

18<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City & County Council

Chairperson's Report for the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

### **Summary Report / Main Issues**

#### **Overview:**

- Members requested an overview of data relating to housing and homelessness in advance of future SPC meetings, to include amongst other items housing waiting list numbers, numbers of allocations, housing pipeline and Approved Housing Body involvement.

#### **Item 3: Presentation by Sarah Newell, Executive Planner**

#### **Strategic Development and Management Plan for Local Authority Lands as required under Circular APH 02/ 2017:**

- Presentation given on Public land Activation Programme of LCCC owned sites for mixed-tenure and the Strategic Development and Management Plan.
- Members requested a list of sites under consideration for housing development including an update on the 23 sites selected as part of the ASH programme (Assessment of sites for Social Housing).
- Update requested on Guinness Site:  
An update was given on this site. It is one of a number of pilot sites for activation for mixed-tenure given its city centre location. An appraisal is being carried out determining what uses are most appropriate for this strategic site with a view to making public an Expression of Interest as soon as possible.
- Request was made for timeframes and milestones met for Capital Appraisals submitted to Department of Housing Planning and Local Government. This will be provided for next meeting.

- Members requested examining all delivery mechanisms including public, private and Approved Housing Bodies.

#### **Item 4 – Seamus Hanrahan , Senior Architect, Limerick City and County Council**

- A presentation was made by Seamus Hanrahan on the Draft Private Downsizing Policy. Similar policy precedents discussed included Cork City Council and Dublin City Council. Members noted that a list of future downsizing schemes would need to be listed to make the scheme attractive. It was agreed that incentivisation would need further consideration to ensure an effective uptake in Limerick.
- It was noted that the public downsizing scheme is already in operation.

#### **Item 5 – Presentation by Dave Hennessy , Acting Senior Executive Officer, Community Support Services**

- Streamlining proposal for Area of Choice for allocation purposes in Limerick City and environs was tabled. The SPC membership confirmed their support for such an approach subject to this matter being reviewed with them in due course.
- A request for current status of housing issues in each electoral area to be available at each SPC including Approved Housing Body property.

#### **Item 6 - Rob Lowth -Administration Officer, Housing Maintenance**

- Presentation and update on Housing Reletting.
- Members acknowledged work done on a daily basis. However improvement in completion timeframes would expedite reletting dates and must be investigated to ensure efficiency.
- Resourcing of in-house trades to be considered to expedite delivery.

#### **Item 7 –Homelessness**

- Current situation - 65 families in emergency B&B and hotel accommodation.
- 3130 people on Housing waiting list.
- The acquisition of 2 family Hubs as temporary transitional accommodation to provide 40 no. transitional family units is underway and will be completed by October 2017. LCCC

refurbishing a Council owned building to provide 4 family units to be completed by November 2017.

- Regarding the social housing pipeline, 3 no. sites have been identified for rapid-build construction, 20 no. Capital Appraisals are being prepared for submission to the Department of Housing , Planning and Local Government.
- Actively looking at underutilised landbanks to rezone for residential use.
- Investigation into feasibility of Modular Housing for singles is being actively pursued.
- Clarification on announcement of the housing summit regarding a move away from acquisition and towards construction.

**Recommendations: N/A**

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Cllr. William O'Donnell,  
Chairperson,  
Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.