Housing & Community SPC
Minutes of Meeting 7th February 2023

In the Chair: Cllr Joe Sullivan

Present: Cllr Jim Codd, Cllr David Hynes, Cllr Lisa McDonald, Cllr John O'Rourke, Cllr Fionntán O'Suilleabháin, Cllr Jackser Owens, Mr Ger Mackey SEO Housing, Ms Anita McLoughlin AO Housing, Ms Caroline Creane SSO Housing, Ms Carolyne Godkin Director of Service and Ms Martina Donoghue AO Housing,

Apologies: Mr William Considine, Mr Michael Wall and Cllr Frank Staples

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Director welcomed Ger Mackey to Housing as Senior Executive Officer and thanked Anita McLoughlin for all her work since July 2022 acting in the role. She informed the members that Anita is staying in Housing, heading up the supply side in Housing Capital.

The only Agenda item is the Housing Allocation Scheme 2023. The members had some issues with same. A lengthy discussion took place about the scheme and in particular about succession of tenancy, transfers, anti-social behaviour, downsizing and drug dealing.

The SEO outlined the procedure for social housing supports applicants, when a form comes in the Area Housing Officer (AHO) has 12 weeks to assess the applicant and if successful they are placed on the list. Once a house is available for allocation, the AHO recommends the relevant applicant based on the criteria contained within the Allocation Scheme and this is then signed off by the SEO. It was noted that the introduction of Choice Based Letting (CBL) will make the procedure more transparent.

A query arose whether locals should have priority, but it was noted that this would be unlawful. The members unanimously agreed to keep the scheme as is with no amendments. The SEO informed the members that there was an anomaly with the Scheme whereby Wexford County Council should have sent it to the Minister for approval and assured the members that this would happen after this meeting. In the meantime, the 2011 Allocation Scheme will be used until a response has been received from the Minister's Office.

Next Meeting

The next SPC meeting is Wednesday, 5th April 2023.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____