



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC

11th November 2019, Beaufort Room, Buvinda House, Navan

Attendees -

Councillors: Cllr Damien O’ Reilly, Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Sean Drew, Cllr Alan Lawes, Cllr Edward Fennessy, Cllr Niamh Souhan, Cllr Emer Toibin, Cllr Ronan Moore

Apologies: Cllr Nick Killian, Cllr Yemi Adenuga

Attendees -

Sectoral Representatives: Niamh Ui Loinsigh, Gerard Weldon, Deirdre Murphy

Apologies: Michelle McCullough

Officials: Barry Lynch, Robert Collins, Danielle Monaghan, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><u>Introductions & Role of Strategic Policy Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Chairperson welcomed all members to the first meeting of the Committee under the current Council term ▪ D. Jones provided a brief presentation on the role on the Strategic Policy Committee, which has a focus on policy development. Examples of areas covered under the previous term were outlined. Noted that a work programme for the Committee would be discussed and reviewed at the next meeting
2.	<p><u>To Adopt Draft Standing Orders</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The draft Standing Orders as circulated was approved. Proposed by Cllr Murphy, seconded by Cllr Fennessy
3.	<p><u>To Receive an Update on the development of Meath County Council’s Corporate Plan 2019-2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ R. Collins provided a presentation on the development of the new Corporate Plan for Meath County Council for the period 2019-2024, including reference to the consultation process. As the Plan is to be adopted by Full Council at the December meeting, any submissions were requested to be forwarded as soon as possible. It was agreed to circulate the NOAC Review on Corporate Plans to members for their information
4.	<p><u>To Receive an Update on the Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ D. Jones provided a summary of the content of the Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements, and the process to date in its adoption at the May full Council Meeting.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subsequent to same, the Department has advised that the Minister is not in a position to approve the Scheme due to the extent of the kilometer radius applied in the order of priority in respect of education and employment (300km). It is the view of the Department that such a radius removes any capacity for prioritisation, and is therefore inconsistent with the legislation on the matter ▪ Discussion followed, and it was the consensus of the members present that the rationale that informed the decision on the km radius remains valid, and that the maximum feasible radius should apply, with 120 km suggested. Liaison to take place with Department on the acceptance or otherwise of this revised radius. Matter to be decided upon at the next meeting of the Committee
5.	<p>To Consider the following Notice of Motion (Cllr Darren O’ Rourke & Cllr Ronan Moore), referred to the SPC</p> <p><i>“That this Council writes to the Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan TD, and to the Minister of State for Justice at the Department of Justice and Equality with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration, and Integration, David Stanton TD, calling for the immediate closure of Meath-based Direct Provision Centres and instead, offer residents suitable community-based accommodation and services for children and families”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cllr Ronan Moore detailed the background and spirit of the Notice of Motion, and advised, that in discussion with Cllr O’ Rourke, the Motion to be amended to remove reference to the immediate closure of Meath based direct provision centres, and to call for the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group that reported to Government on improvements and supports to asylum seekers (McMahon Report 2015). Furthermore, support to be given to the current Working Group that is examining alternatives to direct provision ▪ Discussion followed, and it was agreed that the committee was in a position to support the amended Notice of Motion as outlined, which Cllr Moore will submit for consideration at the December monthly Council meeting
6.	<p>To Consider the following Notice of Motion (Cllr Gillian Toole) referred to the SPC</p> <p><i>"In the interest of fairness & transparency, the Meath County Council housing allocation list will be numbered. If necessary, separate lists will be numbered to include family unit types, health need, Disability and so on as appropriate"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was noted that in the supporting information supplied in response to this Notice of Motion, that it would be timely that the Allocation Scheme be reviewed during the current Council term, and that the consideration of a numbered system in respect to the Social Housing Waiting list take place as part of such a review by the incoming Housing, Community & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee. It was agreed that the work programme to be agreed by the Committee, as referred to under agenda item number 1, would be the appropriate opportunity to include same as part of said work programme



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7.	<p data-bbox="284 456 1399 490"><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul data-bbox="284 521 1399 712" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="284 521 1399 613">▪ G. Weldon raised that matter of the Charity Act, and the onerous compliance requirements placed on voluntary and communities groups as a result. Previous document prepared by G. Weldon on the matter to be circulated to members<li data-bbox="284 651 1399 712">▪ Cllr Murphy commended the Community Section on the recent successful Pride of Place award ceremonies

Recommendations to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

Agenda Item No. 5 Refers:

- To support amended Notice of Motion by Cllrs Moore/O' Rourke, as outlined, in respect of asylum seekers