



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

### Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC

**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017, Plunkett Room, Buvinda House, Navan**

**Attendees -**

**Councillors:**

Cllr Sarah Reilly (Chairperson), Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Maria O' Kane, Cllr Sharon Keogan, Cllr Nick Killian, Cllr Sinead Burke, Cllr Gillian Toole

Apologies: Cllr Caroline Lynch,

**Attendees -**

**Sectoral**

Niamh Ui Loinsigh, Vicky Harris, Cathy Whelan

**Representatives:**

Apologies:, Robert Bradley, Liam Carey

**Officials:**

Barry Lynch, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><b><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were approved. Proposed by N. Ui Loinsigh, seconded by Cllr Killian.</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It was queried if the proposed changes to the Differential Rent Scheme as presented at last meeting were being implemented. It was noted that the proposed changes were not included in the forthcoming 2018 budget.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b><u>To Approve the Draft Mid East Region Homeless Action Plan 2018 - 2020</u></b></p> <p>D. Jones highlighted a number of additions to the previous document, as a result of changes approved by the Mid East Regional Homeless Management Group.</p> <p>General discussion followed regarding the issue of homelessness, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Central funding for homeless services – confirmed that 90% of emergency accommodation expenditure is now covered by the Section 10 Homeless budget via the Mid East Region</li> <li>▪ Homeless family hubs and the need and appropriateness of same. Noted that the majority of families currently availing of emergency accommodation supports from Meath County Council are residing in standard residential properties</li> <li>▪ The need for supported emergency accommodation facilities and HSE input and funded services were highlighted and acknowledged as critical for certain cohorts of homelessness. Noted that a meeting took place with HSE Social Inclusion Managers for Meath and Kildare/Wicklow in the preparation process of the Draft Action Plan</li> <li>▪ Reference to Homeless HAP and the proposed roll out national was discussed. Noted that Meath Homeless Service currently provides assistance regarding month's rent in advance if required in order to secure a property and prevent homelessness.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The income band restriction regarding intercounty HAP movement was again highlighted as an issue for Meath, and the removal of same has been requested</li> </ul> <p>The draft Action Plan was unanimously approved. Proposed by Cllr Toole and seconded by Cllr Burke.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b><u>To Review the Guidance Document in Relation to Assisting Victims of Domestic Violence with Emergency and Long Term Accommodation Needs</u></b></p> <p>D. Jones provided a brief presentation on the above guidance document.</p> <p>Sinead Smith, Joint Manager of Navan Women’s Refuge was welcomed and introduced, and provided an overview of the work of the Refuge, and key issues facing their services at this time, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 313 women assisted in 2016 on an outreach basis, with 46 women and 45 children availing of crisis accommodation during the course of 2016</li> <li>▪ 2017 has witnessed clients remaining longer in the Refuge due to the current shortage in housing supply, thus reducing the ability of the Refuge to provide crisis accommodation to more families who are in need of such crisis accommodation</li> <li>▪ Move on dates are and will be issued to clients, which will result in some clients requiring emergency accommodation from Meath County Council. The preference is always to avoid such a situation</li> <li>▪ Refuge currently looking to develop their existing site or relocate to a green field site in order to develop the services that can be provided. There are a number of limitations on their current site that may restrict further development</li> </ul> <p>Members present welcomed the presentation and the work carried out by the Refuge. Support was expressed for the provision of a site by Meath County Council to the Refuge if an appropriate site was identified.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b><u>To Receive a presentation on the Strategic Development &amp; Management Plan for Meath County Council Lands</u></b></p> <p>D. Jones provided an outline of the recently completed Strategic Development and Management Plan for Meath County Council lands (summary document circulated to members present). The following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 13 sites currently being progressing through the Stage 4 Approval Process by Meath County Council, equating to a combined total of 227 units</li> <li>▪ One site completed in 2017 (Bettystown Phase 1 – 16 units)</li> <li>▪ Balance of land bank limited for the purposes of social housing development</li> <li>▪ Of 67 sites, 21 sites have been identified that may be suitable, but required further investigation to overcome certain impediments that exist</li> <li>▪ Exercise has confirmed the need for a land acquisition programme if pipeline delivery of direct construction units are to be delivered directly by Meath County Council post 2019</li> </ul> <p>It was queried if Meath County Council had any funding submissions with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government at present, It was confirmed that a number of request are currently with the Department, as noted in the monthly Chief Executive’s Report, namely</p>



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	Feargansstown Stage One Approval, funding request for a dedicated staff for a private vacant/derelict sites unit and funding balance for the refurbishment of Alverno Court.
6.	<p><b><u>To Receive an Update on the Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Future Planning Analysis of Social Housing Applicants with a Disability</u></b></li> <li>▪ <b><u>National Guidelines for the Assessment and Allocation Process for Social Housing Provision for People with a Disability</u></b></li> </ul> <p>D. Jones outlined the key messages contained in the National Guidelines for the Assessment and Allocation Process for Social Housing Provision for People with a Disability document. Particular emphasis placed on forward planning in advance when an applicant with a disability enters the 'offer zone'.</p> <p>It was noted that the Housing Department has recently completed an analysis of all applicants on Meath County Council's housing waiting list with a disability, with a view to facilitating forward planning in terms of their housing needs and health supports were required.</p> <p>A summary of the number of applicants with a disability, per Municipal District was circulated to members present.</p> <p>Compliments were expressed to the Grants Team in respect to the volume for grant applicants approved during 2017 under the suite of private adaptation grants.</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Housing staff were thank for all their efforts during 2017 by members present.</li> </ul>

### **Recommendations to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)**

#### **Agenda Item No. 4 Refers:**

- To approve the Draft Mid East Region Homeless Action Plan 2018 - 2020 as presented.