



**Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

**Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC**

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Board Room, Innovation House, Navan**

**Attendees -**

**Councillors:**

Cllr Nick Killian (Chairperson), Cllr Gillian Toole, Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Maria O’ Kane, Cllr Sarah Reilly, Cllr Sharon Keogan, Cllr Caroline Lynch

**Apologies:** Cllr Stephen McKee, Cllr Sinead Burke, Cllr Pdraig Fitsimons

**Attendees -**

**Sectoral**

Vicky Harris, Niamh Ui Loinsigh

**Representatives:**

**Apologies:** Cathy Whelan, Liam Carey, Robert Bradley

**Officials:**

Barry Lynch, Mary Carey, Brian Murphy, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<b><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></b> The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 were approved. Proposed by Cllr Murphy, seconded by Cllr Keogan.
2.	<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b> There were no matters arising
3.	<b><u>Lobby Act 2015 – Transparency Code</u></b>  D. Jones outlined the obligations placed on members of SPCs by the Transparency Code under the Lobby Act 2015, in particular the publication of members’ names and nominating bodies on Meath County Council’s website. Consent to same was provided by the sectoral interest present. D. Jones to follow up directly with those members not present.
4.	<b><u>To Receive a Presentation from the Irish Council for Social Housing</u></b> Paula Kenny provided an overview on the voluntary housing sector in Ireland, including the level of activity and funding mechanisms.
5.	<b><u>To Approve Meath County Council’s revised Anti Social Behaviour Policy</u></b> M. Carey noted that the revised policy had been circulated previously to members and no amendments to same were made since circulation. It was noted that the existing policy had to be revised to reflect changes introduced under the Housing Act 2014  The revised Anti Social Behaviour Policy was approved. Proposed by Cllr Keogan, and seconded by Cllr Murphy. The following was also discussed and agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The need to disseminate the policy to tenants</li> <li>▪ To devise an estate management policy to compliment the content of the Anti Social Behaviour policy</li> </ul>



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<b>6.</b>	<p><b><u>To Review Meath County Council's Allocation Scheme</u></b></p> <p>B. Murphy provided a background to the Allocation Scheme and the need to revise current scheme in keeping with the 2011 Housing Regulations. Revised Allocation scheme was distributed to members present for review. Comments to be submitted to B. Murphy and the matter will be brought before a future SPC meeting for final discussion and approval. Following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Inclusion of reference to downsizing was welcomed. Suggested there should be some means to incentivise same</li><li>▪ Section on Abandoned Properties – if genuine reason for tenant leaving property it is important that they engage with the Local Authority to avoid the consequence of abandoning a property, namely the disqualification from housing supports in the future.</li><li>▪ Pre tenancy training will need to be updated to reflect proposed changes</li></ul>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b><u>To Receive an Update on Meath County Council's Homeless Service</u></b></p> <p>D. Jones provided members with an update on current numbers in emergency accommodation.</p> <p>Housing Department currently considering options in terms of expanding homeless services within the County, both directly by Meath County Council and voluntary housing organisations</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b><u>To Receive an Update on the Social Housing Strategy</u></b></p> <p>D. Jones presented on progress to date in respect to delivery under the Social Housing Strategy. A summary of delivery under the Capital and Current programmes was circulated to members present, including reference to capital commitments to date.</p> <p>It was noted since last meeting that Departmental approval was received to continue with the acquisition programme for a further 20 units and to be reviewed periodically, and a direct construction project of 16 units in Ratoath.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>Date for next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016, 2.30pm. This meeting to focus on Community/Cultural Development.</p>