



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC

18th November 2020, Virtual Meeting, 2.30pm

Attendees - Cllr Damien O' Reilly (Chairperson), Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Sean Drew, Cllr Nick Killian,
Councillors: Cllr Conor Tormey, Cllr Emer Tobin, Cllr Yemi Adenuga, Cllr Eddie Fennessy, Cllr Gillian O' Toole, Cllr Aisling O' Neill

Apologies:

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

Officials: Barry Lynch, Danielle Monaghan, Brian Murphy, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting held on 16th September 2020</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by Cllr Killian and seconded by G. Weldon
2.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G. Weldon referred to the discussion on homelessness and out of hour emergency number and queried if the matter had progressed to full Council. Noted that Cllr Lawes had submitted a Notice of Motion to the October meeting of full Council, where the matter was discussed J. Regan queried if the document pertaining to the code of conduct for SPC members could be circulated, if available
3.	<p><u>To Receive a Presentation on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Community & Voluntary Sector in Co. Meath (PPN)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. Monaghan provided a presentation on the above, with reference to Impact, Response, Challenges and Co-ordination & Collaboration Members welcomed the presentation, and commended the work of the Community Section in respect to all efforts during Covid-19, in particular information dissemination, co-ordination role and the administration of the Community COVID-19 grants Discussion took place on the matter of food banks in the County. Noted that there were three groups involved in food distribution to those in need (Navan, Kells & Trim), and their respective activities have been coordinated in recent weeks
4.	<p><u>To Consider submitting a Notice of Motion to Full Council seeking the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage to increase the Single Adult HAP rate and/or discretionary powers of Local Authorities to increase rate beyond their current 20% discretion, as a homeless preventative</u></p>



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	<p><u>measure for this cohort of applicants (Social Inclusion Pillar)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ D. Jones outlined the rationale for the above as put forward by Meath Women’s Refuge, and confirmed support for same from Meath County Council’s Housing Department. It was noted that the single adult rate has been an issue for some time, with the matter raised on many occasions with Department Officials, particularly in the context of homelessness. ▪ It was agreed that the suggested Notice of Motion be brought forward to full Council and duly endorsed by the Committee. Proposed by Cllr Killian, seconded by Cllr Murphy
5.	<p><u>To Consider the following Notice of Motions referred to the SPC</u></p> <p><u>"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." Cllr Gillian Toole</u></p> <p><u>"In the interest of transparency and fairness, that Meath County Council's housing allocation policy, when re-constituted, will adopt a numbered system. This system should be applied to all particular categories i.e.: Disability, health need, family unit types etc." Cllr Aisling O’ Neill</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cllr O’ Toole and Cllr O’ Neill outlined the rationale for their respective Notice of Motions ▪ B. Murphy outlined a brief presentation on a numbered social housing waiting list system, outlining the limitations to same and IT requirements ▪ It was agreed that a number system should be introduced, and the Housing Department committed to liaising with the IT Department to scope out the possibility of same, within the context of the current Housing software system. It was also agreed that in the interim data pertaining to year of allocation for the different housing types in each area of the County would be compiled and be made available to elected members on a bi annual basis
6.	<p><u>To Review Meath County Council’s Allocation Scheme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ B. Murphy outlined some key areas within the current Allocation Scheme that it is intended to enhance, namely Choice Based Letting (Agenda Item no. 7 refers) and Rightsizing initiatives. ▪ In terms of Rightsizing, reference was made to possible incentives to encourage rightsizing within own stock and the introduction of a financial contribution scheme for private owners, who wish to right size and avail of a Local Authority Older Persons dwelling. ▪ Noted that a presentation on the findings of rightsizing initiatives operated by Housing Authorities is being made to the CCMA in December by the Chief Officer of Age Friendly Ireland (C. McGuigan). There will be an opportunity for this piece of work to feed into the Committee’s work on the matter
7.	<p><u>To Receive a Presentation on Choice Base Letting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ D. Jones provided a presentation on Choice Base Letting. It is the recommendation to introduce Choice Based Letting for all allocations. Noted that the Allocation Scheme still applies in respect of time based allocations, but is applied only to those that expressed an interest in an advertised



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	<p>property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="337 390 1317 485">▪ There was full support from members present to proceed to introduce Choice Based Letting, with the development of the required IT system the next step. Proposed by Cllr Killian and seconded by Cllr Adenuga
9.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="337 590 1317 642">▪ Cllr Killian requested that the Housing Section pursue all one bed units available on the open market. It was confirmed that this was the case.<li data-bbox="337 648 1317 701">▪ Cllr Killian sought details on any proposed commemoration events of the signing of the 1921 Treaty, and for a presentation on same at subsequent meeting of the Committee<li data-bbox="337 707 1240 739">▪ G. Weldon raised the matter of Community CCTV and data protection considerations<li data-bbox="337 745 1317 915">▪ In reply to J. Regan's earlier query regarding code of conduct for members of Strategic Policy Committees, it was noted that no such document exists. While there is a general Code of Conduct for Councilors, this does not extend to non-elected members of the Committee. Notwithstanding same, members attention was brought to points 17 and 19 of the Standing Orders for Meetings of Strategic Policy Committees which covers the expected behavior of members in terms of debate and interaction

Recommendations to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

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