



Minutes for Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Meeting for Housing,
Community, Libraries & Culture SPC meeting

Held on MS Teams on 30th March 2021

Present (Councillor and PPN members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Adam Wyse • Cllr John Pratt • Cllr Jason Murphy • Cllr Donal Barry • Cllr Conor McGuinness • Mike Farrell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Breda Brennan • Cllr Damien Geoghegan • Cllr Seamus Ryan • Cllr Eamon Quinlan • Vince Rellis • Una Dunphy
Present (WCCC Officials)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivan Grimes • Catherine Horan • Noeleen Osborne • Mary Conway • Leo Kennedy • Collette O'Brien • Susie Whelan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Johnston • Kieran Keogh • Don Tuohy • Jane Cantwell • Paula Paul
Apologies		

Item No.	Decisions Taken	Responsibility/Action/When?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Meeting 23rd February 2021 were proposed by Cllr Damien Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr Seamus Ryan and agreed. 	Adopted minutes to be published on website and added to Decision Time
2. Matters arising and updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Breda Brennan asked if the Tenant Handbook has been completed yet. Catherine Horan replied that there is still some work to be done and the draft document will be brought back to the SPC. 	Tenant Handbook to be reviewed at next meeting
3. Vacant Homes Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Johnston informed the SPC that unfortunately the sub-group didn't meet since the last meeting. • Una Dunphy asked that the sub-group meet ASAP. Paul Johnston will schedule a meeting for next week to review and update the current plan. 	Sub-group to meet prior to next meeting
4. Choice Based Letting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Horan spoke about the Choice Based Letting scheme, we need to identify if the scheme will work long-term, a survey with the LGMA if successful can change the practice and we can offer accommodation and advertise choice based letting then review after three months to see how it's working. • Cllr Jason Murphy and Cllr Seamus Ryan both fully support and said that it's important to be transparent. • Cllr Adam Wyse asked if the waiting system could be looked at in the context of someone choosing a settled 	Changes to CBL and Areas of Choice to be implemented – SPC to be updated on impacts



	<p>area where there are few vacancies and then being stuck with waiting a long time on the Housing list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catherine Horan replied that there are 35 areas on the list of choice at the moment and the revised housing form is due mid April. We are looking at changing these areas to the electoral areas and choice is only for 12 months. This will reduce the 35 areas to six.• Cllr Geoghegan, Cllr Pratt and Cllr McGuinness all agreed this would be an improvement. Cllr McGuinness also suggested a tick box on the housing form for people who want to live in a Gaeltach area.• Cllr Seamus Ryan asked if the Metro which contains three electoral areas should be counted as one. Cllr Geoghegan and Cllr Adam Wyse agreed and Cllr Murphy suggested Metro be changed to Dunmore, Tramore and City.• Cllr Breda Brennan said she didn't agree with two things, Choice Based Letting lets you bid on any area and if you choose from the list of choice you are stuck with that area.• Cllr Jason Murphy is conscious of someone being offered a house in Tramore when they don't have transport and their refusal would send them back to the end of the housing list, this would not be fair. Cllr Pratt, Cllr Wyse and Cllr Geoghan agreed with this.• Ivan Grimes replied that he understands the issues and these points can be looked into.• Cllr Breda Brennan suggested that Choice Based Letting should be available for all tenants and they should be offered a tenancy in one of their preferred areas.• This was agreed by all.• Catherine Horan said that in practice it's the way that it's done.	
4. Waterford Communities Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collette O'Brien updated the group on the applications for Community Grants, the scheme closed for applications at the end of February 2021 and of the 650 applicants 318 eligible groups applied. Cllr John Pratt congratulated Collette on her great work and he said that these groups need this funding now more than ever.	Grants approved by Plenary Council
5. Library Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seamus Ryan reported that the sub-group has had great discussions at their meetings over the last few months. He thanks Noeleen Osborne and Jane Cantwell for all their help and knowledge and the service is second to none. They are looking at expanding the services to Kilcohan/St John's Park areas and looking at setting up mobile libraries. Cllr Ryan asked if the council would have a small van that may be used to give a limited library service where no service is available. There is no funding available for expansion at the moment and Cllr Ryan asked that this topic be kept on the agenda and maybe the council	Any update to be discussed at next meeting



	<p>could allocate a small amount of funds yearly to the help areas with no library services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Wyse also commented that the library services have been doing home deliveries during the pandemic and there has been a huge uptake by those in need county wide. They have also been assisting schools with accessing class novels and social inclusion. Library staff were happy to use their own vehicles and funding for a library vehicle could be looked into. 	
6 Festival and Events Funding Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kieran Keogh spoke about the level of funding for this project being 1.2million yearly. He went through the Draft Policy and the Discussion Document, he asked that the SPC members look at these documents and bring back questions to the next SPC meeting where it will be discussed again. • 	For discussion at next meeting
7. Walk of Fame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Cantwell gave the group an overview of the meeting of the sub-group, they looked at existing best practice models and there is still some work to do, they will meet again in April. Cllr Adam Wyse asked for a review at the next SPC meeting. 	Review to be provided at next meeting
8. AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr John Pratt asked about the backlog of on-going maintenance issues due to the Covid 19 pandemic saying we are short staffed and we need to find a way of tackling these issues. • Paul Johnston replied that we are trying to move away from the worst performing sources of energy to more energy efficient sources and this is a starting point for future retrofits. • Una Dunphy asked about what interventions will be put in place for the community in relation to LTACC. Una also asked who is on the board of representatives. • Ivan Grimes replies there are ten members and that Catherine Horan and he are council representatives including two representatives from housing, three from the Traveling community and three councilors. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Date/time next meeting	<p>The intended location is Microsoft Teams meeting is proposed for Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 12.30-2.00pm</p> <p>Members were asked to send in any agenda items they wished to raise in advance.</p>	ALL Agenda Inclusion Deadline is -7 days from meeting