

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Notice of Motion by Councillor Diarmaid Ó Cadhla for full Cork County Council Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.

"That Council declares the crisis in housing and homelessness to be an emergency and wishes to update its policy accordingly, it therefore resolves as follows:

1. To request the Chief Executive to identify and report to Council on possible emergency measures to address the crisis – in social housing, in private rental, in standards of accommodation, on the conditions in homeless shelters and for the urgent elimination of homelessness.
2. That An Taoiseach be asked to establish a National Emergency Committee on the issue of Housing and Homelessness that will act with an urgency at least equal to that which addressed the outbreak of Foot & Mouth Disease."

#### Report:

Cork Co Council continues to address the housing need that exists in the county. Between 2015-2017 Cork County Council provided a total of 1,293 units of accommodation to meet the needs of approved housing applicants through a variety of housing options such as Housing Construction, Housing Acquisitions, Voids, Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS), Part V, Social Leasing and RAS. This exceeded the delivery target of 1,217 which was set for the period by the DHPCLG. An ambitious programme has been put in place which will see over 3,000 provided by 2021. Since the establishment of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) in 2014, over 3,300 tenancies have been set up all of which have accommodated approved housing applicants.

Ongoing improvements to the Council's existing housing stock are taking place. Annual planned maintenance and energy efficiency programmes are implemented and in 2017 alone energy efficiency works were carried out to a total of 968 houses.

In relation to private rental accommodation, landlords are subject to compliance with the Housing (standards for rented houses) Regulations 2017 and since ~~2014~~ over 3,400 properties have been inspected by Cork County Council.

Cork County Council currently works closely with Cork City Council in the provision of emergency accommodation, which is subject to compliance with standards, for homeless persons. This includes a number of homeless shelters operated by the Approved Housing Bodies. In addition Cork County Council supports three homeless facilities in Cork County and provides Section 10 funding to these facilities to assist in provision of accommodation of homeless persons.

*How — IMPLICATIONS*

The most recent Housing Needs Assessment was carried out in 2017 and identified a total of 4,591 approved applicants of which 83 were categorised as homeless. In 2017, Cork County Council provided permanent accommodation for 59 homeless applicants, comprising of 42 families and 17 single persons, through a variety of housing options – Local Authority housing, Voluntary housing and HAP. At present Cork County Council has 26 homeless persons in emergency accommodation and liaison is ongoing with them families/individuals to source accommodation.

*Loss of INCOME, CHILDREN, DIGNITY!*


Currently, the Council employs two Tenancy Sustainment Officers to deal with emerging homelessness and has sought funding for additional staff in this area for 2018.

Homelessness can involve more than accommodation and the Council will continue to work closely with the statutory and voluntary agencies to provide support to those who are without accommodation or at risk of homelessness.

The following measures, to be delivered by the Housing Department in 2018, will assist in alleviating homelessness and improving the quality of accommodation.

1. Delivery of over 500 units of accommodation
2. 1,000 additional HAP tenancies
3. Over 1,000 private rental inspections
4. Additional homeless places under Capital Assistance Scheme projects.
5. Housing Stock Condition Survey to commence on Local Authority properties

*There aren't emergency measures!*

  
S/Director of Services  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018