



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Report to Housing SPC

Date: Wed 13th October 2021

Item No. 5iii

Dublin City Council Housing SPC Working Group on Services to Older People

Activity Report

1st October 2021

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
- Dáithí Downey, Chief Officer DCC LCDC

Meeting 8: 22nd September 2021, 14.00pm – 15.30pm Virtual meeting via Zoom.

Elected members present: Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland, Cllr. Mary Freehill, Cllr. Niall Ring, Cllr. Donna Cooney

Elected members apologies: Cllr. Anne Feeney, Cllr. Mannix Flynn

DCC staff present: Dáithí Downey, Síle McNulty Goodwin, Sophia Brennan, Beatrice Casserly

Apologies: Eimear McCormack. Age Friendly Healthy Homes Programme Coordinator

- Councillor Mary Freehill, Chair of WG, reviewed minutes of the meeting with the NDA on 20th July focussed on matters regarding public seating and public transport noted in correspondence between the WG and NDA.

The meeting was held with Dr Gerald Craddock (Chief Officer Centre of Excellence in Universal Design) Ruth O'Reilly (Senior Built Environment Advisor) James Hubbard (Senior Design Advisor) and Naomi Oldenburg (Standards and Monitoring Officer).

A presentation was made by Dr. Gerald Craddock and Ruth O'Reilly and circulated to members thereafter.

The meeting was informed that universal design places human diversity at the heart of the design process. It covers all areas including public transport, seating, public domain and the built environment. There was a discussion regarding the Disability Act 2005 which places a statutory obligation on public service providers to support access to services and facilities for people with disabilities. Under the Act, people with disabilities are entitled to have their health and educational needs assessed; have individual service statements drawn up, setting out what services they should get and access to independent complaints and appeals.

Guidance on the provision of seating at bus shelters was referred to within the presentation. Currently, one in eight people are aged over 65 years and data shows that generally a person can cover a distance of 330 metres in five minutes. However, Bus Connects has proposed a distance of 400 metres between bus stops. This is not considered appropriate for all needs. Working Group members queried as to what was the feedback from the NTA. Communication is ongoing. The members considered the merits of requesting the NTA to carry out a Disability Assessment of Bus Connects and to make the findings public.

With regards to seating at bus/coach shelters, they need to be visible and not obstruct as there may be space restrictions. "Perching seating" can be provided as an alternative if space is an issue.

The NDA role is to advise, but the National Transport Authority (NTA) are a provider and a regulator. Naomi Rooney is the Transport Accessibility Manager in the NTA. The NTA have completed an audit of all bus stops around the country.

Members were not fully satisfied that the matters addressed in correspondence has been fully resolved and a proposal to convene further meetings between NDA, NTA and the Working Group was agreed.

1. Action:

A decision was made to request a meeting through the Office of the Lord Mayor with the National Transport Authority and the National Disability Authority. This meeting was subsequently agreed for **Thursday, 28th October 2021 from 1600 to 1700 in the Mansion House Dawson St.** Ms Anne Graham (CEO) and Naomi Rooney (Access Officer) will attend from the NTA. Dr Gerald Craddock & Ruth O'Reilly) will attend from the NDA.

- Sile McNulty Goodwin, DCC Healthy Ireland (HI) Coordinator introduced the *Partnership for Healthy Cities* initiative funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies. On 19th August, an international press release featuring Lord Mayor Gilliland confirmed Dublin had joined the *Partnership for Healthy Cities*, a prestigious global network of 70 cities committed to saving lives by preventing non-communicable diseases and injuries. DCC's particular policy objective is *Safe and Active Mobility* and seeks to enhance public mobility across the city by developing a new, inclusive emphasis on walking in our city. The release confirmed DCC has started to develop 'walkability audits' for our city with a consciousness on mobility from a senior citizen perspective that we are also incorporating into our work a review of public seating and public realm that can aid and support mobility. The HI Coordinator confirmed she is working within the LCDC structure to develop Dublin City Council's proposed 'implementation plan' for actioning within the Partnership. The key proposal is to undertake a comparative study of walkability audits between Dublin and a selection of cities in the Partnership.
- Beatrice Casserly, Age Friendly Ireland Regional Manager, Dublin City, gave an update on preparations for reinstating the Walkability Audits at local area office level and how this can be used to support the proposed comparative study.

2. Action

It was agreed that the Chief Officer LCDC would proceed to agree the Partnership for Cities Implementation Plan and revert with details to the Working Group for their input and support with its delivery.

Date of next meeting: 18th November at 1200 midday online via Zoom.



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