

Minister not serious about enabling DCC provide an affordable housing scheme

Cllr Alison Gilliland, Labour Party

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‘It is very clear from this afternoon’s Special Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting to consider the scheme of priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements that Minister for Housing and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy, is not serious about enabling DCC, or any other local authority to provide an affordable housing scheme.’

‘A directive from the Minister requires local authorities to formally adopt the scheme of priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements by 18th June - less than 4 weeks after the local elections. Today’s Special Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting discussed the various priorities and the recommendations put to the May DCC meeting on 13th. However, upon their return from the Minister they must be formally adopted by a brand new Council whose composition is presently unknown and who no-doubt will want a voice in the scheme.’

What is worse is that the scheme of priority is only one part of the overall proposal - no eligibility criteria have been published, no financial details! This is a piece meal approach by someone more used to the bank of mum and dad as providers of affordability.’

‘Rebuilding Ireland was published with much fanfare almost 3 years ago and not one affordable house has been delivered. Dublin City Council has several sites ear marked for affordable housing but is now in danger of not being able to offer these units as affordable due to the Minister’s foot dragging.’

‘Affordable housing is one of the key issues on the doors as I go around canvassing in the Artane/ Whitehall area and, no more than the Affordable Home Loan scheme, I anticipate that we will be inundated with interest in these affordable houses for purchase. It is imperative that all the details of this scheme are provided immediately to enable proper consultation with local authorities so we can get this scheme up and running.’

ENDS

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