

Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 4 – Housing

Held on 7th September 2017 at 11.00 a.m. in John's Green House

Present: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Melissa O'Neill, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Yvonne Moriarty, Declan Murphy, Linda Tierney.

In Attendance: Martin Mullally, Mary Cashin, Lindsey Butler.

Apologies: Cllr. Pat O'Neill, Brian Dunlop, Mary Egan.

1. Adoption of Minutes of 20th June 2017

Proposed: Cllr. Joe Malone

Seconded: Cllr. Melissa O'Neill

2. Matters Arising

Repair & Leasing Scheme

Martin Mullally provided an overview of the scheme and highlighted the issues which have hampered the schemes success to date.

3. Homeless Update

Martin Mullally provided a statistical update in respect of presentations to Kilkenny County Council's Homeless Clinic and number of individuals/family units currently accommodated in homeless accommodation.

Presentation to Homeless Clinic Jan – Aug 17 = 219

Individuals/family units availing of homeless accommodation = 51 broken down as follows:-

22 single males in the Good Shepherd Centre

6 single women in emergency B&B accommodation

8 family units in emergency B&B accommodation (10 adults and 13 children)

Martin also advised that Amber Women's Refuge provides homeless accommodation to single women and women and their children who have been made homeless due to domestic violence and these presentations are not included in the statistics provided.

The Good Shepherd Centre also provides 8 units of step down accommodation for single men and these are not included in the statistics provided.

15 rooms are blocked booked in a local hotel to facilitate homeless presentations and the number of rooms booked may increase/decrease depending on trend of presentations.

A discussion took place in relation to recent homeless rough sleeping and the services already offered/provided by various agencies.

Contributions: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Melissa O'Neill, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Yvonne Moriarty.

4. Housing Needs Assessment

Martin Mullally provided an overview of the process and advised that there were 2205 approved applicants on Kilkenny County Council's social housing list as of September 2017. This figure was broken down as follows:-

61%	-	City & Environs
39%	-	Towns & Villages

It was noted that the emphasis on house type had shifted from 3 bed to predominantly 1 & 2 bed demand at 75% combined.

A discussion took place regarding zoning in the Ferrybank area and a brief overview of AHB activity in Kilkenny was provided.

Contributions: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Melissa O'Neill, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. M. McCarthy, Yvonne Moriarty.

5. Refugee Resettlement Project

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

Lindsey advised that Kilkenny County Council was initially contacted by the Department of Justice to engage with U.N.H.C.R. Kilkenny has been tasked with providing accommodation for 140 individual refugees made up of different size family units.

In advance of their arrival in Ireland, relocated asylum seekers will have been interviewed while in Greece by an Irish Refugee Protection Programme team to assess their needs and vulnerabilities prior to arrival in Ireland and to initially orient them to Irish life and society.

Following their arrival in Ireland, and during their initial period of reception, relocated asylum seekers will be accommodated in an Emergency Reception and Orientation Centre (EROC) where they will undertake a cultural programme.

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 has also entered an tender on E-Tenders inviting

tenders for the provision of a 27 month Resettlement Programme. Funding is 75% European and 25% exchequer with a total of €378,000 for the integration process.

It was noted that refugees will only arrive in Kilkenny once the Housing Section has secured accommodation for them and this will be mostly in small numbers

Action: Request for update at November meeting.

Contributions: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Melissa O'Neill, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Yvonne Moriarty, Declan Murphy.

6. Tenant Handbook

Martin Mullally provided an update on the tendering process and advised that the successful company had been chosen. The tenant handbook also includes the updated Anti Social Behaviour Policy. A deadline for the end of September was provided.

Cllr. McGuinness, Chairman, thanked the committee for their contributions to the tenant hand book.

7. Date of Next Meeting

9th November 2017

8. A.O.B.

PPN Social Inclusion Committee letter submitted by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness.

This concluded the business of the meeting.