

24th April 2025

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 24th April 2025.

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Summary Report/Main Issues

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

Item 1: Confirm minutes from meeting held on 13th March 2025.

Proposed: Cllr. Joe Leddin Seconded: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

Item 2: Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from previous minutes.

Item 3: Presentation on Traveller Accommodation Programme

Ryan McCreanor, Social Worker, Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation presented on the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

The presentation was well received by the committee.

Item 4: Changes to Limerick City and County Allocation Scheme 2021 – Rightsizing Scheme:

Sarah Newell, Senior Executive Officer, Housing presented on the changes to Limerick City and County Councils Allocation Scheme 2021 in relation to Private Rightsizing.

The presentation was well received by the committee.

The proposed change now allows for an interested rightsizer household to sell a home privately (rather than to Limerick City and County Council) and pay a flat band contribution from the net proceeds of sale of dwelling to become a tenant.

On the proposal of Cllr. Noreen Stokes seconded by Cllr. Catherine Slattery it was agreed to bring the recommendation for Changes to Limerick City and County Council Allocation Scheme 2021 – Rightsizing Scheme to Full Council.

Item 5: Autism Working Group update.

Ms. Mary Hayes, Senior Executive Officer, Housing gave an update on the working group and advised that she is working closely with Cllr. Sharon Benson on same.

The presentation was well received by the committee.

Item 6: Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale - Councillors K. Sheahan (Proposer), B. Collins, S. Keary, E. O'Brien, J. O'Donoghue, A. Teskey

We will move at the next Meeting if a recipient of carers allowance is living with elderly parents who are in receipt of the old age pension, their carers allowance adds to the rent of the social house they are living in. We believe that this should be addressed by the Elected Members and the extra charge on the rent account that is now incurred should be removed as we consider this to be unfair and unjust.

Ms. Mary Hayes, Senior Executive Officer, Housing responded mentioning that Adare/Rathkeale and Full Council were given a response at previous meetings. She outlined that a preliminary exercise had been carried out to determine the potential loss of rental income from Carer's Allowances which equates to approximately €1.8 million for social housing tenants. Any downward adjustment to the income criteria would have an inevitable impact on the level of services that the Council can provide.

On the proposal of Cllr. Adam Tesky seconded by Cllr. Elisa O' Donovan it was agreed to seek an update on where the rent review is at present and when the timeline would be for completion.

Item 7: AOB

Cllr. Maria Donoghue queried who the contact person was to add an item to the agenda for future meetings.

Kathy O'Grady, Administrative Officer, Housing advised that members could contact her 2 weeks in advance of the SPC meeting to add items to the agenda.

June SPC meeting date Thursday, 26th June 2025.

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

END OF MEETING

Recommendation 1:

On the proposal of Cllr. Noreen Stokes seconded by Cllr. Catherine Slattery it was agreed to bring the recommendation for Changes to Limerick City and County Council Allocation Scheme 2021 – Rightsizing Scheme to Full Council.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Keary', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

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