



PERSPECTIVES ON A DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR

AEBHRIC MC GIBNEY

- Founded in 1783
- 1300 member companies, small and large, reflective of Dublin economy, employing over +300k staff
- Guided by a vision for Dublin
- “Dublin will be globally renowned for its quality of life, sustainability and economic vibrancy.”



- On 1st January 1994, Dublin divided in four... counties
- But not GAA...
- Covid 19 – one county
- MASP for “Dublin Region” - integrated land use and transport
- And yet “City Edge”...

Businesses focus on

- Functional area of Dublin/Co. Dublin/Metropolitan Area
- Port, Airport, Universities, Housing, Transport

- Population 1.43 million, 28.5% Ireland, 44% all urban – 2022 census says 1.45m!
- 768.5k employed or is it 905.1k?
- 41% of the State's total GVA
- 52% of all income tax revenue, 61% of corporate tax revenue

- And yet only city to appear in global rankings

- Dublin Chamber has long made the case for a more integrated system of local government for the Dublin region and need to realise economics of scale and operational efficiency
- 2000: Called for the establishment of a Greater Dublin Area Authority
- 2007: Proposed Directly elected Mayor with executive powers
- Involved in 2008-2010 (Gormley) & 2014 discussions on Mayor (Hogan)
- Programme for Government commitment: Examine the prospect of devolving more powers to the local authorities through the legislative process to strengthen and enhance local democracy

- The establishment of the National Transport Authority in 2009 as the transport authority for the Dublin region as well as the public transport licensing agency for the State.
- The establishment of Irish Water in 2013 to centralise water provision and wastewater services which were previously provided at Local Authority level.
- The adoption of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and its subsidiary plans, the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern & Midlands Region and the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) for Dublin.
- The establishment of the Office of the Planning Regulator to ensure adherence of Regional Assembly and Local Authority Development Plans to the NPF.

- That the DEM is the main Champion, the main Advocate, the main Ambassador for Limerick;
- That the DEM is the main Convenor of Limerick, with the authority to mobilise all the stakeholders and people of Limerick, around an ambitious vision for its future, and to lead the implementation of that vision;
- That the DEM has the mandate in law to engage with Central Government and other regional and national stakeholders on all matters that affect the well-being of Limerick as the Chief Representative of Limerick;
- That, by the same token, the DEM can be the partner of Central Government and its Departments and Agencies in ensuring the most effective delivery possible of public services in Limerick – in other words, a two-way relationship;
- That the DEM has the means necessary for them to discharge effectively their functions under the legislation establishing the Office;
- the DEM needs to have the “Mandate and Means”

Local Authority	€m	% Total Funding
Dublin City Council	320	35
Dun Laoghaire /Rathdown	80	45
Fingal	127	52
South Dublin	118	49

- Slice of national Exchequer revenue?
- Collection?
- Local property tax, hotel bed tax...

Attributes

Score		Relevance	Global Relevance
88,3	Is the headquarters location of many leading companies	13	13
76,9	Offers a favorable environment for business	10	9
73,2	Is a beautiful city	2	2
70,0	Is financially stable and has great potential for future growth	3	4
69,3	Offers a safe environment for visitors and residents	1	1
68,6	Is home to many well-known artists, scientists, inventors, ...	7	12
68,0	Offers a wide range of appealing experiences	9	3
66,0	Produces many unique and well-respected products and services	8	5
65,6	Follows progressive social, economic, and environmental policies	4	8
64,4	Is technologically advanced	6	11
62,7	Has a well-developed structure of political and legal institutions	5	7
60,2	Is run by well-respected leaders	11	6
43,1	Has an adequate infrastructure of transportation, communications, and public services	12	10

Excellent/Top tier	80+
Strong/Robust	70-79
Average/Moderate	60-69
Weak/Vulnerable	40-59
Poor/Lowest tier	<40

- No one person or agency is in charge of promoting the Dublin metropolitan area, and no one is in charge of ensuring that its deficits are addressed.
- Someone should be responsible for Dublin as a functional area – simplest being Dublin county. Not to replace existing local authorities.
- Devolution of Powers – Aggregation of Powers. Chief Executive versus Elected Official.
- Caution against the introduction of a half way measure, either for a smaller geographical area or with insufficient powers.

- Funding? Fear of additional taxation. Revenue transfers.
- Challenges – Capital cities and Nation States.
- Government should provide a directly elected Mayor for Dublin, or an equivalent figure, with the necessary powers and responsibility to implement the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan.
- Our focus is on the job, rather than the title and we need a champion for all of Dublin.



THANK YOU

BEST OF LUCK!