

Date: 25th June 2026

To: The Mayor, Príomh Chomhairleoir and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

**Chairperson's Report for the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee
Meeting on the 25th June 2026**

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Summary Report/Main Issues

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

Item 1: Confirm minutes of the most recent meeting held on the 30th April 2026 and the Special SPC on SMART Housing held on the 28th May 2026

Proposed: Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan

Seconded: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

Item 2: Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from previous minutes.

Item 3: Review of the Homeless Action Team Plan

Mr. Joe McDonald, Administrative Officer, delivered a presentation on the review of the Homeless Action Team Plan. Mr McDonald highlighted the legislation in which the team's work is grounded, outlined the aims of the current Homeless Action Plan and key progress to date.

Mr. McDonald explained that the Management Group includes representatives from Limerick City and County Council and Clare County Council and is responsible for producing the Homeless Action Plan. The Homeless Consultative Forum supports the group by supplying valuable information and insight. Ms Mary Hayes, Senior Executive Officer, reflected on particular issues impacting Limerick which will be crucial for the upcoming plan to address.

Item 4: Choice Based Letting

Ms. Mary Hayes, Senior Executive Officer, presented an overview of the Choice Based Letting scheme. Ms. Hayes outlined the objectives, operational benefits and the user experience of the upcoming Pilot Choice Based Letting System due to be launched in Autumn 2026. The presentation was well received by the committee.

Item 5: Approval of SPC Work Programme

Ms. Kathy O'Grady, Administrative Officer, provided an update on the SPC Work Programme. Ms. O'Grady stated that this plan will form the workload of the SPC for the remainder of its lifetime. The members agreed that the Work Programme should proceed to full council for approval.

Proposed: Cllr. Elisa O'Donovan

Seconded: Cllr. Noreen Stokes

Item 6: Update on Affordable Scheme of Priority

Ms. Sarah Newell, Senior Executive Officer, delivered a presentation on feedback received from the survey on the Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements. The survey was circulated to Councillors and members of the Home and Social Development SPC on the 17th June 2026 and were given one week to respond. Ms. Newell noted the survey consisted of eight questions and the main purpose of which was to establish amendments to the current assessment criteria for applicants of the Affordable Housing Scheme.

Ms. Newell explained the next step in this process would be for the SPC members to hold a workshop on the subject and then compile a proposal for a new Scheme of Priority relating to Affordable Housing, a draft of which will be sent to the Minister for approval. A number of attendees agreed it would be beneficial to hold a workshop in the Autumn to discuss the proposal further.

Item 7: Update on Review of Tenant Handbook

Mr. Neal Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer, provided an update with regard to the ongoing review of the Tenant Handbook. Mr. Boyle stated that a working group had been established to assess the current version of the Tenant Handbook and that a draft of the updated version is due in Autumn 2026. Mr. Boyle noted the suggestions from the SPC members that do not sit on the working group would also be welcomed.

Item 8: Short Update of Rightsizing Voids

Ms. Kathy O'Grady, Administrative Officer, stated there has been no current rightsizing voids to date. Ms. O'Grady noted that any voids that are returned will be allocated to an

individual or couple under the Rightsizing scheme as opposed to returning to general social housing stock.

Item 9: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan (to be referred to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the weekly rent for emergency accommodation to be reduced to new rates based on individual circumstances.

Ms. Mary Hayes, Senior Executive Officer, provided a response to the motion and outlined the rationale behind the upcoming introduction of charges for Private Emergency Accommodation. Ms Hayes stated that hardship cases will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by Mr. Joe McDonald and his team.

A number of members expressed their queries on the figures who are accessing emergency accommodation, the cost of provision and the conditions for family units. Mr. Vincent Murray, Director of Service, noted that if members of the SPC would be interested in a more detailed presentation, a workshop could be held on the subject.

Next SPC meeting date **Thursday, 8th October 2026**

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

END OF MEETING

Recommendation 1:

That the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee Work Programme 2025-2029 should be submitted to full council for approval.

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