



Minutes of the (Annual General Meeting) 479th Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 15th April 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex

Present by Video Conferencing:

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

In Attendance:

Grainia Long	Chief Executive (Housing Executive)
Amanda Stewart	Northern Ireland Youth Forum
Blair Anderson	Northern Ireland Youth Forum
Saira Khan	Northern Ireland Youth Forum
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)
Kim Smyth	Secretariat Manager

Apologies:

There were no apologies.

1.0	<p><u>Election of Chair & Vice Chair</u></p> <p>The first item of business transacted at the Annual General Meeting of the Council was the election of Chair and Vice Chair under Standing Order 10(2), Page 19.</p> <p>NOTED: that (1) no Member shall preside during an election in which he/she is a candidate (Standing Order 3(4), Page 7); and (2) in the case of an equality of votes the person presiding (if he/she is a Member) shall have a second or casting vote – STANDING ORDER 17(2).</p>	
------------	--	--

<p>1.1</p>	<p>As the position of Chair is currently vacant the Secretary presided over the election of Chair.</p> <p>Alderman Tommy Nicholl was proposed by Alderman J Finlay and seconded by Alderman A Bresland.</p> <p>Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald was proposed by Councillor Catherine Elattar and Councillor Michael Ruane.</p> <p>Following a show of hands:-</p> <p>Alderman Nicholl received 5 votes and Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald received 6 votes.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald was duly elected as Chair for the ensuing two years.</p> <p>Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald accepted the post of Chair.</p> <p>The Chair paid tribute to the ongoing Chair, Alderman Tommy Nicholl during his term of office for his leadership and thanked him for his work and dedication.</p>	
<p>1.2</p>	<p><u>Election of Vice Chair</u></p> <p>The Secretary also presided over the election of Vice Chair.</p> <p>Councillor Mark Cooper was proposed by Alderman Jim Speers and seconded by Councillor Nick Mathison.</p> <p>There were no other nominations for Vice Chair.</p> <p>RESOLVED: unanimously, that Councillor Mark Cooper was duly elected as Vice Chair for the ensuing two years.</p> <p>Councillor Mark Cooper accepted the post of Vice Chair.</p>	
<p>2.0</p>	<p><u>Housing Council Committees</u></p> <p>Members constituted the following Committees to carry out the work of the Housing Council and appointed Members.</p> <p>NOTED: the Chair and Vice Chair retain Membership of all Committees.</p>	

<p>2.1</p>	<p>Standing Orders Committee</p> <p>Members noted that the Housing Council is to undertake a Review of Standing Orders in the near future.</p> <p>The Committee Members were agreed as follows:</p> <p>Councillor Nick Mathison Alderman Jim Speers Alderman John Finlay</p>	
<p>2.2</p>	<p>Policy Committee</p> <p>The Committee considers all policy/governance matters referred to it by the Housing Council. The Policy Committee meets as and when required.</p> <p>Agreed: When a Policy Committee Meeting is required to be set up, Committee Members would be appointed, at this stage.</p>	
<p>2.3</p>	<p>Awards Committee</p> <p>This Committee will determines the winners of awards presented annually by the Housing Council.</p> <p>The Awards are:- The Norman Capper Memorial Trophy, the J R Gorman Trophy, the J Bailie Trophy and the Jim Speers Special Award.</p> <p>The Committee Members were agreed as follows:</p> <p>Councillor Michelle Kelly Councillor Michael Ruane Alderman Allan Bresland</p> <p>RESOLVED: Members present unanimously endorsed the above nominations.</p>	
<p>3.0</p>	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Members Attendance 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021</p> <p>Members noted that each Council has been notified of their Members attendance.</p>	

<p>5.0</p>	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The plan was noted.</p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Meeting with the Minister for Communities, Minister Hargey MLA</p> <p>Members noted that a Meeting had been arranged for the Minister for Communities for Wednesday, 5th May 2021 at 4 pm.</p> <p>It was reported that the Meeting will focus on the Ministerial announcement in November 2020 on the future of social housing in Northern Ireland, and to provide the Minister with an opportunity to provide an update on progress, as one of the co-design stakeholders.</p> <p>Following discussion it was agreed that the following items should be included on the Agenda, time permitting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness • Review of Allocations Scheme • Monitoring and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector <p>AGREED:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretary will compile an agenda to be sent to the Private Office • Members to submit a list of questions to the Secretary to be passed to the Private Office, prior to the Meeting 	<p>Secretary All Members</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p><u>Housing Council 50th Anniversary</u></p> <p>(i) Noted - NI Housing Council Logo.</p> <p>(ii) Noted - 50th Anniversary Press Release.</p> <p>(iii) Reimaging of the Website – it was noted that the Secretary will progress updates to the content over the next few weeks.</p> <p>Members commended the work carried out on the website, making it more user friendly, appealing and complimented the new branded colours.</p>	

8.0	<p>Officers and Presenters then joined the Meeting. Kim Smyth left the Meeting.</p> <p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 478th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 11th March 2021</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Fitzgerald, seconded by Alderman Bresland and resolved, that the Minutes of the 478th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 11th March 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
9.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Grainia Long to her first meeting to the Housing Council in her new role as Chief Executive.</p> <p>She also welcomed the Presenters, Amanda Stewart, Blair Anderson and Saira Khan from the Northern Ireland Youth Forum.</p>	
10.0 10.1 10.2	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p> <p>Page 6/7 – Item 7 – Rural Housing Needs</p> <p>It was noted that arrangements were being made for a representative from the Rural Community Network to attend a future meeting to address Members of their specific work carried out on rural housing needs.</p> <p>Members Queries</p> <p>Queries by Members responded to since the last meeting, in relation to policy issues have been included in your papers for information:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Mark Cooper – Homelessness. • Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald – Fermanagh & Omagh - Rural Housing. • All Members – DfC response on the Housing Executive's Historical Debt. 	Secretary
11.0	<p>Presentation on the work of the Northern Ireland Youth Forum</p> <p>Representatives from the Northern Ireland Youth Forum, Amanda Stewart, Blair Anderson and Saira Khan gave a presentation on the work they carry out through the Northern Ireland Youth Forum.</p>	

	<p>(Copies of the slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>Ms Stewart explained the Northern Ireland Youth Forum is youth led, is run by young people and is all about young people. Any young person aged 11-25 can get involved, it was set up in 1979 by the Department of Education to represent the views of young people to government and other decision makers. Since 1979 the Youth Forum has received it's funding from the Department of Education via the Youth Council for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The Forum believes that all young people have ideas and opinions worth listening to and we want to help you get involved in changing things in your school, community, and in society. They support young people to raise and discuss issues of importance to them and work at different levels on a wide range of exciting projects across communities.</p> <p>The representatives focused particularly on the homelessness Projects, that they have worked on and gave Members an in-sight into their personal experiences.</p> <p>Ms Stewart highlighted the Forums was launching Pinball II-Living Through Homelessness on Thursday the 22nd of April at 3pm to 3.30pm The live event to be streamed via the NIYF Facebook page. The animated video illustrates the journeys of three young people as they navigate their way through homelessness. The short film puts the spotlight on key issues affecting homeless young people and provides some recommendations on how they may be addressed. An invitation to join the event was extended to Members.</p> <p>Members commended the work of the Youth Forum, it was suggested that the Housing Council develop a working relationship with the Youth Forum for attendance at future meetings, in particular to focus on their continued work carried out with homelessness and welfare reform and it was also recommended that Members encourage their Councils to engage with the Forum to learn of the detrimental effects and experiences by young people and to hear their voices.</p> <p>Members expressed concern at the lack of one-bed accommodation for single young people faced with being homeless and the welfare reform 'priced out' of the private sector, resulting in more being forced into 'poor' quality private rented accommodation or shared housing and the related issues that this poses. Members felt that the issue of 'suitable' accommodation for all needs should be addressed and it was agreed to highlighted to the Department for Communities at the next meeting.</p>	<p>All Members</p> <p>Members</p>
--	---	---

	<p>The Chair thanked the three representatives for a very informative presentation and looked forward to working with them in the future.</p>	
<p>12.0</p>	<p><u>Housing Executive’s Board Business</u></p> <p>On behalf of the Members, the Chair congratulated Grainia Long in her new role as Chief Executive and looked forward to working collaboratively with her in the future.</p> <p>It was noted that Ms Long will compile a written report presented at the Meetings, which will include performance related and strategic issues across the organisation.</p> <p>Ms Long highlighted the Housing Executive’s key business areas, under the following headings:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness <p>Ms Long reported that due to Covid, there has been 110% increase in temporary accommodation within the last year, as a result of the pandemic the Housing Executive’s ability to relet the accommodation has reduced. The Housing Executive are seeing repeat placements, evidence that too many young people are in a vicious circle.</p> <p>Members noted that a ‘reset plan’ on homelessness is being examined, which will include:-</p> <p>Temporary accommodation – increasing the number of units available through the voluntary sector, this is DfC funded through additional Covid funding announcement by the Minister and is very welcomed for homelessness and supporting people. The main concern is the temporary accommodation is only a temporary solution and other options will need to be sought.</p> <p>It was reported that the Housing Executive have put a bid in for its core homelessness budget and will keep Members briefed on the figures.</p> <p>Ms Long undertook to keep Members updated on the Reset Plan on Homelessness.</p>	<p>G Long</p> <p>G Long</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Housing Newbuild Programme. <p>The Housing Executive are satisfied with the end of year figures on the newbuild programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Executive’s Business Plan. <p>The Housing Executive has approved a one-year Business Plan which was submitted to the Minister for approval. The 2022 Corporate Plan for the organisation will be soon underway and Ms Long welcomed input from the Housing Council to shape the outcomes.</p> <p>Following Ministerial approval of the Business Plan it will be presented to the Housing Council, in due course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Executive’s Revitalisation Programme <p>Arising from the Minister’s announcement on the future of the Housing Executive, it was noted that the 1st Meeting of the Programme Board has taken place. This is a partnership between the Department for Communities and the Housing Executive to implement a number of work-streams, in order to present options to the Minister by the end of March 2022.</p> <p>Ms Long offered to give a more details presentation on this issue later in the year.</p> <p>In response to the question on when is it anticipated that the Housing Executive will resume building houses, Ms Long explained that options have to be presented to the Minister by March 2022, and realistically it will be several years before the Housing Executive will be building to scale. She added that the Housing Executive are currently compiling Economic Appraisals for some smaller pilot schemes, which would also require Departmental approval.</p> <p>In relation to homelessness, Mr Cooper requested a breakdown of temporary accommodation available in each of the 11 Council areas.</p> <p>Ms Long confirmed that the level of reserves in the Housing Executive approximately £190 m. She explained that landlords can only use their reserves for specifics and legally the landlord reserves cannot be used to fund the regional side.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>G Long</p> <p>G Long</p> <p>Secretary</p>
--	--	---


	<p>Members noted that this coming year there is an investment of £217m in stock improvements. It was agreed that a presentation will be provided on the investment in Housing Executive stock.</p> <p>Several Members supported the need for more housing in rural areas, as these village are continually become derelict and dilapidated, as the locals want to stay in their local areas and urged the Housing Executive to address these issues in rural areas when programming social housing.</p> <p>It was agreed that a presentation will be brought to a future meeting on the rural housing developments.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ms Long for her comprehensive report.</p>	Secretary
13.0	<p><u>Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey (CTOS) 2019</u></p> <p>Members noted the Report.</p>	
14.0	<p><u>Older Peoples Housing Strategy Report</u></p> <p>Members requested a Presentation on the Strategy at a future Meeting.</p> <p>Mr Cooper referred to a project in Monkstown called 'Happi Principles' and asked that this be incorporated in the Presentation, for Members information.</p>	Secretary
15.0	<p><u>Social Housing Development Programme Housing Starts and Completions March 2021</u></p> <p>Members noted the report as circulated.</p>	
16.0	<p><u>Housing Executive's Scheme Starts March 2021</u></p> <p>Members noted the report as circulated.</p>	

17.0	<p><u>Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Thursday 11th March 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Special Meeting with the Minister for Communities will be held on Wednesday, 5th May 2021 at 4pm via Webex.</p> <p>The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, 13th May 2021 via Webex.</p> <p>It was also noted that the above monthly meeting would encompass attendance from the Department for Communities, with the Housing Executive returning to the June Monthly Meeting.</p>	
-------------	---	--

T

The Meeting concluded at 12.40 pm.

Appendix A



**NIYF Presentation
to NI Housing
Council**
Amanda Stewart
Blair Anderson
Saira Khan
15/04/21

WHO ARE WE?

- ✓ NIYF was established in 1979 by the Department of Education
- ✓ NIYF is Youth Led – run by Young People for Young People
- ✓ The current **Executive Committee** is made up of 12 young people 14 – 25 yrs
- ✓ Our other core values include; Equality and Inclusion, Collaboration, Transparency and Social Justice



NIHE SLA (Main Aims)

- ✓ To address the lack of young people engaged in housing issues/ services developing a succession plan moving forward.
- ✓ To attend monthly Central Housing Forum meetings and sub-meetings
- ✓ Youth attendance at NIHE Conferences



What we are currently working on!

- ✓ OCN Level 2 in Peer Mentoring
- ✓ Launch of Pinball 2 (Young People's Journeys through homelessness)
- ✓ Creation of Pinball 3 (Young People's Journeys out of homelessness)
- ✓ Meeting DFC Permanent Secretary and follow up meetings from the Department (Dec 20) Meeting DFC Minister (Jan 21)
- ✓ On-going input into Bill of Rights for NI (presentation to Adhoc Committee)
- ✓ Other on-going consultations e.g. Community Safety; ASB



Armagh, Belfast and Newry Youth Forum's

Housing Executive



Housing Executive



Main Aims

- ✓ To develop a Peer Mentoring Scheme to assist young people to navigate housing processes
- ✓ To develop appropriate on line presence to cater for the needs of young people homeless or threatened with homelessness
- ✓ To raise awareness of homelessness amongst young people



Housing Executive



What we are currently working on!

- ✓ Peer Mentors are under-going an intensive training programme tailored to them
- ✓ Supported 20 young people from October 2020 with a range of Housing and Homelessness issues
- ✓ Presented to a wide range of decision makers including; Education Minister, DfC Minister, The Executive Office and NIYF Youth Political Champions
- ✓ Working with Housing Rights to improve their website for young people
- ✓ On-going research into what information is currently available to young people in relation to Youth Homelessness – to be completed April 21 (Desk based research and 5 Focus groups completed)



Housing Executive



NIYF: Understanding Youth Homelessness

Let's check in
How are we feeling today
(on a scale of 1 to 10)?

What does home mean to you?

Share & Support
What does home mean?

Which region of the UK has the highest rate of homelessness?

What is the most common reason for homelessness by young people?

How many young people (16-25) are currently in homelessness in NI?

In 2020, 847 people moved from private into homelessness. What is the you think were young people?

When did the you get information about homelessness?

What advice is to you?

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

Housing Executive

DfC
Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Young People's Key Asks

- ✓ Voice – Involve young people in the design, commissioning and evaluation of services
- ✓ Housing Options – NIHE to build good quality, affordable social housing to meet the needs of young people and families
- ✓ Our government departments to work together to tackle issues such as poverty, health, homelessness, education and youth unemployment.
- ✓ Meaningful Apprenticeship Programmes that pay young people a living wage



