

Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee Working Group on Vacancy

To the Mayor and Members of Limerick City and County Council

A report from the above Working Group was submitted to the Home and Social Development SPC on 15th February, 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr. Conor Sheehan seconded by Ms. Dee Ryan it was agreed that the Report from the working group on vacancy be submitted to full Council for adoption.

It was further agreed that the report from the working group on vacancy would be circulated to all Council members in advance of the March meeting and that they would be invited to make submissions on same. A report on submissions would be made available at the March meeting.

Submissions were invited from Council on 6th March with reminders on 13th and 15th March, 2023. One submission was received from Cllr Jerome Scanlan. Below is the report on Cllr Scanlan's submission.

Submission from Cllr. Jerome Scanlan re Vacancy Report

(1) Cllr Scanlan advised that Section 4 seems unclear and queried whether the works targeted for end of 2022 have been completed. He queried position in regard to funding ?

Response:

In regard to Voids Programme 2022 we received an allocation of 99 houses (at €11,000 per house) Fifty one (51) houses were completed and claimed for during 2022.

Work continues on void houses in 2023 and claims at €11,000 per unit will be made accordingly.

In regard to the long term vacants (75 units), as indicated in the Vacancy Report, 30 units are under contract at various stages of refurbishment. 3 units have been completed. Nine units refer to Regeneration and will not be refurbished until 2024. The remaining 33 will be completed in 2023. Funding in principle has been secured for all of the units. I am not in a position to confirm funding for full costs until tenders approved by DHLGH. Any shortfall to be met from own resources (including repurposed loan) to ensure completion of refurbishment.

(2) Cllr Scanlan expressed concern that the required works will not meet the deadlines outlined to avail of the pledged funding stream. He further enquired as to how any funding shortfall would be met.

Response:

We will continue to make cases to DHLGH for funding where appropriate. We will continue to examine innovative ways of using Energy Retrofit funding for vacant properties. We will continue to seek increase in own resources allocated to Housing.

Caroline Curley,
Director of Service.

22nd March, 2023