

Housing SPC Meeting
Agenda
10th December 2020

1. To note the minutes of the Housing SPC meeting held on the 8th October 2020.

2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

3. Discussion of referred motions – (Details on page 2)

Cllr Brendan Weld, provision of demountable dwellings

Cllr Seamie Moore, identification of specific estates for intervention

4. Correspondence/List of circulars

5. Rebuilding Ireland update

6. Work Programme

Review of Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan

Review of Kildare Council's Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability

Review of Scheme of Priority for Affordable Purchase Arrangements

Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

Rebuilding Ireland

Choice Based Lettings

7. Date of next meeting

Councillor Brendan Weld

That the council return to the policy of providing “temporary demountable dwellings” for people who have a site. This would help to alleviate the ongoing shortage of suitable accommodation for rent.

Report:

Demountable dwellings built to the relevant standards for housing are subject to the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and planning permission is required. The Council has, in the past, provided a limited number of demountable dwellings on humanitarian grounds, and where the site was in the ownership of the individual/family.

There is currently no policy in place for provision of demountable dwellings and the number of requests for such accommodation is relatively low. In addition, there is no specific funding provided for provision of demountable dwellings. Subject to the agreement of the members it is recommended that this matter be referred to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

Motion - Councillor Moore

That the council take a leadership role and designate a wraparound programme with other agencies for one social housing development per year in each of the five major towns in Kildare, to prevent a rise in poverty related social problems as have arisen in other areas.

Report:

The council employs tenant liaison officers, community development workers and social workers, who all carry out key roles in engaging with our tenants and the wider community. Their work is supplemented by support from municipal district engineers and their staff and the environment department for example, who all play a part in maintaining the physical and social fabric of our housing developments. Inter-agency engagement is, however, an important factor in this work and our staff liaise

with, for example, An Garda Síochána, HSE and Tusla, on a regular basis. Inter-agency working groups have come together in the past to focus attention on particular housing estates and this approach has worked well in supporting the community and resolving issues.

The Chair of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee, Councillor Brendan Weld, has identified a review of Kildare County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Policy as a priority. This has been agreed by the members of the SPC and included in the work programme. As part of the review Councillor Weld has requested that an inter-agency group be established to assist in this process. Work has started on bringing together expertise from a number of agencies, including An Garda Síochána, Tusla, Kildare Education and Training Board, Co Kildare Leader Partnership and CYPSC. It is anticipated that the engagement with these agencies, in addition to input from Kildare County Council staff, such as tenant liaison officers, social workers and community development workers, will produce a robust Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, which will be brought before the plenary council in 2021 for consideration. The involvement of external agencies in this process will assist in continuing to build relationships between local authority staff who are working on the ground with our tenants and key people, also working in our communities, who can assist when specific issues arise.

As part of the review process I will request the SPC to consider the proposal set out in the councillor's motion