

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 4 – Housing  
held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at 11am in John’s Green House**

**Present:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Chairman, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Joe Malone, Declan Murphy, Mary Egan.

**In Attendance:** Simon Walton, Martin Mullally, Lianne Kelly.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Melissa O’Neill, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Pat O’Neill, Brian Dunlop, Yvonne Moriarty.

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**1. Minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Proposed:** Cllr. Michael McCarthy

**Seconded:** Cllr. Joe Malone,

and adopted.

**2. Matters Arising**

**Committee Representation**

A new representative will be nominated at the next SPC 4 meeting to replace Margaret Leahy who recently retired from her position as PPN Representative for Social Inclusion.

**Action:** It was agreed that a letter should issue to Margaret Leahy thanking her for her participation and contribution to SPC 4.

**Tenant Hand Book**

Martin Mullally advised that recommendations made at the last SPC meeting had been included in the Tenant Hand Book and advised that a final draft of the handbook will be available at the next meeting in September. Martin invited further comment/proposals from the committee members as soon as possible.

**Action:** It was agreed to circulate the particular areas of the handbook which were changed further to committee recommendations.

**3. Homeless Update**

Martin Mullally provided an overview of the current homeless situation in Kilkenny and it was noted that there had been a marginal decrease in presentations at the Homeless Clinic.

In order to meet the current demand Kilkenny County Council has block booked 15 rooms in a city hotel. It is envisaged that this will be reduced to 8 by September subject to change. The Housing Department is using all available housing supports to meet the needs of those presenting as homeless.

**Contributions:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. MI McCarthy.

#### **4. Housing Needs Assessment 2017**

Martin Mullally provided an overview of the current housing need in Kilkenny informed by Housing Needs Assessment for 2017. Based on current figures he advised that there is currently 2,152 households on the social housing list identified as having a long term housing need and demand is highest for 1 & 2 bed properties.

**Action:** Returned figures for Housing Needs Assessment 2017 to be presented at September meeting.

**Contributions:** Declan Murphy, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Joe Malone.

#### **5. Repair & Leasing Scheme**

Martin Mullally provided an overview of the scheme to date advising that 11 expressions of interest had been received. He advised that the Department had set a target of 10 units for 2017.

It was noted that the response to the scheme in general had been poor and could be attributed to:-

- maximum loan threshold of €40,000 was too low to cover the cost of repairs
- €40,000 was in the form of a loan paid over a lease period as opposed to a grant

**Action:** Letter to issue to the Department to highlight the reasons for poor response to the scheme.

**Contributions:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Declan Murphy, Cllr. Michael McCarthy.

#### **6. Over the Shop Residential Development – Living Cities Initiative**

Simon Walton, Director of Services, gave an over view of the scheme and advised that he is liaising with Fiona Deegan, Local Enterprise Office and Fiona Shine, Chamber of Commerce to progress the scheme. Simon advised that currently there is a low take up on the scheme and the reasons for same are yet to be identified.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

- Simon Walton to provide update on Refugee Resettlement Project at September meeting.
- A request was made to include the Chair of SPC 4 on the New HOMES Task Force Committee.
- Next meeting to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> September
- Final meeting of the year will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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

**Chairperson**