

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HYBRID MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28th June 2023, at 5pm

Venue: Council Chamber / Microsoft Teams

Report by Chairperson, Councillor Peter O'Brien

Present: Councillor Kazi Ahmed, Councillor Anne Colgan, Councillor Liam Dockery, Councillor Maurice Dockrell, Councillor Jim Gildea, Councillor Tom Kivlehan, Councillor Hugh Lewis, Councillor Frank McNamara, Councillor Justin Moylan, Councillor Denis O'Callaghan, Councillor Oisín O'Connor, Councillor Dave Quinn.

Sectoral Representatives Present: Professor P.J. Drudy, Mr. Mel Reynolds, Mr. Thomas Joseph, Mr. David Girvan.

Officials Present: Catherine Keenan (Director of Housing), Deirdre Baber (Senior Executive Officer), Jim Ryan (Senior Executive Officer), Maura Hickey (Acting Senior Executive Officer), Aingeal McMahon (Senior Staff Officer), Sinead Magee (Staff Officer).

Guests Present: Ms. Martina Smith, Hail CEO, Mr. Ciarán Garrett, Hail Communications Manager.

Apologies received: Ms. Sharon Scally, Mr. Seán O'Neill, Mr. David Girvan.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

Minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 22nd March 2023.

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

Minutes of the Housing SPC Meeting held on 22nd March 2023 were **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes:

Councillor D. Quinn raised a query around the details recorded in the minutes of the discussions at the meeting. This was responded to by the Chair, Councillor P. O'Brien.

3. Information submitted by Members for written reply:

Councillor O'Connor

"To ask for a report on any plans or progress by the Council to explore energy solutions such as Energy Cloud and District Heating".

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

4. Director's Business:

a) Hail Housing Association

A short video about Hail was shown to Members. Following this, Ms. Martina Smith, Hail Chief Executive Officer, gave a presentation. In her presentation, Ms. Smith, gave an overview of the following:

- What Hail do
- Where Hail work
- The demand on their Services
- Analysis of costs – Hail vs HSE/private agencies
- What is needed to support their growth.

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

The Report was **NOTED**.

b) Housing Transformation Programme

Mr. Jim Ryan, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation on the Housing Transformation Programme. Mr. Ryan discussed why and how the changes are being made and what the changes are, as follows:

- Upgrade to a new housing system (OHMS to NEC)
- Implementation of a Document Management System (dlrDOCs)
- Equality Review and Action Plan
- Website review – improved structure based on the category of person accessing the website
- New Housing Allocations Scheme – fairer and more transparent
 - Housing SPC sub-group established to review the Scheme as part of the process
- Equality awareness for tenants
- Plain English project – write and present information in a way that the intended reader can read and understand it after a single reading
- What next?
 - Online rent statements, maintenance requests and application forms
 - Integration of NEC and dlrDocs

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

The Report was **NOTED**.

5. Business referred from the Council:

No Business.

6. Matters referred from the Corporate Policy Group:

No Business.

7. Correspondence:

No Business.

8. Current Work Programme:

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:
 - 27% of allocations made to Disabled People up to end of May 2023
 - Tenancy Sustainment Officer Posts started with Hail
 - 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:

No Business.

10. Any Other Business:

No Business.

Date of Next Meeting:

It was **NOTED** that the date of the next meeting is Wednesday 27th September 2023.

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.