

## DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

### HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HYBRID MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at 5pm

**Venue: Council Chamber / Microsoft Teams**

**Report by Chairperson, Councillor Peter O'Brien**

**Present:** Councillor Kazi Ahmed, Councillor Emma Blain, Councillor Anne Colgan, Councillor Liam Dockery, Councillor Tom Kivlehan, Councillor Hugh Lewis, Councillor Frank McNamara, Councillor Justin Moylan, Councillor Denis O'Callaghan, Councillor Oisín O'Connor.

**Sectoral Representatives Present:** Mr. Mel Reynolds, Mr. Thomas Joseph,

**Officials Present:** Catherine Keenan (Director of Housing), Andree Dargan (County Architect) Deirdre Baber (Senior Executive Officer), Jim Ryan (Senior Executive Officer), Maura Hickey (Acting Senior Executive Officer), Gerard O'Sullivan (Senior engineer), (Sarah Clifford (Senior Executive Architect), Edwin Johnston (Executive Architect), Aingeal McMahon (Senior Staff Officer) and Sinead Magee (Staff Officer).

**Apologies received:** Professor P.J. Drudy, Mr. David Girvan and Mr. David Geary.

#### **1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

Minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023:

Proposed by Councillor T. Kivlehan and Seconded by Councillor J. Moylan.

Minutes of the Housing SPC meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

#### **2. Matters arising from the Minutes:**

It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this heading.

#### **3. Information submitted by Members for written reply:**

##### **Councillor Ahmed**

"What strategic measures have been implemented to reduce homelessness and how effective have they been (please include vacant homes/ downsizing in the reply)?"

The Report circulated to the Members was **NOTED**.

#### **4. Director's Business:**

It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this heading.

## **5. Business referred from the Council:**

It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this heading.

## **6. Matters referred from the Corporate Policy Group:**

It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this heading.

## **7. Correspondence:**

It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this heading.

## **8. Current Work Programme:**

### **a) Councillor Anne Colgan**

"The concept of lifetime adaptable (LA) and universal design (UD) housing – what these mean and how they differ from standard housing:

- Government policy and LA and UD housing
- How development costs differ from standard housing"

Mr. Edwin Johnston, Executive Architect, Architects Department, gave a presentation on the Universal Design Homes Guidelines and Lifetime Adaptable & Age Friendly Homes Guidelines. In his presentation, Mr. Johnston discussed the following areas:

- The role of the Age Friendly Technical Advisor
- Population Trends
- Universal designs and design standards
- The Guidelines for Lifetime Adaptable & Age Friendly Homes – designed to four key principles
- National Policy
- dlr Age Friendly Strategy

A discussion followed during which Mr. Johnston responded to Members' questions.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **b) Councillor Oisín O'Connor**

"That this committee develop a Financial Contribution Scheme that will enable older, private homeowners in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown who find their existing home too large for their need to downsize/rightsize into social housing accommodation."

Ms. Deirdre Baber, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation on Rightsizing / Financial Contribution Scheme for private homeowners.

A discussion followed during which Ms. Baber responded to Members' questions.

It was **AGREED** to keep this item on the Agenda and to come back with some principles to the next meeting that could be considered for the foundation of any potential Scheme.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **c) Update from the Housing & Disability Steering Group**

Ms. Deirdre Baber, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation with an update from the Housing & Disability Steering Group.

In her presentation, Ms. Baber discussed the following:

- Progress update:
  - 22% of allocations made to Disabled People up to end of August 2023
  - Promoting awareness through the Dublin Regional AHB Forum
  - Sub-group with Local Authority, HSE and service providers to review specific applications with medical issues
  - Working with St. John of Gods on potential shared houses
- Construction/Delivery details in relation to Part V, CALF and Leasing
- National Housing Strategy for Disabled People – the Implementation Plan for National Strategy

A discussion followed during which Ms. Baber responded to Members' questions.

### **9. Items for Consideration for the Future Work Programme:**

#### **Councillor Kazi Ahmed**

"That the committee agrees that strategic housing policy should require a robust & timely action to tackle homelessness and the figure is increasing only. This committee can bring ideas on the table and contribute to this action plan as well."

It was **AGREED** to accept this item for the Future Work Programme.

### **10. Any Other Business:**

It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this heading.

#### **Date of Next Meeting:**

It was **NOTED** that the date of the next meeting is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The venue is yet to be decided.

#### **Conclusion of Meeting:**

The meeting concluded at 6.40pm.

*The Social Housing SPC is a Relevant Body as defined by Section 5(6) of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 and is in compliance with the Transparency Code prepared by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in accordance with Section 5(7) of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015.*