

South Dublin County Council **DEVELOPMENT PLAN** 2010 - 2016

Two Year Progress Report
on Securing Objectives
September 2012



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Executive Summary

Introduction

Since the South Dublin County Development Plan became operative in October 2010, there have been considerable challenges facing planning and development in Ireland that are reflective of those facing the wider economy, society and environment.

In working to implement the objectives of the County Development Plan 2010-16 to date, the Planning Department together with all other Council Departments are addressing a range of current issues such as housing choice, location and type, sustainable transport measures, energy initiatives, green infrastructure, habitat protection, flood prevention, advance school provision and a review of the Section 48 Development Contributions Scheme.

In keeping with the cross-cutting, multi-sectoral nature of the Development Plan objectives, many of the plans, projects and programmes that are now being advanced by the Council are based on inter-departmental, multi-disciplinary team working. This has enabled us to be successful in securing external funding and support in pursuance of many of these objectives and to engage on an ongoing basis with Government Departments and external agencies.

For example, South Dublin County Council, together with the Department of Environment and Local Government, the other Dublin Local Authorities and the NTA, are currently examining what may be the most appropriate form of sustainable housing in large and medium scale development areas. This will assist in formulating future policy, although it is clear that the focus of policy in the more recent Local Area Plans for Fortunestown and Newcastle (Draft) has been on delivering lifecycle housing.

To monitor implementation of the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan, the Planning Department has introduced a system for capturing critical data at planning decision making stage that as information builds up over time, will enable evidence based policy analysis and review.

This two year review comes at a relatively early stage in the six year Development Plan cycle, yet it is apparent that there has been significant progress in implementing the objectives of the current Plan to date.

Executive Summary

Background

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2010 – 2016 was formally made on 8th September 2010 and became effective on 6th October 2010. In accordance with the requirements of Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), this Progress Report sets out the progress made in realising the objectives of the Development Plan since the Plan came into operation almost two years ago.

It should be noted that while this review is concerned with the last two years, this time period is part of a six year Development Plan life cycle. In addition, the more strategic policies and objectives of the Plan relating to the future strategic development of the County have a much longer time horizon than the six year period of the Plan itself.

Population

The Census results indicate an increase of 18,239 in the County population, or by 7.4% from 2006-2011. The Electoral Division (ED) data reveals an increase in the population of the Tallaght area by 6,300 persons, 6,823 persons in Lucan and 1,087 in Clondalkin. Suburbs including Rathfarnham, Terenure, and Templeogue continued to experience population decline. Newcastle has increased in population from 2,631 to 3,785 (43.5%), Rathcoole from 3,614 to 4,672 (29.3%) and Saggart from 2,020 to 3,061 (51.5%).

Adaptation to Climate Change

South Dublin County Council, through the Development Plan is addressing the issue of Climate Change through measures such as ensuring appropriate location, scale and mix of development and integrating transport and land-use planning. The Council is implementing a range of measures to ensure the sustainable management of water. The Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) process will have regard at a broad strategic level to measures to ameliorate the effects of climate change.

The objectives of the Plan are also being supported by actions as set out in the Council's Climate Change Strategy 2007 and through national initiatives such as the Climate-Change Research Programme (CCRP) 2007-2013 Report Series No. 10 by the EPA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring of the County Development Plan

The Council's SEA Team and the Spatial Data Team have created a SEA Monitoring System which became operational at the start of 2011. The SEA Monitoring System is the first GIS based web application in the country to use Development Management derived indicators to both monitor the significant environmental impacts of Development Plan policies and to begin the process of introducing meaningful indicators to monitor spatial planning. The project seeks to capture critical data at the planning decision making stage that will ultimately lead to evidence-based policy analysis and review.

Housing

There are extant planning permissions for approximately 6,500 dwelling units not commenced in South Dublin County with approximately 2,800 units permitted in strategic development areas including Adamstown, Clonburris and Tallaght Town Centre; approximately 2,600 dwellings permitted in A1 zoned lands including Ballycullen, Fortunestown, Saggart, Rathcoole, Newcastle and Killinarden. There are approximately 1,000 dwellings permitted in established residential areas including Lucan, Clondalkin, Firhouse, Rathfarnham, Tallaght and Palmerstown. There are extant permissions for approximately 3,000 apartments and 1,200 duplexes of which approximately 1,200 have 3 or more bedrooms, and approximately 2,300 houses.

Plans have been prepared or are under preparation for various areas of land zoned A1 (new residential communities) including Fortunestown and Newcastle. In addition, the Tallaght Town Centre and Liffey Valley Local Area Plans provide for / will provide for housing on Town Centre zoned land.

Housing Strategy

A review of the Council's Housing Strategy is incorporated at Appendix 1 of this report. This is required under Section 95(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

757 social houses have been allocated since January 2010 including 153 leased properties and 148 unsold affordable units that were put to social use. In addition 654 RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme) properties have been procured and 654 RAS tenancies have been allocated over the same period. There have not been any affordable home sales as a result of the downturn in the housing market.

Enterprise and Employment

The elected members, as part of the Budgetary process for 2011, approved a Business Development and Sustainability Initiative. The initiative identifies 8 outcomes in this regard and details actions, timelines and responsibility for delivery for each outcome.

In September 2010 the Economic Development SPC agreed to establish a working group on economic opportunities in urban villages.

In April 2012 Tallaght Hospital and SDCC made a joint submission to the Children's Hospital Review Group for the tri-location of the National Paediatric Hospital, New Women's Hospital and the Existing Adult Teaching Hospital in Tallaght Medical Quarter.

A number of Data Centres have been granted permission in the County including at Grange Castle Business Park and Profile Park.

Adamstown

On the Adamstown Strategic Development Zone lands, to date 1,220 homes are occupied, supported by a rail station, dedicated bus service, three schools, shops, a neighbourhood park, playing pitches and other transport, drainage and utilities infrastructure. While no new residential phases commenced in 2011 work progressed on 'The Paddocks' and 'Adamstown Square' areas. Significant progress has also been made on taking completed infrastructure and developments into the Council's management. The roll out of Adamstown is ongoing within the terms of a comprehensive and flexible Planning Scheme.

Clonburris

The Clonburris Strategic Development Zone Planning Scheme and Local Area Plan, was approved and adopted in 2008. 12,500 – 15,005 homes are permissible in Clonburris under the approved Planning Scheme and Local Area Plan.

It is a requirement of the Planning Scheme that an Urban Form Development Framework (UFDF) be developed for the District Centre area prior to any development. In 2011, the Project Implementation Team submitted the UFDF for Clonburris District Centre to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) for determination in accordance with the terms of the approved planning scheme. This document emerged from a lengthy consultation process between SDCC, landowners and stakeholders. As agreement in relation to the final document did not emerge from this process the UFDF was referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination. No decision has been made by ABP to date.

A planning application was received for development on the LAP lands in 2009 and permission was granted for 898 homes, commercial floorspace, a crèche and community building. No development has taken place.

Accessible South Dublin County

All departments within the Council developed detailed work plans to implement the provisions of the Disability Act and much of that work has now taken place. The Council promotes its commitment to access and equality through the South Dublin County Council Disability Liaison / Access and Barcelona Declaration website at accessible.southdublin.ie.

Arts

The Council has adopted a new arts development strategy 2011-2015. Under the strategy, a number of initiatives have been established to make the best use of resources across the county.

Libraries

It is anticipated that a new Library Development Plan 2012-16 will be approved before the end of 2012. The redevelopment of Ballyroan Library is underway and a new building is scheduled to re-open in spring 2013. Several possible sites for the development of a Digital Hub/Library at Palmerstown have been examined.

Sustainable Neighbourhoods

The Council, in introducing new Local Area Plans, incorporates Sustainable Neighbourhoods and Urban Design principles so that communities are developed to meet the needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high

quality of life. In particular, the development within the LAPs is phased to ensure that essential infrastructure is delivered when required e.g. school provision as proposed in the draft Newcastle LAP.

School and College Sites

There is an urgent requirement to deliver suitable sites for schools nationally. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Education and Skills and the County and City Managers' Association on the acquisition of sites for school planning purposes was signed in May 2012. South Dublin County Council is working closely with the Department of Education to identify and acquire sites, with expediency, in 5 locations.

Sustainable Transport

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring System established by the Council to monitor the impact of development within sensitive environmental areas includes monitoring of permitted floorspace categorised according to the extent of public transport frequency and accessibility. The first eighteen months of monitoring indicates that approximately half of the floorspace granted is served by a high to medium frequency public transport service but that just over one third of floorspace granted is not serviced by public transport at all (a significant quantum of office based industry has been granted permission in areas not served by public transport).

In conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA) SDCC is reviewing the QBC Programme.

The Railway Procurement Agency (RPA) withdrew its application for a Railway Order from An Bord Pleanála in October 2011 due to the very limited funding available for capital projects.

South Dublin County Council, in association with the National Transport Authority (NTA), is involved in a number of medium and small scale local projects to improve access for cyclists and pedestrians along existing desire lines to popular local centres with a good mix of retail, community, educational and public services. This is to promote walking and cycling as an attractive choice for local residents to access local centres and facilities.

South Dublin County Council undertook an analysis of the Tallaght Cycle Network in 2011 with the objective of

identifying strategic cycling routes to link Tallaght Town Centre with neighbouring towns, villages and the city centre.

South Dublin County Council will be a central stakeholder in the National Transport Authorities cycle analysis for the entire region. The analysis will identify and prioritise opportunities for investment in the cycle network.

South Dublin County Council, funded by the National Transport Authority, has engaged consultants to work with SDCC and key stakeholders in preparing a Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan in 2012.

In Spring 2011 South Dublin County Council, with the support of the Department of Transport's Smarter Travel Programme, delivered an extension to the Grand Canal Way Green Route (3rd Lock, Inchicore to 12th Lock, Lucan) to Adamstown / Griffeen Avenue, Lucan.

Staff from South Dublin County Council forms the largest part of the team currently drafting the "Manual for Urban Streets" on behalf of the Department of Transport, who is providing funding for this work. This will be a National policy and technical guidance document for the design of roads and streets in urban areas i.e. where the speed limit is 50kph and below.

In line with Sustainable Transport and Travel Plans for Schools South Dublin County Council has continuously supported the promotion of students walking/cycling to school. South Dublin County Council developed a travel behaviour change campaign titled "Travel Smart Communities". Phase 1 is being delivered to communities in Lucan and Clondalkin and includes a primary schools programme. Travel advisors have engaged with 10 no. schools (5,000 students) to support students, parents and staff in developing sustainable travel initiatives and are providing resources and incentives as appropriate. A scheme to provide additional cycle parking facilities is also being rolled out in 2012.

Open Space and Recreation

A preliminary desk top survey to identify possible candidate sites for a Regional Park in the west of the County has been prepared. South Dublin County Council continues to work with adjoining authorities in the promotion and development of the Liffey Valley Park and The Green Loop / An Ceangal Glas, a 36km long distance walking and cycling route which links the Royal and Grand Canals,

the Liffey Valley and the Phoenix Park was inaugurated in 2011. The Dublin Mountain Way in association with Dublin Mountain Partnership was opened in 2010.

A number of recreation facilities have been provided including a new cricket ground for Adamstown Cricket Club in 2011 and an international standard cycle race track in Corkagh Park was completed in 2012 in association with Cycle Ireland with funding support from the Sports Capital Programme. A review of Council's play policy was completed in 2012.

A number of mobility and permeability projects providing new connections via existing green infrastructure have been provided e.g. the provision of walking and cycling routes at Dargle Wood, Knocklyon and Clondalkin Park, Clondalkin. A significant scheme linking Adamstown to the Grand Canal via Griffeen Valley Park has also been completed. The existing walking and cycle routes in the Griffeen Valley Park have also been upgraded and extended to link into the new Grand Canal Green Route

Retailing

Since the adoption of the Development Plan the Retail Planning Guidelines 2012 have been amended adjusting the caps on the size of retail premises including convenience floorspace and retail warehouses. The distinction between 'discount stores' and other convenience stores which was contained in the 2005 Retail Planning Guidelines no longer applies.

Roads

A number of the Six Year and Long Term Roads Objectives are subject to funding constraints. Submissions are currently sought in relation to the Adamstown Road (R120) Improvement Scheme.

Water Supply and Drainage

The Boherboy Water Supply Scheme is almost completed and is due to finish late 2012 with over 40 kilometres of watermains laid and two new reservoirs built at Saggart & Kiltalown with security of supply greatly enhanced. The Eastern River Basin District Plan has been adopted by all thirteen Local Authorities in the eastern district and the Programme of Measures (PoM) in the plan are being implemented to meet the targets set for end of 2015. SuDS has become an integral aspect of the new Local Area Plans and in the Development Management process.

Flood Risk

SDCC is part of the Eastern CFRAMS Programme which is being funded and managed by the OPW who are tasked to produce flood maps by the end of 2013 and a Flood Risk Management Plan by the end of 2015. The Dodder CFRAMS Programme will be adopted by the end of this year 2012 and will be incorporated into the Eastern CFRAMS Programme ultimately. The OPW has awarded SDCC funding under their Minor Works Schemes to carry out Flood Alleviation Schemes on the Poddle River mostly in Tymon Park and on the Tallaght Stream mostly in Knockmore area.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring System established by the Council to monitor the impact of development within sensitive environmental areas, including identified flood zones, is being implemented through the development Management process. This ensures that if applications for planning permission are located in identified flood risk areas, this will be a factor in the assessment of the application.

Waste Management and Re-cycling

The Waste Management Plan for the Dublin Region 2005-2010 is to be extended in accordance with the new national waste policy until such time as it has been replaced, in 2013/2014. The 2010 progress report on the Dublin Region Waste Management Plan indicates that through prevention and minimisation measures in the region, the waste generated per household has reduced from 1.1 tonnes per household per annum in 2006 to 0.8 tonnes in 2010.

The progress report also indicates that in the 18 month period from July 2010 to December 2011, a total of 12,073 items (or 39 tonnes of goods) have been re-used in the County through the Free Trade Ireland service, with disposal cost savings of approx €50,240 and a related savings on purchases of €210,212.

A total of 65,114 tonnes of waste was recycled in the County in 2010 through door to door collections as well as recycling bring banks and the civic amenity, and this was from a total waste arisings of 158,872 tonnes. This represents a recycling rate of 41%. The comparable recycling rate in the County in 2006 was 30%.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring System established by the Council to monitor the impact of development within sensitive environmental areas,

including the municipal / construction / hazardous waste sites, is being implemented through the Development Management process. This ensures that if applications for planning permission are located within or adjoining these sites, this will be a factor in the assessment of the application.

Renewable Energy

The Council has made considerable progress in terms of developing and operating policies of sustainable energy. The principal vehicle for advancing the Council's progress is the EU LEAP (Leadership for Energy Action and Planning) project, a partnership of ten organisations that includes SDCC and other local authorities throughout Europe. The project has been set up to help local authorities address the EU's energy and climate change targets for 2020, by embedding sustainable energy policy within their operations and practices. Involvement in this programme will result in the completion of South Dublin County's first Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). This is being prepared in accordance with the EU 'Covenant of Mayors' protocol. The South Dublin SEAP will set out how the County can become more energy efficient across all sectors and will cover the entire geographical area of SDCC. The wider community including residents, businesses, community groups, schools etc are key stakeholders in the process.

Examination of Renewable Energy Technologies will be addressed as part of the SEAP development process. The parameters for a potential wind energy study are currently being considered.

Development Contributions

The current Development Contribution Scheme was adopted by the Council in January 2010 for the period 2010-2017. The total receipts in Development Contributions between January 2011 and August 2012 amounted to approximately €5,180,000. Development Contributions are spent on roads, water and drainage, parks and community facilities across the County.

A new revised draft Development Contribution Scheme has been prepared for consideration by the elected members. The time scale for the scheme has reduced from a seven year to a three year lifetime to reflect the changing environment surrounding local authority funding. It is anticipated that the new Development Contribution Scheme will operate from 2013 – 2015.



Introduction and Overall Strategy

Introduction and Overall Strategy

Introduction

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2010 – 2012 was adopted by the Council Members on 8th September 2010 and became effective on 6th October 2010.

Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires the County Manager to give a report to the Elected Members not more than two years after the making of a Development Plan, on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Development Plan. In addition, under Section 95(3)(a) of the Act, the Manager is also required to include in his Report a review of the progress achieved in implementing the Housing Strategy.

It should be noted that the last two years are part of the 6 year life cycle of the Development Plan. The more strategic policies and objectives of the Plan relating to the future strategic development of the County have a much longer time horizon than the six year period of the Plan itself.

Structures of Progress Report

The Progress Report contains:

An Executive Summary which highlights some of the main issues facing the County and some of the achievements in securing the objectives of the Plan since it came into force almost two years ago.

Sections of the Report broadly mirror the chapter structure of the Plan itself dealing with subject topics such as Housing, Transportation etc.

In each Section of the Report, to give some context to the topic being examined, the Aims and Strategy from the Plan itself are repeated.

Section 1 focuses on the progress in pursuing the Development Plan's Core Strategy, and provides details on the new national and regional guidelines which have been issued since the making of the Plan and which will affect its implementation. Section 1 also deals with such issues as the recently published preliminary results from the Census 2011.

The other Sections provide a brief outline of progress made in relation to the numerous policies and objectives of the Plan.

Given the number and complexities of the policies and objectives, it is not practical to indicate progress on each individual one. Notwithstanding this, the Report seeks to give as complete a picture as possible on the progress made in achieving these since the coming into operation of the Plan less than two years ago.

With a view to this the Progress Report will examine groups of policy objectives in each of the Sections of the Report as set out below:

- Housing
- Social Inclusion, Community Facilities and Recreation
- Transportation, Water Supply and Drainage, Environmental Services, Telecommunications and Energy
- Enterprise and Employment
- Town, District and Local Centres
- Retailing
- Archaeological and Architectural Heritage
- Landscape, Natural Heritage and Biodiversity
- Land Use Zoning and Local Zoning Objectives
- Specific Local Objectives
- Housing Strategy

Core Strategy

The fundamental role of the south Dublin County Development Plan 2010-2016 is to set out a coherent spatial policy framework for the future development of the County. In short, the core strategic aim of this Development Plan is to promote a more consolidated and compact urban form for this County. This will principally entail the following:

- The consolidation of the designated Town Centres
- Supporting the existing urban areas including the redevelopment of brown field lands

- The promotion of significant new economic development along defined economic corridors based on fixed and developing public transport corridors
- Identifying and maintaining the green infrastructure
- Promoting and supporting more sustainable forms of transport particularly public transport

Table 1 below sets out the details in relation to planning applications received by SDCC between October 6th 2010 and July 1st 2012. 91% of the total planning applications decided were granted permission.

Table 1 Applications Between October 6th 2010 and July 1st 2012

Decision	No. of Applications	% of Applications
Total Applications	1523	
Invalid	37	2.7%
Withdrawn	18	1.2%
Additional Information sought and not yet submitted	29	1.9%
Grant Permission	1210	79.4%
Refuse Permission	126	8.3%
No Decision yet made	74	4.9%
Decision Appealed	29	1.9%

The introduction of the SEA Monitoring System facilitates the measurement of the extent to which the policies and objectives within the Development Plan are achieving this aim since its coming into operation in October 2010. The floorspace permitted in planning applications since the adoption of the Plan indicates that for the first 21 months monitored, of the approx. 528815 sq.m. granted, 84.3 % of permitted developments are on Brownfield sites, 11.1 % are on Greenfield and 4.6 % are in the SDZs.

Planning Application are also being monitored with a view to both analysing the use types and floorspace that is being permitted on the site designation Greenfield/Brownfield/SDZ. The overwhelming use-type being permitted on

Greenfield land is Office-based Industry (21,100sq.m) and Residential-House (27,000sq.m). The main concern here is that office based industry, a high generator of trips, is being permitted in greenfield areas where there is an absence of public transport.

The extent to which the County Development Plan is promoting and supporting more sustainable forms of transport particularly public transport is monitored through the Development Management process by measuring the level of public transport accessibility and the building use and floor-space granted. The monitoring is indicating that more than one third of all floorspace (38.7%) is being permitted outside areas that have a public transport infrastructure. On a more positive note, it is indicating that just under a half of all permitted floorspace (47.6%) is served by medium to high levels of Public Transport Accessibility (PTA).

Green Infrastructure

While the identification of Green Infrastructure for the County as a whole will only be established on completion of the County Biodiversity Plan (which is underway at present), the Council is implementing the objectives to maintain and strengthen Green Infrastructure through the new Local Area Plans for Fortunestown and Newcastle

National and regional guidelines which have been issued since the making of the Plan

The following national and regional guidelines have been issued since the making of the Plan and are being applied on a day to day basis in the implementation of the Council's policies and objectives.

Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022

The RPGs provide for the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy at a Regional level in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA). The principle objective is to put in place a broad planning framework for the region and to provide an overall long term strategy for the making of Development and Local Area Plans for each local authority in the region. A key element of the RPGs is an increased emphasis on the concentration of future development into the Metropolitan Area and into designated development centres. The key objectives for the Metropolitan Area are:

- Consolidation of the urban centres;
- Development of brownfield sites especially along transport corridors;
- Delivery of well designed urban environments enhancing the quality of life, and;
- Provision and facilitation of an integrated public transport system.

The RPG states that the Council has two high profile and critical SDZ areas providing for new housing, as well as areas with significant potential for brownfield redevelopment which support the consolidation of the metropolitan area, particularly along the Luas and Kildare Route corridor. Housing policy in the Development Plan needs to continue to focus housing growth into the existing built envelope to support existing services in suburbs with falling populations and to achieve success for the SDZs.

Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy, 2011-2030

Sets out a long term transportation strategy for the Greater Dublin Area with five overarching objectives to support the vision of ensuring that the GDA is a competitive, sustainable city-region with a good quality of life for all by 2030; these objectives can be grouped into economic, social and environmental categories.

DoECLG Circular (PSSP 6/2011) July 2011

The circular relates to the 'Further Transposition of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)' into the Development Plans, Variations and Amendments.

Guidance for Planning Authorities on Drainage and Reclamation of Wetlands Consultation draft September 2011

The Guidelines provide information in relation to existing and new legislative provisions regarding the consent processes, and in some cases, the requirement for environmental impact assessment (EIA), for specified types of agriculture-related development.

Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities January 2012

The guidelines set out planning policy considerations relating to development affecting national roads (including motorways, national primary and national secondary roads) with the objective to facilitate achieving and maintaining a safe and efficient network of national roads in the broader context of sustainable development strategies.

Retail Planning Guidelines April 2012

- The Guidelines promote and support the vitality and viability of city and town centres thereby contributing to a high standard of urban design and encouraging a greater use of sustainable transport.

Retail Design Manual April 2012

The Retail Design Manual provides guidance on design principles within the planning policy guidance framework outlined under Action 21 of the Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015.

Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and related provisions Guidelines for Planning Authorities January 2012

The Guidelines provide an overview of changes to the legislative provisions in relation to quarries (following the European Court of Justice decision relating to permission for the retention of developments which require environmental impact assessment) and provide guidance on their implementation.

Draft Local Area Plan Guidelines - Consultation Document, June 2012

Consultation draft document to facilitate planning authorities in preparing and implementing Local Area Plans having regard to realistic future development needs, wider county and city plans and regional planning guidelines.

Manual for Local Area Plans June 2012

A companion best practice manual to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Local Area Plans.

Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and related provisions Supplementary Guidelines for Planning Authorities July 2012

Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment DOECLG July 2012

The purpose of the guidelines is to provide practical guidance to planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála on procedural and technical issues arising from the requirement to carry out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) in relevant cases. It is envisaged that the guidelines will result in greater consistency in the methodology adopted by consent authorities.

Population

The preliminary results of the 2011 Census have been issued for South Dublin County. Table 2 below is a summary of the preliminary results for the County.

Table 2 Population of South Dublin County

Year	Population	Increase	% Increase in the Intercensal Period
1991	208,739		
1996	218,728	9,989	4.8
2002	238,835	20,107	9.2
2006	246,935	8,804	3.4
2011	265,174	18,238	7.4

Source: Census of Population

The Census results indicate an increase of 18,239 in the County population, or by 7.4% over 5 years. This represents an increase in the annual average growth rate compared to the previous inter-censal period (3.4% over 4 years). This population increase has been identified as being due to natural increase rather than as a result of in-migration.

The Electoral Division (ED) data reveals an increase in the population of the Tallaght area by 6,300 persons, 6,823 persons in Lucan and 1,087 in Clondalkin. In Tallaght areas including Belgard, Kilnamangh, Millbrook, Tymon and Killinarden had some population decline. Suburbs including Rathfarnham, Terenure, and Templeogue

continued to experience population decline. Newcastle has increased in population from 2,631 to 3,785 (43.5%), Rathcoole from 3,614 to 4,672 (29.3%) and Saggart from 2,020 to 3,061 (51.5%).

2011 Census results demonstrate that South Dublin's private households breaks down as follows:

Table 3 Private Households

Type of Households	Households	Persons	% Household Type of Total Households
One Person	15,576	15,576	17.3%
Husband and wife	12,449	24,898	13.8%
Cohabiting couple	3,857	7,714	4.3%
Husband, wife and children	30,317	123,200	33.7%
Cohabiting couple with children	3,775	14,328	4.2%
Father and children	1,376	3,520	1.5%
Mother and children	11,052	31,151	12.2%
Couple and others	1,441	4,985	1.6%
Couple, children and others	2,077	10,645	2.3%
Father, children and others	201	736	0.2%
Mother, children and others	1,162	4,424	1.3%
Two or more family units	1,814	9,798	2%
Non-family households and relations	1,824	4,384	2%
Two or more non-related persons	3,098	8,364	3.4%
Total	90,019	263,723	100%

Source: Census of Population

The private households can be broken down further in to Family Cycles. 35% of private households comprise families with pre-school, early school or pre-adolescent children; 12.4% of households comprise cohabiting or married couples without children; 6% of households comprise single people; and 8.5% of private households comprise empty nests and retired people.

The findings of Census 2011 in terms of population increases and decreases across the South Dublin confirm the necessity of implementing the objectives of the Council's Core Strategy as articulated in the South Dublin County Development Plan 2010 – 2016, i.e. the consolidation of the designated Town Centres, the redevelopment of brown field lands and promoting and supporting more sustainable forms of transport particularly public transport. The decrease in population numbers within the inner suburbs represents an underutilization of existing infrastructure. As Local Area Plans are being reviewed, those areas where population numbers are increasing are being analysed in terms of adequate school provision.

Dwellings

Preliminary Census results indicate that the housing stock in South Dublin has increased by 10,057 from 87,484 dwellings in 2006 to 97,541 dwellings in 2011, an increase of 11%. There are 5,382 vacant dwellings in the County in 2011 compared to 5,407 in 2006 therefore indicating that the vacancy rate has remained stagnant at 6% compared to a national rate of 14.7% and 8.6% in Dublin region.

Results from the 2011 Census demonstrate that 88% of South Dublin County's 265,205 Population resides in a house representing a decrease in this housing type from 92% in 2006. In 2011 9% of the population resided in an apartment or duplex, representing an increase in this housing type from 5% since 2006. 42% of households reside in homes with a mortgage, 28% are owned without a mortgage, 17% are rented from private landlords, 10% are rented from the local authority, approximately 1% is rented from a voluntary body, 0.6% is occupied free of rent and 1.3% is not stated. Only 7% of residents reside in dwellings constructed since 2006 and given that Part L Conservation of Fuel and Energy Technical Guidance Documents were published in 2008 and updated in 2011 there is great scope in the housing sector to improve energy efficiency.

Capacity of Existing Zoned Land for Housing

As of August 2012 there were 741 hectares of undeveloped land zoned without planning permissions. It is estimated that these lands have a capacity for in excess of 30,000 housing units. South Dublin County Council received commencement notices for 165 residential units in 2010; 74 residential units in 2011; and 29 residential units to date in 2012.

In addition there are outstanding permissions for 7,554 units in the County where construction has not yet commenced.

Adaptation to Climate Change

South Dublin County Council, through the Development Plan is addressing the issue of Climate Change through measures such as:

- Ensuring appropriate location, scale and mix of development, development layout and density based on sustainable travel catchment areas. This is being reflected in the new Local Area Plans;
- Recognition that brownfield sites usually represent significant opportunity to redevelop at higher densities particularly where located close to existing or future public transport corridors and may offer the opportunity to utilise Combined Heat and Power (CHP)
- Implementation of the Flood Risk Guidelines and use of the SEA Monitoring System to monitor the impact of identified Flood Risk Areas on proposed development
- The implementation by the Council of a range of measures to ensure the sustainable management of water, e.g. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- Integrating transport and land-use planning
- The Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) process will have regard at a broad strategic level to measures to ameliorate the effects of climate change

The objectives of the Plan are also being supported by actions as set out in the Council's Climate Change Strategy 2007 and through national such as the Climate-Change Research Programme (CCRP) 2007-2013 Report Series No. 10 by the EPA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring of the County Development Plan

Following the Council's commitment to monitor the environmental impacts of the implementation of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2010-2016, the Council's SEA Team and the Spatial Data Team have created a SEA Monitoring System which became operational at the start of 2011.

The SEA Monitoring System is the first GIS based web application in the country to use Development Management derived Indicators to both monitor the significant environmental impacts of Development Plan policies and to begin the process of introducing meaningful indicators to monitor spatial planning. The project seeks to capture critical data at the planning decision making stage that will ultimately lead to evidence-based policy analysis and review. About half of the SEA Monitoring Indicators for the County Development Plan are derived from the Development Management system. The other half come from external sources such as the EPA, the Census and from other departments within the Council such as waste management indicators from Environmental Services.



A Living Place



Housing

Aim

The aim of Chapter 3 – Housing, as set out in the Development Plan is:

To protect and improve residential amenity in existing housing areas; to ensure the provision of high quality new residential environments with sustainable layout and design, with adequate public transport links and within walking distance of community facilities; to require high quality landscape assessment of development in sensitive rural and urban areas; to provide an appropriate mix of house sizes, types and tenures in order to meet different household needs; and to promote balanced communities.

Strategy

The Strategy for the development of Housing in the County as set out in the Development Plan is as follows:

- Provide sufficient zoned land to accommodate the growing population.
- Secure the implantation of the Council's Housing Strategy and Traveller Accommodation Programme.
- Promote Sustainable Communities that deliver quality well-designed housing responses that recognise the positive potential housing can contribute to overall social and economic well being within the County.
- Ensure that all new residential development complies with Council policies regarding Sustainable Neighbourhoods and Urban Design principles so that Sustainable Communities are developed to meet the needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life.
- Promote higher residential densities only at appropriate locations where such development ensures a high standard of protection of existing residential amenities and the established character of areas and encompasses appropriate design and amenity standards, having regard

to public transport infrastructure and guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2008).

- Provide for changing household sizes and promote an appropriate mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures and different densities to empower personal choice and to meet the needs of different lifecycle stages and facilitate the creation of balanced communities.
- Provide for changing housing needs, and promote the provision of affordable and social housing and housing for groups with particular needs including sheltered housing, housing for people with disabilities and housing for homeless people, in accordance with the Council's Housing Strategy.
- Counteract social segregation and facilitate the development of balanced communities through promoting mixed social / affordable / private housing development.
- Promote the consolidation of existing built-up areas with falling population by facilitating good quality appropriate infill development which would maintain the viability of local services whilst protecting essential amenities and valued open space and consider investigating the carrying out of a planning study assessing options for downsizing in established areas.
- Strictly manage the spread of one-off housing and the expansion of the suburbs into the rural, mountain, Liffey Valley and high amenity zoned whilst consulting and listening to the concerns and coherent arguments of the rural communities concerned.

Introduction

This section outlines the progress made in relation to the implementation of policies and objectives set out in the Development Plan relating to housing. Progress in relation to the Housing Strategy is dealt with in a separate review which is attached as an Appendix to this progress report.

Progress in implementing housing policies and objectives can be summarised as follows:

Housing Construction

There are extant planning permissions for approximately 6,500 dwelling units in South Dublin County with approximately 2,800 units permitted in strategic development areas including Adamstown, Clonburris and Tallaght Town Centre; approximately 2,600 dwellings permitted in A1 zoned lands including Ballycullen, Fortunestown, Saggart, Rathcoole, Newcastle and Killinarden; and there are approximately 1,000 dwellings permitted in established residential areas including Lucan, Clondalkin, Firhouse, Rathfarnham, Tallaght and Palmerstown. There are extant permissions for approximately 3,000 apartments and 1,200 duplexes of which approximately 1200 have 3 or more bedrooms, and approximately 2,300 houses. There are extant permissions for a further 1000 units in smaller developments of less than 10 units throughout the County.

Adamstown SDZ

Adamstown was designated as a 'Strategic Development Zone' in 2001. As 'Development Agency', South Dublin County Council is committed to ensuring that Adamstown is a sustainable urban community and that development occurs at a pace whereby it is supported by all necessary facilities and infrastructure.

At the end of 2011, there were 1,220 homes occupied, supported by a rail station, dedicated bus service, three schools, shops, a neighborhood park, playing pitches and other transport, drainage and utilities infrastructure. While no new residential phases commenced in 2011 work progressed on 'The Paddocks' and 'Adamstown Square' areas. Significant progress has also been made on taking completed infrastructure and developments into the Council's management. The roll out of Adamstown is ongoing within the terms of a comprehensive and flexible Planning Scheme.

Clonburris LAP and SDZ

The Clonburris area is one of the most significant areas zoned for development within South Dublin County. Two-thirds of the area was designated as a 'Strategic Development Zone' or 'SDZ' in 2006. The roll out of Clonburris will be based on the Planning Scheme approved by An Bord Pleanála in November 2008 and an approved Local Area Plan adopted by the Council in April 2008 whereby 12,500 – 15,005 homes are permissible. As Development Agency, South Dublin County Council is committed to ensuring that Clonburris develops as a sustainable urban community. The rail station is complete, however, no development has commenced in Clonburris to date.

It is a requirement of the Planning Scheme that an Urban Form Development Framework (UFDF) be developed for the District Centre area prior to any development. In 2011, the Project Implementation Team submitted the UFDF for Clonburris District Centre to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) for determination in accordance with the terms of the approved planning scheme. This document emerged from a lengthy consultation process between SDCC, landowners and stakeholders. As agreement in relation to the final document did not emerge from this process the UFDF has been referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination. No decision has been made by ABP to date. A planning application has been received for development on the LAP lands in 2009 and permission is granted for 898 homes, commercial floorspace, a crèche and community building. No development has taken place on foot of this permission.

Plans for A1 Zoned Land

The Council approved the Fortunestown Local Area Plan in April 2012 and the public consultation stage of the Newcastle Local Area Plan has been completed and the Manager's report on submissions due to the Members in October 2012. Both LAPs promote an appropriate mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures and different densities to empower personal choice and to meet the needs of different lifecycle stages and facilitate the creation of balanced communities.

Both LAPs included an extensive pre-plan consultation and involved draft plan public displays and Managers Reports for the Elected Representatives prior to their adoption. Each stage of the LAP process is accompanied by a parallel process for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the

respective European Directives on Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Assessment. An Initial Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is also prepared as part of the process. All of the additional studies are prepared within the Council.

Residential Density

Housing is integral to developing Sustainable Communities and creating places where people want to live and work, now and into the future. South Dublin County Council, together with the Department of Environment and Local Government and the other Dublin Local Authorities, are examining issues that may arise as a result of delivering lower density development on an incremental basis, as a result of market trends and funding issues, in large and medium scale development areas. The working group is assessing if the wide-scale application of lower density housing could undermine the density of development required for provision of good public transport and put at risk integrated land use and transport objectives to promote consolidated development of the RPGs and NTA draft Transport Strategy, and County Development Plans.

The focus of housing policies in the current Local Area Plans for Fortunestown and Newcastle (Draft) has been on delivering lifecycle housing. As a result, where it was considered that the most recent developments have been high density, the LAPs propose that new development should be of a lower density to balance the density of development across the neighbourhood in order to meet the needs of existing and future residents within a sustainable community environment.

The sustainable place making model in the Development Plan seeks to facilitate appropriate infill housing, particularly in established suburban areas of the County close to good public transport links, and it is considered that these objectives are being achieved through the development management system.

Social and Affordable Housing

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government published a Housing Policy Statement in June 2011 outlining the vision for the future of the housing sector in Ireland to be based on choice, fairness, equity across tenures and on delivering quality outcomes for the resources invested. The overall strategic objective of the Housing Policy will be to enable all households access good quality housing appropriate to household

circumstances and in their particular community of choice so that people will neither be forced nor enticed through fiscal or other stimuli to treat housing as a commodity and a means of wealth creation. Much of this is centred on a balanced housing sector that requires a strong, vibrant and well regulated rented sector and the social housing leasing initiative will be a key delivery mechanism. In addition responsibility for housing support for those with long term housing needs will transfer to Local Authorities.

The Housing Policy Statement indicates Government's commitment to developing other funding mechanisms to increase the supply of permanent new social housing including Options to purchase in lease agreements; Build to lease; Sourcing of loan finance by Approved Housing Bodies for construction/acquisition and a new evolving role for the AHBs; Realising NAMA Social Dividend. Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), which is likely to be piloted in 2013 with national introduction in 2014, will effectively replace Rent Supplement administered by local housing authorities where housing applicants will enter into standard leases with landlords and the Council will pay the lease rent. The tenant will pay a differential rent to the housing authority appropriate to their means.

The Housing Policy Statement also covers such areas as improving existing stock, meeting Specials Needs and Homelessness, homeowners in difficulty and Anti Social Behaviour. The Council will continue to work with all relevant agencies in delivering Government policy on meeting the acute housing needs.

Table 4: South Dublin County Council Housing List

Areas	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of applicants on Housing List	6,636	8,600	9,963	10,060	10,350
Applicants in receipt of rent supplement	3,850	4,376	4,972	5,372	5,153
Allocations from Housing list	486	416	277	301	179
RAS Allocations	273	304	321	202	131
Transfer	56	112	89	111	57

Approximately 50% of applicants on the Council's housing list are in receipt of a social housing support in the form of rent supplement living in a home of their choice in an area of their choice.

757 social houses have been allocated since January 2010 including 153 leased properties and 148 unsold affordable units that were put to social use. In addition 654 RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme) properties have been procured and 654 RAS tenancies have been allocated over the same period. There have not been any affordable home sales as a result of the housing market collapse. There were 23,381 maintenance requests received with 93.10% completed within target time-frames.

Traveller Accommodation Programme

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 was adopted by the Council in February 2009. An annual programme of building and refurbishment projects are presented to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for approval for capital finance on a yearly basis. The combined cost of the 2011 Capital Programme was just over €1.09 million. The Expenditure for the Management and Maintenance of traveller specific accommodation for 2011 was €0.249 million. The Capital Allowance for 2012 is just over €0.25 million. The Maintenance Expenditure to the end of August 2012 is just over €0.5 million.

Rural Housing

The Council's objective to strictly manage the spread of one-off housing and the expansion of the suburbs into the rural, mountain, Liffey Valley and high amenity zones in the County is being monitored by means of the SEA Monitoring System. Of the total of 55 residential permissions (including twenty five domestic extensions) granted in these areas since the coming into operation of the Development Plan, two are predicted to have a major impact on the landscape (granted by An Bord Pleanála), thirteen predicted to have a minor impact on the landscape and the remainder (forty) are predicted to have no impact on the landscape, see table below for detail. While the Council has yet to develop a means of measuring the cumulative impact of residential development in these landscape areas, there is a significant cumulative visual impact in some areas.

Table 5

Predicted Impact of Permissions granted for Residential Development in Landscape Areas				
Layer	Impact	Impact Type	Decision	No. of Impacts
High Amenity Zone				9
	None			9
Liffey Valley Zone				1
	None			1
Mountains				10
	Major			1
	Minor			4
	None			5
Rural				35
	Major			1
	Minor			9
	None			25
		Total No. of Permissions		55

Development Contribution Scheme

The current Development Contribution Scheme was adopted by the Council in January 2010 for the period 2010-2017. The total receipts in Development Contributions between January 2011 and August 2012 amounted to approximately €5,180,000. Development Contributions are spent on roads, water and drainage, parks and community facilities across the County.

A new revised draft Development Contribution Scheme has been prepared for consideration by the elected members. The time scale for the scheme has reduced from a seven year to a three year lifetime to reflect the changing environment surrounding local authority funding. It is anticipated that the new Development Contribution Scheme will operate from 2013 – 2015.

Social Inclusion, Community
Facilities & Recreation

Aim

To promote social inclusion; to ensure the retention, provision and maintenance of accessible community and recreational facilities including local / neighbourhood centres, parks and open spaces; and to ensure that these facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the communities they serve, are physically integrated with residential and employment areas and are provided concurrently with new residential development. It is the intention of the Council to achieve these aims while endeavouring to improve the quality of life for residents while adapting to and mitigating the impacts of Climate Change.

Strategy

- Promote the retention and enhancement of existing services, particularly in disadvantaged areas;
- Ensure that services and facilities are provided in tandem with housing developments (e.g. shops, businesses, schools, crèches, surgeries, community centres);
- Promote the provision of childcare facilities;
- Facilitate the provision of access and facilities for disabled people;
- Facilitate the integration of Ethnic-Minority groups in the County;
- Seek adequate amounts of good quality, well-located and functional areas of open space within new residential developments;
- Seek the provision of active and passive recreational facilities including play areas for children, as part of new residential developments;
- Continue the development of a network of parks of varying sizes, catering for a range of needs;
- Promote community participation in the planning process.
- Utilise the Council's Development Contribution Scheme to form a basis for the improvement of existing community and recreational facilities and the funding of new facilities and

Sustainable Neighbourhoods

The Council, in introducing new Local Area Plans, incorporates Sustainable Neighbourhoods and Urban Design principles so that communities are developed to meet the needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. In particular, the development within the LAPs is phased to ensure that essential infrastructure is delivered when required e.g. school provision as proposed in the draft Newcastle LAP.

Community Information and Consultation

South Dublin County Council is continuing the approach of encouraging community involvement in the planning and development process far in excess of the statutory requirements. Both the Fortunestown Local Area Plan and the draft Newcastle Local Area Plan have involved an extensive pre-draft public consultation process which have received positive engagement from the local communities. Written submissions from the consultation were reported on to the Elected Representatives and formed an important input into subsequent plans. There has also been extensive consultation in the Heritage Plan through a sub-committee system.

The Council continues to support initiatives around public safety and security including the Local Policing Forums. There are three Local Policing Forums in South Dublin County, in Tallaght, North Clondalkin and South West Clondalkin. These Forums are a collaboration between the Community, South Dublin County Council, An Garda Síochána and the Local Drugs Task Forces. Regular public meetings take place across the County and these meetings are an opportunity to speak with Council officials and Gardaí about issues that are affecting public safety and security.

Accessible South Dublin County

South Dublin County Council's commitment to access and equality has been strengthened since the enactment of the Disability Act in 2005. All departments within the Council developed detailed work plans to implement the provisions of the Act and much of that work has now taken place. The Council's current capital works providing and improving universal access are coordinated through the Disability Act Implementation Team who are now finalising the Disability Act Implementation Plan 2012-2015. The extensive access works and initiatives undertaken over the past 5 years in

particular have all been focussed on removing the barriers that create disability and exclusion and creating a truly accessible South Dublin County.

The South Dublin County Disability Advisory / Consultative Panel established after a number of people, who engaged with previous consultation processes, indicated their interest in joining a consultation forum, remains active e.g. facilitating a workshop on disabled people volunteering at the Volunteer Fair on the April 2012.

The Council promotes its commitment to access and equality through the South Dublin County Council Disability Liaison / Access and Barcelona Declaration website at accessible.southdublin.ie A series of access guides, which highlight features that ensure equal access to South Dublin County Council services for a wide variety of users with varying abilities are included on the website. An invitation to make submissions relating to disability access and/or suggestions regarding improving access in the County is included on the site.

Arts

The Council has adopted a new arts development strategy 2011-2015, informed by public consultation which address the aspirations and future needs of a diverse, and creative community. Under the strategy, a number of initiatives have been established to make the best use of resources across the County.

A Local Music Education Partnership has been established to deliver a low cost music education service in the County. A suite of on-line resources have been created to increase access to the arts. These include: YAM.ie (Your Arts Map) a location based events guide for young people integrated with public transport information; the redevelopment of NOISE South Dublin as a resource website for young people; South Dublin County Public Art an information resource for permanent and temporary public artworks in the county where the viewer can find information about artists and artworks, access audio and film works, read texts and search for artworks by map, locality, artform or artist; and the Art Trax App which provides an overview of the public art in the county for mobile devices.

The Council has completed the In Context 3 public art programme with the installation of an illuminated sculpture, The Marker Tree, on the N7, at the Kingswood Interchange. The sculpture marks a gateway to transport routes into and out of South Dublin County and is a point of interest to those living in and visiting the County.

Significant resources were dedicated to local arts development through direct provision of services. This includes: Ruaille Buaille Childrens Music Festival; NOISE film, dance and music festivals; Creative Careers, Creative Campus and Creative Approaches to Learning; support to local arts organisations to deliver programmes and individual artists through bursary awards.

Provision of arts infrastructure in the county such as the Civic Theatre and more recently Rua Red South Dublin Arts Centre has stimulated new and associated arts programming, opportunities for participation and the development of audiences. The Council has supported social inclusion policies through the commissioning of research into the practices of artists of immigrant and culturally diverse backgrounds with a view to informing future local authority policy.

School and College Sites

It is recognised that schools are a key part of the social and community facilities available in an area and that schools act an anchor to wider social and community facilities in many locations. There is in a urgent requirement to deliver suitable sites for schools nationally in order to meet the demand to accommodate an additional 45,000 primary school pupils and almost 25,000 post primary school pupils forecast to be in the education system by the start of the school year 2017/2018. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Education and Skills and the County and City Managers' Association on the acquisition of sites for school planning purposes was signed in May 2012. South Dublin County Council is working closely with the Department of Education to identify and acquire sites, with expediency, in 5 locations.

SLO 20 'Provision of school in Esker at site of former Green Waste Recycling' was realised on 15th September 2011, where planning permission was granted by the Council to the Minister for Education and Skills for a new two storey, sixteen classroom primary school; ancillary accommodation and associated siteworks, including two entrances from Esker Lane; gate controlled entrance from Castle Avenue; vehicular setdown/pick-up areas; staff parking; hard play areas and new boundary treatment, at Esker Lane Depot Site, Lucan. A third party appeal against the permission, submitted by a local residents association in relation to the issue of a pedestrian route, is currently being considered by An Bord Pleanala.

Sustainable Transport and Travel Plans for Schools

In line with Sustainable Transport and Travel Plans for Schools South Dublin County Council has continuously supported the promotion of students walking/cycling to school. There are 91 school warden crossings throughout the county and 2 walking buses that are supported by the council. The council continues to support walking promotions within schools with posters and promotional goods. Over €17,000 is spent annually on cycle training. Engineering schemes to encourage walking to school are continuously being undertaken.

South Dublin County Council has developed a travel behaviour change campaign titled "Travel Smart Communities". Phase 1 is being delivered to communities in Lucan and Clondalkin and includes a primary schools programme. Travel advisors have engaged with 10 no. schools (5,000 students) to support students, parents and staff in developing sustainable travel initiatives and are providing resources and incentives as appropriate. A scheme to provide additional cycle parking facilities is also being rolled out in 2012.

SDCC has had discussions with numerous schools, boards of management in relation to safety aspects in the vicinity of schools and have provided traffic calming schemes. The provision of sustainable transport and Green routes to school is coordinated by the Dept of transport under the auspices of An Taisce.

Community Facilities

The Council has completed refurbishments works to Neilstown Boxing Club and Community Centre, Rowlagh Community Centre has been extended and refurbished, while works have begun on Ballycragh Community Centre.

Libraries

A new Library Development Plan 2012-16 will be presented to the Strategic Policy Committee in September 2012, a draft framework of this plan was approved by the Arts -Culture- Gaeilge-Education and Libraries SPC in February 2012. It is anticipated that this plan will be approved before the end of 2012.

DoECLG funding for the redevelopment of Ballyroan Library was granted 1st September 2011. The new library building is scheduled to re-open in spring 2013.

Several possible sites for the development of a Digital Hub/Library at Palmerstown have been examined. This advance planning is subject to any possible site meeting the criteria under the new national capital programme for libraries – expected to be announced in late 2012.

Green Networks

Substantial progress has been made in progressing the principle routes identified in the 2006 Green Routes policy including:

- Route 1. Griffeen Valley Route is largely complete.
- Route 2. Dodder Valley Route. Detailed planning and design of route underway, implementation subject to funding.
- Route 3. Grand Canal Route completed as far as 12th Lock, see below.
- Route 4. The Green Loop Dublin Mountain Way Design work has been advanced.

In July 2011, South Dublin County Council officially opened an extension of the Grand Canal Green Route to Adamstown and Griffeen Avenue. The route provides 2.5km of cycle/pedestrian paths, public lighting and CCTV, and a new canal over-bridge.

A County Habitat Map has been prepared which will form the baseline for an overall County Green Infrastructure Network, the design of which will progress further with the planned County Biodiversity Plan. Green Infrastructure Strategies have been incorporated into recent Local Area Plans.

Open Space

A preliminary desk top survey to identify possible candidate sites for a Regional Park in the west of the County has been prepared.

Griffeen Valley Park is being sympathetically managed to enhance biodiversity including the provision of integrated constructed wetlands, encouragement of riverside vegetation, grassland meadows, elimination of herbicide use as far as possible, native tree and hedge planting.

Future Improvements to existing areas of open space are brought forward via the Part 8 process on an ongoing basis. Recent Part 8's include Jobstown Park Masterplan, Skatepark, Clondalkin Park, and a playground in Tymon North Park.

Improvement works at the Glenaulin Green entrance to Glenaulin Park adjacent to the clubhouses are progressing and a new footpath link and associated public lighting in St Cuthbert's park, Deansrath between Melrose and Lindisfarne / Lealand Estates has been provided.

Recreation

The provision of playing fields is reviewed each year in the context of the annual allocations. There is a finite capacity of the existing parkland to accommodate new pitches. 160 playing fields have been provided for the 2011/2012 season, catering for 90 sports clubs. As new parkland provision has fallen, the capacity of existing parkland, to accommodate additional pitches is beginning to emerge as an issue in some parts of the county. The provision of active recreation facilities for developing areas of the county are considered in the context of County Development Plan policy, Local Area Plans and the Development Management system having regard to the scale of the development and the projected future population.

A number of recreation facilities have been provided including a new cricket ground for Adamstown Cricket Club in 2011 and an international standard cycle race track in Corkagh Park was completed in 2012 in association with Cycle Ireland with funding support from the Sports Capital Programme.

Off-Road Vehicle Use

The Dublin Mountain Partnership is considering possible locations for such a facility within Coillte lands in the Dublin Mountains.

2011 Parks and Open Space Bye-laws adopted by Council and came into force in August 2011. Bye-laws contain provisions under Section 4 which ban the use of motorised vehicles in public parks and open spaces throughout the County.

Dublin City Council provides an off-road vehicle facility in the East Wall area of the City which is available for use by residents of the County.

Children's Play Facilities

Review of Council's play policy completed in 2012. 14 playgrounds provided at various locations throughout the county.

Pedestrian Links and Public Rights-of-Way

The Council provides, maintains and manages approximately 1,700 hectares of green infrastructure comprising parklands, river valleys, open spaces, woodlands and a variety of smaller spaces which all contribute to the green infrastructure of the county and which private linkages to private green space.

A number of mobility and permeability projects providing new connections via existing green infrastructure have been provided e.g. the provision of walking and cycling routes at Dargle Wood, Knocklyon and Clondalkin Park, Clondalkin. A significant scheme linking Adamstown to the Grand Canal via Griffeen Valley Park has also been completed. The existing walking and cycle routes in the Griffeen Valley Park have also been upgraded and extended to link into the new Grand Canal Green Route.

Progress continues to be made with the detailed design and implementation of priority Green Routes identified in the Green Route Strategy with the support of the National Transport Authority.

South Dublin County Council have made proposals to create a walking and cycling route along the line of the Old Lucan-Newlands Road Embankment between Moy Glas and Castle Riada Estates. This was granted funding by the National Transport Authority in 2012 to progress to Part 8 stage as one of the Local Community Walking and Cycling Links.

The initial proposals were outlined to the elected Council Members at a briefing on the 24th of April 2012.

South Dublin County Council is currently engaged in a process of consultation with residents in the Lucan area. Should the feedback be positive a Part 8 process will proceed in late 2012.

South Dublin County Council continues to work with adjoining authorities in the promotion and development of the Liffey Valley Park. A significant example of this was the inauguration in 2011 of The Green Loop / An Ceangal Glas, a 36km long distance walking and cycling route which links

the Royal and Grand Canals, the Liffey Valley and the Phoenix Park via public parklands in South Dublin, Dublin City, Fingal and Kildare County Councils and public lands under the control of the OPW and Waterways Ireland.

The Dublin Mountain Way was opened in 2010 in association with Dublin Mountain Partnership, to provide access from Tallaght Town Centre (Luas Red Line terminus) via Sean Walsh and Kiltipper Parks and other public parkland and roads into the Dublin Mountains. An ongoing programme of trail improvement is in place and a number of sections of trail have been newly built, upgraded and waymarked in 2011. Two new looped walks have been waymarked in the Dublin Mountains at Slievethoul (8.7Km.) and Lugg (3.8 Km.), and between Brittas and Saggart.

Significant public parkland has been provided in Liffey Valley (Lucan Demesne, Lucan Village and at Palmerstown (Waterstown and Mill Lane).

The Liffey Valley walking and cycle links to Grand Canal via public parkland (see Green Routes above) are being developed.

Dodder Valley Linear Park

A scoping exercise on the proposed extension of the Dodder Valley Linear Park, south of the Old Bawn bridge, commenced in 2011. Ecological and habitat constraint maps have been prepared for part of the lands nearest Old Bawn Bridge. Habitat surveys underway in 2012 which will inform the preparation of a detailed management plan for the park.

Further development of the pedestrian path system, provision of bridges and other enhancements will be subject to the availability of the necessary resources.

Landscape management of the Dodder Valley Linear Park to provide a balance between active and passive recreation while limiting physical access to other areas to provide for biodiversity. Active working relationship with Heritage Officer in developing and promoting biodiversity in the park.

The development of a visitor centre / tourism amenity based on the historical mills at the Dodder in Tallaght has not progressed.

Owendoher River Linear Park

Biodiversity survey proposals prepared. Successful funding application to Heritage Council by Glendoher & District Residents Association, supported by SDCC.

Allotments and Community Gardening

Allotments have been provided in two of the Regional Parks – Corkagh Park & Tymon Park. Preliminary design work is underway to facilitate the provision of allotments in Grange Park, Lucan, adjacent to the planned new park depot.

Proposals to extend the allotments at Friarstown are considerably advanced and works are expected to take place in early 2013, subject to the availability of the necessary funding.

Proposed objectives regarding the provision and management of allotments and community gardens are expected to form part of the forthcoming Biodiversity Plan)

SDCC provides technical support and guidance to local communities e.g. Glendoher & District Residents Association, as well as through initiatives undertaken by Community / Planning Department.

Watercourses

Landscape management of the rivers and streams and riparian areas in the parks and open spaces to promote habitat quality and diversity.

- Successful promotion and use of integrated constructed wetlands to improve water quality and habitat diversity at Grange Park and Griffeen Valley Park, Lucan.
- Completion of additional section of riverside path in Lucan Demesne to facilitate waterside access for walkers and cyclists. in 2011 and installation of small bridge across millrace in Waterstown park 2012 to improve pedestrian access and circulation.

- Alternative access provided to canoeists in Waterstown Park to facilitate easier and safer access to the river.
- Provision of access to local rafting company which provides guided tours on the river.

Horse Project

A review of the Council's public open space lands was undertaken in 2010 and a possible site for a horse project was identified in Collinstown Park. The site was discussed with representatives of a local horse owners group who welcomed the proposal but did not believe it was sufficient to meet their requirements. The group undertook to identify an alternative site and revert to the Council with alternative proposals. There has been no further contact from the group and it is believed they may have made alternative arrangements with private landowners in the area.



A Connected Place



Transportation

Aim

To promote ease of movement within, and access to South Dublin County, by integrating sustainable land-use planning with a high quality, integrated transport system for people and goods with the County.

Strategy

- Promote and facilitate the development of integrated land-use and transportation proposals based on delivery of the public transport measures outlined in Transport 21 and the forthcoming National Transport Authority Strategy and Implementation Plan for the Greater Dublin Area for the period 2010-2030.
- Promote and facilitate the improvement and further development of cycling and pedestrian facilities in the County for all users in accordance with national and regional policy.
- Protect all National Routes from frontage access and keep the number of junctions to a minimum consistent with good traffic management.
- Promote road safety measures throughout the County, including traffic calming, road signage and parking.
- Continue to implement an integrated traffic management system to make more efficient use of road networks and integrate it in an effective way with public transport.
- Implement the road objectives set out in the six-year road programme and implement other road objectives in the longer term.

Sustainable Modes of Transport

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring System established by the Council to monitor the impact of development within sensitive environmental areas includes monitoring of permitted floodspace categorised according to the extent of public transport frequency and accessibility. The first eighteen months of monitoring indicates that approximately half of the floorspace granted is served by a

high to medium frequency public transport service but that just over one third of floorspace granted is not serviced by public transport at all (a significant quantum of office based industry has been granted permission in areas not served by public transport).

Quality Bus Network and Bus Rapid Transport

In conjunction with the NTA SDCC is reviewing the QBC Programme. Liaison with Dublin Bus is on-going to facilitate & promote same. The Council is working with the RPA on feasibility of Bus Rapid Transport (BRT).

Metro

The Railway Procurement Agency (RPA), withdrew its application for a Railway Order from An Bord Pleanála in October 2011 due to the very limited funding available for capital projects. The project remains part of the overall strategy for an enhanced public transport network for Dublin. The route remains protected and will be available for the subsequent development of the scheme. The Metro West Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme was subsequently suspended.

Luas and Rail

SDCC supports rail transport proposals including the 4 track Cork line, the Luas Red Line, and possible Luas line to Lucan. To date, there has been no update in relation to the reorganisation of the 'Hamburger Junction' at the junction of the Nangor Road, Long Mile Road with the Naas Road traffic, to provide the potential for a new Luas stop.

Walking and Cycling

South Dublin County Council, in association with the National Transport Authority, (NTA) is involved in a number of medium and small scale local projects to improve access for cyclists and pedestrians. The aim of these projects is to enhance and improve the quality of life of the local community socially, economically and environmentally and to achieve real and measurable changes in people's travel choices and behaviour. These projects provide significant new access to local facilities and will improve public health, enhance access to the outdoors and will re-engage people with walking and cycling.

The projects are focused on providing formal pedestrian and cycle links along existing desire lines to popular local centres with a good mix of retail, community, educational and public services. In this way walking and cycling becomes an attractive choice for local residents to access their local centres.

Projects completed or approaching completion since 2011 include:

- Knocklyon Walking and Cycling Link,
- Corkagh Park, Clondalkin. Upgrade of existing footpaths to shared walking and cycling routes and upgrade of existing access points

Projects due to go on site in 2012 include:

- Link from Deansrath to Grand Canal Green Route, Clondalkin
- Link from Marfield to Aylesbury Local Centre, Tallaght

Projects currently at planning and design stage include:

- Whitechurch Road/Grange Road to Grange Manor Road, Rathfarnham
- Esker Riada, Lucan
- Link from Bawnogue area to Grand Canal Green Route Clondalkin
- Link from Bawnogue area to Fonthill Road, Clondalkin

Tallaght and Environs Cycle Network

South Dublin County Council undertook an analysis of the Tallaght Cycle Network in 2011 with the objective of identifying strategic cycling routes to link Tallaght Town Centre with neighbouring towns, villages and the city centre. It also aims to identify ways of making the town centre more permeable to ensure that cyclists can move easily around the town and to provide a choice of routes to get cyclists to their destinations. Arising from the analysis, initial preliminary design work has commenced on four projects as follows:

- Tallaght to Ballyboden Cycle Route
- Tallaght to Templeogue Cycle Route
- River Dodder Green Way
- Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan

Embankment Road opened November 2011, with new footpaths and cycletracks over full length and Stocking Lane footpath and cycletrack upgrade was completed in August 2011, whilst the upgrading of pedestrian and cycle infrastructure along the Nangor Road, Greenhills Road, Knocklyon Road and Aylmer-Peamount Road are deferred until such time that funding can be secured.

Grand Canal Way Green Route Extension

In Spring 2011 South Dublin County Council, with the support of the Department of Transport's Smarter Travel Programme, delivered an extension to the Grand Canal Way Green Route (3rd Lock, Inchicore to 12th Lock, Lucan) to Adamstown / Griffeen Avenue, Lucan. The project provides 2.5km of cycle / pedestrian tracks, public lighting and CCTV, and a new canal bridge. This cycle / pedestrian route is an extension of the existing Green Route that extends between Davitt Road, Inchicore and 12th Lock, Lucan, located on the southern towpath of the Canal. The new route, through Griffeen Valley Park in Lucan, enhances the accessibility of the Grand Canal from surrounding areas and the construction of the Grand Canal Bridge connects this new route to the existing A grade cycle path on the southern towpath, thereby creating a first class pedestrian and cycle route between Adamstown, Lucan South and Dublin City, that facilitates a secure, safe and attractive connection for commuting and leisure purposes.

GDA Cycle Network Analysis

South Dublin County Council will be a central stakeholder in the National Transport Authorities cycle analysis for the entire region. The analysis will identify and prioritise opportunities for investment in the cycle network.

Provision of Cycle Stands

This project is focused on providing cycle parking at various locations throughout the County in order to promote the use of cycling and also provide much needed facilities to those already cycling. The locations will include town or district

centre locations, local centres with a good mix of retail, community, educational, health and other public services, high frequency bus routes, areas of high employment or visitor use and retail destinations particularly where the current cycle parking provision is limited. In some situations the provision of covered cycle stands will be provided.

Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan

South Dublin County Council, funded by the National Transport Authority, has engaged consultants to work with SDCC and key stakeholders in preparing a Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan in 2012. The objectives for Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan are as follows:

- To optimise accessibility within the Town Centre for all modes of transport;
- To maximise connectivity and ease of movement for pedestrians and cyclists;
- To improve levels of safety for all users.

Manual for Urban Streets and Traffic Calming

Staff from South Dublin County Council forms the largest part of the team currently drafting the "Manual for Urban Streets" on behalf of the Department of Transport, who is providing funding for this work. This will be a National policy and technical guidance document for the design of roads and streets in urban areas i.e. where the speed limit is 50kph and below. This work is being coordinated by a Steering Committee comprised of the Department of Transport, the National Transport Authority (NTA), the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

Road Speed

The current Speed Limit Bye Laws were introduced in 2009 it is the intention to update the Bye Laws in 2012/13.

Car Parking

The council introduced Parking Bye Laws in 2010 and a system of parking charges now operates in a number of centres. A review of the By Laws will take place in 2013.

Table 6: Roads Programme

Route	Details
Citywest to Belgard Road (Embankment Road)	Complete
Greenhills Rd realignment at Parkview	Part 8 note advertised September 2005. Detailed design/site investigation to be progressed when funding becomes available.
Greenhills Rd to Ballymount Reconfiguration	CPO made in July 2007 and confirmed in June 2008. Detailed design/site investigation to be progressed when funding becomes available.
Limekiln Road Extension to Greenhills Road	Part 8 agreed March 2006. Detailed design/site investigation to be progressed when funding becomes available.
Knocklyon Road Extension	Part 8 agreed 2005. The Council's funding sources are showing downward levels and the Knocklyon Road is in a project schedule which can be considered when resources become available.
Nangor Road Improvement	Part 8 agreed March 2005. CPO confirmed August 2006. Construction of this scheme is subject to funding being available.
Robinhood / Ballymount Reconfiguration	CPO confirmed November 2006. Detailed design to be progressed when funding becomes available.
Aylmer Rd to Peamount Rd	Detailed design and land acquisition drawings to be progressed when funding becomes available.
N81 Hollywood Cross to Tallaght Road Improvement Schemes	Public consultation in relation to 'preferred route stage' closed November 2011.
Rathcoole Ring Road	Part 8 from Keatings's Park to the western boundary of amenity lands approved July 2006. Further progress on this road scheme can only proceed when resources become available.
Whitechurch Road Traffic Calming Scheme	Part 8 agreed November 2009.
Adamstown Road Improvement Scheme (R120)	Part 8 Notice of the proposed provision of the Adamstown Road (R120) Improvement Scheme advertised on 16th August 2012. Closing date for submissions 28th September.
Newlands Cross Junction Upgrade	ABP approved NRA scheme June 2008. The construction scheme is part of a PPP bundle contract being organised by the NRA which includes the Rathnew Bypass in County Wicklow.
Palmerstown Traffic	Traffic Weight restrictions in place on this strategic distributor road. HGV Mobility Policy currently being developed through the Transportation and Planning SPCs.
Quarryvale Estate	Traffic calming schemes are being developed as part of an over all strategy agreed with Councillors.
Greenogue	The completion of a new road in is awaiting funding commitment.
Interchange on the N7 at Keating's Park	The provision of an interchange on the N7 at Keating's Park has been explored with the NRA. The provision of an interchange at this location is not viable at this time particularly as the Rathcoole Relief road is unlikely to be built during the lifetime of the Development Plan.
N7 (Naas Road)/ Tay Lane Junction Improvement	To provide for an easy-flow exit from the N7 (Naas Road) at its junction with Tay Lane in the interest of supporting the significant social and economic services that Tay Lane provides to the Newcastle/Rathcoole and Saggart areas has been completed.
Barney's Lane – Pedestrian Bridge	To provide for a pedestrian bridge across the N7 at the Barney's Lane junction to facilitate people using the Saggart Luas extension. The current development proposals for lands to the north of the N7 at this location do not justify such expenditure at this time. However should same prove viable as part of future development this can be pursued.



Water Supply & Drainage

Water Supply & Drainage

Aim

To facilitate and guide the sustainable development of the County in suitable locations through the continued improvement of water and drainage infrastructural services and appropriate environmental protection and management.

Strategy

- Continue the sustainable development and improvement of the water supply and foul drainage systems throughout the County to meet the anticipated water and drainage requirements of the area.
- Protect surface water catchments and manage catchment areas where appropriate to protect the surface water drainage infrastructure of the County.
- Implement the provisions of national policy and legislation in the control of water pollution.
- Ensure that existing and proposed developments are not subject to undue risk of flooding.
- Conserve treated water by active leakage detection, non-domestic metering and development of infrastructure.
- Actively pursue and resolve water leakage.

Water Supply and Drainage

The Boherboy Water Supply Scheme is almost completed and is due to finish late 2012 with over 40 kilometres of watermain laid and two new reservoirs built at Saggart & Kiltalown with security of supply greatly enhanced.

The Greater Dublin Water and Drainage Steering Groups meet at least every two months to coordinate all the regional water and drainage projects. The Council is also committed to making a financial contribution on a proportional basis to the funding of the regional water and drainage schemes. A revised water specification entitled "Specifications for Laying Watermains and Drinking Water Supply" was produced in January 2012 in conjunction with

adjoining local authorities. It is available for download on the Council's web site.

The Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works which is on the Council's web site is being reviewed in conjunction with adjoining local authorities. The Council's foul drainage schemes are being progressed through planning as part of the DECLG's Water Services Investment Programme. In addition other water and drainage schemes are also being progressed to meet current demands.

The Robinhood Stream Improvement is part of the Eastern CFRAMS and the Dodder River Improvement is part of the Dodder CFRAMS both of which are being progressed through Dublin City Council and the OPW.

Water Quality Management

The Eastern River Basin District Plan has been adopted by all thirteen Local Authorities in the eastern district and the Programme of Measures (PoM) in the plan are being implemented to meet the targets set for end of 2015.

SuDS

Details of SuDs measures are incorporated in the following GDS documents: New Development Policy Document and Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works. These documents are accessible on the Council's web site. At pre-planning meetings developers are encouraged to adopt SuDs measures and they are referred to the above documents and to the Irish Suds website. Sustainable Surface water management has become an integral aspect of the new Local Area Plans and in the Development Management process.

Bohernabreena Reservoirs and Catchment Area

The Planning Authority has sought to limit development in the Bohernabreena Reservoirs and catchment area, cSAC and buffer zone through the implementation of Development Plan policies and zoning objectives. Relevant applications are subject to Appropriate Assessment, as required by legislation. Towards addressing the Planning Authority's obligations under Appropriate Assessment, a hydrological study of Glenasmole Valley and the SAC was undertaken to provide baseline scientific data as required for the AA process.

Water Pollution

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI 2011) has undertaken a Groundwater Protection Scheme for South Dublin County. The overall aim of the Groundwater Protection Scheme, which has been undertaken jointly between the GSI and the Local Authority, is to preserve the quality of groundwater, particularly for drinking water purposes, for the benefit of present and future generations.

The County Council continually monitor of all known waste depository sites in the County in order to preserve sources of drinking water from contamination. The Council is required to comply with the EPA requirements to actively manage risks identified in relevant catchments and to continually assess the quality of the source water in order to ensure that treatment at plants is optimised.

South Dublin County Council's monitoring of drinking water samples for 2010 shows compliance of 99.8% (3933 out of 3941), for 2011 also a compliance of 99.8% (4255 out of 4265) and 99.7% for the first six months of 2012 (1911 out of 1917).

Flood Risk

SDCC is part of the Eastern CFRAMS Programme which is being funded and managed by the OPW who are tasked to produce flood maps by the end of 2013 and a Flood Risk Management Plan by the end of 2015. The Dodder CFRAMS Programme will be adopted by the end of this year 2012 and will be incorporated into the Eastern CFRAMS Programme ultimately. The OPW has awarded SDCC funding under their Minor Works Schemes to carry out Flood Alleviation Schemes on the Poddle River mostly in Tymon Park and on the Tallaght Stream mostly in Knockmore area.

The production of the Fortunestown LAP 2011 and the draft Newcastle LAP 2012 has been accompanied by Strategic Flood Risk Assessments to determine where land might be at risk of flooding and where the appropriate processes of the "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009" can be applied.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring System established by the Council to monitor the impact of development within sensitive environmental areas, including identified flood zones, is being implemented through the development Management process. This ensures that if applications for planning permission are

located in identified flood risk areas, this will be a factor in the assessment of the application.

Leakage and Wastage

SDCC's leakage figures below 15% now due to full implementation and investment in a regime of pressure management, leak detection and prompt repair of bursts. SDCC has applied for funding under the Rehabilitation Project to install remote pressure controls via telemetry.

Water Pricing

Non domestic metering programme completed with over 5,000 meters being read by the Water Inspectors on a quarterly basis.

SECTION 4
Environmental Services

Environmental Services

Aim

To provide a leadership role in relation to the control of air quality, noise and light pollution; and the sustainable management of waste through the Council's own policy having regard to European, National and Regional policies and implementation of solutions on waste minimisation, re-use and recycling so as to limit the financial and climatic impacts of waste disposal.

Strategy

- Conform to the European Union and National Waste Strategy in all matters relating to the production, handling, treatment and disposal of waste within the County.
- Actively pursue the implementation of solutions on waste minimisation, re-use and recycling in line with the waste management hierarchy.
- Apply the key principle of waste management policy of 'polluter pays'
- Implement a shift in focus to prevention and minimisation measures whilst developing recycling and waste sorting measures.
- Co-operate with other agencies both public and private in viable schemes to manage the collection and biological treatment of organic waste produced within the County during the life of the current plan.
- No municipal or construction waste generated within the County that can be readily recycled or biologically treated from the County is to be incinerated in any location by the end of the life of this plan.
- Recognise the resource potential of Construction & Demolition waste and promote the level of its recycling in line with Government Policy.
- Co-operate with and participate in the preparation of regional plans for the collection, treatment, handling and disposal of wastes.

- Promote the prevention and reduction of waste and the increased re-use and recycling of materials from all waste streams in accordance with the Waste Management Plan for the Dublin Region 2005-2010.
- Promote public education and awareness of environmental issues.
- Reduce the effects of air, noise and light pollution on environmental amenity.

Waste Management Plan

South Dublin County Council maintains data in relation to waste management levels, complaints, breaches and enforcement actions so as to support effective measurement of progress against both plan and policy targets; and to feed into regional and national waste data collection systems; and to address improvement in the provision of statistical information to regional reporting mechanisms. This is happening on an ongoing basis. SDCC reports in a number of formats on an annual basis to the EPA with regard to waste management and waste enforcement statistics. SDCC also participates in the preparation of an annual progress report which details the Dublin Region's achievements of targets and objectives as set out in the current Waste Management Plan for the Region.

Conditions requiring the submission of waste management plans are attached to relevant applications as a matter of course.

Control of Waste Activities (municipal / construction / hazardous waste)

This process is being led on a national basis by both the DECLG and the EPA. This Council has identified all such sites in its functional area and has carried out initial risk assessments on all of these. Further investigation of these sites and refinement of the environmental risk assessments will be completed in accordance with a schedule as determined by the DECLG and the EPA. This Council is due to carry out site investigations and complete an environmental risk assessment on one of the sites in the County in the current year, following the provision of funding for this project by the DECLG.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring System established by the Council to monitor the impact

of development within sensitive environmental areas, including the municipal / construction / hazardous waste sites, is being implemented through the development Management process. This ensures that if applications for planning permission are located within or adjoining these sites, this will be a factor in the assessment of the application.

The issue of dumping in the Dublin Mountains is receiving attention from the Council's waste enforcement section and the EPA on an ongoing basis. In 2011 the Council achieved the restoration of 2 unauthorised waste disposal sites in the Dublin Mountains through planning enforcement action

Waste Prevention and Reduction

Such measures have been identified in the Waste Management Plan for the Dublin Region 2005 to 2010. The plan is currently being evaluated and its life span is due to be extended in accordance with the new national waste policy until such time as it has been replaced, in 2013/2014. The identification of waste infrastructure required to achieve the objectives in this plan is something that will need to be reviewed as part of the plan evaluation. There are likely to be new targets as well as new infrastructure requirements identified in a replacement plan. Due to the long delay in the announcement of new waste policy and the resulting delay in the replacement of waste management plans it is very likely that all waste regions including Dublin will fall behind in the coming years in the provision of the necessary waste infrastructure.

The 2010 progress report on the Dublin Region Waste Management Plan indicates that through prevention and minimisation measures in the region the waste generated per household has reduced from 1.1 tonnes per household per annum in 2006 to 0.8 tonnes in 2010.

The progress report also indicates that in the 18 month period from July 2010 to December 2011 a total of 12,073 items (or 39 tonnes of goods) have been re-used in the County through the Free Trade Ireland service, with disposal cost savings of approx €50,240 and a related savings on purchases of €210,212.

A total of 65,114 tonnes of waste was recycled in the County in 2010 through door to door collections as well as recycling bring banks and the civic amenity, and this was from a total waste arisings of 158,872 tonnes. This represents a recycling rate of 41%. The comparable recycling rate in the County in 2006 was 30%.

Recycling Facilities

SDCC has a large civic amenity site operational in Ballymount Industrial Estate, and has plans to open another one in the Lucan / Newcastle area which are on hold at the moment in the current economic situation. There is currently a second such facility open in the County which is operated as a private facility by Oxigen Environmental. The Council also has 76 bring sites in place in the County. The Council's green waste acceptance facility at Esker Lane closed at the end of 2009 and this was replaced by the introduction of brown bins into the County at that time. The Council continues to carry out education and awareness campaigns on waste management and to participate in regional campaigns in conjunction with the 3 other Dublin local authorities.

Air Quality

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains a number of air monitoring stations within South Dublin County. The permanent location of the monitoring station is on the Old Bawn Road in Tallaght. Monitoring is carried out using a continuous monitor for Sulphur Dioxide and Particulate Matter (PM10) at this station. The latest available document 'Air Quality in Ireland Report (2010)' by the EPA indicated that none of the monitoring stations in South Dublin exceeded allowable limits during that year. The PM10 limit, however, has been breached three times to date in 2011. The daily limit for PM10 is 50 ug/m3. The limit is deemed breached if more than 35 exceedances occur during the year.

Noise

Following the European Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and the introduction in Ireland of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140/2006), the four local authorities within the agglomeration of Dublin (Dublin City Council, Fingal, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and South Dublin County Councils) prepared a Noise Action Plan, including noise maps for the Dublin Agglomeration 2008-2013.

The Council has recently upgraded and expanded the network of noise monitors which are used to validate the computer-modelled noise maps. The works commenced last November 2011 and concluded in early April 2012. The network has been expanded from three noise monitors to seven. The network is now as follows:

Table 7: Noise Monitor Network

Location	Address
St Colmcilles School	Scholarstown Rd Knocklyon D16
Rathcoole Parks Depot	Mill Road Rathcoole Co Dublin
Deansrath Depot	Off New Nangor Rd Clondalkin D22
Tallaght Leisure Centre	Cookstown Rd Tallaght D24
Cheeverstown House	N81 Templeogue Dublin 6W
County Hall	Belgard Square North Tallaght D24
Esker Parks Depot	Esker Lane Lucan Co Dublin

The sites were selected to give an overall picture of noise from traffic through the South Dublin County Council area, in order to validate the noise maps. The Noise Action Plan is then derived from these maps. This is the Council's second round of Noise Mapping, an activity which is required every five years under the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.

The noise monitors operate on a 24-hour basis, each taking a noise reading every five minutes. The readings are then transmitted to a website. The website is currently being upgraded to a more user-friendly front end, which will convert the raw data into graphic form.



Telecommunications & Energy

Telecommunications & Energy

Aim

To promote and facilitate a widespread telecommunications Infrastructure in sustainable locations throughout the County in order to achieve balanced social and economic development, and to promote environmentally sensitive sources of energy as alternatives to existing resources.

Strategy

- Facilitate the enhancement of the telecommunications infrastructure to maintain economic competitiveness.
- Support national and international initiatives for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases and seek to provide positively for the development of appropriate renewable energy sources.
- Support the infrastructural development of energy facilities in association with the appropriate service providers.

Telecommunication Network

The widespread availability of a high quality telecommunications network throughout the County is critical to economic development. The roll out of telecommunications in the County is being carried out in line with the objectives of the Development Plan.

Renewable Energy

The Council has made considerable progress in terms of developing and operating policies of sustainable energy. The principal vehicle for advancing the Council's progress is the EU LEAP (Leadership for Energy Action and Planning) project, a partnership of ten organisations that includes SDCC and other local authorities throughout Europe. The project has been set up to help local authorities address the EU's energy and climate change targets for 2020, by embedding sustainable energy policy within their operations and practices. The project's wide-ranging programme of activities allows 'experienced' and 'learning' local authorities to exchange best practice and capacity-building skills. South Dublin County Council is partnered with Southampton City Council under the LEAP programme.

Involvement in this programme will result in the completion of South Dublin County's first Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). This is being prepared in accordance with the EU 'Covenant of Mayors' protocol (which was signed by Mayor Caitríona Jones in June 2012 on behalf of South Dublin County Council) and is supported by CODEMA (Dublin's Energy Agency) and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

The South Dublin SEAP will set out how the County can become more energy efficient across all sectors and will cover the entire geographical area of SDCC. The wider community including residents, businesses, community groups, schools etc are key stakeholders in the process.

In 2011, a Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) of South Dublin County was completed. This Baseline Emissions Inventory provides a comprehensive starting point for the energy debate among stakeholders in South Dublin County. It is estimated that in 2006 (base year) South Dublin County used approximately 7.23 terrawatt hours (twh) and emitted approximately 2,161 ktonnes of CO₂. The second stage of the SEAP preparation process involves compiling a schedule of short, medium and long term energy actions aimed at all sectors. For each SEAP action, considerations include estimated cost, expected energy saving, potential renewable energy share and CO₂ reduction.

In 2011, citizen involvement and stakeholder network campaigns were also initiated and involve partners across local, regional and national levels. A dedicated website for SDCC's energy programme has also been launched – www.southdublinenergy.ie

Tallaght Sustainable Energy Community (SEC)

Following a competitive bid process, in 2011 the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) has designated Tallaght as one of three new exemplar Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in Ireland. This programme, to operate for a five year period, aims to develop Tallaght, Dublin city and Tralee as 'living laboratories' to establish a culture of energy innovation, by carrying out locally focused projects to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy costs.

To facilitate delivery of the Tallaght SEC, Municipal, Business, Community, Transport & Institutional Action Groups were set up in 2011 to co-ordinate and implement a range of projects and initiatives across all sectors (including residential and business pilot projects), with the main aim of increasing energy efficiency, reducing CO₂ emissions and saving energy costs in the Tallaght area.

SDCC Energy Management Action Plan

South Dublin County Council's commitment to becoming the focal point for energy efficiency has resulted in its engagement with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Energy Management Action Plan (MAP). The programme aims to prioritise energy use and efficiency across all Council functions. An inter-departmental team of Council staff has been established, comprising staff from a range of technical backgrounds; the project is supported by CODEMA (Dublin's Energy Agency).

Central to the development of the project in 2011 and 2012, has been the establishment of an energy baseline of Council activities and the identification of energy efficient measures and initiatives ('Register of Opportunities') that will reduce Council energy use, costs and associated CO₂ emissions. It has been estimated that on an annual basis SDCC uses approximately 0.047 terrawatt hours (twh) and emits approximately 18 ktonnes of CO₂. The Energy Management Action Plan project has allowed energy efficiency to become a priority in Council operations and has created momentum for the implementation of a wider range of energy saving initiatives.

Wind Energy

Examination of Renewable Energy Technologies will be addressed as part of the SEAP development process. This will include a broad assessment of the potential for renewable energy sources within the county including wind energy, geothermal, hydro power, solar and others.

The parameters of any potential wind energy study are currently being considered. The possibility of designating a upland area of the County for the production of wind energy is being considered in the wider context of the Council's policy of actively promoting renewable energy.



A Busy Place



Enterprise & Employment

Enterprise & Employment

Aim

To provide for the future well being of the residents of the County by facilitating economic development and the growth of employment opportunities in all sectors in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

Strategy

- To facilitate and support the growth of the economy of South Dublin County and the Greater Dublin Area in general, in a sustainable manner whilst adapting to climate change and improving quality of life.
- Ensure sufficient serviced land to facilitate the sustainable growth of enterprise and employment in the County including inward investment and local economic development and expansion.
- Facilitate the creation of suitably located centres of excellence for knowledge, innovation and creativity based enterprises and ensure the knowledge-based economy has opportunity to grow in the County.
- Facilitate and encourage the development of green enterprise sectors and work with the relevant agencies to support the development of alternative forms of energy where such developments are in accordance with the sustainable planning and land use evaluation of the area.
- Facilitate a wide range of locations within the County for different types of enterprise from international business and technology parks to small and medium enterprises (SME) and micro-enterprise centres in accordance with the principles of sustainability.
- Promote the location of high-profile projects at suitable locations, particularly headquarter buildings, the offices of representative bodies, and Research and Development (R&D) facilities in the County.
- Facilitate the sustainable growth and development of an enterprise culture within the County through affordable microenterprise and business start up initiatives in collaboration with the South Dublin County Enterprise Board, relevant agencies and community representatives.
- Provide for a wide range of employment needs so that people with a diverse range of skill levels can find employment in the County.
- Facilitate economic development and the growth of employment in the County through support for the implementation of the objectives outlined in the South Dublin County Development Board Strategy 2002-2012 in promoting economic, social and cultural development and in assisting the provision of employment opportunities for all.
- Co-operate with local development agencies to maximise job creation opportunities in the County.
- Facilitate and support the County Development Board in its responsibility to function as an employment task force.
- Liaise with Science Foundation Ireland, IDA, Forfas, third level institutions and other relevant organisations to identify sustainable opportunities for the promotion of R&D/Innovation.
- Work with relevant agencies including FAS and the Local Employment Service to foster sustainable community employment consistent with job opportunities.
- Work with relevant agencies including FAS and the Local Employment Service to foster sustainable community employment consistent with job opportunities.
- Promote initiatives with relevant agencies to promote and expand training and education that meets the wide range of skills of businesses located in the County.

- Work with South Dublin County Enterprise Board and Enterprise Ireland to provide low cost enterprise space for micro enterprises and business start-ups in the County and explore opportunities for creating enterprise clusters within the County in order to accelerate business growth.
- Support County Dublin VEC in the provision of training and education programmes for adults to facilitate the enhancement of the knowledge and skills levels of people working and living in the County.
- Work in conjunction with the county's third level and medical institutions in the creation and fostering of enterprise.
- Promote the availability of education opportunities to all residents in the South Dublin County Council area in order to achieve higher levels of educational attainment and skills in the workforce and to encourage employment generation to maintain this resource within the County.
- Promote education and training for residents of the county to ensure job opportunities are open and accessible to local residents.
- Support the Institute of Technology, Tallaght, in the development of courses appropriate for the training and education of residents of the County for employment and the evolution of a wider remit for the college.
- Facilitate development of tourism infrastructure in a sustainable and sensitive manner that maximise the recreational and tourist potential of the County's natural and built assets.
- Facilitate agriculture, horticultural and rural related enterprises in the County.
- Reduce the risk and limit the consequences of accidents at manufacturing and storage facilities that present a major accident hazard having regard to the EU Directive on Control of Major Accident Hazards

Enterprise and Employment

The Council supports commercial and business development both indirectly by providing essential infrastructure and services, and directly by the provision of serviced and zoned lands.

Grange Castle Business Park is considered one of the four parks nationally that is suitable for large scale Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). To counteract global competition, particularly from Eastern Europe and Asia where there are lower labour and service costs, Grange Castle Business Park markets itself based on its strategic location and the quality of service that the Council and the Facilities Management Company can offer a client company. Grange Castle Business Park and the surrounding area were identified as an ideal location for the development of a "free trading zone" to cluster mega data centres which would support international innovation and R&D centres. These were a core component of the successful submission to 'Your Country Your Call' as part of the Data Island Strategy. The Council also played an active role in facilitating the establishment of two other data centres in Profile Park which is adjacent to Grange Castle Business Park.

The elected members, as part of the Budgetary process for 2011, approved a Business Development and Sustainability Initiative. The initiative identifies 8 outcomes in this regard and details actions, timelines and responsibility for delivery for each outcome. Monthly updates in the form of an agreed template are provided to the elected members and the CDB. As part of the programme and in conjunction with South Dublin Chamber, a Business Sustainment Executive was appointed in May 2011.

In September 2010 the Economic Development SPC agreed to establish a working group on economic opportunities in urban villages. Having agreed that Rathfarnham and Lucan be used as pilots for the working group, meetings have been held with traders from both villages and specific tasks to be examined have been agreed. At the SPC in April 2011 a BIDS approach was also discussed. As the pilot programme has shown such promise, it is now proposed to extend the scope of the Village Initiative beyond economic affairs and into a large social, economical and environmental agenda. Village Plans can be developed based on growing community involvement to consolidate existing strategies and develop newer approaches.

A number of SDCC enterprise initiatives include the launch of Social Media Academy in 2011 to provide training on social media for business, and training over 100 businesses; Business Section @South Dublin Libraries was launched in November 2011 and there are now dedicated spaces for business material in all South Dublin Libraries; SME Energy Scheme was a pilot study carried out in 2011 to offer advice to small business on reducing their energy costs. There was a pilot study carried out in 2011 and will be redesigned in 2012; Eco Week 2012 had a renewed focus on business, with 6 specific business events, attended by over 50 business owners.

In April 2012 Tallaght Hospital and SDCC made a joint submission to the Children's Hospital Review Group for the tri-location of the National Paediatric Hospital, New Women's Hospital and the Existing Adult Teaching Hospital in Tallaght Medical Quarter. The key objective of Ireland's Smart Economic Growth framework is to establish Ireland as 'The Innovation Island' and make Ireland the innovation and commercialisation capital of Europe. Health care is one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world. The growth of biomedical clusters has been dramatic in recent years and indications are that this rapid pace will continue in the future. The benefits of locating a children's hospital within Medical Districts are cited by international experts as providing the ability to take 'research and innovation from bench to bedside, from concept to final product'. The clustering of R&D centres with teaching hospitals and universities is seen as key to the development and commercialization of innovative technologies. The construction of the children's hospital in Tallaght presents an opportunity to develop a Medical District that would provide a springboard to developing Ireland's Smarter Economy that would build upon the existing strengths of the biomedical and pharmaceutical industries in Ireland.

Tourism

South Dublin County Council actively promotes the County with an emphasis on the richness and variety of our parks, river valleys, woodlands, trails, walking and cycling routes and active recreation facilities. The Council participates in tourism initiatives such as World Irish Dancing Championships, 2010 & 2011, and the Gathering 2013, Dublin Mountain Way initiative and Dublin Mountaineer bus service. The Heritage Officer has held preliminary meetings and site visits in the Slade of Saggart and part of the Brittas Ponds/Crooksling with the objective of applying for Leader funding to develop walking routes in these areas. SDCC has a close working relationship with

OPW in relation to management of Rathfarnham castle and grounds and the provision of a new playground in 2009 continues to result in increased visitor numbers to the park and castle, whilst the ornamental garden development is proceeding subject to availability of finance.

SDCC is continuing to successfully operate the Camac Valley Tourist Caravan and Camping Park in Corkagh Park, Clondalkin with 15,346 visitors from 11 countries staying in 2011.

Extractive Industry

The review and assessment of all quarries in the County for the purposes of Section 261A of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010 commenced in November 2011 and is now complete. This review focused on compliance with the EU EIS and Habitats Directives and was based on the information and evidence available to the Council. A total of six determination reports on quarries have been undertaken by South Dublin County Council in accordance with Guidelines issues by the Environment, Community and Local Government. The quarry owners or operators have the right to refer the determination and/or the decision of the Council to An Bord Pleanála.

Aerodromes

South Dublin County Council, adopted Variation No.2 to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2010-2016 in July 2012 relating to Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel. The variation involved the insertion of a protocol into the Development Plan to allow the Planning Authority to consider appropriate development of existing zoned land within the Casement Aerodrome security zone, without compromising the security of the Aerodrome.



Town, District & Local Centres

Town, District & Local Centres

Aim

To continue to develop a hierarchy of high quality, vibrant urban centres; and to enhance and develop the urban fabric of existing and developing centres in accordance with the principles of urban design and sustainable development. It is the aim of the Council to achieve an efficient use of land appropriate to its context, while avoiding the problems of over-development and where the optimum density will achieve compact, walkable places that prioritise pedestrian movement. Businesses and a variety of mixed-uses will be directed to locate within the hierarchy of urban centres and will be focused around public transport infrastructure.

Strategy

- Continue to develop a hierarchy of high quality, vibrant and sustainable urban centres whilst consolidating the urban fabric of existing centres including the strong network of district centres and the wide range of local and neighbourhood centres.
- Ensure that major urban centres are located at major transport nodes with good regional and district links and along main movement routes, within walking distance of homes.
- Focus employment/retail activities in the County in town, district and to a lesser extent local centres.
- Maintain the future viability of the existing town, district and local centres in the County and develop them with an appropriate mix of commercial, recreational, leisure and residential uses, new urban streets and public and semi-public spaces.
- Continue to improve the environments of existing town, district and local centres by embracing urban design principles.
- Provide a strong residential element, based on good urban design principles, within urban centres to enhance their vitality as lively and vibrant centres with safe and attractive streets and spaces and promote them as desirable places to work, live and visit.

- Consolidate local centres to contain a range of community, recreational and retail facilities, including medical/dental surgeries and crèches, at a scale to cater for both existing and future residential development.
- Identify and secure the redevelopment and regeneration of areas in need of renewal.
- Provide planning frameworks, through approved plans, for the consolidation and sustainable sensitive expansion of the County's villages.

Tallaght County Town

Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan 2006 which was originally adopted in October 2006 has been extended up to 2016 by the Elected Members. The LAP was extended as the plan remains consistent with the objectives and core strategy of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2010 – 2016: in addition, the objectives of the LAP have not been substantially secured. The extension followed the procedures as set out under S. 19 (1) (d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 -2010.

Tallaght Cycle Network

South Dublin County Council undertook an analysis of the Tallaght Cycle Network in 2011 with the objective of identifying strategic cycling routes to link Tallaght Town Centre with neighbouring towns, villages and the city centre. It also aims to identify ways of making the town centre more permeable to ensure that cyclists can move easily around the town and to provide a choice of routes to get cyclists to their destinations. Arising from the analysis, funding has been secured from the National Transport Authority for preliminary design work on a number of routes, including an upgrade of the existing route from Tallaght Village to Templeogue via the N81; for a new route from Tallaght to Knocklyon, for a route through the Dodder Valley from Tallaght to Dublin City and for the Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan, see below.

Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan

South Dublin County Council, funded by the National Transport Authority, is engaging consultants to work in close consultation with SDCC and key stakeholders in preparing a Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan in 2012. The objectives for Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan are as follows:

- To optimise accessibility within the Town Centre for all modes of transport;
- To maximise connectivity and ease of movement for pedestrians and cyclists;
- To improve levels of safety for all users;

Clondalkin

The Council has prepared a Plan for Clondalkin Town Centre area, specifically with a view to improving amenities and transport while, at the same time, ensuring that new development respect the amenity of existing developments. The Clondalkin Framework Plan issued in April 2011 analysed the existing urban fabric, setting and movement network, sets long term goals and objectives for the further sustainable development of Clondalkin.

Liffey Valley Town Centre

The Liffey Valley Town Centre Local Area Plan adopted on the March 2008 continues to be the development framework for the area.

Clonburris

The Clonburris area is one of the most significant areas zoned for development within South Dublin County. Two-thirds of the area was designated as a 'Strategic Development Zone' or 'SDZ' in 2006. As Development Agency, South Dublin County Council is committed to ensuring that Clonburris develops as a sustainable urban community. The roll out of Clonburris will be based on the Planning Scheme approved by An Bord Pleanála in November 2008 and an approved Local Area Plan adopted by the Council in April 2008. No development has commenced in Clonburris to date.

It is a requirement of the Planning Scheme that an Urban Form Development Framework (UFD) be developed for the District Centre area prior to any development. In 2011, the Project Implementation Team submitted the UFD for Clonburris District Centre to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) for determination in accordance with the terms of the approved planning scheme. This document emerged from a lengthy consultation process between SDCC, landowners and stakeholders. As agreement in relation to the final document did not emerge from this process the UFD has been referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination. No decision has been made by ABP to date.

City Suburbs

In September 2010 the Economic Development SPC agreed to establish a working group on economic opportunities in urban villages with Rathfarnham and Lucan being used as pilots for the working group. At the SPC in April 2011 it was agreed to examine:

- The improvement in maintenance/overall quality of public realm.
- Branding, marketing and retail diversity.
- Ongoing consultation with stakeholders.
- The roll-out of the programme over time to other villages in the county.

As the pilot programme has shown such promise, it is now proposed to extend the scope of the Village Initiative beyond economic affairs and into a large social, economical and environmental agenda. Village Plans can be developed based on growing community involvement to consolidate existing strategies and develop newer approaches.

The Heritage Officer has had initial discussions with local groups regarding preparing a Local Heritage Plan for Palmerstown and this will be progressed further during 2012

County Villages

Newcastle

An Historical Area Assessment has been completed for Newcastle and is being incorporated into the Newcastle LAP.

Brittas

Meetings and site visits in the Slade of Saggart and part of the Brittas Ponds/Crooksling have taken place with the intention of applying for Leader funding to develop walking routes in these areas.

Saggart

A joint Rathcoole-Saggart Heritage Plan which can contribute to a LAP is currently under discussion with local communities and could proceed subject to funding from Leader

Rathcoole

Scoping for a Village Design Statement for Rathcoole has commenced with community group (funding from Heritage Council). It is hoped to progress this in tandem with a Local Heritage Plan for Rathcoole-Saggart under Leader funding. Local Heritage Plan for Palmerstown is also under discussion with local group.



Retailing

Retailing

Aim

To maintain the vibrancy of, and where appropriate revitalise existing town and local centres, and embrace opportunities presented by enhanced transport improvements in South Dublin County.

Strategy

- Ensure that there is sufficient retail floorspace in the County and that this floorspace is located in an efficient, equitable and sustainable manner, having regard to the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2005) and to the Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016.
- Ensure that the provision of additional retail floor-space relates to the hierarchy of retail centres adopted and is compatible with the scale, character and function of receiving centres.
- Ensure that proposed commercial developments, where appropriate, will incorporate retail, residential, employment and entertainment/cultural and civic uses, and provide adequate support facilities for shoppers and access for disabled people.
- Maintain and strengthen the retail character of key shopping areas of existing centres, while protecting and/or improving the amenities of surrounding areas.
- Facilitate the provision of retail warehousing, retail parks and discount stores in the County subject to appropriate protection of centres in the retail hierarchy.
- Maintain the dominant retailing and major centre functions of Tallaght Town Centre as the County Town.
- Maintain the position of Liffey Valley as a major centre and designate and facilitate the development of new district centres of an appropriate scale at Clonburris and Adamstown.

- Support high quality, well designed efficient, competitive and innovative retails in town centres as an overarching objective in local/town plans, mixed with leisure, tourism, culture, business and other sectors.
- Promote and enhance existing centres, by focusing development in such centres and encouraging a wide range of services in good environments which are accessible to all.

Retail Hierarchy

The Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (2008-2016) proposes a five-tier hierarchy of retail centres in the Greater Dublin Area. The Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (amended April 2012) reiterates national policy to secure the future of the city and town centres by prioritising and planning future development at these locations to promote sustainable modes of transport. In order to secure the objectives of the Retail Strategy new retail provisions in the County will be made in line with the retail hierarchy and the Retail Planning Guidelines. Revisions to the Retail Planning Guidelines in 2012 adjusted the caps on the size of retail premises to 4,000m² in the four Dublin local authority areas for convenience floorspace (previously 3,500m²), a cap of 6,000m² has been placed on Retail warehouses, and the distinction between 'discount stores' and other convenience stores which was contained in the 2005 Retail Planning Guidelines no longer applies.

County Town

Tallaght is the centre that provides the highest level of retailing in the County and it is desirable that this status be maintained and enhanced. The Elected Members extended the Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan up to 2016 as the plan remains consistent with the objectives and core strategy of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2010 – 2016: in addition, the objectives of the LAP have not been substantially secured.

Liffey Valley

Liffey Valley is designated as a Major Town Centre in South Dublin County. SD12A/0014 granted permission to Tesco Ireland Ltd. for a much needed convenience retail facility for the Liffey Valley area and its catchment. The proposal at this strategically important site would result in increased choice, a greater level of competition and sustainable travel

patterns as consumers will no longer be required to drive to other centres and towns outside the catchment to carry out their weekly shop and linked trips between the town centre and the foodstore / hypermarket would occur. The decision is currently on appeal to An Bord Pleanála.

Adamstown

Permitted retail floorspace in Adamstown District Centre is in accordance with the Adamstown SDZ Planning Scheme, 2003. Planning permission was granted for 16,000 sq. metres of retail floor space in 2008 as part of an application for the initial phase of a District Centre at Adamstown. Development of a District Centre has not commenced to date.

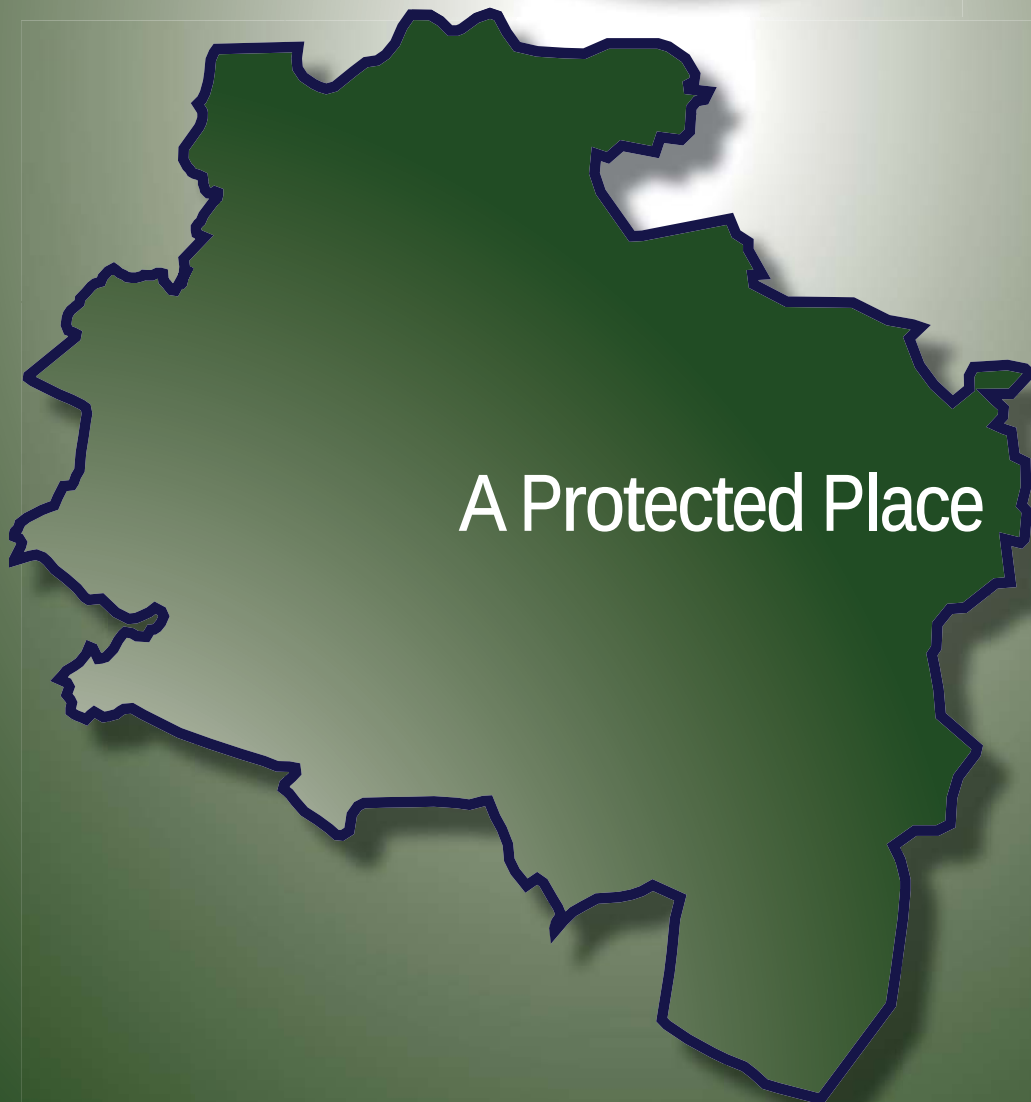
Clonburris

No applications have been lodged for District Centre retail uses in Clonburris.

Local Centres

South Dublin County Council, in association with the National Transport Authority (NTA) is involved in a number of large and small scale local projects to improve access for cyclists and pedestrians to local facilities by walking and cycling.

The projects are focused on providing formal pedestrian and cycle links along existing desire lines to popular local centres with a good mix of retail, community, educational and public services. In this way walking and cycling becomes an attractive choice for local residents to access their local centres. As part of the effort to promote cycling SDCC is focused at locations including town or district centre locations, local centres, particularly where the current cycle parking provision is limited. In some situations the provision of covered cycle stands will be provided.



A Protected Place



Archaeological and Architectural Heritage

Archaeological and Architectural Heritage

Aim

To protect and conserve buildings, areas, structures, sites and features of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

Strategy

- Protect and conserve the archaeological heritage of the County.
- Protect and conserve buildings, structures and sites of special architectural, historic, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.
- Secure the preservation in-situ or by record of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest.
- Protect and conserve areas that have particular environmental qualities that derive from their overall layout, design and unity of character.
- Protect and conserve historic milestones, street furniture, and other significant features wherever feasible.
- Encourage the rehabilitation, renovation and re-use of existing older buildings where appropriate.
- Continue to examine and reassess the architecture of the County with a particular focus on the protection of more modern structures of exceptional quality.

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

While additions to the Record of Monuments and Places are within the remit of the National Monument Service, South Dublin has notified the Service concerning the presence of an enclosure adjoining Ballinakelly in Newcastle. Recent archaeological investigation carried out under license have uncovered Iron and Bronze Age activity.

Record of Protected Structures (RPS)

There have been no additions to the RPS since the Development Plan came into operation however two additions were made as part of the current development plan with at least 300 structures being added under the 2004-2010 Plan due to NIAH being published. The current Record of Protected Structures includes over 500 structures of varying types and special interest which provides an RPS of high quality.

A review of the RPS will be carried out as part of the next Development Plan review and any structures/features recommended at this time are examined to ensure they have one or more of the special interests outlined under the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines and if they merit inclusion this will form part of the recommendations under the review.

Conservation

The Grant Scheme allocation for Protected Structures received from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for 2010 was €87,000 eight Conservation Grants were provided with grant aid based on the scheme of priorities and the full amount of our allocation was spent. The works completed under the grant scheme for 2010 included repairs/replacement and treatment of roofs, repairs to chimneys, repair to rainwater goods and repair of external renders. The Conservation Grants Scheme for Protected Structures administered by the Council's Architectural Conservation Officer/Section and has been successful to date in ensuring owners of Protected Structures are provided grant assistance to undertake necessary conservation and repair works to secure and protect their structures. The Conservation Grant Scheme was paused during 2011 and replaced by the Structures at Risk Scheme. Under the SRF Scheme 2011 a grant of €20,000 was allocated for remedial repairs and conservation works to Palmerstown Weir.

The Civic Structures grant scheme was launched in 2007 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The Conservation Officer/Conservation Section provides information and advice to other Council Departments in relation to this grant scheme and ensures the works being carried out are in accordance with good conservation practice. In 2011 South Dublin County Council was successful in obtaining grant aid of €20,000 for remedial repair and conservation works to the Roman Arch, Rathfarnham.

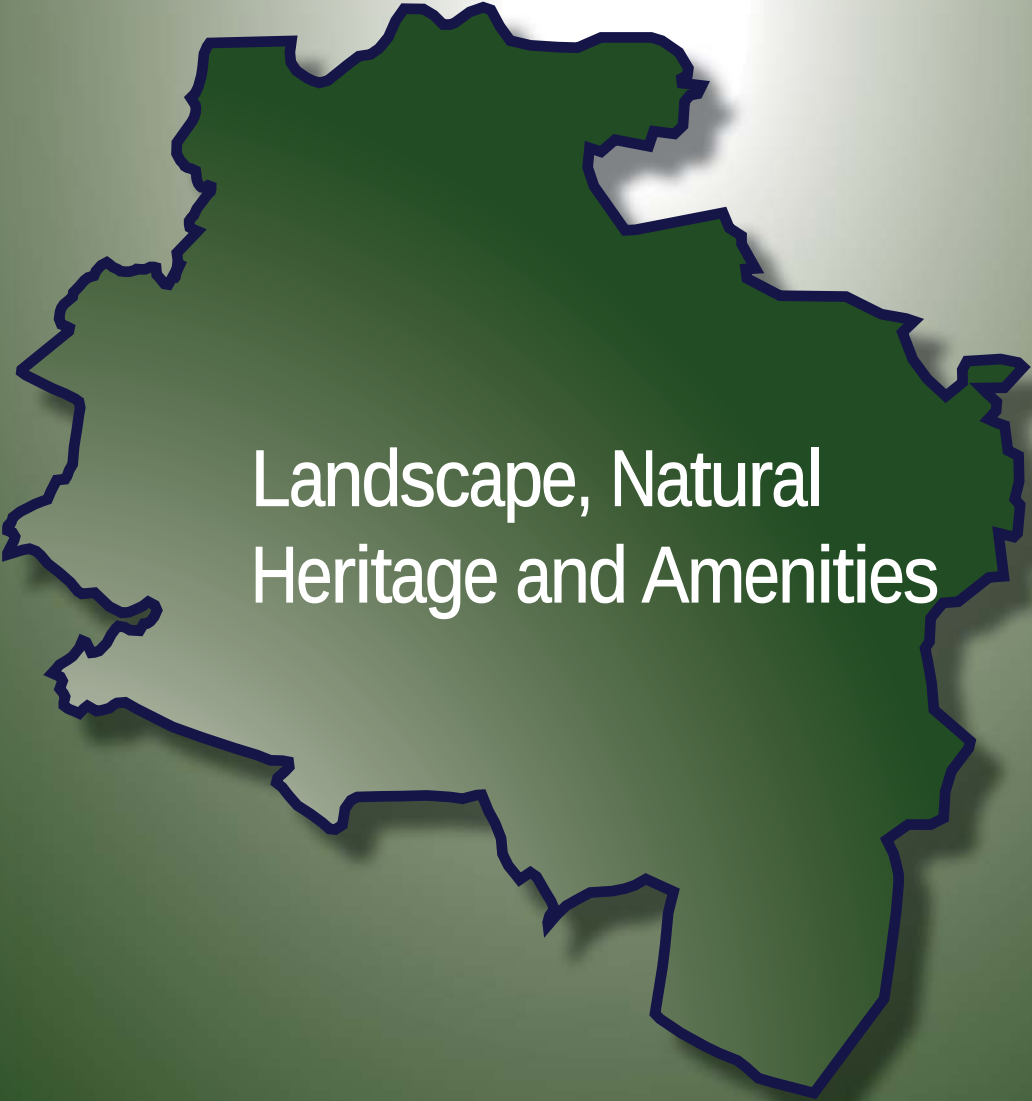
Architectural Conservation Areas

No new areas have been designated since the five non-statutory conservation areas were provided with formal designation as ACAs under the Planning and Development Act 2000 and were included in the 2004-2010 Development Plan. However a number of areas have been identified as possible ACAs by the Architectural Conservation Officer. When these appraisals are completed, these areas may be suitable to be included in the review process for the next County Development Plan.

The Council has carried out an audit of the condition and relevance of the signage in the 5 areas of Architectural Conservation in the County, Rathfarnham, Clondalkin, Tallaght, Lucan and Palmerstown Villages (June 2012).

The audit has categorised a series of actions that need to be taken, removals, repairs and replacements.

In addition the Lucan Tidy Towns committee had independently carried out an audit for Lucan Village, this has now been submitted to the Council and is being cross referenced with the SDCC signage audit for Lucan Village.

A large, dark green map of South Dublin County, Ireland, with a dark blue outline. The map is positioned in the lower half of the page, with a bright, glowing sun or moon in the background behind it.

Landscape, Natural Heritage and Amenities

Landscape, Natural Heritage and Amenities

Aim

To create a well defined and linked green structure in rural and urban areas where biodiversity, heritage, amenities and landscape are afforded protection, management and enhancement. The green setting will be enhanced by encouraging elements of the rural landscape into urban areas through greenways, linear parks and wildlife corridors. The Council aims to strike a balance between improving the quality of life of residents while adapting to climate change, through the protection of the natural environment and facilitating access to amenities.

Strategy

- Recognise that the landscape, natural heritage and amenities of South Dublin County have an important role to play in contributing to a high quality of life for residents and a positive experience for visitors.
- Protect the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity of the County in particular the proposed Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and the proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs).
- Implement the Landscape Character Assessment and a Landscape Character Strategy that will preserve the quality of the rural landscape and open space in the County.
- Facilitate the creation of a Green Structure in accordance with the National Spatial Strategy.
- Promote a balance between the protection of areas zoned Liffey Valley or high amenity and the facilitation of recreational use.
- Support the objectives and action of the South Dublin County Heritage Plan and prepare a Biodiversity Plan in accordance with the National Biodiversity Plan 2002.
- Develop a strategy for the creation of a Green Infrastructure for the County, promoting a balance between the protection of areas zoned Liffey Valley of high amenity, the facilitation of recreation use, and the provision of a network of sustainable wildlife corridors throughout the County.

Landscape

The Council's policy to protect the character of the landscape in the County in accordance with the policies and objectives of the Development Plan and with the "Draft Guidelines for Landscape and Landscape Assessment", (2000) is being monitored by means of the Council's SEA Monitoring System. Of the total of 86 permissions (all forms of development) granted in these areas since the coming into operation of the Development Plan, three are predicted to have a major impact on the landscape (two granted by An Bord Pleanála and a school in the Liffey Valley zone), thirty predicted to have a minor impact on the landscape and the remainder (fifty three) are predicted to have no impact on the landscape. While the Council has yet to develop a means of measuring the cumulative impact of residential development in these landscape areas, there is a significant visual impact in some areas.

The County Heritage Plan was published and launched by Mayor Marie Corr in June 2011. A series of actions listed in the Heritage Plan were undertaken and achieved during the year including a joint SDCC and Heritage Council project mapping the habitats of the County. There is an objective in the County Heritage Plan to expand on the Council's current Landscape Character Assessment but this will be subject to sourcing available funding for next year 2013. An Historical Landscape Assessment has been undertaken for Newcastle in 2011, whilst meetings and site visits in the Slade of Saggart and part of the Brittas Ponds/Crooksling have taken place with the intention of applying for Leader funding to develop walking routes in these areas.

Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

SPCs have been notified of public consultation process for the Biodiversity Plan which is to get underway Aug/ Sep 2012. A County Habitat Map has been prepared which will form the baseline for an overall County Green Infrastructure Network, the design of which will progress further with the planned County Biodiversity Plan. Green Infrastructure Strategies have been incorporated into recent Local Area Plans. An industrial heritage survey is to be undertaken during 2012 with funding from Heritage Council.

A scoping exercise on the proposed extension of the Dodder Valley Linear Park, south of the Old Bawn bridge, commenced in 2011. Ecological and habitat constraint maps have been prepared for part of the lands nearest Old Bawn Bridge. Habitat mapping of the River Dodder from Fort Bridge to City boundary are under way. Following

completion of habitat surveys, management plans will be prepared in association with Dublin City Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. Otter, badger and bat surveys have also been completed in the Dodder Valley as part of initial preliminary design work on a Tallaght to Ballyboden Cycle Route project. A biodiversity study, which is not yet complete, of parks along the Dodder has included a survey of invasive plant species.

BioBlitz 2011, run by the National Biodiversity Centre, yielded a huge degree of biodiversity information along the Liffey at Palmerstown, whereby a total of 657 species of flora and fauna were identified resulting in the park being acknowledged as the most biologically diverse park in the competition in 2011 with approximately 10 species per hectare, almost ten times as diverse as the next nearest park.

The Heritage Officer has been liaising with Waterways Ireland and National Parks and Wildlife Service to develop a working relationship regarding maintenance issues and biodiversity protection relating to the Grand Canal. A number of ecological studies have been undertaken in recent years along the canal, adding to the baseline knowledge of its flora and fauna.

There are three Tree Preservation Orders in the county which are scheduled to be reviewed in 2013 when further TPOs may be considered and the issue of TPOs may also be reviewed as part of the preparation of the Biodiversity Plan.

Areas of Special Amenity

An examination of the potential to extend the SAAO requested by Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government was forwarded to the Department in 2009. Apart from a number of clarifications sought, no response or direction has been received. In a reply to a Parliamentary Question in 2012, the Minister of State Jan O'Sullivan [24716/12] indicated that it is not intended to pursue the matter further at this time. A preliminary scoping exercise has been carried out. A number of background studies would be required, the resources for which have not been identified or allocated. Local Area Elected Members were briefed on the matter. An effort to recruit "JobBridge" Interns to carry out relevant studies was not successful.

The Dublin Mountain Partnership continues to implement the Strategic Plan for the Development of Outdoor Recreation 2007 – 2017; South Dublin County Council being one of the partnership organisations.

Liffey Valley

In 2006 the Office of Public Works, in association with South Dublin County Council, Dublin City Council and Fingal, Kildare and County Councils, commissioned consultants to draw up a strategy for the Liffey Valley, resulting in the strategy document Towards a Liffey Valley Park, which was published in November 2006. The document set out a strategy to provide an integrated management framework for the Liffey Valley, and to create a process towards the establishment of a Liffey Valley Park which would be composed of a necklace of publicly owned spaces within this area. This Strategy Plan is consistent with this Development Plan objective. South Dublin County Council has recently recommended that the implementation of this Strategy Plan be implemented under the guidance of the Regional Authority.



Land Use Zoning & Local Zoning Objectives

Land Use Zoning and Local Zoning Objectives

Material Contraventions

There have been no Material Contraventions of the County Development Plan since adoption.

Variations to the County Development Plan 2010-2016

There have been two variations to the Development Plan 2010 – 2016 since adoption in October 2010;

- the first related to provision of a specific local objective to allow for a retirement village in Ballynakelly, Newcastle, Co. Dublin on lands zoned Objective B-to protect and improve Rural Amenity and to provide for the development of agriculture.
- the second variation involved the insertion of a protocol into the Development Plan to allow the Planning Authority to consider appropriate development of existing zoned land within the Casement Aerodrome security zone at Baldonnell, without compromising the security of the Aerodrome.

Local Zoning Objectives

See Variation No. 1 above.



Appendix Housing Strategy Update

Appendix: Housing Strategy Update

The economy continued to fall during 2010 and 2011 particularly the Housing Market which due to over stimulation became a factor in the scale of the economic downturn and its recovery will be part of wider recovery across the economy.

In 2006 housing output peaked nationally at 90,000 homes. In 2011 it was approximately 10,000 with an annual housing demand of between 20,000 and 30,000 and 98,318 (Housing Needs Assessment 2011) on social housing waiting lists. This is against a background of a growing population with 4,588,252 recorded in April 2011. (1,654,208 households).

To meet increasing demands the private sector in terms of renting and leasing is an option in addition to the delivery of NAMA units as part of the Social Dividend and an increased role for Voluntary Housing Associations in leasing and acquisition. There is also a review underway on the Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2010. These and other changes to housing policy are as set out in the Governments Housing Policy Statement of June 2011.

Government Housing Policy Statement June 2011

- Sets out the Governments intended approach to addressing the Housing Challenges which now present
- Comes in the context of dramatic changes in the economy generally but particularly the housing economy
- Set a context within which the legislative and policy framework to address housing need will be advanced
- Future Vision for the housing sector based on choice, fairness, equity across tenures and on delivering quality outcomes for the resources invested
- Housing supports to meet most acute housing needs

In order to deliver on the objectives policy in the housing sector now looks to new delivery options within the current economic context and review of existing ones with a focus on those unable to meet their own accommodation needs

- Private Rented Sector – Social Housing Leasing Initiative
- Review of Part V
- Transfer of Rent Supplement and responsibility for housing support for those with long term housing needs to transfer to Housing authorities – Housing Assistance Payments
- Delivery of new social housing through
 - o Options to purchase in lease agreements
 - o Build to lease
 - o Sourcing of loan finance by Voluntary Housing Bodies for construction/ acquisition
 - o Transition of NAMA units to social housing
- An evolving role for Voluntary Housing Bodies
- Improving Existing Stock / Renewing Communities
- Target Special Needs and Homelessness
- Measures for Homeowners in difficulties
- Measures to tackle issues relating to anti-social behaviour across all housing tenures

Housing Strategy Review - Part V

Circular Housing 11 / 2012 of 29 February 2012 dealt with Review of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 - 2010

A review of Part V, as outlined in the Government's housing policy statement (launched on 15 June 2011), is now underway. The review is being undertaken in the context of the radically different housing market that currently prevails compared to when Part V was first introduced. As set out in the policy statement, the decision is not being taken to end Part V fully on the basis that there is a continued rationale for capturing planning gain for residential development through the resourcing of social

housing supports. The review, which is being carried out by the Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency, has therefore been charged with considering how planning gain can still be captured while taking account of prevailing market conditions.

In the meantime there remain many varied options or combinations of options available to comply with Part V requirements. Previous advice from the Department has recommended that they should all, including combinations where appropriate, be examined to see which one best meets both the statutory obligations of the planning authority including their housing strategy objectives and the concerns of the house builder/developer.

However, in light of:

- market conditions (including the very low levels of residential construction output);
- the financial position of local authorities and the Exchequer;
- the extent to which an oversupply of affordable housing emerged over the course of 2008 – 2009, and;
- the extent to which local authorities delivered very substantially on the social integration aspects of Part V, contributing to the creation of sustainable communities through a clear focus on the delivery of units,

Local Authorities are now advised that, pending the outcome of the review, in negotiating agreements under section 96, Part V obligations should be discharged through mechanisms that place no additional funding pressures on authorities. Such options could include, for example, financial contribution (as provided for under section 96(3) (b)(vi) of the Planning and Development Act (2000 – 2010), reduced number of units or lands in lieu.

Leasing Initiative / ASH – Applicant Sourced Homes / Choice Based Lettings

As at July 2012, the Council had a Housing List of 10,350 and of those 5,130 are on Rent Supplement.

Expressions of interest have been received and processed in respect of 111 properties under the ASH scheme of which lease agreements have been concluded in 29 cases and the properties tenanted. A further 9 properties as identified by applicants under the ASH scheme are currently in process.

From the enhanced rollout which commenced March 2012, a total of 65 queries were recorded following issuing of the letters. All of these queries were followed up by Allocations Unit to carry out an up to date assessment and I would expect some of these will result in submission of property details for inclusion in the ASH scheme.

The rollout of ASH is continuing with the issue of approx 60 letters on a fortnightly basis for alternate sides of Naas Road.

Choice Based Lettings is a further initiative introduced in October 2012 for 3 bed units and for all identified units in November 2012 by the Council in accordance with adopted Allocations Scheme as a method of housing allocation.

Table: South Dublin County Council Housing List

Areas	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of applicants on Housing List	6,636	8,600	9,963	10,060	10,350
Applicants in receipt of rent supplement	3,850	4,376	4,972	5,372	5,130
Allocations from Housing list	486	416	277	301	179
RAS Allocations	273	304	321	202	131
Transfer	56	112	89	111	57

Approximately 50% of applicants on the Council's housing list are in receipt of a social housing support in the form of rent supplement living in a home of their choice in an area of their choice.

757 social houses have been allocated since January 2010 including 153 leased properties and 148 unsold affordable units that were put to social use. In addition 654 RAS properties have been procured and 654 RAS tenancies have been allocated over the same period. There have not been any affordable home sales as a result of the housing market collapse. There were 23,381 maintenance requests received with 93.10% completed within target time-frames.

Key Indicators 2011

- 413 homes allocated in 2011.
- 111 Transfer requests granted.
- Total Voluntary Housing stock in the County at the end of 2011 – 1143 units.
- 23,381 maintenance requests received with 93.10% completed within target time-frames.
- Housing Maintenance budget for 2011 was €9,510,900.00.
- The Rent Income for €19.93 million, and the average weekly rent was €43.72.
- 1,261 live loans on our portfolio with collection of €5.84m

- 169 Local Authority dwellings were adapted under the Disabled Persons Grants Scheme in 2011 and expenditure for above was €884,864.00.
- 145 Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability were paid out at a total cost of €1,117,281.76 in 2011.
- 47 Mobility Aids Housing Grant Schemes were paid out at a total cost of €179,886.67 in 2011.
- 70 Housing Aid for Older People grants were paid out at a total cost of €298,664.73 in 2011.

