Housing & Community SPC
Minutes of Meeting 6th September 2023

Chairperson: Cllr Joe Sullivan

Members Present: Cllr Jim Codd, Cllr John O'Rourke, Cllr Fionntán O Súilleabháin, Mr Michael Wall, Mr William Considine

Executive: Ms Carolyne Godkin Director of Service, Ms Helen Meehan SSO Housing, Ms Anita McLoughlin A/SEO Housing, Ms Rachael Jordan AO Housing, Ms Angela Finn SSO Housing, Mr Mark Devereux Senior Executive Engineer, Mr Daniel Roche Executive Engineer, Ms Therese Nolan Executive Architect, Ms Dymphna O Connor SEO Community and Mr Claude Clancy AO Community.

Expression of Sympathy

On behalf of the members the Chairman extended sympathy to the Sullivan family on the death of Breda a previous member of the group and also her husband Larry who have both passed away recently.

Minutes

The minutes of the SPC held on 3rd July 2023 were proposed by Councillor John O Rourke and seconded by Councillor Fionntán O Súilleabháin.

Matters Arising

The SPC members had agreed at the last meeting in July to invite the Fire Service back for an update. It was noted that the Fire Service dispute had been resolved. The Director of Services has also been in contact with the Fire Service following local issues which were raised at the previous meeting.

Housing for All update

An update on the progress on housing provision under Housing for All was given by Anita Mc Loughlin.148 social houses are on track for completion for 2023. Carolyne Godkin was confident that out targets up to 2026 will be met if not exceeded. Expressions of interest have been received from developers for the provision of approx. 500 properties which are at various stages of assessment.
Cllr Codd was concerned at the delay in progressing development at lands in Taghmon which are to be used for housing provision by an approved housing body and a community sports facility. The Director is to contact Respond and the Housing Agency for an update on the funding application.
The Chairman Councillor Joe Sullivan was updated that the proposed development at St Wallerans Gorey is to go to tender next week for the full 173 houses.

Tenant in situ

Tenant in situ is progressing with 27 properties at sale agreed or closed.

Choice Based Letting

Choice Based Letting has been in operation for 3 weeks and there has been 8986 views of 14 properties. Councillors were concerned that a cohort of applicants may not be able to access the system. Carolyne Godkin committed to asking Tenant Liaison Officers and Area Housing Officers to engage with anyone having difficulty and asked Councillors to refer anyone they knew with difficulties for one-on-one training. A further media campaign is also planned, and contact will be made with other Local Authorities to share their experience with the system. It was noted that properties specifically for elderly and specially adapted for disability will not be allocated via the CBL system.

Update on Planned Maintenance

Daniel gave an update on the windows and doors programme. Works are to commence on the first phase next week. It is hoped that funding will be put in place in the Budget to continue works in 2024.

Update on Wexford Strategic Plan for housing Disabled People 2021-2026

Helen Meehan gave an update on allocations made for disabled and elderly up to end Quarter 2 2023. There was concern at the number of refusals of social houses. It is hoped that CBL will reduce these numbers.

Update on the Local Economic and Community Plan

Claude Clancy gave an update on the LECP. Stage 3 of the plan is underway following successful public and stakeholder consultation. Transportation and access to education were key issues of concern. The members raised issues surrounding socio economic issues, reduced funding for LEADER and SICAP, apprenticeships, zero hours contracts and procurement. The Draft Plan is now being developed and still evolving. Any suggestions that the SPC members wish to make will be considered.

Next Meeting

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____