

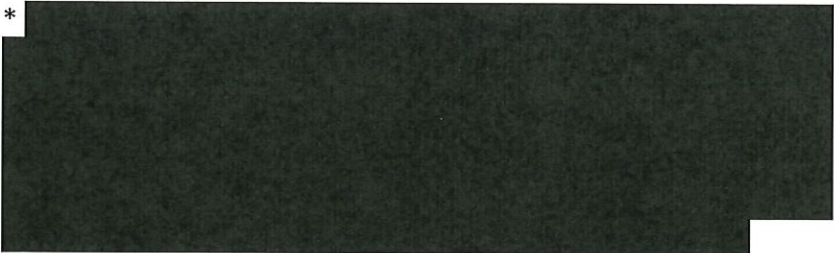
Land Development Agency

Board Meeting of 2nd December 2019

Minutes of Meeting

Date	2 nd December 2019
Venue	The Housing Agency, 53 Mount Street Upper, Dublin D02 KT73
Time	10am
Chair	John Moran
Other Board Members	John Coleman, Michael Stone, Tim Bouchier Hayes, Clare Costello, Michelle Norris, John O'Connor
Apologies	Caroline Timmons, Conn Murray
Attendees	Barry O'Brien (LDA), Phelim O'Neill (LDA), Cillian Lehmann (LDA), Catriona Lawlor (Housing Agency)
Minute Taker	Catriona Lawlor (Housing Agency)

No	Item	Action
1.	Board Preliminaries	
1.1.	Disclosure of interests The Board were provided an opportunity to declare any interests in respect of the meeting contents. None were reported.	
1.2.	Review of October Board meeting minutes Minutes were discussed and agreed.	
1.3.	Matters Arising	
	08.02 Executive to develop strategic plan for publication	Board emphasised the importance of publishing the plan in terms of stakeholder engagement and setting out longer term vision
2.0	Land Database Prototype Demonstration – Cillian Lehmann Cillian Lehmann presented the prototype mapping project to the Board. The prototype covers Galway City and extracts information from various sources, including the Property Registration Authority (PRAI), the OPW, Myplan.ie, Geohive, and utility databases. This allows users to determine which areas are residential or commercial and their distances from services, community facilities and the presence of protected structures or protected habitats. Once fully established, PRAI data will update the LDA database automatically on a weekly basis. Further resources may be required to roll-out the database to other areas, however much of this will come in the form of service providers due to the specialist nature of the technology involved.	

	<p>The vision is for the database to become the definitive record of lands in state ownership, particularly for the local authorities who may lack a centralised and up to date record of lands owned.</p> <p>Members were impressed by the demonstration which highlighted the wide variety of potential applications for the database. Whilst the responsibility to deliver the database is set out in the LDA Statutory Instrument, it was noted that the LDA should not become distracted from the primary function of identifying state lands and also not to duplicate other existing databases such as the OPW register.</p> <p>The question of which areas to roll the database out to was discussed. The immediate focus will be on cities and towns highlighted in Project 2040.</p> <p>The intention is for the LDA and OPW to send a Memo to Government setting out the plan for the database. Members felt that this Memo should be sent separately from any more general update on the LDA for Government.</p>	
3.	Business Update	
3.1.	<p>CEO Summary Report – John Coleman</p> <p>Legislation</p> <p>The CEO provided an update on the legislation. The LDA and the Department appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Planning and Local Government on 12th November and the Committee is due to issue its report shortly.</p> <p>* </p> <p>It was suggested that a Memo to Government should be prepared seeking comfort that the LDA will be funded if it is determined to be on-balance sheet.</p>	<p>*Section 29- Deliberations of FOI Bodies</p> <p>Liaise with DHPLG in relation to Memo to Government</p>
3.2.	<p>Operational Update – John Coleman</p> <p>The CEO gave an overview of 2019, with achievements including setting up and staffing the LDA, the work on affordable housing, the state lands database and the city strategies.</p>	

	<p>The targets for 2019 were ambitious, particularly for the sites and the legislation has yet to be passed.</p> <p>The Board stressed the importance of setting ambitious but realistic targets for 2020, not just rolling over the 2019 targets. The under spend by the LDA was an area of concern for the Board and it was suggested that recruiting more staff should be prioritised, rather than relying on consultants where feasible.</p> <p>The importance of building relationships with stakeholders and other agencies was emphasised by members. Communication with agencies and other state bodies is critical, particularly where they are providing land. Hiring more staff could help to address this.</p> <p>A discussion took place on whether the LDA could assist with speeding up the delivery of housing by AHBs. The need to explore all potential avenues for delivery was stressed. Risk of failure shouldn't be a deterrent for trying new ideas.</p> <p>It was agreed that the CEO should provide a note to the Board outlining specific actions in January.</p>	<p>Provide note to Board</p>
<p>3.3.</p>	<p>Property Update – Phelim O’Neill</p> <p>Phelim O’Neill (LDA) presented an overview of the LDA’s primary portfolio and provided updates on Skerries, Shanganagh and St Kevins.</p> <p>In relation to Shanganagh, a discussion took place on the timeline of lodging a planning application. The original aim was to lodge the application in late December 2019 but advice has been received not to have the consultation period over the Christmas break, despite the extension of the consultation period to account for the break. The extra time would be appreciated by the DLR elected members and could also be used by the team to strengthen the application.</p> <p>Members were keen that the project not be delayed and that the application be submitted as soon as possible and that work should be advanced to secure a Section 183 decision in relation to transfer of the relevant land from the elected members.</p> <p>The Board discussed the learnings from Shanganagh and the importance of the LDA securing the land up-front from the local authority before design work begins, which will give more control to the LDA and enable it to meet deadlines. There is also a risk in spending money on planning for land that the LDA doesn’t own, however it was noted that significant resources had not been deployed to the Shanganagh project to date by the LDA, aside from management time.</p> <p>Members raised the issue of the LDA’s very ambitious targets and the challenges that would be encountered in achieving them. The</p>	

	<p>importance of dealing with elected members was highlighted, as was the role of the local authorities as the largest source of state lands in the short term. It was suggested that incentives for local authorities to provide lands to the LDA that are currently heavily indebted be examined. The purchase of private land, particularly outside Dublin should also be considered in the short term.</p> <p>The need to build relationships with TDs and Senators as well as Councillors was discussed. It was decided that the LDA should hold a consultation session on its forthcoming strategy and invite all members of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Planning and Local Government to attend.</p>	<p>Hold strategy consultation event for TDs and Senators</p>
<p>4.0.*</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>*Section 29- Deliberations of FOI Bodies</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Board Resolutions</p>	
<p>5.1.</p>	<p>Investment Committee Terms of Reference</p> <p>It was agreed that under Term 2.1, the number of external representatives on the Investment Committee should amended to two (one originally proposed).</p> <p>The Investment Committee terms of reference were proposed by John O'Connor and seconded by Michelle Norris. The proposal was resolved by the Board.</p>	
<p>5.2.</p>	<p>Election of Investment Committee Members</p> <p>Board member nominations were sought for election to the Investment Committee.</p> <p>The Board resolved to appoint John O'Connor to the Investment Committee.</p>	

	<p>It was agreed that the Investment Committee Chair would revert to the Board with a proposal in relation to the appoint of external committee members.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>Staff Appreciation event</p> <p>The board agreed that the CEO could arrange at his discretion a staff appreciation event for 2019 with a budget in the region of €50 per staff member.</p> <p>Co-Housing / SOA research funding</p> <p>It was noted that the LDA would contribute €25,000 in funding towards an SOA research project into Co-Housing.</p> <p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next Board meeting to be confirmed. Full list of meeting dates for 2020 will be circulated to the Board</p>	<p>Circulate 2020 meeting dates to Board</p>

