

## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**Minutes of Housing SPC Meeting held on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 in Council Chamber,  
County Hall at 10.00am**

### **I Láthair:-**

#### **Baill:**

Cllr. J. Byrne, Chairperson

Cllr. J. McClearn

Cllr. J. Charity

Cllr. S. Walsh

Cllr. C. Keaveney

Cllr. E. Mannion

Cllr. T. Broderick (via MS Teams)

Mr. E McGuane (Business)

Ms. M. Conneely (Voluntary via MS Teams)

Ms. C. McGrath (Social Inclusion via MS Teams)

#### **Oifigigh:**

Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Housing

Mr. G. Scully, Senior Executive Officer, Housing

Ms. N. Heffernan, Administrative Officer, Housing

Ms. R. Lowe, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing

Mr. E. Mulvey, Tenancy Enforcement Officer

Ms. E. McKiernan, Assistant Staff Officer, Housing

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Housing SPC meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were proposed by Cllr J. McClearn and seconded by Cllr S. Walsh. Apologies from Cllr C Keaveney were omitted from the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 in error. The circulating of the SPC minutes to the PPN was raised and it was stated that the minutes may only be circulated within the PPN after approval by SPC members

2. Rebuilding Ireland / Taskforce Update

Mr. Hanrahan told the members that the taskforce met via MS. The matters arising were the effects of Covid-19 on planning and building. While Galway County Council has lost two months during lockdown there are no major concerns regarding its programme of works.

Rebuilding Ireland targets are for 925 units over a 4-year period from 2018 to 2021 made up of 620 new builds, 120 acquisitions and 185 leasing. For the next SPC Ms. R. Lowe will provide a map for Cllrs showing the distribution of these schemes across the county. Some concern was expressed about how much Galway County Council are contributing to the growth of housing stock nationally and that the first-time buyers are being edged out of the market as Local Authorities buy up stock. Mr. L. Hanrahan responded that going forward that acquisitions will only be a small component of our stock.

Members requested that there be regular taskforce updates at the Housing SPC meetings.

3. Review of Tenancy Sustainment Strategy and Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

Draft documents of the above strategies to be circulated to the members before next SPC meeting in September where they will be discussed before being brought before the Plenary Council. The Tenancy Sustainment Strategy 2017 - 2019 is out of date so new draft policy to be ready for next SPC

It was suggested by the Chairperson that specific cases the members are aware of could be brought forward to the Executive putting the draft policy together.

In relation to the Tenancy Sustainment Strategy the pre-tenancy induction programme provides mutual engagement between the tenant and the Local Authority in relation to the responsibilities of both in respect of the tenancy and the sanctions that can be imposed in respect of any breaches of their tenancy.

4. Control of Horses Bye-laws update

Mr. Hanrahan informed the members that there a number of motions to progress the issue of bye laws for Galway County Council and legal advice has been sought from the Law Agents. The primary legislation is the Control of Horses Act 1996 which is not fit for purpose but the bye laws

will have to reflect this primary legislation. The Department of Agriculture are to look at the primary legislation. Mr. Mulvey added that it is proposed by Department to have a steering group to review this legislation and that he has requested to be included.

Cllr Charity raised concerns about the timelines as the current bye-laws have been in situ a long time without any amendment and the issue of enforcement of the bye-laws and that it would be preferable to have one body dealing with all equine related matters. Roles and responsibilities needs to be cleared in relation to horse control.

Cllr Keaveney proposed that a letter be sent to the Minister for guidelines on this matter. It was further suggested that perhaps a meeting between the Local Authority and the Department and other agencies (e.g. An Garda Síochána) be organised. Cllr Charity advised that this has been attempted and that the Department thus far had failed to engage

#### 5. Any Other Business

The subject of Allocations and Transfer was raised and a request for an update on demand, availability etc. Mr. Hanrahan advised that this would link in with the map that Ms. Lowe will provide in relation to Capital and where the demand is by area and size.

Date for November SPC meeting confirmed as Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Meeting concluded.