

## 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 **the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022** in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle and via MS Teams.

**In Attendance:** An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Murphy

**SPC Members Present:** Cllr. Sarah Kiely, Cllr. Stephen Keary, Mr. Patrick English, Cllr. James Collins, Mr. P.J O’Grady, Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne, Cllr. Mike Donegan, Cllr. Catherine Slattery, Ms. Anne Cronin, Cllr. Sharon Benson, Cllr. Brigid Teefy, Ms. Tracy McElligott, Cllr. Tom Ruddle, Cllr. Joe Leddin, Cllr. Conor Sheehan, Mr. Mike McNamara, Ms. Dee Ryan, Cllr. Adam Teskey

**In Attendance:** Ms. Caroline Curley, Director of Service, Housing  
Ms. Sarah Newell, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. Conor Culloo, Senior Engineer, Housing  
Ms. Patricia Phillips, Administrative Officer, Housing  
Ms. Miriam Donnelly, Administrative Officer, Housing  
Ms. Elaine O’Connor, Administrative Officer, Regeneration  
Ms. Triona O’Connor, Administrative Officer, Housing  
Ms. Helen Creed, Administrative Officer, Housing  
Ms. Jennifer Ahern, Staff Officer, Housing  
Ms. Jurate Andrijauskiene, Staff Officer, Housing  
Mr. Shane Feane, Assistant Staff Officer, Housing  
Mr. Rory Culhane, Assistant Staff Officer, Housing  
Mr. Eóin Lehane, Clerical Officer, Housing  
Ms. Jeannine Butler, Clerical Officer, Housing  
Ms. Amanda Glasper, Clerical Officer, Housing  
Ms Noelle Deedigan, Clerical Officer, Housing  
Ms. Philomena Carroll, Development Worker, Mid-West Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce  
Ryan O’Rourke, Examiner

**Apologies:** Cllr. Sean Hartigan, Cllr. Eddie Ryan, Ms. Una Burns, Ms. Siobhan Reidy

### **Welcome by Chairperson – Cllr. Michael Murphy**

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



committee that each DPG application is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and assessed accordingly.

- Ms. Tracy McElligott enquired on the anticipated delivery timeframe for the number of wheelchair accessible houses in the pipeline as outlined in the report. 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 and if the following could be considered (a) allow the sale of the property on the open market with a provision that it can only be sold to first time buyers or family members only and (b) that pets are allowed as part of their new tenancy. Ms. Newell informed Cllr. Kiely that a lesson's learnt paper would be prepared in September/October 2022.
- Cllr. Adam Teskey requested an update on the house in St. Mary's Park, Rathkeale. Ms. Curley informed Cllr. Teskey that there was no information available and that any update will be provided at the area meeting.
- Cllr. Teskey asked if there are any plans to remunerate private homeowners who accommodate Ukrainians by way of either tax incentive or financial contribution. Ms. Curley responded that she is not aware of any plans by Government at this time.
- 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 application process citing Speakers Corner as an example. Ms. Newell informed the members that the Council has received over 500 submissions to date from interested applicants who wish to acquire affordable housing.

- 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 does not discuss individual cases and where necessary will try to find an amicable solution within the Council's remit and law.
- Cllr. Keary asked in relation to the GDPR if a text message from a constituent would be acceptable. Ms. Curley informed Cllr. Keary that there is a protocol for representations in place.
- Cllr. Keary requested an update on developments in Pallaskenry, Adare, the 33 Houses in Ballywilliam, Rathkeale and the Convent House in Rathkeale. Ms. Newell informed the members that the developer in Pallaskenry has exited examinership and the Council are working with an Approved Housing Body to deliver the units with full nominations rights from the Local Authority. Ms. Curley advised that the Convent House in Rathkeale have been offered to the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS). Ms. Curley informed the members that surveyors were appointed to the development in Ballywilliam, Rathkeale and a further update will be provided at the area meeting. Ms. Curley informed the members that the development in Adare has advanced and a submission is currently with the Department. Mr. Culloo added that the Council are getting closer to stage 2 of a 4-stage process.
- 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 in relation to the GDPR asked if constituents provided verbal confirmation would this be acceptable. Ms. Curley informed Cllr. Kiely that there is a protocol for representations in place.
- 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 will be held with the members in advance of the policy going before the SPC.
- Cllr. Benson asked whether any Councillors were receiving individual appointments and Ms. Phillips informed the members that they were not.

**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.

**END OF MEETING**