

**Housing Strategic Policy Committee**  
**Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**Present: Chair Cllr P Kennedy, Cllr J Pender, Cllr A Breslin, Cllr T Durkan, Cllr B Weld, Cllr T Redmond, , Mr. P Doyle, Mr. G Dunne, Cllr M Stafford.**

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

**Apologies: Cllr. D Callaghan.**

1. Minutes of Last Minute: Proposed by Cllr. Breslin, Seconded by Cllr. Durkan.
2. Motion Referred –Cllr M Stafford. *Place a cap on dwellings directly purchased by the Council or approved housing bodies (KN08/0917).*  
Cllr Stafford provided a summary of his proposal. There was a general discussion of the motion. The Members of the Committee stated that while the motion raised valid issues they were not in favour of passing the motion. They are in favour of mixed tenure estates and that the policy of acquiring houses provided an additional supply of housing. T McDonnell advised the Committee that proposals from Approved Housing Bodies are assessed on the basis of sustainability and that the Council does not support all applications for support.

Motion Raised: Cllr Redmond: *That the Council being the largest landlord in the County take the pro-active step of having a tenant from our MD (Athy) on its Housing SPC.*

The Committee acknowledged the spirit of the motion however they were not in favour of it due to the confidential and sensitive information which is discussed in-committee. T McDonnell informed the Committee that the composition of Strategic Policy Committees is informed by law and changes cannot be made by individual SPCs.

3. Updated list of circulars provided to the Committee. A Aspell provided an update on Circular Housing 4/2018 which introduced Homeless HAP to Co. Kildare. Homeless HAP will only be available to households leaving emergency accommodation. Sanction is required to appoint an additional staff resource.
4. Matters Arising
  - (a) Cllr Ide Cussen: *That the vacant house report be amended to include the address of vacant properties and that the vacant housing report be listed as an agenda item and time allocated at each full Council meeting to give members an opportunity to raise questions.* There was general agreement from the Members that the address of the property is not relevant to the information being provided and that the Members are satisfied with the current format of the vacant house report.

(b) Update on Housing First. P Doyle provided the Members with an update on the Housing First Model stating that is suitable for roll out to a particular cohort whom are difficult to source accommodation for. Currently 25 people in Dublin are being supported by Housing First. People who avail of the scheme are offered a licence as opposed to a tenancy.

(c) Cllr Redmond: *That the SPC discuss the development of a bin policy for Kildare Co Co tenants that would require households to provide proof of a refuse subscription.* There was general support for the idea and the possibility of including such a clause in tenancy agreements.

#### 5. Housing Update

(a) Housing Needs Assessment 2017-O Brady provided an update on the Housing Needs Assessment 2017 and advised Members that work is ongoing on finalising the Assessment, the number of households deemed to be in need of support reduced by approximately 400. He also advised that the Housing Needs Assessment of 2018 is due to be completed by the 29<sup>th</sup> June.

(b) Rebuilding Ireland – A Aspell provided the Members with an update on the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan which is a replacement for the Incremental Purchase Loan.

#### 5. Work Programme 2018. The Members agreed that the following items would be included in the Work Programme for the year:

- Rebuilding Ireland
- Choice Based Lettings
- Rapid Build Housing
- Homelessness

The meeting concluded.