

**Minutes of Meeting of SPC 3 – Housing**  
**Held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 via Teams**

**Present:** Cllr Eamon Aylward, Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, Cllr. Joe Lyons, John Bourke, Yvonne Moriarty, Cllr Denis Hynes, Brian Dunlop

**In attendance:** Mary Mullholland, Michael Leahy, David Shortall, Maria O’Shea, Kelley Murphy, Mary Cashin

Mark Leonard & Noel Sherry – Good Shepard Centre

Anne Marie Walsh & Louise Casey - HSE

**Apologies:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Martin Brett, Mags Morrissey, Lisa Morris

Cllr Patrick Fitzpatrick, Cllr Joe Malone

---

Cllr Eamon Aylward, Chairperson, delivered the introductions and welcomed everyone to the Teams meeting.

**Item 1 – Minutes of Meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Minutes of Meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Minutes of Meeting of the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**All minutes were agreed**

Proposed: Cllr. Eamon Aylward

Seconded: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness

**Item 2 – Choice Based Letting**

David Shortall gave an overview of the proposed Choice Based Letting Scheme with a Powerpoint presentation outlining the process involved, the requirements of the scheme and advantages the new scheme will bring. It is envisaged that this new scheme will have many advantages to include the reduction in the amount of refusals on offers of accommodation, reduction in the time properties are left vacant and will be a fair & transparent system for applicants.

Michael Leahy advised that the system will be operated the same as Wexford County Council which has proven to be successful.

Mary Mulholland reiterated the importance of applicants updating the Housing Section with any change in circumstances that may impact their housing needs and also the point that no bids on properties will be accepted after the closing date.

Clarification was given around issues raised as follows;

Access to internet & support accessing the new online system. Library staff & Housing staff would provide support where possible to those without an internet service or who have difficulties using a computer.

All applicants on the Housing List will receive information in relation to the new Choice Based Letting Scheme

If an applicant expresses an interest in a property advertised and is offered the property, and subsequently refuses the offer, they will not be entitled to bid on another property for a period of 12 months

Maria O'Shea forwarded the Powerpoint presentation to all members

An updated Scheme of Letting Priorities will be required in order for the Choice Based Letting Scheme to be implemented

Mary Mulholland went through all areas that have been changed or have been added to the new scheme and asked that the scheme is reviewed by all members.

**Contributions:** Cllr Eugene McGuinness, Cllr Joe Lyons, Yvonne Moriarty, Mary Mullholland, Michael Leahy

**Action:** Kelley Murphy to send copy of Scheme of Letting Priorities to all members for review.

**Action:** The Director of Services asked the members to go through the Scheme of Letting Priorities & any questions to be returned by email to Kelley Murphy by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

### **Item 3 – Homeless Services**

Mary Mulholland welcomed Mark Leonard, Noel Sherry, Anne Marie Walsh & Louise Casey to the meeting.

Mary Mulholland asked that the record be corrected in relation to how the Homeless Services are rolled out as mentioned in the last SPC. Homeless Services are implemented as per requirements and regulations.

Michael Leahy outlined all available accommodation available to service users and also highlighted the issues surrounding the lack of Private Rented Accommodation available to allow service users transition from Homeless Accommodation.

Louise Lacey outlined the funding available and provided – 90% from Dept and 10% from Kilkenny County Council totalling the sum of €496,859.00. This funding covers 35 beds, 6 full time shift attendants (24 hr cover) and all other overheads to include Insurance, Utilities, Maintenance, Security etc. Louise confirmed additionally funding is provided during cold weather (from November to March only).

**Contributions:** Cllr Eugene McGuinness, Mary Mulholland, Michael Leahy, Noel Sherry, Yvonne Moriarty, Ann Marie Walsh, Cllr Joe Lyons, Louise Casey

#### **Item 4 – Capital Update**

Mary Mullholland proposed that the capital update would be deferred until the next meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October due to time constraints.

All agreed.

#### **Item 5 – Date for next SPC Meetings**

CLlr Eamon Aylward proposed that a meeting in relation to the Scheme of Letting Priorities be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 via Teams

CLlr Eamon Aylward proposed the next SPC meeting be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 via Teams

All present agreed.

#### **Item 6 – AOB**

CLlr Eugene McGuinness queried if there was any policy regarding the control of overgrown trees effecting council tenants. Mary Mulholland advised there is no policy that covers this but would seek further information on the matter.

Mary Mullholland asked that Affordable Housing is discussed at the next meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023

This concluded the business of the meeting.