

Local and EU Agenda

Contents

- European Agenda
- Local Authority Projects
- Directly Elected Mayor (DEM)
- Crime

European Agenda

Background

Dublin Chamber feeds into EU policy through Eurochambres, where Chambers Ireland CEO, Ian Talbot sits on the Board, and through our nominee on the European Economic and Social Committee, Peter Byrne.

Current Status

We maintain relationships with Dublin's MEPs.

Our Position

Commissioner Michael McGrath will be addressing members in September.



Local Authority Projects

Background

The CEOs of all four Dublin local authorities and the Lord Mayor of Dublin sit on our Policy Council.

Current Status

Dublin Chamber represents the Chamber movement at the Working Group to Reform Strategic Policy Committees in local government, which will inform the operation of local authority Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) going forward. Dublin Chamber also sits on a number of DCC working groups, including the local Joint Policy Committee, the City Centre Business Forum and the DCC Coordination Committee.



Our Position

Many of our policies such as not reducing LPT and prioritising active travel were included in the Governing Majority Agreement on DCC. We have continued to engage bilaterally with newly elected councillors and hosted a reception in the Mansion House in late 2024 by invite of the Lord Mayor.

Directly Elected Mayor

Background

The Citizens Assembly on a DEM was chaired by Jim Gavin and reported in 2023. Dublin Chamber made a submission and presented to the Assembly (see [here](#)). Dublin Chamber also met with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing and Local Government regarding DEM.

Current Status

The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing and Local Government report has been sent to Government asking that Government provide clear details on the proposal to be voted on in a plebiscite. The date for this vote has not been set and the report of the Citizens Assembly has not been actioned to date. The Programme for Government commits to considering a plebiscite in Dublin.

Our Position

We support a strong regional leader with powers around transport, land use and planning. Failing this, we believe a Minister for Dublin should be appointed.



Crime

Background

Dublin Chamber has highlighted its concern at the growing sense of menace across many parts of Dublin and in the city core, in particular. As part of our lobby, we have met several times with Department of Justice officials, including the new Minister Jim O’Callaghan, the Deputy Commissioner of An Garda Síochána and the Chief Executive of Dublin City Council.

Current Status

We argue for more Gardaí on the streets, improved lighting and street cleaning, as well as investment in the public realm to make Dublin’s streets attractive to people to use and congregate safely. We hold regular meetings with local government officials and An Garda Síochána as part of our membership of the Dublin City Centre Business Forum and the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee.



Crime

Our Position

Arising from concerns over public safety, Government set up a Dublin City Taskforce to provide key recommendations to rejuvenate Dublin City. In July 2024, Dublin Chamber hosted a forum for members to meet the Chair of the Taskforce. Since the group reported its findings, we have continued to be active in this area. We sit on the DCC implementation group of the Taskforce recommendations and have met with new Minister for Justice in February 2025. We have called for an increase in Garda numbers in Dublin in our pre-election manifesto, which was included in the Programme for Government.

