

Chairman's Report of SPC 4

Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 9th November, 2017

Mortgage to Rent Scheme (MTR) – Claire Feeney, National Co-Coordinator, Housing Agency

Claire Feeney provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Mortgage to Rent Scheme and gave an overview of the operation of the scheme. She detailed the 4 models of MTR namely:-

- Local Authority MTR
- Approved Housing Body MTR
- Icare Housing and AIB MTR
- Private Company MTR

This presentation was also provided in hard copy to committee members.

Disability Strategy

Martin Mullally advised that the updated Draft Strategy had been discussed at meeting of 26th January, 2017 and had been submitted to the Housing Agency for inclusion in the National Disability Strategy, 2016-2020. He also advised that Kilkenny's Disability Strategy Steering Group representing the four pillars of sensory, mental health, physical and intellectual and/or autism meet four times per year. The HSE and Local Authority Executive are also represented on the Steering Group.

Martin provided an update on targets and the de-congregation of St. Patrick's, Kells Road, Kilkenny.

An overview of the Disability Strategy presentation and a copy of the National Disability Plan, 2016-2020 was provided to committee members. The Strategy is also available on Council's website.

Homeless Update

Martin Mullally provided homeless update and gave overview of statistics for September and October 2017. He advised that there had been 271 presentations to 31st October, 2017 and that there were currently 53 in homeless services.

A copy of this presentation outlining statistics was provided to Committee members.

Capital Schemes Update

Eimear Cody, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, provided a presentation on Kilkenny County Council's Construction Programme totalling 278 units. She advised that this information had been e-mailed previously to Elected Members and Oireachtas Members.

Eimear outlined the status of various sites including Broguemaker site on Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny. Martin Mullally requested members to contact him or Eimear with any queries/concerns regarding Broguemaker site.

Action: Eimear Cody to provide timeframes for delivery of 278 units.

Refugee Resettlement Programme

Lindsey Butler, Refugee Resettlement Project Co-ordinator provided an overview of resettlement process.

She advised that Kilkenny is one of six counties providing asylum and protection to people from Syria. A statutory inter agency group has been set up to facilitate the needs of the Refugees for when they arrive in Kilkenny and Kilkenny County Council had also entered a tender on E-Tenders inviting tenders for the provision of a 27 month

Resettlement Programme to include a Resettlement Worker and Cultural Worker which was won by RESPOND Support. Funding is 75% European and 25% exchequer with a total of €378,000 for the integration process.

Lindsey advised that the Red Cross had taken pledges and are organising the housing of single men and women therefore Kilkenny will deal with families in terms of resettlement.

Dates for 2018 Meetings

25/01/2018

29/03/2018

07/06/2018

06/09/2018

08/11/2018

A.O.B.

Tenant Handbook

Martin Mullally advised that the Tenant Handbook would be disseminated to members shortly.

Cllr. McCarthy queried inspection level of existing stock and was advised that inspection would take place during retrofitting and in response to a tenant making contact with a maintenance issue or visit by Tenant Liaison Officer.

The issue of Stock Survey was discussed and Martin advised that Limerick & Clare County Councils had been nominated as pilot projects and had tendered for same. It is the intention that Kilkenny County Council will work towards a standard stock survey.

It was noted that Kilkenny County Council is still responsible for larger structural work to its stock and therefore it is not envisaged that there would be a decline in condition of stock.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

**Cllr. Andrew McGuinness,
Chairperson,
SPC 4 – Housing.**

Date: _____