

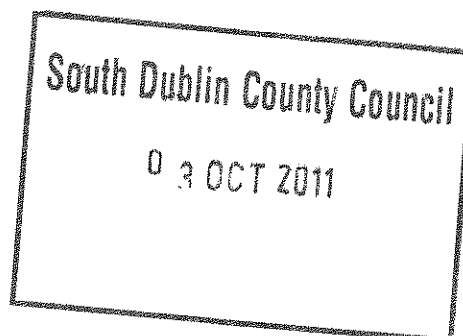


**Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil**  
Environment, Community and Local Government



**Oifig an Aire**  
Office of the Minister

29 September, 2011.



Ms. Mary Maguire,  
Meetings Administrator,  
Corporate Services Department,  
South Dublin County Council,  
County Hall,  
Tallaght,  
Dublin 24.

**RE: REP3551/PH/11**

Dear Ms. Maguire,

I have been asked by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to refer further to your letter concerning a resolution passed by the Council about the forthcoming policy statement on local government.

The policy statement is in course of development guided by the requirements of the Programme for Government and taking due account of proposals and analyses in relevant reports. Key considerations are to ensure that the local government system and structures promote operational efficiency and representational effectiveness, with increased accountability, leadership of, and engagement with, local communities, and has the capacity to expand progressively the potential role and influence of local government.

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The Minister is very aware of the vital role of councillors within the local government system and will endeavour to strengthen that role so that local authorities are given more control and decision-making powers over fundamental issues that affect their communities.

Yours sincerely,

  
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P **Eddie Kiernan,**  
**Private Secretary**