

**Dublin City Council
North West Area Committee
16th December 2014**

Item No. 19

Motion in the name of Councillor Noeleen Reilly

In light of the huge housing crisis that the North West Area Committee supports the reintroduction of the financial contribution scheme for older people so that those living in houses that have become too big for them can sell their home to the council at a discounted cost and in turn be accommodated in a unit which matches their needs.

Report

The City Council is no longer operating the Financial Contribution Scheme to any great extent. This is primarily due to budgetary constraints but also due to the reduction in newly built older persons accommodation. The source of funding for the house purchase programme is set down by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. This budget has been significantly reduced in recent years and the City Council is now only purchasing a very small number of properties (through means of a specific budget) for tenants who are currently residing in flats complexes that have been designated for detenanting to facilitate regeneration.

Also it should be noted that social housing must be allocated to people deemed to have the highest need. Elderly people who own their own house have a much lower need than someone without any home. There is a waiting list for older person's accommodation from housing list applicants who do not have an asset to "trade" for accommodation and these people cannot be disadvantaged on the waiting list due to operation of the financial contribution scheme. A fair balance of needs and demands has to be achieved and this can only be accomplished when there is relatively strong supply of accommodation becoming available. As the supply of newly built older person's accommodation has also reduced it would be difficult to justify a significant increase in the number of financial contribution cases.

During the period 2005 to 2009, it was possible to consider offering a higher proportion of vacancies in older persons accommodation to financial contribution applicants. The City Council built several hundred older persons units and were purchasing significant numbers of properties from such applicants under the house purchase programme. However in recent years both the building and acquisition programmes have decreased significantly. As a result, it has not been possible to consider such applicants for accommodation and the amount of allocations to financial contribution applicants has reduced considerably. I set out in the table below the number of allocations to financial contribution applicants during the last six years:

2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
19	14	22	27	55	112

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