

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HYBRID MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 26th March 2025, at 5pm

Venue: Council Chamber / Microsoft Teams

Report by Chairperson, Councillor Martha Fanning

Present: Councillor Dan Carson, Councillor Maebh Cody, Councillor Anne Colgan, Councillor Martha Fanning, Councillor Michael Fleming, Councillor Oisín O'Connor, Councillor Jim Gildea, Councillor Anna Grainger, Councillor Lorraine Hall, Councillor John Hurley, Councillor Peter O'Brien.

Sectoral Representatives present: Ms. Kate Rhatigan, Professor P.J. Drudy, Mr. David Girvan.

Officials present: Catherine Keenan (Director of Housing), Gerard O'Sullivan (Senior Engineer), Deirdre Baber (Senior Executive Officer), Jim Ryan (Senior Executive Officer), Jeanette White (Senior Executive Officer), Karen Cahill (Administrative Officer), Aingeal McMahon (Senior Staff Officer) and Sinead Magee (Staff Officer).

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 27th March 2024 were proposed by Councillor A. Colgan and seconded by Councillor J. Gildea.

The minutes of the Housing SPC meeting held on 27th March 2024 were adopted and approved.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes:

No Business.

3. Information submitted by Members for written reply:

a) Councillor J. Gildea

"To ask the Chief Executive what processes are in place in this Council regarding the provision of housing for persons with disabilities?"

It was noted that the report was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

b) Councillor M. Cody

"To ask the Chief Executive for an up-to-date report on the BER ratings of all Council housing and to outline the plans for energy upgrades and retrofitting for 2025 and 2026?"

It was noted that the report was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

4. Director's Business:

a) Governance of Housing

Ms. Jeanette White, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation outlining the procedures and protocols for the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meetings:

- Legislation / Standing Orders
- Role of the SPC
- Arrangements for meetings
- Submission of business / Order of business
- Chairperson's Report

A discussion followed during which J. White and Ms. Catherine Keenan, Director of Housing, responded to members' questions.

b) Housing Functions

Mr. Jim Ryan, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation to the members discussing the functions of the Housing Department:

- Housing Delivery Programmes
- Management of Services
- Information sources
- Current senior staff organisational chart

A discussion followed around CAS, CALF and leased properties during which J. Ryan, J. White and C. Keenan responded to members' questions.

c) DRHE Homeless Action Plan 2025 - 2027

Ms. Deirdre Baber, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation on the Dublin Regional Homeless Action Plan 2025 – 2027 - preparation for the new plan. In her presentation, D. Baber discussed the following:

- Process for preparing the Plan
- Timeframe
- Review of current Plan
- Engagement sessions
- Submissions for new Plan

A discussion took place, during which D. Baber responded to members' queries. It was agreed that members can make submissions by contacting D. Baber.

The draft plan will be circulated to the members when it is available.

5. Business referred from the Council:

No business.

6. Matters referred from the Corporate Policy Group:

No business.

7. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

8. Items for Consideration for the Future Work Programme:

a) Draft SPC Work Programme 2025 – 2026

C. Keenan gave a presentation on the draft SPC Work Programme for the years 2025 and 2026. The proposed items were discussed. Sub-items will be added under some of items on the programme to cover the topics raised by members. The Work Programme was agreed.

b) Councillor J. Gildea

"That this SPC discusses what actions we feel should be taken by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in order to speed up the provision of housing in the social, affordable and private sectors."

This submission will be included in the Future Work Programme and will be covered under the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022 – 2026 which is an item in the work programme.

c) Ms Kate Rhatigan

"Please consider including the Cost Rental housing model in the committee's Future Work Programme. The Cost Rental model, a strategic priority outlined in the Programme for Government, is a viable and affordable housing tenure that should be a key focus for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in expanding the supply of affordable housing.

Cost Rental offers tenants a secure and affordable alternative to the private rental sector, with rents set 20% below market rates. It also serves as a practical delivery model in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies and Local Authorities, facilitating apartment development and increasing housing density.

To accelerate ongoing projects, adequate capital allocation for Approved Housing Bodies and social housing schemes is essential. Funding should be structured on a multi-annual basis to minimize uncertainty and ensure continuity in project delivery."

A discussion continued around the draft work programme and Item Nos. 8.02 and 8.03 submitted for the Future Work Programme."

This submission will be included in the Future Work Programme and will be covered under the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022 – 2026 which is an item in the work programme.

9. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 8th May.

10. The meeting concluded at 7.08pm

The Social Housing SPC is a Relevant Body as defined by Section 5(6) of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 and is in compliance with the Transparency Code prepared by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in accordance with Section 5(7) of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015.