

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of Housing SPC Meeting held on Wednesday, 2nd September 2020 in Council Chamber, County Hall at 10.00am

I Láthair:-

Baill:

Cllr. J. Byrne, Chairperson

Cllr. J. McClearn

Cllr. J. Charity

Cllr. E. Mannion

Cllr. T. Broderick (via MS Teams)

Mr. E McGuane (Business)

Ms. C. McGrath (Social Inclusion via MS Teams)

Oifigh:

Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Housing

Mr. G. Scully, Senior Executive Officer, Housing (via MS Teams)

Ms. N. Heffernan, Administrative Officer, Housing

Ms. R. Lowe, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing

Ms. E. McKiernan, Acting Staff Officer, Housing

Apologies:

Ms. M. Conneely

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Housing SPC meeting of 1st July 2020 were proposed by Cllr J. McClearn and seconded by Cllr J. Charity.

2. Presentation on the Housing Waiting List

Mr. G. Scully gave a presentation to the member on the Housing waiting List by geographical area. Figures used were based on the first area of choice preference of approved applicants and reflected the recent changes under the new allocation scheme. The figures were also inclusive of HAP and RAS applicants. The area of Athenry / Oranmore is a broad district and Cllr J. Charity questioned where the centre of highest demand is in this area and how this demand was lining up with the capital programme. Cllr J. McClearn queries if the length of time applicants were on the list could be reflected. Mr. L. Hanrahan advised that it is proposed to review the Athenry / Oranmore area of choice due to the number of applicants and divide the area up to more specific areas of choice. Any decision on these changes will come before the SPC. Priority needed to be given to the completion of the Housing Needs Assessment for submission to the Minister by 30th November 2020.

3. Capital Programme Update

Presentation from Ms. R. Lowe on the four year programme for Rebuilding Ireland. There is a target of 925 units through building, acquisition and leasing. The current schemes under construction are as follows:

Roundstone – 14 units completion date 2021

Loughrea – 5 units completion date 2021

Clifden – 26 units contract awarded

Tuam – 49 units contract under tender to be awarded

Kinvara – currently in Part VIII Planning Process

Ahascragh – Bridge Court scheme

There are also 3 turnkey schemes due to be completed in late 2020 early 2021 in Moycullen, Gort and Loughrea.

Land banks currently under consideration at Athenry, Claregalway and Loughrea but there are significant constraints in Athenry in relation to Irish Water. Cllr J. Charity enquired if there was a possibility of acquiring land in Oranmore for development that is owned by the City. Mr. E. McGuane explained that he was aware that other bodies were pushing Irish Water for a resolution to issue with infrastructure. Mr. L Hanrahan advised that a network extension is required to open the land back and that this was forwarded to the Minister from the County and City Management Association.

Cllr E. Mannion thanked Ms. Lowe and her team for the work in Connemara under the capital programme.

4. Draft Tenancy Sustainment Strategy

Ms. N. Heffernan gave a presentation on the draft Tenancy Sustainment Strategy. Contributions and comments were sought from other agencies and stakeholders but no responses were received. The positive document commitments to providing secure and lasting homes in stable and sustainable communities. The strategy aim to minimize the breakdown or failure of

tenancies. The supports included are Housing Supports Advice Clinics, pre-tenancy training and provision of tenancy induction programme and a follow up tenancy sustainment visit from the relevant Housing Liaison Officer. The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy will follow later in the year. The conciseness of and overall positive aim of the strategy was complimented by Cllr. J Byrne and Mr. E. McGuane. Cllr. J Charity proposed that the strategy go before the Plenary Council for adoption at the next meeting, seconded by Cllr. J McClearn.

5. Request from Peter McVerry Trust to present at new SPC in November 2020

Mr. L. Hanrahan requested that the Peter McVerry Trust give a presentation at the next Housing SPC in relation to the unique work they do as an Approved Housing Body.

6. Any Other Business

The subject of the recent destruction of a City Council acquired property in the County was brought up by Cllr. J. Charity. Mr. L. Hanrahan advised there would be a meeting between the City and County regarding this and acquisitions and other related matters.

Meeting concluded.