

Louth County Council

**Minutes of Housing Strategic Policy Committee meeting held in the Cooley Room,
County Hall, Dundalk on Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 3.30pm.**

Present: Cllr. Joanna Byrne(Chair)

Cllr. Kevin Meenan
Cllr. Emma Cutlip
Pat Mc Cormick, Chamber of Commerce
Ann Larkin, Dundalk Women's Aid

Officials: Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer
Brona O' Reilly, Administrative Officer
Louise Feehan, Clerical Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Jim Tenanty
Cllr. Conor Keelan

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of SPC Meeting held on 21st February 2023

On the proposal of Councillor Kevin Meenan, seconded by Ann Larkin the Minutes of SPC Meeting held on 21st February 2023 was approved.

Councillor Emma Cutlip was welcomed to her first Housing SPC Meeting.

The Director of Services confirmed that all approved minutes of the Housing SPC are available via the Councils web site.

Disability Allocations Update

The quarterly report of the Local Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 was distributed to the members. John Lawrence, SEO and Brona O' Reilly Administrative Office gave an update on the process of disability allocations and the progress for Q1 2023 . A number of questions were raised regarding this process and the housing team responded to them. The Director of Services advised that the annual target is expected to be achieved as in the previous year of the Disability Housing Strategy.

Members were advised on the appointment via HAIL of a new Tenancy Sustainment Officer who has responsibility for Louth, Monaghan, Cavan & Meath. The new office will attend Housing Disability Forum to ensure an awareness of the challenges in County Louth.

Tenant in Situ Scheme

The Director of Services gave an overview of the Tenant in Situ Scheme which was introduced following the end of the eviction ban. The SEO confirmed that the acquisition is not the first option and tenants are encouraged to seek an alternative HAP property as a first response. He also advised that six properties have been acquired with a further thirty-two properties at various stages of consideration.

In addressing the members questions the Director and SEO clarified for the members issues relating to cross boundary acquisitions and matters pertaining to Garda clearance and the usual governance associated with an allocation. The Director clarified that there was inequality in the scheme in that some individuals would get an allocation outside the terms of the allocation scheme, but this was unavoidable and necessary to prevent homelessness.

Housing Delivery Action Plan

John Lawrence, SEO updated the members in respect of the targets for delivery and the current position regarding this year's social housing delivery and the pipeline for delivery out to 2026. In addressing the members questions the SEO and Director explained that a call for turn-key properties remains open. It was also clarified that the delivery of approximately 280 units on the five sites that were the subject of the land loans are a separate target that would be delivered by way of modern methods of construction. The Director also confirmed that the Capital Team were exploring a pilot project at the request of the Chief Executive for delivery of a small number of units by way of modern methods of construction. Further details on project would be presented at a future meeting.

AOB

The work programme of the Committee was discussed and agreed that the programme as agreed at CPG would be circulated to the members.

The Chair thanked the Director of Services, Paddy Donnelly for his service to the SPC and noted that this was his final SPC meeting ahead of his retirement in June.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 5th September 2023.

Minutes confirmed on: Date:

12/9/23

Signed:

Clr. Joanna Byrne
Clr. Joanna Byrne