Housing & Community SPC

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, 3rd June 2026

In the chair: Cllr. Jim Codd

In attendance: Cllrs. Barbara Ann Murphy, John Dwyer, Tom Forde, Vicky Barron, John O'Rourke, Mary Farrell, Joe Sullivan; Mr. Michael Wall, Mr. Douglas Taylor, Ms. Carolyne Godkin, DOS, Mr. Stephen O'Connor, SEO, Ms. Sharon Ryan, SSO.

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st April, 2026 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. Sullivan.

Matters Arising

Legislation and Policies

Following a query from Cllr. Dwyer asking if a circular from the department can take powers away from elected members, the Director of Services confirmed that reserved powers need legislation change. However, the executive has flexibility on certain matters. This query should be raised through the LAIG.

The Director of Service confirmed that not all circular information is given to councillors; many of the circulars are operational matters for the executive and are not for wider dissemination. The Director Service confirmed that correspondence regarding housing legislation and policy will be circulated to members before the end of the week. It was noted that the website, www.Gov.ie/housing covers national legislation.

Cllr. Forde stated that there are significant areas where Elected Members can influence policy – e.g. the allocation scheme. He stated that it is frustrating when something is stated specifically but does not happen in practice. The Director of Service stated that the practical application of policy may be the issue and a workshop with the Area Housing Officer would be of benefit in this regard.

Following a discussion regarding the allocation scheme, it was agreed that it would be reviewed by the SPC and will be on the agenda for September's meeting.

Cllr. O'Rourke stated that legislation and policy should be circulated to the full council.

Cllr. Farrell asked for a document explaining the DR Scheme and rent calculation.

Presentation by Age Friendly Ireland

The Chair introduced the local co-ordinators, Deirdre Mullally and Mary O'Connor.

Deirdre presented an overview of the Age Friendly programme, and the co-ordinators took questions from the members.

Cllr. Forde queried if there is funding available for the short fall in grants or provision of accommodation when the work is being done.

There is no funding available.

Cllr. Codd said that sometimes work needs to be done very quickly – e.g. following a fall.

WCC are very understanding in those situations and try to get the grant approved as soon as possible. This is not the situation in other counties.

It was noted that there is a move to universal design by WCC.

Cllr. Murphy said this is positive and it is part of County Development Plan to provide as much as possible for universal design.

Following a query on how to reach those who are not involved in the community, Ms. Mullally confirmed that they are picked up through community health – OT, GP. Also, through friends taking home leaflets. Age Friendly are working with DOS and SEO as to how to access local authority tenants.

Cllr. Barron queried if there are supports for people with literacy issues in accessing grant portals, applying for grants, etc.

It was confirmed that support is available with filling forms, posting, etc. The local libraries also provide support.

The issue of rising costs was raised and it was agreed that this is the same as anyone else; there is no easy solution.

Cllr. Dwyer queried the 20 apartments in the old Mercy Convent Building in Irishtown which still have not been let. The SEO is going to deal with this query separately.

Correspondence

N/A

Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Update

The SEO is working on feedback from last month and looking at other local authorities. It is hoped to have a draft for the SPC in September. The next step will be to share with HSE and gardaí before going to full council meeting.

A discussion took place following Cllr. Barron raising the issue of separate policies for AHBs.

AOB

Approved Housing Bodies

A document was circulated to the members, which gives an analysis of the current AHBs.

Cllr. Forde asked if we would look at the placement of people who are in recovery.

It was queried if there is a possibility of giving people the opportunity of looking at the property if they haven't applied for it through CBL. The DOS said this is not possible as we do not have the resources. However, they will know the location, heating system, bedrooms, shower/bath.

Michael Wall asked for a list of AHB and the number of properties in each AHB. This will be provided at the next meeting.

Cllr. Dwyer queried the policy where if a tenant enquires about TIPS all maintenance and repairs are stopped. The SEO clarified that emergency repairs are done in these cases.

Date for next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 2nd September at 14.30 in the Council Chamber.