

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

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**At Laois County Council**

**In the Chair:** Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C. (CDS)  
**Present:** Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C. (CF)  
 Pascal McEvoy, M.C.C. (PMCE)  
 Barry Walsh, M.C.C. (BW) (MS Teams)  
 Thomasina Connell (TC)  
 Sheelagh Coyle (SC)  
 Yvonne McKeon

**In Attendance:** Angela McEvoy (AMCE), Director of Services, Housing and Planning  
 David O'Hara, (DOH) Senior Planner  
 Fionnuala Daly (FD) Senior Social Worker  
 Donal Kiely, (DK) Senior Executive Planner  
 Louise McEvoy (MNCE) A.O. Planning  
 Antoinette Brennan (AB) Broadband Officer, Planning  
 Marie Murray (MM) A.O., Planning

**Apologies:** Michael Kelly (MK)  
 Georgina Ireland (GI) S.E.O. Housing

	Agenda Item	Action	By Whom
1	Minutes of Meeting of 20/02/2024	Proposed by: PMcE Seconded by: CF	
2	No matters arising		
3.	Progress Report	Director's update provided by AMcE. Queries regarding the price of affordable homes and the delivery of affordable homes. LMCE outlined the qualification criteria details for applicants applying. AMCE outlined the process of securing properties through part 5 and the policy within the development plan regarding incorporation of 4 bed houses & housing with disability access. DOH outlined the universal design standards for planning and achieving different type homes.	AMCE
4.	Quarterly Report on Housing Disability Strategy	Presentation provided by FD -- 27% of all allocations year to date 2024 - have been to people with disabilities.	FD

		Strategic Housing Plan for People with Disabilities 2021 - 2026	
5.	Update on Traveller Action Programme 2024	Update provided by FD	FD
6.	Update on the Broadband Digital Strategy	<p>Presentation provided by AB Local Digital Strategy 2020-2024 is due to expire this year and a proposal to extend will be brought before the members in July 2024.</p> <p>Reference to the Gigabyte Act and its impact on the Local Authorities discussed.</p>	AB/ACME
7.	Update on LAPS	<p>Presentation provided by David O'Hara.</p> <p>Carlow Graiguecullen Joint Urban Area Plan will issue to members on the 24<sup>th</sup> April for approval.</p> <p>The draft Portarlinton LAP to go on public display and open for consultations early May 2024</p> <p>Draft Mountmellick LAP to go on public display and open for consultations early May 2024</p> <p>The draft LAP for Portlaoise is open for public consultation sessions, the 2<sup>nd</sup> session to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024. AMCE asked if this can be promoted through the chamber of commerce to highlight engagement with the public.</p> <p>AMCE outlined the difference in the Mountmellick draft LAP and the Town First Plan which will run consecutively. LAP is a statutory plan under Planning &amp; Development Legislation. The Town First Plan is a business plan led by Town Regeneration Officer.</p>	DOH
8	Updates on Circulars/new Legislation/new schemes	Updates for Planning provided by DOH	DOH
9	A.O.B.	CDS acknowledged the work undertaken by the Housing Regeneration & Planning SPC over the past 5 years and thanked both members of the SPC and Council staff.	

Signed

Paddy Broder  
Chairperson

Signed

Ann Coy  
Director of Services

Dated: 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2024

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