



LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**HOUSING SERVICES
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting of Housing Services Strategic Policy Committee held in the
Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Longford on
Tuesday, 2nd May 2017 at 2.30 p.m.**

PRESIDING: Councillor Gerry Warnock, Chairperson.

PRESENT: Councillors – John Browne, P.J. Reilly and Paul Ross.
Ms. Eileen Finan, Ms. Stephanie Igoe and Ms. Tess Murphy.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services.
Mr. Gerry Gillen, Senior Executive Officer.
Ms. Anne Glancy, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGY: Councillor Martin Mulleady.
Mr. Derek Scanlon.

**MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATOR:** Ms. Anne Lee.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES.

On the proposal of Councillor P.J. Reilly seconded by Ms. T. Murphy, the Minutes of Housing Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 1st February 2017 were confirmed and adopted.

MATTERS ARISING.

None.

REPAIR AND LEASING SCHEME.

Anne Glancy outlined the details of the Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS), as circulated, and replied to queries raised.

John Brannigan referred to the results from Census 2016 regarding the number of vacant houses in County Longford. He stated that the local authority will carry out an analysis of the figures published recently in the media to confirm the accuracy of the result.

A.O.B.

Midlands Simon Community.

T. Murphy referred to the recent media report regarding the work of Midlands Simon Community. Tess stated that Midlands Simon work in conjunction with the Local Authority regarding housing requirements for homeless people. Tess confirmed to the meeting that there have been a small number of “rough sleepers” in the County. Most of these people suffer from mental health issues. Tess requested that Midlands Simon Community be afforded an opportunity to address a meeting of Longford County Council regarding their work on behalf of the homeless.

Ms. T. Murphy proposed and Councillor G. Warnock seconded that Longford County Council be requested to forward a letter to the Minister for Social Protection requesting that adequate funding be allocated for the provision of additional resources and support services for vulnerable people with mental health issues in County Longford.

E. Finan proposed and Councillor P.J. Reilly seconded that Longford County Council be requested to forward a letter to the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government requesting that additional funding be allocated for the provision of social housing in the County, particularly as there is a critical shortage of housing accommodation in the Granard area.

Rent Supplement.

Councillor P. Ross proposed and Councillor G. Warnock seconded that Longford County Council be requested to forward a letter to the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government requesting that the current threshold for Rent Supplement be amended to allow for the rapid rise in the cost of rent in the private sector.

Choice Based Letting Scheme.

A. Glancy confirmed that the Choice Based Letting Scheme will be rolled out within the next two to three months.

NEXT MEETING.

Tuesday, 5th September 2017.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: Anne Lee
Anne Lee,
Meetings Administrator.

Confirmed and adopted at Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 5th September 2017.

Signed: _____
Chairperson.