

## Minutes of Kildare County Council Housing SPC Meeting

16th November 2017

Present: Chair Cllr P Kennedy, Cllr J Pender, Cllr A Breslin, Cllr T Durkan, Cllr D Callaghan, Cllr B Weld, Mr. G Dunne.

In Attendance: T Mc Donnell, Director of Services, A Aspell, Senior Executive Officer, O Brady, Administrative Officer, M McCarthy, Administrative Officer, S Scully, Administrative Officer.

Apologies: P Doyle

1. Minutes of Last Meeting: Proposed by Cllr Breslin, Seconded Cllr Durkan.
2. Matters Arising
  - (a) Millfield Fire Report: Cllr. Pender requested an update on the Millfield Fire Report. T Mc Donnell advised that the report was issued by the Department, he would seek a further update from S Kavanagh, Director of Services.
  - (b) Cllr Pender requested an update regarding contact with the Department of Defence regarding the Repair and Leasing Scheme. T McDonnell confirmed that a letter issued to the Department, to date no response was received, however there was ongoing contact between KCC and the Department.
  - (c) Cllr Pender queried the content of Circular 35/2017 dealing with Part 4 tenancies and transitional accommodation, citing a case she is aware of in Tullamore. A Aspell advised that it does not impact on transitional accommodation in Co. Kildare.
3. Updated list of circulars provided to the committee.
4. Housing Update
  - (a) Homeless Action Plan: A Aspell provided an update on the Draft Homeless Action Plan 2018-2020, a joint plan for Kildare, Wicklow and Meath. The broad structure of the plan was outlined and the policy context. She advised that the draft plan was endorsed by the Homeless Regional Forum on the 20/10/2017 and that in order for the plan to take effect from January 2018, it required endorsement by CPG and to be adopted at the December council meeting, the same process was required in Wicklow and Meath. There was a general discussion of the plan. Cllr Kennedy recommended that the plan be endorsed by the SPC. There was general agreement by the committee that the plan should be endorsed.
  - (b) Homelessness Cold Weather Initiative: O Brady provided an update. He advised the committee that the initiative would be delivered in partnership with the Peter McVerry Trust as they already operate an out of hours service on behalf of the council. There was a general discussion by the members of the number of rough sleepers in the county, the requirement for more than one facility and the reluctance of recovering addicts to use such facilities. O Brady advised the members that this would be a positive start to a cold weather initiative and he was hopeful of receiving funding support from the Department.
  - (c) Disability Strategy and National Guidelines for Assessment and Allocation Process for Social Housing Provision: M McCarthy and O Brady provided members with an update on the implementation of the Strategy and Policy. The four categories of disability were

outlined. M McCarthy advised the committee that KCC had exceeded the target for allocation to persons with a disability. O Brady advised the committee that a priority form has now been incorporated into the housing application form and outlined the format of the form, he highlighted that the council is required to provide 6 months notice of an allocation to a person who qualifies, this is known as the Offer Zone. There was a general discussion regarding the time taken to make an allocation to a person with a disability, the ability of the private rental market to respond to demand and the response of developers in designing suitable houses.

5. Work Programme 2017

(a) Rebuilding Ireland: T McDonnell provided committee with an update on the quarterly figures up to Q3, 2017.

(b) Choice Based Letting: A Aspell advised the committee that an IT system has been identified and it is anticipated that a scheme will be in place in Q1, 2018.

(c) Rapid Building: The Committee was advised that a new Rapid Build site has been identified at Greenfield, Maynooth. This site allows for greater scale. A new Part 8 planning application will be required.

Cllr P. Kennedy thanked all present for their contribution during the year and the positive meeting.

The meeting concluded.