

**MINUTES OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSING,
SOCIAL INCLUSION & CORPORATE SERVICES
Microsoft Teams – 11 March 2022**

In attendance: Cllr Val Smith, Chairperson
Mr Eoin Doyle, Director of Service
Mr John Wilson, Cavan County Council
Mr Tom Carty, Cavan County Council
Ms Lynda McGavigan, Cavan County Council
Ms Bridie McBrearty, Cavan County Council

Cllr Patricia Walsh
Cllr Trevor Smith
Cllr Madeleine Argue
Cllr Paddy McDonald

Apologies: Mr Thomas Maughan, Social Inclusion
Mr John Donohoe, Cavan County Council
Mr Paul Elliott, Development and Construction

Cllr Val Smith, Chairperson welcomed everybody to Microsoft teams meeting.

1. MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr P Walsh, seconded by Cllr Argue, the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2021 were confirmed.

2. HR/CORPORATE UPDATE

LMcG provided an update on the activity of the HR and Corporate Section for the previous year including numbers recruited, freedom of information requests received etc.

3. HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT

J Wilson presented the report on the capital and void programme of work as follows:

- 272 units are at various stages of planning, design and construction
- An additional 55 units are being provided by Approved Housing Bodies
- No acquisitions to date, acquisition to be concentrated on meeting specific need e.g. disability
- 6 units expected to be completed in Butlersbridge April 2022
- 8 units in Ballyconnell to be complete end January 2022
- 15 units at Ballinagh to be completed Q3 2022
- 3 units at Fairymount Close, Kingscourt to commence shortly
- 13 units at Elm Grove, Cavan to commence shortly
- 20 units at St Brigid's Tce – Part 8 Planning process to commence Q2 2022
- 10 units (max) approved by the Department for the Council's 2021 acquisition strategy
- 3 units will be ready for in Rampart's View (AHB) by end December and final 2 in January 2022

- 4 units in Mullagh under CAS to be completed end April 2022
- 25 units Drumalee – CALF, 12 to be let in Q2 2022 and further 13 complete in 2023
- 24 units Gallops – CALF, to be complete in Q2 2022
- 2 vacant units returned to use, work ongoing/commencing on 27no.
- Funding of €649,652 for 24 properties provided. Design work for first tranche is currently underway – 10 vacant units in Cavan Town

B McBrearty presented a report on progress in the housing office since previous meeting. Members noted the following:

- Approved applicants for social housing support - 435 nett together with 596 on the transfer list making the total number approved 1031.
- A total of 773 have availed of the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme and there are currently 447 total active tenancies.
- There are 387 household in accommodation provided under the Rental Accommodation Scheme and 119 through the Approved Housing Bodies.
- 25% of offers of accommodation have been refused since beginning of year – 33 offers in total.
- 16 households were provided with homeless accommodation to date in 2021.
- Currently 5 households housed using the Housing First model and 2 further households being worked through.
- 10 applications to date this year, 2 approvals in principle issued, 1 finally approved and 1 paid out.
- 16 Letters of offer have issued under the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme this year, 1 house sale completed and 1 further sale in coming week.
- €1,519,168 is the total allocation for grants in 2021 – 2022 allocation not yet received. Total committed expenditure for 2021 is €2,013,887 (225 grants) to date.
- Displaced Ukraine Nationals – IPAS is responsible for accommodation requirements. Offers of accommodation should be made directly to the Red Cross on <https://registerofpledges.redcross.ie>
- ASB – team now in situ to deal with complaints/issues received

Members again expressed concern at the continued large number of refusals of accommodation. Cllr McDonald wished to commend the work of the team to date.

In response to a query from P Elliott JW confirmed that inflation was having an impact on tender prices being received.

In response to a query from Cllr Argue JW confirmed that a new Engineer had recently been appointed and his work would include the retrofit programme.

In response to a query from Cllr Walsh regarding the Gallops BMcB confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with representatives of the Residents Association in coming week.

JW confirmed that the Council was currently revisiting the Ballyjamesduff Scheme and would be meeting the Developer shortly.

4. **DRAFT POLICY - DEMOUNTABLE DWELLINGS**

JW presented a draft strategy for the stock of demountable dwellings including a policy for disposal of vacant/redundant stock for discussion. Members noted that the policy would be finalised for approval of the Members in due course.

5. **SOCIAL HOUSING APPLICATION FORM**

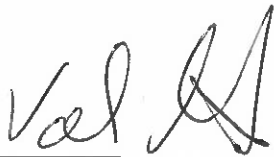
Members noted the recent changes to the social housing application form.

6. **AOB**

Cllr Argue brought Members attention to the forthcoming Drama Festival in the Town Hall, Cavan. BMcB confirmed that she would forward details on the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme to Members once received.

Date of next meeting 3 June 2022 at 11.30.

Signed: _____



Chairperson

Date: _____

24-6-22