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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council November 2018 County Council Meeting held on 12 November 2018

**PRESENT**

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

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin. |
| Directors/ Heads of Function  A/Heads of Function  Head of Finance  County Architect | T. Walsh, F. Nevin. C. Ward  L. Leonard.  R. FitzGerald.  E. Conroy. |
| Senior Executive Officers  Financial Management Accountant | C. Hurson, M. Staunton, E. Leech, Neil Hanly,  Mary Kelly |
| Administrative Officers | C. Murphy, N. Noonan. F. Carroll, M. Dowling, |
| Senior Staff Officer  Staff Officer  Clerical Officer  IT. Support  Sord | A. O’Melia  L. Abbey.  D. Murphy.  M. Twynam Muldoon.  R. Siaz, A. Fahey  A. O’Brien. |

The Mayor, Councillor Mark Ward, presided

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect on the recent loss of Councillor B. Leech’s brother Brendan and sister Peggy.

### **H1/1118 CONFIRMATION AND RE-AFFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Special Presidential Nomination Meeting 20th September which had been circulated were submitted and there was a discussion regarding the content a discussion followed with contributions from Councillors G. O’Connell, M. Ward, C. King, F. Timmons and P. Gogarty.

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

**FOR: 12 (TWELVE)**

**AGAINST: 14 (FOURTEEN)**

**ABSTAIN: 1 (ONE)**

The Motion was **LOST** and it was **AGREED** that the amended minutes would be brought to the December Council Meeting for approval.

Minutes of the Council Meeting 8th October which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor M. Ward seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting 16th October 2018 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor M. Ward seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

### **H2/1118 REPORTS FROM AREA COMMITTEES**

**a) Rathfarnham/Templeogue-Terenure Area Committee - 9th October 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.

**b) Clondalkin Area Committee – 17th October 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.

**c) Tallaght Area Committee – 22th October 2018**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, **Planning (Planning - 1 Report)**, Economic Development, **Libraries & Arts (Arts - 1 Report)**, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management

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

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor M. Ward seconded by Councillor B. Ferron and **RESOLVED**:

“That the recommendations contained in the foregoing report of The Tallaght Area Committee 27th October 2018 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**”

The following report by the Chief Executive, on the proposed Extinguishment of right of way, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. L. Leonard, A/ Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation, and was **CONSIDERED**:

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor M. Ward, seconded by Councillor B. Leech and **RESOLVED:**

**“**That the recommendations contained in the foregoing report of The Tallaght Area Committee 27th October 2018 be **ADOPTED and APPROVED**.”

**d)** **Lucan Area Committee – 23th October 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.

### **H3/1118 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION PROCEDURE & FINANCE**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. C. Hurson Senior Executive Officer of Corporate Performance and Change Management and were **CONSIDERED:**

The Mayor confirmed that following the resignation of Cllr Cora McCann from the Board of the South Dublin Arts Company, (Rua Red), that the Arts and Culture SPC had agreed at a meeting on 7th November to recommend that Cllr M Johansson be appointed to the Board.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor M. Ward seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **AGREED:**

“That Ms. M. Johansson be appointed the vacancy on the Board of Rua Red occurring as a result of the resignation of Councillor C. McCann.”

### **H4a/1118 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

1. **Land Use Planning & Transportation SPC**

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

**(i) Report of LUPT SPC May 2018**

**MINUTES OF LAND USE, PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION  
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON Thursday 17th May 2018**

**PRESENT:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Members** | **Council Officials** | |
| Cllr Emer Higgins (Chair) | Laura Leonard | A/Director of Services |
| Cllr. Mick Murphy | Brian Keaney | Senior Planner |
| Cllr. Liona O’Toole | Helena Fallon | Senior Executive Engineer |
| Cllr. Paul Gogarty | Sheila Kelly | Administrative Officer |
| Cllr Paula Donovan | Jason Frehill | Senior Executive Planner |
|  |  |  |
|  | | |
| **Non-Elected Members:** | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |

**Apologies: Siobhan Butler**

**An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Emer Higgins presided.**

**H.I. 1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**Minutes of Meeting of 15th February 2018**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Land Use Planning and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on 15th February 2018 were proposed by Cllr. L. O’Toole, seconded by Cllr Paul Gogarty and **AGREED.**

**H-1 (2) Variations to County Development Plan**

[**Variations to County Development Plan.docx**](file:///C:\Users\lleonard\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\0WYLUDPG\Items\H2%20-%20Variations%20to%20County%20Development%20Plan.docx)

Mr. Brian Keaney, Senior Planner presented the report. As this report had already been presented to Councillors at Special County Council meeting during the week and there were no non-elected Members present at the meeting the report was **NOTED.**

**H-1 (3) Bike Week 2018**

[**Bike Week 2018.docx**](file:///C:\Users\lleonard\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\0WYLUDPG\Items\H3%20-%20Bike%20Week%202018.docx)

[**BleeperBike\_SDCCReport.pdf**](file:///C:\Users\lleonard\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\0WYLUDPG\Items\H3A%20BleeperBike_SDCCReport.pdf)

Ms. Sheila Kelly, Administrative Officer gave the report. She listed the various events proposed for Bike Week which takes place from 9th to 17th June. She also presented a report on Bleeper Bikes which have been operating in South Dublin County Council’s administrative area since 2017.

Following a discussion which members suggested that there could be more cycle counters in the County to indicate the increasing numbers using our cycle tracks, Laura Leonard, A/Director of Services agreed that it would be valuable to investigate the possibility of getting more installed throughout the county.

The report was **NOTED.**

**H-1 (4) Adamstown Road /R120 Progress Update**

[**Adamstown Road,R120 Progress Update.docx**](file:///C:\Users\lleonard\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\0WYLUDPG\Items\H4%20-%20Adamstown%20Road,R120%20Progress%20Update.docx)

Ms. Helena Fallon, Senior Executive Engineer presented the report.

Work commenced on site before Christmas 2017. 40% of works are now complete which include the following:

* New services 60%
* New road construction 50%
* New Bridge 60%

The Resident Engineer liaises with local landowners and sports clubs/organisations regarding any issues that arise and these have all been resolved.

The contractor maintains traffic in consultation with the Resident Engineering Staff. The Project is currently on budget. The final figure will be dependent of final measure, legitimate contractor claims and acceptable value engineering proposals.

Ms. Fallon answered the queries raised by the members and it was agreed to have a look at the lights as some Councillors felt that they were confusing. Ms. Fallon agreed to look at the issue.

The report was **NOTED**

**H-1 (5) NTA Allocations and Projects**

[NTA Allocations and Projects.docx](file:///C:\Users\lleonard\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\0WYLUDPG\Items\H5%20-%20NTA%20Allocations%20and%20Projects.docx)

Ms. Helena Fallon, Senior Executive Engineer presented the report.

Ms. Fallon answered queries raised by members regarding the Grange Road scheme regarding the issue with Cherry Blossom trees. She agreed that there would be a leaflet drop regarding the Scholardsown Road Scheme and that contact would be made with the School regarding the works.

The report was **NOTED**

**H-1(6) Clonburris SDZ Update**

[**- Clonburris SDZ Update.docx**](file:///C:\Users\lleonard\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\0WYLUDPG\Items\H6%20-%20Clonburris%20SDZ%20Update.docx)

**The report was NOTED**

**H-1 (7) Property Portal – Presentation**

[**mydoorstep Presentation 17-5-18.pdf**](file:///C:\Users\lleonard\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\0WYLUDPG\Items\mydoorstep%20Presentation%2017-5-18.pdf)

Mr. Jason Frehill, Senior Executive Planner gave the presentation.

The area where the Planning Counter is currently will be changed during the summer months into a space where the public will have access to a Property Portal, to be known as My Doorstep.

From here, it will be possible to look at House builds, Future Development, Current Development, Educational facilities, Sports and Recreation facilities, getting around and shopping right across the County.

There will be a list by area of property prices, date of sale etc. The portal has links to Estate Agents, Daft and My Home and other agencies.

The portal is live and will be updated every day. It is expected that work will be completed by end July 2018.

Following a discussion in which Mr. Frehill answered queries raised the report was **NOTED**

**The meeting concluded at 7.00 p.m.**

**H4a) (ii) Mins of May 2018 LUPT SPC October 2018**

**MEETING OF LAND USE, PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION  
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 4th October, 2018**

**PRESENT:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Members** | **Council Officials** | |
| Cllr Emer Higgins (Chair) | Laura Leonard | A/Director of Services |
| Cllr. Mick Murphy | Brian Keaney | Senior Planner |
| Cllr. Liona O’Toole | William Purcell | Senior Engineer |
| Cllr. Paul Gogarty | Sheila Kelly | Administrative Officer |
| Cllr Paula Donovan |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | | |
| **Non-Elected Members:** | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |

**Apologies: Niall Durkan**

**An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Emer Higgins presided.**

**H.I. 1. Confirmation of Minutes**

[**Minutes of SPC 17th May 2018.docx**](../May/Minutes%20of%20SPC%2017th%20May%202018.docx)

The Minutes of the meeting of the Land Use Planning and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on 17th May 2018 were proposed by Cllr. Paul Gogarty, seconded by Cllr Ruth Nolan and **AGREED.**

**H-1 (2) Minimum Passing Distance signs**

[Items\H2 Minimum Passing Distance Signs.docx](Items/H2%20Minimum%20Passing%20Distance%20Signs.docx)

Mr. William Purcell, Senior Engineer presented the report. He outlined the current position with the Minimum Passing Distance legislation. The Attorney General has advised that it has constitutional difficulties implementing this legislation. It will not go ahead in its current format. There are proposals to introduce specific Dangerous Overtaking of Cyclists law with fines and penalty points. This is only at early stages at the moment. SDCC are not therefore proposing to provide signage indicating a minimus passing distance for overtaking cyclists.

Following discussion Mr. Purcell answered questions and queries raised b Councillors Donovan and Murphy he stated that he would investigate the possibility of introducing a pilot programme on roads with speed limits higher than 50kph.

The report was **NOTED**.

**H-1 (3) Draft Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities Consultation Draft (August 2018)**

**Items\H3 Draft Urban Development & Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authoritites.docx**

Mr. Brian Keaney, Senior Planner gave the report.

On 9th August, 2018, the Minister for Planning, Housing and Local Government published the “draft Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities for public consultation.

The purpose of the Guidelines is to set out national planning policy on building heights in relation to urban areas, building from the strategic policy framework set out in Project Ireland 2040 and the National Planning Framework (NPF).

The Guidelines seek to:-

1. Develop NPF policy in relation to building height
2. Provided planning authorities with strategic policy considerations/performance criteria assessing proposals for taller buildings alongside statutory development plans policy; and
3. Promoting brown field consolidation for housing, employment or other purposed, by increasing building height in existing urban areas.

The closing date for responses in respect of this consultation was 5pm on 28th September, 2018. The Guidelines will be finalised this month and given formal statutory status.

Once the plans are finalised by the Minister, SDCC and An Bord Pleanala will be required to have regard to the guidelines and apply any SPPRS (Specific Planning Policy Requirement) of the Guidelines, in carrying out their functions.

These SPPR’s will take precedence over any existing contrary or opposing policies/objectives in the Development Plan, SDZ’s and LAP’s. Where there is a policy/objection confliction the Council will be required to amend the Development Plan, SDZ’s and LPs to reflect the content and requirements of the Guidelines.

Mr. Keaney answered queries raised by Councillors Gogarty, Murphy, Nolan and Higgins and it was agreed to bring back further report to next SPC in November.

The report was **NOTED.**

**H-1 (4) Urban Regeneration and Development Fund**

[**Items\H4 Urban Regeneration and Development Fund URDF Bid Proposals.docx**](Items/H4%20Urban%20Regeneration%20and%20Development%20Fund%20URDF%20Bid%20Proposals.docx)

Mr. Brian Keaney, Senior Planner presented the report.

On September 28th, 2018 SDCC submitted two proposals to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) 2018 call for proposals. The proposals are for Tallaght Town Centre and the Naas Road/Ballymount Area.

The Tallaght bid a Category A proposal, has a number of projects in the sum of €28.2m. If delivered they will act as a catalyst for the wider and long term growth of Tallaght, as a living town and the thriving heart of SDCC. The proposals are as follows:

Belgard Road North – Link Roads €2 million

Belgard Civic Plaza €2 million

Tallaght Innovation Hub €7.3 million

New Civic Square and Link €1 million

Mobility Hub €2 million

Tallaght Stadium 4th Stand €4 million

Sean Walsh Park Active Devt: Astro pitches €1.5 million

Links to Killinarden Pk & Killinarden Pk

Active Development €1.5 million

Links to Tymon Library & Bancroft Park

Active Development €0.8 million

Tymon Library €2 million

Tallaght Heritage Trail €0.1 million

N81 & Belgard Road Works €4 million

**TOTAL COST €28.2 million**

In addition to the above SDCC is also delivering Elderly Housing as part of the redevelopment of the Sean Walsh Depot, Affordable Housing on Council owned land adjacent to Belgard Square North and the Interreg North West Europe funded South Dublin District Heating Pilot Project. These will form part of the wider investment in housing and energy infrastructure in Tallaght Town Centre, and complement the projects listed in the URDF submission.

The Naas Road/Ballymount, a Category B proposal totalling €437,500 relates to undertaking a survey/analysis stage and full amasterplanning of this Category B bid will be a plan led innovative approach including

* Review of the Naas Road Framework Plan (2010)m and variation of the land use zoning of these lands
* Transport assessment and Stragegy
* Economic Viability Study
* Surface Water Management Strategy & Flood Risk Assessment
* Constraints study and
* Communications and Branding Stragegy

The above will position SDCC in collaboration with DCC to prepare a Category A application to the URDF in 2020.

The Minister should make his decision before the end of the year.

Mr. Keaney answered queries raised by Cllrs Nolan and Gogarty.

The report was **NOTED**

**H-1 (5) Clonburris SDZ Update**

[H5 Clonburris SDZ Update.docx](Items/H5%20Clonburris%20SDZ%20Update.docx)

Mr. Brian Keaney, Senior Planner presented the report.

The report was **NOTED**

**H-1(6) Bike Week Report**

[**Items\H6 Bike Week Report 2018.doc**](Items/H6%20Bike%20Week%20Report%202018.doc)

Ms. Sheila Kelly, Administrative Officer presented the report.

**The report was NOTED**

**H-1 (7) Bus Connects**

[**H7 Bus Connects.docx**](Items/H7%20Bus%20Connects.docx)

Mr. William Purcell, Senior Engineer presented the report in which he outlined the purpose of Bus Connects.

Timeline:

June 2018: Core Bus Corridors Project update

October 2018: Core Bus Corridor Project – Public Consultation

2020: An Bord Pleanála Decision

2021: Core Bus Corridors Project – Construction of bus and cycle lanes begins.

**BusConnects Dublin Area Bus Network Redesign Public Consultation:**

**A process of public consultation on the BusConnects Dublin Area Bus Network Redesign is currently under way and will continue until September 28th 2018.**

Written submissions can be submitted to the following email address: [**consultations@busconnects.ie**](mailto:consultations@busconnects.ie)

**Or** **posted to:**

BusConnects Dublin Area Bus Network Redesign

National Transport Authority

Dun Sceine, Harcourt Lane

Dublin 2

D02 WT20

For more information on the consultation visit [**www.BusConnects.ie**](https://busconnects.ie/initiatives/dublin-area-bus-network-redesign/)

Following a discussion in which Mr. Purcell answered queries raised the report was **NOTED**

**The meeting concluded at 7.08 p.m.**

The Reports were **NOTED.**

### **H5/1118 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES**

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

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Ward, seconded by Councillor F.Timmons and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Questions numbered Q1 – Q31 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/1118** **TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION**

### **QUESTION: Councillor S. Holland**

How many Traveller families are awaiting bays in the county?

**REPLY:**

There are currently 49 Traveller families whose accommodation preference is for bays in Residential Caravan Parks comprising 28 families seeking this type of accommodation North of the Naas Road and a further 21 families opting for South of the Naas Road.

### **Q2/1118 TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME**

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

When was this Councils' Traveller Accommodation Plan last reviewed, and what was the outcome?

**REPLY:**

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 planned accommodation for 96 families in accordance with the Assessment of Needs Survey carried out in 2013. It set out to provide for appropriate options such as Group Housing and Bays in Residential Caravan Parks as well as access to Standard Council Housing.  The Programme identified accomodation provision in three separate sections:

**1. New Developments:**To provide accommodation at greenfield sites at identified locations;

**2. Redevelopments:** To redevelop temporary sites or to provide for Group Housing options instead of bays at St. Aidans, Belgard Road and Oldcastle Park;

**3. Infill Developments:** To create extra bays at locations where family numbers dictate there may be future requirements.

Since the beginning of the current programme three Group Houses have been completed at Belgard Road and a further 7 families were accommodated in Social Housing. The five new group houses at St. Aidan's referred to above are now practically complete and will be allocated imminently.  In addition three families were provided with chalet type accommodation on Medical grounds.

Work has now commenced on the new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 and an Assessment of Needs to inform the programme will shortly be carried out.

### **Q3/1118 TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME**

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

How many of our Traveller specific accommodation sites make provision for animals, eg stables?  Animal care and in particular horse ownership is a big part of Traveller culture and is proven to improve mental health.  How do we support this as a local authority?

**REPLY:**

The Council does not make provision for stables in any of our Traveller specific accommodation sites. The keeping of horses must be in accordance with the Legislation: [Control of Horses Act, 1996](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1996/en/act/pub/0037/index.html) and [South Dublin County Council- Control of Horses Bye- Laws 2014](https://sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/animal-welfare/horses/seized-horses/2014-control-of-horses-bye-laws.pdf).

South Dublin County Council currently supports two Horse Projects in the County, Fettercairn Youth Horse Project and Ballyowen Equine Centre.

### **Q4/1118 PLANNING APPLICATIONS ONLINE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive what the turnaround time is between planning applications being submitted, them being viewable online and what is regarded as an acceptable turnaround time?

**REPLY:**

The Council is obliged by legislation to ensure that all planning applications are available for inspection at the Planning Counter and this is conformed with.  In addition, and solely as a means of facilitating community engagement, the Council publishes these applications online.  This is not required by legislation and is dependent on resource availability, it is generally the case that applications are available online within 2-3 weeks of their lodgement.

### **Q5/1118 DHPLG**

### **QUESTIONS: Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details of any meetings or correspondence that he has had with the Minister for Housing Planning & Local Government in regards to housing issues since February 2016 including the dates and a brief outline of the topics discussed including any discussions relating to Joint Venture Projects in the County.

**REPLY:**

The Chief Executive and senior officials from the Council meet and correspond with both the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, the Minister of State and their officials on a regular and ongoing basis to discuss all aspects of the Minister's remit including:

* Housing Supply programme including in relation to the Land Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund and the Serviced Sites Fund;
* Responses to Homelessness;
* Housing Policy;
* Planning Matters and Policy;
* Corporate and Human Resource function matters;

As a matter of course these interactions have consistently covered progress, updates and matters arising in relation to the Joint Venture project at Kilcarbery as well as proposals for master-planning of the additional sites within the Council's ownership as outlined at the recent Special Meeting of the County Council in relation to Housing.

### **Q6/1118 URBAN REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the applications to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

A decision is expected on the two applications submitted under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund before the end of the year.

### **Q7/1118 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if he has any plans to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of this Council during 2019; if he will consider any low-cost but appropriate events or publications (online or otherwise); and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

Discussions have taken place regarding how best to celebrate the 25th anniversary of South Dublin County Council throughout 2019 but no formal plan is currently in place. The Council will form a committee to finalise plans and agree a calendar of events to mark the occasion. Once agreed, this will be communicated in advance to elected members.

The 25th anniversary will also be a key feature in regular Council publications, such as the Citizen's Newsletter, and on social media. These campaigns will also be communicated in advance to elected members to ask for assistance in promoting through their own channels.

### **Q8/1118 PRIVATE RENTED INSPECTIONS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the private rented inspections which have taken place to date in 2018; to indicate the failure rate for these inspections; to provide a year-on-year comparison in terms of inspections carried out and failures; to indicate a breakdown of reasons for failure; and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

Private Rented Properties in the South Dublin Area are inspected by the Council under the [Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2017/si/17/made/en/print) on behalf of the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB), which outlines the minimum standards required for private rented properties, detailing the different areas of its scope including: *Structural Condition, Sanitary Facilities, Heating Facilities, Food Preparation and Storage and Laundry, Ventilation, Lighting, Fire Safety, Refuse Facilities, Gas, Oil and Electricity Installations, and Information.*

The private rented inspection figures and associated failed inspections from 2015 to date are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Total Inspections** | **Failures** | **%** |
| **2018 (Jan–Sep)** | **1449** | **881** | **61** |
| **2017** | **1362** | **1135** | **83** |
| **2016** | **1353** | **1195** | **88** |
| **2015** | **1731** | **1081** | **62** |

It is the experience of the Council's inspectors that a large amount of cases fail due to relatively minor, easily remedied contraventions of the minimum housing standards legislation e.g. no fire blanket in the kitchen, out of date or non-functioning smoke alarms, no microwave etc. It has been also noted that properties frequently fail due to recent changes in regulations requiring multiple carbon monoxide detectors (one is required at each point fossil fuels are burned, and at each upper storey) and also window restrictors (required for all openable windows 1400mm above ground).

The Council continues to work with landlords and the Residential Tenancies Board to achieve compliance by following up on inspections, distributing information on the minimum standards to landlords to make them aware of their responsibilities, and highlight these common failure areas so they can address issues in advance and significant numbers of properties subsequently become compliant in advance of further inspections.

More complicated structural, electrical, sanitary issues etc.  are followed up by Environmental Health Officers who use the relevant legislative powers to pursue the landlord to effect necessary remedial and upgrade works.

### **Q9/1118 TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION & POPULATION**

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

To ask the Chief Executive how many Traveller accommodation units are provided in the County and to give a breakdown on type of unit. Also to provide the total population of Travellers living in accommodation provided by the Council in the County.

**REPLY:**

They are currently 105 Group Houses and 106 Bays in Residential Caravan Parks provided for Travellers in South Dublin County Council's administrative area with a further 5 Group Houses due to be completed at St. Aidan's, Brookfield imminently.

It is not possible to provide the total number of Travellers living in accommodation provided by the Council in the County as this would also include those Traveller families living in standard social housing for whom accurate figures are unavailable due to ethnic identifiers no longer being included in statistical returns to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

An annual count and an assessment of the accommodation needs of Travellers who qualify for social housing support within South Dublin County's functional are will shortly be undertaken by the Council as part of the preparation of a new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.

### **Q10/1118 TREE MAINTENANCE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive how many full time and part time tree crews are operating in the County currently and to give a report on tree management in the County. Information required please.

How many trees are on the approved list waiting to be pruned or removed and how does this compare to last year and to the previous year?

Also to ask if the County tree survey and registration of each tree on a database ever completed and if so, is available in a summary format?

**REPLY:**

There is currently a sufficient number of general services staff assigned to the Tree Management Programme to provide for the assignment of 3 permanent tree crews working across the whole of the County.  In addition there are additional trained staff available to ensure that the crews operate when there is a shortfall of regular staff available to the fulltime crews. It will be possible during the month of November to assign additional crews to tree maintenance for the winter period and in this regard it is expected that an additional 4 crews will be available from the depots to work on the tree management programme for the 3 month period over the winter.

The following table summarises the tree maintenance works carried out in 2016, 2017 and to the end of September 2018.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2016** | **2017** | **End Sept 2018** |
| **Trees pruned** | 1616 | 1404 | 1597 |
| **Trees removed** | 706 | 691 | 888 |

A full update of the tree maintenance work completed is available on the Council’s [website](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/tree-management/tree-maintenance-programme/) where the work remaining to be done on the current tree maintenance programme is also set out in detail.  This is given in terms of locations and estates done or not done as the case may be, however the numbers of trees yet to be pruned or removed cannot be given without a detailed survey having been conducted in the first instance.

The surveying of trees within the County is ongoing with over 15,500 trees now surveyed out of an estimate of 60,000 street trees. Priority is given to surveying the trees on the Tree Maintenance Programme. The tree surveys are logged in the Council’s Tree Management System and provide the basis for the tree maintenance work.  It is intended that additional resources will be provided in this area in 2019 in an effort to move this matter on.

### **Q11/1118 PUBLIC WATER FOUNTAINS**

### **QUESTIONS: Councillor D. O'Brien**

Can the Chief Executive give an update on this motion below that was passed in July.

Since this motion was passed Fingal county council have installed two water fountains in public areas.

**MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Monday, July 09, 2018**

**MOTION NO.13**

**MOTION: Councillor D. O'Brien**

That in the interests of reducing waste and litter in our county this Council will investigate the possibility of installing public drinking water fountains where possible in parks, tourist attractions and any other busy locations throughout the County.

**REPLY:**

The Council has made contact with Fingal County Council for information on their existing programme. This will assist in preparing costs, and getting further information regarding optimal locations etc. to inform a proposed programme for public drinking water fountains in this county.  A costed proposal for SDCC is being prepared for consideration.

### **Q12/1118 VOIDS**

### **QUESTIONS: Councillor D. O'Brien**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the total number of voids currently that SDCC has. Broken down by LEA and for this report to include the time frame for when these houses will be ready to be put back in to use.

**REPLY:**

Housing Maintenance currently has seventy five (75) vacant properties assigned. The details are included in the table below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LEA | No of Properties | Ready for Allocation | Ready for allocation by End of November 2018 | Appointment of Contractor for Refurbishment | Property Change of Use under review | Fire Damaged |
| Lucan | 12 | 5 | 4 | 3 | N/A | N/A |
| Clondalkin | 14 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | N/A |
| Tallaght Central | 13 | 3 | 7 | 2 | N/A | 1 |
| Tallaght South | 33 | 21 | 4 | 9 | N/A | N/A |
| Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Terenure | 2 | 1 | N/A | 1 | N/A | N/A |

There are currently 34 houses ready for Allocation.  Fire damaged properties are subject to forensic and other inspections as well as decontamination prior to refurbishment works commencing and timeframes are subject to the works required.

### **Q13/1118 TREE STRATEGY**

### **QUESTIONS: Councillor G. O'Connell**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the Tree Strategy for the County and to include by Area Committee, (a) the number of requests from residents for action on particular trees since January 1, 2017 , (b) the number of trees that are still on the “to do”, (c) what is the average time between a tree being reported and action being taken, (d) why are tree stumps left so long without being removed and can the Chief Executive give the average period of such a wait at present.

**REPLY:**

(a)The following table details the Customer care queries recorded by the Council in 2017 and to 31st Oct 2018. The queries are divided by category into the following

* Tree inspection
* Tree planting
* Tree pruning
* Tree removal
* Tree stump removal

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2017** | **2018 – Jan – 31st October** |
| **Tree Inspection** | 666 | 1025 |
| **Tree Planting** | 189 | 198 |
| **Tree pruning** | 1452 | 1571 |
| **Tree Removal** | 1205 | 1424 |
| **Tree Stump removal** | 98 | 129 |

(b) The following lists the tree maintenance works carried out in 2016, 2017 and to the end of September 2018.  In addition to the figures given below for tree pruning and removal, the Council in general carry out approximately 5,000 tree inspections per year and have an annual budget provision in place for the planting of 1,000 trees per year.  In 2017 a total 328 tree stumps were also removed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2016** | **2017** | **End Sept 2018** |
| **Trees pruned** | 1616 | 1404 | 1597 |
| **Trees removed** | 706 | 691 | 888 |

A full update of the tree maintenance worked completed is available on the Council’s [website](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/tree-management/tree-maintenance-programme/) and the work remaining to be done on the current on the tree maintenance programme is also detailed at this location.

(c) There are a number of variables that are taken into account that will determine the time taken between reporting a tree and action being taken. This would depend on the level of risk, whether the tree was damaged, dangerous and required immediate attention. However if a request outlines an urgency with regard to tree maintenance then the tree will be listed for immediate inspection and action. A survey of all the trees within the County is ongoing with over 15,500 trees surveyed to date out of an estimate of 60,000 street trees. Priority is given to surveying the trees on the Tree Maintenance Programme. The tree surveys are logged in Council’s Tree Management System and provide the basis for the tree maintenance work.

(d) When a street tree is felled by the Council, it is not always possible to remove the stump immediately.  Under these circumstances a short tree stump is left as a temporary measure. The stump is usually left at around 1m high so that it does not constitute a trip hazard in the intervening period. Tree stump removal is normally undertaken during the winter months between November and February. The average period between tree removal and stump removal can vary.

### **Q14/1118 TRAVELLER ACCOMODATION**

### **QUESTIONS: Councillor G. O'Connell**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 for this County, highlighting successes and indicating challenges faced; and to make a statement on progress to date by SDCC in supporting the Traveller Culture and economy.

**REPLY:**

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 planned accommodation for 96 families in accordance with the Assessment of Needs Survey carried out in 2013. It set out to provide for appropriate options such as Group Housing and Bays in Residential Caravan Parks as well as access to Standard Council Housing.  The Programme identified accommodation provision in three separate sections:

**1. New Developments:**To provide accommodation at greenfield sites at identified locations;

**2. Redevelopments:** To redevelop temporary sites or to provide for Group Housing options instead of bays at St. Aidans, Belgard Road and Oldcastle Park;

**3. Infill Developments:** To create extra bays at locations where family numbers dictate there may be future requirements.

Since the beginning of the current programme three Group Houses have been completed at Belgard Road and a further 7 families were accommodated in Social Housing. The five new group houses at St. Aidan's referred to above are now practically complete and will be allocated imminently.  In addition three families were provided with chalet type accommodation on Medical grounds.

Work has now commenced on the new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 and an Assessment of Needs to inform the programme will shortly be carried out.

The Council continues to support Traveller Pride weeks in both the Tallaght and Clondalkin areas as well supporting Crosscare Family Day and the Travelling Culture Schools Programme with initiatives such as these providing the opportunity for local Travellers to positively promote their culture in conjunction with a range of support agencies.

### **Q15/1118 COMHAIRLE NA NÓG**

### **QUESTIONS: Councillor G. O'Connell**

To ask the Chief Executive if Comhairle na nÓg have been invited to make a submission for the 2019 Budget as agreed during their last presentation to a full Council meeting, and if not, are there any plans to invite them at this late stage to make a written submission?

**REPLY:**

Funding for Comhairle na nÓg is currently provided by Pobal and supports the following activities:

* Comhairle na nÓg core activities;
* Enhancing and managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee;
* Hosting the Annual General Meeting;
* Promotional / awareness work;
* Adresssing the priorities of the Comhairle;
* Staffing (Crosscare and Foróige);
* Administration and other miscellaneous costs;

This is supplemented by the Council assigning a Community Officer to support and facilitate the project.

It is not proposed to invite Comhairle na nÓg to make a submission in advance of the 2019 Budget given the support outlined and provided for above.

### **Q16/1118 BREXIT**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to present an update on the Council's actions to deal with the challenges of Brexit as it effects our County; will he give assurances that everything possible is being done to assist local businesses; will he confirm contacts he has had with Government, business and other agencies and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

The South Dublin Local Enterprise Office (LEO) offers significant supports and assistance to companies preparing for the challenges of Brexit.

In conjunction with the other 3 Dublin LEO's and the Department of Foreign Affairs, a series of seminars and information days have been hosted in the region for Business and Industry.

The most recent event was held in the National Convention Centre on 25th October, where the Taosieach and Minister for Foreign Affairs presented information to a large audience of over 1,200 affected businesses.

Further events are being planned particularly when the full details of the Brexit arrangements are known.

There is significant financial support available to businesses to help prepare and address the challenges of Brexit.

The LEO offers supports to businesses within the county including; Technical Assistance to Micro Enterprise (TAME), Trading Online Vouchers (TOV's) and Lean for Micro.

Additionally the LEO offers specific Brexit preparations for businesses such as the Brexit Mentor programme.

The full range of Brexit related supports can be found at the following website link; <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Brexit-Information/>

A Summary of all of the supports for all agencies and departments can be found at the following website link; <https://www.dfa.ie/brexit/getting-ireland-brexit-ready/brexit-and-business/financial-supports-for-business/>

### **Q17/1118 CLIMATE CHANGE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to present an update on actions being taken in respect of Climate Change; will he confirm contacts he has had in respect of this most important issue for our futures and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council has produced a Draft Climate Change Action Plan, which lists the actions that South Dublin County Council will undertake in order to mitigate and to adapt to the effects of Climate Change. This Draft Plan is before the SPC in November and will go out to public consultation in Q1 2019.

South Dublin County Council has lead in the establishment of the Climate Action Regional Office for the Dublin Metropolitan Area. SDCC will continue to work with this new office in order to deliver a regionally co-ordinated approach to climate change. This office will also be tasked with applying for grant funding nationally and from European funds and working regionally with the academic institutions in Dublin and the wider region.

All Local Authorities are required to reduce their CO2 emissions by 33% by 2020, and South Dublin County Council is on target to achieve this reduction. South Dublin County Council has also signed up to the Covenant of Mayors which commits SDCC to a reduction of Green House Gas Emissions by 40% by 2040 and make SDCC more resilient to the affects to Climate Change.

Some key Mitigation actions to reduce the CO2 emissions are:

* Heatnet District Heating System
* Conversion of the Public Lighting to LED
* Updating Lighting in SDCC buildings to LED
* Improving the efficiency of the SDCC fleet including the use of Electric Vehicles.
* Promote the modal shift from private cars to other forms of transport.
* Tree planting to sequester CO2

Some key Adaptation Actions to make the County more resilient to the effects of Climate Change

* Delivery of the Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme.
* Delivery of the Whitechurch Flood Alleviation Scheme
* Production of a Severe Weather Plan
* Production of a Flood Plan
* Major Emergency Planning Co-ordination with neighbouring LA's, the Dublin Fire Brigade, An Garda Siochana, the HSE and Dublin Civil Defence in relation to responding to flooding and severe weather events.

### **Q18/1118 DISABILITY INCLUSION**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm actions he is taking to promote Disability Inclusion in our County outlining the various contacts he has had in respect of this matter and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

Ongoing actions to promote accessibility and inclusion for disabled people include:

* Support for the South Dublin County Disability Advisory and Consultative Panel through the Council’s Disability Liaison, Access and Equality Officer. (The Council also provides essential funding for access supports such as Irish Sign Language interpretation for Panel meetings and events);
* Availability of the Disability Liaison, Access and Equality Officer to support disabled people to access and navigate council services;
* Provision of over 150 public accessible parking spaces are across the County. There are also over 15 spaces provided for specific disabled or mobility impaired residents;
* Participation in the annual National Accessibility Week;
* Provision of accessible Information Communication Technology, including the development of our website to WCAG double AA standard;
* Continued commitment to being a literacy friendly local authority through an ongoing programme of plain English proofing, and supporting staff to provide documents in plain English.
* Braille and tactile way finding signage is provided across the County including in County Hall, Civic Offices Clondalkin, South Dublin Libraries and community facilities such as Tallaght Stadium and the community centres.
* Audio Frequency Induction Loops (AFILs) for those who are hard of hearing are available at most of our customer service points and the Irish Remote Interpretation Service is available in County Hall and Civic Offices Clondalkin.

In addition, the Social Inclusion Unit endeavours to develop a society where all citizens are recognised, accepted and maintain a sense of belonging within the County.  This is achieved through collaboration with other Council Departments, agencies/groups and through the delivery of its many programmes.

As part of Social Inclusion Week 2018 commencing on 19th November, the Social Inclusion Unit are providing events such as Pamper Days and Art Projects for people with disabilities.

The South Dublin Sports Partnership provide a Sports Inclusion Disability Programme (SIDP) which aims to increase the participation of people with disabilities in sport and recreational physical activity.  This will be achieved through working in partnership with statutory agencies like the HSE, sports clubs, community groups, facility providers, schools, disability service providers and people with disabilities. Key elements of the programme include sustainable programming, information provision, training and education. The SIDP targets individuals of all ages and abilities who have an interest in participating in sport or recreational physical activity.

The Council has also committed to assist parents of children on the Autism Spectrum, children with special needs and Fettercairn Youth Horse Project with the excavation and manual works to provide a Sensory Trail in the Horse Project. The parents have raised over €25,000 since May 2018, allowing for all funding to go towards the provision of equipment and materials for the stimulation and sensory integration elements of the project. Sensory trails have proved to be a wonderful therapeutic tool. Our trail will be designed to specifically provide both sensory stimulation and sensory integration. It has been found that these trails are very beneficial to development and it also helps to create a relationship between the participant and the horse.

The clients of Menni Services (Children & Adults with Disabilities mainly from the Tallaght Area) are using an outdoor garden for horticultural therapy and instruction.  It is an opportunity for persons with physical and intellectual disabilities, to participate in the creation and upkeep of a visually stimulation garden.  The programme has been very successful over the last number of years and continues to provide an opportunity for learning, socialising and being creative.

In addition to the various ongoing actions listed above, it is worth noting that:

* Significant access is being provided in the newly constructed third stand at Tallaght Stadium.
* Lucan Swimming Pool will be an example of excellence in accessibility when built in 2019 and will include the county’s first Changing Places facility.
* Dublin’s Outdoors recently published the ‘[Accessible South Dublin County](https://www.dublinsoutdoors.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Brochure-Accessibility-2018-D5.pdf)’ guide to tourism, leisure and heritage in the County.

### **Q19/1118 HOMELESSNESS**

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

To ask Chief Executive if he would bring the members of the Council up to date on his efforts to respond to the ongoing housing / homeless crisis as it effects our County; will he give full details of those initiatives and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

There is significant demand for temporary emergency accommodation and the Council is committed to providing suitable accommodation for individuals and families who find themselves homeless.

The breakdown of numbers registered as homeless for September 2018 and the corresponding figures from the previous year were as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Sept 2017** | **Sept 2018** |
| **No. of Registered Homeless** | **447** | **621** |
| Single Male | **207** | **255** |
| Single Female | **48** | **59** |
| Couples | **11** | **7** |
| Families | **181** | **300** |

Our Homeless Unit provides assistance to those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This Unit operates an advice clinic in County Hall and provides outreach and place-finding services across the County as well as detailing emergency accommodation options including central placement, self-accommodate, family hubs and other supported accommodation.

The outreach service for rough sleepers across the County works with other agencies including the HSE in identifying rough sleepers and sourcing appropriate accommodation and support services.

The place-finding role assists families and individuals either in temporary emergency accommodation or at risk of homelessness to find private rented accommodation using the both Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and the enhanced Homeless HAP as well as engaging with property agents to encourage use of HAP/Homeless HAP to provide the quickest exits from homelessness.

Family hubs are currently available at Tallaght Cross, The Abberley and Gleann na hEorna in Tallaght while Riversdale House and Killininny House provide accommodation for homeless single persons with additional placements are available in 'step down/transitional' accommodation.

The Housing Department in conjunction with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive and other partners continue to look for suitable locations/property throughout the County for use as appropriate emergency accommodation for single persons and families. Additional options to support persons moving on from supported temporary accommodation continue to be explored including the provision of housing first tenancies where appropriate.

Housing supply is the key solution to the current housing/homeless situation and this involves delivery of social homes through our construction programme, complemented by acquisition, Part V, in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies and through various leasing options and the private rental market. In addition, the Housing Department continues to maximise the effectiveness of existing and new social housing stock through allocations and transfers to help address the challenges provided by the current situation.

### **Q20/1118 TREE PROGRAMME**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if he can now confirm that additional funding and resources will be provided in the 2019 Budget to respond to concerns from communities throughout the County in respect of the Tree Programme; will he appreciate that communities are anxious that everything possible will be done to deal with those concerns; will he give details and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

The preparation of figures for inputting into the budgetary process for 2019 is complete.  The programme of tree work to be undertaken is outlined in the 3 year rolling programme of tree maintenance for 2017-2019. However in the previous 2 years, the impact of the more frequent and severe storms have resulted in a delay in the delivery of the programme, as staff have had to deal with the resulting tree damage. The additional tree maintenance as a result of storms in 2018 represents an increase of 15 to 20% on the original programme of works.

In 2018, procurement processes were completed to engage suitably qualified arboricultural contractors to carry out works on trees in conflict with overhead electricity wires and on high risk trees and these contractors will be engaged over the coming year to deal with such requirements as they arise on the agreed tree maintenance programme.  An increase in the budget provision for tree maintenance has been proposed and will be considered through the statutory budget process.  If such an increase is provided then it can be utilised in the Council's response to unplanned tree emergencies, dangerous trees, trees in high risk situations, trees in conflict with power lines and trees in parks which are in conflict with adjoining properties.  This will expedite the delivery of the 3 year tree maintenance programme as it will release Council staff to concentrate on the agreed 3 year rolling tree management programme.

### **Q21/1118 WATER SUPPLY**

### **QUESTIONS: Councillor D. O'Donovan**

To ask the Chief Executive what steps this Council, given the climate changes taking place and the severe water shortages experienced this summer, will take to safeguard the water supply within our County.

**REPLY:**

Since January 2014 Irish Water is the national water utility responsible for providing water and wastewater services throughout Ireland.

Notwithstanding the above, South Dublin County Council continue to work with Irish Water to deliver water and waste water service in the county under a Service Level Agreement and an agreed Annual Service Plan.

Works being undertaken in order to achieve a more resilient supply for the county is progressing in a number of ways including the following:

* Construction of new pipe line from Peamount to Saggart to allow the transfer of water around the region.
* Construction of a new storage reservoir at Saggart.
* Construction just completed of a new covered reservoir at at Ballyboden
* Participation in the Dublin Regional Leakage Reduction Programme (DRLRP) including upgrades to water mains, replacement of old lead services, upgraded Pressure management and a targeted leakage repair programme.

South Dublin County Council would also encourage all residents in the county to conserve water on an ongoing basis and particularly at time of restricted supply or severe adverse weather events.

### **Q22/1118 LITTER BIN PROVISION**

### **QUESTIONS**: Councillor L. O'Toole

To request the Chief Executive to advise on the protocol regarding provision of public litter bins within housing estates, including the areas that have litter bins within housing estates, and if open green spaces that exists in housing estates are considered as open public space.

**REPLY:**

The Council's Public Realm Section is responsible for litter control in all public spaces within the Council’s administrative area and as part of this service, Public Realm provides and maintains a network of c 800 litter bins on street and in public parks, open spaces and housing areas across the county.

These bins are inspected daily and emptied as appropriate.  In order to optimise resources and ensure that litter bins are provided in the most cost effective manner, while ensuring that they deliver maximum service, certain principles apply to where litter bins will / will not be provided.

All sites considered suitable for bin placement are subject to capacity of the location to facilitate safe access for maintenance vehicles (side loader), and in accordance with the protocol appended to the Litter Management Plan 2015-2019, locations where requests for bins receive priority primarily include:

* Town and village centres
* Vicinity of shops such as newsagents, food retailers, supermarkets
* Areas where people congregate e.g. bus stops, tram stops, post offices, public service buildings / offices
* Main routes to schools
* Larger parks greater than 16 hectares in size e.g. in the vicinity of play grounds and dog runs

Locations that are not considered suitable for litter bin as they tend to attract dumping, vandalism are:

* Residential areas with no mixed usage, in particular cul-de-sac type developments, as they attract dumping of household waste around the litter bins
* Parks less than 16 hectares in size where located in residential areas, unless some demonstrable demand exists that cannot be met by bin placement on street

With specific reference to "if open green spaces that exists in housing estates are considered as open public space": the Council's public realm operations units manage and maintain open spaces within housing estates where those estates are taken in charge.

### **Q23/1118 SOLAR BINS**

### **QUESTION**S**: Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive for an updated report on the ‘Solar Bins’ pilot for the county, if there is any further details regarding the benefits of ‘Solar Bins’

**REPLY:**

The Solar Bin Pilot (agreed for Rathfarnham) is about to commence, a formal procurement process has now concluded and any decision for further roll out of Solar Bins will be determined on the outcome of the Rathfarnham pilot.

### **Q24/1118 HALLOWEEN**

### **QUESTIONS: Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report in relation to the events carried out over the Halloween, to include the programmes put in place to eliminate the creation of unauthorised pile up/bonfires and what costs if any were occurred in post clean up.

**REPLY:**

The Council has always recognised the difficulties that Halloween causes for many communities through the illegal burning of waste on Halloween bonfires, the damage to local amenities, and the threat to property and local services.

For Halloween 2018, the Council adopted a cross departmental approach, utilising the services of Public Realm, Waste Enforcement, Environmental Awareness, Library Service, Housing and Community Services Departments to prevent damage and promote the “Safe Halloween” message.

The Council's Halloween Safety and Environmental Awareness Campaign was launched in early October, with the publication of a colourful information leaflet providing facts and tips on how to stay safe at Halloween. The leaflet also contained details of the various family events hosted by South Dublin County Council’s Libraries which included inter alia Harry Potter Sorting Ceremony, Hallowe'en colouring competition, pumpkin-carving competition and many other spookily themed activities

 “Bulbs Not Bonfires” continued again this year - this is a reward available through the Council’s innovative Social Credits Scheme which provides communities with flowers in the spring in return for organising alternative Halloween activities that does not harm our environment.

A free pass to Ballymount Civic Amenity Centre was also provided to every Social Credit applicant / group from 16th October to encourage recycling, one pass allows one entry for one car.  These passes remain valid until 13th November 2018.

Our Public Realm operations units collected bonfire material in a number of areas across the county since early October (North and South of the Naas Road), and liaised closely with residents. (Nonetheless domestic furniture including beds, bed frames, mattresses, chairs etc were collected from stockpiles).

All reports received advising of stockpiling of bonfire material were logged specifically for attention and all available resources were deployed to the preventative collections of bonfire materials prior to this Halloween, and a total of 336 calls were received directly to the office over the weeks immediately before Halloween with a further c 25 (excluding duplicates) made after hours.

For operational safety reasons, contact was made early in the season with local Gardai to arrange a joint approach to dealing with the removal of material.

Our Waste Enforcement Section were in contact with over 150 businesses to advise them of their obligations regarding waste regulations, particularly relative to pallets and tyres.  Regrettably however, 1,100 pallets were still collected from stockpiled material in the days immediately before Halloween and tyres were also included in the stockpiling and movement of “waste” to fuel bonfires.

There were reports of 11 burnt out cars in the weeks across Tallaght and Clondalkin causing unnecessary damage to our parks, pitches and open spaces, and in a separate incident damage was also caused to an ESB mini pillar in one location.

Priority locations targeted for collection of material included bonfires being constructed in close proximity to houses, power lines, roadsides and transport routes.  Particular attention was given to bonfire removal requests from the Gardaí where they have identified a threat to property or services such as public transport.

In addition this year, recently acquired unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs / Drones) were used to detect the illegal stockpiling of bonfire material.   These drones are an important additional to the waste enforcement toolkit, and will provide evidence to officers on the ground of areas where visibility is sometimes difficult.

While it is not possible as of yet to quantify the total tonnages collected over the weeks before Halloween, 46 tonnes of waste were collected by Public Realm operations on 30th October and 51 tonnes on 31st October.

### **Q25/1118 ESB**

### **QUESTIONS:** **L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive to advise what delays if any, (including timeline) exist within the ESB carrying out necessary works to switch on street lights / traffic lights in new developments and if the department is resourced to fulfil these necessary works within new developments.

**REPLY:**

The delays in getting a connection for PL/Traffic lights are outside the control of SDCC. The time it takes from request to connection varies in each of the ESB network areas. Delays can occur due to ESB resources being deployed elsewhere during storms and bad weather events etc.

### **Q26/1118 HALLOWEEN**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into the pre and post clean up for Halloween 2018 and information available so far?

**REPLY:**

The Council has always recognised the difficulties that Halloween causes for many communities through the illegal burning of waste on Halloween bonfires, the damage to local amenities, and the threat to property and local services.

For Halloween 2018, the Council adopted a cross departmental approach, utilising the services of Public Realm, Waste Enforcement, Environmental Awareness, Library Service, Housing and Community Services Departments to prevent damage and promote the “Safe Halloween” message.

The Council's Halloween Safety and Environmental Awareness Campaign was launched in early October, with the publication of a colourful information leaflet providing facts and tips on how to stay safe at Halloween. The leaflet also contained details of the various family events hosted by South Dublin County Council’s Libraries which included inter alia Harry Potter Sorting Ceremony, Hallowe'en colouring competition, pumpkin-carving competition and many other spookily themed activities

 “Bulbs Not Bonfires” continued again this year - this is a reward available through the Council’s innovative Social Credits Scheme which provides communities with flowers in the spring in return for organising alternative Halloween activities that does not harm our environment.

A free pass to Ballymount Civic Amenity Centre was also provided to every Social Credit applicant / group from 16th October to encourage recycling, one pass allows one entry for one car.  These passes remain valid until 13th November 2018.

Our Public Realm operations units collected bonfire material in a number of areas across the county since early October (North and South of the Naas Road), and liaised closely with residents. (Nonetheless domestic furniture including beds, bed frames, mattresses, chairs etc were collected from stockpiles).

All reports received advising of stockpiling of bonfire material were logged specifically for attention and all available resources were deployed to the preventative collections of bonfire materials prior to this Halloween, and a total of 336 calls were received directly to the office over the weeks immediately before Halloween with a further c 25 (excluding duplicates) made after hours.

For operational safety reasons, contact was made early in the season with local Gardai to arrange a joint approach to dealing with the removal of material.

Our Waste Enforcement Section were in contact with over 150 businesses to advise them of their obligations regarding waste regulations, particularly relative to pallets and tyres.  Regrettably however, 1,100 pallets were still collected from stockpiled material in the days immediately before Halloween and tyres were also included in the stockpiling and movement of “waste” to fuel bonfires.

There were reports of 11 burnt out cars in the weeks across Tallaght and Clondalkin causing unnecessary damage to our parks, pitches and open spaces, and in a separate incident damage was also caused to an ESB mini pillar in one location.

Priority locations targeted for collection of material included bonfires being constructed in close proximity to houses, power lines, roadsides and transport routes.  Particular attention was given to bonfire removal requests from the Gardaí where they have identified a threat to property or services such as public transport.

In addition this year, recently acquired unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs / Drones) were used to detect the illegal stockpiling of bonfire material.   These drones are an important additional to the waste enforcement toolkit, and will provide evidence to officers on the ground of areas where visibility is sometimes difficult.

While it is not possible as of yet to quantify the total tonnages collected over the weeks before Halloween, 46 tonnes of waste were collected by Public Realm operations on 30th October and 51 tonnes on 31st October.

The post Halloween clean-up will commence once the bonfires "are out" and safe to work on.  This phase normally continues to the end of November, with priority most likely being given to the early reinstatement of recreation facilities eg playing pitches

### **Q27/1118 REGISTER OF ELECTORS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into what SDCC propose to do in relation to getting all people to register to vote and in particular get migrants to register to vote before the local elections 2019?

**REPLY:**

The draft register for 2019/2020 was published on the 1st November, 2018 and will be circulated to all Garda Stations, Libraries, Post Offices, County Registrar and all Councillors, TD’S and MEP’S. The draft is open up to the 25th November 2018 for members of the public to check their details and submit any amendments. In conjunction with the publication of the draft the Council and the Department use all available communication methods, 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’’ and to alert citizens to check the register. Registration forms are available on our website and in Libraries across the County to assist those wishing to register.

In order to assist migrants the Council have all the relevant forms on our web site in a number of different languages. The Department of Planning Housing and Local Government have initiated a national awareness campaign in relation to the whole registration process in conjunction with the Immigrant Council of Ireland in advance of the Local Elections.  Currently videos have been created in ten different languages on their website with information on how to vote and it is aimed at every citizen of Ireland. Also during the New Citizens Ceremonies the Department of Justice and Equality provide information packs to all new citizens with details on how to register to vote.

### **Q28/1118 HOMELESS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into Homeless within SDCC how many are on list and to compare this with same time last year? To give a breakdown of what accommodation they are currently being offered and receiving ?

**REPLY:**

There is significant demand for temporary emergency accommodation and the Council is committed to providing suitable accommodation for individuals and families who find themselves homeless.

The breakdown of numbers registered as homeless for September 2018 and the corresponding figures from the previous year were as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Sept 2017** | **Sept 2018** |
| **No. of Registered Homeless** | **447** | **621** |
| Single Male | **207** | **255** |
| Single Female | **48** | **59** |
| Couples | **11** | **7** |
| Families | **181** | **300** |

Our Homeless Unit provides assistance to those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This Unit operates an advice clinic in County Hall and provides outreach and place-finding services across the County as well as detailing emergency accommodation options including central placement, self-accommodate, family hubs and other supported accommodation.

The outreach service for rough sleepers across the County works with other agencies including the HSE in identifying rough sleepers and sourcing appropriate accommodation and support services.

The place-finding role assists families and individuals either in temporary emergency accommodation or at risk of homelessness to find private rented accommodation using the both Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and the enhanced Homeless HAP as well as engaging with property agents to encourage use of HAP/Homeless HAP to provide the quickest exits from homelessness.

Family hubs are currently available at Tallaght Cross, The Abberley and Gleann na hEorna in Tallaght while Riversdale House and Killininny House provide accommodation for homeless single persons with additional placements are available in 'step down/transitional' accommodation.

The Housing Department in conjunction with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive and other partners continue to look for suitable locations/property throughout the County for use as appropriate emergency accommodation for single persons and families. Additional options to support persons moving on from supported temporary accommodation continue to be explored including the provision of housing first tenancies where appropriate.

Housing supply is the key solution to the current housing/homeless situation and this involves delivery of social homes through our construction programme, complemented by acquisition, Part V, in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies and through various leasing options and the private rental market. In addition, the Housing Department continues to maximise the effectiveness of existing and new social housing stock through allocations and transfers to help address the challenges provided by the current situation.

### **Q29/1118 DEPRIVATION INDEX**

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

That the Chief Executive issue a report into the socioeconomic deprivation rates and stats within the South Dublin County Council area and outline how areas that are identified as suffering from high levels of socioeconomic deprivation are being helped?

**REPLY:**

Detailed analysis of the deprivation rates and supporting information for South Dublin is contained in the Pobal HP Deprivation Index published in 2017.  This index which is available on [Pobal Maps](http://maps.pobal.ie/) ([http://maps.pobal.ie](http://maps.pobal.ie/)), a free online Geographical Information System map viewer, outlines the deprivation score for various geographic units such as county, constituency, electoral division or small area.  Percentage data for the area is provided under a range of categories such as unemployment, educational attainment and population change. The data can also be extracted for further analysis through the geoprofiling viewer, and compared between the 2006, 2011 and 2016 censuses.

The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 for South Dublin, delivered by South Dublin Partnership and with oversight by the South Dublin Local Community Development Committee, aims to tackle poverty, social exclusion and long-term unemployment through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations, public sector agencies and other stakeholders.  The SICAP provides a comprehensive range of initiatives to tackle disadvantage and deprivation targeting engagement with the most difficult to reach sectors in the most disadvantaged areas as identified by Pobal, with particular focus on youth and on interventions to address youth unemployment.

### **Q30/1118 DPG WORKS**

### **QUESTIONS: Councillor M. Ward**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the amount of Council tenants who have applied for the Disabled Persons Grant in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 to date and to provide figures and a statement on how many of the grants were approved.

**REPLY:**

The table below provides details of the number of applications received and works carried out under the Disabled Persons Grants scheme along with associated additional minor works carried out from 2015 onwards:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **DPG Applications Received** | **DPG Works Completed** | **Additional Minor Works Completed\*** | **Total Works Completed** |
| 2015 | 75 | 30 | 20 | 50 |
| 2016 | 97 | 31 | 16 | 47 |
| 2017 | 98 | 76 | 108 | 184 |
| 2018 | 91 | 50 | 109 | 159 |
| **Totals** | **361** | **187** | **253** | **440** |

It should be noted that there was already a large number of applications on hand at the beginning of 2015 which were approved and awaiting works.  Works are approved and prioritised depending on the supporting documentation, suitability of the premises and funding available etc.

\*Additional minor works include the installation of hand rails etc. and these works are ordinarily facilitated where requested/required without the tenant having to submit a full, formal DPG application.

### **Q31/1118 PART V PROPERTIES**

### **QUESTIONS:** **Councillor M. Ward**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the amount of part V properties acquired by South Dublin County Council in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 to date and to give a statement on the matter?

**REPLY:**

The following number of properties have been procured under Part V of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended):

2015:  1

2016:  29

2017:  51

2018: 67 (to the end of quarter 3 only)

In accordance with the legislation, the Council continues to proactively engage with developers to achieve prompt delivery of homes in residential developments where the Part V requirement of 10% applies.

### **H6/1118 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H7/1118 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

### **H8/1118 MANAGERS REPORT**

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

### [HI 8a) Finance Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=61604)

**Billing and Collection Statement**

### 

**Use of overdraft facility**

Department approved overdraft facility = €25,000,000

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

### [HI 8c) Statistics Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=61605) [HI 8a) Strategy Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=61583)

The Reports were **NOTED.**

### **H9/1118 APPLICATION FOR GRANTS**

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

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**Community Grants Scheme 2018 (2nd Round)**

Application for grants under the second round of South Dublin County Council’s [**Community Grants Scheme**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/community/funding-and-support/community-grants/community-grants.html) for 2018 were advertised with a closing date of 21st September, 2018.  Following assessment of the applications received under the terms, conditions and criteria of the scheme, the following 41 grants in the total sum of €97,204 are now recommended for approval by the Council:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Name of Group** | **Type of Grant** | **Amount** |
| GF2942 | Palmerstown Community Centre | Employment | €20,000 |
| GF2989 | Rathcoole Community Centre | Employment | €10,000 |
| GF3026 | Fettercairn Community & Youth Centre | Minor Equipment | €500 |
| GF3028 | Russell Square Residents Association | Running Costs | €250 |
| GF3029 | St. Mark’s Silver Surfers | Major Equipment | €3,000 |
| GF3030 | Fforster Estate Residents Group | Running Costs | €500 |
| GF3033 | Fforster Estate Residents Group | Environmental Improvements | €500 |
| GF3039 | Airpark Residents Association | Start Up Costs | €500 |
| GF3042 | Kingswood/Kilnamanagh Active Age Group | Minor Equipment | €300 |
| GF3044 | Colthurst & Rochfort Residents Association | Start Up Costs | €495 |
| GF3045 | Brookfield Womens Group | Minor Equipment | €500 |
| GF3046 | Fettercairn Collective | Environmental Improvements | €300 |
| GF3047 | Fettercairn Collective | Running Costs | €500 |
| GF3049 | The Park Community Centre | Employment | €20,000 |
| GF3052 | Peamount United FC | Sports Activity | €3,000 |
| GF3056 | Gladiators Club | Running Costs | €500 |
| GF3057 | Rathcoole Boys FC | Sports Activity | €1,500 |
| GF3058 | Rathfarnham Woods Residents Association | Environmental Improvements | €500 |
| GF3059 | Lucan United FC | Sports Activity | €2,000 |
| GF3061 | Clondalkin Lucan Women’s Centre | Minor Equipment | €1,619 |
| GF3065 | Liffey Sound Communications Co-op | Minor Equipment | €1,500 |
| GF3067 | Brittas Community Association Ltd., | Minor Equipment | €2,000 |
| GF3071 | Firhouse Community & Leisure Centre | Minor Equipment | €1,750 |
| GF3072 | Jobstown Community Centre | Minor Equipment | €700 |
| GF3077 | Firhouse Active Age Group | Start Up Costs | €500 |
| GF3078 | St. Aengus Active Retirement | Minor Equipment | €2,000 |
| GF3079 | Tallaght C.O.P.D. Support Group | Running Costs | €500 |
| GF3081 | Knockmitten Youth & Community Assoc. | I.T Networking/Admin | €1,000 |
| GF3083 | Booth Road FC | Sports Activity | €1,300 |
| GF3091 | Blackpanther Kickboxing/Martial Arts Club | Sports Activity | €3,000 |
| GF3092 | Round Tower GAA Club | Sports Activity | €2,000 |
| GF3093 | Women Together Tallaght Network | Minor Equipment | €230 |
| GF3096 | Friends of the Camac | Running Costs | €260 |
| GF3097 | Tallaght Guild ICA | Running Costs | €500 |
| GF3100 | Clondalkin Rugby Club | Sports Activity | €2,000 |
| GF3102 | Templeogue Mens Shed | Minor Equipment | €500 |
| GF3103 | Ballyboden St. Endas GAA Club | Sports Activity | €4,000 |
| GF3107 | Saggart Village Residents Association | Minor Equipment | €2,000 |
| GF3109 | Commercials Hurling & Camogie Club | Sports Activity | €4,000 |
| GF3110 | Society for Old Lucan | Running Costs | €500 |
| GF3111 | Sruleen Community Development | Running Costs | €500 |
|  |  | **Total** | **€97,204** |

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The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor M. Ward, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

**Correspondence for Noting**

**Ministerial**

### **C1/1118** Correspondence dated 2nd October 2018 from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding BusConnects.

**Ministerial**

### **C2/1118** Letter dated 26th October from the Minister of Health in relation to Spinraza

**Ministerial**

### **C3/1118** Letter dated 31st October from the Minister of State at the Department of Justice & Equality in regards to Clondalkin Towers

**Departmental**

### **C4/1118** Correspondence dated 31st October 2018 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to Local Authority Elected Members Role and Remuneration Review

### **C5/1118** Letter dated 4th October 2018 from Donegal County Council regarding the closure of post offices.

Correspondence is **NOTED.**

### **Motions for discussion**

**Mayors Business**

### **M1/1118 LEISURE CENTRE CHARGING POLICY**

### It was proposed by Councillor M. Ward and seconded by Councillor C. King

Based on the recommendations of the ISPCCC this Council agrees that provision is made by South Dublin County Council to grant free access to its local sports and leisure facilities such as swimming pools, to families who are homeless. Access to such activities can provide both physical and mental stimulation and offers families the opportunity to participate together outside of their limited homeless accommodation.

**REPORT:**

The charging policy for leisure centres operated by South County Dublin Leisure Services (SCDLS) is determined by its directors and management team with the Council having no role or input in this area of operation.  It should be noted that SCDLS operates a cost neutral model and strives to provide all services at the lowest price possible with only one price adjustment having been implemented in the last 10 years that was directly related to VAT requirements.

The Motion was **NOTED.**

**Mayors Business**

### **M2/1118 PART V URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING ACT 2015**

### It was proposed by Councillor M. Ward and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

A number of amendments were made to Part V by the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 including that the local authority has the discretion to decide what percentage of a development must be reserved for social housing but this is subject to a cap of 10% of the development.

Prior to the 2015 Act, the cap was higher at 20%. The cap was reduced to take account of the change in the economic climate since Part V obligations were first enforced.

This Council calls on the Minister for Housing Eoghan Murphy to immediately raise the cap back to 20% to increase the social housing yield giving the current housing crisis.

**REPORT:**

Part V of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires each Planning Authority to draw up a Housing Strategy and integrate it into the Development Plan. All tenures are taken into account when assessing "housing need" i.e owner occupier, social housing and private rented accommodation. A key objective is to ensure that the strategy meets the diverse needs of existing and future residents, is sensitive to their environment and contributes to a high quality of life.

Prior to the enactment of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, pursuant to the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), a Part V social and affordable housing requirement of up to 20% could be applied to new developments.  In carrying out its assessments of housing need at that time, the Council applied a rate of 15%.

The Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 subsequently stipulated a requirement of 10% social housing for proposed new developments under Part V of the Planning & Development Act (as amended). In our Interim Housing Strategy 2016-2022 this Council included as an objective to apply a 10% social housing requirement, pursuant to the Part V legislation.  The interim Housing Strategy assessed the mix of house types and tenures that are required to serve the need of the County's forecast population and sets out a range of measures to address housing segregation and provide social housing, including vacancy in the existing social housing stock, a social housing building programme, leasing and rental schemes, the Capital Assistance Scheme and through Part V.

If the Motion is passed by the Elected Members, a letter will issue to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Ward, D. Looney, E. Higgins, C. King, P. Gogarty, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell, B. Leech and B. Ferron.

Councillor E. O’Brien proposed and Councillor E. Higgins seconded an amendment to the Motion as follows:

A number of amendments were made to Part V by the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 including that the local authority has the discretion to decide what percentage of a development must be reserved for social housing but this is subject to a cap of 10% of the development.

Prior to the 2015 Act, the cap was higher at 20%. The cap was reduced to take account of the change in the economic climate since Part V obligations were first enforced.

This Council calls on the Minister for Housing Eoghan Murphy to immediately raise the cap back to 20% to increase the social **housing and affordable** housing yield giving the current housing crisis.

The Amended Motion was **AGREED**.

The Amended Motion was **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **M3/1118 LPT CONDITIONS**

### It was proposed by Councillor C. McCann and seconded by Councillor M. Ward.

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to remove the requirement “All applicants are required to include with their grant application, proof that they are compliant with the local property tax**.”** From the conditions of applications on the following grant schemes.

* Housing Aid for Older People Scheme
* Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a disability.
* Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme

**REPORT:**

The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability (HAGs), Housing Aid for Older People (HOPs) and the Mobility Aids Grant (MAGs) are three national grant schemes which is 80% funded by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The 20% remainder of the grant expenditure is funded by local authority revenue. The administrative guidance to local authorities has been provided directly by the Department. In February 2014 there were changes made to the assessment process of these grants. One of the principal changes made included the requirement for all applicants to include with their grant application, proof that they are compliant with the local property tax.  Local authorities are required to be satisfied with the status of the property owner and seek the appropriate evidence of ownership of a property prior to processing grant applications. The national guidance issued to local authorities also states that local authorities should satisfy themselves that applicants are registered for the payment of the Local Property Tax.

As these conditions are set at a national level for these 3 grants schemes the local authority has no remit to alter the conditions set.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M4/1118 COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

### It was proposed by Councillor B. Leech and seconded by Councillor K. Mahon.

Following on from the successful submissions made in the recent Participatory Budget can this Council ensure as much as possible that the Community Orchard Project in Clondalkin and any planting of apple trees in the County be sourced from our ancient Irish species as a priority.

**REPORT:**

Planting which took place under the Participatory Budget scheme in 2017 to develop a community orchard in Lucan involved the planting of a mixture of apple tree varieties and these included some native Irish species.  The native Irish varieties tend to be available in the early stages of growth only and this unfortunately makes them vulnerable to vandalism.  It is intended however to develop on the knowledge gained in creating the Lucan orchard and to use this to create a more diverse and varied orchard in Clondalkin.  In this regard it is hoped that greater use of native varieties can be made on this occasion with a wider range of varieties to be used and variety achieved also in the size of tree to be planted.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors B. Leech, E. Higgins, D. Looney and B. Bonner.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M5/1118 DIRECTLY-ELECTED MAYOR**

### It was proposed by Councillor D. Looney and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy.

That this Council supports the principle of a directly-elected Mayor for all of Dublin as part of the wider democratisation of the city and county; and that we call on the Government to initiate, as soon as possible, a plebiscite of the people of Dublin to ascertain their support for such a proposal.

**REPORT:**

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Looney, M. Murphy, C. King, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell, P. Gogarty and W. Lavelle.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive responded to the Members queries.

Councillor M. Murphy proposed and Councillor C. King seconded an amendment to the Motion.

“That this Council supports the principle of a directly-elected Mayor for all of Dublin as part of the wider democratisation of the city and county; and that we call on the Government to initiate, as soon as possible, a plebiscite of the people of Dublin to ascertain their support for such a proposal **which will include the details of the powers and term of such a position and it effect on the current powers of Councillors, Chief Executives and any additional powers”**

The Amended Motion was **AGREED**.

The Amended Motion was **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 take **M6** and **M12** (of similar subject matter) in tandem.

### **M6/1118 AN GORTA MÓR**

### It was proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor and seconded by Councillor P. Foley.

That this Council supports An Gorta Mór petition to the Irish Government For a permanent standalone An Gorta Mór exhibition in the National Museum of Ireland in Collins Barracks, appreciating that Irishmen And Irishwomen and the Irish Family Overseas are signing this Petition To right this National Scandal and will the Chief Executive bring this motion to the attention of our Government.

**REPORT:**

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

### **M12/1118 AN GORTA MÓR**

### It was proposed by Councillor M. Murphy and seconded by Councillor C. King.

That this Council fully supports the objective of the Committee for the Commemoration of the Irish Famine Victims (CCIFV) to establish a permanent standalone exhibition to the Famine,  An Gorta Mor, in the National Museum of Ireland in Collins Barracks

**REPORT:**

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. O’Connor, M. Murphy, K. Mahon, C. McCann, M. Ward, and D. Looney.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M7/1118 FUNDING FOR HOUSING**

### It was proposed by Councillor E. Hendrick and seconded by Councillor M. Johansson.

### The elected members of this council, in light of the Minister for Housing Eoghan Murphy’s statement that money is available for the council building on public land, request that the Chief Executive immediately makes plans for large sites (minimum 100 units) and make applications to the Department to draw down this money. This would involve using public land to build a combination of local authority housing and affordable housing for those not able to afford a house on the private market.

**REPORT:**

As outlined at the recent Special Meeting of the Council, the Council has four large sites (Clonburris SDZ lands, Rathcoole, Killinarden and St. Maelruans), each with a capacity for more than 100 homes, in its ownership that are being assessed and for which draft master plans are being prepared.  It is anticipated that proposals for these four sites will comprise a mix of social, affordable and private homes having regard for their individual locations and context.  These proposals will be brought to the local Elected Members for discussion and input as they are developed.

The full range of current, proposed and possible sites for housing development by the Council through our construction programme was also outlined at the recent Special Meeting and these currently comprise the following numbers of homes at the various stages of delivery:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Delivery Stage** | **No. Homes** |
| Complete | 91 |
| Scheduled For  2018 Handover | 196 |
| Due for 2019 Completion | 63 |
| Part 8 Approved | 124 |
| Part 8 Commenced | 81 |
| Feasibility | 255 |
| **Total** | **810** |

This supply pipeline is also complemented by delivery through acquisition, Part V, partnership with Approved Housing Bodies and through the various leasing options available with resourcing provided by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government where applicable.

The recent Budget Day announcement in relation to Affordable Housing is also welcome and the full detail and requirements of the proposed regulations will be assessed and incorporated into plans for the large sites outlined above.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Hendrick, M. Johansson, K. Mahon, C. King, E. O’Brien, P. Donovan, M. Murphy, D. Looney and W. Lavelle, B. Leech.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive and Mr. C. Ward Director of Housing, Social and Community Development responded to the Members queries.

Councillor P. Donovan proposed and Councillor E. Higgins seconded an amendment to the Motion:

“The elected members of this council, in light of the Minister for Housing Eoghan Murphy’s statement that money is available for the council building on public land, request that the Chief Executive immediately makes plans for large sites (minimum 100 units) and make applications to the Department to draw down this money.”

The Mayor Councillor M. Ward then called for a roll call vote on the amendment to the Motion, the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 11 (ELEVEN)**

**Councillors B. Bonner, V. Casserly, P. Donovan, K. Egan, M. Genockey, E. Higgins, W. Lavelle, B. Lawlor, C. McMahon, R. McMahon, D. O’Donovan.**

**AGAINST: 25 (TWENTY FIVE)**

**Councillors F. Duffy, L. Dunne, B. Ferron, P. Foley, P. Gogarty, E. Hendrick, S. Holland, M. Johansson, P. Kearns, C. King, B. Leech, D. Looney, C. McCann, K. Mahon, E. Murphy, M. Murphy, R. Nolan, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell, C. O’Connor, L. O’Toole, D. Richardson, R. Russell, F. Timmons, M. Ward.**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

The amendment to the Motion **FALLS**

The Mayor Councillor M. Ward then called for a roll call vote on the original Motion, the result of which was as follows:

## **FOR: 28 (TWENTY EIGHT)**

## **Councillors B. Bonner, F. Duffy, L. Dunne, B. Ferron, P. Foley, M. Genockey, P. Gogarty, E. Hendrick, S. Holland, M. Johansson, P. Kearns, C. King, B. Leech, D. Looney, C. McCann, K. Mahon, E. Murphy, M. Murphy, R. Nolan, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell, C. O’Connor, D. O’Donovan, L. O’Toole, D. Richardson, R. Russell, F. Timmons, M. Ward.**

## **AGAINST: 8 (EIGHT)**

## **Councillors V. Casserly, P. Donovan, K. Egan, E. Higgins, W. Lavelle, B. Lawlor, C. McMahon, R. McMahon**

## **ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

The Motion was **PASSED.**

### **M8/1118 BREASTFEEDING POLICY**

### It was proposed by Councillor M. Genockey and seconded by Councillor MWard and **MOVED** without Debate.

That this Council declares South Dublin County a breastfeeding friendly county and takes action to promote breastfeeding-friendly policies in all Council buildings and in the county in general.

**REPORT:**

There is a breastfeeding policy for Council employees under which time off for breastfeeding a child or expressing milk is provided for. Facilities are provided for this purpose in County Hall, both for staff and for members of the public if requested.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M9/1118 HOMELESS FAMILIES**

### It was proposed by Councillor K. Mahon and seconded by Councillor R. Nolan.

This Council does not support statements regarding the "gaming of the system" or "years of bad behaviour" by senior housing officials in the Dublin Regional Housing Executive.

South Dublin County Council has changed its policy regarding the allocation of housing to those currently accessing homeless services through hubs, hotels or other means.

This Council regards hubs and hotels as a short term emergency measure and recognises the work and studies carried out by Focus Ireland and others regarding the negative impact of homelessness, hubs and hotels on the development and mental health of children and adults.

It is our position that HAP does not offer a secure, quality accommodation, or a value for money solution for homelessness.

This Council calls for a defined percentage of all available homes for allocation to be reserved for families currently in long term emergency accommodation in hubs, hotels and hostels based on their time in homelessness.

**REPORT:**

Homelessness continues to be a major challenge facing not only this County but counties nationwide particularly urban areas.

Social housing units available at any given time for allocation are allocated according to the Council's Scheme of Letting Priorities to applicants on the housing or transfer lists or to those applicants with medical or homeless priority.  The Scheme aims to achieve a balance in allocating dwellings between the needs and preferences of applicants, the wellbeing of existing tenants and communities as well as making best use of the Council's social housing stock.

While the Council will continue to allocate housing stock to homeless applicants under the Scheme of Letting Priorities, families and individuals who are presenting as homeless and in emergency accommodation are strongly advised that sourcing properties using the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme is the fastest route out of their current homeless situation.  Under HAP, households are required to find their own accommodation in the private rented sector but the difficulties in sourcing suitable private rented accommodation are acknowledged and supports are available through dedicated placement staff to assist this process, including helping families in moving on from emergency accommodation.  In addition, a dedicated Homeless HAP Unit operates in the Dublin Region Homeless Executive to deliver HAP at an enhanced rate to homeless households for appropriate properties and Key Workers/Homeless Action Teams are available to work with those homeless households with higher support needs.

All homeless applicants can also utilise the Choice Based Letting (CBL) system which could potentially enable them to obtain a tenancy sooner and without waiting for an offer to be made to them under the homeless category.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors K. Mahon, E. Hendrick, R. Nolan, P. Gogarty, G. O’Connell, F. Timmons, C. King, B. Leech, L. Dunne and M. Ward

Mr. C. Ward Director of Housing, Social and Community Development responded to the Members queries.

Councillor M. Ward proposed and Councillor C. King seconded an **amendment** to the Motion.

“This Council does not support statements regarding the "gaming of the system" or "years of bad behaviour" by senior housing officials in the Dublin Regional Housing Executive.

This Council regards hubs and hotels as a short term emergency measure and recognises the work and studies carried out by Focus Ireland and others regarding the negative impact of homelessness, hubs and hotels on the development and mental health of children and adults.

It is our position that HAP does not offer a secure, quality accommodation, or a value for money solution for homelessness.

This Council calls for the issue of  a defined percentage of all available homes for allocation to be reserved for families currently in long term emergency accommodation in hubs, hotels and hostels based on their time in homelessness to be brought back to the Housing SPC to explore if it can be included in the scheme of lettings. “

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

**FOR: 20 (TWENTY)**

**AGAINST: 5 (FIVE)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

The Amended Motion was **AGREED**.

The Amended Motion was **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **M10/1118 TREE POLICY REVIEW**

### It was proposed by Councillor P. Foley and seconded by Councillor S. Holland.

That the Council treat the trees in public parks that border estates differently in the next review of the Living with Trees policy.  Trees in parks are planted with no restrictions on size.  While large and exotic trees can enhance a public park, the planting of such trees has a negative impact on the residential houses that they border and overlook.  Residents located next to parks with large trees often live in constant shade and fear that that their property could be damaged in high winds.

**REPORT:**

The Council's Tree Management Policy 2015-2020 'Living With Trees' was adopted at a meeting of the Council in July 2015.

The Tree Management Policy provides a framework to inform and support decisions made by the Council on the management and development of a sustainable tree population in the County.

The objectives of the policy are:

* Improve tree management and create a safer, healthier tree population
* Implement a proactive, planned programme of cyclical tree maintenance
* Maximise the use of the Council’s resources to provide a better service and give better value for money.

This is a 5-Year management policy which is now into its third year and is scheduled for an interim review during 2018

The aim of the review is to:

* Review and assess progress to date on the implementation of the Action Plan
* Confirm whether the vision established by the policy is the right focus
* Provide an updated snapshot of our current tree stock and how the Council manages them
* Reassess aspects of the policy on particular issues that continue to generate ambiguity
* Look at emerging issues
* Assess consistency of relevant policies and actions of the Tree Management Policy with the Council’s Climate Change Action Plan
* Make new policy recommendations as necessary from review process

Included in the specific policy issues proposed for review are trees in conflict with built structures – a clear protocol is required for resolving issues where trees are in conflict with the built environment. Specific locations include public footpaths, private boundary walls and driveways. Tree planting locations and species type will also be discussed.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Foley and C. O’Connor.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to the Members queries.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

**M11/1118 UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (UNCRPD)**

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

Proposed by Councillor That SDCC welcomes the Ratification of the UN convention of the Rights of People with a Disability and to show our commitment to this we will commit as follows:

We commit to Inviting Senator John Dolan who is also CEO of the Disability Federation of Ireland to address the chamber on where we are in Ireland with Disability rights and what needs to be done

We welcome and acknowledge the OWL internship in our national Parliament and will seek to investigate opportunities for extending this to our council building and services in consultation with KARE and WALK

We actively support Sgt Peter Woods and his Initiative ‘’Operation Enable’’ and as a council will actively promote Operation Enable via our newsletter and social media

We as a council will look at inviting people with a Disability for organizations such as the Irish Wheelchair association etc onto our SPCs so they are involved in polices and decisions that affect their lives.

We commit to disability proofing all policies and will work within the UN convention of the Rights of People with a Disability that provides the framework to promote, protect and ensure the rights of all people with disabilities and promotes equal rights in all areas of life.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council’s commitment to working with, and within, the framework of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UN CRPD), was set out in the reply to Council [Motion 55013](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&amp;id=57066) (October 2017). There are 50 articles in the UN CRPD which deal with a diverse range of issues most of which relate in varying degrees to the role and remit of a local authority. Four articles which have particular significance for the Council are:

Article 9 – Accessibility

Article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community

Article 21 – Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

Article 30 – Participation in Cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport.

In addition to the details contained in the reply to the Council in October 2017, Ms Selina Bonnie, Disability Liaison / Access Officer is currently researching into the WAM (Willing, Able and Mentoring) Programme from AHEAD with regard to accommodating disabled people on internships within the Council.

The South Dublin County Disability Advisory and Consultative Panel, and relevant staff from SDCC, have met with Sgt Peter Woods and his colleagues with a view to bringing Operation Enable to the County. It is planned that Operation Enable would be brought to the county in the first quarter 2019 with an agreed day of action.

All Council policies and plans are equality, access and plain English proofed on an ongoing basis.

The membership of the Strategic Policy Committees are decided in accordance with Departmental guidelines and are in place for the lifetime of the Council. A new scheme will be prepared after the 2019 Local Elections and will include a consultation process so submissions on membership can be made then.

In order to assess Ireland’s progress in working, with and within, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UN CRPD) consideration is also being given to issuing an invite to Emily Logan, who is the Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), who are charged with responsibility for monitoring and reporting on Irelands implementation of the UN Convention, to address a seminar here in County Hall in early 2019. Further details will be brought to the members as they become available.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, C. O’Connor and G. O’Connell.

Ms. C. Hurson, Senior Executive Officer of Corporate Performance and Change Management responded to the Members queries.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M13/1118 SOCIAL HOUSING INTEGRATION**

### It was proposed by Councillor G. O'Connell, Councillor L. O'Toole and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

That the Chief Executive provide a report on the practical steps taken to date to implement H1 Objective 4 of the County Development Plan 2016 – 2022 and that a discussion take place leading to proposals on how elected members of this Council can play an active and positive role in promoting social integration, especially in new residential developments but also where housing supports such as HAP are used, across South Dublin County.

**REPORT:**

H1 Objective 4 of the County Development Plan 2016-2022 seeks to promote social integration and facilitate a diverse range of dwelling tenures within housing developments, including social housing in a balanced way in all Local Electoral Areas of the County.

A key measure to implement this objective is through delivery of social homes under the provisions of Part V of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended.  This legislative mechanism provide an executive function that allows local authorities to obtain up to 10% of land zoned for housing development at "existing use value" rather than "development value" for the delivery of social housing.  Delivery of social homes under Part V is key to ensure an adequate supply of housing for all sectors of existing and future population across the County.

When submitting a planning application, developers must specify proposals regarding how they intend to comply with their Part V obligations.  These proposals form the basis for commencement of negotiations between the developer and the Council’s Housing Department to satisfy the Part V requirement.  Such negotiations by their very nature are unique to the area in which the development is proposed and to the proposed development itself – there is no specific set formula for resolution of the negotiations with delivery negotiated on a case by case, area by area basis.  The following considerations give an overview of the basis upon which the Council approaches negotiations for the delivery of Part V social homes:

* the number of applicants on the waiting list for social housing and the home sizes required;
* opportunities or otherwise for new social home building projects in an area;
* the numbers of social homes achieved and to be achieved under Part V;
* existing and future integration of housing tenure, including ensuring that social homes are delivered within sustainable communities;
* opportunities to partner with reputable Approved Housing Bodies on the allocation, management and maintenance of a homes; and,
* achieving value for money in the delivery of social homes under Part V.

An examination of reporting on Part V negotiations is currently being undertaken with a view to further discussing this matter at the next Housing Strategic Policy Committee meeting.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors G. O’Connell, L. Dunne, C. King, L. O’Toole, S. Holland, P. Gogarty, R. Nolan, P. Kearns, B. Leech, D. O’Brien, F. Timmons and M. Ward.

Mr. Colm Ward, Director of Housing Social & Community Development responded to the Members queries.

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

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

**FOR: 4 (FOUR)**

**AGAINST: 12 (TWELVE)**

**ABSTAIN: 2 (TWO)**

The Motion **FALLS.**

Meeting Finished @ 7:21pm

**Motions Not Reached.**

### **(M14) SCHOOLS PROPAGATION PROGRAMME**

### **It was proposed by Councillor R. Nolan**

This Council calls on the Chief Executive to support schools and supply materials to schools who are prepared to organise a propagation programme for children.

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

Mayor

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