

Chairman's Report
Meeting of 24th April, 2019 held in John's Green House
SPC 3 – Housing

Item 1 Adoption of Minutes of meeting held 14th February 2019

Proposed : Cllr McCarthy

Seconded: Cllr A McGuinness

No Matters arising

Item 2 Incremental Purchase Scheme (IPS)

Mary Mulholland gave an update on the proposed Incremental Purchase Scheme (IPS).

IPS Scheme was circulated to SPC members at the previous SPC meeting held on 14th February for review and comment.

- It was agreed to amend the draft scheme to remove the prescribed percentage of units set aside for IPS. Instead the membership agreed that the number of IPS units identified for sale will be decided on a scheme by scheme basis.
- It was also agreed that the houses on offer should be limited to three and four beds only as there was a high demand for one and two bed units to meet current social housing need.
- It was also explained that the scheme was not only targeting those households on the current housing list but also existing tenants of local authorities including those in rental accommodation arrangements and in Voluntary Housing.

Item 2 Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements

Members were circulated with a copy of Circular (APH 01/2019) and Regulations (SI 81 of 2019) together with the draft ***Scheme of Priority*** for discussion.

Members were updated on new provisions especially Regulation 3, 4 and 5.

Members were advised that the Council are

1. required to adopt a ***Scheme of Priority*** for the assessment of applications to purchase affordable housing before June 18th 2019 and that
2. A scheme of priority must be done by a local authority, even if a local authority does not have affordable homes.
3. Obligated to submit the draft Scheme of Priority to the Minister for comment

In summary, members were advised that the Regulations received in recent weeks only deal with the adoption of a Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements, eligibility criteria and payment arrangements have not yet been finalised and further regulations and guidance will issue before year end on these two aspects of the process.

It was also pointed out to the members that the Council cannot accept any applications at the moment.

Item 3: Policy on Downsizing/Rightsizing.

Martin Mullally outlined the work that has progressed since last meeting on downsizing resulting in amendments to the draft policy. It was explained the focus of the current policy is to target Council tenants first to downsize where appropriate. At some future time the downsizing initiative might be extended to include private houses where elderly persons who own their private dwelling within the administrative area of Kilkenny County Council are seeking to downsize.

AOB:

1. Cllr Fidelis Doherty requested clarification on acquisitions acquired in 2018.
2. Cllr Andrew McGuinness thanked all members for their contributions and co-operation and extended his best wishes to all those members seeking re-election. He was joined by all other SPC Members thanking the executive for their work to date and especially in relation to the outcomes on capital delivery. All members present thanked the Chair for his fairness and management of the meetings.

Mary Mulholland expressed her gratitude to the membership for assisting the Council in making worthwhile housing policy the effects of which are seen on the ground, especially in the area of homeless services.

Meeting closed