



Minutes from Board Meeting No. 88 The Housing Agency

Date	24 th November 2020	
Venue	Video Conference Call	
Time	11.30am	
Chaired	Michael Carey	
Board Members	Tony O'Brien, John O'Connor, Donal McManus, David Duffy, Fiona Lawless, Frank Curran	
Apologies	Barry Quinlan,	
Attendees	David Silke and Ciara Galvin	
Minute Taker	Ciara Galvin	
	Decision	Action
1	Preliminaries	
1a	Minutes of Meeting #87 27th October 2020 Minutes agreed	
1b	Matters Arising Reported and noted.	
1c	Declaration of Interests The Chairman reminded members of the importance of independence and their duty regarding The Housing Agency, reiterating that input and decision making is for the Housing Agency itself, individual experience and representatives' backgrounds are important, however decisions must be in the interest of the Agency. Members were provided the opportunity to declare any interests. None were reported.	
1d	Chairman's Opening Statement Michael Carey opened the meeting noting that progress in a number of areas had been made, with that past two months being extremely busy despite distractions of COVID.	
2	Board Discussions	
2.a	The OECD Policy Brief on Social Housing: a comparative overview of Social Housing Systems in the EU. Camille Loftus joined the meeting providing an outline of the report.	

	Decision	Action
	<p>A discussion followed in respect of the contents, and it was noted that key areas for the Housing Agency could include the green agenda, specifically in supporting local authorities with upgrading their housing stock.</p> <p>Other elements of the report that stood out in importance related to the growing trend of residualisation, and the affordability challenge. In particular income related rents and the ability to fund and maintain housing stocks.</p> <p>Another key message evident was the issue that housing can't be dealt with in isolation, and the importance of increasing community involvement. It was noted that the relevance of benchmarking the Irish context against international counterparts was hugely useful.</p>	
2b	<p>Board Work Programme 2021</p> <p>A draft proposal in respect of the Boards work programme for 2021 was presented, with a focus on key governance outputs for the year ahead, along with discussion topics.</p> <p>It was noted that there is strong link between sustainability and resident engagement and a focus on this as an approach in respect of asset management would add value. It was also noted that land acquisitions are challenge in respect of meeting current and future needs. acquisitions. The Housing Delivery Co-ordination Unit is looking at all LA Lands, collaboration in respect of this might be considered.</p>	
2c	<p>Cost Rental Scheme</p> <p>Jim Baneham joined the meeting, providing details on the Cost Rental Scheme. This presentation was also presented to the Supply and Affordability Advisory Panel. A key conclusion from the panel session was the importance of clarity of communication ensuring clear understanding of stakeholder roles to enable them to be as effective as needs be.</p>	
3.	Finance Reports	
3a	<p>Annual Report 2019</p> <p>Margaret Jordan joined the meeting. A presentation was provided on changes made since the last presentation to the Board in June 2020. It was confirmed that the C&AG have notified the Executive that the accounts are in order for signing.</p> <p>The Board approved the accounts for signing. The C&AG confirmed that digital signatures were appropriate this year.</p> <p>The Board commended Margaret Jordan for her work and commitment in managing the process.</p>	2019 Annual Report approved for signing

	Decision	Action
3b	<p>Management Accounts 31st October 2020 Margaret Jordan provided an overview of the accounts at the end of October 2020. The projected cash at hand at the end of the year was discussed and it was confirmed that discussions are ongoing with the Department in this regard. A discussion was held in relation to recoverable costs under the acquisitions programme. It was agreed that further details in this regard would be clarified and reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee.</p>	Clarification on recoverable costs to be provided and reviewed by ARC
3c	<p>Acquisitions Report Report Noted</p>	
3d	<p>Procurement Report 31st October 2020 Report noted.</p>	
4	<p>CEO Report</p>	
4a	<p>Performance Report John O' Connor presented the performance. It was recommended that under the Acquisitions programme that consideration be given to redirecting AHB assigned properties to LA ownership. It was also confirmed that the Executive continue to meet with the Steering Group every three weeks and on an individual basis with AHBs to try and accelerate movement. A discussion on Mortgage to Rent was also held. The review is ongoing</p>	Consider redirect between funding streams
4b	<p>CEO Monthly Report John O' Connor provided an outline of the monthly report noting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Affordable housing ▪ PAC attending with the Department ▪ Review of Part V ▪ Conference ▪ Staffing and Resources <p>The impact of the Cost Rental scheme on the Agency's was discussed, and the possibility that the Agency may have an oversight role, along with assessment of applications. It was also noted that factoring in more than the services sites fund was very important. Implementation of the schemes are due to commence in early 2021.</p>	
4c	<p>Risk David Silke presented the principle risks. It was noted that risk 9 was closed off and in order to remove from the Corporate register.</p>	

	Decision	Action
5.	Committees and Advisory Panels	
5a	<p>Research and Insights Advisory Panel First meeting of the panel was held on the 12th November. Notes from meeting held on the 12th November included for noting.</p>	
5b	<p>Supply and Affordability</p> <p>The third meeting of the panel was held prior to this meeting. The meeting looked at the Affordable Housing Schemes, and there was great input from that meeting, very useful contribution to these sessions.</p> <p>The Chair reiterated that there will be plenary sessions with all three panels, the Board and The Minister in the earlier part of 2021.</p>	
5c	<p>Audit and Risk Committee Tony O' Brien provided an update on the meeting of the Committee held before this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed 2021 plans for the Committee - Divisional presentations from Acquisitions and Projects & Procurement. The details on delegation of authority were recommended and will be 	
6	<p>AOB Land Aggregation Scheme Three sites were proposed for disposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mount Avenue, Dundalk - Royal Oak Road, Bagenalstown Carlow - Bruff, Co. Limerick <p>It was noted that restricted covenants are applied to ensure the lands are used for the purposed intended as part of transfer.</p> <p>Tony O' Brien abstained from the resolution as he is the Chairperson of Limerick City and County Councils Audit and Risk Committee.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend these sites for disposal subject to approval from the Minister. Proposer: Donal McManus Seconder: Fiona Lawless</p> <p>Presentation on Supply and Demand A discussion was held in respect of Supply and Demand, the Director of Policy & Communications proposed that this be presented to the Strategy Committee. It was noted that David Duffy will be invited to the 7th December 2020. It was requested that a paper be provided in advance.</p> <p>NESC 150 report on Housing. It was recommended that the NESC 150report on housing be review to understand implications and ensure there is no duplication of work.</p>	<p>Issue letters to the Minister seeking sanction for disposal</p> <p>Presentation to Strategy Sub Committee</p> <p>Review of Report to be undertaken</p>

	Decision	Action
7.	<p>Meeting without the Executive Present An update was provided in relation to the recruitment process for the CEO post. The DHPLGH are completing their assessment of the recommendations issued.</p> <p>Details of the Business case to be circulated to the Board.</p>	Issue Business Case to non-executive board members

Chairperson

Date

Appendix

Action Items arising from Board Meeting No. 88

Housing Agency

	Area	Summary of Decision/Action	Responsibility/Timeframe
1.	Annual Report 2019	2019 Annual Report approved for signing	Ciara Galvin November 2020
2.	Acquisitions Programme	Clarification on recoverable costs to be provided and reviewed by ARC	John O' Connor/Jim Baneham
		Consider redirect between funding streams	Jim Baneham, Nov 2020
3	Land Aggregation Scheme	Issue letters to the Minister seeking sanction for disposal	Jim Baneham, Nov 2020
4	Research	Presentation to Strategy Sub Committee	John McCartney, Dec 2020
5	Research and Insights Panel	Review of NESC 150 Report on Housing be undertaken	John McCartney
6	CEO Succession planning	Issue Business Case to non-executive board members	Ciara Galvin