

COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



MEETING OF HOUSING SPC

Report of the November Housing SPC Meeting

held on Wednesday, November 22, 2023 @ 5.30pm

Hybrid Meeting – Council Chamber and Via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance: Cllr. C O'Connor (Chair), Cllr. W. Carey, Cllr. L. Donaghy, Cllr. S. Moynihan, Cllr. P Holohan, Cllr. J Tuffy and B. Tyrell-Collard (ICTU),

Apologies: Cllr. B Lawlor, Cllr. K Mahon, G. Stockil

Officials Present: Elaine Leech (A/Director of Services), Fiona Hendley (A/SEO), Mary Connell (A/SEO), Vivienne Hartnett (A/SEO) Patricia Saab, (A/Administrative Officer), Fionnuala Keane (Senior Staff Officer)

The Chair, Cllr. O'Connor opened the meeting at 5.30pm.

Agenda Item No 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th September 2023 proposed by Cllr. O'Connor and seconded by Cllr Tuffy and agreed.

Agenda Item No 2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Carey raised the issue of current RAS tenants not having access to Choice-Based Lettings. Cllr. Tuffy also expressed her concern.

F. Hendley responded to the query.

E Leech referred to commitment from September SPC meeting re: Fire Services and has included reply from Dublin Fire Brigade given to a question submitted by Cllr O'Connor at the last Council meeting with an update.

This matter was Noted

Agenda Item No 3 Housing Delivery Report (Pre-recorded)

The presentation was pre-recorded by Vivienne Harnett (A/SEO). There were questions and contributions from Cllrs Tuffy, Moynihan and Carey.

Cllr. Moynahan queried the number of properties to be delivered and questioned the delay and Cllr. Carey requested an update on Sallypark.

E. Leech stated the delays in delivery were due to several factors including utility connections and capacity/staffing in the construction sector.

The Committee were informed that the allocation date for Sallypark as advised by Cluid is the 6th December and all nominations have been sent to the AHB.

The report was noted.

Agenda Item No 4. Allocations Report

F Hendley delivered the Allocations report.

There were questions and contributions from Cllr O'Connor and Cllr Carey, who asked about the numbers of refusals from those in homeless accommodation and the range of choices given to applicants. He also queried if people outside the county can apply to move back to SDCC area under the Financial Contribution Scheme.

F. Hendley responded that staff do try to make appropriate offers based on location and other criteria. Two refusals are permitted.

Age-friendly housing is only available to residents already residing within the SDCC area.

The report was noted.

Agenda Item No 5. Affordable Housing update

The affordable housing report was pre-recorded by M Connell, A/ SEO.

There were queries and contributions from Cllr Carey and Cllr Moynihan.

M Connell and E Leech responded to the queries relating to the prices of the affordable homes in the new scheme. The applications are due to open shortly and the purchase price is linked back to the market value and purchasing power of the applicants.

E. Leech confirmed she has met with various stakeholders, and she advised that the price is consistent for the Dublin region. The Group was informed that applicants can avail of other supports to assist with the purchase of an affordable home.

Cllr Moynahan asked about the provisions for single people in this scheme, and E Leech responded that this scheme is focused on 3-bedroom houses. However, there are smaller units in the pipeline which will be available to single person households.

Cllr. Carey queried if it is possible for a third person to assist, such as a parent. M Connell confirmed a gift can be accepted.

The Report was noted.

Agenda Item No 6.

Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Accommodation

E. Leech presented a report relating to a motion that was passed at the November Council meeting in relation to victims of domestic abuse and if their time on another council housing waiting list could be transferred.

It was suggested that the Housing SPC could discuss the establishment of a subgroup to explore the possibility of advocating nationally or in the Dublin region for a social housing passport. This would allow for victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence to move from one local authority housing list to another whilst retaining their time on the list.

E Leech asked committee members to contact her should they wish to be included in the subcommittee's work.

The report was noted.

Items for Noting

E. Leech referenced the Items for Noting

Reports for noting:

- (i) Planned Maintenance Update
- (ii) Student Rent a Room Scheme
- (iii) Traveller Count
- (iv) Housing Disability Steering Group
- (v) Private Rental Inspections

The reports were noted.

Any Other Business

E Leech discussed the Workplan 2024.

There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 6.30 p.m. The next Housing SPC meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th February at 5.30pm – 7 pm.