



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Stúirthóireacht na Forbartha Tithíochta
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach
Cé na gCeannaithe
Luimneach

Housing Development Directorate
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
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24th April 2019

EIRCODE: V94 EH90

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

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Chairperson's Report for the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of the 23rd April 2019.

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Summary Report/Main Issues:

Prior to the meeting commencing the Chair expressed sympathies to Mr. P.J. O'Grady on the recent death of his wife. The committee observed a moment of silence as a mark of respect.

Item 3 Update on Voids

Ms Aoife Duke provided an update to the committee on the current status of the voids programme. The main points covered were:

- An outline of the current system whereby responsibility for refurbishment of voids is split between Operations and Maintenance for properties requiring works costing less than €30,000 and Design and Delivery for works costing more than €30,000
- A new process is being developed to fast track the return to use of void properties and a pilot project of thirty properties is being carried out to develop templates, scope, timeframes and costs.
- A single point of contact will be established to manage the process
- There will be monthly progress reports per Municipal/Metropolitan District

A discussion took place the main issues raised were:

- The members expressed a general welcome for the programme.
- Members enquired if this programme is limited to Council stock only or if privately owned properties would also be included. In reply, Ms. Aoife Duke advised that this programme is for Council stock, however the council's Urban and Village renewal department are actively working to deal with vacant privately owned properties. The Council also has a number of schemes including the Buy and Renew scheme and the Repair and Lease scheme available to the owners of privately owned properties.

Item 4 Update on Choice Based Letting, Metro Areas of Choice, Differential Rent Scheme and the Planned Maintenance Programme & Item 5 Update on Affordable Housing Scheme of Letting Priorities

Ms Sarah Newell provided an update to the committee on a number of issues the main points covered were:

- Choice Based Letting: The pilot scheme in the Newcastle West District has commenced with the first property in Lower Maiden Street advertised on the Council's website. Four hundred and nine expressions of interest were received and these will now be assessed. A further property will be advertised in May.
- Metro Areas of Choice: Currently there are nineteen areas of choice in the Metropolitan Area. It is intended that this be reduced following a workshop held with members in November 2018. It is intended that the new areas will be introduced on a new application form in Q2 of 2019. This will be communicated fully to elected members
- Differential Rent Scheme: Information Technology Consultants have been engaged to develop a new system to allow Housing Support Services to undertake rent assessment and calculate new rents. Elected Members will be briefed on the new scheme in June 2019.
- Planned Preventative Maintenance Programme: This programme will run in parallel with a response maintenance programme. The aims and priorities of the programme were endorsed by workshop. The programme will commence in Q3 of 2019 and Elected Members will be fully briefed
- Affordable Housing Scheme of Letting Priorities: Circular issued by Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government obliging the Council to adopt a scheme of letting priorities for affordable housing. The regulations will be discussed as part of a workshop in June with the aim of an SPC recommendation to full Council in September/October

Item 6 Notice of Motion referred to the Home and Social Development SPC

The following motion was agreed

I will move at the next Metropolitan Meeting that this Council apply for special funding for the refurbishment of the housing stock on Convent Street, given its poor condition and close proximity to the Medieval Quarter.

Is mise le meas,

Cllr. William O'Donnell.

Chairperson

Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee