

Strategic Policy Committee
Planning, International Relations and Property Development
Minutes of Meeting held on 26th April, 2016 Council Chamber, City Hall

Attendance

Cllr. Andrew Montague (chair)
Cllr. Kieran Binchy
Cllr. Janice Boylan
Cllr. Áine Clancy
Cllr. Patrick Costello
Cllr. Dermot Lacey
Cllr. Éilis Ryan

Mr. Patrick King
Ms. Valerin O'Shea
Ms. Oznur Yucel-Finn

Cllr. Mannix Flynn

Apologies

Mr. John McGrane

Officials

Mr. Jim Keogan, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. John O' Hara, A/City Planner
Mr. Paul Clegg, Executive Manager, Planning & Property Development
Mr. Peter Finnegan, Executive Manager, Economy & International Relations
Ms. Niamh Lambert, Administrative Officer
Mr. Michael Rossiter, Executive Planner
Ms. Joy Watts, Staff Officer

1. Minutes of Meeting of 23rd February 2016

Order: Agreed

2. Matters Arising

Promoting Dublin as a City of Romance (Motion from V.O'Shea at 3/11/15 SPC meeting) - Peter Finnegan will have a report by the next SPC. It will need agreement from the Arts, Culture, Leisure and Community SPC and the support of that SPC and in particular Fáilte Ireland to establish agreement re branding.

Item 6: Motion 1320 – Erecting columbarium walls in some of our older cemeteries

No reply has been received from the Arts, Culture, Leisure and Community SPC - to follow up.

3. Active Land Management

Discussion took place on the report that was circulated.

In relation to the questions raised and in particular to the queries on Oscar Traynor Road lands the Assistant Chief Executive stated that two reports had already been brought to the joint Planning and Housing SPCs and subsequently to the full City Council meeting for consideration. The current position regarding Oscar Traynor Road lands is that a brief is being developed for the lands and a more detailed feasibility study is being prepared for both the O'Devaney Gardens

site and St. Michael's estate lands. When these are finalised it will be brought to a further meeting of the joint SPC's by the end of May.

The Department of the Environment and Local Government provide conservation grants which are administered by the City Council. There is a ceiling on these grants and some of this funding is ring-fenced to target protected structures considered to be at risk. We have a *Buildings at Risk Register* and we work with owners to limit the risk to endangered buildings.

On the issue of density and acreage, density varies between inner city sites with accessible public transport, and sites in suburban areas.

Each Council has to implement the Vacant Land Levy. Dublin City Council will introduce the levy and to facilitate same it will be a requirement to provide an objective in the City Development Plan which will identify the areas in need of regeneration and housing and where the actual levy will apply. The Planning Department are awaiting guidelines from the DOE but have already commenced the process of surveying inner city sites under our Vacant Sites Study and it is hoped to have these sites mapped within the next few months. When completed the survey of sites will be extended to the entire City area. A levy equivalent to 3% of the land valuation can be introduced. However all land owners have the right of appeal.

A review of housing densities, *Planning and Development of Large-Scale, Rail Focussed Residential Areas in Dublin*, was undertaken in 2013 by the National Transport Authority, in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Local Government and the four Dublin Local Authorities. As agreed at the meeting this report will be circulated to the members for their information.

The Chair requested that a detailed report on the work of the Housing Task Force set up under Construction 2020 be brought to the next meeting of the SPC.

Order: Noted and Agreed

4. dublinbikes Funding Options

The report was discussed. The success of the Scheme was noted and expansion generally welcomed. A number of issues were noted including the need to ensure the scheme was accessible to those who don't have credit cards. Members of the SPC were reluctant to raise membership fees unless there was some recognition for those who were unemployed and students. It was considered that visitor fees could be raised but it was felt that information relating to short term membership needs to be improved on the website and elsewhere. There was a general consensus that while advertising may be problematical there was an acceptance that it was the only reasonable and viable option in securing separate capital current income to pay for the substantial cost in operating the full Scheme. It is noted that the NTA assisted with the capital funding of the Scheme and it is intended to continue to negotiate with them to seek assistance with operational funding.

The Chair requested a report be prepared for the next meeting outlining what options are available for people who don't have credit cards, so that there is universal access for all to the Scheme.

Order: Noted.

5. UK Planning Exemptions

The report was discussed and the differences between the UK and Ireland were outlined by John O'Hara.

Chair requested a report on the timelines in planning, showing all the stages and blockages highlighting where there are delays.

Order: Noted.

6. Enforcement Procedure

This report was produced for information purposes. Short discussion took place on unauthorised development and the need for immediate implementation of enforcement.

Order: Noted

7. International Relations

Some of the things the office has been doing to support the presence of Dublin by participation at various events:

Cllr Daithí Doolan deputised for the Lord Mayor at the *European Capital Cities Mayors Summit* in Amsterdam which had an urban agenda focussing particularly around housing issues;

By agreement of the Lord Mayor, Cllr Ciaran Cuffe is currently attending the *Global Mayors Innovation Conference* in Beijing. This is a Smart Cities initiative, but the real objective in attending, at the request of the Embassy in China and the IDA, is to bring that Conference with 3,000 participants to Dublin next year;

Visit from the Mayor of Guadalajara which led into the Sister Cities Summit (copy of the programme circulated);

Currently working on supporting the *Innovation 2.0 Conference* with Intel and the European Commission in Amsterdam, under the Dutch Presidency, in May;

Supporting the Lord Mayor and Fáilte Ireland's visit in May to Washington and New York, promoting Dublin as a destination for conferences;

The Mayor of Montreal arrives in Dublin on Friday and they are keen to foster closer relationships. We are not in a position to sign anything formal, but welcome their interest in the City;

Programme of Events for the Sister Cities Summit and President Higgins speech were circulated, and the opening video shown to the members. There were 350 participants in the Summit, including 49 in the delegation from San Jose.

Cllr Lacey congratulated Peter Finnegan and the staff of both International Relation section and the Mansion House, acknowledging all their involvement in the Summit's success. Cllr Boylan echoed these comments.

8. A.O.B:

Next meeting: Scheduled for 28th June 2016 @ 3.30 in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

Circulation date for the Manager's Report on the Development Plan Motions is 16th May 2016.