

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Housing, Community Planning & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee meeting held in the Railway East, County Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 22nd January 2018, at 12:00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Joanna Byrne (Chair), Jim Tenanty, Maeve Yore, Pearse McGeough, Ruairí Ó Murchú, Pearse McGeough
Mr. Colm O’Hanrahan, Trade Union Rep
Mr. Garrett Weldon, Social Inclusion Rep, PPN

Officials: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
Yvonne O’Brien, County Librarian

Apologies: Cllr. Paul Bell
Mr. Aubrey Halley, Voluntary Rep, PPN

1. Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Pearse McGeough and seconding of Mr. Colm O’Hanrahan the minutes of the meeting of 13th November 2017 were adopted.

2. Matters Arising

Nil

3. Strategy for Public Libraries 2018-2022

Yvonne O’Brien, County Librarian, gave a briefing in relation to the above matter. The presentation focused on the following:

- Background to library services;
- What services are required up to 2022;
- Performance indicators;
- ICT developments;
- Key priorities.

The members welcomed the discussion, and a number of particular matters were discussed and raised by the members including the following:

- DkIT linkages;
- Digital literacy;
- Storytelling initiatives;
- Archive resource;
- ICT infrastructure;
- Over 55s and wellbeing outreach;
- Music generation;
- Lack of public awareness;
- E-services road show.

In conclusion the members welcomed the presentation and thanked County Librarian for same.

4. A presentation by Ó Cualain Housing

Hugh Brennan and John Moore of Ó Cualain Approved Housing Body gave a presentation in relation to a particular initiative that they have been championing in the Dublin City Council area. It was noted that to date they have focused specifically on providing affordable units to first time buyers in a self-help cooperative type scheme. They gave background in relation to their project and explored a number of options including:

- Identifying the affordable cohort;
- Common Charter;
- Funding and finance;
- Claw back arrangements;
- Funding matrix;
- Rent-to-own schemes;
- Unrelated positive consequences.

The members were particularly interested in this development and welcomed and congratulated Ó Cualain Approved Housing Body for their work to date. They encouraged Ó Cualain to have an interest in County Louth. A number of particular matters were offered in response including options such as:

- Credit unions;
- Assisting in their development proposals;
- The matter of anti-social behaviour and the Common Charter;
- The appetite for these developments in County Louth.

As indicated, the members welcomed the scheme and looked forward to further seeing further details from this housing body.

5. Choice Based Letting

Aoife Lawler gave a very brief background in relation to her review of Choice Based Letting, and it was indicated that she had just received a further report on the matter which requires more scrutiny. It was agreed generally that this matter would be dealt with at Housing SPC level and that, if required, a special meeting would be arranged to ensure that this is the optimum model of allocation.

6. A.O.B.

A number of matters were discussed including:

1. Lease on Noel O’Gorman Park;
2. The possibility of having a Rebuilding Ireland’s target presentation at the next meeting of the SPC which was agreed local authority rents scheme issues.

7. Meeting Dates for 2018

The meeting dates for 2018 were noted.

Confirmed at Meeting held on: _____

Signed: _____
Chairperson