



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council



September 2020

Chief Executive's Report

Grange Castle

About the Chief Executive's Report

South Dublin County Council's Chief Executive's Report is presented to elected members at Council every month and details important achievements across our various departments whilst highlighting key statistics and images from events that took place that month.

The report also highlights major news pieces and puts a focus on an area of the Council that doesn't always get the attention it deserves.

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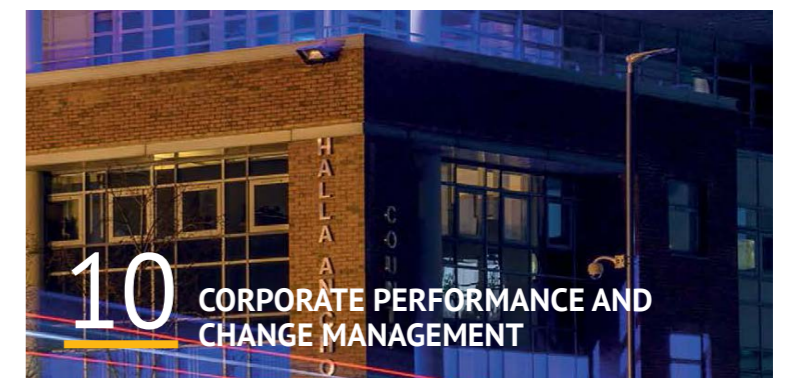
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LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION



July Stimulus Package

The Department of Transport has launched the July 2020 Stimulus programme and is seeking funding applications.

In Dublin, this funding process is being coordinated via the National Transport Association (NTA). The purpose of the programme is to provide funding support to local authorities in delivering quick walking and cycling improvements as well as changes in traffic management arrangements. Works can include resurfacing, reconstruction, cycle parking, crossing facilities, dished footpaths and reviews of speed limits. All funding needs to be spent by November 2020 and given the very short timescales, this is largely focussed on schemes that are ready to go. The Council has submitted a funding application to the NTA for circa €2.4m to deliver a range of upgrades and small scale improvements to footpaths and cycle paths across the County, as well as installing new cycle stands and lockers and new Urban Traffic Control Systems to help monitor and manage traffic flow.



Traffic in the County

The Council's Urban Traffic Control System (SCOOT) enables the Council to control traffic lights in 14 locations in the County and to collect data for statistical analysis. The team compared traffic data for the months of April 2019 and April 2020 and this showed a 58% reduction in traffic movement. A further study comparing July 2019 and 2020 showed a decrease of 10%.

County Development Plan

The Mayor launched the review of the County Development Plan on 31 July 2020 and this will run until 28 September 2020. Given current restrictions, public consultation during this time will be more of a challenge and it will be important that we all promote and help to direct local communities to the Council website to review information and provide comments. As part of the process of community engagement, the planning team will be hosting several community engagement webinars.

day 16 September at 19.00. The seminar will be a live event where members of the planning team will give short presentations on the content of the plan and will host live Q&A sessions.

A virtual consultation room has also gone live on the Council's website where members of the public will be able to visit a highly interactive, user-friendly website to find out more information, leave comments and even talk directly to the planning team about any questions they may have.



County Development Plan

Extensive public consultation has been taking place.

Templeogue Village

The Council has approved a Part 8 to deliver improvements to Templeogue Village. The types of works set to be delivered will include improved and widened public realm, an improved environment for pedestrians and cyclists, new lighting, planting and seating. As part of preparing the design, there has been a significant amount of engagement with local businesses and the Tidy Towns team. Works were initially intended to start on site earlier this year, however, due to COVID, the scheme was paused. The works should now start in early October and last for approximately six months.



Works are due to commence in Templeogue in early October



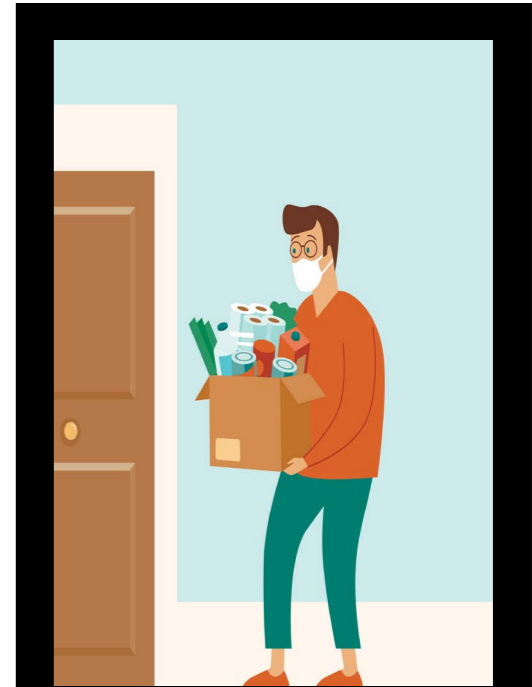
Social Housing Assessments

The Minister of Housing, Planning, and Local Government has directed each housing authority to prepare a summary of social housing assessments (SSHA) for its administrative area on 2 November 2020. The results of these summaries identify the level of social housing support needed nationally as well as informing national housing policy.

To complete the assessment between now and the November deadline, the Council has to:

- Review households that were approved for social housing support before 10 April 2019,
- Ask households to confirm that they are still seeking social housing support, and,
- Update households' current circumstances, including housing situation, household composition and income.

The Council will be undertaking a communications programme to make all housing applicants aware of the SSHA.



Community Helpdesk

The Council's COVID-19 community helpdesk is still open and here for you. The helpdesk was established by the Council's COVID-19 Community Call Forum and works with State agencies and community and voluntary groups to provide supports and services to vulnerable people who need them. The helpdesk is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 1 pm.

New Social Housing Developments

The next phase of the Council's Social Housing Build Programme, which will provide a further 50 new homes, will shortly commence on three sites across the County following the completion of tender processes and the appointment of contractors. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) has granted funding approval totalling €12.84m for these developments which were previously approved by the Council's Elected Members under the Part 8 Public Consultation process.

The first of the developments, to be named Catherine's Row, is located at St. Catherine's, Knockmore. This scheme is a traditional build

project which will deliver 12 new homes comprising five 2-bedroom units and seven 3-bedroom units at a total cost of €2.8m.

Another development is a design/build project at Homeville on the Old Knocklyon Road which will be called Watercourse Grove and is situated in the Firhouse/Bohernabreena local electoral area. The project cost here is €4.11m for 16 new homes of which nine will be 2-bedroom homes and seven will be 3-bedroom homes. The final project in this tranche of new houses will be a first phase of 22 new homes at Riversdale/Mayfield in Clondalkin. This will provide nine 2-bedroom units and thirteen 3-bedroom units at a cost of €5.93m. The development, which will be named Mayfield Park, will eventually provide 43 new homes.



New Social Housing

The Council continues to provide new homes in the County.

Park Fit / Park Yoga

Park Fit/ Park Yoga was first organised by South Dublin County Sports Partnership in the summer of 2019 and proved very popular drawing a wide and varied range of participants. The restrictions imposed during COVID severely impacted on group activities and prevented Park Fit / Park Yoga from going ahead. However, with the easing of restrictions allowing our sports partnership team to again organise outdoor events, the Park Fit / Park Yoga programme re-commenced in July, providing free aerobics and yoga sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout July and August in Corkagh Park.



Park Fit / Park Yoga went ahead in July and August in Corkagh Park.

ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT



Grange Castle Pocket Park

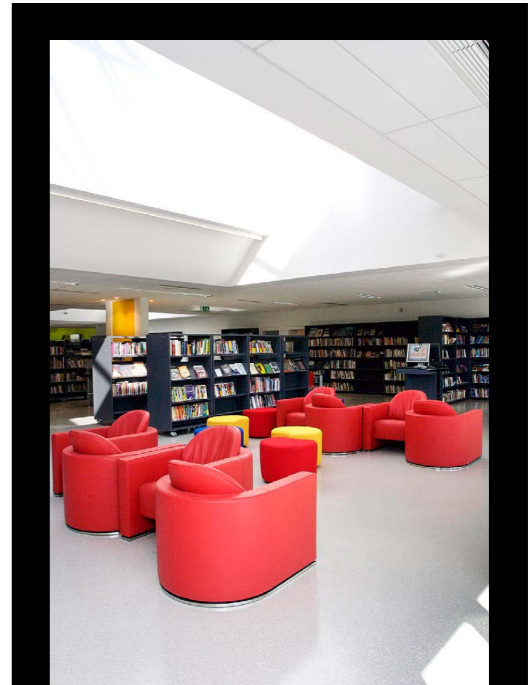
Conservation works have been carried out to Grange Castle that included the development of a new public park around the castle situated at Grange Castle Business Park.

The development consisted of:

- The conservation of Grange Castle, a Protected Structure and Recorded Monument,
- The construction of a public park around the castle with landscaping and public realm improvements to the area.

The proposed works were carried out following established good practice for conservation. The design of the new build, modern elements and overall context of the proposed development allow a very important historical, archaeological, architectural and cultural site to be maintained and utilised in a positive and viable manner.

James Oliver Hearty & Son Building & Civil Engineering Contractors was the main contractor on the development.



Library Events

South Dublin Libraries continue to offer a range of events. Among them, Mindful Chair Yoga is running throughout September and offers online classes that include mindful stretching, breath-work and relaxation while the Let's Talk Menopause webinar takes place online on 21 September. You can sign up for either event by visiting www.sdcc.ie/en/events.

Contracts signed for Phase 1 of the Grange Castle West Access Road

South Dublin County Council recently signed a contract with Clonmel Enterprises Ltd for the provision of Phase 1 of the Grange Castle West Access Road. The total road development will consist of a raised cycle path and separate pedestrian walkway, underground utilities and services, such as gas, telecoms and more, a dual and single carriageway with average corridor widths of 34m and 25m respectively and much more.

This vital piece of infrastructure will assist in unlocking the significant development potential of currently zoned Enterprise and Employment undeveloped lands to the West of the existing Grange

Castle Business Park. The entrance to the new road will be from the recently upgraded R120.

Grange Castle Business Park is a South Dublin County Council-owned Business Park promoted in association with IDA Ireland to attract major strategic investment to South Dublin. Located in Clondalkin, the business park is approximately 3km west of the M50 Orbital Motorway and is close to the strategic road and main-line rail connections to the rest of Ireland. Grange Castle is within 10 kilometres of the City Centre and enjoys easy access to Dublin Airport and Dublin Port.

The Main Contractor for Phase 1 of the road contract is Clonmel Enterprises Ltd.



Grange Castle West Access Road

Contracts have been signed for Phase 1 of the works.

Heritage Trail App

Building off a successful launch in early 2020 and with the rise of 'staycationing', this summer, residents and visitors to the County have been using the South Dublin County Heritage Trail app to experience an interactive guided tour of historic and scenic locations in the County.

The app is fully interactive, user-friendly and highlights the history and heritage of Clondalkin village whilst drawing attention to the Round Tower Visitor Centre as a focal point of the trail. It is available for both Android and Apple and is available to download right now.



Grange Castle Pocket Park opening.



CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Local Electoral Areas

South Dublin County Council consists of 40 elected members representing seven electoral areas who were voted on in the 2019 local elections. The seven local electoral areas (LEAs) in South Dublin County are:

- Clondalkin,
- Firhouse-Bohernabreena,
- Lucan,
- Palmerstown - Fonthill,
- Rathfarnham - Templeogue,
- Tallaght Central and
- Tallaght South.

LEAs and the number of members to be elected in each are specified in a statutory instrument for each area. Members of local authorities are elected in these every five years at local elections. These were most recently set by a 2018 Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee report which reviewed each existing LEA and made recommendations based on population changes highlighted in the 2016 Census. You can find the elected members for each South Dublin County LEA on www.sdcc.ie.

Register of Electors

To check if you are on the register, please visit www.voter.ie and enter your details. Those not registered can add themselves to the Supplement to the Register through the online Voter.ie system with a verified MyGovID account. Voter.ie is a joint initiative involving the four Dublin local authorities. Forms can also be downloaded from www.sdcc.ie to register or amend details.

Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024

The Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024 is available online in both English and Irish on www.sdcc.ie. The Corporate Plan provides the vision and strategic direction for South Dublin County Council over the next five years.

Councillors and staff of South Dublin County Council are guided by and committed to the following core values in their everyday activities.

Customer Service - We are committed to providing an accessible, courteous, consistent, impartial and responsive service.

Sustainability - We will act in a responsible, sustainable way regarding finance, the environment,

community affairs and socio-economic issues.

Inclusiveness, equality and accessibility - We will prioritise social inclusion, equality of access and opportunity, and the needs of the most vulnerable people in society when we design and deliver services.

Innovation, creativity and diversity - We will look at new, creative and different ways to deliver services and solve problems, and will encourage the people, groups and organisations we work with to do the same.

Accountability and transparency - We will communicate clearly and openly with people, and we will be transparent in all our decision-making.



Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024
The Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024 is available on www.sdcc.ie.

You can download your own copy of the Corporate Plan by visiting www.sdcc.ie.

Customer Care

The Council's customer care team has continued to deliver services to the public throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Once the initial lockdown of the country was announced in March, the customer care team moved to serve the public from their homes to ensure the Council continued to operate and serve the public.

From April to July 2020, a total of 25,199 customer contacts were made with over 90% closed within their initial deadline, a testament to the work the team carried out during those first months of the pandemic.



Customer Care Centre, County Hall, Tallaght.

ENVIRONMENT WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE



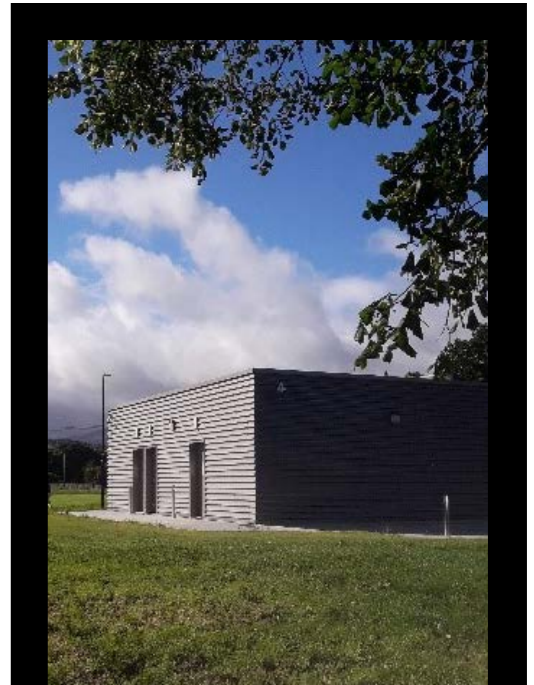
Energy Efficiency

The annual Energy Review carried out by CoDEMA on behalf of South Dublin County Council presents the Council's 12-month performance on Climate Action with special regard to our energy use and our greenhouse gas emissions.

The key targets of 33% improvement on our Energy Efficiency by 2020 and 40% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, both relative to our 2009 baseline figure, are outlined in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

Since 2014, the Council has been actively engaged in a programme of upgrading the public lighting stock energy efficient LEDs. To date, approximately 11,000 lights have been replaced.

The 2019 Energy Review concludes that SDCC has achieved a 34.4% improvement in Energy Efficiency since 2009, reaching our target one year ahead of schedule. In addition, SDCC has reduced CO2 emissions by 33.6% since 2009.



Sports Pavilion Programme

In line with the Council's Sports Pitch Strategy the pavilion construction programme is underway with the completion of a new pavilion at Dodder Valley-Old Bawn Park. Construction has started on the next pavilion in the programme which is at Griffeen Valley Park in Lucan. The Part 8 (planning stage) for the third pavilion at Corkagh Park was also recently agreed by the Council and will commence thereafter.

South Dublin's Innovative Use of Drone Technology

Local Authorities were recently surveyed for examples of innovative solutions implemented during the initial stages of the current pandemic, which allowed Local Authorities to maintain services. The Local Government Management Agency survey findings stated: "As the closest level of government to citizens, local government has been challenged to develop and implement innovative solutions to the way it operates in response to COVID-19".

Of the 216 innovative projects submitted nationally, the Council's Waste Enforcement use of drone technology for waste facility inspections, was one of four case studies published, highlighting the

benefits of innovative thinking to maintain public services.

Due to social distancing restrictions, physical inspections of the 50 permitted waste facilities in the County had not been possible. To ensure the waste facility operators comply with permit conditions, enforcement inspections must be maintained. Waste Enforcement Section, in conjunction with facility operators, developed a procedure to carry out remote inspections of waste facilities using Drones and Microsoft Teams. The use of Drones and Microsoft Teams allowed a virtual tour of the site without the Waste Enforcement Officers entering the facility. The developed procedure allowed waste facility inspection regime to be maintained, whilst ensuring the integrity of the inspection outcome.



Using Drone Technology

The Council's innovative use of drone technology in waste enforcement has been highlighted.

Collinstown Park

The Council is delighted to announce the recent completion of the playspace at Collinstown Park.

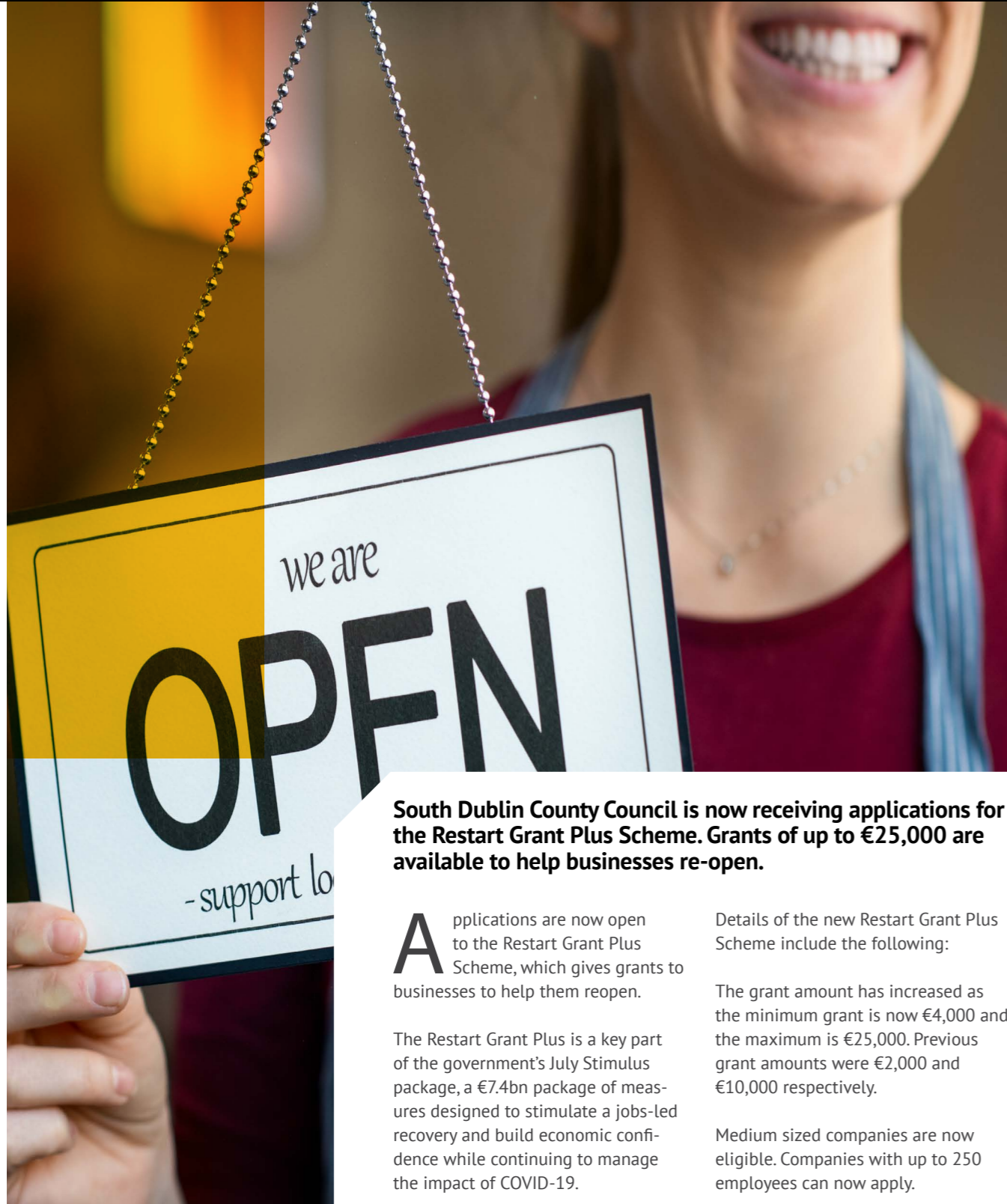
The playground has been designed to fit into the parkland landscape and contains a wide range of equipment and many natural play features. The main features of the playground include a large sand play area, swings, slide, climbing trees, and lots more. There are natural play elements, particularly important for younger children, to encourage physical activity.

With the completion of the playspace, the Council is now progressing to with plans for an area for teenagers.



The new Collinstown Park playspace.

RESTART GRANT PLUS SCHEME



South Dublin County Council is now receiving applications for the Restart Grant Plus Scheme. Grants of up to €25,000 are available to help businesses re-open.

Applications are now open to the Restart Grant Plus Scheme, which gives grants to businesses to help them reopen.

The Restart Grant Plus is a key part of the government's July Stimulus package, a €7.4bn package of measures designed to stimulate a jobs-led recovery and build economic confidence while continuing to manage the impact of COVID-19.

Details of the new Restart Grant Plus Scheme include the following:

The grant amount has increased as the minimum grant is now €4,000 and the maximum is €25,000. Previous grant amounts were €2,000 and €10,000 respectively.

Medium sized companies are now eligible. Companies with up to 250 employees can now apply.

Sports Grants Available

Sports clubs in South Dublin can now apply for COVID-19 Club Small Grants of up to €1,500 through South Dublin County Sports Partnership.

The COVID-19 Club Small Grant Scheme is part of a series of COVID-19 related funding schemes from Sport Ireland, following the announcement of €70 million of funding by the Government to support the sports sector in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Clubs are advised to contact South Dublin County Sports Partnership, on 01 4149157 or email info@sdccsp.ie for further information on this scheme.

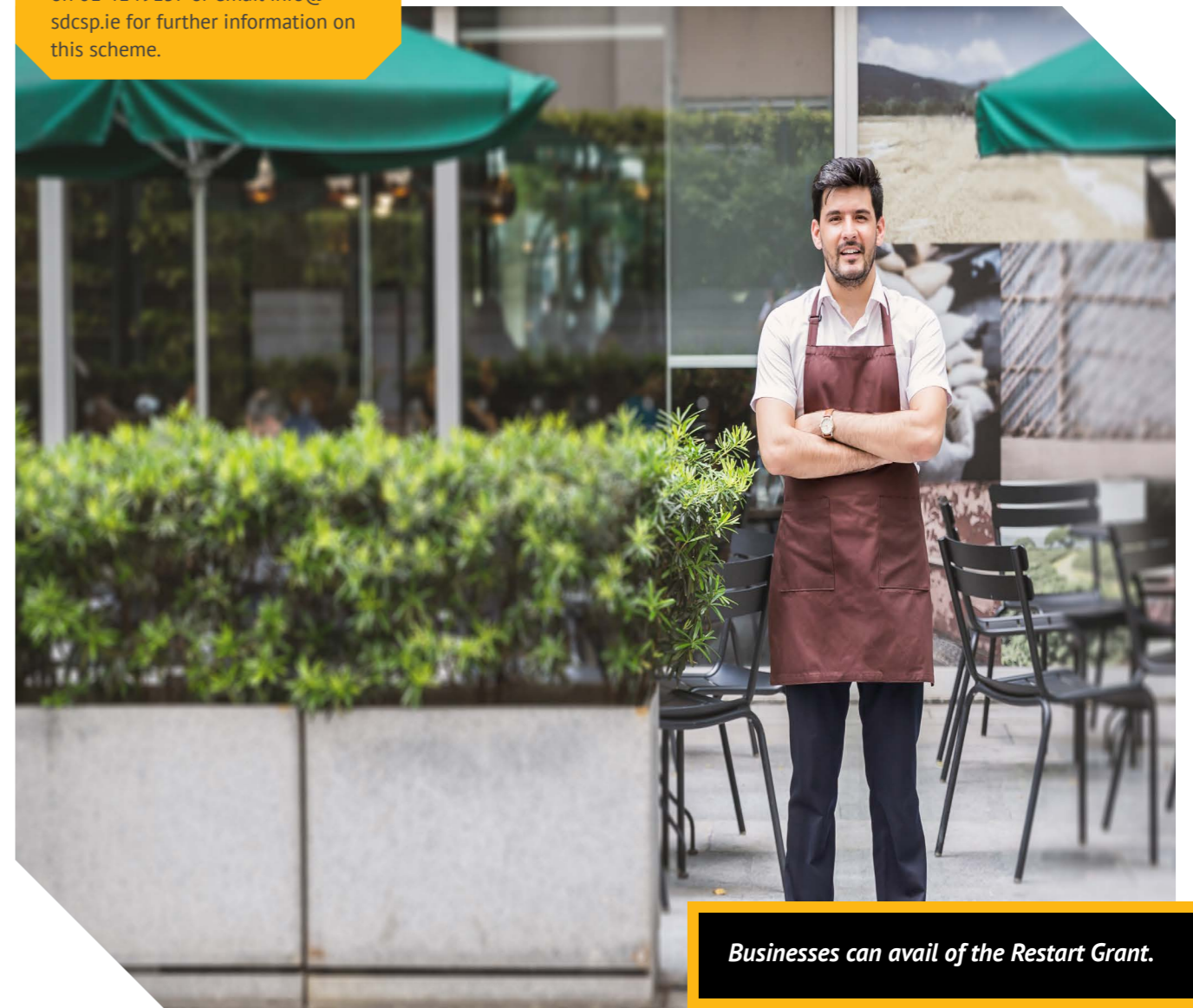
Non-rateable Bed and Breakfasts (B&B), sports clubs with commercial activities and trading charity shops are now eligible.

To qualify for a grant, the important criteria are:

- A business must be commercial and in the local authority rates system (apart from non-rateable B&Bs who can apply to Fáilte Ireland);
- It must have suffered a 25% loss of expected turnover between 1 April and 30 June 2020;
- It must have less than 250 employees and turnover less than €25m;
- It must declare its intention to re-employ staff in receipt of the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme.

First-time applicants can apply for the Restart Grant Plus on www.sdcc.ie.

Recipients of the initial Restart Grant are also eligible for this scheme and will receive an email outlining the application process. Please do not re-apply using the new online form.



Businesses can avail of the Restart Grant.

CONTRACTS SIGNED FOR AIRLIE PARK



Contracts have been signed with Willis Bros Ltd for the construction of the new Airlie Park in Adamstown.

South Dublin County Council has signed contracts on the construction Local Infrastructure Housing Activated Funds (LIHAF) enabled Airlie Park Project. Construction has commenced on the project, which will deliver active and passive recreational facilities to the Adamstown area.

Following a detailed tender process, Willis Bros Ltd was selected as the

preferred bidder to deliver the project.

The Airlie Park Project will provide a range of recreational facilities including:

- An all-weather astro turf pitch,
- Cricket pitch,
- Three playgrounds,
- a fitness area,
- tennis courts and,
- a pavilion building/cafe, with

LIHAF

The Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) is a key element of Pillar 3 of Rebuilding Ireland: An Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness.

The objective of the fund is to provide public off-site infrastructure to relieve critical infrastructure blockages. This will enable the accelerated delivery of housing on key development sites in Dublin and in urban areas of high demand for housing.

In March 2017, the Government announced the approval in principle of 34 projects across 15 Local Authorities.

associated changing rooms. Airlie Park will also have integrated walking and cycling facilities, which will provide high-quality accessibility not only within the park but will tie in with the existing and planned cycling and walking networks within the Adamstown SDZ.

In terms of biodiversity, there is a significant degree of soft landscaping within the Park, which will include the planting of shrubs, trees, perennials and wetland areas. The planting plans have been devised to align with best practise species detailed within the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

In addition, a dark zone/corridor for wildlife will be provided along the southern and western boundaries of the site. This dark zone aims to enable

local bats to continue to forage and commute through the site.

Pictured below are Danny McLoughlin, Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council and Charles Wills of Willis Bros Ltd at the signing the Airlie Park contract at County Hall, Tallaght on Friday 21 August.



Daniel McLoughlin, SDCC Chief Executive, with Charles Wills of Willis Bros Ltd

COMMERCIAL RATES WAIVER



A commercial rates waiver to help ratepayers deal with COVID-19 was announced in late-July.

A 100% waiver of commercial rates applies for a six-month period from 27 March 2020 to 27 September 2020 to all ratepayers except a small number of categories. The waiver will be applied as a credit in lieu of rates for the six-month period covered in 2020. These excluded categories are mainly utilities, banks, large supermarkets and corporates.

Eligible ratepayers do not need to

complete an application to South Dublin County Council. The Council will automatically apply a 100% credit in lieu of commercial rates, for a six-month period, to classes and categories of occupied rateable property where the occupying business is not in an excluded category.

In the event that a ratepayer qualifies for a six-month credit in lieu of rates and has already paid their rates bill

Did You Know?

Commercial Rates are a form of local property tax, the income from which is used to fund a wide range of local services and annual activities throughout the County. Commercial rates are payable on commercial/industrial properties, advertising stations and non-domestic premises.

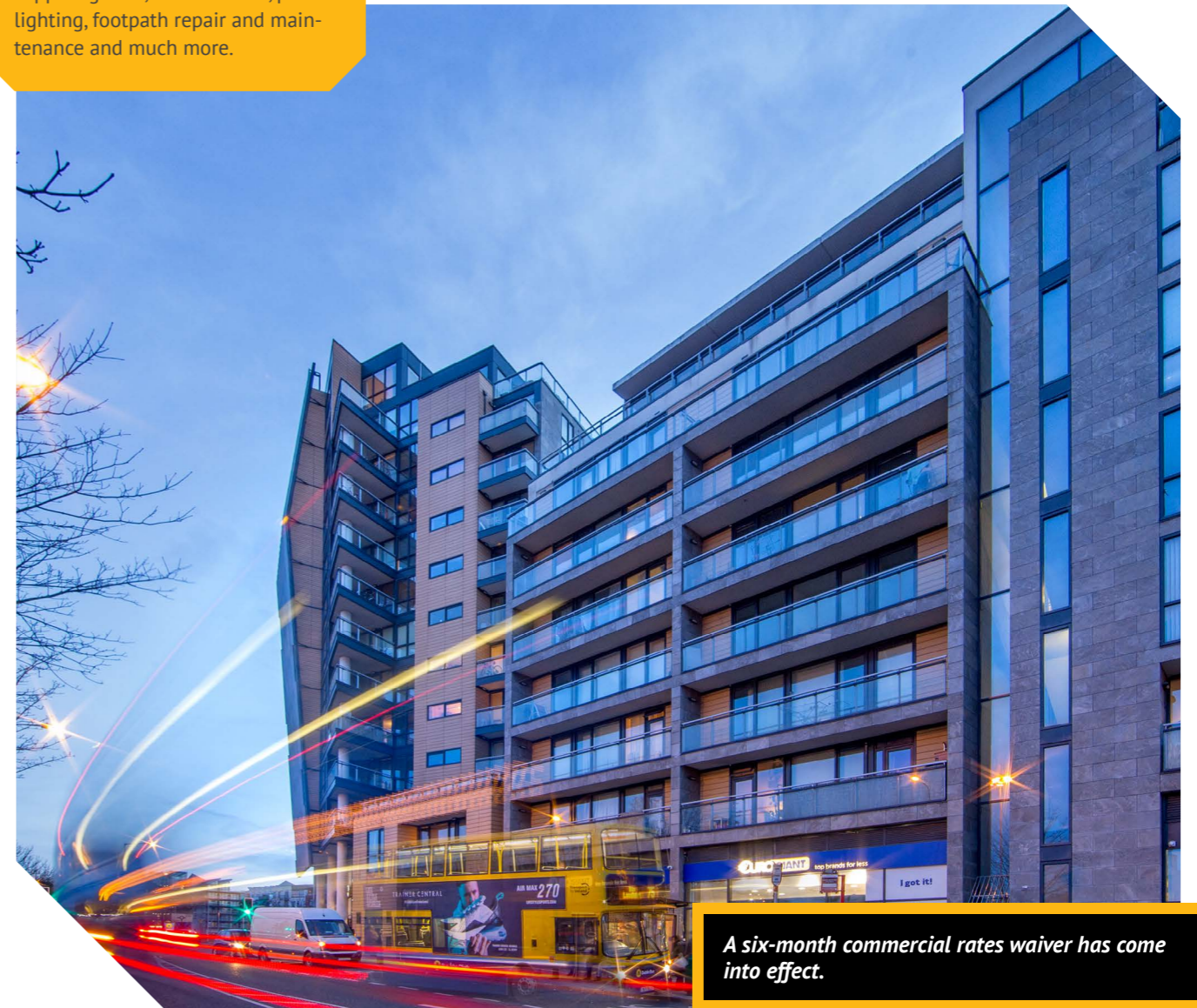
The range of services delivered by the Council to support safe and attractive living, work and business environments in South Dublin County include housing services, parks, sports facilities, playgrounds, libraries, community, business support grants, arts facilities, public lighting, footpath repair and maintenance and much more.

for 2020, a refund or credit will be arranged. Anyone seeking this refund or credit should contact the rates department by email at covid19rateswaiver@sdblincoco.ie or by phone at 01 414 9336 to make arrangements.

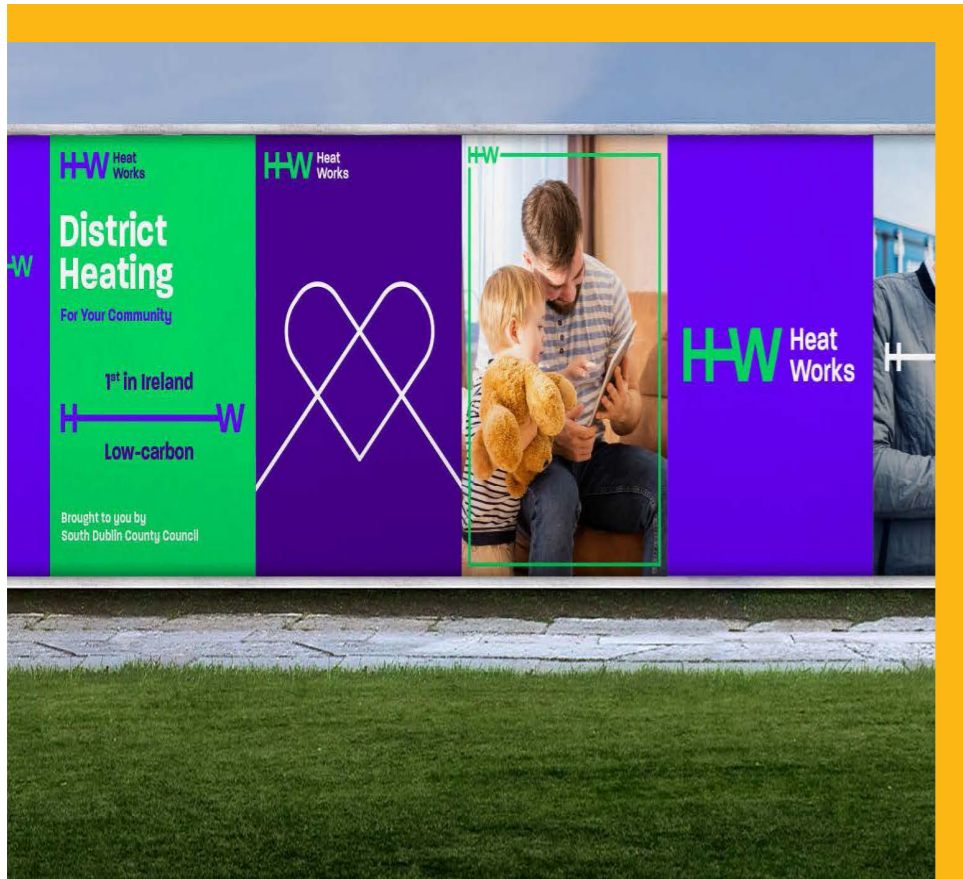
In recognition that there is a small number of ratepayers for whom their businesses have not been affected by the pandemic, these ratepayers will not be eligible for the automatic waiver. However, a fund is being provided for ratepayers in these categories who can demonstrate that the pandemic has had a significant negative impact on their business. These ratepayers should engage with South Dublin County Council in relation to their commercial rates before Friday 11 September 2020.

The potential for the waiver to extend beyond end September will be kept under review and any future extensions can be considered when there is greater certainty regarding the continuing impact of the pandemic on businesses and the reopening of society.

A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) in relation to this waiver is available on www.sdcc.ie.



A six-month commercial rates waiver has come into effect.



Given the limited experience of the Council with district-heating systems, it was also necessary to contract an experienced energy supply company to build, operate and maintain the energy centre and heat network for an initial contract period of ten years. Supported by Codema, an international tender process identified Fortum, a large Finnish district-heating provider, as the preferred company.

Initial customers for the heat supply will be the County Hall, County Library buildings and the main campus building in the TUD Tallaght. Both will be serviced by district-heating before the end of 2021. Two new developments - 134 affordable apartments and the Tallaght Innovation Centre, to be constructed around a large public square as a centrepiece of the Tallaght Innovation Quarter, will be completed and connected in early 2022. Planning permissions has been granted for almost 2,000 apartments which are designed to avail of district-heating, on nearby sites.

Having already met its EU commitment to reduce energy usage by 33% by the end of 2020, South Dublin County Council now faces the challenge of further reducing this figure to 50% by 2030.

As heating and cooling of buildings account for over half of energy usage in the EU, this is an area that must be urgently addressed. Dublin generates much more waste-heat than is required to heat all its buildings. Through district-heating, this waste-heat can be collected and utilised to produce low carbon space heating, significantly reducing fossil fuel and greenhouse gases.

In 2018, the Council succeeded in its bid to secure €1m EU funding to promote the development of a district heating network in Tallaght. The HEATNET project will initially connect the Council Headquarters and TU Dublin Tallaght (formerly IT Tallaght), to a large datacentre currently under completion

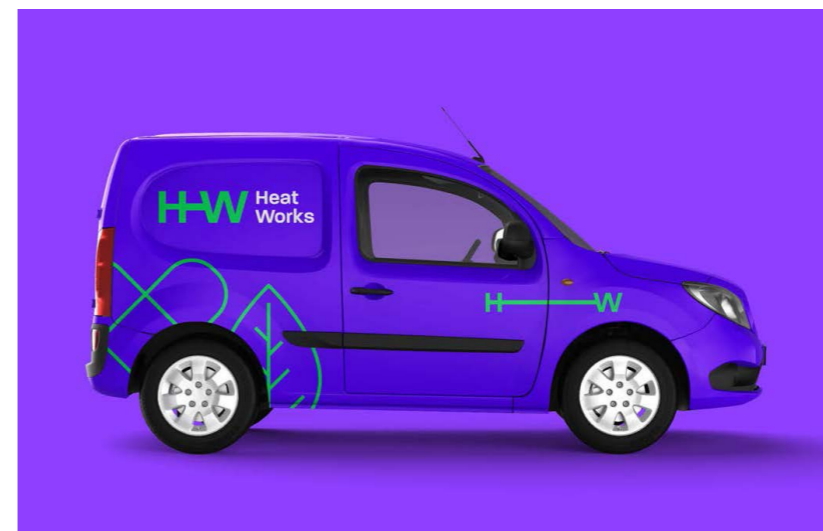
on Belgard Road. In keeping with its corporate commitment on decarbonisation, Amazon Web Services (AWS) has agreed to its building being the major heat source for the new district heating network. AWS is funding the collection systems within its building and providing the site for the construction of the energy centre designed to raise the waste-heat temperature for more efficient use in-network distribution. The construction of the energy centre is supported by €4.5m in grant-aid from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The network will service not just public buildings but also residential, commercial and retail developments into the future.

The partnership embodies a

TALLAGHT DISTRICT HEATING HEATWORKS

way to add social and community value to datacentre construction utilising waste heat for public buildings and the homes of Tallaght residents while contributing towards a low-cost, low-carbon energy future. The use of a datacentre to supply a public district-heating scheme linking waste-heat to heat-pump technology will be the first of its kind in the UK and Ireland.

It is necessary to establish an entity to construct and manage the district-heating network. Based on best practice elsewhere, the elected members agreed to establish a publicly owned, not-for-profit company for this purpose. The South Dublin District Heating Company will trade as "Heatworks" and is wholly owned by South Dublin County Council. It will own the district heating network and energy centre and will also be responsible for pricing policy and the expansion of the network across Tallaght.



Heatworks will operate as the utility company charging its customers for the supply of heat. Costs will be in line with existing gas bills. The annual surplus will be re-invested in extending the heat network and maintaining good value in heat costs to its customers. The heat network will reduce carbon emissions by more than 60%, saving 1,500 tonnes of carbon per annum in Phase 1 alone. The supply of low-cost low-carbon heat will attract more businesses and development to Tallaght, as well as creating specialised jobs and technical training as this technology grows. As carbon taxes increase on fossil fuels, low-cost heat from the network will mitigate fuel poverty and increase commercial competitiveness. Powered by fourth generation district-heating technology, Tallaght continues its journey to a sustainable future.

JULY STATISTICS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



Corporate Performance and Change Management

Number of Customer Care queries received	8,053
Number of Customer Care queries closed within deadline	7,254
Web pages opened on Council websites	308,005
Social media reach	1,158,389
Social media engagement	37,155



Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	53
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328
Library visitors	24,947
Library items borrowed	68,691



Environment, Water and Climate Change

Grass cut - hectares	791
Kilometers of road swept monthly	1,015
Derelict site/dangerous buildings inspections	32
Litter - Fines Issued	19
Tonnes of waste collected - litter and illegal dumping	539
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	44



Housing, Social and Community Development

Total Housing Stock	9,696
Total housing needs assessed	6,688
Housing maintenance requests received	1,496
Allocations - New Tenancies	38
Number of Community Grants issued	31
Number of Community Event participants	689
JPC and Policing Fora held	5

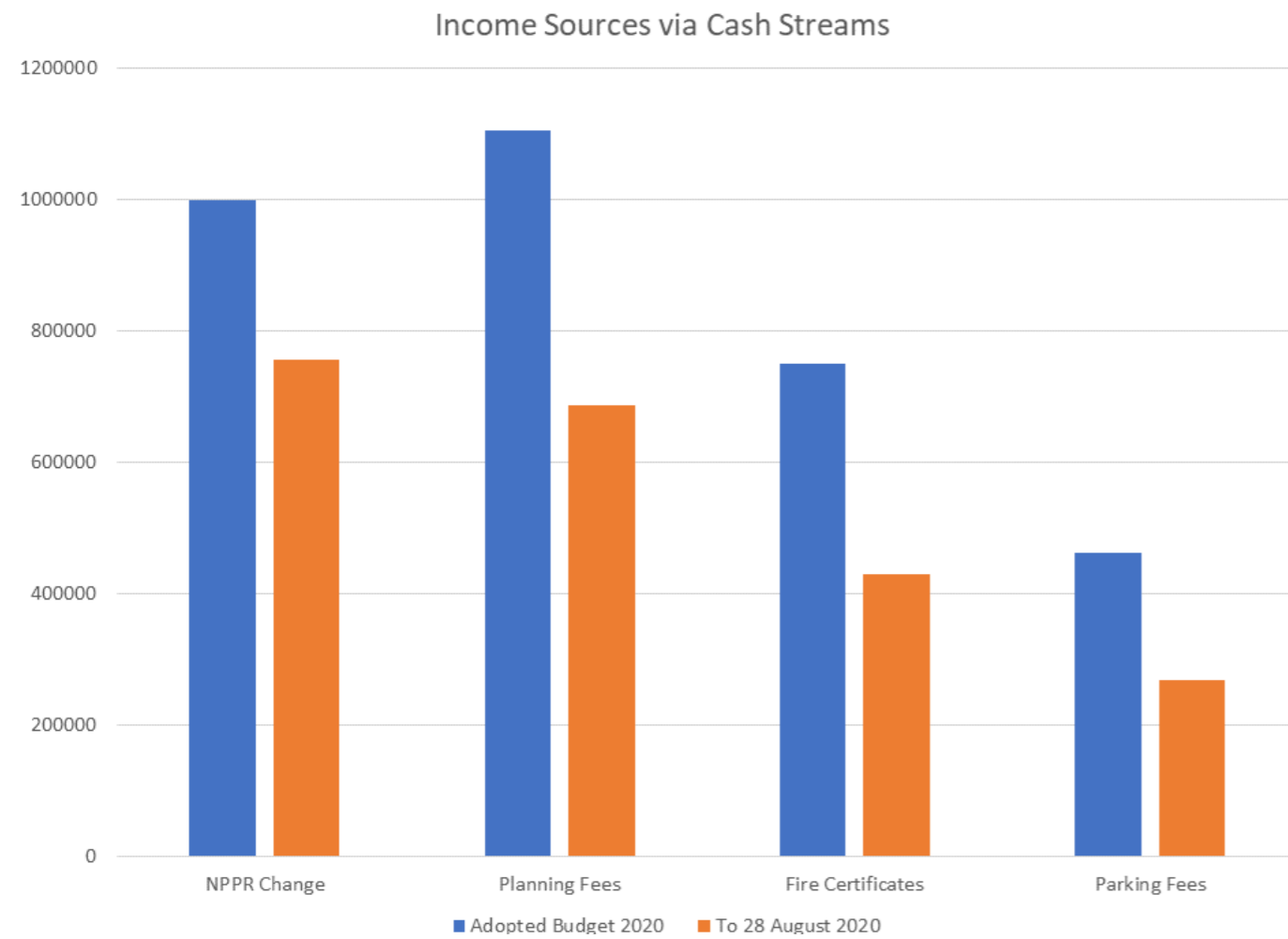


Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Planning applications received - new housing units	55
Percentage of decisions upheld by An Bord Pleanála	60%
Planning enforcements initiated	23
Number of public lights in charge	30,201
Number of traffic lights repaired within 24 hours	52

You can view all statistics under the Statistics Report in the Manager's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting.

FINANCE REPORT



You can view the full Finance Report under the Manager's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting agenda.

IMAGES OF THE MONTH



Launch of the consultation on the County Development Plan 2022 - 28.



Conservation works at Grange Castle

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