

14th December 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 14th December 2022

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Summary Report/Main Issues

Cllr. Stephen Keary opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the December SPC meeting.

Item 1: Confirm minutes from meeting held on 19th October 2022

Proposed: Cllr. Adam Tesky

Seconded: Cllr. Sarah Kiely

Item 2: Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from previous minutes.

Item 3: Social Intervention Fund Plans for funding after 2023

Mr. Joe Delaney, Director of Service, Limerick Regeneration updated the Group.

A discussion took place and the main points were:

Mr. Joe Delaney in response to Cllr. Stephen Keary confirmed that the ESIF targets regeneration areas in the city, namely Moyross, Southill, St. Mary's Park and Ballinacurra Weston, and supports projects that focus on social inclusion in the areas listed. The budget is between €3m and €4m per year and fully funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Mr. Delaney confirmed to Cllr. Sarah Kiely that there was an improved online assessment process for 2023 and whilst the ESIF 2023 submission date has now closed, Limerick Regeneration is available to assist groups source additional funding streams. Limerick Regeneration also intends to meet with the Department in this regard. Mr. Delaney stated there is an ESIF monitoring and evaluation process and KPMG will assess the outcomes of the ESIF funding.

Mr. Joe Delaney in response to Cllr. Tesky stated that Limerick Regeneration continue to purchase houses for social housing and to facilitate development and that garda vetting is undertaken prior to allocation. Mr. Delaney confirmed that Limerick Regeneration are provided with Unit Cost Ceilings (UCCs) by the DHLGH in relation to house purchases.

Mr. Delaney informed Cllr. Keary that some of the modular housing in Moyross was almost ready for occupation and that the remaining houses are being assessed by Peter McVerry Trust who are currently on-site.

Item 4: Draft Housing One-Rep Policy

Ms. Helen Creed, Administrative Officer, Housing Strategy and Non-LA Housing Construction presented an update on the “Draft Housing One-Rep Policy”

A discussion took place and the main points were:

Cllr. Stephen Keary requested that the line in the draft housing one-rep policy “One Councillor or one Oireachtas member can make representations on behalf of a customer in relation to housing matters” be amended to “One Councillor or TD or Senator can make representations on behalf of a customer in relation to housing matters”. Ms. Creed confirmed that the wording would be amended as suggested.

On the proposal of Cllr. Sarah Kiely seconded by Cllr. Eddie Ryan, it was agreed that the draft Housing One-rep policy be recommended to Council for adoption

Item 5: Reporting to SPC from HDSG (Housing Disability Strategic Group)

Ms. Helen Creed, Administrative Officer advised that the “Housing and Disability Steering Report 24th October 2022” figures circulated were for noting.

Item 6: Updates

- *Update from Working group on vacancy*

Ms. Caroline Curley, Director of Housing confirmed that a full report would be presented at the next SPC.

Ms. Curley informed the SPC that the following documents were adopted at the Council meeting 28th November, 2022:

- *Mid-West Homeless Plan 2022-2025*
- *Homeless Policy*
- *Anti-Social Behaviour*

Item 7: AOB

In response to a request from the PPN Linkage Group Facilitator Ms. Creed, Administrative Officer advised that future houses under the private rightsizing scheme would be purchased under the SHIP acquisition stream, which has a target refurbishment sunset clause of 6 months post sale completion. Ms. Creed informed the group that the Private Rightsizing Scheme aims to ensure that the household that is rightsizing has a quality home to move into and provided details of the quality homes built in the pilot scheme at Mungret Gate. Ms. Sarah Newell, Senior Executive Officer in response to Cllr. Sarah Kiely confirmed that Limerick City and County Council can discuss with the Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) their policies regarding pets.

Cllr. Sharon Benson asked if an invitation could be extended to Cena the traveller led voluntary accommodation association to present on the work, they do with Travellers to address critical accommodation needs.

Cllr. Sarah Kiely stated she would be of the opinion not to overload the SPC in relation to routine operational matters regarding the delivery of services and to concentrate on the important strategic

tasks the SPC has as a committee of the council, to advise and assist the Council in the formulation, development and review of policy.

Ms. Curley stated it's for members to decide but highlighted that there are 53 Approved Housing Bodies actively working in Limerick and if the SPC were to invite every AHB to present that this would take a number of years.

On the proposal of Cllr. Sharon Benson seconded by Cllr. Sarah Kiely, it was agreed that

“Cena, the Traveller led Voluntary Accommodation Association would be invited to present on the work they do at the next SPC”

END OF MEETING

February SPC meeting confirmed for 15th February 2023

Recommendation 1:

On the proposal of Cllr. Sarah Kiely seconded by Cllr. Eddie Ryan, it was agreed that the draft Housing One-rep policy be recommended to Council for adoption



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Cllr. Stephen Keary, Chairperson
Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee