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EDITOR'S COMMENT

Dublin voters are being asked if they agree to having a Directly-Elected Mayor, or not, in a plebiscite (referendum) to be held next May, at the same time as the Local and European Elections.

Dublin's four local authorities are charged with coming up with a proposed role for a Directly-Elected Mayor and how this new position will work. That proposal will then go to the Minister at the end of December to form the basis of the plebiscite next May.

In this issue of 'Council Review', Dublin's Lord Mayor Cllr Oisín Quinn outlines the proposals for the new mayoral office. He has set up a forum and a steering group, which is comprised of members from the four local authorities, who met for the first time in July.

This was followed by a period of public consultation, including meetings, workshops, online surveys, and consultation with various stakeholders, as part of the process.

The aim, according to the Lord Mayor, is to get full public engagement on the debate, and to let them have their say on transferring certain powers from central government to a new mayor, directly elected by the people.

The forum has been looking at how the role has evolved in other countries. For example, across the water in the UK, Labour's Ken Livingstone was the first directly-elected Mayor of London in May 2000, who along with the London Assembly of 25 members, was accountable for the strategic government of Greater London. He was defeated by Conservative Boris Johnson in 2008 who has since held the position, following his re-election in 2012.

So, after many years of indecision on the issue here, this is finally a chance for Dubliners and those interested in Dublin to have their say on the kind of Directly-Elected Mayor they would like to see for the future.

Grace Heneghan
Editor

grace@oceanpublishing.ie

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It is hoped that the transition from the City and County Enterprise Board model to the creation of Local Enterprise Offices within local authorities will be seamless.

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COUNCIL REVIEW

14 Upper Fitzwilliam Street,
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-6785165

Fax: 01-6785191

Email: councilreview@oceanpublishing.ie

Web: www.oceanpublishing.ie

Editor

Grace Heneghan

Managing Director

Patrick Aylward

Graphic Design

Catherine Doyle

Advertisement Co-ordinator

Lynda Garry-Martin

For circulation and subscription queries please email: admin@councilreview.ie

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