

**HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES FOR SPC MEETING ON**  
**WED 13<sup>TH</sup> SEP 2023**

**Attendance:****Members:**

Cllr Mary Callaghan  
Cllr Hazel Chu  
Cllr Donna Cooney  
Cllr Máire Devine  
Cllr Kevin Donoghue  
Cllr Daithí Doolan  
Cllr Pat Dunne  
Cllr James Geoghegan  
Cllr Alison Gilliland (CP)  
Cllr Briega MacOscar  
Cllr Eimer McCormack  
Cllr Colm O'Rourke  
Cllr Cieran Perry

Mike Allen – FI  
Kevin Byrne – SGCRA  
Pat Greene – DSC  
Diarmud MacDuhglais - PPN  
Ailbhe McLoughlin – ICSH

**Dublin City Council Officials**

Frank d'Arcy – Acting Assistant Chief Executive  
Mary Hayes, Director of DRHE  
Michelle Robinson – Acting Executive Manager  
Fiona Craven – Senior Executive Officer  
Tony Smithers – Senior Executive Officer  
Rebecca Ward - Administrator  
Damien McCabe – Administrator  
Ruth Quinn – Administrator  
Samantha O'Doherty - Administrator

**Other Councillors in attendance**

Cllr Mannix Flynn  
Cllr Deirdre Heney  
Cllr Patricia Roe

**Apologies**

Cllr Kelsey May  
*Claire Mc Manus (RIAI)*

## 1. Minutes of meeting dated Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and matters arising

Minutes Agreed

## 2. Chairpersons Business

On behalf of the SPC, Cllr Gilliland paid tribute to the contribution Mr. Coilín O'Reilly had made to housing in Dublin City Council during his time as Assistant Chief Executive with responsibility for Housing and Community and wished him well in his new role as Chief Executive for Carlow County Council. Cllr Gilliland congratulated Mr. Frank d'Arcy in his new role as acting Assistant Chief Executive with responsibility for Housing and Community and congratulated Ms. Michelle Robinson on her role as action Executive Manager (replacing Mr. d'Arcy)

Cllr Gilliland advised the SPC of the resignation due to work commitments from the SPC of Ms. Claire McManus who represented the RIAI and commended Ms. McManus' valuable contribution to the SPC during her time as a member.

Cllr Gilliland provided information on "Housing for all: A call for a renewed European ambition". This proposal drafted by a coalition including the European Parliament Urban Intergroup, Eurocities, Housing Europe, Feantsa and Metropole de Lyon was backed by the committee to put access to adequate and affordable housing at the heart of the priorities of the next mandate of the European Parliament and the European Commission.

**Agreed:** Declaration Approved, Cllr Gilliland will sign on behalf of the Council in Brussels on 19 September.

## 6. Update on Working Groups

### i. Public Housing Working Group

The Chair, as *Chair of the Public Housing Working Group* provided a verbal update on the work of the Public Housing Working Group. She advised that the group had reviewed new rent models for high income earners for the purpose of Rent Assessment in Rent Scheme. A proposal for a new model will be brought to the SPC in the near future.

Update noted

## ii. Special Committee on Homelessness

Cllr Hazel Chu, Chair of the Special Committee on Homelessness, provided a verbal update from the last meeting held on 13th of June:

- Quality Standards Network for Emergency Accommodation
- Access to services when exiting Hospital/Prison accommodation.
- Plans for a visit to Merchants Quay on Fri 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

DRHE Director, Mary Hayes, provided a verbal report on the management of an assault on a service user by a staff member in one of the Private Temporary Accommodation facilities - the matter was dealt with in an expedient manner and the staff member no longer works in the facility. Ms. Hayes indicated that staff across all emergency accommodation facilities receive training on service standards, that both announced and incidental visits occur across the various accommodation facilities and issues detected are always followed up.

Update noted

## iii. Senior Citizens Working Group

The Chair as Chair of the Senior Citizens Working Group, provided a verbal update from the most recent meeting of the Group on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July covering the following topics:

- Update on footpath maintenance project.
- Update from Sports Officers on COPD and Cardiac Rehab Programme.
- Healthy Age Friendly Programme.

## iv. Update noted Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Senior Executive Officer Tony Smithers provided a verbal update on the Restructuring of staff in Traveller Accommodation Section. He noted that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Update noted

v. Oversight Committee on Animal Welfare Issues

- Report and minutes of last meeting provided to all members.

Update noted

### **3. Inactivated Planning Permissions**

Deirdre Scully, City Planner, circulated a report to the Committee in advance of the meeting and spoke to the following points:

- Quarterly Statistics in relation to unactivated planning permissions on housing units;
- The identification of emerging trends based on the data;
- Additional analysis that will be undertaken by the Planning Department.

The item was opened to the floor for Q&A. Clarification was provided on

- Potential reasons for inactivity of planning permissions;
- Part V requirements in relation to planning permissions;
- Variations between Build to Rent standard and regular planning permissions; and
- Opportunities being explored by the City Council to expand its housing delivery (Ms. Michelle Robinson)

Update Noted

### **4. Vacant Properties over Commercial Units**

Fiona Craven, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation on the following themes:

- Various Initiatives around vacant properties.
- Feasibility studies for Adaptive Reuse
- Adaptive Reuse Opportunities, including DCC owned properties.
- Current 13 projects with potential to deliver 135 housing units.

- Challenges facing Adaptive Reuse.

Following Q&A on her presentation members commended Fiona, her team and the Project Advisory Board on the work being done on this new strand of housing delivery that also had a significant impact on reversing dereliction in the city centre and asked to be kept updated on progress

## **5. Leased Units & Associated Facilities**

Michelle Robinson, Acting Executive Manager, provided a written and verbal update on the following:

- Review of all long term lease agreements for multi-unit schemes.
- Requirements for tenants to access additional amenities.
- DCC's engagement approach with agents for access to additional amenities.

Update noted

## **7. Motion in the name of Cllr Mannix Flynn**

That this meeting of the housing SPC. call on Dublin city Council, housing department, and approved Housing Body's to address the issue of discrimination and inequality regarding part five tenancies and the like who are experiencing exclusion from amenities that are attached to the apartment complexes, further that a clear policy regarding pet ownership for such tenants be initiated so as to give clarity to rights and due process to affected tenants. Also that a full audit of part five tenants who have been excluded from amenities as a result of Dublin City council initial agreement be initiated by the council immediately to address this issue of othering, inequality and exclusion.

Motion noted

## **8. AOB**

- Mr. Frank d'Arcy provided a short verbal update on void turnaround and on the enhanced works programme

