

7th December 2023

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 7th December 2023

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 12th October 2023

Proposed: Cllr. Sharon Benson

Seconded: Cllr. Conor Sheehan

Item 2: Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from previous minutes.

Item 3: Affordable Housing – The Next Phase

Ms. Jurate Andrijauskiene, Staff Officer, Housing presented on Affordable Housing Purchase Arrangements.

The presentation was well received by the committee.

Item 4: Sales Schemes

Ms. Martina Frawley, Administrative Officer, Housing presented on sales schemes and the examination of potential of a pilot scheme for the sale of Council houses in need of refurbishment at low cost to people on the housing list

The presentation was well received by the committee with the members highlighting that further investigation, discussion with the Department and workshops is needed.

Item 4(b) Consideration to be given to examination of dwellings compulsorily acquired under the Derelict Sites Act with a view to offering a portion to first time buyers on the housing list is deferred for discussion to the 2024 Home and Social Development SPC.

Item 5: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Benson and referred to SPC

At Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 16th October, 2023 the following Notice of Motion was referred to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

“I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, that where a homeowner or Council tenant has an identified requirement for a sensory room and space is unavailable within the property, that modular units will be allowed for under the current housing grants, which currently only allow for traditional build units.”

Mr. Joe McDonald, Senior Staff Officer, Housing read a response to the Notice of Motion to the committee. The response highlighted that The Housing (Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability), Regulations 2007 provides the legislative framework for grants and allows for additional accommodation or adaptation of an existing dwelling only.

Ms. Mary Hayes, Senior Executive Officer, Housing stated that the Council would consider modern methods of construction and will investigate further with the relevant Housing personnel.

Following discussion on the motion Cllr. Keary asked if a visit to view modular housing could be arranged. Ms. Mary Hayes advised that we can explore same.

Item 6: Limerick Chamber Presentation “Business Community requirement for Housing in Limerick”

Mr. Seán Golden, Chief Economist/Director of Policy, Limerick Chamber presented on Business Community requirement for Housing in Limerick. The presentation was welcomed and well received by the committee.

Item 7: Updates

For noting report to SPC from Housing Disability Strategic Group.

Item 8: AOB

Two questions from the PPN Network through Anne Cronin, PPN Home & Social Development representative

1. What is the status of the SIF funding and when will existing projects know if their funding is being extended?

Mr. Joe Delaney, Director of Service, Regeneration provided an update on the status of the SIF funding and advised that Regeneration have made a submission to the Department to continue investment until 2030 and that there will be SIF funding available in 2024 subject to Departmental approval of the scheme. Mr. Delaney informed the committee that it's intended to make changes to the scheme in the areas of youth, employment, health and wellbeing.

Mr. Delaney stated that applications are submitted under an annual funding programme and that 191 projects were funded in 2023.

2. It has been reported that homeless units in the city have increased from 137 to 159 in 2023

where are these units located? Secondly the Dept of Housing are seeking to amend the Housing Act to introduce eligibility criteria regarding centre of interest to access emergency accommodation. Has the Council contributed to this proposed amendment and what are the implications for people that have difficulty establishing a centre of interest that present as homeless.

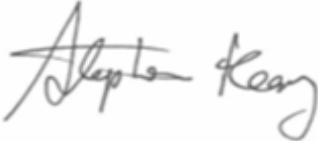
Ms. Triona O'Connor, Administrative Officer, Housing advised that the majority of units are in hostels and shared housing models. Ms. O'Connor stated that the Council has contributed as part of the County and City Management Association (CCMA) subgroup and a submission is with the Minister's office for review. Ms. O'Connor added that every homeless case is treated individually.

February SPC meeting date, Thursday, 22nd February 2024

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Stephen Keary thanked everyone who attended the SPC and wished all a Merry Christmas and happy new year,

END OF MEETING

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Keary', is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Cllr. Stephen Keary, Chairperson

Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee