

Tuairisc Oibre/Reporting Template for Galway City Community Forum (GCCF) Reps attending meetings.

Please complete and return to GCCF Office, C/o City Hall or email to communityforum@galwaycity.ie



Cruinniú /Name of Meeting	Housing SPC
Ionadaí FPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) Name of GCCF Rep (note-taker)	Diarmaid O'Sullivan
Dáta & Suite Date & Location of Meeting:	26/1/2015
I láthair/ Attendance	Cllr Declan McDonnell, (Chair), Cllr. Ollie Crowe, Diarmaid O'Sullivan & Paul Hargaden (Community Forum:PPN reps), Cllr Niall McNeilis, Cllr Anna Marley, Cllr John Walsh, Paul Carney (CIF) Tom Connell, Laurena Mitchell, Liam Hanrahan, Anne Ruane, Siobhan O'Donoghue, Michael Forde, Claire Ni Fhlairthearta – Galway City Council Housing Department

Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:

Capital Programme

Laurena Mitchell gave an update on the Capital Programme. €2.5M was secured in March 2014 under the incentive programme. 2 Units in the Claddagh, which it is anticipated should be completed by Q1 2015 and 30 unit under phase 1 of a development on the Ballymoneen Road, are under construction. It is planned to build 67 units in total at the Ballymoneen site and contract/tender documents are well advanced.

2 houses damaged by fire in Ballinfoyle should be back in use following works by the end of 2015.

Work to bring voids back into use is on-going. In terms of land banks, Council currently own lands at Ballyburke.

However, significant loans outstanding on some of the property some of which is outside the land aggregation scheme.

There will be a call for CAS proposals in the next 2/3 weeks.

Voluntary Housing

Paul Hargaden gave a detailed presentation on the voluntary housing sector, the Social Housing Strategy and the challenges the sector faces.

- The point was raised that up to date data of the actual accommodation needs of those on the housing waiting list was crucial to allow AHBs to provide appropriate housing.
- There are real problems in the private rented sector currently in terms of affordability and availability and this will pose real challenges in transferring RS tenants to HAP and RAS in the coming years.
- There are currently real problems with RAS tenancies being terminated. Little security of tenure for tenants. Under HAP it is understood that there will be a minimum obligation of 3 years commitment by landlords who agree to participate in the scheme.
- The issue of transfers from voluntary housing was identified as been an issue on a number of occasions. A new national transfer policy is imminent.
- Co-operation between the Local Authority and AHBs will be crucial is the social housing need in the city is to be met – there are approximately 5,000 on the waiting list.

Laurena Mitchell distributed an overview of voluntary housing provision in the city under – Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS); Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) and Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme (CLSS). To date a total of 568 units have been delivered through the voluntary sector in Galway. Proposals are at an early stage for the delivery of an additional 100 units under CALF in the city. The point was made that universal accessibility and social inclusion needs to underpin all housing provided by the council/AHB and the need for Traveller specific accommodation needs to be born in mind.

Homelessness

Anne Ruane from Galway City Council gave a presentation on homelessness in the city. It was stressed that there is a real urgency to put the Homeless Action Plan into action if the 2016 target of eliminating long term homelessness is to be met. It was suggested that the SPC should take ownership of the Plan and updates should be included in the Quarterly Housing Report. It was also stressed that greater focus needs to be placed on prevention measures and making sure that existing tenancies are sustained.

Councillors enquired about the amount of funds spent on B&B and Hostel accommodation. A budget of 4000 was in place in 2014, but €13000 was actually spent. The question was also raised about whether a 'wet house' was a possibility, but Siobhan Donoghue, Senior Social Worker, said that in reality it was not. It was acknowledged that additional addiction counselling services and outreach was needed. She went on to point out that there are real capacity issues with the hotels because there are blockages occurring, primarily due to the lack of availability of move on accommodation in the private rented sector.

Please return to Galway City Community Forum Co-ordinator
Date of next meeting: **27th April 3pm**

Agenda items: Social Housing Allocation Policy; Housing Assistance Payment; Homeless Action Plan; Traveller

Socruithe déanta/ Key Decisions Made:

None

**Gníomhaíochtaí is gá a iarraidh ar an bhFóram
Action(s) required from Community Forum:**

None

**Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile
Date of next meeting :**

27th April 3pm

Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments:

Agenda items: Social Housing Allocation Policy; Housing Assistance Payment; Homeless Action Plan; Traveller Accommodation Plan.