ESRC Project ES/L012898/1

*Collaborative Governance under Austerity:* *An Eight-case Comparative Study*

Topic Guide: Dublin

# Before Interview/Focus Group

* Bring the introductory letter. Summarise this at the beginning of interviews.
* Ask all respondent(s) to sign consent form and if they are happy for recording (with suitable anonymisation and data cleaning)

# Questionnaire

1. Could you say a bit about yourself/your role in ...
2. What does the term austerity mean to you?

* *Probe on positive/negative connotations, alternative signifiers*
* *Probe on what it means for the activity/organisation in which the respondent is involved?*

1. One of the things we’re looking at is the approach of different cities to public spending in an era of austerity/post-austerity.
   1. How do you think has Dublin has been affected?
   2. Where (spatial level) do you think the cuts have been the most/least severe?
   3. What has Dublin City Council has been trying to achieve in this context?

* *(probe on i) continuity and change; ii) specifics of welfare reform*
  1. Do you agree with this approach?
  2. More broadly, what strategies is the state using to manage / govern austerity?

1. The second issue we are looking at is cooperation between public authorities and other actors in governing/managing/contesting austerity (or cognate).
   1. How important is cooperation?
   2. What is necessary for its success / what contributes to its failure?
   3. What types of relationships / forms of cooperation between state and civic actors / communities are the most important? Why?
   4. Are they durable?
   5. Who are the key actors in partnership in Dublin (include private sector)?
2. Does cooperation influence the way decisions are made/implemented/opposed?

- *Probe on whether influence is growing/declining, whether different actors are more/less important*

1. Has cooperation made any difference (positive or negative) to …
   1. the way you/client groups/citizens experience austerity?
   2. their responses to it (and to the state)?
2. How have prevalent modes of governance changed (with respect to style and scale) since the founding of the state? Why?
3. How is Dublin City Council becoming more or less significant in austerity governance?
4. To what extent have people/groups/organisations criticised/opposed cuts in Dublin?
   1. Who are key critics of austerity?
   2. What are their tactics/strategies?
   3. Have public authorities resisted/opposed it?
   4. What can those wanting to resist/overcome austerity hope to achieve?
5. On a more general note, do you see any relationship between austerity and trends in the health of democracy in this area?
6. Looking forward, you think the way austerity/welfare reform has been governed so far is sustainable? Why (not)?

- *Probe on reasons for answer, scale of analysis, potential threats/stabilising factors*

1. Finally, do you have any other comments you would like to make or questions you’d like to ask us?

* what would you like to see from the research