

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 **30th May 2024** in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle and via MS Teams.

In Attendance: An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Stephen Keary

SPC Members Present: Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne, Cllr. Catherine Slattery, Cllr. Sharon Benson, Cllr. Sean Hartigan, Cllr. Mike Donegan, Cllr. Tom Collopy, Cllr. Sarah Kiely, Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cllr. Tom Ruddle, Mr. Patrick English, Ms. Una Burns, Ms. Siobhan Reidy, Ms. Anne Cronin.

In Attendance:

Ms. Sarah Newell, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Mary Hayes, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Brendan Kidney, Senior Engineer, Housing
Ms. Patricia Philips, A/ Head of Unit for Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation
Ms. Gillian McNamara, Administrative Officer, Housing
Mr. Joe McDonald, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Mr. Mick Forde-Bradley, Senior Executive Architect, Housing
Ms. Yvonne Berkery, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Housing
Mr. James Hayes, Administrative Officer, Housing
Mr. Peter Power, Project Manager, Housing
Mr. David Healy, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing
Mr. Barry Walsh, Assistant Architect, Housing
Mr. Brian Bourke, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Jennifer Browne, Staff Officer, Housing,
Ms. Niamh O'Brien, Staff Officer, Housing
Mr. Rory Culhane, Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Jurate Andrijauskiene, Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Aisling Meaney, Assistant Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Jeannine Butler, Assistant Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Amanda Glasper, Clerical Officer, Housing
Mr. Liam Dooley, Clerical Officer, Housing
Ms. Eileen Liston, Clerical Officer Housing
Mr. Kenneth Bracken, Co Op Student, Homeless Action Team

Apologies: Ms. Caroline Curley, Ms. Noelle Deedigan, Mr. Mike McNamara, Mr. PJ O'Grady, Ms. Martina Brennan

Welcome by Chairperson – Cllr. Stephen Keary

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Stephen Keary opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the May SPC meeting.

Item 1: Confirm minutes from meeting held on 11th April 2024.

Proposed: Cllr. Mike Donegan **Seconded:** Cllr. Tom Collopy

Item 2: Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from previous minutes.

Item 3: Energy Retrofit Programme Presentation

Ms. Yvonne Berkery, A/Senior Executive Engineer, gave a presentation on the Energy Retrofit Programme

The presentation was well received by the committee.

A discussion took place. Cllr. Mike Donegan enquired if tenants remain in the house while these works are being carried out. Ms. Berkery advised the tenants do remain. Cllr. Donegan also enquired about the €34,000 grant fund (average per home) and what works are included in this. Ms. Berkery advised attic and wall insulation, heat pumps and windows and door replacements. Ms. Berkery advised the 2024 scheme works will be carried out in the summer of 2024.

Cllr. Donegan also asked about the council's previous experience of houses that have been retrofitted and the cost of electric prices increasing.

Ms. Berkery replied that the heat pumps are all electric. Tenants are educated on how to correctly use the pumps. There is no solid fuel and no costs on oil or gas.

Cllr. Sharon Benson said she was glad to see the Ballynanty area has been included in the 2025 Scheme. Cllr. Benson asked how the council work decide on a list of properties to be retrofitted. Ms. Berkery advised there are more contractors and local contractors coming on board. Cllr. Benson queried if all walls are being wrapped. Ms. Berkery advised each house is looked at on a case-by-case basis.

Cllr. Stephen Keary enquired if the heat pumps are installed by heat contractors and asked if there should be an onus on the supplier to sign off on them and retain the servicing contract.

Cllr. Keary enquired about the €34,000 per unit and said that some properties don't even cost that much and asked if solar panels are considered. Ms. Berkery responded the tenants are very satisfied following retrofit works and the property is much more energy efficient.

Cllr. Tom Collopy asked what the criteria is and what properties receive the upgrades? Ms. Berkery advised the foreman and engineer in the area view properties and also review the list of what tenants have expressed an interest in their property being retrofitted. Cllr. Collopy also enquired if the works are specific to council tenants only. Ms. Berkery replied that it was works to Council properties only.

Item 4: LA-led Affordable Housing update

Mr. Mick Forde-Bradley, Senior Executive Architect, gave a presentation on LA-led Affordable Housing

The presentation was well received by the committee.

Cllr. Sarah Kiely sought clarification on the study on the trees from an environmental point of view for Toppins Field. Mr. Forde-Bradley advised the trees are not in imminent danger of falling, a maintenance plan will be put in place and as the trees are not now being removed & the council does not see it as being a possible planning concern for the local residents.

Cllr. Kiely also enquired if MMC (Modern Methods of Construction) are quicker. Mr. Forde-Bradley advised that MMC are 10-50% quicker, there is often a higher quality of work and are broadly cost neutral at the moment compared to traditional methods. The real saving is on the time perspective.

Cllr. Kiely asked about the traffic plan coming in from the Carew Park side of the area and Mr. Forde Bradley confirmed that there will no through road from East to West, and access will come in from the East – with filtered pedestrian and bicycle access being the current desired strategy.

On Sonny's Lands project, the city wall will be integrated into the project. The themed plaza is a way to keep people happy and give a pride of place for the scheme and local community.

Mr. Forde-Bradley advised an information pack would be circulated and that a workshop will take place later in the summer.

Cllr. Tom Collopy thanked Mr. Forde Bradley for his detailed presentation and asked for a copy of the presentation to be emailed to elected members. The members were advised that a PDF version of the presentation was circulated as part of the SPC invitation in advance of the meeting.

Item 5: AHB Update - Novas

Ms. Una Burns, Head of Advocacy and Communications with Novas gave a presentation and an update from Novas.

There were no questions or comments from any SPC members.

Item 6: For Noting:

Ms. Gillian McNamara, Administrative Officer advised the Housing Disability Strategic Group report and pipeline delivery update had been circulated to the SPC members in advance of the meeting. There were no questions or comments.

Item 7: AOB

Ms. Sarah Newell, Senior Executive Officer thanked An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Stephen Keary for his positive contribution to this SPC and thanked all the elected members and wished them well in the upcoming elections.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Keary thanked all SPC members and wished his fellow elected members well in the upcoming elections.

Cllr. Collopy thanked Cllr. Keary for sitting as An Cathaoirleach of the Home and Development SPC.

October SPC meeting date Thursday, 10th October 2024.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Stephen Keary thanked everyone who attended the SPC meeting.

END OF MEETING