

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

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info@galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie



Galway City Community Network
Lionra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

Cruinniú /Name of Meeting	Housing Strategic Policy Committee
Ionadaí FPCG (glacadóir - nótaí) Name of GCCF Rep (note-taker)	Karen Golden
Dáta & Suite Date & Location of Meeting:	28/2/2019, Council Chamber, City Hall
I láthair/ Attendance	<p>Cllr D. McDonnell (Chairperson) Cllr M. Lohan Cllr M. Cubbard Cllr N McNelis Cllr O Crowe Cllr J Walsh A Daly, ICTU K. Golden, GCCN Rep P. Carey, Construction Sector D. Mahon A/Director of Services, Housing Dept H. Martyn, A/SEO, Housing T. Prendergast, A/Senior Engineer, Housing A. Brett, Admin Officer, Housing S. Lawless, Admin Officer, Housing A. Lyons, Housing Dept John, Housing Dept</p> <p>Apologies Cllr M Farrell K. Timothy, GCCN Rep</p>

Príomhphointí pléite / Key Issues Discussed:

1. Minutes proposed by M Cubbard and seconded by M Lohan
2. Matters Arising
 - a. Part VIII's have been forwarded by the Executive for the March 2019 meeting, the agenda is responsibility of the CEO. Costs to date could not be confirmed.
3. Homeless Report
 - a. Western Region Homeless Numbers – November 292, December 326, January 358, February (as yet unpublished) 349. November 82 families with 186 dependents
 - b. Families still coming forward – 9 currently in Mayo
 - c. Families in PEA – 52 in City, 22 in County
 - d. 13 Families in Transition Units; on licence agreements with Cope. Effectively have become long term as difficult to find move on options
 - e. H Marytn suggested numbers will continue to increase with 80 NTQs on hand.
 - f. Homeless HAP – 68 Households housed since last Summer, 42 from PEA into HAP tenancies
 - g. Hub expected to be operational from May 1st, Cope won tender to operate. Focus will be on move on. There will be an SLA in place with performance indicators.
 - h. Modular Housing – Peter McVerry to manage, Council managing the build – prep works expected to conclude in May, expected to be operational in the autumn. Layout finalised. Documents for procurement likely to be finalised next week by the Housing Agency, Dept and Steering Group. Public information evening this evening in Westside. Extended discussion around parking, access, perimeter walls, pedestrian crossing and zoning. In terms of being environmentally friendly – they are not Part L compliant (too expensive for short term units to install solar panels etc) and there are no BER ratings available. Well insulated.
 - i. Housing First – consultation underway re protocols, expect to instruct agencies to start hiring tenancy sustainment staff this week as under pressure to start roll out
 - j. CWR – 7-19 per night in Westside; 14 on average. H Martyn acknowledged work of CWR staff.
 - k. Budget: 5.8m funding for region in 2018 of which 2.2m for PEA in the City only. 8.8m funding bid submitted to dept for 2019; half for PEA. Only 90% funded by Exchequer, Council must cover 10%.
 - l. Homeless Area Action Plan – H. Martyn outlined the sections in the plan which she anticipates will be provided in draft to the May meeting.
 - m. Cllr McDonnell noted rents in Knocknacarra are now 1,600 (and sometimes up to 2,500) and asked Paul Carey if the answer is more housing. He replied yes but noted that Galway is still very quiet from a construction perspective; costs are very high eg labour costs, planning costs etc. making it unattractive for builders to build. A Daly took issue with P Carey's reference to labour costs.
 - n. Homeless HAP provides one month rent in advance and one month deposit. Neither available through regular HAP, though it is possible to access deposit via DSP when availing of regular HAP. HAP rent limits available on City Council website.
 - o. Cllr McNelis asked how much money Cope, Galway Simon and Peter McVerry are given and can these figures be published? On the one hand the Council is giving out money and on the other it's getting slaughtered for doing nothing about housing. Helena confirmed 2m provided to Cope, Simon and St V de Paul for delivery of services in 2018.
 - p. Voids – currently approx. 60. Programme in place.
 - q. Affordable Housing – no circular from Dept as yet.
4. Draft Traveller Plan
 - a. Dermot spoke in detail about the plan. 588 families. No proposal for any new halting site in plan. 10% are looking for culturally specific halting site.
 - b. Dermot meeting with Galway Traveller Movement today. Hoping to get them back around the table. Important that LTACC reconvenes. Hoping GTM will attend meeting before plan goes on public display. Important partner.
 - c. Met Bishop in Oct. 25 year lease on Salthill site expires in March. Extension granted but length of extension under negotiation. Extreme dissatisfaction at level of overcrowding.
 - d. Families generally positive to reduction of sites to max of eight – appreciate no longer viable to create 20 family bays.

- e. Anticipated that there will be a new Estate Mgt Strategy which will incorporate provisions of Strategy recently adopted but will also include provisions for caravans etc.
 - f. Service Provider in place and horses have been seized in both City and County Council areas in recent weeks.
5. New Differential Rent Scheme will be in place from July 1st 2019. This will be a point in time assessment.
6. AOB
- a. Cllr Lohan proposed that the Chair of the Housing SPC be automatically appointed to Task Force. Alan Daly seconded. No TOR received by Council as yet. No communication received from either the Dept or the Chair. Council read about Task Force in the papers.
 - b. Social Housing Build Targets for 2019? Dept target of 96 for Galway City Council was always unrealistic for 2018. No specific target for 2019. 1,100 is the target for 2019-21. Rebuilding Ireland is a six year plan. Galway City Council delivered 350 units in the first three years and will deliver 1,100 in the second three years – delivery heavily weighted to back end.

Gníomhaíochtaí
Action(s) required from GCCN:

Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile
Date of next meeting :

May 2nd

Moltaí breise /Any Other Comments: