



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC

4th May 2018, Training Room, Buvinda House, Navan

Attendees -

Councillors:

Cllr Sarah Reilly (Chairperson), Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Maria O' Kane, Cllr Nick Killian, Cllr Pdraig Fitzsimons, Cllr Caroline Lynch, Cllr Gillian Toole, Cllr Sinead Burke

Apologies: Cllr Sharon Keogan

Attendees -

Sectoral

Representatives:

Niamh Ui Loinsigh, Vicky Harris, Cathy Whelan,

Apologies: Robert Bradley, Liam Carey

In Attendance:

Peadar Tobin TD, Thomas Byrne TD, Alan Boyce (on behalf of Minister Regina Doherty TD), Christy Reilly (on behalf of Shane Cassells TD), Cllr Tom Kelly, Cllr Francis Deane, Cllr Noel French, Cllr Jim Holloway

Apologies: Minister Damien English TD, Minister Helen McEntee TD, Gerry Adams TD, Cllr Darren O' Rourke

Officials:

Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon, Aine Bird, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 10th April 2018 were approved. Proposed by N. Ui Loinsigh, seconded by Cllr Killian.</p>
2.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There were no matters arising
3.	<p><u>To Consider the following Notice of Motion (Cllr Caroline Lynch), referred to the SPC</u></p> <p><i>“Sinn Féin calls on Meath County Council to set up a housing task force without delay to work with all relevant stakeholders to accelerate the process of resolving the housing crisis in the County /Éilíonn Sinn Féin ar Chomhairle Chontae na Mí tascfhórsa tithíochta a bhunú gan mhoill chun comhoibriú a dhéanamh leis na leaspháirtithe ábhartha go léir le luas a chur leis an géarchéim tithíochta a réitiú sa Chontae.”</i></p> <p><u>Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.</u></p> <p>There is ongoing intensive engagement between Meath County Council's Housing Directorate and all key stakeholders in the acceleration of social housing provision in the County, including the Department of Housing, Planning, & Local Government, Approved Housing Bodies and the private sector.</p>



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	<p>Engagement with relevant stakeholders includes interaction through the current formal structures that are in place at local level pertaining to the delivery of social housing and related issues, which include the following; Departmental Quarterly Technical Meetings, Approved Housing Body Forum, Working Group for Housing People with a Disability, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Regional Homeless Forum/Management Committee and Pre-Planning Part V Meetings.</p> <p>In addition, there is extensive discussion on the matter of housing at the bi-monthly meetings of the Housing, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee, where Councillors and sectoral interest have an input, and are kept informed, of social housing delivery in the county.</p> <p>The Chief Executive, Management Team and the Housing Directorate are fully committed to build on the social housing delivery programmes already advanced to date, and to work with all relevant stakeholders in achieving same. Given the legislative basis that's in place, it is not deemed necessary, and would not be an effective process, to establish another forum to address housing matters.</p> <p>By way of setting the current context of social housing delivery in the County, D. Jones provided a brief presentation, under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary Overview 2017 ▪ 2017 Annual Capital Programmes Output ▪ Social Housing Delivery Mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct Construction (approved) ▪ Current Pipeline Capital Projects ▪ Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund ▪ Acquisition Programme ▪ Vacant Units ▪ Approved Housing Body Activity ▪ Capital Delivery Targets 2017 – 2021 ▪ Strategic Perspective <p>Discussion took place in respect to the Notice of Motion. It was the consensus of the membership that the establishment of a task force was not required. However, it was agreed, as suggested by Cllr Lynch that the SPC meet monthly, and the Oireachtas Members be invited to same, so as to ensure connectivity and communications between local and national level with regard to the matter of social housing delivery.</p>



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4.	<p><u>To receive details of the proposed Regional Festival & Participative Events Grant Allocations for 2018 (previously administered by Bord Failte) and if deemed appropriate Recommend for Approval to the Full Council of Meath County Council</u></p> <p>F. Fallon provided an overview of the Scheme and the proposed allocation for 2018. The following key points were noted in respect to same:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding allocation for Co. Meath for 2018 - €11,000 ▪ 10 applications received by closing date of 12th April 2018 ▪ Three applications were deemed ineligible ▪ Proposed allocations ranged from €500 to €4,000 <p>The proposed allocations were approved as outlined. Proposed by Cllr O' Toole and seconded by Cllr Burke.</p> <p>Members were asked to maintain as confidential the information circulated until finally approved by full Council</p>
5.	<p><u>To Receive a Presentation on Meath County Council's Vacant Homes Action Plan</u></p> <p>D. Jones provided a presentation on Meath County Councils recently completed Vacant Homes Action Plan. The following key points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key objective to maximise the use of existing building stock via Buy & Renew or Repair & Lease Schemes. To gain an overall insight into the reasons for vacancies within the County also referenced ▪ Noted that Geodirectory data considered to be more reliable than Census of Population in respect to vacant unit data ▪ Area of Choice as per Social Housing Application Form has been used as the parameter for the initial focus of vacant units to be analysed (2km radius from centre of said areas). This methodology of approach has identified 521 vacant units ▪ Municipal Districts to be utilised in order to manage oversight of the programme, and work has commenced in the Trim Municipal District. ▪ Noted that Compulsory Purchased Order process will be considered were a vacant unit would yield both a social housing and urban renewal dividend if acquired. ▪ Identified vacant units deemed appropriate for Housing First purposes will be pursued in conjunction with a relevant Approved Housing Body.
6.	<p><u>To Receive a Presentation on the Housing First Model – Homelessness</u></p> <p>D. Jones provided a brief presentation on Housing First, emphasising the following:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing First designed for persons who require significant levels of support, with the provision of housing (rather than emergency accommodation and the ‘revolving door’ syndrome around services that often ensues for this cohort of clients). ▪ Requires an integrated homeless strategy between Housing, Health and Social Services. ▪ Currently being piloted in Dublin, with an 87% success rate recorded re: sustained tenancies. ▪ Bob Jordan has been appointed National Housing First Co-coordinator, with a national Housing First Plan to be launched June/July 2018. ▪ Mid East Homeless Region has met with B. Jordan, with the intention of inclusion in the forthcoming Action Plan. Commitment has been given to Housing First in the Mid East Region Homeless Action Plan 2018-2020.
7.	<p><u>To Review Draft Policy on the Provision of Low Cost Sites</u></p> <p>D. Jones circulated draft Meath County Council – Affordability Measure – Low Cost Private Site policy.</p> <p>It was noted that a number of pending direct construction schemes have made provision for low cost sites, and it was timely to review and develop a policy in respect to same. In particular, the two areas emphasized for consideration are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eligibility criteria ▪ Type of units that a successful application may construct on a low cost site <p>Members were asked to review the document and the matter will be discussed in detail at a future meeting.</p>
8.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p>

Recommendations to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

- To Approve the proposed Regional Festival & Participative Events Grant Allocations for 2018 (previously administered by Bord Failte) as presented