



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

### Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Council Chamber, County Hall, 2.30pm**

**Attendees Councillors:** - Cllr Damien O' Reilly (Chairperson), Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Sean Drew, Cllr Nick Killian, Cllr Conor Tormey, Cllr Alan Lawes, Cllr Emer Tobin, Cllr Yemi Adenuga, Cllr Eddie Fennessy

**Apologies:**

**Attendees Sectoral Representatives:** - Niamh Ui Loinsigh, John Regan, Gerard Weldon, Sinead Smith  
**Apologies:**

**Officials:** Barry Lynch, Maedhbh Rogan-McCann, Mark Harrington, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by Cllr Killian and seconded by N. Ui Loinsigh</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J. Regan raised the remarks made by the Chairperson to himself at the closing of the last meeting, and sought that the incident be recorded in the minutes. A numbers of members made contributions, noting that a misunderstanding had occurred, however, the conduct was not conducive to the positive operation of the Committee, and a repeat of same should not occur.</li> <li>J. Regan noted that he had made reference to the North East Regional Drugs Task Force and the establishment of a task group in connection with Agenda item no. 5</li> </ul>
3.	<p><u>To Receive a Presentation on the Library Service Laptops for Loan Scheme</u></p> <p>M. Rogan McCann provided a presentation on the Laptops for Loan Scheme funded via Facebook. The following key points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinction between Phase 1 (schools) and Phase 2 (community/educational organisations)</li> <li>Insurance not included in Meath County Council IPB insurance policy</li> <li>Engagement with Monsey was particular welcomed</li> </ul> <p>Members present commended the work on this initiative by the Library Service, and acknowledged the contribution by Facebook</p>
4.	<p><b><u>To Adopt Draft Policy on the Inspection of Private Emergency Accommodation</u></b></p> <p>The draft policy statement was approved, with the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference to furniture of good standard.</li> <li>Reference to schools to be added ((point 10 (a))</li> </ul>



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	<p>It was confirmed that inspection reports completed under this policy statement would be available upon request by elected members, but it was clarified that inspection reports under the minimum rented standards programme will continue to be released only to landlords/tenants.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Lawes, seconded by Cllr Murphy.</p>
5.	<p><b><u>To Amend the Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements</u></b></p> <p>D. Jones provided a brief background to the above scheme, and current status of same. The matter of the kilometer radius to be applied to the priority classes of education and employment now required revision in order to obtain Departmental approval on the Scheme. It was recommended to reduce to kilometer radius from 120 to 80, and submit for review.</p> <p>Following input from a number of members it was agreed to revised the kilometer radius to 80 km, however, severe reservations with regards to the scheme were noted and correspondence to issue to Minister O' Brien on the matter.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Fennessy and seconded by Cllr Lawes.</p>
6.	<p><b><u>To Review Meath County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Policy</u></b></p> <p>D. Jones noted that a review of a number of other Local Authority's Anti-Social Behaviour Policies has taken place, with no learning identified in relation to Meath County Council's own policy. M. Harrington outlined the structured engagement that currently takes place with An Garda Síochána and the Tenant Liaison Team as well as the process in respect to obtaining exclusion orders.</p> <p>The following points were noted during the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Feedback had been sought from other SIPTU representatives, which is currently awaited</li> <li>▪ Focus needs to be placed on the most acute cases that is having a serious impact on neighbours/wider community</li> <li>▪ Sanctions suggested were the periodic movement of offending tenants and the imposition of a penalty rent</li> <li>▪ The need to expedite the warning process was highlighted</li> <li>▪ Establishment of a multi-agency task force to address the issue</li> </ul> <p>The following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Case study review to be completed on current acute cases</li> <li>▪ From the above process, key stakeholders to be confirmed and engagement with same regarding renewed approaches</li> <li>▪ Item to be placed on next meeting of Joint Policing Committee and remain on agenda of this Committee</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b><u>To Review Meath County Council's Allocation Scheme</u></b></p> <p>Notice of Motions by Cllr Gillian Toole and Cllr Aisling O' Neill on the matter of introducing a numbered system in respect to Meath County Council's social housing waiting list was highlighted. D. Jones noted that the review of the Allocation Section will be tabled for discussion at the next</p>



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	<p>meeting, which will include a presentation on Choice Based Letting and the workings of a numbered system for those Local Authorities that currently operate same.</p> <p>Discussion followed on general housing provision, including the need to acquire suitable sites for future direct construction projects, the mechanism for funding same, and the need for increased supply of one bed units.</p>
7.	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cllr Reilly raised the matter of support for social housing proposal in areas that do not have a direct housing need, but would nonetheless potentially attract applicants from adjacent urban areas where a high need exists</li> <li>▪ J. Regan referenced the recent announcement of €1.3m to Meath County Council in respect of voids funding, and requested that Meath County Council consider direct labour in respect of same</li> <li>▪ J. Regan enquired if there was a code of conduct that govern the Strategic Policy Committee, and if so, for same to be circulated</li> <li>▪ G. Weldon raised the issue of pension schemes for CE Supervisors which has not yet been implemented, and requested that elected members pursue the matter. Noted that full Council had supported a Notice of Motion on this matter</li> <li>▪ Cllr Lawes raised the matter of the emergency out of hours service for homelessness, particular in respect of rough sleepers. Support of members was sought in order to change the current provision which deals with homelessness arising from fire/flood only outside of normal working hours. Chairperson agreed to circulate Cllr Lawes letter on the matter to all elected members for review</li> <li>▪ Cllr Lawes referred to the standards in the private rented sector, with particular reference to a landlord that provides emergency accommodation, and extent of payments received for same in recent years</li> <li>▪ S. Smith requested that the matter of the single adult HAP rate and the community response to Covid-19 to date be placed on the agenda of the next meeting. This was agreed</li> <li>▪ Next meeting to take place 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 2.30pm</li> </ul>

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

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

- To Approve the proposed Policy on the Inspection of Private Emergency Accommodation

#### **Agenda Item No. 5 Refers**

- To amend the adopted Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements in respect of the kilometre radius that is to be applied to the priority classes of education and employment, to 80 kilometres