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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council January 2019 County Council Meeting held on 14 January 2019

### **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, M. |
| Foley, P. |  | Nolan, R. |
| Genockey, M. |  | O’Brien, E. |
| Gilligan, T. |  | O’Brien, D. |
| Gogarty, P. |  | O’Connell, G. |
| Hendrick, E. |  | O’Connor, C. |
| Holland, S.  |  | O’Donovan, D. |
| Johansson, M. |  | O’Toole, L. |
| Kearns, P. |  | Richardson, D. |
| King, C. |  | Russell, R.  |
| Lavelle, W.  |  | F. Timmons |
|  |  | Ward, M. |
|  |  |  |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin.  |
| Directors/ Heads of FunctionA/Heads of FunctionHead of FinanceCounty Architect | L. Maxwell, T. Walsh, F. Nevin. C. WardL. Leonard. R. FitzGerald.E. Conroy.  |
| Senior Executive Officers | C. Hurson, M. Staunton,  |
| Administrative Officers | N. Noonan.  |
| Staff OfficerClerical OfficerIT. SupportSord | L. Abbey.D. Murphy,R. Saiz, R. MurrayA. O’Brien. |

The Mayor, Councillor Mark Ward, presided

Apologies were received from Councillors J. Graham, E. Higgins, and E. Murphy.

### At the outset of the Meeting the Mayor Councillor M. Ward proposed and the Members **AGREED** to vary the sequence of items on the Agenda in order to take Motion No. 12 first and to convey their condolences to the family of the Mayor of Gdansk Pawel Adamowicz.

### **M12/0119 It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor M. Ward**

That this council stand for a Minutes silence in remembrance of the start of the Irish War of Independence (21 January 1919 – 11 July 1921 (2 years, 5 months, 2 weeks and 6 days), We remember all those who lost their lives and to ask that the Chief Executive issues a report for discussion into what way SDCC will mark this important centenary up to 2021 and what way the People who fought in the war from SDCC will be remembered.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **H1/0119 CONFIRMATION AND RE-AFFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the December County Council Meeting on 10th December 2018which 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.

a) - Minutes of the December Council Meeting - 10th December 2018

### **H2/0119 REPORTS FROM AREA COMMITTEES**

**a) Rathfarnham/Templeogue-Terenure Area Committee - 11th December 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 – 12th December 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 – 17th December 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.

**d)** **Lucan Area Committee – 18th December 2018**

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

(No report)

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

### **H3/0119 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION PROCEDURE & FINANCE**

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

### **H4/0119 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

1. **Land Use, Planning & Transport SPC**

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

1. Minutes of Meeting

**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**](file:///%5C%5CSDCC-file3%5CRoads%5Crdsad%5CMeetings%5C1%20SPC%27s%5CLANDUSE%20PLANNING%20%26%20TRANSPORTATION%20SPC%5C2018%5CMay%5CMinutes%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](file:///%5C%5CSDCC-file3%5CRoads%5Crdsad%5CMeetings%5C1%20SPC%27s%5CLANDUSE%20PLANNING%20%26%20TRANSPORTATION%20SPC%5C2018%5CSeptember%20held%204th%20October%5CItems%5CH2%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**](file:///%5C%5CSDCC-file3%5CRoads%5Crdsad%5CMeetings%5C1%20SPC%27s%5CLANDUSE%20PLANNING%20%26%20TRANSPORTATION%20SPC%5C2018%5CSeptember%20held%204th%20October%5CItems%5CH4%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](file:///%5C%5CSDCC-file3%5CRoads%5Crdsad%5CMeetings%5C1%20SPC%27s%5CLANDUSE%20PLANNING%20%26%20TRANSPORTATION%20SPC%5C2018%5CSeptember%20held%204th%20October%5CItems%5CH5%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**](file:///%5C%5CSDCC-file3%5CRoads%5Crdsad%5CMeetings%5C1%20SPC%27s%5CLANDUSE%20PLANNING%20%26%20TRANSPORTATION%20SPC%5C2018%5CSeptember%20held%204th%20October%5CItems%5CH6%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**](file:///%5C%5CSDCC-file3%5CRoads%5Crdsad%5CMeetings%5C1%20SPC%27s%5CLANDUSE%20PLANNING%20%26%20TRANSPORTATION%20SPC%5C2018%5CSeptember%20held%204th%20October%5CItems%5CH7%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**

**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.**

1. Report of Meeting

REPORT OF LAND USE, PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

HELD ON THURSDAY 6th December, 2018

**PRESENT:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Members**  | **Council Officials**  |
| Cllr Emer Higgins (Chair) | Laura Leonard | A/Director of Services |
| Cllr. Mick Murphy | Brian Keaney | Senior Planner |
|  Cllr Ruth Nolan | Caitriona Lambert | Senior Executive Engineer |
| Cllr. Paul Gogarty | Sheila Kelly | Administrative Officer |
| Cllr Paula Donovan  |   |   |
|   |   |   |
|  |
| **Non-Elected Members:** |
|  Niall Durkan |
|  Siobhan Butler |

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

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

The Minutes of the meeting of the Land Use Planning and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on 4th October, 2018 were proposed by Cllr. Paula Donovan, seconded by Cllr Paul Gogarty and **AGREED.**

**H-1 (2) Public Lighting**

[ITEMS\HI 2 public lighting.ppt](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CDanielmurphy%5CDownloads%5CITEMS%5CHI%202%20public%20lighting.ppt)

Ms. Caitriona Lambert, Senior Executive Engineer presented the report. She informed the meeting that the Energy Efficiency Energy Plan 2014 hoped to achieve 33% reduction in energy use by 2020.

In order to meet this requirement, in 2014 South Dublin County Council embarked on an LED retrofit programme for its existing public lighting stock. Each LED retrofit typically translates to a 50% reduction in the energy use for that particular public lighting point.

What have we done to date?

* Since 2014, we have upgraded 9,928 PL points to LED across all electoral areas.
* This constitutes 35% of our total stock.
* The benefits not only include cutting our energy bill for these points by half, but also improving the quality of light on our roads and footpaths.

Caitriona explained that there are challenges in carrying out our targets namely:

* The issue centers around existing ESBN regulations regarding

 any change in the type of light fittings installed on these

 columns.

* The matter is being addressed at a national level as part of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding with ESBN. It is unclear when this MOU will be agreed and issued.

Following a discussion around the whole area with ESBN it was agreed that the Council would through the Chief Executive bring the matters up at a higher level to see if the issues could be progressed.

The report was **NOTED**.

**H-1 (3) County Development Plan**

[**ITEMS\HI 3 County Development Plan.pdf**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CDanielmurphy%5CDownloads%5CITEMS%5CHI%203%20County%20Development%20Plan.pdf)

Mr. Brian Keaney, Senior Planner gave the report.

Mr. Keaney answered queries raised by Councillors Michael Murphy, Paula Donovan, Mr Niall Durkan and Cllr Emer Higgins

The report was **NOTED.**

**H-1 (4) Regional Economic & Spatial Strategies & Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan**

[**ITEMS\HI 4 Regional Economic & Spatial Strategies and Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan.pdf**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CDanielmurphy%5CDownloads%5CITEMS%5CHI%204%20Regional%20Economic%20%26%20Spatial%20Strategies%20and%20Metropolitan%20Area%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf)

Mr. Brian Keaney, Senior Planner presented the report.

The report was **NOTED**

**The meeting concluded at 7.45 p.m.**

The Reports were **NOTED.**

### **H5/0119 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 – Q22 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/0119 TREES ON PUBLIC FOOTPATHS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to clarify who is responsible when trees on public footpaths in housing estates damage private houses, for example cracks in walls?

**REPLY:**

The perceived threat of damage by tree roots is sometimes a worry people have about trees near to buildings or built structures. Much of this concern is unwarranted as most trees growing near buildings cause no damage.  Lightly loaded structures, if they have inadequate foundations, may be affected by pressure exerted by tree roots or trunks. Tree roots are unlikely to directly penetrate sound footings.  The Council’s Tree Management Policy [**2015-2020 ‘Living With Trees’**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/tree-management/tree-management-policy/living-with-trees.pdf) sets out the Council’s policy in regard to trees that are perceived to be in conflict with the built environment.  Trees in an urban environment will inevitably conflict with people and infrastructure which creates pressures for trees to be pruned or felled. The Council recognises that trees under its ownership/management may be implicated in causing damage to nearby built structures but is also aware that this is not always the case and that nearby trees often get blamed for damage before a thorough investigation is carried out. Some other reasons for structural failure are inadequate foundation design, general structural failure, poor quality construction, nearby excavations or major works to adjacent properties.  Property owners will be expected to provide evidence from an appropriately qualified professional that a particular tree is or has caused damage to their property and that all reasonable engineering alternatives have been explored before felling will be considered.  Where evidence is provided which demonstrates a Council owned tree is the cause of damage, the Council will take appropriate action on a case by case basis.

### **Q2/0119 HOMELESS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm the allocations policy for families presenting as homeless and in need of emergency accommodation including hubs; to ask if and when families are referred to appropriate other bodies to assist in the securing of HAP properties and to provide details of such; to ask for a report on the numbers of families and individuals presenting as homeless at present and during 2018 and 2017; and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

At the end of December, 2018 there were 628 housing applicants registered as homeless with the Council which included 298 families.

The Council's Allocations Scheme determines that priority be awarded to homeless persons, along with other specific categories of persons in need of housing.  Families and other applicants presenting as homeless, along with those applicants with other priority status, are provided with social homes where available and based on their respective times on list.

While waiting for availability of social homes, homeless families are supported by the Council's 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.

Allocation of spaces in the Council's family hubs at Springfield, Tallaght Cross, Abberly/High Street and Firhouse is generally made on a time on list basis. Exceptions may be made where there are extenuating circumstances but generally families moving to hubs will have spent time in emergency, night-by-night accommodation and/or have been self-accommodating before moving into a family hub. Family hubs are considered part of the current response to homelessness by providing a progression from self-accommodation and emergency accommodation allowing those options to become available for other families who may become homeless.  Being accommodated in family hubs then provides families with some time to source more secure accommodation through Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) tenancies or social housing.  The sourcing of HAP for these families is now supported by the Council's two placefinders as well as key workers from Focus Ireland for those families in the High Street Hub (Abberly) and Tallaght Cross (managed by Tuath Housing). As families progress from family hubs to HAP or social housing, places in the hubs are then offered to other homeless families.

The place-finder roles within South Dublin County Council assist families and individuals either in temporary emergency accommodation or at risk of homelessness to find private rented accommodation using 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.

Families placed in family hubs at Tallaght Cross, Abberley/High Street, Springfield and Firhouse also have access to key workers and support services to source HAP rentals and prepare residents for viewings as well as helping to address many other issues for those families.

There are currently a total of 299 families on the homeless list including the families currently in the family hubs. There are currently 121 families accommodated in the four family hubs operating in South Dublin.

As requested, the breakdown of applicants registered as homeless with the Council on a month-by-month basis for 2017 and 2018 is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Single (M)** | **Single (F)** | **Couples**  | **Families**  | **Total** |
| Jan-17 | 192 | 48 | 2 | 195 | 437 |
| Feb-17 | 193 | 46 | 2 | 206 | 447 |
| Mar-17 | 201 | 51 | 2 | 205 | 459 |
| Apr-17 | 202 | 52 | 2 | 213 | 469 |
| May-17 | 204 | 54 | 4 | 199 | 461 |
| Jun-17 | 181 | 46 | 7 | 182 | 416 |
| Jul-17 | 207 | 47 | 10 | 198 | 462 |
| Aug-17 | 210 | 50 | 11 | 194 | 465 |
| Sep-17 | 207 | 48 | 11 | 181 | 447 |
| Oct-17 | 203 | 47 | 10 | 199 | 459 |
| Nov-17 | 221 | 48 | 10 | 187 | 466 |
| Dec-17 | 223 | 53 | 10 | 189 | 475 |
| Jan-18 | 224 | 53 | 10 | 201 | 488 |
| Feb-18 | 229 | 48 | 10 | 228 | 515 |
| Mar-18 | 222 | 48 | 11 | 269 | 550 |
| Apr-18 | 279 | 67 | 11 | 296 | 653 |
| May-18 | 259 | 60 | 8 | 300 | 627 |
| Jun-18 | 242 | 59 | 6 | 294 | 601 |
| Jul-18 | 251 | 63 | 7 | 297 | 618 |
| Aug-18 | 260 | 61 | 9 | 310 | 640 |
| Sep-18 | 255 | 59 | 7 | 300 | 621 |
| Oct-18 | 255 | 55 | 5 | 305 | 620 |
| Nov-18 | 258 | 60 | 5 | 299 | 622 |
| Dec-18 | 262 | 62 | 6 | 298 | 628 |

### **Q3/0119 FAMILY HUBS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on the number of families waiting for accommodation in homeless hubs, and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 121 families accommodated in the four family hubs operating in South Dublin at Springfield, Tallaght Cross, Abberly/High Street and Firhouse.

Family hubs are generally viewed as being part of the current response to homelessness by providing a progression from self-accommodation and emergency accommodation allowing those options to become available for other families who may become homeless.  Being accommodated in family hubs then provides families with some time to source more secure accommodation through Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) tenancies or social housing.  The sourcing of HAP for these families is now supported by the Council's two placefinders as well as key workers from Focus Ireland for those families in the High Street Hub (Abberly) and Tallaght Cross (managed by Tuath Housing).

As families progress from family hubs to HAP or social housing, places in the hubs are then offered to other homeless families.  There are currently a total of 299 families on the homeless list including the families currently in the family hubs.

### **Q4/0119 HOUSING SUPPLY 2018**

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

To ask the Chief Executive how many housing units were made available through direct build, purchase, partnership with AHBs, Part V and other streams during 2018, and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

A total of 558 homes have been delivered in South Dublin in 2018 through Build, Acquisition and Leasing in 2018, exceeding the delivery target for the Council of 539 homes.

Under the Build category, 469 new homes have been completed through direct Local Authority build, Approved Housing Bodies and Part V units in collaboration with developers.  In addition, the Council and Approved Housing Bodies have purchased 67 homes and a further 22 homes have been provided under Leasing schemes.

### **Q5/0119 GREEN ECONOMY**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if he will ensure that the green economy is fully supported in South Dublin County by aligning the work of the draft Climate Change Action Plan with the policies of the Local Enterprise Office, the work of the Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism SPC, the LECP, and other bodies and policies for which this Council has responsibility; will he consider grant schemes and other supports for new enterprises making a positive environmental impact, and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

Due to provisions in the [**Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/46/enacted/en/html), local authorities must have regard for the [**National Adaptation Framework**](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/documents/National%20Adaptation%20Framework.pdf) and the [**National Mitigation Plan**](https://www.dccae.gov.ie/documents/National%20Mitigation%20Plan%202017.pdf) in the delivery of services and operations, and produce adaptation plans in accordance with guidance provided in the Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines 2018. Planning authorities play an important co-ordinating role through the formulation and implementation of development plan policies and objectives, and particularly by influencing private sector development through the development management process. In effect, this process helps address mitigation and adaptation requirements, as policies and objectives are implemented in new developments on foot of permissions. County development plans, local area plans and Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) planning schemes can address climate change issues at a local level.

The actions in the Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2019 - 2024 have been gathered based on this remit. SDCC’s focus is on climate-proofing the areas that it has direct responsibility for. In areas outside its remit, SDCC will work to support the implementation of the sectoral adaptation and mitigation plans developed by government departments and other agencies.

The four Dublin Local Authorities developed the plans on the initiative of the councils' respective Environment Strategic Policy Committees. A series of workshops and seminars have taken place in 2017/18 involving the 4 Dublin Local Authority Climate Change working group nominees, Codema and the members of the 4 Dublin Local Authority Environment SPCs. The SDCC Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2019 - 2024 also involved stakeholders from across all departments within the council, key actions were developed collaboratively by departments and subsequently included in the plan as target actions.

An inter-departmental Climate Action Steering Committee has been established and working with the Climate Action unit and the Climate Action Regional Office will deliver the implementation, progress monitoring and updating of the actions contained within the plan.

The Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2019 - 2024 requires a Strategic Environment Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, public consultation on the plan will begin on Monday, February 11th, running for six weeks and ending on Monday, March 25th. The Mayor will launch the public consultation process for the plan in County Hall on Tuesday, February 19th. There will be public information sessions held during February and March. A presentation on the plan can also be made to the next meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism SPC.

The [**South Dublin Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 – 2021**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=49881)includes a series of economic objectives each of which identifies target actions and the key stakeholders involved. These actions are aimed at putting the appropriate infrastructure, enterprise and employment supports in place to improve the level and quality of economic activity across the County.

The [**Local Enterprise Office**](https://www.localenterprise.ie/southdublin) (LEO) provides financial grants, mentoring, training and other supports to assist new and developing micro-enterprises with job creation and sustainment in the County. The LEO operates a service level agreement with Enterprise Ireland, who also offer supports to companies through various funds that they make available. One of our LEO supported companies was successful in the recent “Disruptive Fund” from the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation. They are part of a consortium proposing a cooperative energy trading system, in the Tallaght area. [**https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Innovation-Research-Development/Disruptive-Technologies-Innovation-Fund/DTIF-Awards-Under-First-Call-2018.html**](https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Innovation-Research-Development/Disruptive-Technologies-Innovation-Fund/DTIF-Awards-Under-First-Call-2018.html)

The Council's 2019 Budget provided for the continuation of the [**Business Support Funds**](http://www.sdcc.ie/business/enterprise/business-support-funds) through a range of supports specifically aimed at increasing occupancy and activity in industrial areas to increase economic activity and support additional local employment. A full report on the Business Support Fund and its future direction was provided to the [**November 2018 Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism SPC Meeting**](http://intranet/cmas/viewmeetingagenda.aspx?id=1762) and further initiatives under the fund will be continue to be guided by the SPC. An assessment of the Business Support Fund is currently underway and will be discussed at an upcoming SPC. Consideration could be given to broadening the terms of the fund to enable supports to be made available to green economy projects.

The Council has been a key partner in the [**Dublin Action Plan for Jobs 2016-2018**](https://www.djei.ie/en/Publications/APJ-Dublin-2016-2018.html) and the proposed successor plan **The Regional Enterprise Action Plan to 2020** which aims to realise the full jobs potential of the Dublin region by stimulating enterprise and growth using the collaborative strengths of the region. The draft Action Plan is being currently finalised and it includes proposed actions to help Support Dublin enterprises to adapt to more sustainable practices.

### **Q6/0119 ACCESSABLE PLAYGROUNDS**

### **QUESTIONS: Councillor K. Mahon**

Can the Chief Executive report on what steps can be taken to ensure that play spaces are accessible to those in the county with mobility challenges, such as wheelchair users?

Are there plans to incorporate wheelchair accessible swings, for example, into the upcoming play space programme? Could additional facilities be incorporated into existing play spaces in the county parks? Does the Council monitor improving technologies and innovations around accessibility to amenities and the public realm?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council is committed to access and equality, SDCC adopted the Barcelona Declaration in June 2002. This EU-wide Declaration advocates the right of disabled people to equal opportunities, inclusiveness and integration. SDCC has been actively implementing the Declaration ever since through various actions and access initiatives. The extensive access works and initiatives which SDCC have undertaken over the past 15 years in particular have been focused on removing the barriers that create disability and exclusion in order to create an Accessible South Dublin County.

As part of the delivery of the Playspace Programme SDCC consulted with the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design and a universal design approach has been taken which recognises the diversity of the population and ensures that our playgrounds can be used by everyone.

Universal design places human diversity at the heart of the design process so that environments can be designed to meet the needs of all users. It therefore covers all persons regardless of their age or size and those who have any particular physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual ability or disability. It is about achieving good design so that people can access, use and understand the environment to the greatest extent and in the most independent and natural manner possible, without the need for adaptations or specialised solutions.

Much of the universal design is invisible to users and concerns things like siting the playgrounds in easy to reach places, having level entry points, having clear well placed signage and having easy to use equipment. We consider distance from car parking, access to the playground from surrounding areas and are aware that it may be the carer and not just the child who may have reduced mobility or any other disability.

Part of the brief for every playspace includes meeting the 7 principles of universal design listed below.

**Principles of Universal Design**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Principle**  | **Built Environment Example**  |
| **1. Equitable Use:** How well does the building, place or project appear to be fully usable, and appealing to a wide range of diverse users with differing ages and personal capabilities?  | Is there the same means of use for all users whenever possible, avoiding segregation – for example play equipment that everyone regardless of age, size, ability or disability can use with ease?  |
| **2. Flexibility in Use:** How well does the design readily adapt or offer multiple methods of use to enable a wide range of individual preferences and abilities?  | Does the Playground provide choice in methods of use, for example play equipment and the surrounding spaces designed to accommodate children of different heights, those with mobility difficulties, those who lip-read & those with visual difficulties?  |
| **3. Simple and Intuitive Use:** How well does the design make it simple for diverse users to understand the important features of the building, place or project?  | For example, is it easy to use the Playground & the play equipment for the first time?  |
| **4. Perceptible Information:** (Sensory abilities, e.g. vision, hearing, touch). How well does the design offer multiple use options for people, especially those with sensory limitations at any age and including the use of specialty equipment or strategies?  | For example, does the use of colour and materials provide visual contrast and/or tactile information to allow all children & adults regardless of age, size, ability or disability to navigate the Playground with ease?  |
| **5. Tolerance for Error:** (Features that promote safe use and reduce risk). How well does the design prompt or assist the user to minimize hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintentional interactions?  | For example, is the play equipment designed with easy access, well-designed handrails and good use of materials, finishes and colours?  |
| **6. Low Physical Effort:** How well does the design enable all users, including those with limited strength and stamina, to have a comfortable and effective user experience?  | For example, is the various play equipment provided easy to use for all children & adults regardless of age, size, ability or disability?  |
| **7. Size and Space for Approach and Use:**  (Efficient access and use for all user sizes) How well does the design enable users of diverse size, (including people who may use specialty equipment) to use the building, place or project?  | For example, are the spaces in the Playground designed with sufficient dimensions to allow all children & adults regardless of age, size, ability or disability to circulate and use the Playground with ease?  |

With regard to wheelchair accessible swings SDCC have investigated what is available on the market. All of the swings investigated to date have to be used under supervision and have to be segregated from other playground users with some type of fencing.  They are invariably large metal structures which have the potential to cause injury.  The swings need to be locked until needed and then locked again once the child has finished using it.  For this reason these swings are principally designed for facilities designed to meet the needs of wheelchair users and are not ideally suited for siting in public spaces.  We are aware of a number of public playgrounds in Ireland where these swings have been used but as they are segregated in those playgrounds they draw excessive, often unwanted attention, to those children using them and are therefore not very popular.

SDCC aims to have inclusive equipment rather than exclusive provision.  To allow for universal access to swings we install equipment such as basket swings or accessible swing seats which are suitable for wheelchair users and all other children.  We also have trampolines, spinners, slides, diggers which are wheelchair accessible and equal access is provided to natural play facilities and to imaginative play items.

SDCC have sought specialist advice on several occasions when designing playspaces and when analysing tenders and awarding contracts.  We are currently in discussion with Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland with regard to wheelchair accessible playgrounds.  They are consulting with their members all around the country and are going to report back to us on their findings.  We will be working closely with them in designing play facilities, including the refurbishment of Corkagh Park Playground.

The council is open to suggestions on how to improve accessibility in our playgrounds; and have received and implemented several innovative solutions from wheelchair users over the past few years. Post-construction accessibility audits have been carried out on several of our built playspaces. These audits have proved invaluable as a learning tool and have allowed us to incorporate changes into existing playgrounds and build these improvements into future playgrounds as well.

### **Q7/0119 CARBON CREDITS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for an update report on the Carbon Credits.

**REPLY:**

Carbon Credits or emission trading is carried out at a county or large industry level across the EU. For 2017, total national greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be 60.75 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO2eq). Agriculture, Energy Industries and Transport accounted for 72.4% of Ireland’s greenhouse gas emissions in 2017. Public Services account for 1.5% (0.906 Mt CO2eq) of emissions in 2017.

South Dublin County Council has the following targets in relation to energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction. South Dublin County Council is required to achieve a 33% improvement in Energy Efficiency by 2020, SDCC are well on the way to achieving this target. This is higher than the national target of less than 20% reduction. As a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, South Dublin County Council has also pledged to a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Some of the Key Actions South Dublin are currently pursuing include in order to meet the targets set above:

* The Heatnet project, a district heating project for the Tallaght Area, which will reduce carbon emissions by using waste heat. [**https://www.sdcc.ie/en/news/sdcc-secures-funding-for-innovative-tallaght-district-heating-system.html**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/news/sdcc-secures-funding-for-innovative-tallaght-district-heating-system.html)
* 5 New Electric Vehicles – the first step in the decarbonisation of the South Dublin County Council fleet. [**https://www.sdcc.ie/en/news/power-surge-for-south-dublin-county-council.html**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/news/power-surge-for-south-dublin-county-council.html)
* LED upgrades of the public lighting stock, currently 35% of the stock has been upgraded. The installation of LED lighting will continue in 2019 and beyond, with a target to replace 4000 by 2020.
* Lighting upgrades in the Council owned buildings to LED. County Hall has 2,600 which will see a 44% reduction in energy consumption when replaced.

The council will continue to invest in structural and behavioural change to enable the transition to carbon neutral, climate resilient county.

### **Q8/0119 VACANT HOMES**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to please outline the procedure whereby the Council can "take over" a house that is so neglected that it is a hazard in an area e.g. subject to anti-social behaviour and where neighbours have real grounds that it could be a fire hazard and to include in the report the number of such houses (a) considered (b) taken over by the Council in 2018.

**REPLY:**

In accordance with the National Vacant Housing Re-use Strategy 2018-2021, each local authority was required to identify the scale of vacant homes and develop plans to address vacancy within their administrative area, by categorising those homes by location, ownership and reason for vacancy and subsequently to identify those properties that have the potential to be refurbished and made available for use.

The Council’s Vacant Homes Officer acts as central advisory point for property owners in terms of providing advice, assistance and information on these schemes which are available to bring properties back to use.

There are several initiatives in place with the aim of encouraging and enabling privately owned vacant homes to be brought back into use whether to the social housing or private rented market including:

* Repair and Leasing Scheme
* Buy and Renew Scheme
* Long- Term Leasing
* RAS
* HAP

The aim in the first instance would be to encourage property owners to engage with the Council and find solutions for the vacant home units. However, Local Authorities do have a range of legislative powers available to deal with under- utilised and derelict properties for example through the Compulsory Purchase Powers and Derelict Sites Legislation.

The Council has power under Section 14 of the [**Derelict Sites Act 1990**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1990/act/14/section/14/enacted/en/html) which provides specifically that a local authority may acquire by agreement or compulsorily, any derelict site situated within their functional area.   In accordance with Section 20 of the Act the Council may use any derelict site acquired by them for any purpose connected with their functions.  It should be noted however that persons with an interest in such acquired property may apply to the Council not less than 12 months after the making an order to acquire the property, for compensation.

Vacant properties can be reported via [**http://vacanthome.ie**](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=jJOE2wL3y_Q1YXrxCkROYD7gW2g0XOuP_9rvhS5U8Q&s=344&u=http%3a%2f%2fvacanthome%2eie%2f)

### **Q9/0119 PARKING OF HGV'S IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the observance or breach of the prohibition on Parking of Trucks in residential areas and to include in the report the number of complaints from residents on such parking during the period Jan - Nov 2018 and if there has been any prosecutions he is aware of for same.

**REPLY:**

The parking of HGV's with maximum design gross vehicle weight in excess of 7.5t is prohibited in residential areas in South Dublin County Council's Administrative area.

The enforcement of Section 38(1)(a) of the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) regulations 2012 is a matter for An Garda Siochana.  We are not aware of any prosecutions in this regard. There are no current issues with complaints from residents on such parking.

###  **Q10/0119 TREE MANAGEMENT**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to present an update on his plans to utilise the extra resources approved in the Budget in respect of the Tree Program; will he detail how this will deal with so called emergency attention to trees and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

Additional provision of €300,000 has been made in the 2019 budget for tree management.  In applying this additional resource, the number of trees pruned/removed is targeted to increase by 1000 or 33% over the 2018 level (2012 trees). The trees listed for attention will be drawn from existing requests for works to be carried out in the first instance. The number of trees planted is targeted to increase by 300 to 1,300 over the planned level of 1000 trees planted in 2018.  There will also be focus on tree stump removals with a target of 2000 tree stump removals for 2019.

### **Q11/0119 LITTER / GRAFFITI**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm plans to deal with the menace of Litter and Graffiti through 2019; will he appreciate the concerns of communities in respect of this matter and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

Litter / Graffiti is managed in accordance with the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended, and through the Council's supporting Annual Action Plan developed as part of the Litter Management Plan (LMP) 2014-2019.

A review of the Litter Management Plan 2015-2019 will commence in Q1 2019 and a new statutory Litter Management Plan is expected to be in place by 31st December 2019.

There is a three strand approach to managing these issues under the existing plan as follows:

1. Enforcement & Licensing
2. Management and maintenance of the public realm
3. Communication, education and awareness

 Initiatives undertaken in 2018 and progressing into 2019 include but are not limited to the following:

* Planned / Scheduled public realm works including scheduled and reactive clean-ups
* Village cleansing
* Road sweeping
* Litter Bin provision and replacement
* Anti-Dumping Grant applications to DCCAE via WERLA, if repeated into 2019
* Enhanced education and awareness programmes
* Dog Foul campaigns - cinema and radio advertisements / dog foul bags / green dog walker promo
* Social Credits Scheme - Landscaping projects / community clean-ups supports / Small Paint Schemes
* Dublin Street Canvas pilot
* Graffiti removal
* Litter Warden Patrols - Fixed Penalty Notices
* Use of CCTV/ emerging technologies

All these measures are aimed at improving the aesthetic appearance of our county in the interest of improving quality of life and our economic development potential.

Significant improvements have been achieved in this area which have been reflected in 2018 IBAL and Tidy Towns reports, and once again the Council is very appreciative of the community and voluntary efforts that are made alongside the Council’s work to bring about these positive changes.

### **Q12/0119 DUBLIN FIRE SERVICE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to table a report on plans for the continued provision of fire services in the County through 2019 and will he make a statement in the matter.

**REPLY:**

As South Dublin Council is in a formal “Section 85” arrangement with Dublin City Council in respect of the delivery of the fire service, Dublin City Council undertakes Fire Services functions on behalf of this Council, and as such is responsible for the making of the Fire Service Emergency Operational Plan on our behalf under [**Section 26 Fire Services Act 1981.**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1981/act/30/section/26/enacted/en/html)

This plan details a schedule of all organisational elements of the provision of fire and emergency operations and depicts the required organisation structure, personnel, equipment, fire stations, water supplies, training, procedures, all resources and other related matters. The [**current plan**](https://www.dublincity.ie/councilmeetings/documents/s15947/Section%2026%20-%202nd%20Draft%20Chapters%205%2010%20and%2015.pdf) details existing  arrangements within the fire authority and also set out strategic plans and targets for the fire authority for 5 years.

Dublin Fire Services (DFS) also provides emergency ambulance and rescue service for the 4 Dublin Local Authorities, servicing a total population of circa 1.37m. DFS has a staff of approximately 1,000 and operates on an annual budget of €126m (2018 Budget) of which SDCC contributes 18.47% of the nett costs.

Based on prediction the SDCC 2019 budget provision / contribution is €19,621,200.

DFS provide a fully integrated Fire based Ambulance and EMS service and its Fire Protect/Prevention Activity includes

* + Fire Safety Certs. (Building Control Act)
	+ Inspections (Fire Services Act)( Management, Technical)
	+ Referrals
	+ Events(Concerts, Sport, Festivals)
	+ Liquor Licences
	+ Petroleum Licences (Dangerous Substances Act)
	+ District Court, High Court, An Bord Pleanala
	+ Community Fire Safety

During 2017 DFB responded to 2,815 fire related incidents covering Fires / Flooding / Medical/RTAs/ Special Services and 12,919 ambulance related incidentswithin the SDCC administrative area. During Storm Emma (28/2 - 04/03/2018) DFB responded to 286 incidents within the SDCC administrative area.

As on previous occasions if the Members so wish, the Council can issue an invitation to DFS to make a presentation to the Council in relation to the delivery of the service, particularly within the SDCC administrative area.   The last such presentation was delivered to this Council at the March 2018 OP&F meeting.

### **Q13/0119 CLIMATE CHANGE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm that he continues to monitor the wide spread concerns in respect of the challenge of Climate Change; will he outline his further proposals to deal with the matter and will he make a statement.

**REPLY:**

The four Dublin Local Authorities have developed Draft Climate Action Plans on the initiative of the councils' respective Environment Strategic Policy Committees. A series of workshops and seminars have taken place in 2017/18 involving the 4 Dublin Local Authority Climate Change working group nominees, Codema and the members of the 4 Dublin Local Authority Environment SPCs. The SDCC Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2019 - 2024 also involved stakeholders from across all departments within the council, key actions were developed collaboratively by departments and subsequently included in the plan as target actions.

An inter-departmental Climate Action Steering Committee has been established and working with the Climate Action unit and the Climate Action Regional Office will deliver the implementation, progress monitoring and updating of the actions contained within the plan. This plan has recently been presented to members at the Environment Public Realm and Climate Change SPC in November and to the four Area Committees in December.

The Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2019 - 2024 requires a Strategic Environment Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, public consultation on the plan will begin on Monday, February 11th, running for six weeks and ending on Monday, March 25th. The Mayor will launch the public consultation process for the plan in County Hall on Tuesday, February 19th. There will be public information sessions held during February and March.

Working with Dublin’s Energy Agency, Codema and the Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office (CARO), South Dublin County Council will progress the Plan through the public consultation, approval and implementation phases.

The Plan looks at both Adaptation and Mitigation Actions and the South Dublin Draft Plan has a total of 115 Actions over 5 Action Areas.

The 5 Areas of Action are:

* Energy and Buildings,
* Transport,
* Flood Resilience,
* Nature Based Solutions
* Resource Management.

The Four Main Targets of the Plan are:

* 33% improvement in Energy Efficiency by 2020, SDCC are well on the way to achieving this target.
* 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, South Dublin County Council is a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, thereby committing to this target.
* Making Dublin a climate resilient region by reducing the impacts of future climate change related events.
* Actively engage and inform our citizens on climate change.

 Some of the Key Actions South Dublin are currently pursuing include:

* The Heatnet project, a district heating project for the Tallaght Area, which will reduce carbon emissions by using waste heat. [**https://www.sdcc.ie/en/news/sdcc-secures-funding-for-innovative-tallaght-district-heating-system.html**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/news/sdcc-secures-funding-for-innovative-tallaght-district-heating-system.html)
* 5 New Electric Vehicles – the first step in the decarbonisation of the South Dublin County Council fleet. [**https://www.sdcc.ie/en/news/power-surge-for-south-dublin-county-council.html**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/news/power-surge-for-south-dublin-county-council.html)
* LED upgrades of the public lighting stock, currently 35% of the stock has been upgraded. The installation of LED lighting will continue in 2019 and beyond, with a target to replace 4000 by 2020.
* Lighting upgrades in the Council owned buildings to LED. County Hall has 2,600 which will see a 44% reduction in energy consumption when replaced.
* Continuing the SDCC programme of tree planting. A 30% increase in the planting target for 2019, the number of trees due to be planted next year to 1,300.
* Delivering flood alleviation Schemes on our main rivers, namely the Camac, Whitechurch and Poddle Flood Alleviation Schemes. Working with the OPW and Dublin City Council. [**http://www.poddlefas.ie/**](http://www.poddlefas.ie/)

### **Q14/0119** [**PROMOTION OF COUNCIL SERVICES**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=62128)

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

To ask the Chief Executive if he would update members on actions regularly taken to promote the Councils Services to the wider public and will he make a statement in the matter.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council seek to inform and engage with citizens through numerous channels so as to reach the maximum number of people possible.

The Council has been, and remains, cognisant of the changing media landscape this decade and so has looked to utilise digital channels in recent years. In 2018, the primary Council website ([**www.sdcc.ie**](http://www.sdcc.ie)) was redesigned and relaunched to allow for greater usability among users. Mainly due to this, the website experienced a 13% growth in users in 2018 whilst page views grew by 26% to nearly 3,500,000. The Council also launched project-specific websites for the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme and MyDoorStep.ie that brings accurate and up-to-date information on both initiatives to all those who are interested.

A focus has also been given to growing the reach and engagement of Council posts on social media. As of early December, the Council’s analytics showed that reach across the primary Council Facebook channel grew by 24% in 2018, with 2,887,663 people seeing the Council’s posts. Engagement with the Council’s posts grew by 51% in 2018, with 200,231 people interacting with our posts on Facebook. Reach on Twitter grew by a further 59%, with 2,120,625 people viewing South Dublin County Council’s tweets. Engagement also grew by 67% with over 50,000 people interacting with our tweets.

The Council’s Instagram page was also relaunched in an effort to reach a younger audience within the region and has over 1,000 followers now with a reach of over 14,000 people through posts this year. The Council’s LinkedIn page was also relaunched to further diversify our audience and has grown its followers by 27% to 1,918 in that time.

The Council also works with local and national media through the issuing of press releases, by responding to frequent press queries and through inviting members of the media to key events. The Council takes out advertising through the press and other avenues, such as bus shelter posters, to allow for greater visibility of our services and initiatives.

Further to this, when a new initiative is launched the Council often send mailshots to residents and businesses in the County or to specific areas of it. Two examples of this in 2018 were the launch of the Clondalkin Electoral Area’s €300k Have Your Say initiative, where local community groups, charities, businesses and residents were all contacted during the promotion phase, and the launch of the Council’s rental statement website and app, which saw direct mail sent to Council tenants outlining the benefits of the initiative. The Council also produces citizen newsletters twice a year, with the summer edition being posted to every household in the country. In 2018, the Council expanded the locations where the South Dublin County Today citizen newsletter is distributed to. New locations include the Courtesy desk and Citizen’s Information booth in The Square shopping centre, as well as post offices in Rathfarnham village and Newcastle. It is also distributed to council offices, libraries, The Civic Theatre, Rua Red, and community centres and made available online.

Whether through the libraries, the Community, Recreation and Sports department or other sections, the Council organises and hosts hundreds of events and public meetings for citizens that are inclusive, accessible and look to promote the services the Council provides to its citizens.

The Council is always looking at new methods of engagement with our citizens, however, and welcomes any potential input from elected members on ways of doing so.

### **Q15/0119 HOMELESS EXPENDITURE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report that outlines how much has been spent for 2018 on hotels, family hubs and emergency accommodation for those in need within SDCC and to ask for a breakdown of each cost?

**REPLY:**

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) is provided by Dublin City Council as the lead statutory authority in the response to homelessness in Dublin and adopts a shared service approach across the Dublin region on behalf of South Dublin County Council, Fingal County Council and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.  The costs of the provision of family hubs and other emergency accommodation is administered and paid for by DRHE.

The Council made provision of €3.4m in the 2018 budget for homeless services which includes a contribution towards the DRHE costs.

### **Q16/0119 ILLEGAL DUMPING 2018**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report that outlines how much has been spent for 2018 on illegal dumping with SDCC and to provide a breakdown by Local Electoral Area?

**REPLY:**

It is not possible to break down the cost of managing illegal dumping on an electoral area basis.

The final 2018 cost for the county at large is not yet available but is estimated to be c. €1,327,760 made up as follows:

**Cleanup Costs incl Payroll, Fleet, Materials         Waste**  **Disposal**

€1,143,347                                                            €184,412

### **Q17/0119 HOMELESS FIGURES 2017/2018**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the Homeless figures for 2018 by month and how this compares to 2017?

**REPLY:**

The following table shows the number of applicants registered as homeless in the County on a month-by-month basis for 2017 and 2018:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2017** | **2018** |
| January | 437 | 488 |
| February | 447 | 515 |
| March | 459 | 550 |
| April | 469 | 653 |
| May | 461 | 627 |
| June | 416 | 601 |
| July | 462 | 618 |
| August | 465 | 640 |
| September | 447 | 621 |
| October | 459 | 620 |
| November | 466 | 622 |
| December | 475 | 628 |

### **Q18/0119 PLAYSPACE PROGRAMME**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report that states progress on playspaces within SDCC and outlines how much has been spent on the Playspace Programme, how much is left in the playspace budget and what playspaces are to be done before the end of the current Council?

**REPLY:**

The Playspace programme in South Dublin County Council is a programme that commenced in 2014. The provision of playgrounds in the recent past concentrated on large, formally equipped and defined playgrounds with highly specialised equipment. The playspace programme aims to provide opportunities to play. This type of play allows children to develop their imagination, challenge their abilities, deal with risk and, critically, adapt their own environment.

The Play Space programme was established following the identification of a deficit of play areas for children in this county. This was documented in the policy document ‘Developing play in South Dublin County’ adopted by the Council in June 2006. However the development of play areas / playgrounds did not result in the immediate aftermath, due to the economic downturn and lack of development generally.

In recent years there has been an emphasis on the physical and mental well-being of children. Over the past 20 years there has been a significant rise in levels of obesity, childhood diabetes, high levels of stress and increasing sedentary lifestyles. A report the National Taskforce on Obesity estimates that 300,000 children in Ireland are now obese.

Due to a variety of factors children are less likely to wander far from their own homes. A study in the UK documented the distance children travelled from home for play; the results showed that the distance children roam from home on their own has shrunk by 90% since the 70s; 43% of adults think a child shouldn't play outdoors unsupervised until the age of 14. So children are increasingly confined to the immediate environs of their homes.

**Delivery of Playspace Programme 2014-2018**

The Play Space Programme is in the final stages of completion. The programme has been very successful to date and has progressed through the significant active involvement from elected members and local communities, and direct engagement with children; this Council is recognised favourably for creating new play opportunities close to where children live. A new type of play space delivery has been achieved – using the concepts of Natural Play and where children can create their own play opportunities.

**Delivery to date**

The following 17 play space projects have been constructed to date at an overall cost of approx. €1.2 million**:**

* Griffeen Avenue, Lucan
* Sarsfield Park, Lucan
* Hermitage Park, Lucan
* Riversdale Estate
* Quarryvale Park, Clondalkin
* Rathcoole Park
* Knockmitten Park
* Aylesbury Park
* Avonbeg Park
* Sean Walsh Park
* Brookview Estate
* Killinarden
* Kilnamanagh (Tree Park and Park Hill)
* Kingswood
* Beechfield Park
* Ballycragh Park
* Glendoher Park

**Planned Programme:**

The total budget to complete the play space programme in is approximately €1,200,000. Design and build construction tenders are underway for a number of sites throughout the county. The following playgrounds are currently being completed as part of the 2014 - 2018 playspace programme.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location**  | **Status**  |
| Ballymount Park  | Contractor appointed  |
| Bancroft Park  | Contractor appointed  |
| Glendown  | Contractor appointed  |
| Jobstown Park (large)  | Design complete- Tender date Jan 2019  |
| Lucan Demesne  | Contractor appointed  |
| Tymon Limekiln  | Contractor appointed  |
| Whitechurch  | Contractor appointed  |
| Willsbrook Park  | Contractor appointed  |
| Perrystown  | Tender stage  |
| Greenhills  | Tenders received  |
| Newcastle (Dept of ED site)  | Contractor appointed  |
| Collinstown Park (large)  | Design complete - Tender date Jan 2019  |
| Delaford  | Delayed due to school developments  |
| Old Bawn  | Tender stage  |

 **Upgrade works**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location**  | **Status**  |
| Willington refurbishment works  | Procurement complete- appointment stage  |
| Tymon natural playground- sensory play area  | Procurement completed- Appointment stage  |
| Ballycragh fencing and upgrade  | Procurement completed- appointment stage  |
| Whitechurch Community Centre  | Procurement stage  |
| Corkagh Park  | Tender stage  |

Consultations were carried out at Boot Rd and Cannonbrook and it was decided not to proceed with playspaces at these locations; however existing playgrounds are being reviewed for any upgrades required. Going forward new playspaces can continue to be built at other locations where appropriate, however future projects will require funding approval through an annual capital budget allocation.

### **Q19/0119 REGISTER OF ELECTORS**

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

To ask the Chief executive for a report that outlines what will be done by SDCC to get people to register to vote in the upcoming Local and European elections?

**REPLY:**

The draft register for 2019/2020 was published on the 1st November, 2018 and was circulated to all Garda Stations, Libraries, Post Offices, County Registrar and all Councillors, TD’S and MEP’S. The draft was 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 will develop and implement a Communications Campaign on Valuing Your Vote that will use all available communication methods including print media, the Council web site, social media, poster campaigns in Council buildings and on bus shelters within the county as well as supporting national campaigns led by the Department to promote 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. Work is currently ongoing in preparation of the publication of the live register on the 1st February 2019.

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.

### **Q20/0119 CLEANSING & ILLEGAL DUMPING**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the overall costs of cleansing of illegal dumping for years 2015, 2016 ,2017 and 2018?

**REPLY:**

The following outlines the costs associated with illegal dumping for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018\*\*

       **Payroll/Fleet/ Materials       Waste Disposal         Total**

* 2015    €1,306,255                  €191,255                 €1,497,381
* 2016    €1,378,200                  €144,016                 €1,522,217
* 2017    €1,286,681                  €152,861                 €1,439,542
* 2018    €1,327,760                  €184,412                 €1,327,760\*\*

 \*\* 2018      figures yet to finalised

### **Q21/0119 YELLOW TRAFFIC SIGNS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the yellow traffic signs with black shapes (photograph attached) that have been erected recently throughout the County.

What are they for?

What cost was this to the Council?

**REPLY:**

These are the M50 Major Emergency detour route signs.

When a major Emergency occurs on the M50, the traffic management centre in conjunction with the gardai and affected local authorities activate the emergency route. The activation is communicated through the Variable Message Board overhead gantry system on the M50 and relayed through all the media traffic channels. There was no cost to the Council.

### **Q22/0119 CHOICE BASED LETTING**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the amount of people housed through CBL on the 1 bed, 2 bed, 3 bed and 4 bed list in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 in total and both north and south of the Nass Road and how many people are currently waiting on 1 bed, 2 bed, 3 bed , 4 bed properties and what is the average waiting time for each on CBL?

Top of Form



**REPLY:**

The tables below detail:

1. the number of allocations made through Choice Based Letting (CBL) between 2015-2018 by housing need (i.e. no. bedrooms required), area (i.e. North of the Naas Road (NNR) & South of the Naas Road (SNR), and year;
2. the current number of applicants waiting on accommodation by area and housing need;
3. the average waiting time for allocations made through Choice Based Letting (CBL) in 2018 by housing need and area.

1.  CBL Allocations 2015 to 2018:

|  |
| --- |
| **CBL  ALLOCATIONS  2015-2018**  |
| ***Area***  | ***NNR***  | ***SNR***  | ***NNR*** | ***SNR***  | ***NNR*** | ***SNR***  | ***NNR*** | ***SNR***  | ***NNR***  | ***SNR***  | ***TOTAL***  |
|    | ***1 Bedroom***  | ***2 Bedroom***  | ***3 Bedroom***  | ***4 Bedroom***  | ***Area Total***  | ***Area Total***  | ***TOTAL***  |  |  |  |  |
| ***2018***  | *4*  | 2  | 11  | 21  | 26  | 82  | 2  | 2  | 43  | 107  | 150  |
| ***2017***  | *4*  | 6  | 10  | 25  | 21  | 6  | 1  | 0  | 36  | 37  | 73  |
| ***2016***  | *3*  | 6  | 25  | 26  | 18  | 15  | 0  | 2  | 46  | 49  | 95  |
| ***2015***  | *0*  | 1  | 3  | 34  | 4  | 13  | 0  | 0  | 7  | 48  | 55  |

 2. No. of Current Social Housing Applications:

|  |
| --- |
| **Housing List by Areas of Preference**  |
|    | TOTAL\*  | NNR  | SNR  |
| 1 Bedroom  | 2,917  | 1,605  | 2,153  |
| 2 Bedroom  | 2,766  | 1,694  | 1,970  |
| 3 Bedroom  | 1,385  | 933  | 917  |
| 4 Bedroom  | 167  | 115  | 114  |

\*It should be noted that some applicants have opted for both housing areas.

3. Average waiting time (years) for applicants applications housed through CBL in 2018:-

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***CBL AVERAGE COUNTYWIDE*** | ***NNR AVERAGE*** | ***SNR AVERAGE*** |
| 1 BED | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| 2 BED | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| 3 BED | 11 | 12 | 11 |
| 4 BED | 13 | 12 | 14 |

Bottom of Form

### **H6/0119 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H7/0119 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

**H8/0119 MANAGERS REPORT**

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

* 1. Finance Report

**Billing and Collection Statement**



**Use of overdraft facility**

Department approved overdraft facility = €25,000,000

No of days in Overdraft from 1st January to 21st December 2018 = 0

### Strategy Report

### Statistics Report

### The Reports were **NOTED.**

### **H9/0119 EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY 276 ARTHUR GRIFFITH PARK**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. Laura Leonard A/Director Land Use, Planning and Transportation and was **CONSIDERED**:

The attached report was CONSIDERED at the Lucan Area Committee Meeting on Tuesday 27th November 2018.

Following consideration of the report it was proposed by Councillor D. O’Brien and seconded by Councillor R. Nolan and AGREED:

“That this Committee recommends to the Council that the public right of way over the laneway to the rear of No. 276 Arthur Griffith Park, Lucan, County Dublin as shown shaded red on Drawing SRT/4/357 be extinguished”.

The decision regarding the extinguishment of a public right of way is a reserved function of the Council.

If the Council agrees to the recommendation, the following resolution is required.

“South Dublin County Council in pursuance of its power under Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993 hereby orders that the public right-of-way over the laneway to the rear of No. 276 Arthur Griffith Park, Lucan, County Dublin as shown shaded red on Drawing SRT/4/357 be extinguished”.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor M. Ward, seconded by Councillor P. Gogarty and **RESOLVED** that**:**

“South Dublin County Council in pursuance of its power under Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993 hereby orders that the public right-of-way over the laneway to the rear of No. 276 Arthur Griffith Park, Lucan, County Dublin as shown shaded red on Drawing SRT/4/357 be extinguished”.

**H10/0119 2019 PROGRAMME FOR TEENSPACES**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. Teresa Walsh Director Environment, Water and Climate Change and was **CONSIDERED**:

South Dublin County Council completed a consultation process with teenagers in 2018, which examined both active and passive recreational requirements for this age group. Background research was also carried out over the period to assess current level of provision for this group in the county. During the delivery of the 2014-2018 play space programme for younger children by South Dublin County Council, an issue that repeatedly emerged was the need to carry out a similar programme of facility provision for teenagers.

A report presented the preliminary findings of the teenage study and the draft recommendations to the Environment Public Realm and Climate Change SPC in May 2018 and to the May County Council Meeting.

Since then the Council carried out further consultation, which has been progressed with the Community Department and with youth groups and included direct engagement with teenagers in the county. Provision has been made in the 2019-2021 capital budget for a teenage facility programme commencing in 2019. The final report on the Teenage Study with the proposed programme of projects for 2019 is appended.

[**H10 b) Presentation**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=62214)

[**H10 c) Final Report**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=62216)

[**H10 d) Survey Results**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=62215)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Kearns, C, King, B. Ferron, M. Johansson, K. Mahon, M. Murphy, L. O’Toole, C. O’Connor, G. O’Connell and M, Ward.

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

 The report was **NOTED.**

### **H11/0119 REPORT ON CORPORATE PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS**

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

**Economic Enterprise & Tourism Development**

**Objective 1: Maintain a supportive business environment with job creation and retention at its heart**

* The implementation plan approved for the Dublin Regional Enterprise Strategy 2017-2019 was rolled out during 2018-partcularly progressing a proposed innovation centre for Tallaght.
* South Dublin County Council sponsored the third South Dublin Chamber Business Awards held on 19th October in Citywest Hotel.
* The Evaluation and Approvals Committee of the Local Enterprise Office has approved €497,500 for 18 projects, creating 49 new jobs immediately and with the potential to create a total of 232 new jobs.
* Over 650 clients have attended LEO training courses and mentoring services and a further 400 local business people attended Business Support Fund training programmes based on 2015 training needs survey completed in conjunction with Chamber.
* 30 Trading Online vouchers approved this year (last seminar held on 8th November) and 10 Technical Support Grant applications for Export assistance, including food branding, were approved in 2018.
* New Food Academy commenced in February 2018, with 5 South Dublin participants.
* 3 South Dublin clients commenced on new Accelerate Programmes in December 2017 and 2018.
* The business support fund financing has been agreed for Budget 2019 and the projects and supports funded will be reviewed by the SPC.
* Business Support Fund Area Improvement works completed in Cookstown Enterprise Park, Old Belgard Road, JFK with further projects progressing in Ballymount, Greenhills and Merrywell.

**Objective 2: Work with enterprise support agencies to increase foreign direct investment in South Dublin County**

* Grange Castle clients Interxion, Grifols, Microsoft and Takeda during 2018 have either commenced, completed or continue to build out, significant projects in the Park.
* Site disposals at Grange Castle to Amazon Data Services and Interxion Ireland and Grange Back up Power were approved during 2018.

• Eirgrid continued to construct the new substation in Grange Castle South and archeological resolution works will be completed in 2019.

* The delivery of the Grange Castle West Infrastructure Masterplan commenced with the publication of the Part 8 for the spine road and related infrastructure.
* Grange Castle now supports in excess of 5,200 jobs.

**Objective 3: Manage the assets of South Dublin County Council in a way that supports economic development**

* GCFM Ltdcontinues to maintain, operate and manage the Business Park.
* CPO acquisitions are being completed for the Adamstown Road which will be complete in early 2019.
* The 3rd Stand, Tallaght Stadiumhas been completed in 2018 and a report on the 4th Stand feasibility brought to the December Council meetings. The Stadium played host to a number of independent events such as Ice Rink, as well as Rugby, GAA and Women’s International Soccer matches.
* The Council’s property management function continues to proactively manage and administer the Council’s land bank.

**Objective 4: Maximise the contribution of arts, libraries, heritage and the Irish language to quality of life and our tourism experience**

* Construction commenced on the North Clondalkin and Tymon libraries.
* Libraries won 1st prize for South Dublin Reads Blog in Best Books and Literature Award 2018 (corporate category).
* Agreements completed with Creative Ireland and the Arts Council advancing implementation of the Arts Strategy 2016-2020.
* Libraries’ programme of events successfully delivered throughout the branch network including the Summer Stars Reading Programme, Science Week events and Craft Fairs at Tallaght, Ballyroan and Lucan libraries.
* Red Line Book Festival delivered 57 events across 14 venues throughout the county.
* Science Partnership initiative between South Dublin County Libraries, European Reading and Writing Foundation and Google, to engage young people and their families with Coding and STEM subjects.
* Local Studies/history section of Libraries as part of the Decade of Centenaries mounted an exhibition on World War 1.
* Implementation of Library Development Plan 2018-2022 commenced.
* Pilot programme commenced for ‘Toys, Technology and Training’ as part of increased focus on ICT and opportunity for those requiring additional supports.
* Implemented programmes under Healthy Ireland, right to Read and Work Matters in accordance with National Strategies.

**Objective 5: Put in place a tourism strategy focused on new product and brand development**

* The An Bord Pleanála oral hearing in relation to the Dublin Mountains project proposal was held in November 2018. A decision is anticipated in early 2019.
* The roll out of the Tourism Marketing Strategy and Implementation Plan continued in 2018.
* The initial meetings of the Round Tower Visitor Centre steering committee commenced in October.
* Red Line Festival in October 2018 included a broader range of venues, events and a wider marketing focus delivering increased visitor numbers.
* Gaelforce picked up the winner’s prize at the Event Industry Awards ceremony in Citywest Hotel for the Best Sporting Event 2018 which was held in conjunction with South Dublin County Council’s, Dublin Outdoors.
* A Part 8 for the extension of the Grand Canal Greenway to Hazelhatch was published in December 2018. The project will form part of the larger Greenway from Dublin Docklands to Shannon Harbour.
* A feasibility study for a “Canal Loop” between the 12th Locks on the Royal and Grand Canals crossing the Liffey at Lucan was commenced.
* Works were carried out on the Heritage out-buildings at Rathfarnham Castle and the project brought to market but as the response was disappointing will be reviewed early 2019.
* 28 shop Front Grant applications were approved in 2018 to complement ongoing village improvement works.

**Land Use Planning & Transportation**

**Objective 1: Implement an Annual Road Works Programme of maintenance and improvements**

* Public Lighting Improvement Programme (i.e. LED upgrade) –1,200 upgrades completed in 2018 bringing total complete to 9,928 or 35% of total public lighting network.
* Programme of installation of traffic calming ramps completed – 48 No. Ramps installed across the County in 2018.
* Footpath Repair Works Programme. In 2108 84,291 m2 of footpath repair works was completed across all areas of the County.
* Social Housing Estates Footpath Repair works programme continued with works completed in Brookview, Kilclare, Donomore, Old Tower Crescent, Lindisfarne, St. Ronans Park, St. Johns Crescent, Meile an Ri and Tor an Ri.
* Annual Roads Works Programme - In 2018 138,103 m2 of Road resurfacing works was completed across the County.
* Edmondstown Road – reinstatement and stabilisation works completed following unauthorised excavation.
* Storm Emma – 80 tonnes salt/grit per day spread over the course of the storm event.

**Objective 2: Maintain a professional planning and development management structure and processes**

* Increased Planning Activity with 2,983 units of Housing granted Planning Permission in 2018.
* Construction and planning activity progressing in Adamstown - by end 2018 – 2,000 units now complete, plus 1,499 active planning permissions.
* Vacant Site Register: 9 sites were placed on the register in 2018 with a further 10 sites under examination for inclusion.
* County Development Plan Variations, No. 1 Grange Castle West and 2 Vacant Sites Levy adopted by Council. Variation No. 3 Naas Road on public display before year end.
* National Planning Awards. 3 Projects nominated by the Irish Planning Institute 2018, Clonburris SDZ, Dodder Greenway, My Doorstep Property Portal.
* Local Housing Infrastructure Activation Fund (LIHAF). Celbridge Link Road and Tandy’s Lane Park progressed to detailed design.
* South Dublin County Council awarded €3 m from Urban Regeneration and Development Fund for projects in Tallaght and feasibility study for Naas Road following successful bid process.
* Draft Clonburris SDZ Planning Scheme Adopted by Council June 2018. Oral hearing scheduled January 2019.
* Draft Local Area Plan for Tallaght developed following pre-draft consultation process.

**Objective 3: Promote all modes of transport including walking and cycling to improve the movement of people within and beyond the county**

* Cycling Schemes progressed on Citywest Roundabout /Fortunestown Junction and Tallaght to Ballyboden walking & cycling route.
* Cycle/Pedestrian schemes progressing through detailed design on Monastery Road Walking Route, Wellington Lane Cycle Improvement Scheme, Dodder Greenway Cycle and Walking Scheme, N81 Cycling improvements, Grange Road Cycle Scheme, Canal Loop feasibility study.
* Belgard Square Link Road. Part 8 Report adopted and scheme progressed to detailed design.
* RSA road safety campaigns promoted and supported throughout the year.
* Bike week events and cycle training provided to schools across the County.
* Speed detection feedback VMS now installed in 16 locations across the County.
* R120 Adamstown Road Improvement Scheme including the link to the R134 Nangor Road - Construction works commenced in 2018, have progressed well and are nearing completion.

**Objective 4: Invest in Sustainable Communities and Quality of Life Initiatives**

* New speed limit bye-laws Adopted. 30kmh speed limit in place in all residential estates –monitored over 2018.
* Built Heritage Investment Scheme – 5 project approved and works completed.
* King Johns Bridge –studies to inform restoration work undertaken.
* Ballymount Gate House – survey works undertaken. Archaeological Impact Assessment and Ecological Report completed.
* River Liffey Heritage Project – Publication of ‘The River Liffey, History and Heritage’.
* Corkagh, the Life and Times of a South Dublin Demesne 1650-1960’ by renowned author Turtle Bunbury, launched by Mayor in June 2018.
* Support provided for Irish Crochet Lace Revival project.
* National Heritage Week August 2018 – schedule of events provided.
* Tallaght Village Phase 1 and Belgard Walkway upgrades completed.
* The Village Enhancement Works programme has continued with works finalised for Saggart and revised design plans for Lucan Village Green, Lucan Village Plaza being developed and Templeogue revised scheme approved.
* 98 School Warden supported crossing points in place.

**Housing Social & Community Development**

**Objective 1: Put in place a three year programme to supply social housing in the context of the Social Housing Strategy 2020**

* Social Housing Construction programme progressing with:
	+ 238 new homes completed in 2018;
	+ An additional 112 homes currently under construction at Killinarden, Owendoher and St. Cuthbert’s;
	+ Part 8 approvals in 2018 for a further 205 new social homes in St. Catherine’s, Homeville, Fernwood/Maplewood, Riversdale, Templeogue, Whitestown Way.
* An additional 320 homes delivered in 2018 through Part V, AHBs, CAS, CALF, Leasing and Acquisitions.
* Pre-planning application submitted to An Bord Pleanala for Kilcarbery Integrated Housing Project in December.
* Preparatory works are ongoing for delivery of 109 units at Corkagh Grange under the PPP bundle with contractor scheduled to commence on site early in 2019.
* Five new Traveller Specific Group Houses completed in St. Aidan’s Close, Brookfield.
* 308 social homes allocated.
* Social housing stock of 9,323 homes (at 30th November 2018) with a further 1,347 RAS and 966 Leased homes in the County.
* 1,834 private rented properties inspected (to mid-December).
* 218 Private Disability Grants issued.
* 2,605 active Housing Assistance Payment tenancies in the County including 599 new tenancies established during 2018.
* 1,258 new applications for social housing support were received (to mid-December).
* Place-finder service established to support homeless families accessing private rented accommodation.
* Abberley Hotel transitioned into a modern Family Hub and additional new Family Hub opened in Firhouse.
* 268 applications received for Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme with €25 million funding allocated by DHPLG.
* Project team has been appointed and has commenced work on delivery of Housing Integrated System.
* New Rent Statements website launched (<https://rents.southdublin.ie>).

**Objective 2: Take a leadership role in social inclusion and interagency co-operation**

* Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme targets met in 2018 for Targeting Geographical Disadvantage and Targeting Disadvantaged Groups.
* Review of all Community Pillar elements of the 2018 work programme of South Dublin Local Economic & Community Plan 2016-2021 carried out by LCDC.
* New Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy adopted.
* Successful Bealtaine Festival, Flavours of South Dublin Intercultural Festival and Social Inclusion Week events delivered.
* South Dublin Age Friendly initiatives delivered including:
	+ Support for development of two additional men’s sheds (2 additional in 2018);
	+ Approx. 900 installations of locks under Home Security Scheme;
	+ New Carbon Monoxide Alarm scheme launched.
* Joint Policing Committee conducted its annual review under the 2017- 2022 Strategic Plan.
* 31 Joint Policing and Local Policing Fora meetings held in 2018 including public meetings in Tallaght, Clondalkin, Dublin 12 area and North Clondalkin.
* South Dublin County Education Bursary Awards held in IT Tallaght in October.

**Objective 3: Promote health, wellbeing, recreation and activity to improve quality of life**

* The Healthy County Steering Group delivered a number of initiatives in 2018 including:
	+ Annual Health & Wellbeing Week (with over 90 events);
	+ “We Quit Campaign” programmes;
	+ Workshops on Alcohol Misuse, Cancer & Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (in partnership with Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force);
	+ Community Health Talks (facilitated by Tallaght University Hospital).
* Connecting for Life Dublin South- the Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2018-2020 programme supported community groups addressing suicide prevention and mental health issues.
* MeDex project supporting Post-Surgery Recovery Clinical Exercise Programme at Tallaght Leisure Centre in conjunction with Dublin City University and Tallaght Hospital commenced and has been shortlisted as a finalist in the 2019 All Ireland Community & Council Awards in Best Community Health Initiative category.
* Pilot Social Prescribing Project launched in Tallaght.
* Strategic Plan for Development of Sport in South Dublin County launched.
* Approximately 560,000 visitors to Council’s Leisure Facilities.
* Over 202,000 participants in various sports programmes including:
	+ SPORTIVATE Sports Development Programme in partnership with Dublin & Dún Laoghaire Education & Training Board;
	+ 3,200 participants from 72 schools at Schools Cross Country finals in Corkagh Park;
	+ Late-Nite Leagues in partnership with FAI and An Garda Síochana;
	+ Marathon Kids School Programme for 21 schools.
* Tender process for Lucan swimming Lucan being finalised.
* School Sports Hall incorporating Community facility officially opened in Adamstown.
* South Dublin County Council and South Dublin Sports Partnership sponsored the South Dublin Amateur Sports Awards held in December.
* Bursary Sports Awards presented to students in IT Tallaght in December.
* Comprehensive coach training programme provided by South Dublin County Sport Partnership covering areas including child protection, disability awareness, sports science and first aid.
* Additional activities supported including:
	+ Operation Transformation programme for 24 organisations and more than 1,000 people;
	+ Disability sport programmes;
	+ Other targeted support programmes for specific target groups including Mojo, Tallaght Rehab Project, Asylum Seekers, Travellers, An Cosán;
	+ Bike Week including schools programme in Corkagh Park;
	+ Active Schools Week with orienteering in local parks;
	+ Four regular park run programmes across the County.

**Objective 4: Facilitate community leadership and development through community engagement and empowerment**

* Community Endeavour Awards held in December celebrating community effort and achievement in the County.
* €250k funding approved for community groups under new Community Infrastructure Fund with a further €193k provided under the Community Grants Scheme.
* €749k Funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development approved by the LCDC in 2018 for 129 Community Enhancement projects which included 9 Men’s Shed Projects.
* An Cosan appointed as the new host organisation for the South Dublin County Public Participation Network – PPN membership continues to grow with a range of supports available to members.
* The Council nominated and supported four local groups in the 2018 Pride of Place awards competition, two of which were awards winners: Muintir Chrónáin (Áras Chrónáin, Clondalkin) were Overall Winners in theCreative Place Initiative category and St Mark’s Youth Club (St Mark’s Parish, Tallaght) were Runner-Up in theUrban Neighbourhoods category.
* Over 350 Community events supported attracting over 100,000 participants.
* 33 Summer Projects/Camps delivered facilitating over 5,000 children.

**Environment, Water & Climate Change**

**Objective 1: Improve the appearance of our county in the interest of economic development**

* 1750 hectares of Park land and open space maintained. Due to the very dry summer there was natural disruption to the fortnightly grass cutting schedule. Over 6,260 hectares of grass continue to be maintained.
* The Public Realm Minor Improvement Works Programme consisting of approximately 54 small works schemes (such as construction of new footpaths, resurfacing, provision of boundary railings, gate automation) was delivered.
* Living with Trees - SDCC’s Tree Management Policy and Programme:  During 2018 3,147 trees were inspected; 1,469 trees were planted, 2,012 trees were pruned, and 1,163 trees were removed.
* The N81 Landscape Improvement Scheme progressed during the year with the formation of a framework for contractors for the construction of all phases of the N81 scheme. TII provided funding to upgrade the lighting along the N81, and the contracts for the landscape and lighting schemes were amalgamated to allow co-ordination. The detailed design and tender stages for Phase 1a) of both landscape and lighting works were completed and tendered with Clonmel Enterprises Ltd appointed construction contractor.
* Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme: Landscaping upgrade schemes have been completed on 2 roundabouts in Ballymount Industrial Estate and on Orwell Roundabout. Sponsorship interest has been confirmed for 2 roundabouts in Ballymount and 2 roundabouts on Templeville Roundabout.
* Green Flag obtained for Sean Walsh Park and Corkagh Park in 2018.
* Derelict Sites Register maintained with 309 Dangerous Buildings/ Derelict Sites inspected during the year, 17 sites on the Register at end of 2018 with 6 sites removed due to abatement of dereliction.
* There was continued use of emerging technologies and environmental monitoring initiatives including Litter/Waste CCTV and drones, Programmable Audio Devices to help combat graffiti, litter, illegal dumping and dog fouling installed in various locations. Engagement in SMART DUBLIN SBIR continued in anticipation of new low cost smart and innovative solutions coming to the market in 2019.
* Successfully secured funding under the 2018 (National) Anti-Dumping Grant Scheme for projects aimed at addressing illegal dumping and the development of effective deterrents to discourage people from engaging in this anti-social behaviour.
* South Dublin Canvas pilot launched in 2018 – 48 traffic signal utility boxes identified for use as part of a community arts anti-graffiti project bringing flashes of colour and creativity to the county. This project will continue into 2019.
* A total of 497.82 tonnes of waste was collected in 2018 from 700 bins serviced on 5 dedicated routes, 5,323.46 tonnes of illegally dumped material was collected and 7,305.18 tonnes of road sweeping/ gully cleaning waste collected and disposed of during 2018.

**Objective 2: Incorporate environmental sustainability in all policy-making and implementation programmes**

* 2018 Annual Service Plan agreed with Irish Water and service provided under a Service Level Agreement.
* 1,500km of water mains and 4 large storage reservoirs were maintained.
* 78.6ML of water was supplied per day, with an Unaccounted for Water (UFW) of 36%.
* 1,200km of foul and surface water sewers were maintained.
* 707 Water bursts and leaks were repaired.
* Water Quality was maintained at an average of 99.9% throughout the year.
* 74 Water Pollution Incidents were dealt with in the year.
* A programme of river clearing was carried out during 2018. The rivers and streams cleared were Poddle, Camac, Owendoher and Whitechurch stream.
* Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme [www.poddlefas.ie](http://www.poddlefas.ie) progressing, Hydraulic Model completed. Scheme and website launched by the Mayor Cllr Mark Ward and Minister Moran in October. Non statutory Public Consultation held in December. Work progressing on the design and on the EIAR. Whitechurch FAS scheme progressed with consultants RPS being appointed in October.
* Surface Water Schemes completed in 2018 include Rathfarnham Castle lakes restoration/regrading of watercourse to and from lakes, surface water alleviation on Glenmaroon Road and partial installation of surface water pipeline on Ballyowen Lane.
* Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2019 – 2024 was presented to the November SPC and December Area Committee meetings. Formal consultation process will be in initiated in early 2019. Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) established and operational in Q4 2018.
* Water Pollution Section has progressed work in the Priority Area for Action and other water bodies most notably with the securing of EU LIFE Funding for significant water quality improvement work in the Griffeen River catchment over the next four years.

**Objective 3: Manage our regulatory, licensing and enforcement roles together with the Environmental Protection Agency**

* 2018 Service Plan agreed with Food Safety Authority of Ireland.
* Under the 2018 Litter Management Action Plan 5560 complaints were investigated, 598 Litter Fines were issued, with 62 Court Appearances during 2018.
* River Basin Management (as applies to SDCC) progressed during 2018 including with liaison with the EPA and LAWCO (especially the Community Water Officer) throughout the year and with the newly established Local Authority Support and Advice Team (SAT) who have been tasked with improving water quality in the River Dodder, Owendoher and Whitechurch Stream known collectively as a Priority Area for Action. SDCC represented at the Regional Management and Operational Committee meetings as scheduled for the implementation of the RBM Plan.
* Over 190 Environmental Awareness workshops/information sessions for schools and communities delivered.
* 136 Schools registered in the Green Schools Programme.
* 2800 Social Credits Scheme actions.
* We continued to promote our waste prevention, reuse and recycling message through Environmental Awareness Programmes such as National Reuse Month October 2018: 12 ReUse initiatives for schools and 14 ReUse initiatives for the community.
* 68 existing recycling Bring Banks and 2 Recycling Centre provided.
* Control of Animals Legislation actively enforced under which 455 dogs and 146 horses were impounded in 2018.
* Contracts are in place for the seizure and detention of horses, and detention of dogs.
* New National Dog Register System was introduced in July and managed by An Post. The overall aim of the initiative is to improve the service to the customer, improve compliance by assisting enforcement, reduce back office staff / administration costs and close the gap between income and expenditure.
* Dublin Region Horse Welfare Working Group met 5 times (April / June/ August/ October/ December). Significant progress made in delivering Education & Indiscriminate Breeding programmes.
* Continued liaison with the Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Office in implementing actions and goals under the eight strategic objectives of the Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021. [www.emHYPERLINK "http://www.emwr.ie/"wHYPERLINK "http://www.emwr.ie/"r.ie](http://www.emwr.ie/) Site investigations/Environmental Risk Assessments have been completed at 2 historic unlicensed landfills which are identified as risk category A.
* WERLA 2018 work plan agreed by the 12 Eastern Local Authorities. [www.emHYPERLINK "http://www.emwr.ie/"wHYPERLINK "http://www.emwr.ie/"r.ie](http://www.emwr.ie/) Activities on National Priorities included 81 Tyre Retailer Inspections, 20 Companies investigated as potential Major Producers of Packaging, 55 C&D Site Inspections and 50 Second Hand Car Importers investigated resulting in 33 site inspections in relation to End of Life Vehicles Regulations.
* Continued active enforcement of waste legislation and regulations. 519 (Including 216 Household Food Waste Inspections) Waste Enforcement Officers Routine Inspections/Cases, 45 Warning Letter and 9 Enforcement Notices, 42 permitted facilities (Permits & COR's).
* Continuous review of Council’s Burial Ground services undertaken in 2018. Existing capacity reviewed - provision being made for short-term development at Esker Cemetery, and midterm development at Newcastle Cemetery which will be undertaken in 2019.

**Objective 4: Maintain and improve our parks and recreation areas to enhance our quality of life**

* Routine maintenance and allocation of 163 pitches provided by Council ongoing.
* Two year planned maintenance programme developed for replacement of goal posts, goal mouths and drainage works as required on pitches throughout the county.
* Detailed design for additional Tymon Park allotments completed and due for tender shortly.
* Playspace programme 2014-2018. 20 new playspaces delivered. A further 14 playspaces are currently under construction. Upgrade of existing regional playgrounds also underway with Corkagh Park to commence late 2018 / early 2019. Waterstown playground, funded as part of the participatory budget 2017 is under construction. A playground is also to be completed at Forest Hill as part of the 2018 participatory budget at Clondalkin, this is due for progression in 2019.
* Teenspace Programme: Interim report was presented to Council during the year following a teenage survey across a number of social media platforms. In depth consultation with youth organisations etc. followed. Report currently being finalised and projects being costed and detailed for 3 year programme to commence in 2019 with a number of facilities planned around the county.
* Sports Capital Grants 2015 Projects: Two sand based pitches in Tymon Park Completed. Lucan Athletics track was re-tendered following original construction contractor entering administration, new contractor commenced on site in Nov 2018. Airlie Heights tendered and currently at assessment stage.
* Sports Capital Grants 2017 Projects: Preparing tenders for design consultants.
* Hermitage Frame Football all weather pitch completed and formally opened.
* Pavilions programme; retendered for design and construction, currently at tender assessment stage. 2 further pavilions were submitted for Sports Capital Grants in 2018.
* Dodder Valley Mt Carmel: Phase 1: Ogham tree nature signs installed, trees due for planting winter 2018. Phase 2 topographical and site investigations completed and at detailed design stage for the delivery of an athletics track, Soccer Pitch and BMX Track.
* Camac Valley and Corkagh Park under the County Tourism Strategy. Corkagh Park: Tender for consultants for next stage re-tendered in November 2018.
* Ballymount Fishing Lake completed: Fish stocked and allocated to Killinarden Angling Initiative under an annual operating agreement in October 2018.
* Consultants 4 Global appointed to assist in the delivery of A Sports Pitch Strategy for the county. This project will deliver a strategy to guide the development, construction and management of sports pitches and pitch-based recreation into the future.

**Organisational Capacity and Accountability**

**Objective 1: Support local democracy including the policy making and representation role of our Elected Members**

* The ‘€300k Have Your Say’ Participatory Budgeting initiative was launched for the Clondalkin Electoral Area in March. The initiative would see over 1,500 ballots cast across 24 shortlisted projects after the public had submitted 230 ideas. There were 15 winning projects chosen to progress to completion by the end of 2019. The initiative was also shortlisted for a Europe wide Innovation in Politics award at a ceremony in Vienna in November.
* The Mayor of South Dublin County held a workshop with Liz Costigan Fleury on June 26th in The Green Isle Hotel titled ‘Building Healthier Habits’. The event was targeted at citizens of the county and sought to explore what it takes to stay focused on personal mental and physical health goals.
* The Annual Council Meeting took place on June 29th, with Cllr Mark Ward elected as the Mayor for 2018-19 and Cllr Cathal King elected as Deputy Mayor at the meeting. Appreciation was given to outgoing Mayor Cllr Paul Gogarty and outgoing Deputy Mayor Cllr Breeda Bonner at the meeting.
* Over 110 Council meetings are supported annually across meetings of the full Council, Corporate Policy Group, Area Committees, Organisation Procedures and Finance Committee, Strategic Policy Committees and the Joint Policing Committee, including a number of Special Council Meetings.
* Meetings with Oireachtas Members from South Dublin County were held on 16th July and 26th November.
* The Draft Register of Electors which will come into force on the 15th February 2019 and will remain in force until the 14th February 2020. Preparations are underway for the forthcoming Local Elections, European Election and Referenda scheduled for May 2019. Over 3,000 EPI application forms have been sent to potential   European Electors to ascertain if they will vote in Ireland or in their member state. Electoral Portal from Ireg  has successfully been migrated to the [Voter.ie](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=ht6P3FKgTaRJZLtDHk7nPkWDTLQDqXz2DQoAQTVzIw&s=344&u=http%3a%2f%2fVoter%2eie) live system. The dual processing phase is underway until the Voter.ie system goes live on the 1st February 2019. The Referendum Commission has recommend changes to be made to our current LEA boundaries to reflect demographic changes identified in the last census, and work commenced in 2018 to implement these changes.
* The Corporate Services department supported two referenda and a presidential election this year.

**Objective 2: Provide robust financial management, risk management, audit and corporate governance systems**

* The Audit Committee met four times during the year and delivered their work programme as circulated to the January Council meeting.  The Chair of the Audit Committee attended the March Council meeting and presented the Committee’s 2017 Annual Report.  The Chair also attended the October Council meeting and presented the Committee's report on their consideration of the Audit of the Annual Financial Statement 2017. Internal Audits were carried out during the year in accordance with the Audit Plan and recommendations made assisted in strengthening the control environment.
* The Corporate Procurement Plan 2018 – 2020 was adopted in early 2018 and is available at <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/business/procurement/>. The Corporate Procurement Plan is South Dublin County Council’s three year strategy to form the basis for strong financial management, risk management, audit and corporate governance systems for procurements by the Council. The Corporate Procurement Plan 2018 - 2020 builds upon the work commenced in the Corporate Procurement Plan 2015 - 2017. It outlines our procurement objectives and goals over the next three years.  Implementation of the Plan is ongoing, and the monitoring and implementation report for the first year of the Plan will be published in 2019.
* The Public Spending Code was published and submitted to National Oversight and Audit Commission on 31st May 2018.
* GDPR came into force in May 2018, and the Council’s existing Data Protection Policy was amended to reflect the new requirements under the legislation. Training and guidance was been issued to all staff on requirements in relation to the legislation and a cross-departmental Steering Group was established to monitor and manage compliance. The revised Data Privacy Policy and Statements were published on the Council website.
* The Council has processed and issued over 237 decisions in 2018 in respect of requests for information under Freedom of Information, Access to Information on the Environment, Data Protection and Ombudsman legislation.
* The Data and Record Management Steering Group continue to develop the Record Management and Retention Policy to assist Council staff in improving record management and in meeting the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
* In 2018 the financial welfare and effective financial management of the council was achieved and supported through a combination of measures. Budgets were actively monitored and controlled with quarterly reports in Revenue and Capital issued to Council and the Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government. Income was tracked through the production and review of monthly billing and collection statements to ensure income maximisation.
* The 3 year capital programme incorporating projects of €413.9m was produced for 2019-2021 while council adopted a 2019 Revenue budget of €242m on 15th November.
* The 2017 AFS was prepared by 31st March 2018 with subsequent audited accounts and audit report submitted to council and audit committee.

**Objective 3: Exploit advances in information and communications technology (ICT) to become more efficient and to improve services for local people**

* Works and technical supports have been provided to the voter.ie project enabling SDCC to partake in this regional project and advance our activity to a parallel running scenario during 2018. Whilst this was in progress we supported the preparations for the 2018 referendum, and presidential election.
* Integrated website and physical technologies delivered in a new dedicated publicly accessible space in County Hall assisting citizens with housing options and local knowledge of our County.
* A new Integrated Housing Computer System has been procured and project has kicked off for deployment and implementation during 2019.
* A redeveloped and redesigned website has been launched for South Dublin County Council featuring a digital first and mobile first design.
* The Council has made significant efforts in terms of its obligations with respect to ICT security and 800+ staff have been trained in ICT Security Awareness. Additional technical facilities have been provided to assist with patching, monitoring, incident detection and recovery options. We progressed an ISO 27002 Security Audit.
* Our internal “OASIS” geographic information system which was 20+ years in use has been completely replaced with Cloud based GIS technology.
* Facilities have been put in place to provide for Open Data automatic harvesting of South Dublin County Council Open Data to Various Platforms.
* Many significant technical upgrades were undertaken making the organisation more secure, efficient and effective at our respective tasks. These included replacement of our firewall, Active Directory Upgrade, Exchange email system upgrade, Commvault Backup upgrade and the initiation of a procurement exercise to provide for a complete replacement of the Council’s corporate network in 2019.
* The process of upgrading all the Council’s computer desktop and laptop hardware to Windows 10 continued in 2018 and will be completed in 2019 in advance of the removal of support on Windows 7 on 14th January 2020.
* Additional connectivity has been provided to the Council with new connections established to our Jobstown depot together with significant Government network interconnectivity.
* Establishment of PABX replacement specification – Strategy defined in terms of utilising Office 365 licencing to advance this project in 2019. Procurement of the necessary Office 365 licences were made in 2018.
* Significant progress has been made in support of the organisation’s e-Recruitment and Vacant Sites System requirements with a pilot and launch likely in 2019 while upgrades were concluded on Planning systems, Dog Licences, New Property GIS, Hummingbird Replacement and more.
* We assisted the organisation with more than 20,000 ICT support requests.

**Objective 4: Develop and maintain appropriate communication channels that enable proactive citizen**

* The Council’s website (www.sdcc.ie) was relaunched in May with a new design and communications strategy. The website has experienced a 13% growth in users whilst page views have grown by 26% to nearly 3,500,000.
* New websites were launched in October for the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme and MyDoorStep.ie.
* The number of social media followers increased by nearly 7,000 with over 27,000 followers now on our primary social media channels for the Council.
* Reach across South Dublin County Council’s Facebook channel grew by 24%, with 2,887,663 people seeing the Council’s posts. Engagement with the Council’s posts grew by 51% in 2018, with 200,231 people interacting with our posts on Facebook.
* Reach on Twitter grew by a further 59%, with 2,120,625 people viewing South Dublin County Council’s tweets. Engagement also grew by 67% with over 50,000 people interacting with our tweets.
* The Council’s Instagram page was also relaunched in an effort to reach a younger audience within the region and has approximately 1,000 followers now with a reach of over 14,000 people through posts this year.
* The Council’s LinkedIn page was also relaunched to further diversify our audience and has grown its followers by 27% to 1,918 in that time.
* Over 500 media enquiries were responded to in 2018.
* Over 90,000 queries were processed through customer services with an average response time of 4.5 days across the year.
* Over 180,000 telephone calls were handled by customer services, of which 90.4% were answered within 20 seconds.
* South Dublin County Council took part in Local Authority Twitter Day on the April 10th, promoting through social media the varied services that Local Authorities provide to citizens. The Council also took part in the sector wide #HousingFocus digital campaign in October.
* A summer and winter edition of the Citizen’s Newsletter was published.
* The Unwrapped 2018 programme of Christmas Festivities took place in December.
* The Community Endeavour Awards were held on the 1st of December.
* Social Inclusion Week took place from November 19th to 25th in conjunction with a host of organisations, including BelongTo, the HSE and more.
* National Accessibility Week was held from December 3rd to 10th with a focus on promoting through social media the work being done throughout the county.

**Objective 5: Support staff and organisational development and performance through the implementation of best practice in Human Resource Management**

* Health and Safety policy updated and signed by the Chief Executive on February 6th 2018. Regular Health and Safety Monitoring reports were presented to the senior management team throughout the year. Consultation with staff was achieved through quarterly Safety Monitoring Consultative Committees meetings. Each committee is chaired by the section line manager, and includes the safety representative, line managers and the Health and Safety Officer. This forum gives the opportunity for specific safety issues within each section/depot to be discussed. This is a valuable forum for addressing local issues and gives the safety representative an opportunity to raise safety issues on behalf of colleagues. Health and Safety Inspections were undertaken throughout the year, where non-conformances were identified corrective actions were identified, agreed and implemented.
* Workforce Planning Meetings are led by Senior Management on a quarterly basis to address staffing structures, grades, current and future skills requirements, mobility and the filling of critical vacancies and succession planning. The Workforce Planning Forum with Trade Unions met quarterly to update the unions on changes.
* Recruitment continues to be on-going but an e-recruitment system is being developed to manage the process more efficiently. There were over 70 recruitment competitions advertised and over 3,700 applications received and processed and 70 Interview boards arranged and supported. A total of 140 new staff joined SDCC in 2018.
* THE PMDS process continues to be embedded in competency frameworks for recruitment of staff, training for current and future roles and PMDS evaluation of performance throughout the year.
* The Learning and Development Unit arranged over 270 training courses in 2018 with over 3,500 participants. Over 50 staff were financially supported under the Council’s Scheme of Assistance for staff undertaking courses with third level institutions.
* SDCC retained its status as a “CPD Accredited Employer” for a further three year period from 2018 following an audit by Engineers Ireland and a new CPD Policy and Strategy has been finalised.
* The Competency Framework for PMDS continued to be rolled out for 2018 in line with commitments made under the Public Service Agreement. Staff at Supervisory and Management level were trained in people management skills, Grade VII completed a Management Development course and have all been provided with delegations in respect of their particular roles. A Grade VIII Management Development course is being devised for newly appointed staff to be delivered in 2019.
* The Lean Six Sigma programme continued to develop across the organisation bringing totals to 77 Yellow Belts, 2 Green belt and 1 Black Belt achieved across the organisation to date.
* A new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) was introduced for staff in 2019, providing 24/7 counselling by phone and in person to any employee who may require it. This service runs alongside the work of the Staff Welfare Officer to support employee well-being.
* A data analytics system was successfully installed within the HR System which will significantly improve the data reporting and analysis capacity within human resources to enable a more strategic approach to human resource management.
* The Payroll section continued to develop its expertise in working with the MyPay national shared service, preparation of the 2018 revised and 2019 payroll budget and preparing for the superannuation cut-over to MyPay in 2019. An Internal Audit was conducted during 2018 on the SDCC payroll function which was very positive and assigned a ‘substantial’ rating which is deemed the highest rating.
* The responsibilities under the Public Services Duty are being integrated into existing HR policies and procedures. All policies have been ‘plain English’ proofed by the Equality Officer and are now being circulated electronically via NetConsent.
* The Chief Executive gave Annual staff briefings to all staff over a number of sessions in Tallaght Stadium in April.
* The South Circular Staff Newsletter was published in July and December.
* A Staff Communications Survey was sent to all staff in November with 451 responses received, an increase of 39% on 2017’s number.
* Staff Service Recognition, Excellence and Innovation Awards Ceremony held on 29th of November with recognition given to all retired staff, staff with over 25 years’ service, staff with excellent attendance records and an Excellence in Service recognition was given to all outdoor staff for their work during Storm Emma.

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor M. Johansson

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

### The Report was **NOTED.**

### **H12/0119 AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER AND WORK PROGRAMME 2019**

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

In accordance with the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014, South Dublin County Council’s Audit Committee Charter and Work Programme 2019 are before this meeting for approval. The Audit Committee reviewed the Charter at their meeting held on the 19th of December 2018 and agreed that there were no changes required. The charter was approved by Council at its meeting held on the 15th of January 2018.

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

[**H12 Audit Committee Charter and Work Programme 2019**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=62138)

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

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

### **H13/0119 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME FROM CIRCLE VOLUNTARY HOUSING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE HOUSING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1992**

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

The construction and acquisition of properties under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) is through Approved Housing Bodies. This capital funding for the construction or acquisition of housing accommodation for the priority groups under CAS including:

* Elderly persons;
* Homeless persons (including “care leavers” exiting State care on reaching the age of 18);
* People with a disability, with a particular emphasis on moving people with a disability from a congregated setting into community based living.

Under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 it is a reserved function of a Housing Authority to determine the terms and conditions under which such assistance is provided.  In 2018, the Council approved funding through CAS for 18 housing units in the amount of €4.1m.  These applications were brought for approval at seven different monthly Council Meetings.

Following consultation with the Corporate Policy Group, it is now proposed to seek approval from the Council at the start of each year for an overall amount to assist Approved Housing Bodies to acquire or construct housing accommodation for the specific priority groups through CAS. This will improve the efficiency and responsiveness of the Council to assist AHBs in housing delivery.

It is estimated that approval for CAS funding in the sum of €7 million will be required to assist Approved Housing Bodies in this regard in 2019.

The units acquired or constructed under CAS will be reported to each Area Committee as part of a quarterly housing delivery update covering Part V, AHBs, CAS, CALF, acquisitions and leasing.

Accordingly, the following Motion is proposed:

“That this Council hereby approves assistance by way of grants up to the total sum of €7 million to various Approved Housing Bodies subject to the terms and conditions of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the acquisition and/or construction of appropriate housing units in South Dublin in accordance with the requirements of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992”.

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The Report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor C. King and seconded by Councillor P. Kearns and **RESOLVED:**

“That this Council hereby approves assistance by way of grants up to the total sum of €7 million to various Approved Housing Bodies subject to the terms and conditions of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the acquisition and/or construction of appropriate housing units in South Dublin in accordance with the requirements of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992”.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **C1/0119** Letter dated 4th December 2018 from Donegal County Council in relation to commemorating the first Dáil Éireann

### **C2/0119** Letter dated 17th December 2018 from Donegal County Council regarding the Irish Language Act in Northern Ireland

### **C3/0119** Letter dated 18th December 2018 from Kerry County Council regarding undocumented workers in the United States of America.

### **C4/0119** Letter dated 18th December 2018 from Monaghan County Council regarding the cost to over 70's applying for a driving license.

### **C5/0119** Letter dated 21st December 2018 from the Standards in Public Office Commission regarding an additional declarable interest to consider when completing the annual declaration form.

###  **Motions for discussion**

### **M1/0119 MAYORS BUSINESS – EVICTIONS**

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

“This Council agrees that forced evictions of tenants by private landlords using private security firms are unethical and draconian and therefore agrees to write to the relevant Ministers asking them to introduce legislation that will stop this barbaric behaviour and protect tenants from becoming homeless.”

**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 M. Ward, K. Mahon, B. Leech, M. Murphy, and G. O’Connell.

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

The Motion was **AGREED.**

 In accordance with **Standing Order No. 77** the Mayor, Councillor M. Ward proposed and the Members unanimously **AGREED** to suspend standing orders in order to deal with the following Suspensory Motion.

**SM1/0119** The following Suspensory Motion in the names of Councillors M. Johansson, E. Hendrick, M. Murphy, B. Leech, K. Mahon, C. King, F. Timmons, G. O’Connell, S. Holland, D. O’Brien, M. Genockey, B. Bonner, D. Looney, C. McCann, V. Casserly, P. Donovan, K. Egan, P. Kearns, R. Russell, M. Duff, L. O’Toole, M. Ward, C. McMahon, T. Gilligan, C. O’Connor, B. Lawlor, R. Nolan.

“We call on management to immediately halt the eviction of the families and work with other local authorities and the Clondalkin Travellers Development Group to find a solution for the families involved."

Mr. C. Ward, Director of Housing Social and Community Development made the following statement:

“The group of families illegally encamped on the old school site in Balgaddy moved there without permission during November 2018 and were served with appropriate notices under Section 10 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 as amended by the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 and the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2002.

 Following notices being served, the Council agreed to engage in mediation with the Clondalkin Traveller Development Group and the Irish Traveller Movement at their request.  Commitments were made that if the Council did not enforce the removal

before or during the Christmas period, CTDG , ITM and the families concerned agreed that the families would vacate the site at an agreed date (11th January 2019).

The Council attended on Friday to oversee the vacation of the site in line with the outcome of the mediation process. However, the families then declined to vacate the site unless an alternative site or housing was provided by the Council.  Staff were present to observe whether families would voluntarily vacate the site - as had been agreed and committed to by CTDG, ITM and the families themselves.  Machinery present was to be used to secure the area if and when the families left as per the original agreement. No other action was scheduled to take place on Friday.

Under the provisions of the Traveller Accommodation Act 1998, the Council is required to adopt and implement a Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) to meet the accommodation needs of the county’s indigenous Traveller Community, i.e. those families who have been resident in the County for at least three years prior to the adoption of the Council’s TAP.  The families currently at the site in Balgaddy have not been resident in South Dublin County and indeed are registered on the housing need assessments of various other local authorities.

The Council will now review its options having regard to the notices served in relation to the continued illegal encampment in this area.”

Councillors M. Johansson, G. O’Connell, M. Murphy, P. Foley and M. Ward spoke on the Motion.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

**SM2/0119** The following Suspensory Motion in the names of Councillors S. Holland, M. Ward, T. Gilligan, M. Genockey, R. Russell, B. Ferron, D. O’Brien, P. Kearns, D. Looney, P. Foley, E. Hendrick, M. Johansson, K. Mahon, M. Murphy, B. Leech, C. King, K. Egan, V. Casserly, M. Duff, P. Donovan, C. O’Connor, L. O’Toole, F. Duffy, F. Timmons, E. O’Brien, M. Duff, C. McMahon.

That this council objects to the use of the Public Services Card to verify the identity of those who sign up to the proposed new online voter portal, which is currently out for public consultation.  The legal basis for use of the PSC has not been ascertained, the PSC has been used to target welfare recipients, i.e. stopping and delaying payments if people did not sign up to it, there is no clarity over what data will be used for and by whom.  Until these issues are resolved, traditional methods of identification can and should be used, i.e. drivers license or passport.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M2/0119** As Councillor R. Nolan was absent from the Chamber the following Motion **FELL** in accordance with Standing Order No. 19:

“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.”

### **M3/0119 LOCAL POLICING FORUMS**

### The following Motion in the name of Councillor P. Donovan was **MOVED** and **RE-ENTERED:**

“That this Council recognizes the work of Local Policing Forums in serving our Communities and seeks to establish such policing forums across all remaining Area Committees in our County.”

**M4/0119 PUBLIC DRINKING WATER FOUNTAINS**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Johansson and seconded by Councillor D. O’Brien.

“That this Council, acknowledging the devastating effect of plastic bottles on the environment and the urgent need to tackle plastic pollution,  provide free public drinking water fountains in selected locations (to be discussed and agreed at local Area Committee Meetings) across the county for the public”

**REPORT:**

The Council proposes to install facilities at 3 of the larger parks; Corkagh Park, Tymon Park and Waterstown Park (which also host park run events). Public realm are also in discussions with the project managers for the county's village improvement schemes to consider locations in the towns/ villages / district centres within the county as part of the improvement proposals.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson, D. O’Brien, E. O’Brien, K. Mahon and B. Leech.

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

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M5/0119 PET FARM**

### It was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor M. Ward and moved without debate

“That the Chief Executive report on its formal plans for the management and upgrade of pet farms in the county on lands owned or maintained by this local authority and in particular outlines how the welfare of the animals under its care will be improved going into the future or whether the animals will be sent to animal shelters; and if a statement can be made on the matter.”

**REPORT:**

There is one pet farm type facility being maintained by South Dublin County Council. The pet farm is located at Corkagh Park and is being maintained by the staff based at the Corkagh Park Depot. The works undertaken by the staff with regard to the welfare of the animals includes their housing, feeding and watering. In the event of concerns regarding the condition of any animal, veterinary services are brought in to assess and undertake treatment as required. Some larger animals, which members of the public brought to the park for various reasons were unsuitable for a small pet farm location and have been re-homed.

The condition and layout of the existing housing facilities are currently under review and the area has recently been surveyed with a view to determining the future use of the pet farm; this will also form part of the review of the study for Corkagh Park to determine the type of facility which best suits this location going forward. While the pet farm is open to the public there is restricted access currently in place to facilitate the current upgrade works.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M6/0119 PROVISION OF CHANGING PLACES FACILITIES**

###  It was proposed by Councillor K. Egan and Councillor V. Casserly and seconded by Councillor P. Donovan

“<https://changingplaces.ie/build-changing-places/>

To call on the Chief Executive, following recent budget approval from the overseas training budget, to allocate funds and install Changing Places Facilities as per guidelines of Inclusion Ireland in Civic Offices Clondalkin, Clondalkin Leisure Centre, Tallaght Stadium and Ballyroan Library with the surplus funds being utilized by the Disability Consultative Forum to carry out an accessibility study on all council managed buildings to ensure we are compliant and functional for all in our community.

\*\*We acknowledge changing places is a step beyond current building regulations, however it is progressive, and offers our community dignity and freedom to participate fully in society.”

 **REPORT:**

 The provision of changing places facilities in County Hall has been included as part of our Corporate planned maintenance and upgrade projects list. Work is ongoing in identifying a suitable location that is large enough and easily accessible for those who will avail of the facilities. Once this location is identified Architectural Services will prepare detailed drawings in line with current guidelines. It has also been confirmed by Architectural Services that the proposed Lucan Swimming Pool has been designed to incorporate changing places facilities, as will the new library in North Clondalkin.

 The €30,000 moved, at the recent budget meeting, from H906 Conferences Abroad (20K) and D903 Town Twinning (10K) will be utilised to carry out an accessibility review of Council Buildings and any surplus available following the review will be directed towards any identified upgrades.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors V. Casserly, M. Ward and C. King.

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

The Report was **NOTED.**

### **M7/0119 SCRAMBLERS**

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

“That this South Dublin County Council calls on Charlie Flanagan TD Minister for Justice & Equality to confirm to the Council his plans, including new legislation,  to tackle the menace of Scramblers, asking the Minister to appreciate that this is now a serious issue of concern to many communities.

 **REPORT:**

 On-going problems associated with scramblers and quads in some parts of the county is causing distress to residents, sporting clubs and the Council as their quality of life being is impacted negatively through extreme damage to community open spaces and playing facilities.

 The council is actively working with An Garda Síochána, community representatives and residents of various housing estates in relation to this issue as well as with other relevant agencies towards a resolution of the misuse of scramblers/quads which is being experienced across the Dublin region.

 A High Level Task Force has been established with representation from the Dublin local authorities, the Gardai, Dept of Justice & Equality and Motorcross.   At the most recent meeting which was held on 14th November 2018 it was noted that a report had been prepared by the Attorney General for the Department of Justice & Equality in relation to legislation.  This report noted that the Attorney General considered that existing Road Traffic legislation could potentially be amended to extend the powers of the Gardai to deal with the relevant scrambler / quad issues, and given that the existing legislation is relative to the Department of Transport Tourism & Sport, any proposed changes to such existing legislation would have to be agreed with that department.

 It is understood that consultation between the various stakeholders is now required and it is understood that this consultation is scheduled to take place in early January 2019.

 Most recently South Dublin County Council engaged with Road Safety Officers, the RSA and Motor Cross Industry for a Christmas campaign aimed at parents to persuade them against buying scramblers as Christmas presents.

 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, K. Mahon, C. King, P. Foley, E. O’Brien, B. Leech, P. Kearns, F. Timmons, C. McCann, M. Duff, M. Murphy and M. Ward.

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

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M8/0119 IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER**

###  **It was proposed by Councillor L. O'Toole and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons**

That this Council requests the Chief Executive to look at ways in which this Council could hire an Irish Sign Language Interpreter. An interpreter could in turn teach volunteers within the community. Trained volunteers could then assist groups, organisations, sports clubs etc. in the many events we have within our community ‘too many to name’. We ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on this and to make comment on the proposal.

 **REPORT:**

 Irish Sign Language is the language which the majority of deaf people use in the Republic of Ireland. The Council often hires the services of ISL Interpreters to public events, to facilitate communication with deaf or hard of hearing staff, and to facilitate meetings where deaf people are participating. The Irish Remote Interpreting Service is also available at Customer Care in both County Hall Tallaght and Civic Offices Clondalkin (Booking is essential).

 The Irish Sign Language Act 2017, Section 7 sets out that public bodies are obliged to engage the services of an Irish Sign Language interpreter that is competent as verified by an accreditation in accordance with an accreditation scheme funded by the Minister for Employment and Social Protection.

 The Irish Deaf Society provides courses in learning Irish Sign Language recognised by QQI (Quality and Qualifications of Ireland) and all classes are provided by qualified Irish Sign Language teachers. The motion does not recognise the distinction between an Irish Sign Language Interpreter and a qualified ISL Teacher. As the learning of the language is a service provided by the Irish Deaf Society, and the Council has no remit in this area, it is not considered appropriate or necessary for the local authority to become providers of this service.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. O’Toole and V. Casserly.

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

The Report was **NOTED.**

### **M9/0119 It was proposed by Councillor B. Leech and seconded by Councillor D. Looney**

That this Council calls on the government to fund and construct a publicly owned dedicated dog pound to service the four local authority areas.

 **REPORT:**

 The responsibility for the provision and maintenance of dog pounds lies with the Local Authority under [**Section 15 (2) of The Control of Dogs Act 1986**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1986/act/32/section/15/enacted/en/html), which states that:

 *“Every local authority shall establish and maintain one or more shelters for dogs seized, accepted or detained under any of the provisions of this Act and may, with the consent of the Minister, enter into arrangements with any person for the provision and maintenance of such shelters and for the exercise by such person of the functions of the local authority under this Act in respect of the acceptance, detention, disposal and destruction of stray and unwanted dogs.”*

 There is no central government subvention for the functions undertaken by the Council under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 through which South Dublin County Council currently employs two full time Dog Wardens, and has a contract in place withDavid & Carol Stone t/a Ashton Dog Pound & Warden Services for the provision of pound services.

 The contract Agreement is dated 1st October 2017; 12 months initially with an option to extend for two further periods of 12 months. Contract expenditure per annum is €140K.

 The contract provides for the following in respect of SDCC administrative area:

* Provision of sufficient pounds or shelters that meet with the requirements of the Council’s veterinary Inspector
* Access for Council representatives at any time
* Acceptance of surrendered dogs
* Managing reclaims
* Rehoming / euthanasia in accordance with policy
* Maintenance of Section 14 Register of seized Dogs
* Monthly reports to SDCC on rehomed / euthanized dogs
* Notify Dog Warden of surrendered or seized dogs detained by Gardaí

 Not included:

* Dog Warden Service
* Pound does not issue notices under Control of Dogs Act.
* Pound does not issue Dog Licences (National System in place)

 The pound receives regular unannounced inspections from the Council's Veterinary Inspector - 15 inspections have been undertaken by our veterinary team in 2018.

 If the motion is passed, the contents shall be conveyed to the Department.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors B. Leech, D. Looney and M. Murphy.

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

The Report was **NOTED.**

### **M10/0119** The following motion which was proposed by Councillor B. Lawlor, Councillor E. Higgins, Councillor T. Gilligan was **WITHDRAWN** at the request of Councillor B. Lawlor with the agreement of the Members, in accordance with **Standing Order No. 16.**

That members directs the Council to initiate a variation to the Development Plan to alter the zoning matrix for the RW (Retail Warehouse) zoning by making ‘Shop Neighbourhood’ open for consideration and by the insertion of ‘Specialist Forms of Retailing’ as open for consideration.

### **M11/0119 TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2014-2018**

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

That this Council recognising the excellent track record of this Council in the provision of Traveller Accommodation, requests that the Chief Executive present a report on the operation of the TAP (Traveller Accommodation Programme) including progress to date and the new National Guidelines in relation to TAP and that a discussion take place on how effective and relevant the current approach is, given that work on the next TAP is about to commence so as to prepare a draft during the remaining lifetime of this Council to be signed off by the incoming Council in September 2019.

 **REPORT:**

 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 is currently being undertaken.

 [**Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government Guidelines**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=62123)

 [**Key Dates for the Implementation of TAP 2019-2024**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=62124)

Mr C. Ward, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development gave an over view of the Report.

A discussion followed with contribution from Councillors G. O’Connell, M. Johansson, F. Timmons, C. O’Connor, K. Mahon, M. Murphy, L. Dunne and C. King.

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

The Report was **NOTED**,

### **M13/0119 It was proposed by Councillor Emma Hendrick and seconded by Councillor Sarah Holland**

This Council declares a climate emergency, we call on central government to immediately take the radical measures necessary to drastically and sustainably reduce our carbon emissions.

We further call on central government to take all steps needed to profoundly reduce our contribution to anthropogenic climate change and to aid the international effort of preventing irreversible global warming and climate catastrophe.

 **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 E. Henderick, S. Holland, C. O’Connor, K. Mahon and B. Leech.

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

The Motion **AGREED.**

**Meeting Finished @ 6:50pm**

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

Mayor

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