

HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR SPC MEETING ON
WED 17TH APRIL 2024

Attendance:**Members:**

Cllr Donna Cooney
Cllr Pat Dunne
Cllr Alison Gilliland (CP)
Cllr Hazel De Nórtin

External Presentation

Diarmud MacDubhglais - PPN

Dublin City Council Officials

Dave Dinnigan – Executive Manager
Michelle Robinson – Acting Executive Manager
Ali Grehan – City Architect
Gavin T. Doyle – Chief Quantity Surveyor
Barry Woods – A/ Senior Engineer
Tony Smithers – Senior Executive Officer
Clive Martin – Senior Executive Officer
Cliona Kelliher – Staff Officer
Ruth Quinn – Administrator
Samantha Doherty - Administrator

Irish Green Building Council Officials

Johanna Varghese IGBC
Giovanni Impoco IGBC
Mary Teehan IGBC
Fernanda Rocha IGBC

Apologies

Frank d'Arcy – Acting Assistant Chief Executive
Mary Hayes, Director of DRHE
Cllr Mary Callaghan
Cllr Hazel Chu
Cllr Máire Devine
Cllr Kevin Donoghue
Cllr James Geoghegan
Cllr Eimer McCormack
Cllr Cieran Perry
Cllr Catherine Stocker
Cllr Colm O'Rourke
Cllr Daithí Doolan
Cllr Briega MacOscar
Mike Allen – FI
Ailbhe McLoughlin – ICSH
Dr. Kevin Byrne – SGCRA
Pat Greene – DSC
Mick O'Reilly - ITCH

1. Presentation on A Circular Economy Approach to Housing Maintenance and Housing Regeneration: Challenges and Opportunities – Facilitated by the Irish Green Building Council

Johanna Varghese, Giovanni Impoco, Mary Teehan and Fernanda Rocha, all from the Irish Green Building Council, provided a presentation outlining their work on advancing sustainable change in the building environment through research, pilot projects, collaboration, education, advocacy, innovation and auditing.

This included a discussion on sustainable green practices with regard to DCC housing maintenance and housing regeneration:

- Supply and demand
- Refurbishment and regeneration
- Reuse and recycle

The following questions were discussed in groups facilitated by the IGBC members

1. What materials/elements are continually being replaced in dwellings?
2. What could be done differently?
3. What infrastructure could be put in place?
4. What new employment opportunities are there?
5. How might we address the perception of always wanting new replacements?
6. Where do you see the low hanging fruit?

Groups fed back on their discussions. Key points included:

- Some good practices already in place eg the digital twinning project on Dorset St flats allowed for the shift away from demolish and rebuild to a more carbon friendly 'enhanced works' programme of deep retrofitting, window/door replacements, heating and ventilation replacements.
- Currently the strong delivery pipeline will allow for resources to be deployed to drafting a strategic work plan to enable a more sustainable approach.
- Little cross departmental communication inhibiting the sharing of ideas around an internal DCC 'market' of materials for re-use eg between housing and parks given the example of Bridgefoot St Park that was constructed using salvaged materials.
- Good opportunities to up skill current workers and provide apprenticeships in an area that will grow in terms of employment opportunities but also in significance into the future.
- The standardisation of fixtures and fittings across all DCC development would support more effective replacement of individual elements that might break or require replacement due to wear and tear.
- Linking in with the Discovery Centre might present opportunities for up-cycling of furniture and other fixtures and fittings from voids

Cllr Gilliland, as Chairperson, thanked members from the Irish Green Building Council for coming in, giving the presentation and facilitating the discussion. DCC officials from housing and from across other departments were also thanked for attending and contributing so productively.

2. AOB.

There was no other business