



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

**Report to Housing SPC**

**Date: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**Item No. 7ii**

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

**Activity Report**

**1st June 2022**

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: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 1000 to 1130, Virtual meeting via Zoom.**

	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Present:</b>	
Dr Alison Gilliland	Lord Mayor of Dublin
Mary Freehill	DCC Elected Representative (Chairperson)
Nial Ring	DCC Elected Representative
Mannix Flynn	DCC Elected Representative
Mary Callaghan	DCC Elected Representative
	DCC Elected Representative
<b>Also Present:</b>	
Dr Dáithí Downey	DCC, SEO Community and Social Development & CO, LCDC
Catherina O'Rourke	DCC Community and Social Development
Eimear McCormack	DCC Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator
Sophia Brennan	DCC Community and Social Development
<b>Apologies:</b>	
Donna Cooney	DCC Elected Representative
Anne Feeney	DCC Elected Representative
Sile McNulty Goodwin	DCC Healthy Ireland
Beatrice Casserly	DCC Age Friendly Manager

## 1. Terms of Reference:

The WG members noted the review of the Terms of Reference the following matters were noted:

- The democratic structures of governance related to services to older persons needs to be addressed. Members agreed to place more emphasis on this aspect of the Terms of Reference.
- Digital discrimination: members noted there are many challenges around access to 'digital only' services for older people. DCC should commit to implementing a policy across all services to ensure that information is available in all formats for customers.

**Action 1:** The Chair of the Working Group will engage with the Chair of the Housing SPC to explore how the working group can strengthen their input to the Housing SPC and other DCC committees to better address the issues being raised within the working group.

## 2. Healthy Communities Update

Dáithí Downey, Chief Officer gave an update on the programmes to date.

- Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme

Dublin City Council has entered a strategic partnership with the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive to deliver the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. The purpose of the Programme is to reduce health inequalities by addressing social determinants of health in communities experiencing high levels of deprivation. The SHCP is being rolled out nationally across 19 programme, 4 of which are in the DCC area. Funding has been allocated for projects in each of the areas which will include upgrading parks, recreation facilities and supporting programmes locally. DCC will work in partnership with a number of key stakeholders to progress the programmes.

- Healthy Ireland Programme:

The third round funding of this programme has now concluded. A number of projects were funded under the scheme including accessible Tri-Shaws and community mental health projects. Round four of Healthy Ireland programme is being finalised. The Chief Officer will give an update when all the details are agreed.

- ✓ Partnership for Healthy Cities:

The implementation plan is being agreed. It is proposed to do a comparative evaluation between other Partnership cities. The initial city proposed is Barcelona. Members discussed if there had been any consultation with elected members regarding these initiatives. There was concern that elected members were not being informed. It was noted that the former Lord Mayor engaged with colleagues and brought the proposal on the Partnership for Healthy Cities to the Council.

Lord Mayor Gilliland informed the WG that the LM's office engaged with the Protocol Committee on improving communication with the elected members. Since September, any new initiative requiring the LM results in a meeting being held with the Chief Executive to ensure consultation with elected members takes place.

### 3. Public realm and seating

- Walkability Audit Toolkit

Discussion by members raised issues around the criteria used for the walkability audit and the content and use of the toolkit for auditing purposes.

**Action 2:** The Working Group would engage with the National Transport Authority to query the Walkability Audit Toolkit's content and the criteria used to carry out walkability audits.

- DCC Emergency Motion with relation to public seating and design

A copy of this motion was circulated to all members. A discussion took place and members stated that if this policy of installing sleeping benches is implemented, it will discriminate against older people and those with mobility issues as there will be no seating hand rails to

assist those requiring them. It was stated that the motion has good sentiment but will result in difficulties for many. Public seating design was also discussed i.e. universal good design examples such as those found in Spain. The members requested more information on all public seating infrastructure.

**Action 3:** Cllr. Callaghan will discuss the motion with the other elected members involved and feedback a response to the working group.

**Action 4:** It was agreed to seek more information on policies relating to seating design and provision of public seating infrastructure within Dublin City.

- White Friar Street bus shelter update:

Correspondence from Anne Graham, Chief Executive, NTA, was circulated to all members. This outlined why this seating choice was installed at this location. The members were dissatisfied that no arm rest/grab rail was provided.

**Action 5:** The Lord Mayor will correspond with Anne Graham, Chief Executive, National Transport Authority, to determine the criteria for installing new seating at bus shelters and in particular at the White Friar Street location.

- Ava Housing:

The members discussed this housing option and queried as to how they could further support this initiative. Details of Ava Housing's presentation from the meeting on 27th January was reported to the March Housing SPC.

**Action 6:** It was agreed to have further discussions with AVA Housing to progress support for the scheme.



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