

Housing Strategic Policy Committee
Meeting 14th February 2019

Present: Chair Cllr. P Kennedy, Cllr. Thomas Redmond, Cllr. Joanne Pender, Cllr. Aoife Breslin, Cllr. Tim Durkan, Cllr. Brendan Weld, Mr. Ger Dunne.

In attendance: T McDonnell, Director of Services, F Millane, A/Head of Finance, O Brady, Administrative Officer, S Scully, Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. Deborah Callaghan.

1. Minutes of last meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Pender, seconded by Cllr. Redmond.

2. Matters Arising - Correspondence sent to Mayor by Home for Life, requesting permission to meet with the Council. Following a general discussion of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme it was agreed by the committee that a special meeting of the SPC would be convened on the 7th March at 2.30 pm to which Home for Life would be invited.

F Millane addressed queries from the Committee regarding the operation of the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan. She advised that it is a requirement of the scheme that loans applicants demonstrate adequate savings and an amount which is sufficient to pay a deposit. 3% of the total deposit amount of 10% can be a gift.

3. Motion Cllr. Thomas Redmond: *'That a quantity of social houses be set aside for Kildare people who have lived in England or the USA or further afield for many years and who now wish to return home, but are now in council or trust accommodation abroad'*.

Cllr Redmond outlined the difficulty that older returning emigrants have in sourcing accommodation when they return home, especially when they have no savings and the difficulty of applying for social housing. He outlined a programme run by Safe Home Ireland. There was a general discussion regarding specialist accommodation and the use of the Capital Assistance Scheme for such accommodation and the difficulty in setting aside general accommodation for returning emigrants. T McDonnell advised the Committee that there is a provision within the Scheme of Letting Priorities which allows potential housing applicants with an asset to make a contribution towards their housing provision. Cllr. Redmond requested that this information be made available on the council's website to increase awareness for people abroad.

4. Housing Update - Rebuilding Ireland. T. McDonnell provided an update to the Committee. The council is awaiting revised targets arising from the Housing Summit 2019, these targets will be based on the housing needs assessment. The target for 2018 was exceeded, however there was underperformance in leasing. There was a general discussion regarding the acquisition programme and the fact that it promoted social integration.

5. Work Programme 2019

Rebuilding Ireland - Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan. A €15 million loan fund is available. Loan offers are valid for 6 months. Applicants are advised that they can apply to other counties for finance.

Homelessness- O Brady provided an update on the facility in Kerdiffstown and the phasing of the delivery of accommodation. He confirmed that service users originating in Dublin are not eligible to apply to Kildare County Council for inclusion on the housing list. He advised the committee that Housing First is not operational however it is due to be rolled out in 2019 and that a commitment was received from the HSE regarding the provision of wrap around services.

Affordable Housing- T McDonnell advised the Committee that a further circular is anticipated which will extend the date for the creation of a scheme.

The meeting concluded.