

Minutes of The Housing Strategic Policy Committee of Wicklow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96 on Wednesday 4th December 2024.

In Attendance: Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond, Cllr. Gerry O’Neill (Via Zoom), Cllr. Mark Barry, Cllr. Peter Stapleton, Cllr. Paul O’Brien, Mr. David Porter (WCC), Mr. John Douglas (Trade Union), Mr. Joe Lane (WCC), 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. Kathleen Kelleher (Social Inclusion) (Via Zoom), Ms. Caroline Fox (WCC), Ms. Cici Zheng (Community/Voluntary) (Via Zoom), Ms. Helena Fallon (WCC), Ms. Lynda Healy (WCC), Ms. Aideen Russell (WCC)

Apologies: Cllr. Gail Dunne, Ms. Emma McMillen (Homeless Sector)(Simon Community)

Cathaoirleach Richmond opened the December meeting of The Housing Strategic Policy Committee and welcomed all present. He apologised for the delay in proceedings due to a technical issue.

1. To confirm and sign minutes of The Housing Strategic Policy Committee of Wicklow County Council dated 6th November 2024.

5. Sale of Derelict Properties Policy – Minutes 6th November 2024.

Mr. Douglas requested that the wording “Exceptional Circumstances” be added to the November Minutes. The wording of the minutes were changed to read, ***They informed the SPC Members that, with their agreement, a proposal will go before The Members at a Full Council Meeting in the new year, to change the above policy to allow the sale of non-viable/derelict properties, under exceptional circumstances only, via the open market.***

2. Matters Arising.

Mr. Devereux requested and it was agreed through The Chair to swap item 5 on the agenda to 3 to allow him to leave the meeting early as he had another meeting to attend.

3. Housing – Integration

Mr. Devereux advised that there was very little happening in the Local Authority Integration Team for the Housing SPC to consider. DCEDIY (Department of Children) have indicated that Wicklow will be accommodating some Refugees late in 2025 or early 2026. This would be under IRPP3 or the third round of the Irish Refugee Protection Program.

As there were no more Policy matters from the Emergency Response Directorate, Mr. Devereux asked the chair to excuse him and thanked the members of the SPC for their time.

4. Housing – Services

Presentation on “Housing Needs Assessment 2024” from Ms. Caroline Fox - A/Senior Executive Officer – Social Development (Housing & Community) Directorate.

Ms. Fox gave an informative presentation on the Housing Needs Assessment 2024. A discussion was held and details of the presentation discussed. A copy of the presentation will be emailed to all.

5. Housing – Capital Delivery

Presentation from Ms. Helena Fallon – Senior Engineer, Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery Directorate.

Ms. Fallon Gave a detailed presentation to the members showing an overview of Housing Capital. Including, the current Affordable Housing Programmes on site, recently completed and in design for the years 2023, 2024 & 2025/2026. Also presented were Infill Schemes 2023/2024, Vacant Homes in the CPO process and applications under the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. Ms. Fallon also discussed the total estimated delivery of projected Part V, Turnkey and Approved Housing Bodies build delivery for 2024. Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Lane and Ms. Fallon answered questions from the members.

6. Correspondence – None.

7. Any other business:

Cllr. O'Neill voiced his concerns regarding the relocation of Ukrainian families from The Avon in Blessington.

8. Date of next meeting.

The next Housing Strategic Policy Committee meeting of Wicklow County Council will be held on Wednesday, 26th February 2025 at 2:30pm.

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

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH, Cllr. Graham Richmond

Dated: _____