Housing & Community SPC
Minutes of Meeting 2nd November, 2022

In the Chair: Cllr Joe Sullivan

Present: Cllr John O'Rourke, Mr William Considine, Cllr Lisa McDonald, Cllr Fionntán O'Suilleabháin, Cllr Frank Staples, Mr Michael Wall, Ms Anita McLoughlin, A/SEO Housing, Ms Caroline Creane SSO Housing, Ms Helen Meehan SSO Housing, Ms Carolyne Godkin Director of Service, Ms Michele Bridges-Carley AO Housing, Ms Martina Donoghue AO Housing, Ms Helen Frayne SSO Housing, Ms Liz Burns Arts Officer and Ms Eileen Morrissey County Librarian

Apologies: Cllr Jackser Owens and Sean Meyler, A/Director of Service

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes & Matters arising

A short discussion took place about the minutes of the SPC meeting on 7th September and in particular the draft mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024, it was noted at the last SPC meeting that it wasn't envisaged that the targets would be amended. Subsequently after the mid-term review was discussed at the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) it was decided to amend the targets to include the 26 families who have applied for social housing supports since 2019. The mid-term review document is now at public consultation stage until 14th December. It was noted that the minutes reflected the situation at the time of the last SPC.

The minutes of the SPC meeting dated 7th September 2022 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Frank Staples and seconded by Cllr John O'Rourke.

Culture & Creative Strategy

The County Librarian gave a powerpoint presentation to the SPC members outlining the Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027. She outlined the Creative Communities I Investment from 2018-2022 inclusive and the total investment was €849,165.

The consultation process included five focus groups representing groups and community members and online submission promoted via PPN and libraries. The strategic priorities include Inclusion for all, Connection, Collaboration & Communication, Community Wellbeing and Resilience, Participation for Placemaking and Climate Adaptation and Action. A lengthy discussion took place about the Strategy and the both the Arts Officer and County Librarian answered all the questions raised. The Strategy was approved on the recommendation of Cllr John O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr Frank Staples.

Housing Allocation Scheme

The Acting Housing SEO gave a powerpoint presentation to the meeting outlining the Housing Allocation Scheme 2023. She informed the members of the changes to the scheme including the addition of Choice Based Letting which Wexford County Council will be introducing in the New Year.

A lengthy discussion took place about the scheme and the members welcomed clarity on all aspects of how an applicant is considered for an allocation, the succession of tenancy process and

other areas that weren't clear in the past. The Housing Allocation Scheme 2023 was approved on the recommendation of Cllr Fionntán O'Suilleabháin and seconded by Cllr Frank Staples.

Schedule of meetings 2023

On the proposal of Cllr John O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr Frank Staples the following schedule of meetings has been agreed for 2023 for the Housing & Community SPC:-

1st February	5th April	7th June
6th Sept	1st Nov	

Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwellings

The Housing SSO gave a Powerpoint presentation to the meeting on the Scheme of Priorities for Affordable Dwelling Purchase arrangements. She outlined the Affordable Purchase Scheme, the Affordable Housing fund and the Shared Equity Model. She showed the members some examples of how the scheme works using different income thresholds.

The members were informed that the Scheme of Priority determines how the Local Authority will allocate Affordable dwellings to eligible applicants, where demand exceeds supply. It was noted that once the draft scheme is approved by the SPC, it will be sent to the Minister for Housing who may direct the Local Authority (LA) to amend the draft scheme and the LA must adhere to this direction. As this is a reserved function, it will be put forward to the full Council for adoption once the Minister has given his approval. The Scheme of Priorities for Affordable Dwelling Purchase was approved on the recommendation of Cllr Fionntán O'Suilleabháin and seconded by Cllr Frank Staples.

Disability Statistics

The meeting was informed that in Q3, 15% of all housing units were allocated to applicants with a disability. The target for the year is 20%. A short discussion took place about the statistics and the members were informed that there are four categories of disability Physical, Sensory, Mental Health and Intellectual.

Next Meeting

The next SPC meeting is Wednesday, 1st February 2023.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____