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**Strategic Policy Committee – Housing, Regeneration & Planning**

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**Minutes of Meeting  
held on 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2023  
at Laois County Council**

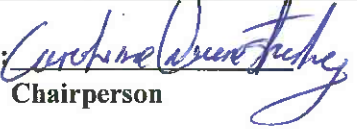
**In the Chair:** Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C (CDS)  
**Present:** Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C. (CF)  
Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C. (PMCE)  
Barry Walsh, M.C.C. (BW)  
Thomasina Connell, M.C.C.(TC)  
Michael Kelly (MK)  
**In attendance:** Angela McEvoy (AMcE), Director of Services, Housing and Planning  
Georgina Ireland (GI) S.E.O. Housing;  
Fionnuala Daly (FD) Senior Social Worker Housing;  
David O’Hara (DOH) Senior Planner;  
Louise McEvoy, (LMCE) A.O. Housing,  
Lisa Bergin (LB) A/S.O. Housing  
**Apologies:** Trevor Hennessy (TH), A/Senior Engineer Housing  
Sheelagh Coyle (SC)  
Thomas Carolan,(TCN), Heritage Officer, Laois


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	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Minutes of Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023</b> Proposed by <b>BW</b> , seconded by <b>TC</b> .	Agreed	N/A
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of Special Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2023</b> Proposed by <b>CDS</b> , seconded by <b>BW</b> .	Agreed	N/A
<b>3</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	No Matters Arising	N/A

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>
4	<b>Presentation on roads &amp; footpaths accessibility by Pat Whelan (Irish Wheelchair Association).</b>	<p><b>Presentation given on behalf of Pat Whelan by BW.</b>  <b>CDS - Thanked Pat for attending</b>            Pat thanked <b>BW</b> for meeting with him one on one to discuss issued.  <b>CDS – Opened floor for questions – no questions arising for Housing Regeneration and Planning SPC</b>  <b>TC – Asked Pat if Irish Wheelchair association had made a submission to area plan for Portlaoise.</b>            Pat confirmed they are in the process of doing a submission.  <b>CDS – Again thanked Pat for his time and attendance.</b></p>	<b>BW</b>
5	<b>Quarterly report on Housing Disability Strategy.</b>	<p><b>FD - presented quarterly report on Housing Disability Strategy to Meeting.</b>  <b>CDS – Opened the floor to questions on report – no questions arising.</b>  <b>CDS – Requested that FD keep meeting updated regarding audit of council estates for accessibility</b>  <b>CDS – Thanked FD for update.</b></p>	<b>FD</b>
6	<b>Progress Report by DOS, including update on delivery of new units.</b>	<p><b>Progress report presented by AMcE</b>  <b>CDS – Opened meeting for questions</b>  <b>TC – Asked if housing strategy had been done with allowances made for census results issued this week.</b>  <b>AMcE – Believes that sufficient provisions had been made.</b>  <b>CDS – Asked if there was any update on when houses we are awaiting on are due to come in</b>  <b>AMcE – No update since Council meeting on Monday 29/05/2023, Will update Council meeting in June.</b>  <b>Refusal Statistics</b>  <b>CDS – Queried the refusal rate in report of 63 and would it be possible to get a breakdown of those that had more than 2 refusals</b>  <b>FD – Under legislation they are allowed to refuse twice.</b>  <b>CDS – Queried if anyway points can be penalised for refusal of reasonable property could provision be made for it in the Scheme of Allocations?</b>  <b>FD – Only able to downgrade points where a notice to quit is withdrawn.</b>  <b>GI - Hopes to have an issues paper on Scheme of Allocations for next meeting of this SPC and that Draft Scheme of Allocations will be ready by SPC last meeting of the year.</b>  <b>CDS – Thanked AMcE for update.</b></p>	<b>AMcE</b>
7	<b>Draft Development Contribution Scheme</b>	<p><b>Presentation on Draft Development Contribution Scheme by DK</b>  <b>CDS – Thanked Donal for the presentation asked if any questions arising. None arising</b>  <b>DK – Draft scheme will be out in public domain for 6</b></p>	<b>DK</b>

		<p>weeks</p> <p><b>AMcE</b> – Asked those in attendance to encourage groups to engage and make submissions. Early meeting in September to vote on Scheme.</p> <p><b>CF</b> – Sought confirmation it would be a full Council Vote.</p> <p><b>AMcE</b> – Confirmed would go before full Council and that C.E report on same for consideration would be issued over the summer.</p> <p><b>DK</b> - Asked meeting if any views on presentation – none arising.</p>	
8	<b>Regeneration schemes and projects</b>	<p><b>Presentation on Regeneration schemes and projects given by AMcE and GI.</b></p> <p><b>AMcE</b> – Noted 21 applications received for exemptions from planning under change of use.</p> <p><b>G.I</b> – Updated the meeting in relation to CPO activation looking to return properties to use – National target of 400 set. Laois target of 60 must enter programme. Clarification to be sought from the Department regarding CPO of 16 derelict properties in Laois and if these are part of 60 target.</p> <p><b>G.I</b> – Laois currently have 62 properties on the books - Laois will exceed target.</p> <p><b>AMcE</b> – Opened for questions.</p> <p><b>BW</b> – Queried in relation to Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund and back dating</p> <p><b>GI</b> – Dates of commencement is what is considered</p>	<b>AMcE &amp; GI</b>
9	<b>Updates on Circulars</b>	<p><b>AMcE</b> - updated members on circulars for Planning</p> <p><b>G.I</b> – updated members on circulars for Housing</p>	<b>AMcE &amp; G.I</b>
10	<b>AOB</b>	<p><b>CDS</b> – Requested confirmation and possible date change for next meeting – originally set for the 14<sup>th</sup> of September proposed change to the 12<sup>th</sup> of September at 11am</p> <p>Agreed with those in attendance.</p>	<b>CDS</b>
<b>Next Meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> of September @ 11:00</b>			

Signed:   
**Chairperson**

  
**Director of Services**  
**Housing, Regeneration and Planning**

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2023

