

## **Minutes of In Committee Strategic Policy Committee 4 – Housing Meeting**

**Held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in John's Green House**

**Present:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Cllr, Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Melissa O'Neill, Brian Dunlop, Yvonne Moriarty, Declan Murphy, Noel Sherry,

**In Attendance:** Martin Mullally, Martina Comerford, Margaret Newport, Tom King, Maura Hickey, KCC

### **Apologies:**

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Chairperson Cllr. Andrew McGuinness welcomed all present. No apologies

### **Item 1 Adoption of Minutes**

Cllr. Melissa O'Neill requested amendment to minutes of June meeting, to include her motion for support of services to homeless women. It was noted this item was not included on the agenda or recorded in the minutes.

Martin Mullally explained why this item was not recorded, confirming it was dealt with under policy discussion. It was noted that the motion was referred by Anne Marie Walsh for discussion at SPC as part of overall policy.

It was agreed to revisit this subject under the Homeless Draft Policy. The minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> June to be corrected and updated

Other matters arising

- Eligibility for homeless services – Item 3 in relation to timeframe to qualify – Margaret Newport confirmed that this has been amended and no time limit will apply
- Food to Hotel rooms – again Margaret Newport reported on her follow up in relation to this query and confirmed this is acceptable, within reason.
- Inclusion of additional elements to the full draft policy – Cllr. O'Neill referenced medical records and family circumstance

Minutes of meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Proposed by: Cllr. Fidelis Doherty

Seconded by: Cllr. Mick McCarthy

## **Item 2 Homeless Update**

Referring to the updated Code of Conduct, Martin Mullally confirmed “Placefinder” in place since 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Laura Murphy appointed to this position as part of front of house team.

Noting the current homeless statistics, Martin Mullally referred to the number of presentations over the 3 year period, which reflected a downward progression.

**Contributions:** Best wishes to Laura, from Cllr’s Doherty and O’Neill noted. Cllr. Shortall asked if councillors will have contact details for Laura.

## **Item 3 Anti Social Behaviour**

### **a. Policy Update**

Following amendments to the Homeless Services Draft Policy Document, Cllr. O’Neill requested clarify on “Guardianship” and how allocations are made in relation to families that present homeless, where one parent will have children for just one or two nights. Margaret Newport explained where homeless services were applied in one instance and Council policy in relation to allocation of housing, is adhered to and assessed through HNA’s

Cllr. O’Neill read out notice of motion presented to Council and requested this provision be included in our Homeless Services Policy.

Clarification from Martin Mullally in relation to how notices of motion are dealt with, noting role of SPC is to discuss issues as part of policy.

Cllr. Shortall asked if other counties offered services for women with addictions.

Responses from Noel Sherry and Margaret Newport in relation to supports and services for women with addictions were noted. Response from Noel Sherry, strictly confidential

**Contributions:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Martina Comerford

Chairman closed this discussion.

### **b. Statistics**

Martin Mullally provided overview of anti social behaviour statistics and advised that rubbish/maintenance/noise continued to be the main form of complaints.

Responding to concerns raised by Cllr. Doherty and Cllr. McCarthy in relation to rubbish, Tom King outlined other underlying problems in households that have to be considered, when dealing with this problem.

In relation to “threats & intimidation” and how these reports are dealt with by the Gardai, Cllr. O’Neill stressed the need to communicate to our tenants, that they should report this type of behaviour, to the appropriate authority.

- Drugs - A number of members raised concerns in relation to drug abuse and best practice for dealing with issues arising. Responding, Noel Sherry and Margaret Newport both confirmed government policy in relation to this issue, noting the “Housing First Model”. Reference was made to the Finland model.

Tom King confirmed all reports to Gardai are logged on the Pulse system and anti social behaviour is also addressed by the Joint Policing Committee.

Other concerns noted

- The impact of rubbish on neighbours
- Problem with dogs

Martin Mullally commended Tom King and Michael Pyke on their work in dealing with all elements of anti social behaviour.

#### **Item 4 Housing Capital Update 2018**

Report circulated, Martin Mullally outlined council’s targets under rebuilding Ireland and outlined the major construction schemes underway.

The following questions arose:

- Contractors and developers - pricing criteria
- Allocations - Cllr. O’Neill would like to be informed on allocations
- Number of houses going to Syrian families
- Oakley development – contact person for this organisation to go to Cllr. Shortall
- Refugee status, number of allocations – details requested by Yvonne Moriarty
- Shop units at O’Loughlin Court – can these be renovated
- Castlehyde development – number of houses, plans to demolish front section. Wexford applicants being considered.
- Western Environs
- Abandoned rural cottages – have LA plans to purchase

Martin Mullally responded to all questions

#### **Item 5 Date of next meeting**

**8<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Item 6 AOB**

- Update on Syrian families to be included on Agenda for November meeting
- Western Environs – update on LIHAF to be included on Agenda for November meeting
- Next “Traveller Accommodation” 5 year programme, Margaret Newport updated members, public notice gone out, with request for submissions. Details will be sent to all members. Expected to have draft programme in Q1 2019. Latest date for adoption of plan September 2019.

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

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

**Chairperson**  
**SPC 4**