Government Funding. Kathy advised that she is aware of 3 meetings being held with one taking place today but no formal response received.

Agreed to: Pursue official response from the Department.

3. Correspondence.

Noted.

- a) Reply from An Taoiseach to Cllr. McGrattan re Local Government Funding 30/03/23.
- b) Letter to Fiona Quinn from Cllr McGrattan re ToR and membership of the Review Group 31/03/23.
- c) Reply from Minister O'Brien to Cllr. McGrattan re Ballymun Social Regeneration Fund 02/05/23.
- d) Reply form Jackie O'Reilly to Kathy re BSRF and email from Minister O'Brien 05/05/2023
- e) Letter to Minister O'Brien from Cllr McGrattan re BSRF 09/05/23

4. Report on Update to the Development of Dublin City Council's Social Value Framework – (Kathy Quinn) and Report on Social Value Framework following sessions with the Elected Members (John Heneghan, CLES)

Noted.

The purpose of a Social Value Framework is to have a clear articulation of the wider outcomes that DCC wishes to achieve throughout its spending and decision making through the commissioning and procurement of services and assets and the decision and approaches taken in relation to employment and recruitment. The reports updated Members on the emerging Dublin Social Value Framework following workshops with the Elected Members.

Progress to date includes:

- CWB Steering Group held 3 workshops at which a draft Social Value Framework was developed
- Two workshops were held for Councillors to become familiar with the draft and provide an opportunity for input and comments

- Issues raised at the meeting will be incorporated as much as possible into the final social value framework document to be presented to the July City Council meeting.

Members queried the CWB focus on microbusinesses, social enterprises and cooperatives excluding SME's and larger organisations. It was explained that a growth in microbusinesses was important for the employment of people who might not be considered by larger organisations and disadvantaged for various reasons such as educational achievement. These smaller organisations tend to stay local rather than move around which is important for employment for the local economy. The incorporation of CWB principles to the Planning process was queried and Kathy advised that planning process will be discussed further into the CWB programme. The steering group are currently looking at DCC's Land and Property data compiling data on community assets that could be available to various groups.

5. Presentation on Civic Crowdfunding and Dublin City Council - Frank Kibble, Spacehive

Noted.

Frank gave a comprehensive presentation on the Spacehive Civic Crowdfunding fundraising platform.

Statistic from the UK:

- £30m raised to date from over 2,000 local ideas
- 85% of projects reach their fundraising targets
- 65% of project creators are fundraising for the first time
- 400% increase to partner funds via community crowdfunding

The process works by local people fundraising via a safe and verified system. Frank advised that the focus should not be on projects which are services that would be provided by the local authority and also that the target funds must be reached for the project to be successful. If the target is not reached the funds are returned.

Frank spoke of the support for project creators such as live chat, workshops, an email address to connect with the Spacehive team, video guides and access to a network of over 2,000 successful project creators for advice and inspiration.

Support for DCC staff will be provided with platform training, briefings, engagement toolkits and a range of resources to equip a bespoke communications strategy.

It was noted that a Working Group has been formed and is currently working with Frank on site content and contact will then be made with Councillors to get the message out to the various community groups.

6. Presentation Dublin Tourism Spend by Fáilte Ireland – Paul Keeley, Director of Regional Development and Liz Halpin, Head of Regional Development in the Dublin Region.

Paul and Liz gave a comprehensive presentation on the Tourism sector and Fáilte Ireland's role in the development of people, businesses, production and the strategic priorities for Dublin

Market context for Dublin:

- The sector generated €2.6b in revenue and supported just under 70,00 jobs
- 89% of our visitors are international visitors
- The total direct spend in the Dublin region was €55.7m from 2015 to 2022
- Compressions Nights (occupancy over 90%) – a signal of imbalance between supply and demand - 2022 – 102 Compressions Nights in Dublin, where Dublin loses business.
- Dublin had almost twice as many Compression Nights in 2022 as Belfast or Edinburgh
- Need to increase the length of stay in Dublin, more a short break business
- Every €1 euro spent on accommodation is a return of €2.50 to the local economy

Liz described the work of the Dublin Convention Bureau (DCB), a partnership organisation with a core focus on winning international business events for the Dublin Region with confirmed business for 2028 and bidding out to 2031.

Members thanked Liz and Paul for their comprehensive presentation, outstanding work and queried:

- If the refugee issue was affecting accommodation in Dublin and will it affect visitors to Dublin City Council – Paul advised that 15 to 18% of room stock is used for refugees in Dublin but not as much as elsewhere around the country
- Issues with price gouging – Paul advised it was an issue but happens everyone where demand exceeds supply, average room rate in Dublin is generally less than our competitors
- Comment on Hotel Bed Tax – Paul advised that it's not in their remit but worthy of exploration
- How many bed nights booked in Dublin City – Paul advised 6.6m overseas visitors 1.8m Republic of Ireland visitors in 2022

Members commented on Maritime Tourism and that there is huge potential to grow tourism in this area in locations such as the Grand Canal Basin and the River Liffey. Paul advised that any investment in public realm is good for tourism and very important.

7. Report on Real Time Spending in Dublin City by Smart Dublin

Noted.

Kathy discussed the report and advised that Jamie Cudden, Smart City Programme Manager would present to the Committee at a future meeting.

Agreed to: Request information on the timeframe for the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) for the September meeting.

8. Audit Committee Minutes of meeting on 1st December, 2022.

Noted.

Next meeting: Thursday 23rd September at 2.30pm.

Signed: Councillor Séamas McGrattan
Chairperson

Date: 18th May, 2023

Members Present

Cllr Séamas McGrattan
Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Mary Callaghan
Cllr Anthony Connaghan
Cllr Fiona Connolly
Cllr Christy Burke
Cllr Paddy McCartan
Cllr Daithi De Roiste
Cllr Darcy Lonergan
Alan Robinson, Docklands Business Forum
Aidan Sweeney, IBEC
Dr. Caroline McMullen, DCU
Philip O'Callaghan, PPN
Eric Fleming, ICTU

Officials

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance
Mary Curran, Finance Secretariat
Sophie Kelly, Finance Secretariat
Zoe Flood, Finance Secretariat

Apologies

Cllr Daryl Barron,
Sohini De

Others

Frank Kibble, Spacehive
Paul Keeley, Failte Ireland
Liz Halpin, Failte Ireland.