



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

**Report to Housing SPC**

**Date: Wed 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Item No. 3ii**

# Senior Citizens Working Group

## Activity Report

The Working Group on Services to Older People was established in November 2020 as a result of an original proposal initiated by Councillor Mary Freehill. It reports to the DCC Housing SPC and also links with the programme work of the DCC Local and Community Development Committee particularly in relation to the national Age Friendly Strategy and the Healthy Ireland Programme.

The group aims are:

- a) To recommend democratic structures of governance and participation that would include elected members, staff and representation of older people.
- b) To examine, service delivery and best method of engagement that would reach all older people in the DCC area.
- c) To develop public policy proposals under national Age Friendly strategy and Healthy Ireland programme and within context of COVID19 recovery - with the focus being on which Dublin City Council services can be adapted, enhanced, or proposed, in order to improve quality of life.

The members of the Working Group are as follows:

- Councillor Mary Freehill, Chairperson of Group
- Councillor Alison Gilliland, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Chairperson Housing SPC
- Councillor Mary Callaghan, DCC Elected Member
- Councillor Donna Cooney, DCC Elected Member
- Councillor Anne Feeney, DCC Elected Member
- Councillor Niall Ring, DCC Elected Member
- Councillor Mannix Flynn, DCC Elected Member
- Daithi Downey, Chief Officer DCC LCDC

**Meeting 7: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 14.00pm – 15.30pm Virtual meeting via Zoom.**

**Elected members present:** Cllr. Alison Gilliland, Cllr Mary Callaghan, Cllr. Mary Freehill,

**Elected members apologies:** Cllr. Donna Cooney, Cllr. Anne Feeney, Cllr. Niall Ring, Cllr. Mannix Flynn

**DCC staff present:** Dáithí Downey, Eimear McCormack, Sile McNulty Goodwin, Sophia Brennan.

- Councillor Mary Freehill, Chair of WG, updated the members on preparations for meeting with representatives from the Centre of Excellence in Universal Design, National Disability Authority (NDA) agreed for Tuesday 20th July 2021. The group requested advice on how universal design guidelines for the public realm can be utilised to advance and improve the overall NTA approach to the provision of seats at bus shelters.
- Eimear McCormack, Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator, gave a presentation to the members on the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme. It is a two year programme and is currently being piloted in the Dublin 8 area. It is hoped to reach approximately 500 participants during this period.
- Sile McNulty Goodwin, DCC Healthy Ireland (HI) Coordinator gave an update to members on two Community Resilience Projects: *Play Packs* and *Trishaw's Cycle without Age* initiative. Currently the HI Programme has distributed 5,000 play packs to older citizens around the city. Three Trishaw's have been provided already and it is hoped to purchase two more to cover the five administrative areas. The HI Programme has also supported Alone's "Befriending Initiative".

**A round table discussion took place and the members considered a number of actions. The following were proposed:**

1. The members have stated that they would like more specific information from the NDA on public realm infrastructure, in particular street furniture design/distribution/location and how they impact on the mobility of older people and people with disabilities or mobility issues. This request is to be added to the Agenda for the proposed meeting on 20th July 2021. Observations on the use of Walkability Audits and how their effective implementation in operational decision-making and in planning can be better realised was also requested from NDA.
2. The Chief Officer was asked to extend a standing invite to Eimear McCormack, Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator, to give further updates on the roll out of the programme as it proceeds. Members would like to support this excellent project.
3. It was agreed that the Chief Officer would liaise with Beatrice Casserly, Age Friendly Regional Manager, Dublin City, regarding recommencing Walkability Audits in conjunction with the five Dublin City Council administrative areas in autumn 2021.

**Date of next meeting: 22nd September 2021 at 11.30am online via Zoom.**



**Dáithí Downey**  
**Chief Officer, DCC Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**  
**Senior Executive Officer, Housing and Community Services.**