



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

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Mr Graham Doyle
Secretary General
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Custom House
Dublin1.

18th October, 2023.

CC. Fiona Quinn, Assistant Secretary

Re: Local Property Tax Baseline Review 2023

Dear Mr Doyle,

I hope you are keeping well. I am contacting you regarding the recently issued Note for Local Authorities on the Local Property Tax Baseline Review 2023. This document was considered by Dublin City Council's Finance Strategic Policy Committee at its September meeting held on 21st September.

With regard to the allocation of funding based on the Pobal Deprivation Index for Municipal Districts/City Electoral Areas I ask that you provide me with the markings of calculations made to arrive at a quoted funding allocation value of €4,532,483.

I note that there is an acute absence of reference in the document to the costs associated with the role of Capital City.

I must advise that Dublin City Council's Finance SPC strongly contends the assertion of the working group that the direct correlation between the numbers of clients serviced and the cost of service is a weak factor (at just 10% of funding available). Further, your model purports that geographical area increases the cost of services presumably relating to the numbers of service outlets over the area. With 35% of funding weighted to geographical size more importance is placed by your model on this than an urban setting where many service outlets are also required with the usage at each service outlet a multiple of that in a rural setting due to population density.

The priority given to locally raised income per capita does not reflect the Dublin context where many of Dublin City Council's services benefit not only Dublin City Council residents but serve a broader population base of those who work, visit and study here. In your report narrative, it could be interpreted that there is a perverse incentive to minimise locally raised income so as to secure greater baseline allocation. Further, it could be perceived that the

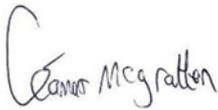
approach taken by the review group is inflationary, requiring Local Authorities where at all possible to increase commercial rates and other charges.

As part of the development of the Finance SPC's submission to the baseline review, there was considerable engagement with elected members from other urban authorities and with members of the Houses of the Oireachtas. Urban areas represent sustainable living for our future. Urban areas should be attractive, well served community focused. This requires funding.

Not only is Dublin our nation's capital, enjoyed and availed of by everyone but it will also play host to the biggest sporting event ever to be held in this country. The recent confirmation that EURO 2028 matches will be played in the Aviva Stadium, attracting a global TV audience of millions and with thousands visiting Dublin City, gives more reason for this much needed funding. The City Council will work with our partners in Government and the FAI to ensure there are a suite of meaningful initiatives rolled out in Dublin and across the country to create a lasting legacy from EURO 2028. To make this and other opportunities a reality, ongoing funding is essential.

I ask that your Department agree to meet with a delegation from the Finance Strategic Policy Committee to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely



**Cllr Séamas McGrattan,
Chairperson Finance Strategic Policy Committee
Dublin City Council**