

## **Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 4 – Housing Meeting**

**Held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in John's Green House**

**Present:** Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Cllr. Joe Malone, Noel Sherry,

**In Attendance:** Mary Mulholland, Director of Services, Martin Mullally, Michael Murphy, Denis Lawlor, Maura Hickey, KCC

**Apologies:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr, Fidelis Doherty, Brian Dunlop, Yvonne Moriarty,

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In the absence of the chair and vice chair, Cllr. Michael McCarthy deputized.

### **Item 1 Adoption of Minutes**

Matters arising

- Homeless services – Martin Mullally noted that the Homeless Policy was adopted at full Council meeting.  
Proposed by: Cllr. Maurice Shortall  
Seconded by: Cllr. Mick McCarthy

### **Item 2 Update on the Western Environs (LIHAF)**

Michael Murphy, SEE gave a comprehensive report on the **Kilkenny Western Environs Phase 1 Infrastructure Scheme**. Michael confirmed the funding received to date from the Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government and confirmed an application has been made for further funding.

Questions from Cllr's Shortall and Malone in relation to road funding and plans for schools within the scheme, were responded to by Michael.

### **Item 3 Refugee Resettlement Programme Update**

Referring to the report on Refugee Resettlement programme Martin Mullally confirmed Kilkenny County Council's commitment to resettle 140 refugees during 2017 and 2018. Martin explained how properties were sourced and the challenges in acquiring suitable properties in some areas, in particular Castlecomer.

Responding to question from Cllr. Maurice Shortall in relation to support services, Martin confirmed that the inter agency Resettlement group, were liaising with all service providers in the areas, in relation to school placements, medical and all other supports.

### **Item 4 Maintenance Report**

Cllr. Michael McCarthy welcomed Denis Lawlor and wished him well in his new role as Senior Executive Engineer, he also acknowledged the work carried out by Joe Scully during his years in housing.

Referring to the report circulated, Denis Lawlor gave a full update on the maintenance programme, noting the procedures in place from logging of calls, response time and a breakdown the category of calls. It was noted that budget restrictions going forward will restrict the overall maintenance programme.

Mary Mulholland confirmed an increase of 20% has been included in the 2019 budget, to allow for emergency maintenance and a stock condition survey.

#### **Item 5 Homeless Update**

Martin Mullally referred to handout on homeless presentations, showing details of presentations in 2018, along with the comparative monthly presentations for 2016 and 2017. Number of Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/10/2018 was 244, it was noted that this figure is a decrease on previous years. Martin noted the input from Noel Sherry at the Good Shepherd centre and the appointment of HAP Place finder, in securing accommodation.

#### **Item 6 Capital Delivery Programme Update**

Report circulated, Martin Mullally outlined council's targets under rebuilding Ireland and outlined the Council's plans to accelerate Social Housing provision over the next number of years.

Mary Mulholland reported on recent public information evening in relation to the development at The Broguemaker, on the Castlecomer Raod.

Martin Mullally referred to the recent visit of the minister to officially open the temporary emergency units at Greensbridge House, four of which have been allocated.

Before closing the meeting, Cllr. Michael McCarthy complimented the housing staff.

#### **Item 7 AOB**

- **Dates for 2019 meetings** – first meeting for 2019 fixed for **14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 11am**, it was decided to postpone fixing further meetings pending local elections
- **HOP Scheme – Housing Aid for Old People Scheme 2018** – Cllr. Maurice Shortall proposed an extension of the closing date for receipt of applications under this scheme to the **14<sup>th</sup> December 2018**, it was noted that applicants are waiting on contractors to confirm prices, and are delayed in making applications.  
Seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy
- **Cllr. Maurice Shortall** – query re property at Jenkinstown noted

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairperson**  
**SPC 4**