

## TO EACH MEMBER OF CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

### Re: Implementation of Social Housing Strategy 2020 in Cork

Dear Member,

As you know through recent briefings at Divisional Council level, Cork County Council has in a short period of time made significant progress in a number of key areas of housing activity associated with the Housing Strategy.

This proactive work has ensured a positive initial approval to a number of social housing schemes and it is expected that further approvals to progress matters such as a significant voids and energy efficiency programme and possible additional schemes to deliver additional housing in the early part of the 2015-2017 programme will be received.

While Quarterly Reports will issue as usual to Divisional Committees to brief on progress, the purpose of this briefing note is to summarise our current activity.

This note is also for the purpose of briefing Members on emerging proposals to actively engage with the City Council in a co-operative and assistive manner so that the Cork region can maximize output from the Housing Strategy for all those requiring housing assistance.

#### Summary of Progress to date:

The following summarises the key activity of Cork County Council to date:

1. Approval received to the following Social Housing Schemes:
  - (a) Kilnagleary, Carrigaline – 48 Units - €9.83m.
  - (b) Beechgrove, Clonakilty – 45 Units - €8.7m.
  - (c) Fairfiled, Masseytown, Macroom – 7 Units - €1.1m.
  - (d) Oliver Plunkett Hill, Fermoy (Ongoing Scheme) –10 Units - €2.0m.
2. Approval is awaited from the DECLG for a Voids Programme.
3. Approval is awaited from the DECLG for Energy Efficiency Programme.
4. Following public advertisement, 24 expressions of interest have been received for "turnkey developments" in conjunction with private developers across the County.
  - 3 of these schemes are being considered by the DECLG as pilot schemes and would deliver a further 115 units.
  - The remaining schemes are being assessed by our Housing and Property Sections for suitability and deliverability.

5. A framework tender for Consultant multi-disciplinary Design Teams has been progressed and a framework of consultants will be in place in June. This will assist with progression of schemes as required.
6. A tender framework for Architect led single service provider design teams has been advertised and an assessment of submissions will be undertaken this month to shortlist most suitable applicants. This framework should be in place by August/September 2015.
7. The proposed leasing of units through Payment and Availability Agreements are being progressed with 13 Schemes under consideration capable of delivering up to 186 units. Some of these are through NARPS (NAMA) and active discussions are being held with a number of Affordable Housing Bodies as part of the delivery process.

#### Co-Operative and Assistive approach with Cork City Council

In discussions with the City Council over the recent months, it is clear that the delivery of the social housing targets in the City is a significant challenge. In a similar fashion to the County, the City Council has an extensive programme to deliver and a housing waiting list similar to that of the County.

*Noting perhaps for a more formal approach*

Discussions have also been held with the DECLG with a view to developing a more formalised approach to co-operation, particularly in relation to examining the potential for synergy across the City suburbs and contiguous boundary areas.

In this regard, the County Council is happy to assist in any way possible in taking a joint approach and to ensure that the progress made, as above outlined, is utilised to maximise output for both County and City. Direct involvement of DECLG senior officials and officials of other key national housing stakeholders such as the Housing Agency is envisaged in the form of an overarching oversight group to ensure that appropriate focus is given to the Cork region as that which has the greatest social housing need in the State outside of Dublin.

As you know, our Development Committee Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June will provide for further discussion on all aspects of housing delivery in Cork.

I will keep Members briefed in the event if such a grouping is formally established.

I ask Members to note the above position.

**TIM LUCEY**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
25<sup>TH</sup> May, 2015