

**Tuairisc/Reporting Template for Galway City
Community Network (GCCN) Reps**

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Galway City Community Network
Lionra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

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:	6/10/2016
I láthair/ Attendance	Cllr Mike Cubbard, Cllr Mairead Farrell, Cllr Michael Crowe, Cllr Declan McDonnell, Cllr John Walsh, Cllr Mike Cubbard, Cllr Neil McNelis. Tom Connell, Laurena Mitchell, Helena Martyn, Sharon Lawless, Ann Brett, Ailish Coppinger, Joe Tansey – Galway City Council Housing Department. Diarmaid O’Sullivan (GCCN Rep).

Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:

It was queried why the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness was not on the agenda given that it is the key national policy document in housing. Meeting informed that it will be on the agenda of the next meeting in January.

Housing Needs Assessment

Letters sent out to 3,482 applicants on housing list. Only 2,154 have been returned. 1,382 no replies. A final reminder will be sent to those who have not replied. If following this they have not responded they will be removed from the list. There may be scope for those removed from the list to go back on if a genuine reason for not replying can be put forward. Such situations will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Rent Review

87% of tenants have not had their rent assessed and it is expected 90% will have been completed by mid-October. There are currently on 18 people on the maximum rent in Galway City. A new National Differential Rent scheme is due to be rolled out in 2017.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

The tenant purchase scheme will commence in November and in total 900 properties will be offered for sale to the occupants. If someone meets the criteria set out in the scheme, a sale cannot be refused. Maximum discount available under the scheme is 60%. GCCN rep commented that selling off Local Authority stock in the middle of a housing crisis is not wise.

Housing Assistance Payment

There are currently 216 HAP tenancies in the city and it is anticipated that there will be between 350 and 400 by the end of the year. The HAP team will shortly begin transferring long term RS tenants over to HAP. 98% of tenants who have transferred to HAP have gone onto the Council's transfer list. Anne Brett informed the meeting that the timescale for processing completed applications is between 1-2 weeks. It was pointed out that some tenants are experiencing delays and the fact that rent is paid in arrears is meaning that some tenants have to come up with an extra month's rent from their own resources which can put them under extreme financial pressure.

Housing Capital Programme

Ballymonee Road Phase 1 (14 units) – builders should be on site by November. The Department of Housing is requiring that great density is achieved for the balance of site (69 unit were planned but the Department feel more can be achieved.) Baile an Choiste – possible 42 units, but still at planning stage. Galway City Council will be bidding for infrastructure funds to improve road access and make the site accessible. Infrastructure work may also open up lands in this area for additional private housing. Galway City Council are exploring the possibility of a private public partnership at the Ballyburke site.

Traveller Accommodation Plan

Discussions are on-going with Councillors in relation to possible sites for halting sites. There are planned meetings with Residents Associations in Ballybane. Overcrowding is a problem in Cul Tra and there has been illegal entry onto the site. A fire safety audit has been carried out on.

Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

Circulated. Comments to be submitted to Sharon Lawless.

AOB

It was proposed that given the serious homelessness problem that currently exists in the city; a presentation should be made to Galway City Council to update Councillors on the situation. A presentation had previously been made to the West Regional Homeless Forum. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

The issue of the failure of Galway City Council to complete necessary repair works at Whitehall Close was raised, however the chairman refused to deal with the matter as it was considered an operational issue. Council officials indicated that they would be willing to discuss matter outside of the meeting.

Socruithe déanta/ Key Decisions Made:

Gníomhaíochtaí**Action(s) required from GCCN:**

1. Request presentation on Homelessness by GCCN reps/voluntary sector providers to meeting of Galway City Council
2. Input into Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile
Date of next meeting :Thursday 9th February @ 9.30pm

Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments: