

## Louth County Council

Minutes of Housing, Strategic Policy Committee meeting held via zoom on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 3pm.

**Present:** Cllr. Joanna Byrne (Chair)  
Cllr. Jim Tenanty  
Cllr. Kevin Meenan  
Cllr. Conor Keelan  
Andrew Califf Social inclusion PPN,  
Pat McCormick', Chamber of Commerce

**Officials:** Paddy Donnelly, Director of services  
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
Brona O' Reilly, Administrative Officer  
Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer  
Adrian Mc Hugh, Senior Staff Officer  
Louise Feehan, Clerical Officer

**Apologies** Councillor John Reilly, Councillor Fiachra Mc Raghnaill,  
Colm O' Hanrahan Trade Union Pillar, Niamh Roche Environmental  
Pillar and Elizabeth O' Reilly Louth Environmental Network

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of SPC Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**

On the proposal of Councillor Kevin Meenan, seconded by Councillor Joanna Byrne the Minutes of SPC Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 was approved.

### **2. Presentation on Control of Dogs**

A presentation was given by Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer, on the control of dogs. Sinead responded to queries raised. The Members were advised that any comments they would like to have included in a Draft Policy on the Control of Dogs could be forwarded to Sinead McVerry.

### **3. Social Housing Delivery in Private Developments**

Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services advised the Members on the process of securing units through Part V of the Planning and Development Act for social housing. He explained how the percentage of Part V units has changed from 20 to 10 per cent. A rule of thumb is that the housing authority and /or an approved housing body may have circa twenty per cent of units in any development. This has and may in the future be exceed to address specific need of housing applicants in a particular area. Clarification was presented in regard to affordable units where in some instant they were been counted as social housing stock with the effect of increasing the percentage of social units in individual developments. The Chair Cllr. Byrne welcomed this clarification. Paddy Donnelly responded to any questions raised.

#### 4. Electoral Register

Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services, advised the Members that forms for the Electoral Register are being given to Tenants when allocations are being made. Sinead McVerry noted that there has been a very positive response to this process with 80% of tenants completing the form. A discussion took place with regard to the sharing of data between the various sections and it was noted that this could not take place as the information can only be used for purpose of which it was given as per GDPR

#### 5. Presentation on Homeless and the Housing First Initiative

Details of the work and success of the Homeless unit was outlined to the members. It was noted that in Louth we had reduced the number of Homeless individuals in Emergency accommodation for 187 in 2019 to 89 in the current month. Mr Pat McCormick recorded his appreciation and recognised the great work done by the homeless team. Adrian Mc Hugh, Senior Staff Officer also presented on the Housing First Initiative confirming that the Counties target of fifteen individuals accessing the service by year end would be achieved. Questions in regard to the two matters were address by Mr McHugh.

#### 6. AOB

The Chair Cllr. Joanna Byrne thanked the housing team for their work throughout the year and the members for their attendance and participation in the four meetings held during the year despite the Covid -19 restrictions.

The dates of next years Strategic Policy Committee meetings will be forwarded to all members over the coming days.

Minutes confirmed on:      Date: 9/3/21  
Signed: Joanna Byrne  
Cllr. Joanna Byrne (Chair)