

Minutes

Housing SPC- 4th February 2021

Present: Cllr Brendan Weld, Cllr. Noel Connolly, Cllr. Tim Durkan, Cllr. Chris Pender, Cllr. Mark Leigh, Mr. Tom O'Malley, Mr. Pat Doyle, Mr. John McLoughlin, Mr. Billy Wall.

In attendance: Annette Aspell, Director of Services, Evelyn Wright, Snr. Exec. Officer, David Creighton, Snr Architect, Ollie Brady, Administrative Officer, Siobhán Scully, Administrative Officer, Fiona Byrne, Administrative Officer, Brian O'Gorman, Administrative Officer, Veronica Cooke, Administrative Officer, Letitia Hanratty, Snr. Exec. Architect, Patrick Henderson, Executive Architect.

1. The minutes of the meeting of 10th December were proposed and seconded by Cllr. Pender and Cllr. Leigh.
2. The Chair invited members to declare any conflict of interest, none were declared.
3. Correspondence/Circulars, S Scully requested that members contact her if they required a copy of any circular.
4. Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme- David Creighton provided the Committee with a presentation on the programme and responded to questions and queries from the Committee.
5. Kildare Age Friendly County Programme – Patrick Henderson provided the Committee with a presentation on the programme and provided details of schemes in Athy and Leixlip. He addressed queries and comments from the Committee.
6. County Development Plan 2023-2029 (CDP)- Evelyn Wright advised the Committee that work has commenced on the CDP for the period 2023 to 2029 and as part of this process the Housing Strategy will be reviewed.
7. Rebuilding Ireland Update.

A Aspell provided the Committee with the following update:

- There was a strong performance by the Housing Department in 2020 and it is anticipated that delivery targets will be met in 2021.
- The council met with the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) to discuss the future delivery pipeline.
- 'Housing for All' the new housing programme is expected to be launched in 2021.

8. Review of Work Programme 2020

Homelessness, O Brady provided the following update:

- The National Homeless Leads meet fortnightly with the DHLGH to discuss national issues.
- The instance of Covid-19 among the homeless population in the Mid East Region is low, however maintaining social distance is challenging for staff working in the area.
- The number of cold weather beds has increased to 25.
- There is an increase in single person presentations.
- A total of 173 households availed of Homeless HAP in 2020, bringing the total number of households who have availed of the scheme to 366.
- 55 homeless households were allocated a social property in 2020 and following intervention by the Homeless Team, 14 households were prevented from becoming homeless.
- Addressing a query, he confirmed that cases of presentations from other counties are dealt with on a case by case basis and in consultation with the originating local authority.

Homelessness, E Wright provided the following update:

- Work is ongoing on the drafting of The Mid East Region Homeless Action Plan, the plan will reviewed by the Committee in Quarter 1, 2021.

Strategic Plan for Persons with a Disability, F Byrne provided the following update:

- A steering group is being convened. The Strategy is due to be completed in Quarter 2, 2021. It will be presented to the committee prior to going to full council.

Affordable Housing, A Aspell provided the following update:

- The Affordable Housing Bill 2020 provides for the introduction of three new affordable housing schemes:
 - (i) Local authorities delivering affordable homes for purchase on lands in their ownership.
 - (ii) Affordable Purchase Shared Equity Scheme, which will allow households purchase a home in the private market, where they have been unable to secure the full mortgage to do so, with the State providing equity support.
 - (iii) Introduction of Cost Rental tenure.
- The Bill provides for technical amendments to Part 5 of the Housing [Miscellaneous Provisions] Act 2009; this section of the Act having been enacted in June 2018.

Anti-social Behaviour Strategy, A Aspell provided the following update:

- The first meeting of the forum was held in December 2020.
- The following issues were raised by the forum: good practice models, early intervention, engagement with other stakeholders such as the Kildare Youth Services and Traveller representative groups.

Choice Based Letting, V Cooke provided the following update:

- A working group has been established to review the operation of the Choice Based Lettings (CBL) scheme nationally.
- A total of 66 Kildare properties were advertised through CBL in 2020.

9. The Members agreed that subject to agreement by the Corporate Policy Group that the following items would be placed on the Work Programme in 2021:

- Housing for All
- Homelessness
- Affordable Housing
- Anti-social Behaviour Strategy
- Strategic Plan for Persons with a Disability
- Energy Efficiency Programme/ Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme
- Traveller Accommodation