

**Housing Strategic Policy Committee
Meeting 7th May 2018**

Present: Chair Cllr P Kennedy, Cllr J Pender, Cllr A Breslin, Cllr T Durkan, Cllr B Weld, Cllr T Redmond, Cllr R Power, Cllr D Callaghan, Mr. P Doyle,

In Attendance: T McDonnell, Director of Services, A Aspell, Senior Executive Officer, David Creighton, A/Senior Architect, O Brady, Administrative Officer, S Scully, Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. T Redmond, Mr. G Dunne

1. Minutes of Last Minute: Proposed by Cllr. Pender, Seconded by Cllr. Durkan.
2. Updated list of circulars provided to the Committee.
3. Matters Arising
There was a general discussion of the enhanced leasing scheme.
4. Housing Update
 - (a) Housing First - T McDonnell provided an overview of the Housing First Model. He advised that in 2017 the Dept. confirmed that the scheme would be rolled out nationally and that a plan is due to be launched in June 2018, the scheme is likely to be tendered out and delivered on a regional basis in conjunction with approved housing bodies. P Doyle provided a summary of Peter McVerry's experience of Housing First, to date the tenancy sustainment rate is 89%. There was a general welcome for the scheme
 - (b) Homeless Service Presentation - O Brady provided an overview of the operation of the homeless service and issues that have been identified by the Homeless Action Team such as the shortage of homeless units especially for single people, the difficulty of dealing with clients with a dual diagnosis and the procedures which are in place for dealing with presentations at the homeless clinic. A Aspell advised the committee that the housing applications can be expedited and raised the issue of the adequacy of the HAP rate and qualifying income for social housing applications.
 - (c) Tenant Deposit Scheme - A draft tenant deposit scheme was circulated to the committee. A Aspell advised that such schemes are in place in other local authorities and that tenants of AHBs in Kildare are already paying a deposit. There was a general welcome for the scheme, the following issues were raised: affordability and phased payment. A Aspell advised the members that in accordance with advice received from the Finance Section it is not possible for tenants to pay the deposit incrementally in conjunction with their rent payment. The Committee was requested to submit any suggestions prior to the next SPC meeting.

5. Work Programme 2018

- Rebuilding Ireland- The members were provided with a statistical update
- Choice Based Lettings- O Brady advised the Committee that he had visited Waterford Co. Co. to view their CBL system and that progress was being made on the implementation of the scheme in Kildare. He advised that advertisements would be placed in the local papers and that the library service would be available to assist housing applicants to apply for the vacancies advertised in the CBL system.
- Rapid Build Housing -D Creighton advised the Committee that the appointment of a design team for the Maynooth Scheme (48 houses) was imminent.
- Homelessness - O Brady updated the Committee on the operation of the Cold Weather Initiative and the fact that the scheme concluded on the 30/04/2018. The Chair thanked all involved in the initiative.

The meeting concluded.