

# LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Housing, Community Planning & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee meeting held in the Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 at 3.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Joanna Byrne (Chair), Jim Tenanty, Maeve Yore, Kevin Meenan, Liam Reilly, Pearse McGeough, Tommy Byrne, Conor Keelan.

Mr. Colm O'Hanrahan, Trade Union Rep  
Mr. Garrett Weldon, Social Inclusion Rep  
Mr. Aubrey Halley, Voluntary Rep, PPN

**Officials:** Joe McGuinness, Director of Services  
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer  
Brona O' Reilly, Administrative Officer  
Amanda Branigan, Acting Co. Librarian.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Paul Bell, Mr. Billy Baldwin, Louth Development Construction Rep

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## **1. Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Maeve Yore and seconding of Cllr. Jim Tenanty the minutes of the meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> November were adopted.

## **2. Matters Arising**

Nil

## **3. Presentation by Safe Homes Ireland**

Karen McHugh gave a presentation in relation to the Safe Homes Ireland Organisation which assists returning emigrants to Ireland. A number of matters were discussed including their role in relation to:

- Advise and information
- Housing Assistance
- Advocacy

- Outreach

A number of questions and issues were raised in discussion including matters as:

- Age Limit
- Habitual Residency Clause process
- Dwelling Availability
- Exchanges with UK Tenants

The members thanked Ms. McHugh for the presentation and noted the contact details and the available website.

#### **4. Update on Choice Based Lettings**

Aoife Lawler gave a presentation in relation to the above matter and the intended roll out of an IT based model in the Louth County Council function area. A number of matters were discussed including:

- Notification of unsuccessful applicants
- Emails Addresses
- New Builds
- Use of Focus Groups
- Training for Councillors
- Use of the newsletter to advice members

#### **5. Revised Allocation Scheme**

Joe McGuinness, Director of Service gave a briefing to the members in relation to updating the Allocation Scheme. It has been noted that the matter has been further reviewed by a Barrister on behalf of Louth County Council who has recommended a significant number of changes and additions.

Joe McGuinness committed to have a revised scheme with highlighted changes available to the members prior to the next meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee.

#### **6. Incremental Purchase Scheme**

Cllr. J. Tenanty highlighted that the above matter is now going through a public consultation phase and on his proposal it was agreed that the previous motion of Council with regard to the members view on the income and employment requirement be submitted as part of the Public Consultation exercise. This was agreed.

#### **7. Revised A.S.B. Strategy**

It was pointed out that at a motion of Council Cllr. McGahon that the matter of the time limit and the warnings be referred to the Strategic Policy Committee for consideration with a view to extending same. The members noted the importance of an Anti- Social Behaviour Strategy however it was proposed that this matter be referred to the Joint Policing Committees in the first instance and brought back to the Strategic Policy Committee for comment.

On a secondary matter it was proposed by Cllr. Kevin Meenan and seconded by Cllr. Maeve Yore that a presentation be sought from the Residential Tenancy Board in relation to the role of that body with regarding to Housing Regulation and that the matter of ASB and its management by the Approved Housing Bodies be referred to the Housing Regulator.

**8. Cllr. C. Keelan Motion:**

**“That this Council supports a change in legislation which would grant the Chief Executive the power to evict council tenants (who are known to be causing frequent and extreme anti-social behaviour against their neighbours) on the word of a Garda Superintendent.”**

**After the motion is referred to the Housing SPC for comment that it be then circulated to other City & Councils and to the Dept of Justice & Equality and the Dept of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government.**

Cllr. Keelan introduced the motion and called for the members support in relation to promoting the matter. A long discussion in sued across a number of matters and it was agreed that this matter be on the proposal of Cllr. Liam Reilly and seconded by Cllr. Maeve Yore. This matter is to be referred to the Housing Regulator for comment.

**9. A. O. B:**

A number of minor matters were discussed including delays in CAS Applications Approval and matters to illegal dumping.

Confirmed at Meeting held on: 11 April 2017

Signed: Joanna Byrne  
Chairperson

