

**Joint Committee on Housing
Local Government and Heritage
Leinster House
Dublin 2
E-mail: jchlgh@oireachtas.ie**

7th November 2023

Consideration of the Citizens Assembly report on the Directly Elected Mayor of Dublin

Submission by Councillor Denis O'Callaghan, Cathaoirleach, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

I welcome the report of the Dublin Citizens Assembly and I acknowledge and thank the committee for producing their report along with its recommendations.

I believe in and support the idea of an Elected Mayor for Dublin. It is an opportunity to bring about an innovative approach and build a new and better Dublin. Dublin has many problems, but we can solve its problems and make it a better place for all, Democratic and Inclusive.

A new deal for Dublin should work for Businesses, Citizens, and Communities. Dublin should be seen as the engine room for economic growth nationally. If Dublin works, everything else works.

A Directly Elected Mayor will give Dublin a voice, a person who will promote Dublin, determine what works and most important what does not work. One who will market and promote the city and county interests both at National and International levels.

In relation to **Recommendation 1:**

While I support the powers listed to be devolved, I have concerns that some of the affected stakeholders will devolve such powers, especially if their Budgets will also be devolved. It is imperative that all of the recommended areas of devolved powers are delivered within the stated timeframes.

Recommendation 2:

I support and agree with.

Recommendation 3:

The mayor should be entitled to address both Houses of the Oireachtas and Local Authorities should the need arise.

I would like to see a clearer definition of functions for the Cathaoirleach and Mayors of DCC, Fingal CC, SDCC and DLRCC.

Recommendation 4:

The Term of Office for a Directly Elected Mayor should be 7 years.

Recommendation 5:

I agree with.

Recommendation 6:

I would lean to support a recall petition and plebiscite of the electorate of Dublin.

To be triggered with agreement of an appointed Committee for this purpose.

Recommendation 7:

I agree with.

Recommendations 8 & 9:

I agree with.

Recommendation 10:

I agree with but their new roles need to be clearly defined. i.e., what relationships and powers will they have viz a viz the office of Directly Elected Mayor.

Recommendation 11:

I would propose a stand-alone Regional Assembly for the greater Dublin area which would also feed into the new office of Mayor.

In relation to the establishment of a Dublin City and County Assembly, I feed in the interests of democracy and in keeping with the principal of subsidiary option C would be my choice.

Recommendation 12:

I agree with.

Recommendation 13:

I strongly support Councillors should have full time status, with salaries to reflect this, also secretarial and research support.

Recommendation 14:

I agree with.

Recommendation 15:

The appointment of the Cabinet should be a joint decision agreed between the mayor and a majority of all Dublin elected Councillors.

Recommendation 16 & 17:

I agree with.

Recommendation 18:

I support and agree with.

Signed Cllr Denis O'Callaghan.