

REBUILDING SCHEMES IN THE ROYAL COUNTY

Meath County Council is working with the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to deliver over 1,250 social housing units under Rebuilding Ireland, through a combination of Construction/Acquisition, Payment and Availability arrangements with the Approved Housing Bodies and other social leasing schemes.

The council's target this year is to deliver 326 units which includes direct construction projects at Athboy (32 units) Summerhill (19 units) plus the development of four dwelling units for the elderly in Navan.

"Meath County Council also has a strong direct construction pipeline with over 280 housing units at various stages of planning, and is working to develop further opportunities to expand this.

"The uplift in construction activity in the county will also provide more social housing stock through Part V," according to Barry Lynch, Director of Housing, Community, Libraries, Arts & Culture at Meath County Council.

"We have developed an excellent working relationship with a number of Approved Housing Bodies which will see projects containing over 200 homes in eight different locations completed in the current year, with further 80 units in the pipeline for delivery in the first quarter of next year," he added.

A recent example has been the Clúid Development in Ashbourne, Co. Meath; 67 families who had been on the social housing waiting list for seven years received keys to their brand new homes in Milltown Meadows in Ashbourne, following the official opening by Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Damien English TD, on 9 July.

After only 15 months in construction, Clúid Housing, in partnership with Glenveagh Properties and Meath County Council, delivered the brand new estate. The surrounding area is predominantly privately owned residential housing. Little or no social housing has been built in Ashbourne for over 15 years. This has left significant demand for good quality affordable housing. There are currently 3,779 households on Meath County Council's housing waiting list.

Vacant Properties: It is important that existing housing resources are fully utilised to address the housing crisis. The council acquires properties under the Buy and Renew Scheme which



Minister Damien English and Brian O'Gorman, CEO of Clúid Housing, following the opening of the development in Ashbourne, Co. Meath.

brings disused houses back into stock. Another option available for vacant properties is the Repair and Lease Scheme, which can be accessed by contacting the council.

Enhanced Leasing: A new measure launched earlier this year by the Housing Agency is the Enhanced Leasing Scheme. A fresh call for proposals is due to be launched shortly and will provide an additional option for developers to provide social housing to local authorities

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP): Meath County Council has participated in the HAP scheme since November 2015. The county now has over 1,550 live HAP tenancies, and the council is committed to utilising all available resources to increase the housing supply in the county and to provide more homes for those who cannot provide for their own accommodation needs.

Further developments will be coming on stream within the coming months through Tuath Housing, North and East Housing and Respond!