

20th April 2022

To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council
Chairperson's Report for the **Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee**
Meeting on the 20th April 2022

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Summary Report/Main Issues

Cllr. Michael Murphy opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the April SPC meeting.

Item 1: Confirm minutes from meeting held on 16th February 2022

Proposed: Cllr. Stephen Keary

Seconded: Cllr. Sarah Kiely

Item 2: Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from previous minutes.

Item 3: Drugs and Alcohol Services in the Mid-West Region Presentation – Mid-West Drugs Taskforce Representative

Presentation on “Drug & Alcohol Services in the Mid-West Region”. Presenter Philomena Carroll, Development Worker, Mid-West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum.

A discussion took place and the main points were:

- Cllr. Catherine Slattery highlighted that a detox unit is necessary for the Mid-West Region.
- Cllr. Conor Sheehan encouraged Limerick pharmacies to participate in the national needle exchange programme.

Item 4: Reporting to SPC from the Housing Disability Steering Group

Ms. Helen Creed, Administrative Officer reported the “Housing and Disability Steering Report 13th April 2022” figures to the committee.

A discussion took place and the main points were:

- Ms. Curley informed the group that this report would be circulated in advance going forward.
- Cllr. Stephen Keary commented on the Disabled Person's Grant (DPG) backlog and highlighted that grant adaptations can greatly improve quality of life for people.
- Cllr. Sharon Benson and Cllr. Sarah Kiely, sought clarification on the Disabled

Person's Grant and transfer applications as part of the DPG process. Ms Phillips assured the committee that each DPG application is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and assessed accordingly.

- Ms. Sarah Newell, Senior Executive Officer informed the group that a substantial completion date will be included in the Housing and Disability Steering Report going forward.
- Cllr. Sarah Kiely enquired (a) if the Guinness Lands were owned by the Land Development Agency or Limerick City and County Council and (b) what the plans are for Toppins Lands and timescale involved. Ms. Newell informed the group that the Guinness site on Carey's Road is one of five sites around the city centre that has received funding under the government's serviced sites fund (SSF) scheme that the Council ran a series of workshops on with Councillors in 2021.
 - Limerick City and County Council is currently engaged with the Department on Toppins Lands and members will be consulted during the Part 8 planning and development process.

Item 5: Update on Letter to Minister

- Ms. Curley communicated the response from Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien in relation to a review of the maximum grant allocation, and terms of the scheme, for Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability, Housing Grants for Older People and Housing Grants for Mobility Aids.
 - Cllr. Keary in response stated that the Minister should be written to and reminded that the grant allocation is not sufficient.

Item 6: AOB

- Cllr. Sarah Kiely requested an evaluation on the private rightsizing scheme. Ms. Newell informed Cllr. Kiely that a lesson's learnt paper would be prepared in September/October 2022.
- Cllr. Teskey stated that the GDPR requirements are a continuous hindrance when contacting the Council on behalf of constituents. Ms. Curley replied that the GDPR is a regulation in EU law, that the Council has a protocol for representations and constituents can contact the Council directly.
 - Ms. Dee Ryan enquired about the register of interest for affordable housing and noted there were no city centre locations available as options. Ms. Newell explained that the locations identified came about following an expression of interest from developers in January 2022 and that the next call to home builders and housing developers would be in May/June 2022. Ms. Newell added that City Centre locations are progressing through the planning process.
 - Ms. Anne Cronin requested an update on the evictions at Shannon Arms and if the Council can do anything. Ms. Curley informed the members that the Council do not discuss individual cases and where necessary will try to find an amicable solution within the Council's remit and law.

- Cllr. Benson added that the residents in the new developments in Kileely and Rathbane can't get broadband. Mr. Culloo informed the members that the Council are looking into it to determine the issue and will revert.
- Cllr. Kiely asked if we could progress a single housing representation policy. Ms. Newell informed the group that this is in progress and that workshops would be held with the members in advance of the policy going before the SPC.

Recommendations (endorsed by SPC members):

1. ***That, this Council write to the Minister for State for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, seeking additional funding for Mid-West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Services and provide more transitional housing.***

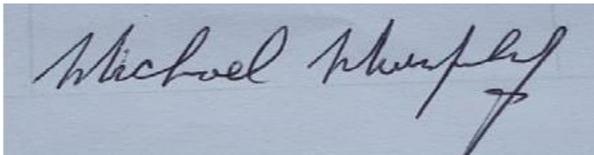
Proposed by Cllr. Sharon Benson

Seconded by Cllr. Conor Sheehan

END OF MEETING

June SPC meeting date to be confirmed

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Murphy thanked everyone who attended the SPC, for the contributions and presentation given and wished former Councillor John Costelloe and SPC member well on behalf of the Committee.



Michael Murphy