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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council February 2018 County Council Meeting held on 12th February 2018.

**PRESENT**

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

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin.  |
| Directors/ Heads of FunctionA/Head of FunctionHead of FinanceCounty Architect | B. Coman, L. Maxwell, T. Walsh, F. Nevin. L. Leonard. R. FitzGerald.E. Conroy.  |
| Senior Executive OfficersSenior Executive EngineerSenior PlannerExecutive PlannerExecutive Engineer | M. Maguire, H. Hogan, S. Deegan.M. Whelan, H. Fallon. B. Keaney. N. Conlon. M. Johnson.  |
| Administrative Officers | C. Murphy, N. Noonan.  |
| Staff OfficerClerical OfficerIT. SupportSord | P. Brennan.M. Dunne.R. Saiz, Colin De Cruz, S. Grehan. A. O’Brien. |

 The Mayor P. Gogarty Presided.

 Apologies were received from Councillor V. Casserly.

 In accordance with **Standing Order No. 13** it was **AGREED** with the consent of the Members to vary the sequence of business. Councillor C. King addressed the Meeting and stated that the Progressive Alliance Group will no longer include a number of independent Councillors.

**H1/0218 CONFIRMATION AND RE-AFFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

 Minutes of the January County Council Meeting on 15th January 2018 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor P. Gogarty seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

**H2a/0218 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEE – RATHFARNHAM/TEMPLEOGUE - TERENURE AREA COMMITTEE 10TH JANUARY 2018**

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

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

**H2b/0218 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTIEE-CLONDALKIN AREA COMMITTEE – 17th JANUARY 2018**

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

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

**H2c/0218 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTIEE - TALLAGHT AREA COMMITTEE – 22nd JANUARY 2018**

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

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

**H2d/0218  REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTIEE - LUCAN AREA COMMITTEE – 23rd JANUARY 2018**

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

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

 **H3a/0218 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE`18th January 2018- DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETING DATES**

 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 following Draft Calendar of Meeting dates was **APPROVED** by the Members at the Organisation, Procedure & Finance Committee Meeting held on 18th January 2018.

 **March – April 2018**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **MEETING / FUNCTION** | **TIME** | **CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF BUSINESS** |
| Mon | 05/03 | **Corporate Policy Group** | 3.00pm – 4.30pm |  |
| Tue | 06/03 |  |  |  |
| Wed. | 07/03 |  |  |  |
| Thur. | 08/03 |  |  |  |
| Fri. | 09/03 |  |  |  |
|  |
| **DATE** | **MEETING / FUNCTION** | **TIME** | **CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF BUSINESS** |
| Mon | 12/03 | **County Council Meeting**  | 3.30pm – 7.00pm | 26/03/2018 |
| Tue | 13/03 | **Rathfarnham/Templeogue-Terenure Area Committee***Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning\*, Transportation, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management* | 3.00pm – 6.00pm | 28/03/2018 |
| Wed. | 14/03 |  |  |  |
| Thur. | 15/03 |  |  |  |
| Fri. | 16/03 |  |  |  |
| *\*Planning file request to be received by 07/03/2018* |
| **DATE** | **MEETING / FUNCTION** | **TIME** | **CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF BUSINESS** |
| Mon | 19/03 | **Bank Holiday**  |  |  |
| Tue | 20/03 |  |  |  |
| Wed  | 21/03 | **Clondalkin Area Committee***Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning\*, Transportation, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management* | 3.00pm – 6.00pm | 08/03/2018 |
| Thurs | 22/03 | **Traffic Management Meeting** (Rathfarnham/Templeogue-Terenure Area Committee**Traffic Management Meeting** (Clondalkin)**Organisation, Procedure & Finance Committee** | 2.00pm – 2.45pm2.45pm – 3.30pm3.30pm – 6.00pm | 08/03/2018 |
| Fri | 23/03 |  |  |  |
| *\*Planning file request to be received by 15/03/2018* |
| **DATE** |  | **TIME** | **CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF BUSINESS** |
| Mon  | 26/03 | **Traffic Management Meeting** (Tallaght)**Tallaght Area Committee***Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning\*, Transportation, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management* | 2.15pm – 3.00pm3.00pm – 6.00pm  | 13/03/2018 |
| Tue  | 27/03 | **Traffic Management Meeting**(Lucan)**Lucan Area Committee***Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning\*, Transportation, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management* | 2.15pm – 3.00pm3.00pm – 6.00pm | 14/03/2018 |
| Wed | 28/03 | **Deputations**  | 2.00pm – 5.00pm |  |
| Thurs | 29/03 |  |  |  |
| Fri | 30/03 |  |  |  |
|  *\*Planning File requests to be received by 14/03/2018* *\*\*Planning File requests to be received by 15/03/2018* |
| **DATE** | **MEETING / FUNCTION** | **TIME** | **CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF BUSINESS** |
| Mon | 02/04 | **BANK HOLIDAY**  |  |  |
| Tue  | 03/04 | **Corporate Policy Group** | 3.00pm – 4.30pm |  |
| Wed.  | 04/04 |  |  |  |
| Thurs | 05/04 |  |  |  |
| Fri. | 06/04 |  |  |  |
|  |
| **DATE** | **MEETING / FUNCTION** | **TIME** | **CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF BUSINESS** |
| Mon | 09/04 | **County Council Meeting**  | 3.30pm – 7.00pm | 22/04/2018 |
| Tue | 10/04 | **Rathfarnham/Templeogue – Terenure Area Committee***Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning\*, Transportation, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management* | 3.00pm - 6.00pm | 27/03/2017 |
| Wed | 11/04 |  |  |  |
| Thurs | 12/04 |  |  |  |
| Fri. | 13/04 |  |  |  |
|  |
| **DATE** | **MEETING / FUNCTION** | **TIME** | **CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF BUSINESS** |
| Mon | 16/04 |  |  |  |
| Tue  | 17/04 |  |  |  |
| Wed.  | 18/04 | **Clondalkin Area Committee***Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning\*\*, Transportation, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management* | 3.00pm – 6.00pm | 05/04/2018 |
| Thur. | 19/04 |  |  |  |
| Fri.  | 20/04 |  |  |  |
| *\*Planning file requests to be received by 04/04/2018**Planning File requests to be received by 12/04/2018* |
| **DATE** | **MEETING / FUNCTION** | **TIME** | **CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF BUSINESS** |
| Mon  | 23/04 | **Tallaght Area Committee***Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning\*, Transportation, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management* | 3.00pm – 6.00pm | 10/04/2018 |
| Tue | 24/04 | **Lucan Area Committee***Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning\*\*, Transportation, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management* | 3.00pm – 6.00pm | 11/04/2018 |
| Wed.  | 25/04 | **Deputations**  | 2.00pm – 5.00pm |  |
| Thur. | 26/04 |  |  |  |
| Fri | 27/04 |  |  |  |

 *\*Planning file requests to be received by 17/04/2018*

*\*\*Planning File requests to be received by 18/04/2018*

 **Notes:** Early Closing Date for County Council Meeting due to Easter Break

 Early Closing for Rathfarnham/Templeogue-Terenure due to Easter Break”

 The Draft Calendar of Meeting Dates was **APPROVED** on the proposition of Councillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor D. O’Donovan.

**H3b/0218** **STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE 18th JANUARY REPORT ON CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

 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 following Draft Calendar of Meeting dates was **APPROVED** by the Members at the Organisation, Procedure & Finance Committee Meeting held on 18th January 2018.

“[**Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/zza37y2001s142.html) provides for the authorization of Members’ attendance at conferences both home and abroad.

Listed below are conferences which have been notified to South Dublin County Council and whose appropriateness has been vetted by the members’ working group in accordance with Circ. Letter 02/10.

 **Conferences Notified**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Conference** | **Host**  | **Venue** | **Date**  | **Members** **Attending**  |
| Property Tax 2018 | IPPB Consulting  | Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny | 12th January -14th January  | Cllr B. LawlorCllr V. Casserly Cllr K EganCllr E. Higgins  |

 **Conferences Attended Since November**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Conference** | **Host**  | **Venue** | **Date**  | **Members** **Attended** |
| Weather Emergencies and Local Authorities | Association of Irish Local Government | Dunboyne Castle,Dunboyne | 18th November 2017 | Cllr E. MurphyCllr B. LawlorCllr V. Casserly Cllr K Egan |
| 8th Annual Tourism Policy Workshop,  | University of Limerick | Dromoland Castle | 17th-18th November 2016, | Cllr G. O’Connell  |

As authorisation under this section is a reserved function Members are required to pass the following resolution:

“In accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001 attendance by Members at the Conferences / Seminars outlined in the report is hereby authorized.”

 The Report on Conferences/Seminars was **APPROVED** on the proposition of Councillor L. O’Toole and seconded by Councillor G. O’Connell.

**H3c/0218** **STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE 18TH JANUARY – NOMINATION FOR THE VACANCY ON SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP**

 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 following Report was **APPROVED** by the Members at the Organisation, Procedure & Finance Committee Meeting held on 18th January 2018

 A vacancy exists on the Board of South Dublin Partnership following Councillor B. Lawlor resignation from this Board and it is a now a matter for the Council to nominate a replacement to fill the vacancy.

 This is now before the Organisation, Procedure and Finance Committee for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor B. Lawlor and seconded by Councillor E. Higgins and **AGREED** that Councillor Connor McMahon be appointed to the Board of South Dublin County Partnership.

 This is now before the Full Council for Approval.”

 The Nomination for the Vacancy on Board of South Dublin County Partnership was **APPROVED** on the proposition of Councillor E. Higgins and seconded by Councillor P. Donovan.

**H3d/0218 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE 18th JANUARY – NOMINATION FOR VACANCY ON THE HEALTH SERVICE REGIONAL FORUM**

 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 following Report was **APPROVED** by the Members at the Organisation, Procedure & Finance Committee Meeting held on 18th January 2018

A vacancy exists on the Health Service Executive Regional Forum following the resignation of Councillor L. Dunne’s resignation from this Board and it is now a matter for the Council to nominate a replacement to fill the vacancy.

 This is now before the Organisation, Procedure and Finance Committee for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor C. King and seconded by Councillor B. Ferron and **AGREED** that Councillor Mark Ward be appointed to the Health Service Executive Regional Forum.

 This is now before the Full Council for Approval”

 The Nomination for the Vacancy on The Health Service Executive Regional Forum was **APPROVED** on the proposition of Councillor C. King and seconded by Councillor M. Duff.

**H4/0218 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

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

**H5/0218 REPORT REQUESTED FROM AREA COMMITTEES**

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

 **QUESTIONS**

 It was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty, seconded by Councillor D. O’Donovan and **RESOLVED**:

 “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Questions numbered Q1 – Q25 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**Q1/0218 DIGITAL DISPLAY SIGNS**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor P. Foley**

 The agreed approach for digital speed display units is that additional sockets are to be installed to enable the rotation of existing units.  Could we be provided with a list for the whole county of where and when these additional sockets are to be installed?

**REPLY:**

 It is intended to install suitable sockets at 16 no locations throughout the county.

 The locations are:

                             Brittas Village                                             2 No.

                             Fonthill Rd                                                 2 No.

                             Taylors Lane                                              2 No.

                             Outer Ring Rd (south of N7)                        2 No.

                             New Nangor Rd (Deansrath area)                2 No.

                             Cloverhill Rd                                               2 No.

                             Rathfarnham Rd                                         2 No.

                             Dodder Rd                                                 2 No.

 Exact locations are subject to survey to confirm suitability for solar panels.

**Q2/0218 HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor P. Foley**

 How many people were removed from the housing allocations list on the basis of not filling out the Housing Needs Assessment form?  What efforts were made to contact these people? Can a statement be made on the matter?

 **REPLY:**

 The most recent Social Housing Assessments were carried out in 2016 and 2017. Due to variation in numbers re-assessed it is necessary to give information on these two assessments.

 In 2016 the SHA involved the re-assessment of those on the Council’s social housing waiting list prior to 21/09/2015 and this involved 7,174 applications. There were 1,438 applications removed from the social housing waiting list for failure to reply to the SHA representing 20% of those re-assessed.

 Of those ‘Non-responders’ whose file was cancelled - 216 have had their files re-opened with no loss of Time on List (a further 15 contacted the office querying the cancellation of their file but failed to submit requested documentation). As is the norm following completion of the Assessment, any cancelled applications may be reinstated onto the Council’s housing waiting list on receipt of required documentation within a specified timeframe ( i.e. 31/03/2017 for 2016 Assessment) when re-assessed and deemed to remain eligible.

 In 2017 the SHA involved the reassessment of those on list from 22/09/2015 to 28/06/2016 this involved 478 applications. There were 86 applications removed from the social housing waiting list for failure to reply to the SHA this represented 18% of those assessed.

 Of those ‘Non-responders’ whose file was cancelled - 19 have had their files re-opened with no loss of Time on List. As is the norm following completion of the Assessment, any cancelled applications may be reinstated onto the Council’s housing waiting list on receipt of required documentation within a specified timeframe ( i.e. 31/12/2017 for 2017 Assessment) when re- assessed and deemed to remain eligible.

 The Council issues two letters to applicants in connection with the SHA – initial letter and follow-up to those who have not responded. The Council also advertises in the local newspapers and on the Council’s website – on the home page and on the Choice Based Letting page.  Those actively engaging with Choice Based Letting should have seen the advertisement as it is placed on the initial log-in page. Following cancellation of application applicants are not able to access the site and are directed to the Allocations Section.

 Please note the Council has been informed that a SHA is to be carried out this year to include all applications, timeframe for completion is circa 30/06/2018 - specifications and guidance are to be issued by the Department.

**Q3/0218 SKILLS COMMITTEE**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor P. Foley**

 A Skills Committee was established in 2016 as part of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-21.  When did this committee meet last and where can we find information on its work to date?

 **REPLY:**

 The establishment of skills Committee is an action of the 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan and is being led by the South Dublin County Partnership Company with the DDLETB, IT Tallaght and South Dublin LEO. This will work in conjunction with the LEO informed by the work of the [Dublin Regional Skills Forum](http://www.regionalskills.ie/Regions/dublin/Our-Services/Overview%20Dublin%20Forum/). The Mission Statement of the Forum is: “To be the driving network within the Dublin region that identifies and delivers skills development outcomes that’s all inclusive for learners through the positive engagement of enterprise & education and training system aligned”

**Q4/0218 QUALITY CONTROL**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor S. Holland**

 To ask the Chief Executive whether any quality control checking is carried out following completion of a housing maintenance request by a contractor.  Please outline the maintenance procedure from end to end.

 **REPLY:**

 Maintenance works within a Council owned dwelling is divided into 2 areas, those requests which South Dublin County Council are responsible for and those requests which are deemed tenants responsibility.  These items are listed in the appendix to the tenancy agreement which a tenant/s sign on being allocated a property and are also published on the Council's website.

 When a maintenance request is received via telephone, Customer Care System or in writing, the request if deemed to be an area of responsibility for South Dublin County Council is logged on the Housing Maintenance system for the attention of the Depot.  Maintenance requests are categorised on a daily basis in the following categories, Emergency (1-5 days) Urgent (1-10 days) and Routine (over 12 weeks).  Once categorisation of the maintenance request has been completed these works are then issued to the Foreman of Works, Contractors or Direct Labour crew depending on the maintenance request to hand for works/inspections to be carried out.

 All maintenance works undertaken by Contractors on behalf of South Dublin County Council are monitored on a regular basis by the team of Housing Maintenance Foremen.  When works sheets are received from the Contractors to confirm completion of a works task the Clerk of Works and/or the Foreman of Works for the Area will inspect the works undertaken before certifying works for payment.

 The Council is currently progressing the Business Transformation programme within the Housing Department which will add considerable to the area of quality control together with other efficiencies and customer service enhancement.

**Q5/0218 HOUSING MAINTENANCE**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor S. Holland**

 To ask the Chief Executive how much was spent on housing maintenance contractors in 2017, and how quality of work and value for money is ascertained.

 **REPLY:**

 During 2017, Housing Maintenance's total spend on Contractors engaged on behalf of South Dublin County Council who carry out response maintenance works was €3,369,369.

 All contractors engaged by the Council in this work were appointed following a competitive tender process which is in line with National Procurement rules and guidelines.

 The quality of the work undertaken by the Contractors is inspected by either the Area Foreman or Clerk of Works before the works are recommended for payment.  If any defects are found in the works or if they are not up to the standard required the contractors are required to repair or re do the work.

**Q6/0218 MAINTENANCE WORK**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor S. Holland**

 To ask the Chief Executive how many complaints or expressions of dissatisfaction SDCC have received year on year since 2014 regarding maintenance work carried out and delays to having work carried out.

 **REPLY:**

 The current housing management system in operation does not provide for recording of individual complaints on dissatisfaction of works in such a way as to report on them. Consequently it is not possible to quantify the numbers as requested.  However while complaints are sometimes received in relation to the standard of works undertaken it is more common that complaints are received in relation to delays in getting to the requested works.

 In this regard and to assist the process all maintenance requests are categorised on a daily basis into the following categories, Emergency (1-5 days) Urgent (1-10 days) and Routine (over 12 weeks).  Once categorisation of the maintenance request has been completed these works are then issued to the Foreman of Works, Contractors or Direct Labour crew depending on the maintenance request to hand for works/inspections to be carried out.  The Council prioritises however work for older tenants and those with disability when known. Another reason for delays is the inability of the maintenance crew/trade to gain access.  In these instances a card is left requesting the tenant to make contact and arrange a suitable appointment.

 If a complaint regarding the standard of works is received the Clerk of Works is contacted immediately to investigate and the works examined in light of the complaint.  Following on from this investigation remedial action will be taken where required.

 It is anticipated that the Housing Business Transformation Project which incorporates an integrated Housing System will improve recording, provide for work follow up and certification and a much enhanced customer service.

**Q7/0218 WINDOW REFURBISHMENT**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor B. Leech**

 Can a definitive reason be given why window frames are removed and then replaced with new ones in the refurbishment of boarded up Council properties?  Is this part of the tender process? How can this be cost effective within a Council Budget?

 **REPLY:**

 When the Council refurbishes a vacant property for re-letting purposes new window frames are only changed in the following circumstances

1. The windows in the unit were old timber framed units and beyond their lifespan
2. Existing windows of any material (timber, PVC, Aluminium) which are single glazed units
3. If bedroom windows do not comply with fire regulations

 Proper procurement guidelines were met with regard to the window contractor engaged by South Dublin County Council in order to deliver value for money and quality of work. The contractor engaged by the Council in this area of work was appointed following a competitive tender process which is in line with National Procurement rules and guidelines.

**Q8/0218 HOUSING STOCK**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor B. Leech**

 When the Council refurbishes a boarded up property and brings it back into the housing stock are new window frames part of that tender process. What is the reasoning behind this?

 **REPLY:**

 When the Council refurbishes a vacant property for re-letting purposes new window frames are only changed in the following circumstances

1. The windows in the unit were old timber framed units and beyond their lifespan
2. Existing windows of any material (timber, PVC, Aluminium) which are single glazed units
3. If bedroom windows do not comply with fire regulations

**Q9/0218 COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor B. Leech**

 What is the average cost of a house or property coming back into Council stock after refurbishment through the tender process?  Do all these properties include replacement window frames as part of the tender and can the Council make a statement on the matter.

 **REPLY:**

 The average cost of a property being returned to the Council stock for refurbishment and re- letting purpose's for 2017 was €15,985.30 per unit.  Please note that some units may require substantially more refurbishment works than other units.

 When the Council refurbishes a vacant property for re-letting purposes new window frames are only changed in the following circumstances

1. The windows in the unit are old timber framed units and beyond their lifespan
2. Existing windows of any material (timber, PVC, Aluminium) which are single glazed units
3. If bedroom windows do not comply with fire regulations

**Q10/0218 HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor D. Looney**

 To ask the Chief Executive to state how much this Council has paid (net) in Housing Assistance Payments, year-on-year, since payment began; to ask how much he has budgeted to pay out in 2018; and to make a statement on the matter.

 **REPLY:**

 All Housing Assistance Payment applications are first administered by South Dublin County Council.   All local authorities then use the services of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Shared ServicesCentre, which is based in Limerick, who administer the HAP rental payments to landlords. The HAP Shared Services Centre also collects all rent contributions from HAP tenants.

 South Dublin County Council does not make provision in our budget for the HAP to landlords.

 As of January 15th, 2366 HAP tenancies were administered by South Dublin County Council.

 In addition 2711 Homeless HAP tenancies were administered by Dublin Regional Homeless Executive on behalf of the four Dublin Local Authorities.

**Q11/0218 ZONED LAND**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor D. Looney**

 To ask the Chief Executive to provide a map of all Council-owned land zoned for residential development.

 **REPLY:**

 Presentations have previously been provided to the O & P & F Committee on Council owned land. As requested in the member’s question, a similar presentation can be provided to the Committee focusing on the residentially zoned land in the County in Council ownership.

**Q12/0218 VACANT SITES REGISTER**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor D. Looney**

 To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report and an update on the Vacant Sites Register, and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

 The vacant site levy comes into force in 2019, whereby a levy at a rate of 3% of the market value of all sites on the vacant site register will be applied. As it stands, 7 sites are currently on South Dublin County Council’s vacant site register, with a collective market value of €7.075m, which would generate an expected annual return of €212,250.

 It is the case that at any stage some of the sites currently on the register may be removed from the register at the time of the application of the levy, depending on their construction status and development progress. In addition, it should also be noted that land owners may appeal against the market valuation of the site as determined by the Local Authority to the Valuation Tribunal.

 There are further sites presently under assessment that may be included on the register.

**Q13/0218 SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor D. Looney**

 Chun ceist a chur ar an Príomhfheidhmeannach faoi na pleananna ar Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas 2018; cad iad na gníomhachtaí atá pleanáilte lasmuigh Tamhlacht agus Cluain Dolcáin; agus an mbeidh deiseanna ann ar rannphartíocht Chomhairleoirí maidir leis na gníomhachtaí atá eagraithe.

 To ask the Chief Executive about the plans for Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas 2018; What events are planned outside Tallaght and Clondalkin; and will the Councillors have an opportunity to input into the planned events

 **REPLY:**

 There are currently over 100 events planned throughout the county for this year's Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas. The Council's schedule begins with a photoshoot launch at the County library in Tallaght on February 21st with Seachtain Na Gaeilge events running from March 1st to March 18th. The Council are producing a brochure detailing each event, location and time, that will be available from February 23rd. Headline items were also sent to press on February 2nd as part of the national Seachtain Na Gaeilge promotion.

 Of those, there will be events held in Lucan library and Ballyroan library, Rathfarnham, aimed at young and older people. These include Bróga Nua (Páistí Bunscoile - Primary School Children), Óga Yoga (Pásití Bunscoile - Primary School Children) and Comicí Gael le Aidan Courtney. These are all free events, though booking is advised for Bróga Nua.

 Due to the necessity of ensuring the Council's Seachtain Na Gaeilge brochure is printed on time, events were finalised by the 9th of February. The Council would welcome any help elected members might provide in promoting this year's schedule to our citizens.

**Q14/0218 SWIMMING POOLS**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor R. McMahon**

 To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the repair and Maintenance of the Swimming Pools in the County that we are responsible for. I believe the boom mechanism is broken in some pools and that the 25 metre format has not been available for some time. What are the plans to have the pools back to full working order and a timeline on same? It is affecting the competitive swimmers that are using the excellent facilities.

 **REPLY:**

 The up to date position is that we hope to have the Clondalkin pool fixed and up running fully over the next couple of weeks. The required part manufactured and requires a team of engineering and dive teams to put in place.

 Tallaght is more complex as the damage is more significant.

 The report form the engineering company highlighted a number of repairs that need to be carried out urgently such as Works to floor.

 The central core of 1No stainless steel rope has broken and needs to be replaced and as a result of wear and tear all ropes should be replaced before any further damage occurs. Cost to replace all 8No stainless steel ropes

 Other repairs needed, includes replacement roller pin, plates and fixings and oil change

 Work to Boom - Replace structurally compromised access hatch panels

 The urgent repair works to Tallaght Leisure Centre’s movable floor and boom will be carried out as soon as possible. However the company estimate that the full refurbishment cost of the boom to get the pool back to full operation will be a substantial cost. Now we know the extent of the works, cause of damage and costs full consideration is being given to the best solution but in the meantime the urgent works identified will be arranged.

**Q15/0218 PRIVATE RENTED INSPECTIONS**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor R. Nolan**

 Can the Chief Executive tell me how many private rented dwellings are in South Dublin, how many have been inspected by the council and how many failed regulations in respect of 2017?

**REPLY:**

 There are 7160 private rented properties registered in the county as at 1st January 2017. The target for inspections for 2017 was 1500 units which was met and recorded a non-compliance in 1091 cases. The inspections process is guided and informed by the Guidelines for Housing Authorities in the Implementation of Minimum Standards in Rented Accommodation.

 In the main the reasons for non-compliance are relatively minor comprising absent Carbon monoxide detectors, out of date smoke alarms, no fire blanket and no evidence of gas/oil boiler service.

**Q16/0218 CLIMATE CHANGE**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

 To ask the Chief Executive to confirm his further actions to meet the Government Targets in respect of climate change; will he note the growing interest in respect of this important issue and will he make a statement.

 **REPLY**

‘A Strategy Towards Climate Change Action Plans for Dublin Local Authorities’, was adopted at the Council Meeting in February 2017 and SDCC must now produce a Local Adaptation Plan and Mitigation Plan.

 Adaptation to climate change and the successful implementation of adaptation policy, is a task that involves all levels of government from local to European levels. At local level, our task is to focus on the implementation of adaptation responses. Strengthening our capacity to adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts by making our county more resilient to extreme weather events.

Mitigation to climate change tasks local government to make efforts to reduce or prevent emission of greenhouse gases, and this can be achieved through improved energy efficiency and greater use of renewable energy sources.

SDCC, in conjunction with the three other Dublin Local Authorities and Codema, are currently preparing these plans. All Departments and relevant sections of the Local Authority are being consulted with and an initial list of actions required to Adapt to and Mitigate the challenge of Climate Change is being collated.

A presentation on the progress of the draft plans will be given at the February 2018 Meeting of the Environment Public Realm & Climate Change SPC.

A series of workshops and seminars have taken place in 2017 involving the 4 Dublin Local Authority Climate Change working group nominees, Codema and the members of the 4 Dublin Local Authority Environment SPCs. The purpose of these meetings was to table actions for a draft Climate Change Action Plan. The South Dublin County Council Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2018-2023 has now been circulated to the Climate Change working group for review and comment.

The National Adaptation Framework was published by Minister Denis Naughton T.D. on 19th January 2018. The NAF sets out the national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts, and is available here: <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/publications/Pages/National-> Adaptation-Framework0118-4235.aspx

 The Minister also announced the setting up and funding of 4 Regional Climate Action offices. The offices will be in Dublin, Cork, Kildare and Mayo.

**Q17/0218 CHRISTMAS OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY SERVICES**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

 To ask the Chief Executive if he will present a report on the out of hours emergency service which operated over the Christmas period; will he list the type of calls received and will he also state if there are any proposals to implement any changes in the system at Christmas 2018.

 **REPLY:**

 During the Christmas period, South Dublin County Council contracted an Out of Hours service provider, ‘Pageboy’, who took calls from the public for the Council from 1pm on 22nd December 2017 up to 9am on Tuesday 2nd Jan 2018, when the Council offices reopened. The service provider would produce daily and weekly reports on all calls received whilst directly contacting designated Council employees who were 'on call' for emergency situations during this period. The cost of providing the extra Christmas cover came to €861 (including VAT). Call Pageboy are the provider of the Council’s out of hours service throughout the year.

 Pageboy received a total of 312 phone calls during this period, as outlined below:

|  |
| --- |
| South Dublin County Council Out of Hours Phone Calls 22/12/17 – 01/01/18 |
| Council Section | Number of Calls |
| Drainage | 32 |
| General | 27 |
| Housing | 170 |
| Parks | 4 |
| Roads | 18 |
| Water Services | 45 |
| Call relating to location situated outside SDCC jurisdiction | 14 |
| Burial queries | 2 |

 The out of hours service is due to be tendered during 2018 but it is not envisioned that that the requirements for the service over Christmas would be changed.

**Q18/0218 HORSES**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

 To ask the Chief Executive if he shares the concern of many about the abuse of horses, and other animals, throughout the County, noting recent media reports highlighting the situation; will he detail actions proposed by the Council to deal with the matter and will he make a statement.

 **REPLY:**

 The Council engages a competent contractor for the provision and operation of the horse seizure service and horse pound facility, and as such all seized horses are taken to the horse pound facility where (if not already) they are microchipped on arrival, and examined by a veterinary practitioner.  The Council also works in very close collaboration with the DSPCA and is in constant contact with the DSPCA Inspectors who monitor the welfare of horses reported to us.

 Details of all horses seized and impounded are published in efforts to identify the owners so that, where possible, horses may be reclaimed. Horses seized and not reclaimed by their owners within a period of five days from the date of seizure and detention the Council (or Garda Superintendent) may be disposed of by way of sale,  or re-homing. Horses which are unsuitable for re-homing are euthanised.

 Applications for reclaim are considered carefully and equines may be released to the owner or keeper of the horse only upon provision of a suite of relevant documentation to the Council, including proof of ownership, horse licence, passport, and detail on suitability of location where the horse is to be kept etc.

 The Council also engage with private landowners where it comes to attention that horse/ horses are present on such lands and for which concern is raised about the animal welfare.  This engagement advises landowners of the provisions of Section 18(5) of the Control of Horses Act 1996 (the Act) which states – ‘the occupier of any premises within a control area where a horse is found who is not the owner of that horse shall be deemed to be the person who keeps or has charge or control of the horse’.   Landowners are therefore required to arrange for the removal of all/any horses kept on private lands where horses are not licenced to the landowner.   Similarly, landowners are also advised that all efforts should be made to ensure that the lands are secured to prevent any further illegal trespass

 The Council's [**(Control of Horses) Bye-Laws 2014**](http://www.sdcc.ie/2014-control-of-horses-bye-laws) were adopted on 10th February 2014 and implemented with effect from 12th March 2014. These Byelaws are actively enforced and provide the Council with stronger tools to deal with issues which impact negatively on communities and animals alike, and we also administer the  **[Control of Horses Act 1996.](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1996/act/37/enacted/en/html)** The provisions of the Act and the Bye-Laws are fully utilised to reduce the number of horses that are being kept unlawfully (without licence / passport) in unsuitable conditions, or in areas where their presence has an adverse effect on the community.

 It is acknowledged that this Council is particularly proactive in the management of, and promotion of responsible urban horse ownership.

 The Council has developed a state of the art equine facility at Ballyowen Park for the stabling of up to 20 horses, with significant assistance from Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.  This facility is being managed by the Clondalkin Equine Club under a management licence subject to strict conditions relative to oversight / governance, application of equality legislation, membership / use of the facility, and application of strict animal welfare protection.  Animal welfare remains a priority and ongoing education and awareness forms part of the urban horse project programme.

 In 2017, SDCC also was instrumental, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, An Garda Siochana and DSPCA in the establishment of the Dublin Region Horse Welfare Task Force.   Membership of this Development Group, Voluntary groups/rescue centres and Veterinary Services and the primary objective is to develop a concerted collaborative programme aimed at promoting responsible horse ownership across the Dublin region with a particular focus on the following issues:

* Indiscriminate breeding,
* Animal welfare,
* Education and awareness,
* Legislation and regulation (acts and Byelaws) pertaining to animal welfare and control of horses

**Q19/0218 PLAYSPACE PROGRAMME**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

 To ask the Chief Executive to present an up to date report in respect of the Play Space programme and will he confirm plans in that regard for 2018.

 **REPLY:**

 **Playspace Programme 2014-2018**

 **Introduction**

 The Play Space Programme will conclude at the end of 2018. It is therefore timely to plan for both the final round of consultations with the local populations as well as the tendering and construction phases in order to achieve the maximum number of completed facilities possible.

 The programme has been very successful to date, particularly taking into account the difficulties encountered during the early phases. With hard work and significant active involvement from elected members and local communities, and direct engagement with children; the Council can be proud to be in a position where it is now perceived to be at the vanguard of creating new play opportunities close to where children live. It can also be proud to have embraced a new type of play space delivery – using the concepts of Natural Play and where children can create their own play opportunities.

 **Delivery to date**

 The following 17 play space projects have been constructed to date.

 Lucan

* Griffeen Avenue, Lucan
* Sarsfield Park, Lucan
* Hermitage Park, Lucan
* Riversdale Estate

 Clondalkin

* Quarryvale Park, Clondalkin
* Rathcoole Park
* Knockmitten Park

 Tallaght Central

* Aylesbury Park
* Avonbeg Park
* Sean Walsh Park

 Tallaght South

* Brookview Estate
* Killinarden

 Templeogue-Terenure

* Kilnamanagh (Tree Park and Park Hill)
* Kingswood
* Beechfield Park

 Rathfarnham

* Ballycragh Park
* Glendoher Park

 In addition, the new Natural Playground in Tymon Park has opened to great acclaim and in Griffeen Valley Park work has been completed on the refurbishment of the playground there.

 **Planned Programme to the end of 2018**

 The total remaining budget to complete the play space programme will allow for approximately 10-15 new play spaces to be constructed. The following programme was presented at all the ACMs in 2017 and of these presented below it is planned that 10-15 will be completed in 2018.

|  |
| --- |
| **FINISHING PROGRAMME** |
| **Lucan** |
|  1.   Cannonbrook- replacement for Finnstown2.    Lucan Demense |
| **Clondalkin** |
| 1.   Boot Road2.   North Clondalkin3.   Bawnogue area4.   Newcastle, |
| **Tallaght Central** |
|  1.  Ballymount2.   Old Bawn Park |
| **Tallaght South**  |
| 1.   Jobstown Park / McGee Park:2.   Killinarden Park |
| **Templeogue/ Terenure** |
|  1.  Perrystown2.   Delaford3.   Limekiln, Tymon4.   Greenhills Park |
| **Rathfarnham** |
|  1.  Longwood Park / Stone Park Abbey/ Aranleigh2.   Marian Road3.   Whitechurch |

 In addition to the Play Space programme there is also finance available from the Participatory Budget to proceed with the construction of a new playground in Waterstown Park.

**Q20/0218 HOUSING /HOMELESS**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

 To ask the Chief Executive if he would make a statement detailing his proposals to deal with the housing / homeless crisis through the coming calendar year and in reporting will he also confirm if he has had any discussions following the recent announcement by government of the affordable mortgage scheme and will he make a general statement in the matter.

**REPLY:**

 **Homeless**

 South Dublin County Council has a unit dedicated to providing assistance to those who find themselves homeless.  This unit will continue to operate a clinic in County Hall, Tallaght  and an outreach service.  The unit offers advice and assistance and explains the options available to those who find themselves in this difficult situation.

 Families who present as homeless are given advice on accommodation options by staff in the Homeless Unit.  The Self Accommodate practice will be phased out as alternative accommodation becomes available. Family Hubs are the preferred model of temporary accommodation for homeless families with assistance to move on to a home of their own.  They represent a better, more caring and more cost-effective alternative to commercial hotels and B&B's.  Hubs are available at Tallaght Cross, The Abberley and Respond Gleann na hEorna in Tallaght.  There is also a Homeless facility at Riversdale House catering for older long term Homeless singles. These facilities will when fully complete early in 2018 cater for in excess of 100 families.  The DRHE is currently examining the possibility of acquiring another Hub in the County.  We continue to work with the DRHE and look for suitable locations or property throughout the County which could be used to provide adequate emergency accommodation and will keep the Council briefed.

 Killininny House offers accommodation for single men and additional placements are available as 'step down/transitional' accommodation.  We continue to explore options to support those coming out of supported temporary accommodation.  Other hostel type 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.  We continue to work with various agencies and on initiatives such as Housing First to support this group.

 The Council will continue to operate an outreach service and multi-agency approach to address rough sleepers across the County.  The Outreach worker works closely with the HSE in particular in identifying rough sleepers and sourcing appropriate accommodation and support services. The needs of rough sleepers are often very complex and challenging and require a comprehensive and coordinated approach.  A Homeless Action Team meets which focuses on single persons and known rough sleepers and will continue to meet in 2018.

 Anyone assessed as homeless by the homeless unit is eligible to apply for the HAP scheme.  This is the quickest path out of homelessness and advice is available from the Homeless Unit on how to access this scheme.

 **Council Stock**

 South Dublin County Council continues to manage its existing and new housing stock in line with the demand and to ensure a speedy turnaround for any vacant properties and 9 LA Housing Project are currently under construction and a further project to start in coming weeks. We are currently working though feasibility of a further number of project proposals and will be notified to the relevant Area Committees during February and March. It should be noted as previously advised that SDCC has been set a target of 2,993 units to be delivered 2017 to 2021. The Council will be making every effort to meet that challenging target.

 **Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan**

 A Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a new Government backed mortgage for first time buyers. It is available nationwide from all local authorities from 1st February 2018.

 As a first time buyer you can apply for a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build your own home.

 Full details are available on the Rebuilding Ireland Website:  <http://rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie/>

**Q21/0218 RAS**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

 To ask for a report from SDCC that reviews what supports it can provide to Residents and Landlords affected by tenants of the RAS , that are cause Anti-social behaviour and that a report is brought to the Council for discussion on this.

 **REPLY:**

 The Housing Welfare team in South Dublin County Council provide support to tenants who wish to engage with their services.  However private landlords must address disputes through the RTB.

**Q22/0218 VACANT SITE LEVY**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

 To provide a report on a Vacant site levy and how much this would bring in for revenue for SDCC and how it could be introduced?

 **REPLY:**

 The vacant site levy comes into force in 2019, whereby a levy at a rate of 3% of the market value of all sites on the vacant site register will be applied. As it stands, 7 sites are currently on South Dublin County Council’s vacant site register, with a collective market value of €7.075m, which would generate an expected annual return of €212,250.

 Notwithstanding the above, it is premature to give an accurate estimation of expected revenue generation, as the assessment of potential sites for inclusion on the vacant site register is ongoing; whilst some of the sites currently on the register may be removed from the register at the time of the application of the levy, depending on their construction status and development progress. In addition, it should also be noted that land owners may appeal against the market valuation of the site as determined by the Local Authority to the Valuation Tribunal, hence, the anticipated financial return from the levy may be subject to change.

 With the above in mind, South Dublin County Council will not be in a position to give an accurate forecast of the expected revenue to be generated from the vacant site levy until closer to the time of its application to all sites on the vacant site register in 2019.

**Q23/0218 PARKING METERS**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

 To ask for a report into Parking meters in SDCC, how much do they bring in a year in revenue and what is cost of patrolling them, would SDCC look at increasing free parking time to One Hour in villages?

 **REPLY:**

 The total Parking meter income for 2017 is €409,514.69. This amount is made up of coin income from On and Off Street Parking, Coin income in the sum of €373,794.96 and €35,719.73 from Parking Tag Income. The cost of the Parking Meter system for 2017 is €311,496.33.

 Pay and Display Parking was introduced to provide a straight forward, clearly understood parking regime which effectively manages turnover of available parking spaces, this in turn ensures that the level of footfall in villages is optimised and that the villages are an attractive place to shop.

 The proposal to increase the free parking time from 30 minutes to one hour in villages would cause an adverse effect on businesses and would also increase traffic congestion with the lack of turnover of available parking spaces. It is recommended that the free 30 minutes be maintained for the reasons outlined above.

**Q24/0218 HORSES**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

 That a report be given on Horse control for 2017, how many horses where seized? How many where euthanized? And what was the total cost to SDCC for Horse Control?

 **REPLY:**

 South Dublin County Council has responsibility for the administration of the [Control of Horses Act 1996](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1996/act/37/enacted/en/html), which makes provision for the licensing of horses in urban areas (and other areas) where horses cause a danger to persons or property or nuisance.

 Problems associated with keeping such horses in an urban area may include neglect and cruelty to the animals, damage to public property including parks, sports pitches and grass verges, danger posed to public safety and general nuisance posed by presence of horses in public places.

 South Dublin County Council has a proven track record in the effective management of this service, and also works closely with the DSPCA in monitoring horses within South Dublin County.

 All reports of loose/stray horses which are received from elected representatives, members of the public and Council staff are considered in a timely manner and, as appropriate, are referred to the contractor engaged by the Council for the provision and operation of the horse seizure service and horse pound facility.

 All seized horses are taken to the horse pound facility where they are microchipped on arrival, (if not already microchipped) and examined by a veterinary practitioner. Horses which are unsuitable for re-homing or not reclaimed by their owners within a period of five days from the date of seizure and detention the Council (or Garda Superintendent) may dispose of by way of sale, animal euthanasia or re-homing.

 The Ballyowen Equine Centre, opened in February 2017 and operated under an Annual Management Licence, was developed by South Dublin County Council in collaboration with Department of Agriculture Fisheries and the Marine (DAFM) and Clondalkin Equine Club in order to address the keeping of horses in an unregulated and uncontrolled manner which resulted in serious animal welfare and public safety issues and which were a cause of concern for the Council, Gardai, central government and the communities of these areas.

 This Council has recently spearheaded the establishment of the Dublin Region Horse Welfare Task Force comprising representatives from the 4 Dublin Local Authorities, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM), the DSPCA; An Garda Síochána; Clondalkin Equine Club; Fettercairn Youth Horse Project and various other charity / voluntary groups and NGOs to prevent cruelty to animals, and to promote responsible urban horse ownership.  Four specific working groups have been established covering specifically:

* Indiscriminate breeding,
* Animal welfare,
* Education and awareness,
* Legislation and regulation (acts and Byelaws) pertaining to animal welfare and control of horses

 Recommendations from these working groups will be examined and implemented as appropriate.

 During 2017 227 horses were impounded, 5 horses were reclaimed by their owners, 9 horses were rehomed and 213 horses were euthanised.

 South Dublin County Council receives subvention from DAFM for the delivery of the service and the following is an outline of expenditure and income for 2017.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total Expenditure       | €179,372.73  |
| Total Income | € 71,108.04 |
| Nett Cost | €108,264.69 |

**Q25/0218 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME**

 **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor F. Timmons**

 To ask for a report on the new Affordable housing scheme, how many houses will be available on it?  How can a person apply and what is criteria?

 **REPLY:**

 The Rebuild Ireland Home Loan is a Government backed mortgage for first time buyers.  The new loan will allow first time buyers to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build their own home.  The first time buyer will be able to borrow up to 90% of the market value of the property to a maximum purchase price of €320,000 within South Dublin County Council.

 This new scheme is available from the 1st February and all information is available on South Dublin County Council website at [http://www.sdcc.ie/services/housing/buying-your- home/applying-for-a-local-authority-loan](http://www.sdcc.ie/services/housing/buying-your-%09home/applying-for-a-local-authority-loan) or on the Rebuild Ireland website at [www.rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie](http://www.rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie/)**.**

**H6/0218 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

**H7a/0218 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES- PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF LANDS AT MAIN STREET, RATHCOOLE FOR COUNCIL OWNED LANDS AT TOOTENHILL, RATHCOOLE, CO. DUBLIN.**

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

 “It was brought to Council attention some years ago that Mr. Patrick McAneny was registered in error on Property Registration Authority records to ownership of former Council Roads Depot at Main Street, Rathcoole, Co Dublin since 1976 on Folio DN6516.

 Subsequent arrangements to transfer the interest in this subject site to the Council failed to complete. In 2014, Mr. McAneny expressed an interest in acquiring a plot of Council owned land at Tootenhill registered on Folio DN10121 in exchange for a transfer of ownership to the Council in respect of the site at Main Street, Rathcoole. The site at Tootenhill is located between two land parcels registered in Mr. McAneny’s ownership and was previously the site of an ESB substation now relocated following road widening works. The site is overgrown and traversed by ESB poles. Following negotiations between the legal representatives of the Council and Mr. McAneny in consultation with the Council Valuer, terms were agreed for an exchange of lands to bring the matter to conclusion.

 The Council Valuer has recommended the following terms and conditions which he considers to be fair and reasonable and which have been accepted by Mr. McAneny.

 Accordingly, I now recommend that the Council disposes of the plot of land measuring 0.0875 hectares (875 square metres) or thereabouts at Tootenhill, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin as outlined in red on the attached Drawing No. LA/50/14 to the Applicant, Patrick McAneny, in exchange for plot of land measuring 0.0255 hectares (255 square metres) or thereabouts at Main Street, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin as outlined in red on Drawing No. LA/49/14, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions as recommended by the Council’s Valuer:-

1. That the Applicant transfers the unencumbered freehold title with vacant possession of the plot outlined in red on attached Drawing No. LA/49/14 (Map 1) comprising an area of 0.0255 hectares (255 square metres) which includes the roadbed area.
2. That in exchange for the plot of land as set out in No. 1 above, the Council transfers the unencumbered freehold title with vacant possession of 0.0875 hectares (875 square metres) outlined in red on attached Drawing No. LA/50/14 (Map 2).
3. That no consideration is payable by either party.
4. That each party is responsible for their own professional fees.
5. That each party is responsible for their own VAT, Stamp Duty or other costs arising.
6. That all parties use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
7. That the Law Agent drafts the necessary legal agreements and includes any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
8. That no contract enforceable at Law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
9. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.

 The lands being disposed of were acquired by CPO from Joseph Brady on 7/1/1968 for roads purposes.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **Daniel McLoughlin**

 **Chief Executive”**

 Councillor M. Johansson enquired about the exchange of lands at Rathcoole.

 Mr. F. Nevin, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development responded to Councillor Johansson’s query.

 The Report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty, seconded by Councillor D. O’Donovan and **RESOLVED:**

 “That the proposed exchange of lands at Main Street, Rathcoole for Council owned lands at Tootenhill, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**H7b/0218 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND ADJACENT TO 14 KILCLARE CRESCENT, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN** **24.**

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

 “The houseowners of 14 Kilclare Crescent, Tallaght, Dublin 24 have applied to purchase a plot of Council owned land adjacent to their dwelling for incorporation into their existing garden. The area is currently in use for incidental off street car parking and has been the subject of ongoing antisocial behaviour for a long number of years.

 The matter was examined in consultation with the Council’s Valuer who has recommended the following terms and conditions which he considers to be fair and reasonable and which have been accepted by the Applicants.

 Accordingly, I now recommend that the Council disposes of the plot of land measuring 0.0048 hectares (48 square metres) or thereabouts adjacent to 14 Kilclare Crescent, Tallaght, Dublin 24 as hatched in red on the attached Indicative Drawing No. DEV. 6192 to the Applicants, Miriam Amraoui and Mark Ryan, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions as recommended by the Council’s Valuer:-

1. That the subject plot comprises an area of 0.0048 hectares (48 square metres) or thereabouts and is hatched in red on the attached Indicative Drawing No. DEV. 6192.
2. That the Council disposes of the subject plot for the consideration of €12,000 (twelve thousand euro) plus VAT (if applicable).
3. That the subject plot is disposed of with full freehold title and vacant possession.
4. That the Applicants hold the freehold or equivalent interest in 14 Kilclare Crescent, Tallaght, Dublin 24.
5. That the Applicants incorporate the area into their existing garden and any boundary features constructed shall be in accordance with the Planning & Development and the Building Control legislation.
6. That a public lighting column lies adjacent to the plot in question and the Applicants should contact the Council’s Public Lighting Section to arrange a survey to be carried out by qualified personnel to ascertain the location of any public lighting equipment e.g. cables, within the subject plot. In the event of any public lighting equipment found, work can only proceed subject to agreement with the Council’s Public Lighting Section. The Applicants shall be responsible for the cost of survey, relocation/replacement/alteration or any damage caused to public lighting equipment as deemed necessary by the Council’s Public Lighting Section.
7. That the Applicants pay the Council’s legal fees plus VAT and outlay.
8. That the Applicants pay the Council’s Valuer’s fees of €250 plus VAT.
9. That all parties use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
10. That the Law Agent drafts the necessary legal agreements and includes any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
11. That no contract enforceable at Law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
12. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.

 The lands being disposed of form part of the lands acquired from Dublin City Council (formerly Dublin Corporation) in 1997 under the Scheme of Transfer of Lands pursuant to the Local Government (Dublin) Act, 1993.

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 **Daniel McLoughlin**

 **Chief Executive”**

 Councillor M. Genockey enquired about the disposal at 14 Kilclare Crescent.

 Mr. F. Nevin, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development responded to Councillor Genockey’s query.

 The Report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty, seconded by Councillor D. O’Donovan and **RESOLVED:**

 “That the Disposal of plot of land adjacent to 14 Kilclare Crescent, Tallaght, Dublin 24, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**H7c/0218** **PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES -PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND ADJACENT TO 124 PALMERSTOWN WOODS, CLONDALKIN, DUBLIN 22.**

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

 “The houseowners of 124 Palmerstown Woods, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 wish to regularise title to a plot of Council owned land located within the curtilage of their property.

 The matter was referred to the Council’s Valuer for examination and he has recommended the following terms and conditions which he considers to be fair and reasonable and which have been accepted by the Applicants.

 Accordingly, I now recommend that the Council disposes of the plot of land measuring 0.019 hectares (190 square metres) or thereabouts at 124 Palmerstown Woods, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 as outlined in red on the attached Drawing No. LA/10/17 to the Applicants, Nisha Alexander and Shibu Koshy Thoppilazhikethu in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions as recommended by the Council’s Valuer:-

1. That the subject plot comprises an area of 0.019 hectares (190 square metres) or thereabouts and is outlined in red on the attached Drawing No. LA/10/17.
2. That the Council disposes of the subject plot for the consideration of €8,000 (eight thousand euro) plus VAT (if applicable).
3. That the subject plot is disposed of with full freehold title and vacant possession.
4. That the Applicants hold the freehold or equivalent interest in 124 Palmerstown Woods, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.
5. That the Council shall retain a wayleave over the area coloured yellow on Drawing No. LA/10/17.
6. That all boundary features shall be in accordance with the Planning & Development and the Building Control legislation.
7. That the Applicants pay the Council’s legal fees plus VAT and outlay.
8. That the Applicants pay the Council’s Valuer’s fees of €800 plus VAT.
9. That all parties use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
10. That the Law Agent drafts the necessary legal agreements and includes any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
11. That no contract enforceable at Law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
12. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.

 The lands being disposed of were dedicated to South Dublin County Council in 1984 as open space and later acquired by the Council in 2006 by a Deed of Waiver from the Chief State Solicitor’s Office.

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 **Daniel McLoughlin**

 **Chief Executive”**

 The Report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty, seconded by Councillor D. O’Donovan and **RESOLVED:**

 “That the Disposal of plot of land adjacent to 124 Palmerstown Woods, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**H8/0218 MANAGEMENT REPORT**

 The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, and were **CONSIDERED:**

a) [Strategy Report](http://intranet/cmas/documents/County%20Council/2018/February/February2018CountyCouncilMeeting/8be635c5-554f-42c2-9339-6efd0549e23c.pdf)

 b) [Statistics](https://netconsent.sdublincoco.ie/NETconsent/signalr/connect?transport=foreverFrame&clientProtocol=1.5&usr_number=102&connectionToken=EEkcLh8GP7YhPm%2BJZ1dR4sClk2co0qXQsejaJhWz2nOgRL%2BATmdeOhi4QzLSaMdgSj%2FsIetw67FTQ7jkQEQK6fLTZ2dwRgWZt%2FCD9LU46fN9VIbvlXR80rLxHjFtyAiE&connectionData=%5B%7B%22name%22%3A%22alerter%22%7D%5D&tid=8&frameId=1)

c) Finance Report

 **Billing and Collection Statement**





 **Use of overdraft facility**

Approved overdraft facility = €25,000,000

 No of days in Overdraft from 1st January to 26th Jan 2018 = 0

 The Reports were **NOTED.**

**H9/0218 PART 8 REPORT ON BMX TRACK AT JOBSTOWN, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN 24**

 The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change and Ms. S. Furlong, Senior Parks Superintendent, and were **CONSIDERED:**

[BMX Track Report](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=59003)

 A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. King and B. Leech.

 The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor C. King, seconded by Councillor L. Dunne and **RESOLVED:**

 “That the Part 8 Report on BMX Track at Jobstown be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

**H10/0218 BELGARD TO COOKSTOWN LINK ROAD PART 8**

 The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. L. Leonard, A/Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation and were **CONSIDERED:**

[Part 8 Report](http://intranet/cmas/documents/County%20Council/2018/February/February2018CountyCouncilMeeting/1c96d489-d42e-4246-a34b-387c78d59b25.docx)

 A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors B. Ferron, D. Looney, C. O’Connor and C. Mc Cann.

 Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, Ms. L. Leonard, A/Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation and Ms. H. Fallon, Senior Executive Engineer responded to the Member queries.

 The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty, seconded by Councillor D. O’Donovan and **RESOLVED:**

 “That the Belgard to Cookstown Link Road Part 8 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

 In accordance with **Standing Order No. 13** it was **AGREED** with the consent of the Members to vary the sequence of business and to take **M2** (of similar subject matter) in tandem with this item.

**H11/0218 VARIATIONS TO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN A. GRANGE CASTLE WEST B. VACANT SITES LEVY**

 The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. L. Leonard, A/Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation and were **CONSIDERED:**

 **“Proposed Variation No.1 of the County Development Plan 2016-2022 in respect of the lands at Grangecastle West**

 Proposed Variation No. 1 of the South Dublin County Council County Development Plan 2016- 2022 seeks to change the land use zoning objective of lands at Grangecastle West from Objective RU (Rural) to Objective EE (Enterprise and Employment).

 The proposed amendments to the land use zoning objective would also result in the realignment of the indicative route for the Western Dublin Orbital Route (North).

 **Background**

 It is the policy of the Council to facilitate and support the growth of the economy of South Dublin County and the Greater Dublin Area in a sustainable manner, whilst maintaining and improving environmental quality.

 Having regard to the general positive economic context, it is likely that the significant and sustained uptake of employment lands within South Dublin County will continue into the short to medium term and that further lands are required so as to ensure that there is sufficient large-scale serviced lands available to accommodate existing and new companies within South Dublin County.

 A review of the existing ‘EE’ employment lands within South Dublin County demonstrated a lack of availability of serviced employment zoned lands with good transport links capable of accommodating significant projects of scale. A number of the well-established business parks within the County are nearing capacity, with limited availability for expansion or the addition of new operators.

 The lands subject to this proposed variation would provide for an additional 193 hectares of Enterprise and Employment lands in the County. The area lies adjacent to and would constitute an extension of the existing EE objective zoning which serves *‘to provide for enterprise and employment related uses’*. The zoning would benefit from the long term road proposals, which bisect the site to the north and the east, joining the junction immediately south of the existing Grange Castle Business Park. This will result in improved accessibility and connectivity with the surrounding area.

 The subject lands will maximise the value of existing and planned infrastructural investment, such as roads, energy, water, public transport and broadband in the area, making it a highly attractive location within the County for new enterprise and employment zoned lands.

 Specific Local Objective ET3 SLO1 of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022 states the following:

To conduct a review of the zoning of lands south of the Grand Canal and west and north of the R120, including lands adjoining Peamount Healthcare, with a view to preparing a long term plan for the expansion of the Grange Castle Economic and Enterprise Zone to this area, to accommodate strategic investment in the future, while also seeking to provide public open space along the Canal, including a natural heritage area in the vicinity of the historic canal quarries at Gollierstown.

 Subject to the proposed variation and in accordance with ET3 SLO1, a long term masterplan for the area will be prepared, which will provide a detailed framework for future development and will also seek to maximise the amenity and biodiversity value of the Grand Canal.

 Proposed amendments to the Development Plan have been drafted on this basis and it is proposed that these would form a Variation to the Development Plan.

 **Proposed Changes**

 In summary, there are two main elements to this proposed variation:

1. Change of the Zoning Objective from RU (Rural) to EE (Enterprise and Employment) of 193 hectares of lands at Grangecastle West ***Rationale:*** Following a review of the capacity of existing employment lands within the County in line with Specific Local Objective ET3 SLO1, it was considered appropriate to change the land use zoning at Grangecastle West to Objective EE to provide for the sustainable expansion of enterprise and employment development on this strategic land bank which will maximise the existing and planned infrastructure in the area.
2. Realignment of the indicative route of the Western Orbital Route (North)**Rationale:** As a result of the proposed change of zoning objective, the enterprise and employment lands would extend further to the west. Therefore the proposed route of the Western Orbital Route (North) has been realigned and moved further west to reflect the location of the extended EE lands

 **RECOMMENDATION:**

 Accordingly, it is recommended to the Council that the statutory procedure for the making of a Variation to the County Development Plan be initiated on this basis.”

**M2/0218 MAYORS BUSINESS - GRANGECASTLE INDUSTRIAL ZONE**

It was proposed by Councillors P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor D. O’Donovan:

 “That this Council reports on plans to extend the Grange Castle industrial zone westwards between the Nangor Road the 12th Lock and in particular outlines how it can ensure through working with agencies that people working in these areas in the future will be able to access the lands by public transport and cycling as well as by driving”

 **REPORT:**

 A proposed Variation of the County Development Plan in respect of lands at Grangecastle West is the subject of a Headed Item on the Agenda.

 A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Murphy, T. Gilligan, E. Higgins, C. King, M. Johansson, K. Mahon, P. Kearns, B. Leech, P. Gogarty and D. Looney.

 Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, Ms. L. Leonard, A/Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation and Mr. B. Keaney, Senior Planner responded to the Members queries.

 **VACANT SITES LEVY**

 **Proposed Variation No.2 of the County Development Plan 2016-2022 in Respect of the Vacant Site Levy**

 **Background**

 The purpose of Proposed Variation No. 2 of the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 is to incorporate the Vacant Site Levy (VSL) provisions as introduced by the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. The VSL is to incentivise the development of vacant sites in urban areas, and is a site activation measure, to ensure that vacant or underutilised land in urban areas is brought into beneficial use. As part of the Act, Planning Authorities must include an objective in their Development Plans for the development and renewal of areas in need of regeneration and must establish a vacant site register.

 Proposed amendments to the Development Plan have been drafted on this basis and it is proposed that these would form a Variation to the Development Plan.

 **Proposed Text Changes**

 The text to be amended is contained in Chapter 1, Introduction and Core Strategy and Chapter 2, Housing.

 These amendments are attached in full as an appendix where additional proposed text shown in green.

 In summary, the principal amendments are as follows:

**Chapter 1 Introduction and Core Strategy**

 **Section 1.8.0 Phasing, Prioritisation and Infrastructure Delivery**

 Additional Text to be included

 Vacant development sites are both a challenge and an opportunity for the County to provide additional housing, employment and other important uses. Active land management, including the implementation of the vacant site levy, is key to realising the vision and objectives of the Core Strategy.

 The Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 provides for a levy to be applied on vacant sites in residential and regeneration zoned lands, which are suitable for housing but are not coming forward for development. This is a key measure to encourage and promote the development of such vacant sites.

**Chapter 2 Housing**

 **Policy 2 Supply of Housing**

 New Policy Objective: H2 Objective 2

 **H2 Objective 2:**

 To promote residential development through active land management and a co-ordinated planned approach to developing appropriately zoned lands at key locations, including regeneration areas, vacant sites and under-utilised areas.

 New Policy Objective: H2 Objective 3

 **H2 Objective 3:**

 To implement the Vacant Site Levy for all vacant development sites, as appropriate, in the County and to prepare and make publicly available a register of vacant sites, as set out in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (or any superseding Act).

 **To note: no changes are proposed to the landuse zoning map or any landuse zoning objective under Proposed Variation No.2.**

 **RECOMMENDATION:**

 Accordingly, it is recommended to the Council that the statutory procedure for the making of a Variation to the County Development Plan be initiated on this basis.

 The Reports were **NOTED.**

**H12/0218 NOMINATION OF NEW AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER**

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

 **“**Dermot Carter, Director of Finance of Tallaght Hospital resigned from the Audit Committee in December.  Regulations state that nominations for appointment to the Audit Committee shall be made by the Corporate Policy Group to the local authority in consultation with the Chief Executive.

 The Chief Executive has nominated Ms Christine Nangle, Head of Department of Accountancy & Professional Studies at the Institute of Technology Tallaght.  Ms Nangle’s credentials are as set out below and her background, experience and qualifications are considered appropriate for appointment to the Audit Committee:

* Honours Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting from IT Tallaght
* Qualified Chartered Accountant
* Trained and qualified as a Charted Accountant in Deloitte
* Head of Internal Audit - Coca Cola (Ireland & UK)
* Co-author of the leading text book in Ireland on Auditing and Financial Reporting.

 The Nomination was **AGREED** at the Corporate Policy Group Meeting and is now before the Council for Consideration.”

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 The Nomination for the Vacancy on The Audit Committee was **APPROVED** on the proposition of Councillor M. Duff and seconded by Councillor C. King.

**H13/0218 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 2018 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.

 Following adoption, key statistics within the plan will be selected and visually presented in a graphic design format that will be attractive and easy to read for the citizen. This 'infographic' will then be distributed to every household, school and business in the county.”

 [Annual Service Delivery Plan](http://intranet/cmas/documents/County%20Council/2018/February/February2018CountyCouncilMeeting/2e00b9a8-57c6-4cdc-ad5f-947f2f3e9a6a.pdf)

  Councillor P. Donovan sought clarification in relation to the report.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management, responded to the Councillor Donovan’s query.

The Reports were **NOTED.**

**H14/0218 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME FROM SAOIRSE HOUSING ASSOCIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE HOUSING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1992 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A PROPERTY.**

 The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. B. Coman, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development and was **CONSIDERED:**

 “In October 2017 a proposal was received from Saoirse Housing Association to acquire one house under the Capital Assistance Scheme. This Council approved in principle this proposal as the property will address a priority housing need in accordance with Capital Assistance Scheme criteria.

 On the 2nd of February 2018 the Department have issued correspondence confirming CAS funding approval in the sum of €489,600 in respect of the acquisition cost only on this proposal. The Department has stated in their report that costs in respect of refurbishment works on this property are to be directly funded by South Dublin Co. Co. and contribution from Tusla.

 Saoirse Housing Association is registered as an Approved Housing Body under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1992 and is signed up to the Voluntary Regulatory Code for Approved Housing Bodies in Ireland.

 Under Section 6(8) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1992 the granting of assistance under the Capital Assistance Scheme is a reserved function of the Council and is subject to the approval of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

 **Accordingly, the following Motion is required:**

 “That this Council recommends that the application for a grant in the sum of €489,600 under the Capital Assistance Scheme to Saoirse Housing Association for the acquisition of a property in accordance with the requirements of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous) Act, 1992 be approved”.

 A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. Dunne, C. King, B. Ferron, D. O’Donovan, M. Ward, K. Mahon, M. Duff, C. O’Connor and R. Nolan.

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

 The Deputy Mayor Councillor B. Bonner took the chair while the Mayor left the chamber.

 The Report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor L. Dunne and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **RESOLVED:**

 “That the Application for Financial Assistance under the Capital Assistance Scheme be **ADOPTED and APPROVED.**”

 The Mayor Councillor P. Gogarty resumed the Chair of the Meeting.

 **CORRESPONDENCE**

 **Ministerial**

**C1/0218** Letter dated 19th January 2018 from Minister Heather Humphries regarding Employment Permits

 **Ministerial**

**C2/0218** Letter dated 10th January 2018 from Minister for Justice and Equality regarding Immigration.

 **Ministerial**

**C3/0218** Letter dated 3rd January 2018 from Minister for Justice and Equality regarding Gambling Control Bill

 **Departmental**

**C4/0218** Letter dated 3rd January 2018 from Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment regarding the National Mitigation Plan

 **Departmental**

**C5/0218** Letter dated 20th December 2017, from the Department of Health regarding the drug Kuvan.

**C6/0218** Letter dated 17th January 2018 from Tipperary County Council regarding Motion passed on Collection of Waste.

**C7/0218** Correspondence from Local Boundary Commission dated 17th January 2018 regarding review of Local Electoral Boundaries.

**C8/0218** Letter dated 17th January 2018, Criminal Cases Review Commission regarding reviews of Mr. Wootton & Mr. McConville.

**C9/0218** Letter dated 15th January 2018 for Wexford County Council, regarding guidelines issued by the Data Protection Commissioners.

**C10/0218** Letter dated 29th December from Health Service Executive regarding the Drug Kuvan.

**C11/0218** Letter dated 14th December 2017 from Kildare County Council regarding Downgrading of Portlaoise Hospital

**C12/0218** Letter dated 12th December 2017 from Galway County Council regarding the Disposal of Paint

 **Motions for discussion**

**M1/0218 MAYOR'S BUSINESS** - **IWISH**

It was proposed by Councillors P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor E. Higgins and **MOVED** without debate:

 “That this Council congratulates I Wish on its recent successful event in the RDS promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) as education and career choices for girls (which the Mayor attended and spoke at); thanks the Chief Executive for supporting this worthwhile venture; reaffirms its commitment to promote STEM for girls through whatever means possible at Council level; and recommends that South Dublin County Council sponsors future initiatives by I Wish as a positive way to reduce the gender inequalities in these areas and maximise the potential of our society as a whole”

 **REPORT:**

 South Dublin County Council is a proud supporter of the Dublin 2018 iWish STEM initiative, which is directed at attracting young girls to consider a career in science technology engineering and maths, and would like to congratulate iWish on their recent event in the RDS.

 The *iWish* (inspiring women in STEM) conference in the RDS on the 29th and 30th of January 2018 consisted of workshops and engaging talks by women who are at the top of their field in STEM. The showcase event combined talks with female role models with interactive exhibition spaces where companies engaged with the students through experiments and demonstrations of what they actually do.

 The Council believes that the event and overall initiative is of clear relevance and benefit to girls of secondary school age in our county and to the local economy in supporting the development of future talent for local employers, particularly in the STEM sector. In recent years, STEM has become an imperative initiative within our education system. The students attending this event are also at a pivotal point in their education. Due to this, the Council were happy to provide sponsorship to iWish and additional promotional support in the run up to the event.

 By becoming a strategic partner for *iWish* 2018, South Dublin County Council have made an important statement about the organisation’s role in supporting female students wishing to pursue a career in STEM subjects. The Council will continue to support this objective into the future.

 The Report was **NOTED.**

**M3/0218 CONNECTING FOR LIFE**

It was proposed by Councillors P. Foley and seconded by Councillor C. O’Connor**:**

 “Could the Chief Executive provide information on the HSE’s Connecting for Life, Ireland’s National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2020 and the plans for the County in this regard.”

 **REPORT:**

Connecting for Life Dublin South is a local suicide prevention action plan based on the same vision, goals, objectives and measurable outcomes as outlined in Connecting for Life, Ireland’s National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015 – 2020.  Connecting for Life sets out a vision where fewer lives are lost through suicide, and where communities and individuals are empowered to improve their mental health and wellbeing. HSE Community Healthcare- Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow are launching Connecting for Life Dublin South on January 23rd 2018 at 7pm in the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Newlands Cross, Dublin 22. Details on the consultation for Connecting for Life Dublin South can be found here: [http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/Mental\_Health\_Services/connecting-for-life/Strategy- Implementation/Local-action-plans/Connecting-for-Life-Dublin-South.html](http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/Mental_Health_Services/connecting-for-life/Strategy-%09Implementation/Local-action-plans/Connecting-for-Life-Dublin-South.html)

 This is the link to the National Strategy: [Connecting for Life, Ireland’s National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2020](http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/Mental_Health_Services/NOSP/preventionstrategy/connectingforlife.pdf)

 When the Action Plan is made public it will be assessed for how it complements actions within the Local Economic and Community Plan and whether there are actions that should be incorporated into the Plan as part of the annual review of the LECP, which will be considered at the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). It is also appropriate to consider how Connecting for Life Dublin South relates to other strategies like the South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan 2016-2022 and the Age Friendly County Strategy. The South Dublin Children and Young Peoples Services Committee, CYPSC, will also be considering the Action Plan in terms of the Children and Young People’s Plan of that committee.

 A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Foley, B. Ferron, C. O’Connor, M. Ward, D. O’Donovan, C. King, D. Richardson, M. Duff, E. O’Brien, E. Higgins, C. Mc Cann, B. Bonner, P. Kearns, K. Mahon and P. Gogarty.

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

 The Report was **NOTED.**

**M4/0218 BITCOIN**

It was proposed by Councillors T. Gilligan and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy**:**

 “That this Council accepts Bitcoin as a form of payment for services rendered to the public”

 At this stage Councillor J. Graham informed the Mayor that he was leaving the Meeting for this Motion as he had a conflict of interest.

 **REPORT:**

 Virtual currencies including bitcoin are not legal tender.

 Provision for “legal tender” is contained in section 118 of the Central Bank Act 1989 as amended by section 16 of the Central Bank Act 1998:

 “118.—(1) It shall be lawful for the Bank to provide and issue in accordance with this Part notes to be known and in this Part referred to as legal tender notes for the following denominations, namely, £1, £5, £10, £20, £50, £100 and any other denomination in the Irish pound or in the euro unit for which the European Central Bank has authorised the issue in accordance with Article 105a of the Treaty and such notes and other notes denominated in the euro unit for which the European Central Bank has authorised the issue in accordance with Article 105a of the said Treaty shall be current in the State and shall be legal tender in the State for the payment of any amount.”

 See also article 106 of the Treaty of the European Community now Article 128 of the Treaty of the European Union

 “Article 128

 (Ex Article 106 Treaty of the European Commission)

1. The European Central Bank shall have the exclusive right to authorise the issue of euro banknotes within the Union. The European Central Bank and the national central banks may issue such notes. The banknotes issued by the European Central Bank and the national central banks shall be the only such notes to have the status of legal tender within the Union.
2. Member States may issue euro coins subject to approval by the European Central Bank of the volume of the issue. The Council, on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament and the European Central Bank, may adopt measures to harmonise the denominations and technical specifications of all coins intended for circulation to the extent necessary to permit their smooth circulation within the Union.”

 There is no other provision for any other form of legal tender in the State.

  The bitcoin is therefore not legal tender and accordingly is not a regulated currency by the Central Bank of Ireland. Virtual currencies are not subject to key financial controls that are intended to protect users of a national currency. On the 6th May 2017 the Central Bank of Ireland referred to the European Banking Authority (EBA) warning to customers of the possible risks when dealing with virtual currencies including bitcoin. The EBA recommended that national supervisory authorities discourage credit institutions, payment institutions and e- money institutions from buying, holding or selling virtual currencies.

 It is not recommended therefore that the Council accepts bitcoins from third parties until the Central Bank acknowledges the currency as a secure and financially reliable means of transacting cash.Bottom of Form

 A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors T. Gilligan, M. Johansson, D. Looney, M. Duff, F. Duffy and G. O’Connell.

 Mr. R. FitzGerald, Head of Finance responded to the Members queries.

 The Report was **NOTED.**

**M5/0218 MOBILE ACCESSABLE TOILET FACILITIES**

It was proposed by Councillors C. McMahon, B. Lawlor, E. Higgins, K. Egan, P. Donovan, V. Casserly and seconded by Councillor P. Gogarty:

 “To call on South Dublin County Council to purchase a vehicle for change to be available throughout our countywide events to cater for physical needs for persons with disability in our communities”

 <https://www.mobiloo.org.uk>

 **REPORT:**

 There are no ‘Vehicle for Change’ Units (mobile Changing Places accessible toilet facilities), currently available in Ireland. The Disability Liaison, Access and Equality Officer will provide a report when an update is available.

 At the outset of the discussion Councillor P. Donovan proposed and Councillor E. Higgins seconded an amendment to her Motions as follows:

 “To call on South Dublin County Council to assist in the provision of a vehicle for change to be available throughout our countywide events to cater for physical needs for persons with disability in our communities.”

 A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Donovan, D. O’Donovan, M. Duff, P. Kearns, G. O’Connell and P. Gogarty.

 Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management responded to the Members queries.

 The Report was **NOTED.**

 In accordance with **Standing Order No.** **13** it was **AGREED** with the consent of the Members to vary the sequence of business and to take **M6 and M8** (of similar subject matter) in tandem.

**M6/0218 CONCIOUS CUPS**

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor R. McMahon:

 “Following on from Cork City Becoming the First Council to Stop Using Disposable Cups, we agree that South Dublin County Council follow their lead and stop Disposable Cup use in Council run buildings and offices, and that the Council run a campaign to encourage local businesses to do likewise.  Also In 2017 Mayo County Council introduced a Keep Cup initiative in association with local tidy towns groups in Mayo we ask SDCC to follow their lead and introduce a Keep Cup initiative. “

 **REPORT:**

 The Council is aware of, and is researching existing initiative, including those undertaken by Cork City & Roscommon County Councils, and this has been included in the 2018 ECC&PR SPC programme of works.

 There are a number of cafes within the County who have already engaged in the [Conscious cup campaign](https://consciouscup.ie/), which is supported Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Management Office, and SDCC encourages all cafes to engage in this initiative.

 Currently SDCC, as part of the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN), has made submission to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in relation to the proposed introduction of a levy (15c) on disposable cups.

 SDCC in itself, does not purchased disposable coffee cups. The Café Co Co (Coffee Dock) is a separately managed facility and the current service provider does not supply compostable cups. ‘Keep Cups’ however is something that the service provider is currently examining and hopes to introduce in the near future.

 With effect from Monday 5th February, as part of the [Conscious cup campaign](https://consciouscup.ie/),  Café CoCo will be incentivising all customers by offer of a 10c discount when they bring their own reusable cup.

 Tidy Towns groups interested in engaging the conscious cup campaign can make contact at info@consciouscup.ie

**M8/0218 CONCIOUS CUPS**

It was proposed by Councillors B. Bonner and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

 “This Council asks that every effort should be made to ensure that the disposable coffee cups and lids used in all Council owned coffee shops / community centres etc. would be completely compostable.  It also asks that customers would be incentivised to use reusable coffee cups.

 It also requests that a report be prepared on the possibility of devising a scheme whereby community groups could be helped to purchase reusable coffee cups with their own logo etc. so that awareness of coffee cup waste might be raised and addressed in the community”

 **REPORT:**

 The Council is aware of, and is researching existing initiative, including those undertaken by Cork City & Roscommon County Councils, and this has been included in the 2018 ECC&PR SPC programme of works.

 There are a number of cafes within the County who have engaged in the [Conscious cup campaign](https://consciouscup.ie/), which is supported Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Management Office, and SDCC encourages all cafes to engage in this campaign.

 Currently SDCC, as part of the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN), has made submission to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in relation to the proposed introduction of a levy (15c) on disposable cups.

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 Tidy Towns groups interested in engaging the conscious cup campaign can make contact at info@consciouscup.ie

 A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, B. Bonner, D. O’Donovan, C. O’Connor, E. Higgins, R. McMahon, P. Kearns, E. Hendrick, B. Leech, F. Duffy and P. Gogarty.

 Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change and Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management responded to the Members queries.

 The Reports were **NOTED.**

**M7/0218 CLONBURRIS SDZ**

It was proposed by Councillors M. Johansson and seconded by Councillor E. Hendrick and **MOVED** without debate:

 “That, in relation to Clonburris SDZ, in order to ensure a balance between the rights of existing residents and other stakeholders, the Elected Members ask the Chief Executive to explore the possibility of designating a member of staff as a ‘community contact’ throughout the duration of the SDZ who will liaise with existing residents and communities.”

 **REPORT:**

 As part of the SDZ discussions this matter was raised and responded to by the Chief Executive. Further to the commencement of development in Clonburris, the Council's existing community engagement structures, including the Public Participation Network (PPN) and long established supportive and collaborative channels between the Community Department and community interests will be initiated. The community support team will work from the outset with the new Clonburris community to establish appropriate community development support structures, to facilitate active civic and community engagement and integration into the broader community.

 The Report was **NOTED.**

**M9/0218 FIRE SAFETY**

It was proposed by Councillors M. Genockey and seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **MOVED** without debate:

 “South Dublin County Council acknowledges the fire safety issues for our fire and emergency services exposed by the uncovering of unregulated building practices and undocumented overcrowding in certain dwellings in the Dublin area. South Dublin County Council also acknowledges proposed changes in planning regulations including no 'change of use' planning permission requirement to convert commercial units to residential and permission for commercial units to include living quarters, as well as a significant increase in building higher commercial and residential blocks across the county.

 Given this changing landscape, uncertainty of building use and occupancy, South Dublin County Council recognises the need to move from a policy of Area Risk Categorisation to a comprehensive Risk Assessment for fire safety and emergency services planning and provision, to include, building use, height, density and fire load, in line with similar assessment tools in the UK. Also, South Dublin County Council will request that Dublin City Council carry out a Comprehensive Risk Assessment across the Dublin jurisdiction by competent experienced personnel.”

 **REPORT:**

 “The issuing of Fire Safety Certificates in respect of new developments and for change of use applications is undertaken by Dublin City Council under a Section 59 Agreement. Should the motion be passed, a letter drawing attention to the matters raised therein will be sent to Dublin City Council for response.

 The Motion was **AGREED.**

**M10/0218 ELECTORAL REGISTER**

It was proposed by Councillors C. O'Connor and seconded by Councillor E. O’Brien:

 “That South Dublin County Council calls on the Chief Executive to detail plans for work on the 2018/2019 voting register; will he confirm if he has any plans to change the system which was used up to now, given reference in the recent Budget adopted by the Council to "the new voting registration system" and will he appreciate the importance of the register particularly in this coming year which will lead, at least, to the local and European elections in 2019”

 **REPORT:**

 South Dublin County Council are currently working on a data cleansing exercise with a view to transferring from the current iReg system to Voter.ie in conjunction with the other three Dublin Authorities.  Following additional work on verifying the compatibility of the data within the current iReg system with the requirements of the back office of Voter.ie, a number of anomalies were discovered which prevented the transfer of data.  Works are ongoing to address these issues and it is envisaged that the transfer to Voter.ie will take place in November 2018 during the draft register process.  The methodology used by South Dublin County Council to compile the 2018/2019 register did not differ in any way from that used in previous years.

 Following the transfer to Voter.ie it is planned that in the future an online front end portal will be available to allow electors to manage and maintain their own registration details. In the meantime the four Dublin Authorities are working to agree procedures for the advertising, promotion and updating of data for the 2019/2020 Register of Electors. The other three Dublin Authorities have not engaged inspectors to call door to door for a number of years and the level of registration of voters has not reduced. In order to have a uniform approach South Dublin are engaging with the other three Dublin Authorities to agree a plan for the promotion of the Register of Electors using all available communication methods, delivery of an RFA1 form to every home in the county, print media, Council web site, social media, poster campaigns in Council buildings as well as the national campaigns run by the Department to promote ‘’value your vote’’ We are also considering the holding of promotional campaigns similar to the one held in 2016 in IT Tallaght in conjunction with the college, Gardaí and ACT (Active Citizenship Together Committee) to promote registration.

 The objective in compiling the Register of Electors is to ensure that all eligible voters are given the opportunity to participate fully in the democratic process and a high quality register is essential to the successful operation of the electoral system.

 A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. O’Connor, C. King, S. Holland, D. O’Donovan and P. Gogarty.

 Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management responded to the Members queries.

 The Report was **NOTED.**

**M11/0218 FREESTYLE LIBRE SYSTEM**

 It was proposed by Councillors E. Murphy and seconded by Councillor T. Gilligan and **MOVED** without debate:

 “That South Dublin County Council calls on the Minister for Health to extend the Freestyle Libre System to all diabetes sufferers who which to avail of the glucose monitoring system.”

 **REPORT:**

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

 The Motion was **AGREED.**

**M15/0218 NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY**

It was proposed by Councillors R. Nolan and seconded by Councillor D. O’Brien and **MOVED** without debate:

 “After a disappointing report from the National Transport Authority on their plans for the Clonburris project, that this Council invites them in to discuss it further”

 **REPORT:**

 Should the Motion be passed, an invitation to a future meeting of the Council will be issued to the National Transportation Authority.

 The Meeting finished at 7.01pm.

 **Motions not Reached**

**(M12) HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS**

 **Councillors D. Looney**

 That this Council notes its concern with the recent report which showed South Dublin County Council paid out €22.1 million (net) in Housing Assistance Payments in 2017, more than any other local authority in the country. This Council notes that, even if there is no increase in the net HAP paid out over the next 5 years, the amount will be equivalent to the building of almost 600 Council homes.

 This Council notes that while HAP is an important emergency intervention to keep people in homes, it is not a long-term solution to the housing crisis in this county, and amounts to the subsidisation of private landlords rather than the provision of social housing. This Council calls on the Chief Executive to liaise with Government to ensure a ramped-up building and purchase programme for social housing in this County and across Ireland.

**(M13) Councillors M. Duff**

 That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to ensure that any future tender for the provision of Pound Services for horses in the County, includes as part of the Service Level Agreement, a provision that the operators will respond to a request from the Garda for Pound Services, within one hour of receiving the request and that the operator will have an obligation to inform each Garda Station in the County, of their contact details and out of hours contact numbers.

 If this motion is passed, please inform other Councils in the Dublin region.

**(M14) CREDIT UNIONS**

 **Councillors D. O'Donovan**

 That the Chief Executive presents a report to Members in relation to the possibility of working with Credit Unions to help solve the current housing crisis by accessing the nearly €13bn reserves they have on deposit.

 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Mayor

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