

Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee

Work Programme 2025-2029

Introduction

The Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee has been constituted in accordance with the Strategic Policy Committee (“SPC”) Scheme 2024-2029 adopted by Limerick City County Council (“the Council”) on the 25th of November 2024.

Function of this SPC

The function of an SPC is to consider matters connected with the formulation, development, monitoring and review of policy in relation to the functions of the SPC and the Local Authority and to advise the Authority on those matters. (Local Government Act 2001, Section 41)

The Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee

Membership of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee comprises the following Council members and sectoral representatives.

Sectoral Representatives	Pillar
Michael Joyce	Development/Construction
Seán Golden	Business/Commercial
Carol McNamara	Trade Union
Una Burns	Community/Voluntary
Toyin Salmon	Social Inclusion
Eileen Irwin	Community/Voluntary
Vacancy	Community/Voluntary
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Elected Members	Political Party
Stephen Keary - Chairperson	Fine Gael
Azad Talukder	Fianna Fáil
Ger Ward	Fianna Fáil
Catherine Slattery	Fianna Fáil
Francis Foley	Fianna Fáil
Sarah Kiely	Fine Gael
Tom Ruddle	Fine Gael
Noreen Stokes	Fine Gael
Tommy O' Sullivan	Fine Gael
Adam Teskey	Fine Gael
Maria Donoghue	Independent
Frankie Daly	Independent
Joe Leddin	Labour
Sharon Benson	Sinn Féin
Elisa O' Donovan	Social Democrats
Sarah Beasley	Aontú

Council officials working within remit of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee

Name	Position
Vincent Murray	Director of Service, Housing
Sarah Newell	Senior Executive Officer- Housing Strategic and Mixed Tenure Partnership Unit
Brendan Kidney	Senior Engineer- LA Housing Construction and Maintenance
Mary Hayes	Senior Executive Officer- Housing Support Services
Patricia Phillips	Senior Executive Officer- Housing Welfare and Traveller Accommodation
David O' Grady	SPC Administrator
Melissa Lynch/Zara Daly	SPC Admin Support

Area	Details	Who	Policy links
Homelessness	1) Review of Homeless Action Plan 2) Identify best practice which could become a national initiative, e.g. community access support across all stakeholders including An Garda Síochána, HSE, Civil Service Departments, etc 3) Review of different types of homelessness and how policy meets needs	Lead: Mary Hayes/Joe McDonald	Mid-West-Region-Homelessness-Action-Plan-2022-2025.pdf
Rent Review	Review of current rent charges	Lead: Mary Hayes/Elizabeth Rea	
Housing Allocations	Allocations Policy to be reviewed in the context of repeat refusals of offers	Lead: Mary Hayes/Norma Purtill	Limerick City and County Council Allocation Scheme 2025 Limerick.ie
Housing Construction/Delivery	<u>Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP)</u> 1. New Plan for 2027 to 2030 strategically aligned with national and local development plans 2. Set out Affordable and Social delivery potential to achieve housing targets.	Lead: Sarah Newel & Brendan Kidney.	Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030 - An Action Plan on Housing Supply and Targeting Homelessness Housing Delivery Action Plan Limerick.ie

	3. Look at Targets against approved and proposed pipelines. 4. Stress test proposals against constraints like wastewater constraints etc. 5. Look at enhanced delivery models 6. Affordable Housing Funding Model 7. Look at EOI based procurement 8. Evidence-based planning 9. Balanced & Integrated delivery model 10. Monitoring		
Traveller Accommodation	1) Current rents charged for Traveller housing to be reviewed – lower than those in standard housing 2) Refusal of housing offers are a regular occurrence – process to be reviewed	Lead: Trish Phillips Links with other SPCs: Finance Investment and Governance SPC	traveller-accommodation-programme-2025-2029.pdf
Review Housing Transfer Policy	3) Housing transfer policy to be reviewed – currently tenants have the ability to apply for a transfer immediately		
Housing Maintenance	Tenant Handbook to be reviewed and updated in context of improving awareness of tenant responsibilities	Lead: Brendan Kidney	Limerick-City-and-County-Council-Tenants-Handbook-2019.pdf

Area	Details	Who	Policy links
Choice Based Letting	CBL is a method used for allocating Council properties, offering involvement for housing / transfer applicants in selecting their new home. This scheme will allow approved applicants to express an interest in a suitable council property in any area available. A ' <i>suitable</i> ' council property is one that matches the applicant's approved housing need i.e. the number of bedrooms that applicants are approved for.	Lead: Mary Hayes/ Norma Purtill	Limerick City and County Council Allocation Scheme 2025 Limerick.ie
Review of Tenure Mix Policy	Whether the overarching objective of the current tenure mix policy remains appropriate and whether the method of applying those principles should evolve from a uniform, city and county wide approach to a more place-based, evidence-informed model.: • test the case for a bespoke Electoral Division (ED) – neighbourhood level approach using the National Pobal Deprivation Index –	Lead: Sarah Newell	https://data.pobal.ie/ Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030: An Action Plan on Housing Supply and Targeting Homelessness National Planning Framework First Revision – April 2025 - The National Planning Framework

Area	Details	Who	Policy links
	https://data.pobal.ie/ and • Seek Elected Member's views in reaching a settled policy position on tenure mix.		
Autism Working Group	The idea of this working group is to bring stakeholders together to identify and support the needs of people with autism and other sensory disabilities within the area of housing, and to develop and implement policies and recommendations, through understanding. The goal will be to assess all sections of the housing department of the local authority in detail and explore what changes can be made.	Lead: Mary Hayes /Cllr Sharon Benson and members of the Housing Disability Steering Group	Assisting People with Autism: Guidance for Local Authority Housing Officers Report - National Disability Authority
LGMA Development of Online Housing Application Form	Development of Online Housing Application Form	Lead: Mary Hayes	
Home Improvement Scheme	Dependent on Funding- <u>Proposed Scheme features:</u> • The grant scheme will be available to Limerick City and County Council tenants towards the cost of maintenance and upgrades of their rented properties; • The grant scheme will cover the following: • Internal and external painting • Replacement/repair of fascia, soffits and gutters;;	Lead: Brendan Kidney /Neal Boyle	

Area	Details	Who	Policy links
	• Garden maintenance – patio/shed; • Upgrade or replacement of kitchen unit(s); • Replacement of flooring; • Replacement/repair of internal and external doors/windows; and • Upgrade of boundary fence/wall. • Works will be 60% grant funded, up to a maximum of €5,000 incl. VAT, with the tenant contributing 40% of the cost of the works.		
Review of Affordable Scheme of Letting	The purpose of a scheme of priority is to set out the manner in which affordable home purchase arrangements are to be made available by Limerick City and County Council, and the process that will be applied to determine the order of priority to be given to eligible applicants where the demand for affordable homes exceeds the number of affordable homes available in the scheme.	Lead: Sarah Newell/James Hayes	S.I. No. 20/2023 - Affordable Housing Regulations 2023