**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

Minutes of South Dublin County Council January 2017 County Council Meeting held on 9th January 2017.

**PRESENT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Councillors** |  | **Councillors** |
| Bonner, B.  |  | King, C.  |
| Casserly, V. |  | Lawlor, B.  |
| Coules, N. |  | Lavelle, W.  |
| Dermody A-M. |  | Leech, B. |
| Donovan, P.  |  | Looney, D. |
| Duff, M.  |  | Mahon, K. |
| Duffy, F.  |  | Mc Cann, C.  |
| Dunne, L.  |  | McMahon, R.  |
| Egan, K. |  | Murphy, E.  |
| Ferron, B.  |  | Murphy, M. |
| Foley, P.  |  | Nolan, R.  |
| Genockey, M. |  | O’Brien, D.  |
| Gilligan, T.  |  | O’Brien, E.  |
| Gogarty, P. |  | O’Connell, G. |
| Graham, J.  |  | O’Connor, C. |
| Higgins, E.  |  | O’Donovan, D.  |
| Holland, S. |  | O’Toole, L.  |
| Johansson, M. |  | Richardson, D.  |
| Kearns, P. |  | Timmons, F. |
|  |  | Ward, M. |
|  |  |  |

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin. |
| Directors/ Heads of Function | L. Maxwell, B. Coman, E. Taaffe, F. Nevin, T. Walsh. |
| Head of Finance | R. FitzGerald. |
| County Librarian  | B. Fennell.  |
| Senior Executive Officers | H. Hogan, Y. Dervan, L. Leonard, M. Maguire.  |
| Senior Executive Engineer | J. Kennelly. |
| Senior Engineer  | W. Purcell.  |
| I. T Research and Development Officer  | R. Herron.  |
| Administrative Officers | C. Murphy, E. Leech, N. Comerford.  |
|  Staff Officer Clerical Officer Sord  | P. Brennan. M. Dunne.A. O’Brien. |

The Mayor G. O’Connell Presided.

Apologies were received from Councillor E. Fanning.

The Members offered their Congratulations to Councillor K. Egan on his recent marriage.

### H1/0117 ****CONFIRMATION AND RE-AFFIRMATION OF MINUTES****

### Minutes of Council Meeting 12th December 2016 which had been circulated were submitted and APPROVED as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor G. O’Connell seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

###

**H2a/0117**  **REPORTS FROM AREA COMMITTEES - RATHFARNHAM/TEMPLEOGUE-TERENURE AREA COMMITTEE - 13TH DECEMBER 2016**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning Transportation, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management.

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

**H2b/0117 REPORTS FROM AREA COMMITTEES - CLONDALKIN AREA COMMITTEE - 14TH DECEMBER 2016**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning Transportation, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management.

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

**H2c/0117 REPORTS FROM AREA COMMITTEES - TALLAGHT AREA COMMITTEE - 19TH DECEMBER 2016**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning Transportation, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management.

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

**H2d/0117 REPORTS FROM AREA COMMITTEES - LUCAN AREA COMMITTEE - 20TH DECEMBER 2016**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning Transportation, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management.

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

### H3/0117 STANDING COMMITTEES - ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

### H4/0117 ****STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES****

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

### H5/0117 REPORTS REQUESTED FROM AREA COMMITTEES

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. Frank Nevin, Director of Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development, and was **CONSIDERED:**

**REPLY:**

The following report was CONSIDERED at the Clondalkin Area Committee meeting:

**"Report on 1A St. Patrick's**

The house at 1A St Patricks Road was constructed following the approval of the Part 8 report in 2006. For the purposes of clarity at the time of the Part 8 and the house construction it was the clear intention to place the house on the market.

The house was placed on the market following completion. However, the circumstances surrounding this property were quite unique in that the Council has encountered a number of difficulties in the sale or letting of the above dwelling due to a disputed strip of land which formed part of the side garden to the property.

A number of attempts were made to acquire the strip of land by agreement from the registered owners to no avail and the Council was left with no option but to CPO the lands in March 2013.  Once the CPO was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala in August 2015 negotiations were on-going with the land owners Agent to agree compensation. Settlement with the land owners was only reached in December 2015 and the Council acquired full title to the land in March 2016.

The final cost of the contract for the construction was in the sum of €563,759.  Other miscellaneous expenditure including fees relating to the CPO referred to above, has brought the total expenditure to €629,000.  It was always envisaged that once full title had been obtained these costs would be substantially recouped from the disposal of the dwelling.

However, prior to placing the property on the market discussions were held with the Housing Department on potential alternative uses. These discussions were in view of:

* The current housing crisis.
* The reality that the property would not achieve the financial return on the market originally envisaged, and
* The opportunity of the home type meeting specific priority needs from the housing list.

Following these discussions a potential allocation to a family in particular medical need of the type of accommodation the home could meet was identified.

As members will be aware there have been a number of meetings in the interim and it was agreed that this report be brought to the Area Committee at this time.

In considering this report members should take into account:

1. Any proposed sale of the dwelling would require the consent of the members of the Council in accordance with S 183 of the Local Government Act.
2. The deficit above is a debit figure in the Council Capital account and must be funded. The income from the house, whether by sale or taking into stock, will partly defray the balance. The remaining deficit will have to be funded from other Council income sources. Accordingly, it will not be possible to ring fence any income from a sale of the property to finance the purchase of alternate social homes.

At an informal briefing with the Area Committee on 16th November the view appeared to be that the home be allocated on the basis of medical need rather than sold. It is recommended that this approach remains the best option for the home."

Following a discussion to which all members contributed it was agreed that the matter be referred to the full Council for discussion on the points included in the report, i.e., that  :

* there was a clear understanding  at the approval of the Part 8 in 2006 on the part of the **then** elected members, the executive and the residents that the house would be sold on the open market and
* any such sale would require the approval of the **current** Council members.

Accordingly, the matter is now before the Council for discussion.

A Discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Ward, B. Ferron, M. Johansson, B. Bonner, P. Gogarty, P. Kearns, C. King, E. Higgins, E. O’Brien, K. Mahon, R. Nolan, N. Coules, T. Gilligan, D. O’Brien, L. Dunne, G. O’Connell, S. Holland, M. Duff and D. Richardson.

Mr. Frank Nevin, Director Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development, responded to the Members queries.

The Mayor Councillor G. O’Connell then called for a roll call vote on the following “That this Council places 1A St Patricks Road on the open market”.

 The result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 22 (TWENTY TWO)**

**Councillors B. Bonner, A. Dermody, P. Donovan, M. Duff, F. Duffy, K. Egan, P. Foley, M. Genockey, T. Gilligan, P. Gogarty, E. Higgins, P. Kearns, W. Lavelle, B. Lawlor, D. Looney, R. McMahon, E. Murphy, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell, C. O’Connor, D. O’Donovan and F. Timmons.**

**AGAINST: 15 (FIFTEEN)**

**Councillors N. Coules, L. Dunne, B. Ferron, J. Graham, S. Holland, M. Johansson, C. King, B. Leech, C. Mc Cann, K. Mahon, M. Murphy, R. Nolan, D. O’Brien, D. Richardson and M. Ward.**

**ABSTAINED: 0 (ZERO)**

In view of the outcome of the roll call vote it was proposed by Councillor G. O’Connell and Seconded by Councillor T. Gilligan and **RESOLVED**:

“That the Chief Executive could proceed to place 1A St. Patricks Road for sale on the open market.”

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor G. O’Connell, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Questions numbered Q1 – Q22 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### Q1/0117 YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING STATE CARE JOINT WORKING PROTOCOL

### QUESTION: Councillor F. N. Duffy

To ask the Chief Executive - with reference to the ‘Young People Leaving State Care Joint Working Protocol between Tusla,  the child and family agency and housing authorities - how many young persons have been supported to complete and Housing Needs Assessment in advance of their 18th Birthday since the protocol was adopted.

**REPLY:**

The Young People Leaving State Care Joint Working Protocol was introduced under Circular 46/2014 with responsibility for implementation with TUSLA.

The Protocol was introduced in a small number of areas however it was not rolled out nationally and proposed Aftercare Steering Committees were not established within the area of South Dublin County Council

Currently revised guidelines are being prepared by the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government and TUSLA.

### Q2/0117 JUNK COLLECTIONS

### QUESTION: Councillor P. Foley

I know, in the past, this Council carried out a cost review of ‘junk collections’ and these collections were considered too expensive. In light of the increase in illegal dumping, can the Council’s opinion be swayed on this?

**REPLY:**

Household junk collections were discontinued by South Dublin County Council over 8 years ago.

At that time the service was provided to approximately 20,000 houses per year at an annual cost of over €500,000 to the Council.  This annual cost could not be sustained and therefore the service was discontinued.

The junk collection service was provided at a frequency of once in every three years to homes located in RAPID areas, and once in every five years to all other areas.

It is thought unlikely that the illegal dumping which takes place in this County would be prevented by the provision of such a service on a once in three or once in five year basis.  Also, the provision of this service would do nothing to address the illegal burning of black bag waste which takes place regularly in certain parts of the County.

No charge was levied for the junk collection when it was provided previously, and this is in conflict with the "Polluter Pays Principle".  To reintroduce the service now on a similar basis would be in direct conflict with National and EU waste policy, and also the new Waste Plan for the Eastern Midlands Regions in this regard.

No such financial provision has been made in the 2017 Revenue Budget for such service.

### Q3/0117 ONE BED

### QUESTION: Councillor M. Johansson

To ask the Chief Executive, how many of all agreed and future Part 8 housing units, including Rapid Build, will be 1 bed units, and to outline if there is any plan to increase the number of 1 bed units being built in the future?

**REPLY:**

The following projects, providing for a total of 261 units, have been Part 8 approved and are at various stages of Departmental approval. These are two and three bed units and no one-bed units are provided for on any of these sites due to meeting family needs particularly overcrowding.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Name**  | **No. of Units**  | **Part 8 Approved**  |
| St Marks Green, Clondalkin  | 11  | Sep-13  |
| Fortunestown (MacUilliam)  | 28  | Mar-14  |
| Mayfield Estate  | 18  | Mar-14  |
| Dromcarra, Tallaght  | 14  | Jun-15  |
| Letts Field, Neilstown, Clondalkin  | 37  | Sep-15  |
| Ballyboden, Rathfarnham  | 40  | Oct-15  |
| Killinarden, Tallaght  | 28  | Nov-15  |
| St. Aidans, Tallaght -RAPID BUILD PROJECT  | 85  | Sep-16  |
|    | 261  |    |

However, the Council through its Accelerated House Purchase Programme and Part V, continues to negotiate the acquisition of one bedroom units throughout the county.

In addition, in order to meet the changing needs of older people as they age, the Council is dynamically reviewing how it develops specific housing for older people. The Council is actively appraising comparative best practise and various options to develop an exemplar model of ‘housing with care’ for older people that combines the supports and services traditionally delivered separately by the Council and the Health Service Executive into one scheme and retaining the concept of independent living. The Council is as part of that process considering the concept of “independent residential complexes”.

The permeating vision will be of a service that is proactive and focused on assisting older people to lead healthier and more active lives and to promote an independent and secure living environment for its residents.

The council will develop plans for three sites that are considered appropriate having regard to:

1. Location: close to (within walking distance of) services
2. Place making: the creation of attractive developments that add to the local context and urban form of the area
3. Reuse of land: aim to re-use brownfield sites wherever possible to promote the development of sustainable communities

 Potential sites that have been identified include:

1. Brownfield site of 1.66 acres adjacent to Tallaght Stadium and Sean Walsh Park with access from Whitestown Way
2. Infill in both Maplewood Road and Fernwood Park

Before developing plans for the developments the council is currently examining best practise with regards the following:

* Incorporating a universal design approach to allow for flexibility and adaptability of the dwellings in the future
* Integrating technology into developments which enhance safety and security, support health monitoring, increase comfort and improve social connectedness
* Integrating social supports into developments which support access to information, find non health service based solutions and reduce demand on formal services.

It is anticipated that outline proposals will be brought to Council presently.

### Q4/0117 ENFORCEMENT FILES CLOSED DURING 2016

### QUESTION: Councillor W. Lavelle

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on how many planning enforcement files were closed during 2016, and to seek a breakdown of the files closed during 2016 by the years the complaint was received; and in particular to ask how many of 125 files opened prior to 2013 were closed during 2016?

**REPLY:**

134 enforcement files were closed during the period 1st January 2016 to 30th November 2016.

25 enforcement complaints received in 2016 were closed in 2016
31 enforcement complaints received in 2015 were closed in 2016
26 enforcement complaints received in 2014 were closed in 2016
19 enforcement complaints received in 2013 were closed in 2016

33 enforcement complaints received prior to 2013 were closed in 2016

### Q5/0117 EU LIFE FUNDING

### QUESTION: Councillor W. Lavelle

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on the Council’s application for EU Life funding for a long term plan to deal with the serious problem of misconnections of domestic foul water drainage systems resulting in pollution of the surface water drainage system and of rivers and streams as such as the Griffeen?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council submitted an application for EU LIFE funding in September 2016 for a project which aims to address the issue of domestic misconnections to the surface water drainage system. A short list of the applicants will be announced in March 2017 and successful applicants will be notified in May 2017. The application proposes a joint service approach between South Dublin County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown to perform 10,000 and 7,000 door-to-door inspections respectively of domestic dwellings. The application also proposes the installation of approximately 2 acres of integrated constructed wetland as a second method to deal with domestic misconnections. The application, if successful, will provide significant additional misconnection improvement work.

SDCC have already undertaken work in this area through the taking-in-charge process and 2,656 dwellings have been screened since 2010.

### Q6/0117 LEAF REMOVAL

### QUESTION: Councillor W. Lavelle

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the performance of the Council's leaf sweeping contracted operation over recent months, noting there have a been a large number of complaints in relation to estates not being swept?

**REPLY:**

Leaf removal is one of the services provided to the Council by Oxigen Environmental Ltd under the terms of the road sweeping contract.  The service is provided over a 5 month period commencing on September 1st and ending on January 31st.  The system in place for this is one whereby requests for leaf removal which are received from customers and from elected representatives are referred to Oxigen for attention.  In an estate or on a main road where no request has been received for leaf removal then such an area will be cleaned as normal, including removal of leaves, when the area is next due to be swept on the contractor's schedule which is at a frequency of monthly for main roads and quarterly for housing estates.

In 2016 to date a total of 507 requests for removal of leaves have been received, all of these were referred to Oxigen and all have now been confirmed by Oxigen as having been completed by them.  The average time of response after receipt of the request has been 2 days.  In 2014 the number of leaf removal requests received was 437 with an average response time of 4 to 5 days, and in 2015 a total of 399 requests were received also with an average response time of 4 to 5 days.  These statistics indicate that Oxigen have dealt with an increased number of requests in 2016 when compared with the past 2 years, and that these have been responded to much more quickly than in previous years.

The customer contact system has been examined in relation to leaf removal requests and while it contains details of the large number of requests for the leaf removal service which have been received there is no evidence in the system of complaints that the service is not being delivered.  As noted above the provision of this service continues to the end of January and it is expected that further requests for service will be received in the New Year.  The provision of the service will be monitored closely during that time.

### Q7/0117 CYCLE TRAINING

### QUESTION: Councillor W. Lavelle

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the Council's programme of cycle training in 2016, including details of the schools who availed of the programme; and to ask for details of the 2017 programme?

[Q7a) 2016 cycle training figures](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=54264)

**REPLY:**

Cycle training was provided for 1838 pupils in 2016. These pupils were predominantly 5th and 6th class students. Details of this training can be found in the attachment.

"Cycle Right", a new national cycle training standard is launching in January 2017. This training course standardises the training provided by different companies and introduces a stagegate process for people to develop their cycling skills. This new course incorporates both practical and theoretical lessons for children, provides basic training within the school grounds and also basic on road training that includes traversing a junction.  The ratio of trainers to children is also now defined by this.

As the new course is more intensive and requires more trainers there is an additional cost to providing it. The funding streams for this have changed with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport now providing a large portion of the funding. The RSA will continue to support the training by providing €5 per child.

For 2017 SDCC propose to increase their funding for the coming year to €10 per child to reduce the cost to parents. SDCC also intends to trial and adult training scheme during the summer months to encourage older people to get back on their bikes.

### Q8/0117 HOMELESS AND HOUSING LIST

### QUESTION: Councillor D. Looney

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the figures for the homeless and housing lists, and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

At 22/12/16 there are 7,786 on housing list. This represents an increase from the November figure of 7,301 and is due to staff resources being applied to process crossover applications. It is anticipated the number of crossover applications will reduce in mid-2017 when HAP is rolled out across the Dublin Region. In 2016 the Council completed the statutory social housing assessment to update applicant’s circumstances.

There are currently 440 applicants on the Homeless Priority List.

South Dublin County Council currently operates two facilities in the Tallaght Area. Tallaght Cross houses 64 families on a temporary basis and Killininny House offers accommodation for 21 single men and an additional 9 placements as step down/transitional in Glenn na Horna in Springfield managed by the Peter McVerry Trust. South Dublin County Council also has nomination rights to another hotel in the Tallaght Area for placement of South Dublin Families. All other Hotel & B&B accommodation is operated through the Central Placement Services and is not in the control of this local authority, and as a result the service can only offer the accommodation that is available on any given day.

All families included on the Homeless Register are notified to the Focus Family HAT (Homeless Action Team) who appoint a Case Worker to further assist those families.

SDCC is also working with Focus Ireland on the HAP Preventative Measure to assist and prevent those families at risk from becoming homelessness.

In addition the Council operates an outreach service and multi-agency approach to address rough sleepers.

Dublin City Council is the lead authority in terms of Homeless Services for the Dublin Region. Funding for Homeless accommodation and preventative measures comes from the Department Housing Planning Community and Local Government with a contribution from each of the Dublin authorities. Funding is also provided for a number of services from the Department of Health/HSE. There is a total provision of €2.6M from SDCC in 2016

### Q9/0117 HOME SECURITY SCHEME

### QUESTION: Councillor D. Looney

To ask the Chief Executive, in light of the success of the Home Security Scheme, how he intends to roll this out in 2017; does he recognise the issues in promoting and administering this scheme in particular LEA's; and can he give a commitment to focus on these  LEA's in future promotions for this and similar schemes?

**REPLY:**

The 2016 scheme was advertised on the SDCC website and social media. It was also promoted by Community Services Department Staff, the Age Friendly County Alliance and by the Public Participation Network. Information was also circulated to all Councillors and to many groups working with and or for older persons.  While no advertisements were taken out in local newspapers, some publications did include the information.

No decision has been taken yet on when the 2017 scheme will be advertised, however it is intended to advertise it in a similar fashion to 2016.   The application form will again clearly state that locks will be allocated on a first come - first served basis.   Every effort will be made to ensure that groups and individuals in the County working with and for older persons are aware of the scheme.

No late applications from the 2016 scheme were considered and staff are not accepting applications yet for the 2017 scheme.

### Q10/0117 NAMA PROPERTIES

### QUESTION: Councillor K. Mahon

To ask the Chief Executive, following the passing of a suspensory motion at Tallaght Area Committee on 19/12/16, requests a report on all vacant NAMA properties (Houses) in the County and reports findings to Council for consideration.

**REPLY:**

As reported previously South Dublin County Council were advised by NAMA of 591 Units identified by them as suitable for Social Housing. The Council did not accept a number of these units due to some being unfinished, some not started and most due to the large number of units in the one development from a sustainable community perspective in terms of management and absence of an integrated mix within the development.  Of the 591 units offered the Council accepted 131 and a further 18 under consideration. In relation to the 131 units accepted the transaction has already been completed. We have continuing discussions with NARPS on suitable units becoming available that we can consider. NARPS ia the NAMA established Special Purpose Vehicle, NAMA Asset Residential Property Services Limited, to acquire residential units from its debtors and receivers and to lease them directly to approved housing bodies.

The Council has requested and is awaiting an up-to-date report from NAMA in relation to current vacant units within the administrative area of this Council.

### Q11/0117 LANDS

### QUESTION: Councillor K. Mahon

That the Chief Executive updates elected members re dates for the agreed meeting with Council regarding all Council owned land in the county?

**REPLY:**

Following previous reports on the Council land bank to the Organisation Procedure and Finance Committee it is proposed to bring an updated report to the March 2017 O & P & F meeting.

### Q12/0117 PAVILION PROGRAMME

### QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor

To ask the Chief Executive to present an update regarding progress towards the delivery of the Pavilion Programme and will he confirm the schedule now being followed in respect of the matter.

**REPLY:**

The construction of the TASC pavilion at Limekiln indicated there might be advantages in terms of quality, cost and delivery through the use of prefabricated construction systems allied to the GCCC Design-build contract. The tenders for the Pavilion programme issued earlier in 2016 did not achieve results in either value for money , design innovation or the creation of a list of suitable contractors. It was agreed to retender the Pavilion programme using the more successful tender model of Design-build allied to more traditional construction employed on the now completed Ballyowen equine centre . Tenders for a Single-operator framework for the first 3 pavilions centring on the Dodder Park pavilion as exemplar project will issue on January 10th 2017. The project will be scheduled for completion mid-summer. It is intended to commence work on 2 further pavilions after completion of Dodder Park using the successful contractor and rates included the Framework tender.

### Q13/0117 SEVERE WEATHER

### QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor

To ask the Chief Executive to update the Council on plans in place to deal with any severe weather events this winter and will he give assurances to the public in the matter.

**REPLY:**

The Winter Gritting season has already commenced and SDCC gritters have been out on a number of occasions. The Council’s Winter Maintenance Plan 2016/17 has been presented to Area Committees. <http://www.sdublincoco.ie/index.aspx?pageid=4898&dpageid=1442>

The Council has maintenance crews on standby to deal with emergencies over the Christmas and Winter period.  An emergency service is provided where members of the public seeking assistance in an emergency can contact the Council's out of hours emergency number at 01 4574907.

Crews from Roads, Water and Drainage, Housing and the Public Realm are on call to deal with flooding, fallen trees, frozen/burst pipes and other weather related incidents.

In the event of severe adverse weather the public and business community will be kept advised of the ongoing situation using the Council’s Website, Twitter, Facebook, E-Mail, SMS text and regular press releases.

Winter Ready information is available on the Councils website and provides useful guidance for members of the public in dealing with adverse weather conditions.

[**http://winterready.ie/**](http://winterready.ie/)

Also see attached Winter Maintenance Plan for SDCC

[Q13b) Winter Maintenance Plan 2016/17](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=54253)

### Q14/0117 SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERISM

### QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor

To ask the Chief Executive to update members on his proposals to encourage further Volunteerism throughout our County during 2017 and will he give details in that regard.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council has a dedicated department which is committed to Community development, and sports and recreation development throughout the county and works to provide an environment where all residents of the county have the opportunity to be included and take part.

South Dublin County Council recognise that many of the services, groups and organisations are provided by volunteers and  addition to our own staff supporting volunteers, the Council supports the work of South Dublin County Volunteer Centre and the South Dublin Public Participation Network in their work with supporting and encouraging volunteerism.

The South Dublin Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 (LECP) includes several actions to volunteerism.

In addition a range of community grants and other supports will be provided in 2017 to community and voluntary groups across the County, and this includes supporting community organisations working with older persons, environmental groups, youth groups, sports clubs, festival committees, tidy town groups etc.  The Community Endeavour Awards 2017 will be an acknowledgement of the work carried out by volunteers throughout the year.

The Council will continue to work throughout 2017 with many other organisations and agencies active in the county who also support and encourage volunteerism  on an ongoing basis through many projects, initiatives, campaign, workshops etc.

We are represented on the Board of Management of SDC Volunteers Bureau and provide advice, support and assistance to the Management of the Volunteer Centre, including annual funding.

We are partners with the SDCVC on the establishment and management of the South Dublin Volunteer Corp and also provide some funding assistance to the administration and support of the Corp.

We recognise the hard work, efforts and achievement of volunteerism right through he Community and Voluntary sector as the bedrock of a lot of out groups within our Community Endeavour Awards and indeed have a Category/Award of ‘Volunteer of the Year’

While of course we support and encourage active volunteerism throughout the County what is core to the workplan of the Community teams is to work with a huge and wide range of voluntary community committees and groups.

### Q15/0117 HOMELESS

### QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor

To ask the Chief Executive  to present an updated report on his efforts to deal with the homeless situation in this County giving details of how many families are currently effected and also outlining how these families are being accommodated and will he make a statement in the matter.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 440 applicants on the Homeless Priority List.

South Dublin County Council currently operates two facilities in the Tallaght Area. Tallaght Cross houses 64 families on a temporary basis and Killininny House offers accommodation for 21 single men and an additional 9 placements as step down/transitional in Glenn na Horna in Springfield managed by the Peter McVerry Trust. South Dublin County Council also has nomination rights to another hotel in the Tallaght Area for placement of South Dublin Families. All other Hotel & B&B accommodation is operated through the Central Placement Services and is not in the control of this local authority, and as a result the service can only offer the accommodation that is available on any given day.

All families included on the Homeless Register are notified to the Focus Family HAT who appoint a Case Worker to further assist those families.

SDCC is also working with Focus Ireland on the HAP Preventative Measure to assist and prevent those families at risk from becoming homelessness.

The Council also operates an outreach service and multi-agency approach to address rough sleepers.

Dublin City Council is the lead authority in terms of Homeless Services for the Dublin Region. Funding for Homeless accommodation and preventative measures comes from the Department Housing Planning Community and Local Government with a contribution from each of the Dublin authorities. Funding is also provided for a number of services from the Department of Health/HSE. There is a total provision of €2M from SDCC in 2016

### Q16/0117 EMPLOYMENT INITATIVES

### QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm his plans to create further employment throughout our County in 2017 and will he detail contacts he proposes to maintain with Government and State Agencies and will he present a full report in the matter.

**REPLY:**

The [**South Dublin Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 – 2021**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=49881)includes a series of economic objectives each of which identifies target actions and the key stakeholders involved.  These actions are aimed at putting the appropriate infrastructure, enterprise and employment supports in place to improve the level and quality of economic activity in the County.  An update on progress on the economic elements of the LECP was presented to the [September 2016 Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism SPC Meeting](http://intranet/cmas/viewmeetingagenda.aspx?id=1458http://intranet/cmas/viewmeetingagenda.aspx?id=1458).

Our [Local Enterprise Office](https://www.localenterprise.ie/southdublin) (LEO) provides financial grants, mentoring, training and other supports to assist new and developing micro-enterprises with job creation and sustainment in the Tallaght area and throughout the County.  In 2016, LEO South Dublin has approved funding of €583,250 for 35 projects in 2016 creating 42 new jobs immediately and with the potential to create a total of 167 new jobs.  There have also been 685 training participants and 414 mentoring sessions/assignments in 2016.  These supports will continue in 2017 to ensure new and existing local microenterprises are assisted in developing their businesses and sustaining/creating local employment.

LEO is also working with relevant local agencies including South Dublin Chamber, Institute of Technology Tallaght, Synergy, Partas, South Dublin County Partnership and others to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the actions which can impact on job creation in the County.

The Council's 2016 Budget provided for the expansion of the [Business Support Funds](http://www.sdcc.ie/business/enterprise/business-support-funds) through a range of supports specifically aimed at at increasing occupancy and activity in industrial areas to increase economic activity and support additional local employment.  Works are now complete in Cookstown and Old Belgard Road under the Industrial Areas Improvement Scheme through this fund with further possible projects being explored across industrial areas in the County.  In addition to the Business Support Grant, there are over 40 applications currently being progressed across the County under the Individual Unit Support Scheme and the Microenterprise Development Scheme which will directly help local small businesses in sustaining and creating employment.

The Council has also adopted the Dublin Regional Enterprise Strategy 2017-2019 along with the other Dublin Local Authorities and this identifies opportunities to maximise the promotion and development of enterprise across the Dublin region. The next Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Strategy Policy Committee meeting will fully local implementation of this strategy with specific emphasis on job creation, enterprise opportunities and skills requirements in South Dublin.

The Council is also a key partner in the [Dublin Action Plan for Jobs 2016-2018](https://www.djei.ie/en/Publications/APJ-Dublin-2016-2018.html) which aims to realise the full jobs potential of the Dublin region by stimulating enterprise and growth using the collaborative strengths of the region. We are working with various national, regional and local partners to ensure that this impacts on Tallaght and across the County.   The inaugural meeting of the Implementation Committee for the [DAPJ 2016-2018](https://www.djei.ie/en/Publications/APJ-Dublin-2016-2018.html) was held on Monday 19th September in Fingal County Council and work is progressing on the various cross-agency initiatives and commitments contained in the Action Plan.

### Q17/0117 HOUSING LIST AND ONE BED NEED

### QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons

To ask how many single people and how many couples are in need of one bed accommodation on SDCC housing list. What actions will SDCC take to meet these needs?

**REPLY:**

Currently this Council has the following demand for one bed accommodation:

Single people 2,357

Couples 276.

The Council is actively seeking one bed units to lease and / or purchase and will also be providing for one bed units where appropriate in the construction programme.

### Q18/0117 CHOICE BASED LETTINGS

### QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons

To ask for a report into Choice Based Lettings and to ask the Chief Executive to explain why homeless people cannot access same and to consider access for those registered as homeless to improve their chances of getting accommodation

**REPLY:**

Housing Applicants who have been awarded Priority Status cannot access the Choice Based Lettings System (CBL). Being awarded priority status gives applicants priority over other applicants on the housing waiting list. By giving applicants who have priority access to CBL the Council cannot guarantee their priority will be taken into account as allocations via CBL are based on a time on list basis. Such a move may serve to disimprove the situation for many applicants with priority status.

Families accommodated in Tallaght Cross who are in transition do have access to CBL as a method of providing quicker access to housing.

The Allocations Section at all times strives to achieve a fair distribution of allocations across the standard waiting list, medical priority list, homeless priority list and transfer lists.

### Q19/0117 HOMELESS AND HOSTEL PLACES

### QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons

To ask for a report into Homeless emergency Hostel places are there in SDCC how many beds are available in the SDCC area? How many for males and how many for females?

**REPLY:**

On a night by night basis the beds allocated to SDCC are 15 male beds and 4 female beds.

As part of the winter initiative 6 month STA beds were allocated to SDCC. We placed 3 females and 2 males into these beds.

In addition there are 6 month placements accommodating 21 single men in Killininny House and an additional 9 placements as step down/transitional in Glenn na Horna in Springfield managed by the Peter McVerry Trust.

### Q20/0117 RAPID HOUSING

### QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons

To ask for a report into RAPID housing? How long does it take to build over time for a regular house? What is cost? How has tender been reached? Can SDCC apply out for a better priced tender?

**REPLY:**

**The Council has gone to Tender in respect of** 71 unit housing project together with option for 19 further units, at St. Aidan’s site, Brookfield Road / R136 Road, Tallaght, D24.The Tender is for a Design / Build Rapid Build Project. The time from other projects is for delivery within a timeframe which can be circa 10 months quicker than traditional build.

**The time and cost of building a rapid built unit will be determined by public tender*.***

### Q21/0117 HAP SCHEME

### QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons

To ask for a report into HAP in SDCC - to detail how many people have returned to homeless list following acceptance of HAP? To ask why people loose there years on list if they accept HAP? Is this the case for all people that accept HAP? Please provide as much detail as possible.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin Co Co has approximately 1470 applicants signed up to the HAP Scheme as at Mid December 2016. In 2016 the national target of 12,000 was exceeded on 22nd December.

When applicants sign up to the HAP Scheme they have the option of applying to be included on the HAP Transfer list. If an applicant applies to go on the HAP transfer list within the first 2 weeks of signing up to HAP they retain anytime spent on the housing list. However, if an applicant applies for inclusion on the HAP transfer list after the initial 2 week period, they lose any time on the Housing list. This is clearly explained to HAP applicant at sign up stage.

Since 2014, 81 HAP’s have been closed or exited the HAP scheme. The Council are aware of 2 cases when HAP tenants were at risk of Homelessness. One was resolved by the provision of the HAP Preventative measure and the second was a result of anti-social behaviour and not related to the HAP scheme.

### Q22/0117 HOUSE PURCHASE LOAN SCHEME

### QUESTION: Councillor M. Ward

"Can the Council provide a report on the House Purchase Scheme and to answer the following questions in relation to the House Purchase Loan Scheme?

How many applicants in 2015 1nd 2016?

How many House purchases loans have the Council provides 2015 and 2016?

What was the total expenditure on this scheme in 2015 and 2016 and breakdown on how any monies was spent?

What is allocated in the budget for this scheme 2017?

What advertising has the Council done to promote the scheme?

Would the Council consider a media campaign in 2017 to highlight this scheme?

**REPLY:**

Subject to certain criteria, South Dublin County Council continues to offer House Purchase Loans - a mortgage for the construction or purchase of new and second hand homes, including those bought on the open market.

The House Purchase Loan is for a maximum loan-to-value ratio (LTV) of 97%, subject to a maximum loan of €200,000.

Applicants must be first time buyers as defined in the S\_I\_ No\_ 408-2012 - Housing (Local Authority Loans) Regulations 2012\_.htm  and aged between 18 and 70 years of age.

Proof of inadequate loan offer is a key requirement and confirmation of inadequate loan offers by two (2) financial institutions (bank or building society lenders only) must be submitted with all house purchase loan applications.

 Table below reflects activity 2015 and 2016.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No of applications received 2015**  | 43  | **No of applications received 2016**  | 44  |
| **How many House purchase loans have the Council provided in 2015?**  | 2  | **How many House purchase loans have the Council provided in 2016?**  | 3  |
| **What was the total expenditure on this scheme in 2015 and breakdown how any monies was spent?**  | €414,900  | **What was the total expenditure on this scheme in 2016 and breakdown how any monies was spent?**  | €232,000  |

The allocated budged for the House Purchase Loan Scheme 2017 is €986,000. The House Purchase Loan Application form and Information Booklet is available for download from the Council website, [**www.sdcc.ie**](http://www.sdcc.ie/)   The Local Authority is a lender of last resorts and is not in competition with private institutions.

### H6/0117 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

### H7/0117 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES

It was **NOTED** that there was **NO** Business under this Heading.

### H8/0117 ****MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT****

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. D. Mc Loughlin, Chief Executive and were **CONSIDERED:**

[HI8a) Finance Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=54357)
[HI8b) Strategy Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=54360)
[HI8c) Statistics Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=54361)

The Reports were **NOTED.**

### H9/0117 DRAFT ****ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN****

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management, and were **CONSIDERED:**

“The Annual Service Delivery Plan 2017 is prepared in accordance with Section 134 (A) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as inserted by section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014) which requires that each local authority prepare an Annual Service Delivery Plan. The plan sets out the principal services that the local authority intends to deliver in the relevant year and shall be consistent with the provisions in the local authority budget of the expenditure estimated to be necessary for the local authority to carry out its functions during the local financial year to which that plan relates.

The Annual Service Delivery Plan must now be considered by the elected members and be adopted by resolution, with or without amendment.”

[**Draft Annual Service Plan**](http://intranet/cmas/documents/County%20Council/2017/January/January2017CountyCouncilMeeting/2c40a96d-2b4d-4725-a9cc-5c4974aa7c81.docx)

It was proposed by Councillor W. Lavelle and seconded by Councillor G. O’Connell and **AGREED** that Headed Item 9 **(H9)** be deferred until the next Meeting, to give the Members time to review the reports.

### H10/0117 ****REPORT CORPORATE PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS****

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive and were **CONSIDERED:**

[Corporate Plan Achievements](http://intranet/cmas/documents/County%20Council/2017/January/January2017CountyCouncilMeeting/c3620f7f-6277-4cf3-a802-0526c9ddd29b.docx)

The Mayor Councillor G. O’Connell noted the contents of the report and congratulated the Chief Executive and all the staff on progressing the objectives and associated strategies of our Corporate Plan during 2016.

The Report was **NOTED.**

### H11/0117 ****PART 8 TALLAGHT STADIUM****

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. E. Conroy, County Architect and was **CONSIDERED:**

[County Architects Report on Part VIII](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=54310)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. O’Connor, E. Higgins and D. Looney.

Mr. E. Conroy, County Architect responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor G. O’Connell, seconded by Councillor C. O’Connor and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Part 8 be **ADOPTED and APPROVED.**”

### H12/0117 ****SPEED LIMIT BYE-LAWS****

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation and was **CONSIDERED:**

**REPLY:**

“The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport issued the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland in March 2015 (hereafter referred to as the “Guidelines”). SDCC is progressing this review in accordance with these Guidelines.

The Road Traffic Act of 2004 (Section 9) sets out the current legislative basis for the setting of speed limits. The setting of special speed limits is a function of the Elected Members of the Council. The current speed limits were last reviewed and updated in 2009.

In accordance with the Guidelines, SDCC recently concluded its Public Consultation on the proposed Road Traffic (Speed Limit) Bye-Laws 2016.

The results of the Public Consultation were presented to the Area Committees as follows:

Rathfarnham/Templeogue-Terenure                                     13th December 2016

Clondalkin                                                                          14th December 2016

Tallaght                                                                             19th December 2016

Lucan                                                                                     4th January 2017

The Elected Members considered the submissions and following is a summary of the outcomes:

  **Rathfarnham/Templeogue-Terenure**

The draft Speed Limit Bye-laws were considered by the Area Committee and the following amendment was recommended:

That the existing speed limit of 50km/h on St James’s Road/Limekiln Avenue be retained.

This is recommended*.*

**Clondalkin**

The draft Speed Limit Bye-laws were considered by the Area Committee – no amendments were recommended.

 **Tallaght**

The draft Speed Limit Bye-laws were considered by the Area Committee and the following amendment was recommended:

To have a 60km/h limit on the N81 from Avonmore Road to the junction of the N81 and the Outer Ring Road.

A meeting in relation to this was held with Transport Infrastructure Ireland on 22nd December. The Senior Engineer notified the Members of the result of this meeting by email on 22 December – TII would not accept a reduction from 80km/h to 60 km/h as it would not be in accordance with the Guidelines.

Given the discussion with TII it is recommended that the existing limit of 80km/h be retained on the N81 from Avonmore Road to the Outer Ring Road.

  **Lucan**

The draft Speed Limit Bye-laws were considered by the Area Committee and the following amendments were recommended:

1. That the limit on the access road to/from Griffeen Road to Tullyhall Estate be reduced to 30km/h.

This is recommended.

1. That the existing limit of 50km/hr on the R136 from the N4 to the Griffeen Avenue junction to be retained.

This is recommended.

1. That the limit on Main Street, Lucan be reduced to 30 km/h (from the square to the roundabout at the bridge to Chapel Hill).

This is not recommended*.*

While there is some merit in having a 30km/h limit from the square to the roundabout at the bridge it is not considered appropriate to have a 30km/h limit up to Chapel Hill.

1. That the limit in Palmerstown Village (north of the R148) be reduced to 30 km/h.

This is not recommended.

In accordance with the Guidelines it is not considered a “housing estate” type road. It is a wide road with a cycle lane and a limit of 30km/h is not considered appropriate*.*

There was a discussion on TII’s proposals for the N4. Following the discussion and explanation of TII’s reasoning the proposals were accepted. i.e. the existing limit of 60km/h on the eastbound lane at Liffey Valley is to be re-located to the start of the M50 interchange.

**Next Stage**

The process will continue as follows:

The Garda Commissioner will be consulted.

Formal approval will be sought from TII for changes to the limits on the National routes.

The final Draft Bye-Law documents will be prepared and it is hoped to have these ready for formal adoption at the February County Council meeting.”

[**Speed Limit Review**](http://intranet/cmas/documents/County%20Council/2017/January/January2017CountyCouncilMeeting/fc2a4359-6464-4c47-be53-47f7f14dcb1d.xlsx)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Higgins, M. Murphy, K. Mahon, D. Looney, P. Gogarty, G. O’Connell and W. Lavelle.

Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation responded to the Members queries.

The Members **AGREED** with the TII recommendation that the existing limit of 80km/h be retained on the N81 from Avonmore Road to the Outer Ring Road.

The report was **NOTED.**

### H13/0117 ****THE AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER AND WORK PROGRAMME** **2017****

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. N. Comerford, Administrative Officer, Internal Audit, Corporate Performance and Change Management and were **CONSIDERED:**

a)“In accordance with the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014, South Dublin County Council’s Audit Committee Charter and Work Programme 2017 are before this meeting for approval.

The Audit Committee reviewed the Charter at their meeting held on the 13th of December 2016 and agreed that there were no changes required. The charter was approved by Council at its meeting held on the 14th of December 2015.

The work programme devised by the Audit Committee is comprehensive and includes all of the Committee’s statutory obligations as set out in the regulations. The delivery of the work programme is monitored by the committee throughout the year.”

[H13b) Audit Committee Charter](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=54288)
[H13c) Signed Audit Committee Work Programme](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=54290)

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor G. O’Connell, seconded by Councillor D. Richardson and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Audit Committee Charter and works programme be **ADOPTED and APPROVED.**”

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**C1/0117** **Ministerial**

###  Letter dated 13th December from Minister for Education and Skills regarding Special Needs Assistants.

**C2/0117** **Ministerial**

###  Letter dated 19th December 2016 from Minister for Justice and Equality, regarding recognition of Irish Sign Language.

**C3/0117 Ministerial**

Letter dated 20th December 2016 from Minister for Justice and Equality regarding Garda Vetting**.**

**C4/0117 Departmental**

###  Letter dated 16th December 2016 form Department of Children and Youth Affairs regarding unaccompanied refugee children coming to Ireland.

**C5/0117** **Departmental**

###  Letter from Department of Finance dated 19th December 2016 regarding Local Property Tax.

### C6/0117 Letters from Leitrim County Council dated 8th December 2016 regarding a) The new Citizens Assembly and b) calling on the GAA to reverse selling the broadcasting rights to their Games.

### C7/0117 Letter from Clare County Council, dated 13th December 2016 regarding Data Protection.

### C8/0117 Letters dated 14th December 2016 from Sligo County Council regarding a) the Coroner's Bill b) Over Grown Trees in Housing Estates and Built Up Areas c) Returning all water Charges Paid to the people who paid.

**SM1/0117** The following **Suspensory Motion** in the names of Councillors M. Duff, D. O’Brien, L. Dunne, F. Timmons, P. Donovan, K. Mahon, V. Casserly, A. Dermody, D. Richardson, B. Ferron, B. Lawlor, P. Gogarty, R. Nolan, K. Egan, S. Holland, R. McMahon, M. Johansson, B. Leech, W. Lavelle, C. King, M. Ward, M. Genockey, C. Mc Cann, D. O’Donovan, J. Graham, N. Coules and was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien, P. Foley, C. O’Connor, T. Gilligan and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and was **CONSIDERED:**

“That this County Council, noting the recent comments of Edmund Honohan Master of the High Court, in relation to home repossession cases being heard before the Circuit Court, calls on the Minister for Justice to ensure, that in all appropriate cases the Circuit Court deals with concerning home repossessions, that both European Union law and Irish law are being implemented accordingly and that all homeowners before the Circuit Court facing home repossession are afforded the rights accorded to them under European Union consumer law and further that all matters in relation to home repossessions are heard by an officer of the Court, competent and conversant in the relevant European Union legislation”

The Motion was **AGREED.**

**SM2/0117** The following **Suspensory Motion** in the names of Councillors B. Bonner, D. O’Brien, L. Dunne, G. O’Connell, F. Duffy, K. Mahon, V. Casserly, A. Dermody, D. Richardson, E. Higgins, B. Lawlor, K. Egan, S. Holland, R. McMahon, S. Holland, B. Leech, W. Lavelle, C. King, M. Ward, M. Genockey, C. Mc Cann, E. Murphy, J. Graham, P. Foley, T. Gilligan and was proposed by Councillor D. O’Donovan and seconded by Councillor L. O’Toole and was **CONSIDERED:**

“That this Council request an update from the Minister for State for Disability Issues, Finian McGrath, T.D., on his intention to ratify the U.N. Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities and ask for assurances that this will be enacted without delay.”

The Motion was **AGREED.**

**Motions for discussion**

**M1/0117** **MAYORS BUSINESS – USE OF BUS LANES BY PERMITTING VEICHLES DISPLAYING DISABILITY BADGES**

###  It was proposed by Councillor G. O’Connell and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

“This Council being very concerned at the barriers faced by persons with a disability and their families in getting to Hospital and other services in the shortest possible time, now calls on the Minister for Transport to regulate use of Bus Lanes by permitting vehicles that display the standard ‘Disability Parking Permit” to use the Bus Lanes at all times. That the contents of this motion be forwarded to the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Justice and that it be copied to all other City and County Councils inviting them to join the campaign.”

**REPORT:**

If the Motion is passed a letter will issue to the appropriate Minister's, and when a reply is received it will be issued to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors G. O’Connell, D. O’Brien, C. O’Connor, V. Casserly, P. Gogarty, D. O’Donovan and S. Holland.

A vote was taken on the Motion by a **show of hands vote** and the result was as follows:

**FOR: 27 (TWENTY SEVEN)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAINED: 1 (ONE)**

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### M2/0117 LOCAL PROPERTY TAX

### It was proposed by Councillor E. O'Brien and seconded by Councillor P. Foley

“That this local authority calls on the Minister for Finance to review the penal interest rates charged to those citizens who chose to defer payment of their Local Property Tax due their age, ability to pay or insolvency and requests that these rates be lowered in accordance with prevailing interest rates”.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council will receive 20.4m from the LPT to fund services in 2017.

Payment of LPT may be deferred in part or full subject to certain income thresholds. The property must be the sole or main residence of the liable person (i.e. the claimant must be an owner-occupier). Deferral based on Income Thresholds is not available for landlords or second homes.

| Income thresholds for full and partial (50%) deferral of LPT liability  |
| --- |
|  |
| Liable person (owner-occupiers only) | To qualify for a full deferral gross income must not exceed | To qualify for a partial (50%) deferral gross income must not exceed |
| Single or widow/er, no mortgage | €15,000 | €25,000 |
| Couple, no mortgage | €25,000 | €35,000 |
| Single or widow/er, with mortgage | €15,000 + 80% of gross mortgage interest payments | €25,000 + 80% of gross mortgage interest payments |
| Couple, with mortgage | €25,000 + 80% of gross mortgage interest payments | €35,000 + 80% of gross mortgage interest payments |

 LPT may also be deferred in cases of

* Administration / Execution of an Estate
* Significant Financial Loss
* Insolvent Liable Person

Based on information available (October 2016) there were approximately 34,000 claims for LPT deferral nationally in 2016. An analysis of this data on a county by county basis is not provided.

Interest at a rate of 4% per annum will be charged on all amounts of LPT that are deferred. Any deferred amount, including interest, will be a charge on the property and will have to be paid to Revenue on the sale/transfer of the property.

If the motion is passed the matter will be referred to the Minister for Finance.

At the outset of the discussion Councillor R. Nolan proposed and Councillor C. King seconded an amendment to the motion as follows:

“That this local authority calls on the Minister for Finance to abolish the penal interest rates charged to those citizens who chose to defer payment of their Local Property Tax due their age, ability to pay.”

Councillor P. Foley then proposed and Councillor C. O’Connor seconded a second amendment to the Motion as follows:

“and further agrees to clarify and simplify the regulations surrounding the deferment of the payment” be added to the end of the Motion.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. O’Brien, P. Foley, R. Nolan, C. King, D. O’Donovan, N. Coules, P. Kearns and M. Genockey.

A vote on the first amendment to the Motion was taken by a **show of hands vote** and the result was as follows:

**FOR: 22 (TWENTY TWO)**

**AGAINST: 4 (FOUR)**

**ABSTAINED: 0 (ZERO)**

The first Amendment to the Motion was **PASSED.**

A vote on the second amendment to the Motion was taken by a **show of hands vote** and the result was as follows:

**FOR: 23 (TWENTY THREE)**

**AGAINST: 2 (TWO)**

**ABSTAINED: 3 (THREE)**

The second Amendment to the Motion was **PASSED.**

A vote on the amended Motion was taken by a **show of hands vote** and the result was as follows:

“That this local authority calls on the Minister for Finance to abolish the penal interest rates charged to those citizens who chose to defer payment of their Local Property Tax due their age, ability to pay, and further agrees to clarify and simplify the regulations surrounding the deferment of the payment.”

**FOR: 23 (TWENTY THREE)**

**AGAINST: 2 (TWO)**

**ABSTAINED: 3 (THREE)**

The Amended Motion was **PASSED.**

### M3/0117 VOLUNTARY HOUSING BODIES

### It was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy and seconded by Councillor E. O’Brien

“That this Council requires that all voluntary housing authorities, who are managing properties and supporting families on behalf of the Council across the County be explicit in their directives and to inform the Council of any changes to those directives with regard to the duration of tenancies; appreciating that the acquisition of units through the NAMA Special Purpose Vehicle (NARPS) in mid-2015 was a pioneering approach to attempt to tackle the housing issues facing the County and noting that 18-months later the same families who were housed from hotel accommodation through this development are facing re-entering hotel and temporary accommodation due to an 18-month maximum tenancy duration directive from the voluntary housing body TUATH.”

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council enjoys a very good working relationship with the various voluntary housing bodies who provide and manage properties on behalf of the Council. The property type, tenure and management responsibilities are clearly defined at an early stage to ensure nominations by the Council are appropriate to the accommodation being provided.

The model supported by Tuath and the Council at Tallaght Cross enables the Council to move families and children out of hotel accommodation and into transitional accommodation with the aim of moving on and exiting Homeless Services via HAP or local authority housing.

The Tallaght Cross units have been designated as transitional housing by South Dublin Co Co and relevant notification given to the DoHPCLG of same. The maximum occupation time granted under a transitional tenancy agreement is 18 months. Under the 2015 Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act on expiration of the 18 months period the tenant will acquire Part 4 rights.

It has been confirmed that from a legal perspective Tuath must serve Notices of Termination on all tenants residing in Tallaght Cross Transitional housing units coming up to an 18 months to ensure Part 4 rights are not acquired. The termination notice required under the Act for tenancies over 12 months and but under 18 months is 42 days.

Where a family is served a Notice of Termination, the Council will provide accommodation by means of another placement or self-accommodating option. The resulting vacancy will be offered to another family in homeless services.

To the summer 2016 9 families accommodated in Tallaght Cross have exited under the HAP Scheme and 16 move ons have been via local authority housing with an additional 5 families nominated to other Approved Housing Bodies.  At any time there are 64 families in Tallaght Cross.

Increasingly families in the facility and indeed other homeless facilities are reluctant to seek accommodation under the HAP Scheme and instead will hold out for a Social Unit with the Council. This is being said very openly and is being reported back to the Council. Furthermore, there has been one instance recently whereby a family who were served a Notice of Termination as they were coming up to 18 months were offered local authority housing appropriate to their needs and in their area of preference but refused this offer.

All families in Tallaght Cross are assigned a Key Worker to assist with their search for accommodation under the HAP scheme. 18 months is considered a reasonable period of time to source alternative accommodation and the Council has managed to source and assist in sourcing suitable accommodation to meet their needs in that timeframe.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Murphy, C. King, S. Holland, M. Johansson, E. O’Brien, M. Genockey, K. Mahon, B. Leech, and C. O’Connor.

Mr. B. Coman, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development responded to the Members queries.

The Report was **NOTED.**

### M4/0117 NATIONAL ENERGY TARGETS

### It was proposed by Councillor F. N. Duffy and seconded by Councillor R. McMahon.

“SDCC is committed to meeting national energy targets through a broader ‘holistic’ view of sustainability, encompassing water, waste, mobility, spatial planning and energy. This motion seeks to have the Dublin Mountain flagship project built to meet the environmental standards of the ‘Living Building Challenge’ an international sustainable building certification. These standards will showcase our counties commitment to sustainable development through energy systems that provide 105% of the buildings requirements, the use of non-toxic ecologically restorative materials, sources its own water and deals with its own waste. Following other buildings procured by SDCC including Ballyroan Library and Valhalla, Clondalkin, SDCC will be setting the standard for sustainable construction not only in the County, but Dublin and beyond.”

**REPORT:**

An accomplished and well-respected design team have already been appointed, briefed and have produced a high-quality Feasibility stage design for this significant project. In light of the importance and sensitivity of the site, the energy and environmental systems of the project will be determined by the stringent requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement. This is already a complex design issue and the imposition of a separate non-statutory European standard is not recommended.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Duffy, D. Looney, P. Kearns, P. Foley, K Mahon, P. Donovan, M. Genockey and E. Higgins.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, Mr. E. Conroy, County Architect and Mr. F. Nevin, Director of Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development, all responded to the Members queries.

At this point the Mayor Councillor G. O’Connell asked to suspend Standing Order No. 5 to extend the Meeting time past 7.00pm and the Members **AGREED**.

Councillor E. Higgins proposed and Councillor P. Foley Seconded an Amendment to the Motion as follows: (with the insertion of the word where practicable in the original Motion as shown in italics below)

SDCC is committed to meeting national energy targets through a broader ‘holistic’ view of sustainability, encompassing water, waste, mobility, spatial planning and energy. This motion seeks to have the Dublin Mountain flagship project built, ***where practicable,***to meet the environmental standards of the ‘Living Building Challenge’ an international sustainable building certification. These standards will showcase our counties commitment to sustainable development through energy systems that provide 105% of the buildings requirements, the use of non-toxic ecologically restorative materials, sources its own water and deals with its own waste. Following other buildings procured by SDCC including Ballyroan Library and Valhalla, Clondalkin, SDCC will be setting the standard for sustainable construction not only in the County, but Dublin and beyond.

A vote on the amendment to the Motion was taken by a **show of hands vote** and the result was as follows:

**FOR: 21 (TWENTY ONE)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAINED: 0 (ZERO)**

The Amendment to the Motion was **PASSED.**

A vote on the amended Motion was taken by a **show of hands vote** and the result was as follows:

**FOR: 21 (TWENTY ONE)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAINED: 0 (ZERO)**

The Amended Motion was **PASSED.**

The Report was **NOTED.**

### M6/0117 HOUSING AID FOR OLDER PEOPLE SCHEME

### It was proposed by Councillor P. Foley and seconded by Councillor E. O’Brien and MOVED without debate.

Can the rules that govern the “Housing Aid for Older People Scheme” be reviewed? The current rule states that works must not commence on a property prior to submission of an application form and written approval by the Council.

In cases where applicants have no choice but to carry out emergency works, to make their homes safe and habitable, the policy needs to be reviewed so that grants for essential works, such as those required for leaks or flooding, can be applied for retrospectively.

If this rule is governed by the Department and not the local authority, I would request that this council seeks this review at departmental level instead.

**REPORT:**

The current procedures as revised under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme amended Administrative Regulations and application forms issued by the then Department of Environment, Community and Local Government came into effect from January 2014.

It clearly stated on the application form that works must not commence prior to written approval from the Local Authority and that applications are prioritised on the basis of the medical needs of the applicant and urgent application submissions are promptly addressed. This specific requirement was determined by the Department which provides the funding to the local authorities for the implementation of the Scheme. In this regard the Council adheres to this stipulation when processing applications for possible grant aid.

The Council Inspectors make inspections both to insure that works are not initially completed prior to submission and also to sign off on the completion of satisfactory work prior to payment. It would not be considered acceptable that payment be made without inspection procedures.

In the event of emergency cases the applicant may engage their contractor to temporary address urgent cases so that submission of a valid application can be duly made by the applicant.

The Report was **NOTED.**

### M9/0117 CYCLE HELMETS

### The following Motion which was proposed by Councillors P. Donovan and seconded by Councillor V. Casserly was WITHDRAW at the request of Councillor P. Donovan, with the agreement of the Members, in accordance with Standing Order No 20.

That this Council calls on the Minister for Transport to review current legislation with a view to introducing the mandatory use of cycle helmets when cycling on public roads.

### M10/0117 RISK FREE ACCOMMODATION

### The following Motion in the name of Councillor D. Richardson and Councillor L. Dunne was MOVED and RE-ENTERED:

This Council calls on the Chief Executive to ensure that part of the Homeless budget is allocated to beds for single women.  Additionally, calls on the Chief Executive to work with other Local Authorities to work towards finding suitable & risk free accommodation for those that are in recovery or drug & alcohol free.

### M11/0117 SCRAMBLERS /QUADS

### It was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor and seconded by Councillor P. Foley and MOVED without debate.

That this Council, noting the increased illegal, reckless and unsafe use of scramblers, quad bikes and other similar mechanically propelled vehicles in our Parks across our County and noting the difficulty encountered by An Garda Siochana in bringing successful prosecutions under existing By-Laws, now calls on the Government to introduce primary legislation to regulate the ownership and use of all those vehicles.

**REPORT:**

The issue of scramblers and quads remains high on the Council's agenda, with continued liaison with An Garda Siochana and others in relation to this their use.

If the motion is passed details of the members' sentiments as outlined will be conveyed to the Government, and when a reply is received it will be issued to the Members.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### M12/0117 INTERAGENCY PLAN FOR M50

### It was proposed by Councillor W. Lavelle and seconded by Councillor D. O’Brien and MOVED without debate.

That this Council, noting the ongoing regular incidence of collisions on the M50 leading to chronic congestion on the regional road network, calls for the immediate completion and publication of the interagency plan for M50 emergency management which was first mooted 12+ months ago.

**REPORT:**

TII have had a number of requests for this document and so TII have just put a copy on their website. Note that personal details such as mobile phone numbers have been removed from this published copy.

The Interagency Incident Response Group (IICG) was set up in 2015 and comprises representatives from An Garda Síochána, Dublin Fire Brigade, the four Dublin Local Authorities, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Motorway Traffic Control Centre. The role of the group is to ensure a coordinated approach to the management of incidents that occur on motorways in the Greater Dublin Area. The IICG put in place a ‘Protocol for the management of major incidents on motorways’ in April 2016 and this document has been subject to ongoing review since that time.

The Report was **NOTED.**

### M14/0117 RENTS

### It was proposed by Councillor R. Nolan and seconded by Councillor G. O’Connell and MOVED without debate.

In view of soaring rents in the private market leading to families becoming homeless, that this council calls on Minister Simon Coveney to implement rent controls in the private rental sector.

**REPORT:**

If the Motion is passed a letter will issue to the Minister and when a reply is received it will be forwarded to the Members.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

The Meeting finished at 7.13pm.

**Motions Not Reached**

### (M5) HOMELESS HOSTELS

### Councillor B. Leech

### That this Council provide proper safety and attention to those who are most vulnerable in society and in particular Homeless Hostels, where a lot of the SDCC homeless are staying in hostels in another Council area.

### (M7) MAELRUAIN'S FIELD

### Councillor C. King

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to explore the positives in selling the site known locally as "Maelruain's Field" which sits adjacent to County Hall and which is one of the most valuable sites in South Dublin County Council. The proceeds of the sale would be earmarked for the building of social housing on other sites where I believe we as a Council could achieve a much better yield of housing for those on our Housing and Homeless lists.

### (M8) STAFFLESS LIBRARIES

### Councillor D. Looney

That this Council rejects the "My Open Library" initiative and the concept of 'staffless libraries"; this Council instead pledges its support to a fully-funded, fully-staffed public library service, one which continues to expand and innovate in order to serve the people of South Dublin County.

### (M13) SELF ACCOMMODATION

### Councillor M. Ward

This Council is opposed to the policy of requiring those in need of emergency accommodation to self-accommodate. We call on the Chief Executive to raise this matter with the Dublin Homeless Executive and the Minister for Housing and to introduce a policy whereby emergency accommodation is sources by SDCC staff directly. If additional resources are required then the Chief Executive should apply to the Department for this.

### (M15) PUBLIC HEALTH (ALCOHOL) BILL

### Councillor C. O'Connor

That this Council calls for the passing and implementation of the Public Health (Alcohol) Bill noting that this is the first time that Ireland has ever addressed alcohol misuse as the serious public issue that it is and appreciating that this legislation - if enacted in full - will leave a legacy to be proud of.

### (M16) YOUTH WORK CHANGES LIVES

### Councillor W. Lavelle

That this Council expresses its support for new ‘Youth Work Changes Lives’ campaign launched by the National Youth Council for Ireland; and calls on the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs to continue to increase funding for youth work services, including for the establishment or extension of projects in our own County, particularly in those communities which will see a significant increase in teenage population over coming years

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_