**Response to the following question as submitted by SPC1 PPN Reps at S.P.C. Meeting on Tuesday 13th June 2023,**

‘The Housing Network would like to ask if we could have a one page summary of all of the loans and housing assistance that is available’.

**Loans**

1. **Local Authority Home Loan**

The Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) was introduced on 4th January 2022 and replaced the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan.

The Local Authority Home Loan is a government backed mortgage for first time buyers and Fresh Start applicants through local authorities. The scheme is for the purchase of new or second-hand residential properties and for self-builds. It also includes the purchase of homes through State schemes such as the Tenant Purchase Scheme and Affordable Housing Schemes. This is a fixed rate loan.

A person can borrow up to 90% of the market value of the property. The maximum market value of a property that can be purchased or self-built in Sligo is €275,000.

1. **Home Improvement Loan**

Home improvement Loans are available for the reconstruction, repair and improvement of houses to applicants who satisfy the income limits. This is a variable rate loan. The maximum loan available is €38,000 with a maximum repayment term of 15 years.

**Housing Assistance**

**Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)**

The Housing Assistance Payment **(HAP**) is a social housing support which is assistance to a household towards their monthly rent payment. Under the scheme, the Housing Authority process a valid HAP Application which in turn is approved by Limerick City Council, who are the national providers of the Scheme. A monthly HAP Payment is paid directly to the landlord of the property by Limerick HUB. The payment to the Landlord is set out by the Department of Housing with specific caps for household composition. Any shortfall to the landlord between the Housing Assistance Payment and the monthly rent requested for the property, is paid by the tenant.

The household is required to pay a differential rent to Limerick HUB. This weekly rent is assessed by the Council based on the household’s income and is calculated in accordance with Sligo County Council’s Differential Rent Scheme.

The following are the current HAP Cap’s for Sligo:

**Monthly Housing Assistance Payments for County Sligo**

Single shared: €220

Couple shared: €250

Single person €460

Couple: €490

Couple/One Parent Family 1 Child: €550

Couple/One Parent Family 2 Child: €575

Couple/One Parent Family 3+ Child: €600