

DÚN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Chairperson's Report Finance SPC Meeting held on March 5th 2025 at 5.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillors:

Cllr JP Durkan (Chair)
Cllr Kazi Ahmed
Cllr Anne Colgan
Cllr Kevin Daly
Cllr Pierce Dargan
Cllr Tom Kivlehan
Cllr Fiona Murray
Cllr Jim O'Leary
Cllr Barry Saul

Apologies:

Cllr David O'Keeffe

Sectoral Representatives:

Hilda Arenas
Brian Dunphy
Aileen Eglington
Karl Houghton

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Helena Cunningham (Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Water Services), Mary Creasey (Financial Management Accountant, FMS Capital), Eamonn Magee (Financial Management Accountant, FMS Revenue), Eileen Fox (A/Senior Executive Officer, Commercial Rates & Finance Secretariat), Stephen Cannon (Executive Accountant, Accounts Payable & Procurement), Fiona Rooney (Administrative Officer, FMS Revenue), Sinead Cullen (Administrative Officer, Payroll & FMS), Eoin Kelly (Administrative Officer, FMS Capital), Niall Cooke (A/Administrative Officer, Commercial Rates & Finance Secretariat), Gavin Byrne (A/Senior Staff Officer, Finance Secretariat)

Introduction to Finance Strategic policy Committee

Cllr JP Durkan, Chairperson, gave an introduction and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He advised that Standing Orders were in place and explained that everyone will have a voice on the Committee and asked that all members of the Committee respect each other's views. He asked that all who come to the meetings are well informed of the items on the agenda.

Helena Cunningham, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Water Services, introduced herself and gave an overview of the various sections in the Finance Department.

The Officials present then introduced themselves followed by the Members of the Committee who spoke about their aspirations for the Committee.

Finance SPC Terms of Reference 2024 - 2029

H. Cunningham presented the draft Terms of Reference for the Finance SPC and a discussion took place on the reports that the members of the SPC would welcome. It was further agreed that the Finance SPC would meet three times each year but that a fourth meeting would be convened if requested.

The Terms of Reference for the Finance SPC were then **agreed**.

Finance SPC Multiannual Works Programme 2024 – 2029

H. Cunningham presented the Draft Works Programme. A discussion followed and it was agreed that the following additional items would be included:

To make a submission, if the task force to review funding of local government, referenced in the Programme for Government, is established.

Provision of a greater breakdown on the financial monthly report to the Council would be examined subject to resources.

The Multiannual Works Programme for the Finance SPC was then **agreed**.

Information items submitted by Members for written reply

No business

Business submitted by the Director of Services

1. Changes to Rates due to New Legislation

Eileen Fox, A/Senior Executive Officer, Commercial Rates & Finance Secretariat, gave a presentation detailing the changes to commercial rates following the introduction of the Local Government Rates & Other Matters Act 2019.

Following a discussion, this item was **noted**.

2. Rates Waiver

Niall Cooke, A/Administrative Officer, Commercial Rates & Finance Secretariat, gave a presentation outlining the consideration of a Rates Waiver Scheme and emphasised that, in accordance with the Local Government Rates Waiver Regulations 2024, a recommendation to introduce a Rates Waiver Scheme must be made by a Strategic Policy Committee to the Council prior to 30th June in any given year. If no recommendation is made the Council cannot introduce a waiver scheme in the following financial year.

Following a discussion, it was **agreed** that the existing Ratepayers Support Grant scheme, which is effectively a waiver scheme, would be maintained for 2026, subject to funding being provided in the budget.

Business submitted by Chairperson

No Business

Business referred from the Council

No Business

Business referred from the Corporate Policy Group

No Business.

Correspondence from February Council Meeting

- Letter from Fingal County Council re a Transient Visitor Tax for overnight stays in hotels, short-term rentals such as Airbnbs and other accommodations within the county.
- Letter from Dublin City Council regarding Visitor Transient Levy/Hotel Accommodation Tax

Following discussions, it was proposed that the Chairperson would write to the Minister giving our support for a transient visitor tax but with a proviso that Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council would set its own rate for their area - **Agreed**

Any other business

Aileen Eglinton, Community/Voluntary Sectoral Representative, thanked Cllr JP Durkan for his personal call the previous day welcoming the sectoral representatives to the SPC.

Brian Dunphy, Environment/Conservation Sectoral Representative, asked where he should submit emails.

E. Fox advised to email financespc@dlrcoco.ie.

Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next Meeting is **Tuesday 17th June, 2025 at 5pm.**