

Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Poiblí Chontae na Gaillimhe



Galway County
Public
Participation
Network



Ag obair le chéile - ag múnlú ár todhchaí | Working together - shaping our future

Reporting Template

For Galway County PPN Community Representatives on various bodies/committees

Representative's Name	Cathy McGrath Marcella Conneely
Name of committee from which the Rep is reporting	County Galway Housing Strategic Policy Committee
Date of the meeting	20 May and 10 June, 01 July, 02 September

Key issues discussed

- The terms of reference for this SPC were presented to the group and an overview given including reference to the key policy initiatives.
- To support and accelerate delivery in both the City and the County, a Galway Social Housing Delivery Taskforce is now being established.
- The West Region Homelessness Action Plan 2020–2022 was adopted by the SPC.
- Proposed amendments to the Housing Allocation Scheme were reviewed. Amendments will provide for a reduction in the number of households on the two-bed list and increase the number on the three bed properties list. This amendment will allow for a fair and balanced approach and will ensure a more equitable waiting period on the housing list, as there are a significant number of three bed properties available.
 - DFI asked as roughly 30% of current housing stock is 1/2 beds and as roughly 70% of demand is for 1 or 2 beds, could sharing be facilitated in cases where individuals are willing to share for a period of time until 1 or 2 beds become available, rather than be considered 'adequately housed' in a shared tenancy? In response, it was recognised by the council that individuals can apply separately or combine with others. If they combine with other individuals, however, they will be offered a single tenancy. There is no facility for multiple tenancies of a single property.
 - Follow up query from DFI asked, could sharing be facilitated in cases where individuals are willing to share for a period of time until 1 or 2 beds become available, rather than be considered 'adequately housed' in a shared tenancy? In response the council noted that if people accept a temporary accommodation, they can be included on a transfer list after a period of 2 years if a one bed becomes available.
 - DFI asked if a policy mechanism could be established on a case by case basis, assess the appropriateness of 'backdating' housing applications of individuals where it can be evidenced that due to severe illness or disability, they were unable to make a timely application for housing? Council referred to the appeals mechanism. Generally, anyone who appeals are reinstated with time on the list awarded back to them - from the date.

Key Decisions Made	The Housing Allocation Scheme was approved by the SPC. The Tenancy Sustainment Strategy was approved by the SPC.
Action(s) required from Galway County Public Participation Network for next meeting	The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy is now out for submission. Any comments and feedback should be made to the Social Inclusion Reps through the PPN Coordinator.
Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 04 November 2020