

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HOME AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SPC**

A meeting of Limerick City and County Council, Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee was held on **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017**.

**In Attendance** An Cathaoirleach Cllr B. O'Donnell.

**Present:** Cllr Costello, Cllr Gilligan, Cllr Keller, Cllr Pond, Cllr Keary. Cllr Scanlan, Cllr Donegan, Cllr Leddin (Part), Cllr O'Dea, Cllr Prendiville.

**Sectoral Interests:** Ms T McElligott, Mr PJ O'Grady.

**In Attendance:** Ms Carmel Kirby, A/Director of Services, Social Development  
Mr Seamus Hanrahan, Senior Architect, Social Development  
Ms Sinead Hourigan, Social Development  
Ms Maria Donoghue, Social Development  
Mr Dave Hennessy, Community Support Services  
Mr Rob Lowth, Operations and Maintenance  
Ms Yvonne Berkery, Operations and Maintenance

**Apologies:** Cllr Richard O'Donoghue

**Item 1: To approve the Minutes of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr Scanlan and seconded by Cllr Donegan.

**Item 2: Matters Arising from the Minutes**

An issue was raised by members of the SPC representing Sectoral Interests that SPC members, who are not elected members, were not permitted to participate in the Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council on Housing and Homelessness.

**Item 3: Presentation on Housing Standards**

Mr D Hennessy, CSS informed the meeting that a presentation regarding the inspection of properties related to Housing Standards has been scheduled for the next sitting of the Home and Social Development SPC.

Mr Rob Lowth, Operations and Maintenance gave a presentation regarding the proposed condition survey of Council owned housing stock. The objectives of the survey are to:

- Deliver a comprehensive point in time baseline of stock which can be updated by staff on a continuous basis going forward;
- Measure LCCC housing stock against current Housing Standards;
- Identify issues which require attention in the short term;
- Provide an estimated cost associated with each property; and
- Group items for economies of scale when tendering works.

A discussion took place on the methods, outputs, timescale and funding of the survey. Potential issues regarding data protection and tenant privacy were also raised by members. SPC members requested an update on the proposed survey, once the tendering process and assessment is complete.

#### **Item 4: Update on Housing Delivery Programme**

Mr Seamus Hanrahan, Senior Architect presented an update on the Housing Delivery Programme. Items covered included:

- New approvals by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for capital projects;
- New submissions for planning under Part 8;
- Current status on allocations and homelessness; and
- Rapid Build projects.

A discussion took place, members raised issues in relation to:

- The importance of tenure mix with regard to the long term sustainability of communities;
- The importance of the role of Approved Housing Bodies in tenancy sustainment;
- Reletting times on vacant stock;
- Infrastructural deficiencies in towns in particular in relation to water supply and sewage treatment plant capacity issues; and
- Challenges in the construction sector in particular with regard to skills shortages.

#### **Item 5: Public Land Activation**

Mr Seamus Hanrahan presented an update on the Public Land Activation Programme. In July 2017, LCCC was requested formally by the DHPLG through Circular APH 2/2017 to prepare a Strategic Development and Management Plan for all LCCC owned lands. A key objective under Rebuilding Ireland is to pilot a number of viable and developable sites for mixed-tenure in Limerick City and County. Two sites are now progressing, one in Adare and one in Parnell Street, Limerick City. Mr S Hanrahan presented timelines for the proposed disposal of the sites.

Issues raised by members included:

- Details on the proposed sites and likely development mix;
- Necessity for disposal of the sites; and
- Possible new affordable housing scheme.

**Item 6.            Consideration of report from Special Meeting of Limerick City and County on Housing and Homelessness**

Mr Seamus Hanrahan updated members regarding the recent activity of the Homeless Crisis Management Team. The Childers Road Family Initiative is due to open shortly, the hub will accommodate 30 families in self-contained apartments. A programme of refurbishment of vacancies and voids is also under way. These units will be allocated to families in emergency accommodation.

The Meeting then concluded.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 3.00pm, County Hall, Dooradoyle.