

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER, 2019, COMMENCING 2PM

PRESENT:

COUNCILLOR I. WINTERS, CATHAOIRLEACH, COUNCILLORS T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. CREAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, S. MATTHEWS, G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND J. WHITMORE.

APOLOGIES:

COUNCILLOR T. FORTUNE

IN ATTENDANCE:

MR. F. CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 T. MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
 MR. S. QUIRKE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
 MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
 MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
 MR. C. LAVERY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
 MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
 MR. L. FITZPATRICK, HEAD OF IS
 MS. L. GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
 MR. M. DEVEREUX, SENIOR ENGINEER
 MS. B. KILKENNY, SENIOR ENGINEER
 MR. D. MARNANE, SENIOR ENGINEER
 MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER
 MS. M. CAHILL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
 MS. H. DENNEHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 MS. K. BOYLE, ANALYST DEVELOPER
 MS. RACHEL GILLESPIE, STAFF OFFICER
 MS. G. LANG, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER

VOTES OF SYMPATHY: Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Mr. John Smith, Mrs. Mollie Staunton, Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Mr. Patrick Conlon, Mrs. Mary Walker, Mrs. Rita McNamara and Mr. John Bollingbrook. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 1st July, 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr. V. Blake, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 1st July, 2019.

ITEM NO. 2

To consider the disposal of portion of property measuring 0.0057ha known as 25 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow comprised within part of Folio WW40424F and part of Folio WW704F, by deed of transfer and rectification to Mr. Paul Quinn, 25 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy and agreed to dispose of portion of property measuring 0.0057ha known as Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow comprised within part of Folio WW40424F and part of Folio WW704F, by deed of transfer and rectification to Mr. Paul Quinn, 25 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the disposal of portion of property measuring 0.0023ha known as 36 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio WW40424F, by deed of transfer and rectification to Tanager DAC in their capacity as charge holder over the property.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. S Cullen and agreed to dispose of portion of property measuring 0.0023ha known as 36 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio WW40424F, by deed of transfer and rectification to Tanager DAC in their capacity as charge holder over the property.

ITEM NO 4

To consider report in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended; Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended: Proposed Solar Carports at County Buildings Car Park, Station Road, Wicklow Town – Planning Register Reference: 19/717.

Elected Members were circulated with report of the Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran dated the 28th of August, 2019 Re: Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended; Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended: Proposed Solar Carports at County Buildings Car Park, Station Road, Wicklow Town – Planning Register Reference: 19/717.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Matthews, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by a margin of 31 votes for and 1 not present to proceed with the development as set out in report circulated viz:-

FOR 31	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. CREAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, S. MATTHEWS, G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH, J. WHITMORE AND I. WINTERS.
NOT PRESENT 1	CLLR. T. FORTUNE.

ITEM NO. 5

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, August 2019.

The Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, August 2019 on 28th August, 2019. The Chief Executive advised that he would take the report as read and also take any questions in relation to it. He advised that the decision of An Bord Pleanala had been positive for the Arklow Sewerage Treatment Plant, as well as the Bord's decision in relation to the container hotel on the quays in Wicklow Town. Work on the new library for Wicklow Town commenced last month and tenders for the revitalisation of Fitzwilliam square are

being assessed. Consultants are currently working on the design details for the public realm at Arklow as well as the transport bridge and additional funding has been applied for a number of other projects in the County in Baltinglass, Glendalough and for the Blessington Greenway.

Elected Members made the following contributions which were responded to by the Chief Executive.

- Reference made to a press release email advising that Wicklow County Council had engaged consultants to carry out health check on Bray Town and query as to why this matter was not discussed or highlighted at meetings of the Bray MD.
- Work on the collection of rent arrears commended, however query as to why Bray, Wicklow Town and Arklow do not have rent collectors and reference made to the level of arrears in these areas.
- Details of all publicly owned land in the County that has not been developed requested
- Request that building works at Kilbride not commence before 8.00 a.m.
- In relation to the HAP, query as to the number of households reliant on HAP being 176 from the last report and do these figures get fed into the national figure?, also query as to the experience of staff working in this area.
- Are there terms of reference for Town Teams and is there a model that Bray MD could follow?
- Request that the CE's report contain comparative figures for social housing and the homeless.
- Query as to the current position in relation to Whitestown Remediation works and where the funding will come from.
- Proposed new sewage treatment plant for Arklow welcomed. Call for the Council to protect the residents along the lines where the pipes will be laid
- View expressed that the carrying out of a health check for Bray is a positive move and that it is an objective of the Town Team and the CWETT to have this process carried out.
- Update on the unauthorised encampment at the Murough Wicklow requested.
- Concern expressed that members of town teams may know more about what is going on than the municipal district members.

At the conclusion of the discussion it was agreed to invite Town Teams to the meeting to give a presentation to the elected members on the work that is carried out by them.

ITEM NO 6

To consider the adoption of the 2019-2024 Strategic Policy Scheme.

Elected Members were circulated with the following documentation:

1. Report to the Corporate Policy Group and Elected Members of Wicklow County Council Monday 2nd September, 2019 dated 19th August, 2019.
2. Draft Wicklow County Council SPC Scheme 2019 – 2024
3. Submissions received in response to public notice of the draft scheme
4. Updated Appendix 1 – SPC Framework following meeting of the CPG)

Ms. L. Gallagher, Meetings Administrator advised that the draft SPC Scheme 2019 – 2024 had been on public display during the month of July and August and that 7 submissions had been received. She advised that a report summarising the submissions had been circulated to the members, following consideration by the CPG and that updated Appendix 1: SPC framework and

configuration; showing the amendments in red was also circulated. She advised that if the elected members adopted the scheme today, the next step would be to write to the pillars and request their nominees, with the intention to call the inaugural meetings of the SPCs by mid/end October.

Cllr. J. Behan proposed that there be an opportunity for members of the public not involved in the national pillars to indicate an interest on serving on an SPC, which was seconded by Cllr. A. Ferris. In response the Chief Executive advised that the Departmental guidelines set out the procedures in relation to outside nominations but that there is the opportunity to invite outside expertise to contribute to the committee from time to time and as agreed by the SPC.

Following a discussion on the matter it was proposed by Cllr. J. Whitmore, seconded by Cllr. S. Matthews and following a roll call it was agreed by a margin of 30 votes for and 2 not present to adopt the draft Wicklow County Council Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019 – 2024 as circulated.

FOR 30	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. CREAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, S. MATTHEWS, G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH, J. WHITMORE AND I. WINTERS.
NOT PRESENT 2	CLLRS. T. FORTUNE AND G. O'NEILL

Representation of the elected members was proposed by Cllr. S. Matthews, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed as follows;-

	Strategic Committee Policy	Number of elected members	Name of Elected Member
1	Planning and Environment	6	Cllrs. S. Bourke, E. Timmins, G. O Neill, S. Matthews, S. Cullen and P. Glennon
2	Transportation water and emergency services	5	Cllrs. D. Mitchell, P. Fitzgerald, J. Behan I. Winters and V. Blake
3	Housing and corporate estate	6	Cllrs J. Snell, P. O Brien, T. Annesley, M. Crean, A. Flynn Kennedy and G. McManus
4	Community cultural and social development	6	Cllrs. G. Dunne, A. Ferris, J. Mullen, M. Corrigan, M. Murphy and V. Blake.
5	Economic development and enterprise support	6	Cllrs G. Walsh, I. Winters, T. Fortune, A. Cronin, M. Kavanagh and P. Kennedy
5	Climate and biodiversity action	5	Cllr. J. Whitmore, L. Scott, R. O Connor. P. Leonard and D. O Brien.

ITEM NO 7**To consider the 1st draft of the Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024**

Elected Members were circulated with the first draft of the Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024 and the Guidelines for Local Authorities in the preparation of Corporate Plans 2019 – 2024 dated the 14th of August, 2019 received from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government.

Ms. L. Gallagher advised that the Corporate Plan sets out the Council's high level goals for the next 5 year period taking an organisational wide strategic approach. It must take in to account cross cutting issues such as social inclusion, human rights, climate change mitigation measures, sustainability, and disability rights as well as other issues and perspectives. She advised that in preparing the plan it is important to look at how the plan will be resourced, implement and monitored. The plan must take into account how we deliver our service to the customer and have regard to other plans and strategies that are in place. It must be adopted six months following the holding of the annual meeting after the local elections. The next step in the process, if the elected members are in agreement, is to embark on meaningful engagement with staff during the months of September and the wider public, stakeholders, SPCs, LCDCs the PPN etc. during the month of October with a view to reverting to the Council in November with a final draft which will allow for meaningful consideration before the final date 6th of December.

The Chief Executive advised that the plan focussed on four thematic areas/high level goals over the next five years being.

1. Housing and Community
2. Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure
3. Organisational development and financial matters
4. Environment Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity Action

He said that that the executive will be happy to take any suggestions from the elected members in relation to the high level goals, how they would feed into the Annual Service Delivery Plan and monitoring and measurement. It was agreed to proceed in on the basis as outlined.

ITEM NO 8**To consider the adoption of the Wicklow County Council Climate Change Adaption Strategy**

Mr. S. Quirke, Director of Services, Planning and Environment, advised the elected members that the draft Wicklow County Council Climate Change Adaption Strategy which was considered at the April, 2019 Council meeting had been on public display from the 7th of June to the 5th of July, and that 97 submissions had been submitted which showed the volume of overall awareness of the issues. He advised that the elected members had been circulated with a report responding to the issues raised and that a number of changes were recommended in the final strategy. Mr. Quirke referred to the budgetary implications in terms of implementation measures and that this will be an important consideration at the annual budget.

Mr. Marc Devereux, Senior Engineer, gave a short presentation to the elected members in relation to the mitigation and adaption measures contained within the strategy and the process involved and the actions proposed all of which have undergone a strategic environmental assessment and appropriate assessment.

Following a discussion on the matter it was proposed by Cllr. S. Matthews, seconded by Cllr Lourda Scott and agreed by a margin of 28 votes for and 4 not present to adopt the Wicklow County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024 set down in the following resolution:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and the National Adaptation Framework (NAF), 2018, Wicklow County Council resolves to approve the Wicklow Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, having considered the draft strategy, the contents of the CE report on submissions received during the period of consultation and the SEA and AA Screening Reports carried out in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive (DIR 2001/42/EC) and Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC)

FOR 28	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. CREAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, S. MATTHEWS, G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH, J. WHITMORE AND I. WINTERS.
NOT PRESENT 4	CLLRS. S. BOURKE, G. DUNNE, T. FORTUNE AND G. O'NEILL.

ITEM NO 9

To consider the adoption of the Wicklow County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

Ms. Jackie Carroll, Senior Executive Officer, gave the following presentation covering the following areas and responded to queries raised:

Overview and Policy

Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998

- ▣ The **National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (NTACC)** was established, on a statutory basis, under sections 19 and 20 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998.
- ▣ **Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees**
- ▣ The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, provides the statutory basis for the formation, remit, and membership of Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees (LTACCs).
The role of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC):
 - to provide a forum where Traveller Accommodation issues can be addressed in a timely and co-ordinated manner and where decisions are reached in as far as possible on the basis of mutual consensus.
 - Membership of the LTACC consists of Travellers, Traveller Development Groups, Elected Members of the Council and Council staff.
- The Act requires each local authority, following a consultation process, to prepare, adopt and implement 5 year rolling accommodation programmes to meet the existing and projected accommodation needs of Travellers in their areas.

- These programmes provide a road map for Local Authority investment priorities over the period of the Programme and form the basis for the allocation of funding from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.
- The adoption of draft accommodation programmes is a function for the elected members of local authorities. In the event that the members of an authority fail to adopt their draft programme within the time allowed, the Chief Executive of the local authority is required to adopt the programme within one month, subject to any modifications which are considered necessary.
- Accommodation for Travellers is provided across a range of options
- These include rented accommodation, standard local authority housing, group housing schemes and halting sites.

Traveller Accommodation Programme

- ▣ Under the provisions of the Traveller Accommodation Act 1998, Wicklow County Council is required to prepare, adopt and implement a new Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) to meet the accommodation needs of the County's Traveller community, that are included on the Councils list for Social Housing Support.
- ▣ Circular 35/2018 set out requirements of Housing Authorities under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 to prepare and adopt 5 year Traveller Accommodation Programmes (TAPS) by 30th September 2019)

Timelines

- ▣ September/October 2018 – Conducted assessment of need
- ▣ November/December 2018 – Analysis of assessment of need
- ▣ January/March 2019 – Prepared the draft Traveller Accommodation Programme – included detail of need for all categories of travellers and general area, include a policy statement and strategy for securing implementation and included measures for implementing the programme
- ▣ April 2019 – Published notice in newspapers that draft programme was available for inspection and circulated to all stakeholders
- ▣ 31st May 2019 – Latest date for receipt of written submissions on draft programme
- ▣ 1st July 2019 – Submission of draft to Council members for adoption
- ▣ 30th September 2019 – Latest date for adoption of Programme
- ▣ Following adoption – publication and submission to the Minister of the adopted programme

Policy Statement

- ▣ It is the policy of Wicklow County Council to provide standard housing options as well as group housing and halting sites for the accommodation of Travellers in Co. Wicklow, in accordance with the Assessment of Need.
- ▣ These housing options are provided in recognition of Travellers' cultural identity as an Ethnic Minority group and strives to accommodate Travellers in a culturally appropriate way.

Assessment of Need

Traveller population in County (November 2018) -254 families

1. Home owners - 10
2. Tenants of standard housing/group housing – 142
3. Tenants of Halting Sites – 13

4. Residents in Basic Serviced Sites - 8
5. Private Rented (RS/RAS/HAP) 30
6. Sharing houses – 19
7. Sharing bays on halting sites – 12
8. Unauthorised sites – 19
9. Emergency Accommodation – 1

- Private Rented 30 – social housing supports in place – current housing need met – to be considered for (a) standard housing in accordance with Scheme of Letting Priorities (b) Traveller Specific Housing where family group has been identified
- Residents on Basic Serviced Sites – 8 – upgrade of site/Traveller specific accommodation is the preferred option
- Sharing /Unauthorised/Emergency – 50 - in need of Social Housing Supports
- 80 to be considered for social housing or traveller specific options – Standard housing preferred by the majority of families– in the period 2018 to date, over 33 allocations to standard housing have been made with a further 5 anticipated in 2019 - significant inroads into list
- 80 to be considered for social housing or traveller specific options
- In the period of 2018/2019 to date, over 33 allocations to standard housing have been made with a further 5 anticipated in 2019 (64% of identified demand)- 3 families allocated Traveller Specific (Halting Site) and 4 families refused temporary accommodation offers pending delivery of Group Housing Scheme

	Standard Housing	Traveller Specific Accommodation (specially built to include Group Housing, halting sites and once off single site)	Total Units of Accommodation Required
Arklow MD	7	11	18
Baltinglass MD	7		7
Bray MD	18	3	21
Greystones MD	8		8
Wicklow MD	19	7	26
Total	59	21	80

Targets in Current Plan

▣ Proposed redevelopment:

Silverbridge – redevelopment to construct 3 houses and provide pedestrian access via Herbert Update 2019 – Redevelopment deferred due to change in situation and proposed road upgrade – Units refurbished for new families and currently allocated.

▣ Proposed Initiatives

Rocky Valley, Kilmacanogue – 3 -Relocation of eligible families to agreed alternative location – Proposal to purchase rural property to accommodate the extended family
Update – upgrade of site is the preferred option for families – works ongoing
 Windgates temporary halting site with emergency services - 2 - Eligible families to be offered standard housing

Update – upgrade of site is the preferred option for families – works ongoing

Targets for TAP 2019-2024

- ▣ Redevelopment at Ballinteskin – 3 houses – legal review
- ▣ Refurbishment of Silverbridge – 3 bays complete– caretakers unit to be refurbished as bay
- ▣ Upgrade to Windgates (ongoing)
- ▣ Rocky Valley – consider options for families
- ▣ Consideration of changing bays to houses in Ballinteskin subject to funding
- ▣ Consideration of Group Schemes required in each Municipal District

Accommodation Options

The suite of accommodation options that can be provided by Wicklow County Council over the lifetime of this TAP include:

- ▣ Traveller Specific Accommodation
- ▣ Standard Social Housing – allocation of Casual Vacancies as they arise in accordance with the Scheme of Letting Priorities
- ▣ Voluntary Housing options
- ▣ RAS/HAP/Leasing options
- ▣ Transient /Transitional Accommodation – the priority of the Council

is to meet the needs of families seeking permanent accommodation before meeting the seasonal/transitional needs of Travellers

Other issues

- ▣ Increase in homelessness in Traveller families
- ▣ Difficulty in obtaining Private Rented – lack of supply/competition for supply
- ▣ Potential for extension to existing sites/group housing schemes dependant on availability of land
- ▣ Over accommodation of families – tenants downsizing to accommodate those with greater need – Department has asked WCC to implement a downsizing programme to maximise use of stock – includes Traveller specific accommodation
- ▣ Increase in illegal encampments – legal challenge and costs diminishing resources

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by a margin of 28 votes for and 4 not present to adopt the Wicklow County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.

FOR 28	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. CREAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. LEONARD, S. MATTHEWS, G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, G. WALSH, J. WHITMORE AND I. WINTERS
NOT PRESENT 4	CLLRS. G. DUNNE, T. FORTUNE, P. KENNEDY AND E. TIMMINS.

ITEM NO 10**To receive a presentation on Wicklow County Council Housing Supply Programme.**

Ms. B. Kilkenny, Senior Engineer, gave the following presentation covering the following areas and responded to queries raised:

- **Wicklow County Council Housing Capital Programme**
- **Wicklow New Build Housing Capital Programme**

Completions 2018/ 2019

SCHEME	(6 Schemes)	DELIVERY
Traditional Build		
Avondale Phase I, Rathdrum		20
Old Library, Arklow		7
O'Byrne Road, Bray		1
Delany Park, Phase 1, Arklow		17
Druid's Brook, Kilcoole		2
Oak Drive, Blessington		1
Whitehall, Baltinglass		34
TOTAL		82 Units

On Site 2019

SCHEME	(11 Schemes)	DELIVERY
Traditional Build (6 Schemes)		
Kilbride Lane, Bray		42
FCA Hall – Wicklow Town		8
Kilmantin Place, Bray		4
Farrankelly Ph 2, Greystones		24
Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue		47
Delaney Park Phase II & III, Arklow		1
Carrig Eden, Greystones		

RAPID BUILD (5 Schemes)

Whitehall, Baltinglass		34
PPP Convent Lands, Wicklow		51
Merrymeeting Lands, Rathnew ,		46
Coolattin Oats Phase 4 , Carnew		30

TOTAL 341 Units

Ms. R. Gillespie, Staff Officer, gave a presentation on the HAP covering the following areas and responded to queries raised:

- When? HAP was introduced as a new social housing support, on a phased basis. Rolled out in Wicklow in Dec 2016.

- Why? All social housing supports can now be accessed through one body – the Local Authority.
- How? Any household that is qualified for social housing support is eligible for HAP.
- 1,420 HAP tenancies created in County Wicklow.
- 48,465 active HAP supported tenancies nationally.
- Homeless HAP introduced in County Wicklow in October 2018.
- One central transactional shared service – Limerick.
- HAP available to Wicklow County Council applicants nationally via inter-authority movement.
- **HAP**
- Households source their own accommodation in the private rented market.
- Contract is between the tenant and the landlord.
- Local Authority makes a monthly payment directly to the landlord subject to rent limits.
- Tenant pays a weekly rent contribution to the Local Authority based on the household income.
- Once housed through HAP housing need is met but can be on transfer list for standard social housing.
- Households can work full time and remain in a HAP supported tenancy.
- Household expected to remain in the property for a period of 2 years unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- Maximum rent limits are prescribed by the Department.
- 7 household classes – atypical households (section 43 determinations).
- Evidence of top ups (declared) – max 30% of household income to be spent on rental payments (weekly rent and top up).

Local Authority has a 20% discretion which is prudently applied.

- **Homeless HAP**
- Homeless HAP Placefinder
 - Seeks out potential properties for households currently homeless/at risk of homelessness
 - Liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs.
 - Establishing relationships with landlords/estate agents.
 - Supporting households out of emergency accommodation and preventing households from entering emergency accommodation.
 - Full deposit and up to two months rent (at hap limit) paid to landlord in order to secure the property.
 - HAP application given priority ensuring no delay in regular monthly payments.
 - Single point of contact for landlords.
 - To date 120 households (92 families & 28 singles) have been assisted under Homeless HAP since Oct. 2018.

HAP as a flexible policy response

- Social Housing Support but with the flexibility of the private rented market
- Expands choice to areas where there is little / no social housing
- Other Local Authority accommodation is an option through the transfer list.
- Expands delivery for single person households and other groups not well served by Social Housing Stock
- Prevents families from being caught in a poverty trap, by retaining support when income goes up – no max.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

- RAS available to applicants eligible for social housing support, who are in receipt of rent supplement for a period of 18 months.
- Three way lease between the Local Authority, the Landlord and the Tenant.

- 92% of market rent paid to Landlord by Local Authority for a minimum tenure of 6 years. Tenant pays rent to Local Authority as per the Differential Rent Scheme.
- RAS accommodated applicants are deemed to have their housing need met (will be considered for allocations).
- 390 households in County Wicklow on the Rental Accommodation Scheme.

HAP –v- RAS

HAP

- ◇ Applicant must be eligible for social housing support.
- ◇ Monthly payment to Landlord is capped, limits set by Central Government.
- ◇ Tenant pays a weekly rent based on household income.
- ◇ Landlord not committed to long term contract.
- ◇ Property inspected approx. 8 months after contract is agreed.

RAS

- ◇ Applicant must be eligible for social housing support and have been in receipt of rent supplement for 18 months.
- ◇ Rent agreed between LA and landlord, in line with market rents and RPZ's.
- ◇ Tenant pays a weekly rent based on household income.
- ◇ Landlord committed to contract between of 6 years.
- ◇ Property inspected prior to contract agreed.

ITEM NO 11

To consider protocol on the opening of tenders

Elected Members were circulated with report dated the 26th of August, 2019 setting out as follows:-

Re: Protocol: Attendance of an elected member at the opening of tender documents.

At the Annual meeting in the year of the local elections, the elected members consider and agree the procedure in relation to the presence of an elected member at the opening of tender documents. The procedure has been that an elected member of the Council is entitled to be present at the opening of tenders. The Wicklow County Council procurement and policy procedures, March 2017, sets out the procedure in relation to the submission, receipt, opening and examination of tenders (non electronic).

Submission of tenders electronically has become mandatory for all contracting authorities since October, 2018. Tenders are submitted electronically via post box facility on the E Tenders website. After the expiry date the post box facility and E Tenders are unlocked by one nominated staff member and one elected member. A tender opening report is printed for the Councillor to sign for record purposes. Since the introduction of electronic tendering not all and few local authorities have an elected member present as the tender box cannot be unlocked until the closing time for receipt has passed.

At the annual meeting of the Council held on Friday the 7th June 2019, it was agreed that having regard to electronic tendering that the protocol in relation to the requirement for an elected member to be present at the opening of electronically submitted tenders be considered by the protocol committee and that a report and recommendation be submitted by the committee to the elected Council.

Following consideration of the matter at Protocol meeting held on Monday the 2nd July, 2019 the committee agreed that in order to demonstrate transparency that the presence of an elected member at the opening of tender documents when submitted non electronically remain a requirement. It was recommended that there would be no requirement for the presence of an elected member at the opening

of tenders submitted electronically via post box on the E Tenders website. The approval of the elected members is requested.

Following a brief discussion on the matter the following two proposals were put forward:

- Proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell that the procedure in relation to the opening of all tenders remain as it.
- Proposed by Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. A. Ferris that there is no requirement for an elected members to be present at the opening of tenders submitted on approved electronic systems e.g. ETenders/Supply Gov.

Both proposals were put to a vote concurrently and following a roll call the proposal put forward by Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. Anne Ferris, was agreed by a margin of 20 votes for and 9 votes for the proposal put forward by Cllr. J. Behan seconded by Cllr. J. Snell with 1 member abstaining and 2 not present viz.

Proposal by Cllr. J. Behan seconded by Cllr. J. Snell	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, G. DUNNE, P. FITZGERALD, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, M. MURPHY, G. O'NEILL AND J. SNELL. (9)
Proposal by Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy seconded by Cllr. A. Ferris.	CLLRS. V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, A. FERRIS, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, M. KAVANAGH, P. LEONARD, S. MATTHEWS, G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, L. SCOTT, G. WALSH, J. WHITMORE AND I. WINTERS (20)
NOT PRESENT	CLLRS. T. FORTUNE AND E. TIMMINS (2)
ABSTAINING	CLLR. M. CREAN (1)

ITEM NO 12

To set date for a Council meeting, before the end of September, 2019 to consider: The Setting of the Local Adjustment Factor.

It was agreed that the meeting to consider the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor would be held on Monday 23rd September, 2019 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Wicklow.

ITEM NO 13

To note the 1st draft of the Wicklow County Council Annual Report, 2018

The Elected Members were circulated with the first draft of the Wicklow County Council Annual Report, 2018 on 28th July, 2019 and noted that the report was in its first draft phase only and would be brought back to the elected members for consideration again.

Question submitted by Councillor Lourda Scott: The Cathaoirleach advised that Cllr. Lourda Scott had submitted a question for the Chief Executive: Cllr Lourda Scott asked:-

1. 'Acknowledging section 6 of the Irish Sign Language Act 2017 and the duties of public bodies therein, will the council will have its public meetings interpreted by an Irish Sign Language

interpreter and that this interpretation will be made publicly available with the minutes of the Council?

2. 'Acknowledging that members of the deaf community have specific requirements in accessing council services, will the council provide interpreters for Irish Sign Language speakers in line with section 6 of the Irish Sign Language Act 2017?

The Chief Executive advised that there are currently no plans to provide ISL interpretation at its Council meetings, that the meetings are live text streamed currently and that the transcript of the meetings are uploaded to the Council's Website. He also advised that the Council will do all that is considered reasonable for persons with a hearing impairment to access services.

Protocol Committee Membership: The Cathaoirleach advised that Cllr. J. Snell and Cllr. S. Matthews were members of the Protocol Committee for the life of the previous Council and were seeking to be nominated to the protocol committee to provide a balance of membership and that this had been agreed at CPG that morning. It was agreed that the recommendation be approved and that the formal ratification of membership be listed on the October agenda.

Special Purpose Vehicle for Greystones Harbour: Cllr. M. Crean requested a report back on the status of this entity following on from the last meeting. It was agreed to request the Director of service to provide this information at the October meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**CLLR. IRENE WINTERS
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER
SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 7th of October, 2019.