

Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held 16th November 2023

1. **Draft minutes of the Finance SPC meeting of 21st September, 2023.**

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

The minutes were adopted.

2. **Matters Arising.**

3. **Correspondence.**

Noted.

- Members discussed the correspondence received from Minister McGrath regarding the Visitor Accommodation Charge:
 - Dublin City Council is not looking for a diversion of funds from other areas but a new funding process which should have been taken into consideration
 - Agreed to keep pushing the issue with Government
- Members commented on the letter to the Secretary General re the LPT Baseline Review and noted with disappointment the failure to reply. Cllr Lacey advised that he will be attending a Seanad discussion on Local Government and will raise the issue.
- Regarding letter to Minister O'Brien re Review of Housing for All and proposals for a National Rent Scheme:
 - Members agreed there was no logic in having A National Rent Scheme in order to ensure the collection of rent and that a direct debit system would be beneficial to both the tenant and the Council.

Agreed to write to the Department and ask them to explain their rationale that a national rent policy is needed to introduce a system that enables a direct deduction system for rents.

4. **Report 18 – 2023 – Report on New Legislation governing the collection of Commercial Rates by Fanchea Gibson, Senior Executive Officer, Rates Office.** **Noted.**

The Committee welcomed the attendance of Fanchea Gibson who presented the report on the new legislation and the how it would affect the collection of rates. Members discussed the new changes and thanked Fanchea for the report.

5. **Report 19 – 2023 Presentation on the Changing Working Technology Environment by Brian Curtis, Head of IS.** **Noted**

The Committee welcomed the attendance of Brian Curtis who provided a presentation on the current desktop environment, drivers for change and the new technical environment and iCloud.

Members discussed the contents of the presentation and thanked Brian for his presentation.

6. **Audit Committee Minutes of meeting of 14th September, 2023.**
Noted.

7. **A.O.B.**

Accessibility and availability of information

Next meeting on Thursday, 17th January 2024 at 2.30pm.

This issue of accessibility to staff and information flow to Elected Members was discussed and considered to have reduced notably in recent years. This includes meetings with staff and delays with telephone calls and face to face meetings. The Civic Offices reception area was considered unsuitable being unwelcoming and sometimes crowded.

Agreed to: Write to the Lord Mayor requesting that this issue be considered at the next meeting of the Corporate Policy Group.

8. Next meeting Thursday 18th January 2024 at 2.30pm.

Signed: Councillor Séamas McGrattan
Chairperson

Date: 16th November, 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 Darcy Lonergan
Cllr Daryl Barron
Dr. Caroline McMullan, DCU
Aidan Sweeney, IBEC
Philip O'Callaghan, PPN
Sohini De, Dublin Chamber of Commerce

Officials

Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance
Mary Curran, Finance Secretariat
Sophie Kelly, Finance Secretariat
Zoe Flood, Finance Secretariat
Fintan Moran, Management Accounting Unit
Fanchea Gibson, Rates Office
Brian Curtis, Head of IS

Apologies

Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste
Cllr Nial Ring
Eric Fleming, ICTU
Alan Robinson, Docklands Business Forum