

HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR SPC MEETING ON
WED 15TH FEBRUARY 2023

Attendance:**Members:**

Cllr Mary Callaghan
Cllr Hazel Chu
Cllr Donna Cooney
Cllr Maire Devine
Cllr Kevin Donoghue
Cllr Pat Dunne
Cllr James Geoghegan
Cllr Alison Gilliland (CP)
Cllr Dermot Lacey
Cllr Briega MacOscar
Cllr Eimer McCormack
Cllr Colm O'Rourke
Cllr Cieran Perry
Cllr Karl Stanley

Mike Allen - FI
Kevin Byrne – SGCRA
Claire McManus - JFOC

Dublin City Council Officials

Coilín O'Reilly, Assistant Chief Executive
David Dinnigan, Executive Manager
Frank d'Arcy, Executive Manager
Mary Hayes, Director of DRHE
Ursula Donnellan, Senior Executive Officer
Robert Buckle, Senior Engineer
Damien McCabe, Administrator

Other Councillors in attendance

Cllr Mannix Flynn
Cllr Deirdre Heney
Cllr Janet Horner
Cllr Patricia Roe

Apologies

Cllr Daithí Doolan
Cllr Deirdre Cronin

1. Minutes of meeting dated Wednesday 14th December 2023 and matters arising

Agreed: Minutes Agreed

2. Chairpersons Business

- The new Chairperson, Cllr Alison Gilliland, commended the work of the former Chairperson Cllr Dermot Lacey following his stepping down as chairperson of committee.
- The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Karl Stanley, co-opted to replace Cllr Catherine Stocker on maternity leave

Agreed: Update Noted

3. Void Refurbishment Programme

Robert Buckle, Senior Engineer, Housing Maintenance Section provided a presentation. The following items were covered and discussed:

- Statistics on number of void properties & turnaround time on vacant properties.
- Engagement with Area Offices.
- Challenges in refurbishing void properties.
- Improved transparency from DCC on refurbishment works.

Agreed: Update Noted

4. SPC Strategic Priorities 2023

Cllr Alison Gilliland indicated that a strategic workplan for the committee was to be developed and suggested several strategic issues and provided an opportunity for members to discuss and provide additional suggestions. The following topics were suggested

- Delivery - Unactivated planning permissions, engagement with private developers. Use of vacant properties above commercial businesses, establishing a register of vacant properties, rapid builds
- Regeneration – Possibility of speeding up process with deep retrofit rather than demolish and rebuild particularly given digital twin technology to allow for better embedded and operational carbon decision making.
- Green builds

- Accommodating diversity – promoting a more extensive lifecycle planning approach, one and a half bedroom units to accommodate carers
- Homeless day services/street food.
- Availability of Emergency Accommodation & Exist Strategies from this accommodation.

It was agreed that off site visits & workshops for members of the Committee would substitute some monthly meetings.

It was agreed that Construction Cost Analysis Report issued to members in January 2023 would be represented and discussed at the March meeting.

Agreed: Update Noted

5. Update on Working Groups

i. Public Housing Working Group

Cllr Alison Gilliland provided a verbal update: no meeting had taken place since the last SPC meeting. The next one is being scheduled and the following item will be discussed

- Rents, high income earners to be discussed at next meeting.

Agreed: Update noted

ii. Special Committee on Homelessness

Cllr Hazel Chu provided a verbal update detailing the previous meeting on 9 Feb

- Research into European models on combatting homelessness.

Agreed: Update noted

iii. Local Traveller Accommodation Group Consultative Committee

Frank d'Arcy, Executive Manager, provided a verbal update, in particular detailing the following:

- 18 caravan loan scheme applications approved in 2022.
- Next meeting scheduled for 24th February 2023.

Agreed: Update noted

iv. Senior Citizens Working Group

Cllr Alison Gilliland read a written update from Cllr Mary Freehill based on the Working Group's meeting on 13 Feb

- Bus shelter improvements for older people to be trialled.
- Improved face to face services from Dublin City Council
- Library services rolling out new programmes particularly in the area of digital technologies

Agreed: Update noted

v. Oversight Committee on Animal Welfare Issues

Cllr Deirdre Heney provided a verbal update, the following items were discussed

- Issues regarding re-housing dogs

Agreed: Update noted

6. Motion

Cllr. Alison Gilliland

The Dublin City Council Strategic Policy Committee for Housing recognises the huge potential for our work in housing to contribute to climate mitigation measures both in terms of new builds and our management and interaction with current stock and acquired stock. In particular, we recognise the potential for our approach when preparing voids and acquisitions for allocation to transition towards a circular economy approach - one that maximises the re-use and re-cycling of internal materials. The Housing SPC therefore requests that a pathway towards this approach be explored, including a consideration of the benefit of joining the European Investment Bank supported Circular City Centre (C3) support programme (<https://advisory.eib.org/about/circular-city-centre.htm>) and a report presented back to the Housing SPC within 6 months.

Agreed: Motion Passed

7. AOB

- Cllr Alison Gilliland stated that there will be a return to hybrid style meetings from March 2023.

Agreed: N/A