

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Housing, Community Planning & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee meeting held in the Railway East, County Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 11th September, 2017 at 3.00pm

Present: Cllrs. Joanna Byrne (Chair), Jim Tenanty, Maeve Yore, Pearse McGeough, Paul Bell

Mr. Garrett Weldon, Social Inclusion Rep, Mr. Aubrey Halley, Voluntary Rep PPN, Mr. Colm O’Hanrahan, Trade Union Rep, Pat McCormick, Chamber of Commerce

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
Jeni Conaghan, Acting Senior Staff Officer

Orla Cafferty, Amanda McLoughlin & Patricia O’ Moore from the Insolvency Agency of Ireland.

1. Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Pearse McGeough and seconding of Colm O’ Hanrahan the minutes of the meeting of 19th May, 2017 were adopted.

2. Matters Arising

It was agreed that a presentation would be sourced on the Housing Assistance Payment as requested by Garrett Weldon, PPN Rep.

3. Insolvency Agency Presentation on Personal Debt

A presentation was given by Patricia O’Moore, Amanda McLoughlin and Orla Cafferty in relation to the services provided by the Insolvency Service of Ireland. The solutions outlined included:

- a) Debt Relief Notice
- b) Debt Settlement Arrangement
- c) Personal Insolvency Arrangements
- d) Bankruptcy

The Committee reviewed a number of examples that were presented by the Representatives of the Agency and a number of questions were raised in relation to particular matters including:

- Loans acquired by vulture funds and when clients break arrangements made.
- Local Authority Rent Activity

At the conclusion the Members noted the presentation and thanked the representatives for same. A number of documents were circulated for the use of the members.

4. Alcohol and intoxicants Bye- laws

J. McGuinness, Director of Service briefed the member in relation to the current bye- laws in place in Louth County Council which relate the former Ardee Town Council, Dundalk Town Council, Drogheda Borough Council and previous Bye-laws made by Louth County Council. He pointed out that a revised consolidated set of Bye- laws had been considered by Members of the Louth Drugs and Alcohol Forum and that these Bye- laws were drafted in consultation with the Local Gardai who are keen for such a revision.

The members noted same and noted a number of corrections and a number of key areas that needed addressing including issues such as:

- The sale of Internet Drugs
- The public use and the public taking of methadone and other substitute drugs

Members agreed that the Housing SPC would refer some of these matters to the Drugs Forum for their attention,

5. Any other Business

A number of matters were discussed under any other business including:

- Solutions that can be put in place for rent arrears
- Provision of a HAP Clinic in Ardee
- Confirmation that the Allocation Scheme had been adopted
- The significance of the Homeless problem in County Louth
- Compulsory Purchase Order and Abandoned properties
- Incremental Purchase Scheme and the use of its funding.

The Chairman Cllr. J. Byrne also advised that she had received a submission from an entity called Corporative Works in relation to the provision of Co Operative Housing and it was agreed on the proposal of the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. P. Bell, that a presentation by National Association of Building & Co Operative Housing would be arranged in order to consider the matter more generally.

6. Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 13th November 2017.

Confirmed at Meeting held on: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson