

Minutes of The Housing Strategic Policy Committee of Wicklow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96 on Wednesday 6th November 2024.

In Attendance: Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond, Cllr. Gerry O’Neill, Cllr. Mark Barry (Via zoom), Cllr. Peter Stapleton, Mr. David Porter (WCC), Mr. John Douglas (Trade Union), Mr. Marc Devereux (WCC), Mr. Michael Nicholson (WCC), Mr. Paddy Mordaunt (Business Commercial), Mr. Seán Keane (WCC), Mr. T.J. Foley (Development Construction) (CIF), Ms. Caroline Fox (WCC), Ms. Cici Zheng (Community/Voluntary), Ms. Emma McMillen (Homeless Sector) (Simon Community), Ms. Kathleen Kelleher (Social Inclusion), Ms. Lynda Healy (WCC), Ms. Aideen Russell (WCC)

Apologies: Cllr. Gail Dunne, Mr. Joe Lane, Cllr. Paul O’Brien (Delayed, arrived late)

Cathaoirleach Richmond opened the November meeting of The Housing Strategic Policy Committee and welcomed all present.

A brief introduction by all present was made.

1. To note the Housing SPC minutes for 2023

Mr. Nicholson stated that minutes would not be confirmed or signed as a new committee was now in place, he advised that previous minutes are available if anyone wished to view them.

2. To consider the Draft Key Strategic Goals for the Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029.

All present were advised that the public consultation period of for the Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029 was now closed. The key Strategic Goals were circulated to the members of this SPC for their consideration. Ms. Fox advised the members to revert to her if they had any suggestions on these goals. The Plan is due before the Members of the full Council Meeting in December 2024. It was advised that the adopted Corporate Plan will be in place for 5 years and that it is the responsibility of the SPC to carefully observe the objectives of same.

3. Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024 – 2029. Adopted by Wicklow County Council on Monday, 2nd September 2024.

A copy of the adopted SPC scheme 2024-2029 was distributed before the meeting and SPC Members were advised to contact Ms. Fox if there were any questions regarding same.

4. Overview of Housing, SPC and SPC Training.

- Ms. Fox gave an informative presentation showing an overview of the Directorates involved with the Housing SPC. Each Director present gave an overview of their directorate, stating the demands, challenges and targets of each.
 - Ms. Fox agreed to forward a copy of the presentation to all SPC Members via email.
- Ms. Fox reminded SPC Members that SPC training is scheduled for the 19th and 21st November 2024. Details of which have been circulated by email.

- Suggested day, dates and time were shown and agreed for future SPC meetings for 2024 - 2025:

(1) Wednesday – 4 th December 2024 – 2:30pm	(4) Wednesday – 25 th June 2025 – 2:30pm
(2) Wednesday – 26 th February 2025 – 2:30pm	(5) Wednesday – 3 rd September 2025 – 2:30pm
(3) Wednesday – 30 th April 2025 – 2:30pm	(6) Wednesday – 5 th November 2025 – 2:30pm

5. Sale of Derelict Properties Policy.

Mr. Keane gave a presentation on the Sale of Derelict Properties Policy to the SPC Members.

Both Mr. Keane & Mr. Nicholson explained the issues regarding this policy as it stands, resulting in stock being sold way below market value. They informed the SPC Members that, with their agreement, a proposal will go before The Members at a Full Council Meeting to change the above policy to allow Wicklow County Council to sell via the open market. The profit made would be ring fenced for refurbishment works within each Municipal District area.

- All agreed that the proposal should go before the full council.

6. Correspondence.

A copy of the Wicklow County Council Draft Policy for Rightsizing and Allocation of Older Persons' Accommodation 2024 was circulated to the SPC Members, they were asked to review the Draft Policy and come back with any recommendations and amendments they might have.

- Ms. Kelleher stated that rightsizing and housing options for our Ageing Population should consist of a minimum of two bed accommodation to allow for the needs of care givers and relatives visiting the occupants.
- Cllr. O'Neill concurred with Ms. Kelleher and added that Wicklow County Council should take the lead in rightsizing our housing stock and building Age and Disability Friendly developments.
- Mr. Nicholson stated that all these ideas come down to funding, he is happy to write to The Department regarding same.

7. Any other business: None.

8. Date of next meeting.

The next Housing Strategic Policy Committee meeting of Wicklow County Council will be held on Wednesday, 4th December 2024 at 2:30pm.

There being no other business, Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond, concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
Michael Nicholson
Director of Service
Social Development (Housing & Community) Directorate

Dated: _____