

## **Louth County Council**

**Minutes of Housing, Strategic Policy Committee meeting held via zoom on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>  
February 2022 at 3pm.**

**Present:** Cllr. Joanna Byrne (Chair)  
  
Cllr. Kevin Meenan  
Cllr. Conor Keelan  
Cllr. Jim Tenanty  
Cllr. Fiachra Mc Raghnaill  
Andrew Califf, Dublin Simon Community  
Pat Mc Cormick, Chamber of Commerce  
Colm O' Hanrahan, Trade Union Pillar

**Officials:** Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
Brona O' Reilly, Administrative Officer  
Noel Treanor, Acting Senior Executive Engineer  
Barry Mc Cann, Executive Engineer  
Louise Feehan, Clerical Officer

**Apologies** Cllr. John Reilly

### **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of SPC Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

On the proposal of Councillor Kevin Meenan, seconded by Pat Mc Cormick the Minutes of SPC Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 was approved.

### **Matters Arising**

A request by Councillor Joanna Byrne was made to add Housing for All to the 2022 Work Programme. Paddy Donnelly Director of Services agreed to add Housing for All to the 2022 programme at a suitable time when additional information became available to Louth County Council.

### **Presentation on Private Rental Inspections**

A presentation was given by Barry Mc Cann, Executive Engineer on Private rental inspections Barry Mc Cann gave an overview of the operations of the PRI Section, the regulatory framework that it is guided by, areas of inspection and the various stages of enforcement. Louth County Council's large volume of PRI inspections in comparison to other Local Authorities was acknowledged. Barry Mc Cann highlighted that Louth County Council is one of only a small number of Local Authorities involved in initiating legal action with regard to private rented inspections. Barry Mc Cann discussed the areas of improving efficiency that are been explored within the section which include the use of handheld devices to record inspections, sharing of knowledge with other Local Authorities and the use of GIS Software.

There was a number of queries raised following the Presentation. The 8 weeks given to tenants to leave property following a Prohibition Notice and the Councils engagement with both Landlord and Tenant was discussed. The Director and the team responded to any queries raised.

A number of queries were raised by the members with regard to Rent Pressure Zone Exemptions and were responded to by the Housing Team. The process of applying for Rent Pressure Zone Exemption was outlined by Noel Treanor, Senior Executive Engineer.

The difficulties in dealing with tenants who damage property particularly in the area of waste management was discussed. Barry Mc Cann, Executive Engineer agreed that a cross departmental link could be examined in the area of waste management.

The process of inspecting a Long Term Lease property by a Landlord was outlined by Noel Treanor, Senior Executive Engineer to the members.

The GIS software system was discussed in detail. The Director and the team responded to any questions raised. The Director outlined that any decisions made regarding new technology in this area will be done nationally.

### **Work Programme Review**

The Work Programme Review will come before the Corporate Policy Group and Housing for All will be included in this.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Minutes confirmed on:

Date: 14/6/2022

Signed: Joanna Byrne  
Chr. Joanna Byrne (Chair)