

## **Chairman's Report of SPC 4**

### **Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**

#### **Committee Appointment**

Chairperson, Cllr. McGuinness, advised that Cllr. Maurice Shortall was elected to SPC 4 at plenary meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 and welcomed him to the committee.

#### **Disability Strategy**

Members were provided with an overview on Disability Strategy commenting on the following:-

- availability of Quarter 4 stats
- membership of the Disability Steering Group
- inclusion of private grants in overall target of 186
- proportion of adapted properties in new schemes dependent on size of scheme

**Contributions:** Cllr. M. O'Neill, Cllr. M. Shortall.

#### **Homeless Update**

Martin Mullally provided a statistical overview of homeless presentations. He also advised that a Rough Sleeping Survey was held on the 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, which resulted in a zero return. The survey will be carried out every 6 months going forward.

**Contributions:** Cllr. McGuinness, Cllr. O'Neill, Cllr. Shortall.

#### **Refugee Resettlement Programme Update**

Members were provided with an update vis a vis Kilkenny County Council's commitment in terms of resettlement of 140 Refugees in 2017-2018. To meet this commitment he advised that Kilkenny County Council is sourcing properties via acquisition and turn key to avoid impact on the social housing list and priority is given to areas with family resource centres. Martin advised that the Resettlement Worker and Inter cultural Worker are key players in the resettlement of these families.

**Contributions:** Cllr. McCarthy, Cllr. O'Neill, Cllr. Shortall, Declan Murphy.

#### **Housing Capital Programme**

Martin Mullally advised of the delivery target of 627 units under Rebuilding Ireland for 2017-2021 and that a report on housing delivery would be presented at the next Council Meeting in February.

A presentation in relation to housing delivery in 2017 was provided and the following matters were discussed:-

- Acquisitions
- Capital Assistance Scheme
- Leasing
- Introduction of 1 stage approval system for up to 8 houses

**Contributions:** Cllr. McCarty, Cllr. O'Neill, Cllr. Shortall.

## Private Grants

An overview was given on the Housing Aid for Older People grant in terms of extension of grant closing date to 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 and approved and paid in 2017. Members were advised that the Housing Adaptation Grant and Mobility Aids Housing Grant are recommended by an Occupational Therapist on medical need and this determines the priority of the application.

A discussion took place in relation to difficulty in securing quotations coming up to the end of the year. It was requested that the window for grant submission be reconsidered taking into account such difficulty. Martin Mullally advised that applications received prior to closing date without quotations will be accepted but quotations must be submitted.

**Contributions:** Cllr. McGuinness, Cllr. Shortall.

## Rent Review 2018

Members were advised that the last rent review was undertaken in 2016 and it is anticipated that the next rent review will commence in quarter 1 of 2018. Kilkenny County Council is amalgamating the old Borough differential rent scheme with the County Council differential rent scheme and anomalies have been identified in some categories. Martin advised that the rent review is an executive function and Elected Members will be updated on the process.

**Contributions:** Cllr. O'Neill, Cllr. Shortall.

## Date of Next Meeting

29/03/2018 at 11.00 a.m.

**A.O.B.**

## Tenant Handbook

Cllr. McGuinness, Chairperson, advised that SPC is not responsible for signing off on documents and that ample information was given to Elected Members prior to the publication of the Tenant Handbook.

Cllr. O'Neill thanked Mary Mulholland for explanation of the Tenant Handbook given at the last Council meeting.

It was noted that a special meeting of Council would take place on 05/02/2018 and Cllr. McGuinness requested a statement from the Committee for the meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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

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