

## ACTION PLAN FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS – FIRST QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT – OVERVIEW PAPER

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Wednesday's Joint Committee meeting is to discuss and examine the First Quarterly Progress Report on the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. The Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan was published in July 2016 and the Progress Report was published in November 2016. The report records the progress made in the Third Quarter of 2016 under the five Pillars of the Plan. As the Report was published in November it is likely that additional progress has been made since publication.

The primary focus of the Progress Report is on the actions for delivery, in whole or part, during the Third Quarter of 2016, and on the other actions for delivery in the next Quarter.

Representatives of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government have been invited to address the Committee on the Progress Report.

### CONTEXT

The Action Plan contains 84 distinct actions across the five Pillars of the Plan. Each Action has a designated owner with responsibility for completion of the Action and a corresponding timeline. 32 Actions fell due for full or part completion in Q3 of 2016 so it is these Actions that are the primary focus of the Report. 27 of the Actions have gone according to schedule while 6 Actions are behind Schedule. The 6 delayed Actions are now due for completion during Q4.

#### **Pillar 1 – Address Homelessness**

According to the Progress Report there was an increase in the overall numbers experiencing homelessness up to September 2016 when figures were used for the publication of the Report. This increase is a net figure and housing authorities have delivered more than 1350 sustainable exits from homelessness into independent tenancies in the first six months of 2016.

5 Actions were due for full or part completion in Q3 of 2016. The Department have reported on 6 Actions, including an additional Action, Action No.1.2 which was due for completion in Q4 of 2016 in the Progress Report.

- Action 1.2 concerns the transition of homeless people from emergency accommodation through the Dublin Regional HAP Homeless Pilot. As of 10 October 2016, 530 of the 550 tenancies to be created by Q4 2016 are in place.
- Delivery of Action 1.10 is behind schedule. Action 1.10; We will enhance inter-agency arrangements to ensure that accommodation, welfare and health supports for prisoners are in place prior to their release.

#### **Pillar 2 – Accelerate Social Housing**

The Progress Report identifies that construction of social housing is underway with the expectation that 1,500 new homes will be either completed or under construction by the end of the year.

15 Actions were due for full or part completion in Q3 of 2016. Delivery of Actions 2.10, 2.11 and 2.14 are behind schedule.

- Action 2.10; The Housing Agency will establish a Housing Procurement Agency.
- Action 2.11; We will review our processes and procedures for approving and advancing housing construction projects.
- Action 2.14; We will establish a dedicated one-stop-shop within the Housing Agency to support AHBs, which will allow for better coordinated delivery under various mechanisms across all local authority areas.

### **Pillar 3 – Build More Homes**

Over 21 local authorities have applied for funding under the €200m Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund seeking to open up more than 17,434 hectares of land for development, 2,654 hectares of which are in Dublin. €50m of this fund is expected to be spent in 2017.

Government Departments, State bodies and local authorities were being contacted about lands in their ownership that may be suitable for housing development in connection with the development of a web-based database of State lands that could be used for housing.

7 Actions were due for full or part completion in Q3 of 2016. Delivery of Action 3.8 is behind schedule.

- Action 3.8: We will develop and publish an Implementation Plan to prioritise implementation of key recommendations within the An Bord Pleanála review.

### **Pillar 4 – Improve the Rental Sector**

A comprehensive strategy for the rental sector was the main Action for Pillar 4 and it was under development at the time of publication of the Progress Report.

3 Actions were due for full or part completion in Q3 of 2016. Delivery of Action 4.6 is behind schedule.

- Action 4.6: We will introduce a new Affordable Rental scheme to enhance the capacity of the private rented sector to provide quality and affordable accommodation for households currently paying a disproportionate amount of disposable income on rent.

### **Pillar 5 – Utilise Existing Housing**

Preliminary results from the 2016 Census indicate that almost 200,000 dwellings nationwide, excluding holiday homes and derelict houses were recorded as vacant.

2 Actions were due for full or part completion in Q3 of 2016. No Actions are behind schedule under this Pillar.

## **THE COMMITTEE'S ENGAGEMENT ON THE ACTION PLAN**

The Department has committed to briefing the Committee on each Progress Report that is published. The Second Progress Report will fall due for publication in February 2017. A meeting with representatives of the Department will be arranged in relation to the Second Progress Report upon publication.