



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Top Housing Agency officials meet Fingal councillors**

The top two officials from the Housing Agency addressed members of Fingal County Council on Monday evening in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Swords.

They were Mr Conor Skehan, Chairperson of the Housing Agency, and Mr Jim Baneham, Senior Executive with the Agency, and they made presentations and answered questions at a special meeting of the Fingal County Council's Housing Strategic Policy Committee to which every councillor was invited.

Mr Skehan paid tribute to the work being done by Fingal County Council in relation to housing and that the issues which need to be tackled include availability, affordability and creating communities. Following their presentations, Mr Skehan and Mr Baneham answered a broad range of questions from the councillors present.

The Chief Executive of Fingal Co Council, Mr Paul Reid, gave councillors an update on the approaches being taken at national and local level to deal with the Housing Crisis and reported on a meeting between representatives of the 31 Local Authorities and An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, TD. and the new Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Simon Coveney, TD.

He reported that the new minister fully accepted that the current issues around housing need to be treated as a national crisis and it is currently the number one priority for the government. Minister Coveney is also committed to developing a new strategy for housing within 100 days of taking office and is working to secure extra capital.

"We welcome the announcement by the Minister that any extra funds he secures will be used to reward performing councils. In Fingal, we are ahead of our targets under the 2015-2017 Housing Strategy and we are looking at ways of accelerating our plans over the next six months," said Mr Reid.

Ms Margaret Geraghty, Director of Housing and Community, is scheduled to address councillors on the situation in Fingal at the upcoming meetings of the three Area Committees prior to next month's full meeting of Council.

The chairman of the Housing SPC, Councillor Ken Farrell, thanked Mr Skehan and Mr Bateman for their attendance and engaging with Councillors while the Mayor, Councillor David O'Connor, said it was an excellent meeting.

**ENDS**

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