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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council November 2020 County Council Meeting held on Monday 9th November 2020.

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Councillors** |  | **Councillors** |
| Bailey, C. |  | Mahon, K. |
| Carey, W. |  | McCrave, L. |
| Casserly, V. |  | McMahon, R. |
| Collins, Y. |  | McManus, D. |
| Costello, T. |  | Murphy, E. |
| Duff, M. |  | O’Brien, E. |
| Donaghy, L. |  | Ó Broin, E |
| Edge, A. |  | O’Byrne, C. |
| Fay, S. |  | O’Connell, G. |
| Gilligan, T. |  | O’Connor, C. |
| Gogarty, P. |  | O’Donovan, D. |
| Holohan, P. |  | O’Hara, S. |
| Johansson, M. |  | O’Toole, L. |
| Kavanagh, P. |  | Pereppadan, B. |
| Kearns, P. |  | Sinclair, L. |
| Lawlor, B. |  | Timmons, F. |
|  |  | Tuffy, J. |

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin.  |
| Directors/ Heads of FunctionHead of Finance | L. Maxwell, F. Nevin, T. Walsh, M. Mulhern, C. Ward. R. FitzGerald. |
| Senior Executive OfficersA/Senior Planner | C. Hurson. E. Burke. |
| Administrative Officers | M. Reilly.  |
| Staff OfficerAssistant Staff OfficerClerical OfficerIT. SupportSord | L. Abbey.A. Hagan.D. Murphy.R. Saiz.A. O’Brien. |

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillors L. Dunne, K. Egan, A. Hayes, C. King, S. Moynihan, D. Richardson,

As the meeting was being held in Tallaght Stadium, the Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien, outlined the emergency exits and read out the following in relation to Covid 19 :-

It is essential that we follow the Government and HSE guidelines during this meeting.  If anyone has a positive response to any of the following questions, I request that you absent yourself immediately from the meeting:

* If you have symptoms of cough, fever, high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, breathlessness, or flu like symptoms now or in the past 14 days?
* If you have you been diagnosed with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days?
* If you are a close contact of a person who has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
* If you have been advised by a doctor or the HSE to self-isolate at this time?

As there was no response from any member in the affirmative, the meeting proceeded. As previously agreed, the meeting would conclude after 1 hour 55 minutes.

### **H1/1120 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the October County Council Meeting on 12th October 2020 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor E. O’Brien seconded by Councillor M. Duff.

1. - October Council Meeting Minutes - October 12th 2020

[Minutes of October Council Meeting - October 12th 2020](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67879)

### **H2/1120 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES**

**a) Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area Committee**

*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**

*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**

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

**REPORT:**

The statutory procedure to change the official name of a street, place or locality is set out in Sections 76-79 of the [**Local Government Act 1946**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/zza24y1946.html), the [**Local Government (Changing of Place Names) Regulations, 1956**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/zzsi31y1956.html) as amended by S. 67 Local Government Act 1994 and the **Local Government Act 2001** by way of conducting a plebiscite.

Any official change in the name of Brookmount, Tallaght to Brookmount Drive, Tallaght will require a statutory plebiscite under the prescribed legislation.

Before a plebiscite can be carried out a prescribed procedure is required including the recommendation of the council that the procedure for the taking of a statutory plebiscite be initiated.  Thereafter a list of "qualified electors" for the purpose of taking the plebiscite on the proposal must be prepared and made available for public inspection for a three-week period. The list must then be formally adopted by the council in advance of taking the plebiscite.  The plebiscite to determine the consent of the majority of the "qualified electorate" may then be held. Other logistical issues and application of the various statutes relating to conducting a plebiscite must also be determined.

The motion was **AGREED.**

This is now before Full Council for approval.

Councillors C. O’Connor, M. Duff and P. Kavanagh contributed to a discussion in support of the plebiscite.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED**:

“That the recommendations contained in the foregoing report of The Tallaght Area Committee 28th September 2020 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**”

**d)** **Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee**

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

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

### **H3/1120 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE**

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

### **H4/1120 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

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

### **H5/1120 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES**

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

The Mayor, Councillor, E. O’Brien proposed acceptance of Questions numbered Q1 – Q17. Councillor D. McManus raised a query regarding the referral of questions he submitted to the Organisation, Procedure and Finance Committee.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive replied to Councillor McManus informing that the OP&F was the appropriate meeting for the questions submitted.

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Questions numbered Q1 – Q17 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/1120 QUESTION: Councillor C. Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive why there is a disparity between the treatment of online access to the details of the Council's Part 8 initiatives under the South Dublin County Council's website search and view function, when compared to the Planning Application documentation on proposals made by the public and private sector. To ask why there is a disparity between the amount of information provided for different Part 8 applications, see for example the difference between SD188/0001 and SD188/0002 and would the Chief Executive care to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

Proposed Part 8 proposals are advertised and uploaded onto the SDCC Consultation Portal for the public consultation. The Part 8s and decisions are also available through the South Dublin County Council's website search and view function. For example, SD188/0002 is available here [**http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Planning/Details?p=1&r=SD188%2F0002®ref=SD188%2F0002**](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Planning/Details?p=1&r=SD188%2F0002&regref=SD188%2F0002)

Please note that the Part 8s are also mapped on the SDCC Planning Maps Online at this link [**https://sdublincoco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=004b5a1a557a4c1a91b4629923f9d4b7**](https://sdublincoco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=004b5a1a557a4c1a91b4629923f9d4b7)

Please note that the Planning Authority recognise that the ‘Search and View’ function is difficult to use when searching for a full list of historical Part 8s. The Council are engaged in a process of improving the online citizen interaction on planning applications and the process will also strive to improve the search function for Part 8s.

Similar to a planning application, the amount of information provided in a Part 8 is proportionate to the complexity and scale of the proposal, the sensitivity of the receiving environment and the requirements of legislation and policies.

### **Q2/1120 QUESTION: Councillor C. Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive for information on what is envisaged and timelines in relation to the delivery of an ePlanning system in line with national timescales and provision of a new planning portal as per the SDCC Service Delivery Plan 2020. Is it the intention to enable the public and bodies to interact more easily and conveniently with planning, and also to greatly increase the speed and efficiency of the entire planning process and would the Chief Executive care to make a statement on the matter?

**REPLY:**

One of the actions in the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020 for LUPT is to support the delivery of ePlanning in line with national timescales and provide a new planning portal.

The E-Planning project is being managed by the LGMA with funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. An ePlanning Project Board is in place with a Chair nominated by the CCMA LUTS Committee. Delivery of the ePlanning project has been included as an objective in a number of Government policy documents and strategies such as Rebuilding Ireland, Our Public Service 2020 (the framework for development and innovation in Ireland’s public service)and the National Broadband Strategy.

The project began in late 2016 and has proven to be very complex, having to employ three system providers that take account of a complex planning code and the required integration of the developed system with 3 back-end planning systems and 8 document management systems across 31 planning authorities.

To date a first phase of user interface testing has been successfully delivered. Subject to the required funding phase 2 of the project is targeted to be delivered by 2022. This would provide for a phased roll out, on a national basis, of the ability to make a planning application online and thereafter, to roll out functionality to enable online submissions and finally, to roll out Part 8 functionality.

### **Q3/1120 QUESTION: Councillor C. Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive what strategy SDCC will put in place to help small businesses who are finding it difficult to pay commercial rates once the waiver period ends at the end of September.

**REPLY:**

As part of the budget statement on 13 October 2020, the Government announced an extension of the waiver of Commercial Rates for a further period of three months. The waiver will be applied to all eligible rate accounts and will take the form of a credit in lieu of rates. Once this is applied the Debt Management Unit will work with all ratepayers to put in place sustainable debt management plans on any remaining balances on their account if needed.

In addition to the Rates Waiver scheme, LEO South Dublin has been and continues to work with the business owners of Micro and Small enterprises who have been impacted by COVID 19 right across the county.

The key direct supports include Re-start Grant/ Restart Plus Grants, Business Continuity Vouchers and Trading Online Vouchers. Mentoring and Training Supports (virtual) have and continue to be offered plus support for all businesses applying for Microfinance Loan facilities.

LEO are currently offering free Customs Workshops and one to one Brexit Mentoring (again Virtual) to any businesses impacted by Brexit.

The Council Budget also provide for the Business Support Funds (BSF) scheme which include four funds which are targeted to address key issues in industrial areas in the County namely

* Supporting physical improvement works;
* Aimed at encouraging occupiers to improve the investment potential of industrial estates / units;
* Particular emphasis on those industrial estates experiencing high levels of obsolescence, dereliction, vacancy and abandonment;
* Helping existing small scale businesses and start-up businesses utilising previously vacant units.

The BSF also includes [**Microenterprise/Start-up Support**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fbusiness%2Fenterprise%2Fbusiness-support%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cfcarroll%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cb8c257ddd86e4498452308d87c28122d%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637395858830988543%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=qBmyNADBv4DGRlg%2BYcAZ8cs8XHYWXSrYg9LQeWN2UkY%3D&reserved=0) which encourages new micro enterprise owners who upgrade an existing vacant premises to avail of a graduated “rates holiday” for up to two years.

### **Q4/1120 QUESTION: Councillor C. Bailey**

Given the ongoing Garda investigation into alleged wrongdoings at the Ashton Dog Pound, can the Chief Executive please advise how this matter is being handled by SDCC? Are there any provisions contained within the existing contract that relates to improper practices and what would occur if something were to come to light or be referred to the Gardaí for further investigation? I understand the contract for dog pound services for SDCC will be up for tender again at the end of this year. It would appear that Ashton Dog Pound is the only provider to tender for this contract, which also includes the other Dublin Local Authorities. Does SDCC intend to continue to contract with Ashton Dog Pound given these circumstances? If the Garda investigation is still underway of if the case is taken further by the time the contract falls due for tender, can the Chief Executive advise as to what SDCC will do to ensure service is continued? Can the Chief Executive advise whether SDCC has been in contact with the other Dublin Local Authorities to discuss this concerning development? Is the Chief Executive aware that Dublin City Council is conducting its own investigation into the facility? Would the Chief Executive agree that it would be worthwhile to carry out a similar investigation by SDCC? Has the Chief Executive considered my suggestion to talk with the other Dublin Local Authorities and look to seek funding to set up a public dog pound for the Dublin area, one that aims to put animal welfare at the heart of all its work?

**REPLY:**

The Control of Dogs Act 1986, [**Section 15(2)**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1986/act/32/section/15/enacted/en/html#sec15) provides for the establishment and maintenance of *"one or more shelters for dogs seized, accepted or detained under any of the provisions of this Act"* and authorises the local authority to *"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"*

South Dublin County Council employs two full time Dog Wardens. Ashton Dog Pound and Warden Service provides the Council with a Dog Pound Service.

The existing contract continues to be monitored and reviewed as part of contract management and oversight. Policies and procedures are regularly reviewed, most recently relating to maintaining services during Covid 19 and lockdown and any required changes to protocols for health and safety purposes.

The contract provides for services to South Dublin County Council including:

* Acceptance of surrendered dogs
* Managing reclaims
* Rehoming in accordance with policy
* Monthly reports to SDCC
* Notify Dog Warden of surrendered or seized dogs detained by Gardaí
* Access for Council representatives at any time

The pound is regularly inspected by Council staff. In addition, the Council’s veterinary Inspectors carry out regular unannounced inspections, at least monthly. To date in 2020, eight such inspections have been carried out. None of these inspections have revealed any issues regarding the welfare of dogs in the pound. Improvements to the facilities have been carried out during the current contract and have been documented.

Ashton Pound Service has an excellent working relationship with the DSPCA, and any dogs taken into the Pound which require veterinary care are treated by the DSPCA. 24-hour access to veterinary care is provided for all dogs in the Pound. The pound operator works with the public and several rescue groups to achieve a high level of rehoming. In 2019 94% of stray, abandoned or unwanted dogs from the South Dublin Administrative Area were either reclaimed by their owner or rehomed.

Ongoing training for Pound staff and Council staff is provided through several sources including attending training seminars and conferences arranged by the Department of Agriculture with updates on legislative changes and through liaison with other Local Authorities Dog Warden services.

South Dublin County Council continually engages with the other local authorities in relation to Control of Dogs matters, including pound services. A close working relationship exists between the Dublin Local authorities and there is continual proactive liaison on matters related to the pound service. SDCC is aware that Dublin City Council recently carried out a review related to the service being provided to them by Ashton Dog Pound and Warden Service, which includes Pound and Warden services.

The sum of €457,700 is provided in the 2020 adopted annual budget for expenditure in respect of Control of Dogs activities, of which approximately €137,500 is provided for the provision of the pound services outlined above.

The Contract between South Dublin County Council and Ashton Dog Pound and Warden Service expires on 31st December 2020. Prior to this expiry date the Council proposes to go to tender for the provision of Pound Services for the South Dublin administrative area.

An Garda Síochána are currently carrying out an investigation in relation to allegations made in relation to certain aspects of Pound Operations and the Council is not therefore in a position to comment on specifics in relation to Pound operations which may prejudice these investigations.

### **Q5/1120 QUESTION: Councillor C. Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive if there are guidelines in place that govern how tree maintenance works are carried out by crews (whether council or private contractors) dealing with trees that have power lines running through them? Currently, trees are been hollowed through the middle or at the side which then allow the tree to continue to grow around the cables. This results in the tree growing unchecked, leading to branches overhanging paths, blocking street lights and becoming dangerously top heavy and unevenly distributed. Trees can become diseased as a result of the breaks to allow cables pass through. They can also become wind-damaged as a result of the hollowing. We have all seen this year that with dangerously top-heavy trees, they are more likely to fall in the storms or in most severe of cases, will have to be cut down all together. Would the Chief Executive agree to look at ensuring crews carry out the most appropriate and necessary maintenance of these trees including that once they get to 'Wire Height' the whole tree should be evenly pruned where ever possible?

**REPLY:**

The purpose of overhead electricity cable clearance standards for tree pruning is to control or eliminate the hazard and associated risks of timber growing into overhead electricity network in a manner that balances the following requirements,

            -public & staff safety

            -quality of supply standards

            -cost effectiveness

            -current legislation

The main hazards associated with timber growing into electricity network are:-

-Timber providing access to overhead electricity lines. This is a serious hazard where children may climb trees.

-Contact between vegetation and the network that may result in, the vegetation becoming ‘live’, damage to the network or loss of supply to customers

The minimum clearance standard for the low voltage urban network is 1 metre.

The ESB network arrange for contractors to implement this clearance standard. It should also be noted that the Electricity Regulation Act 1993 give authority to utility suppliers to prune trees when required.

The Council as part of its Tree Maintenance Programme includes the inspection and maintenance of trees growing where electricity wires are present. This involves the use of specialised contractors who are trained to work close to the live electricity network. The pruning of such trees are done to ensure public safety and to provide for the best option for the tree. Cutting trees to wire height is not an option in many cases. The council will continue to consult with the ESB on these matters.

The Council's Management Policy - Living with Trees - outlines the principle of planting the ‘right tree in the right place’  which applies to all new and replacement tree planting. Where an overhead wire network is present, the use of smaller trees or alternative locations are identified as options for tree planting.

### **Q6/1120 QUESTION: Councillor Y. Collins**

Noting a recent reply by the Council to a request to cease using glyphosate weedkiller, to ask the Chief Executive whether there is a means by which residents can ask for their road not to be sprayed with glyphosate weedkiller, particularly where there are residents with underlying health issues?

**REPLY:**

Weed control along public roads, footpaths and in roadside margins presents a specific problem due to the nature of the task at hand.  The Council maintains close to 1,000km of roads including main roads, housing estate roads and industrial estate roads.  Labour intensive methods of weed control are not appropriate to this task, such is the volume of work involved.  The Council's road sweeping contractor, Oxigen Environmental, therefore continues to use a glyphosate-based weed killer to deliver the weed control element of their contract. The contractors staff engaged in this work are required to be highly trained in the task, are required to use the appropriate equipment including PPE and are also required to be registered with the Dept of Agriculture as a professional user of pesticides in accordance with the Sustainable Use Directive. The Council meets regularly in relation to the provision of services under this contract and monitors all relevant matters including the weed control element of the contract.

### **Q7/1120 QUESTION: Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive who has responsibility for collecting the remains of deceased cats and dogs when they are found in public places. When they have been collected are they scanned so as to establish contact with owners, if they are not scanned can I ask why?

 **REPLY:**

The Council's Public Realm Section remove dead cats and dogs from public roads and open spaces as the need arises. In general this occurs as a result of these animals being hit by cars and other vehicles. There is generally a requirement to bag the deceased animal as quickly as possible and this is what Council staff are instructed to do. These animals are not scanned by Council staff for the purpose of identification. The process of scanning and establishing contact with owners would require additional resources, the council will examine what would be required and what would be the associated costs.

### **Q8/1120 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Byrne**

In light of the national plan to have one million electric vehicles on the road by 2030, to ask the Chief Executive if SDCC has applied for the Government's Electric Vehicle Public Charge Point Grant and to provide a report on the matter.

**REPLY:**

Under the National Climate Action Plan 2019, the government outlined its strategy to achieve significant carbon reduction targets towards 2050. Included in the plan, is the objective to increase the number of Electric Vehicles on Irish roads to approximately 1,000,000 units by 2030, and to build a supporting EV charging network to stay ahead of the projected demand. Funding was made available to Local Authorities through the SEAI to provide 1,000 on-street public charging points for EVs over the 5 year term of the grant.

The grant is aimed to facilitate residents who do not have direct access to off street parking, but who wish to switch from a petrol/diesel car to an Electric Vehicle. Charge points facilitated by the grant may be located on-street or in Local Authority carparks. Typically, charging posts supply AC power through 2 plug sockets each supplying 22kW of power.

Grant funding of 75% of capital costs are available capped at €5,000 per single charge point. A charge post with 2 sockets would receive €10,000 in grant funding.

Applications for funding from Local Authorities will be dealt with in blocks of 20, subsequent applications can be made once the first 20 have been processed. To be eligible for grant funding, a Local Authority must have a plan in place which includes pricing, maintenance, billing and customer support.

In 2019, a Dublin EV regional working group agreed that the rollout of an EV network should be coordinated as to ensure that sufficient numbers of compatible units were deployed across the region, and that because of the developing technology involved, unavailable technical guidance and unregulated rollout in other jurisdictions, it would be appropriate to engage a consultant with expertise in the area to examine the Dublin region and develop a deployment strategy.

Element Energy were engaged to develop a regional EV charging strategy. A draft report was delivered to the LAs on 1st October, 2020. SDCC have submitted comments on the draft report and a final document is expected by the middle of November.

The Regional EV Charging Strategy will form the basis for SDCC’s investment in EV charging locations up to 2030.

The next step in the process will be to identify key locations where investment in EV Charge points are required and some of this work has progressed. The delivery of EV charge points will require a detailed procurement process in relation to supply, installation and on-going maintenance of equipment and the management of the back office billing platform. Work with the ESB in relation to the power supply requirements at these locations will occur in parallel. It is at this stage in the delivery of EV charge points, that SDCC will be in a position to engage with the SEAI and seek grant funding for the new infrastructure.

### **Q9/1120 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive what schedule he proposes to repair open spaces damaged over the recent Bonfire season and will he make a statement on his plans.

**REPLY:**

The cleaning up after Halloween has begun, all bonfires sites are being surveyed and mapped.  The mapping exercise will allow schedules to be drawn up and provide details of bonfire sites to be cleaned. Bonfire sites will also be listed for reinstatement in Q1 2021 once ground conditions permit.

### **Q10/1120 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive what proposals are being considered to deal with serious Weather Events during the winter and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council's Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) meets in advance of all storms on foot of any Met Eireann Weather Warnings received. The SWAT is made up of senior staff from across the organisation. The purpose of the meeting is to assess the readiness of the council to deal with the upcoming storm and severe weather events and put in place preventative actions as required. The SWAT Team held their pre-winter meeting on 30th September, this pre-winter meeting occurs annually to plan for the winter season ahead and ensure that preparations are put in place.

The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) are in contact with Local Authorities throughout the winter and a webinar has also recently taken place between the National Directorate, Met Eireann and SWAT teams from across the Local Authority Sector in preparing for the winter ahead.

South Dublin County Council  has under the Major Emergency Management Framework,  the following plans:

* Major Emergency Plan
* Flood Emergency Plan,
* Severe Weather Plan, and
* Rest Centre Plan.

The protocols for Severe Weather are contained in the plans, and being actioned upon receipt of weather warnings from Met Éireann, are as follows:

Status Yellow: Be Aware - A general notification email is sent to relevant staff across the organisation- inspections of key infrastructure and equipment carried out by relevant departments.

Status Orange: Be Prepared - Triggers a meeting of the Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) comprised of senior management across all departments, who discuss the issues particular to that weather event and agree the appropriate response/ action from each department.

Status Red: Take Action - this should be a comparatively rare event and implies that recipients take action to protect themselves and/or their properties. The SWAT team is now a Crisis Management Team and meets as often as necessary - hourly, twice daily, etc., depending on dynamics of the weather event, possibly over the conference call facilities. National and Regional Emergency offices are likely also being updated via teleconference at this stage to facilitate inter agency cooperation between the LA, HSE and AGS.

The 2020-2021 Winter Maintenance Plan has been finalised and will be presented to all the ACM’s by the Road Maintenance Department in November. The Winter Maintenance Plan includes information the 7 gritting routes and also on salt barns, salt bins etc.

The 7 gritting routes and the associated gritting truck can also have a snow plough attached if this is required, information on the routes are available at the link.www.sdcc.ie/

South Dublin County Council will continue to provide information to citizens through weather events on all available social media including our website ([**www.sdcc.ie**](http://www.sdcc.ie/) ), Facebook and Twitter.

The national winter ready web site also has very useful information and can be found at [**https://www.winterready.ie/en**](https://www.winterready.ie/en)

### **Q11/1120 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm numbers currently on the Housing List and will he give details in respect of each Electoral area.

**REPLY:**

At the end of October, 2020 there were 7,156 applicants on the Council's social housing list with housing need and areas of preference as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bedroom Requirement** | **North of Naas Road** | **South of Naas Road** | **Total** |
| 1 | 1,728 | 1,667 | **3,395**  |
| 2 | 1,441 | 1,078 | **2,519**  |
| 3 | 661 | 457 | **1,118**  |
| 4 | 78 | 46 | **124**  |
| **Total** | **3,908**  | **3,248**  | **7,156**  |

These figures include applicants with allocations pending and the Elected Members should also note that our housing allocations team is currently carrying out a Housing Needs Assessment review of all applications on the housing list pre-dating April 2019.

### **Q12/1120 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has had any discussions with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in respect of the announcement on Budget Day of increased funding for Housing and will he confirm that he has proposals ready to respond to such a situation and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

The national 2021 Budget provides for an overall investment of €3.3 billion for housing comprising €2bn in capital and €1.3bn in current funding.  The Council is in regular contact with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage around plans and programmes for delivery of social, affordable and private housing in our county in line with budget priorities.  A summary of our plans under the Housing Budget 2021 measures is outlined below:

**New Social Homes**

Increasing the supply of social housing is a key commitment through the build, acquisition and leasing programmes and in South Dublin construction will shortly commence on 4 new social housing developments across the County that will deliver 52 new homes at St. Catherine’s, Tallaght; Homeville, Old Knocklyon Road; Riversdale/Mayfield in Clondalkin; and the redevelopment of an existing building Greenfort Gardens, Clondalkin while a 3 further sites delivering 64 will commence during 2021 in Templegoue Village, St. Marks Avenue, Clondalkin and Old Bawn in Tallaght and other sites at Balgaddy and Nangor Road are being progressed along with various sites identified for older persons.  We will continue to maximise delivery of social homes through Part V, leasing and rental schemes in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) and the private sector in 2021.

**Affordable Housing**

As per ongoing updates to the Elected Members, we continue to advance proposals for the large Council owned sites at Killinarden, Belgard Square North, Clonburris SDZ and Rathcoole.  These sites will see considerable progress in 2021 towards delivery of affordable housing in particular, complemented by social housing where appropriate.  The procurement process has commenced for the 500 home, mixed tenure development at Killinarden while Part 8 approval for the affordable rental scheme at Belgard Square North was granted at the last Council meeting and this scheme will now progress to detailed design and tender in conjunction with our AHB partners.  Further details on the national affordable housing purchase scheme and measures around affordable/cost rental proposals are also awaited from DHLGH to further inform and support our plans for housing delivery.

We also continue to provide loans under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme with over €20.7m having already being provided to over first-time purchasers in the County since the scheme commenced, and subject to allocation from the DHLGH this will continue in 2021.

**Homelessness**

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE), through Dublin City Council as the lead statutory authority in the response to homelessness in Dublin, delivers a shared homeless service across the Dublin region on behalf of South Dublin County Council, Fingal County Council and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.  Significant provision will be made in the Council's 2021 budget for homeless services including the contribution towards DRHE costs with the costs of the provision of family hubs and other emergency accommodation administered and paid for by DRHE.

**Rental Sector**

In 2021, we will continue to administer Housing Assistance Payment applications for housign supports in the private rented sector as well conducting inspections on private rented properties to ensure compliance with Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations.

**Energy Upgrades and Remediation**

Energy efficiency of our housing stock will be prioritised in 2021 through our housing retrofit strategy along with ongoing refurbishment and regeneration of our existing housing stock through the strategic re-letting and planned maintenance works to ensure our social rented homes continue to be well maintained, fit for purpose and cost effective for our tenants.

**Special Needs Groups**

In addition, we will continue to progress the implementation of our Traveller Accommodation Programme during 2021 by prioritising re-development of Owendoher Haven, Oldcastle Park and Fonthill Rd and pursuing new developments including in Adamstown SDZ.  We will be piloting a new Caravan Loan scheme in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Traveller Money Advice and Budgeting Service.

2021 will also see us progress adaption, management and grant support of accommodation to meet identified needs for older people and people with disabilities.

### **Q13/1120 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has been informed of any increased funding for Fire Services in the County and will he make a statement in the matter?

**REPLY:**

The adopted budget for the provision of Fire Services in South Dublin County for 2020 was €20,600,000.

The 2020 outturn will be €21,476,100.

The estimate provided for Budget 2021 is €21,323,000.

### **Q14/1120 QUESTION: Councillor J. Tuffy**

Can the Chief Executive give an update on new concepts in design and planning it is trying to promote in the concept with developers of large scale developments and has the concept of biophilic design been considered in terms of any pre planning and if he will make a statement on the matter

**REPLY:**

There is currently no reference in the County Development Plan to the biophilic design concept and therefore there is no firm footing for development management to advocate for it in pre-planning discussions. There is potential for reference to biophilic design concepts to be included as part of the review of the Development Plan as part of the broader placemaking and design considerations and policy for the draft plan.

### **Q15/1120 QUESTION: Councillor J. Tuffy**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on plans for window replacement in Council housing and is there a schedule for these, estate by estate and if he will make a statement on the matter?

**REPLY:**

The windows and doors replacement programme will be undertaken on an estate by estate basis north and south of the Naas Road. The initial works will be focused on homes that require full replacement of window and door units at an estimated cost of €8,000 per home. Preliminary inspections commenced in September and approximately two hundred homes are listed for full replacement in Phase 1 in the following areas: Airlie, Arthur Griffith, Foxdene, Greenfort, Harelawn, Kilcronan, Kilmahudrrick (all North of the Naas Road); Allenton, Avonbeg, Avonmore, Bawnlea, Bolbrook, Brookview, Castle Park, Cloonmore (South of the Naas Road) along with certain additional medical and other priority cases.

Our housing planned maintenance team is now finalising the agreed works list with our contractors who will then liaise with individual tenants to measure the units required at their homes before undertaking the fabrication, supply and installation as required for each property.  All works will be subject to appropriate health and safety procedures by all parties in accordance with the National Framework for Living with Covid 19.  In addition, tenants will be required to ensure that the contractors has the necessary access to homes for measuring and installation works at the necessary times.

### **Q16/1120 QUESTION: Councillor J. Tuffy**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on "parklets" and any innovative things that have been developed in this space, and if he will make a statement on the matter

**REPLY:**

SDCC has installed one Parklet in Lucan Village. This has proved to be very popular locally. There are currently no immediate plans to install further parklets, however, this is under review and additional parklets may be provided in the future.

The Council recently adapted its licencing approach (section 254 licences) to make it easy for businesses to place tables and chairs outside of their premises on the footpath and the street to make it easier for businesses to trade. In some instances existing car parking bays are temporarily closed off by the Council to facilitate this. More information on this can be found of the SDCC website. Council staff are available to talk to any business that may be interested in this.

### **Q17/1120 QUESTION: Councillor J. Tuffy**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has considered the possibility of a community warden scheme for South Dublin County Council, similar to that developed by other local authorities, including Cork City Council, and is there any funding that could be sourced by the Council to fund community wardens, particularly in light of expansion of the public realm as one of the responses of the Council to Covid-19 and the need for more space for distancing and outdoor activity, and that community wardens could help promote social distancing and be visible ambassadors for the Council in the community, and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

While there are a range of Council staff working in the community including park rangers, community development officers, estate management & anti-social behaviour officers, rent inspectors, litter wardens etc. etc.  any previous preliminary local discussions around creating an amalgamated role of community warden comprising any/some/all of the duties of such posts were not productive or likely to provide any constructive basis for the creation of such a post, without considering any potential additional Covid-related duties.  Community wardens in some other local authorities perform similar duties to the existing staff resources outlined above and would not, in any case, have any formal authority in relation to social distancing guidelines while policing of larger gatherings would be more appropriately managed by An Garda Síochána.

It is incumbent upon all Council employees to ensure their adherence to the required health and safety measures including social distancing etc. thus leading by example in that regard while the Council has already taken appropriate measures, including with signage and supporting national campaigns through our social media channels, to inform the general public on social distancing and other Covid-related requirements in public areas and will continue to do so.

### **H6/1120 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H7/1120 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES**

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

**H8/1120 MANAGERS REPORT**

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

[HI 8a) Chief Executive Report November 2020](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67875)

[HI 8b) Statistics Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67820)

HI 8c) Finance Report

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**Use of overdraft facility**

Department approved overdraft facility = €25,000,000

No of days in Overdraft from 1st January to 18 th September = 1

A discussion followed with a contribution from Councillor D. O’Donovan regarding tree pruning.

Mr. D. McLoughlin Chief Executive responded to the Member’s query informing of commitment to ringfence funds for 2021 in relation to tree pruning which were unspent in 2020 due to COVID19 and that this will be reflected in Budget discussion.

The Reports were **NOTED.**

### **H9/1120 TAKING IN CHARGE OF OTTERBROOK HOUSING ESTATE**

### The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation and was **CONSIDERED:**

**REPORT:**

**PROPOSED DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS & TAKING IN CHARGE.**

The following report was considered at the Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/ Bohernabreena Area Committee meeting of October 13th, 2020.

 “Statutory Notice has been given in the public press and on the Council’s Consultation Portal of the Council’s intention to consider the making of a Declaration that the Roads listed hereunder be public roads.  The Council also gave notice of its consideration of the Taking in Charge of open spaces, sewers, watermains or drains within the attendant ground of the development but did not include the Taking in Charge of the car parking spaces.

**Otterbrook, Willbrook Road, Rathfarnham.**

 The closing date for receipt of objections/submissions was Tuesday 22nd September 2020. Two submissions in Support of the declaration were received through the Consultation Portal. (SD-C155-1 & SD-155-2 refers)

 It is therefore recommended that the roads be deC.d to be Public Roads and that the open spaces, sewers, watermains or drains within the attendant ground of the development **but not including the car parking spaces** be Taken in Charge.

The recommendation of the Committee will be brought before the Council at its next meeting in November2020”.   **End of Report to October 2020 Area Committee Meeting.**

 The Area Committee recommended at that October 2020 Rathfarnham/Templeogue/ Firhouse / Bohernabreena Area Committee  meeting that the roads be declared Public Roads and that the open spaces, sewers, watermains or drains within the attendant ground of the development (**but not including the car parking spaces)** be Taken in Charge.

 It is now a matter for this Council to agree to the recommendation and the following resolution is required:

 “That the Roads referred to in the attached schedule be and are hereby declared to be Public Roads, and that the open spaces, sewers, watermains or drains within the attendant ground of the development (**but not including the car parking spaces)** be Taken in Charge”.

[HI9 (b) Otterbrook Housing Estate Schedule 2020](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67827)
[HI9 (c) Otterbrook Housing Estate Map](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67828)

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy, and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Roads referred to in the attached schedule be and are hereby declared to be Public Roads, and that the open spaces, sewers, watermains or drains within the attendant ground of the development (**but not including the car parking spaces)** be Taken in Charge”.

### **H10/1120 BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN FOR ADOPTION**

### The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land use Planning and Transportation were **CONSIDERED:**

**Chief Executive’s Report on Submissions to the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan**

**1.0 Introduction**

South Dublin County Council prepared a Draft Biodiversity Action Plan. The Draft Biodiversity Action Plan consists of a written statement. It is accompanied by an Appropriate Assessment Stage One Screening Report.

The Draft Biodiversity Action Plan presents a background to the diversity of nature in the County and to the challenges that face biodiversity and the County in a time of change. The document outlines a series of objectives and actions that aim to achieve the protection and enhancement of the County’s biodiversity, while aiming to ensure that the County’s residents, businesses and visitors continue to enjoy and benefit from the many services that nature provides. The draft action plan has been prepared within the framework of the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 and is a response to national obligations under the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 -2021 and under European policy under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

This Chief Executive’s Report summarises and details the outcome of the public consultation programme on the Draft Plan and contains the following:

* lists the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations on the Draft Plan;
* summarises the issues raised by the persons or bodies in the submissions or observations; and
* gives the response and recommendations of the Chief Executive to the issues raised.

This Chief Executive’s Report on the Draft Plan Public Consultation is hereby submitted to the members of South Dublin County Council for consideration.

**2.0 Structure of Report**

The structure of this report is that additions to the Draft Plan are coloured green. Additions to the text are identified through the use of green print, for example

Action 3.3

‘Promote innovative approaches to developing strategic biodiversity policies and objectives in the preparation process for the SDCC Development Plan 2022 -2018 and the SDCC Green infrastructure Strategy, including promoting of habitat restoration, creation, and rewilding, to improve and to introduce new linkages in the network of wildlife corridors habitats for the County. ‘

Proposed deletions of text is coloured in red and ~~strikethrough~~.

**3.0 Public Consultation**

The Draft Biodiversity Action Plan, ‘Connecting with Nature’, was presented for public consultation, commencing on Friday 3rd July and closing on Monday 10th August 2020**.** A total of 34 submissions were received, which raised c460 issues

Interested parties were encouraged to make submissions on the draft action plan via the SDCC Consultation Portal. Alternatively, written submissions could also be posted to the Senior Executive Officer, Land Use Planning and Transportation Department, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Due to restrictions on gatherings arising from Covid-19, the engagement approach to consultation consisted of innovative online ‘Live Events’.  SDCC hosted online Live Events on Tuesday 28th July and Thursday 30th July 830pm.

Other key elements of the public consultation included:

* A Newspaper Notice and feature article appeared in the Tallaght Echo in August 2020; and
* A targeted Social Media campaign including Facebook and Twitter was carried out over the public consultation period

**4.0 Next Steps**

This Chief Executive’s Report on the Draft Plan Public Consultation is hereby submitted to the members of South Dublin County Council for consideration at the November 2020 Council Meeting.

If adopted at the November Meeting, the final document, with agreed changes, will be published in early 2021.

In the event of material changes to the Draft Plan, a further public consultation will be considered.

**5.0 Summary of Chief Executive’s Proposed Amendments to the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan and Recommended Proposed Amendments in response to Submissions on Draft Biodiversity Action Plan**

1. **Proposed Amendment to Text in Section 6.2**

Delete existing paragraph (in red) in Draft plan and Insert the following paragraphs (in green) in Section 6.2 of the Action Plan to confirm the setup of a Biodiversity Forum as follows:

~~The implementation of the agreed targets and actions will be overseen by a County Biodiversity Forum composed of Council staff, Elected Members, representatives of the South Dublin County Public Participation Network, local and~~

~~environmental groups, and state agencies. With an annual budgetary allocation (subject to available resource allocation), projects will be agreed, implemented, and monitored by the County Biodiversity Forum, with an annual report issuing to South Dublin County Council recording progress and achievements.~~

An SPC Sub-Committee for Biodiversity will be setup to assist with the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan over the 6-year life to the plan. The SPC Sub-Committee for Biodiversity will be a joint sub-committee comprised of members from the LUPT and EWCC Strategic Policy Committees. The sub-committee will meet as required to make recommendations on the prioritisation and delivery of actions, to review progress on the actions, and to report to the relevant SPCs.

An SDCC Internal Working Group comprised of officers from across the Council will be setup to co-ordinate the implementation of agreed projects arising from the Biodiversity Action Plan across the various Council Departments and Sections.

The responsibility for decisions in relation to this Plan is the function of SDCC. Each action in the plan has an identified owner with responsibility for progressing said action and the owners will report to Council. The delivery of the plan is subject to the availability of resources and budget. SDCC will continue to evaluate and investigate funding opportunities to achieve the Actions.

**2. Proposed Amendments to ‘Actions for Biodiversity’ Table in the Draft Plan**

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary of proposed amendments to Actions for Biodiversity Tables** |
| 1. **GETTING TO KNOW WHAT WE HAVE - Spatial Projects**
 |
| **Action**  | **Target/ Aim**  | **Timescale**  | **Engage with**  | **Key Indicators**  | **Action Owner** |
| 1.1 Collate ecological data and survey and map the County, to provide an evidence base forinformed biodiversity decision-making and to form the basis for a Green Infrastructurenetwork, key projects to include:1.1.i map the distribution of the habitats and species in the County1.1.ii map and manage the spread of non-native invasive species1.1.iii survey and monitor biodiversity at identified pollinator sites1.1.iv survey and map wetlands in the County1.1.v map the tree canopy cover in the County and quantify its carbon capture1.1.vi map the County’s hedgerow network and identify key Green Infrastructure links | - Mapping of Non – native invasive species - Establish monitoring program for identified pollinator sites- Mapping of wetlands -Commence surveying of wetlands - Commence tree canopy study in conjunction with Climate Change Action Plan  | Collation will be ongoing across the Plan duration.  | NPWS, NBDC,Tidy Towns, local andcommunity groups,academic institutions. | Number of habitats and speciesmapped, number of data setssubmitted to NBDC, developersand a G.I. strategy in place. | Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation (LUPT)and Director of Environment, Water & Climate Change |
| 1.2 Prepare a GIS database (or similar) to host biodiversity evidence base | - Prepare a GIS database (or similar) to host biodiversity evidence base | Year 3-6  | NPWS, Tidy Towns, local community groups, habitat surveyors anddevelopers | Number of surveys collated into a mapped based database | Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation (LUPT) |
| **2. TELLING THE STORY – Engagement, Education, and Research** |  |
| 2.1 Develop a Biodiversity Communications Strategy, to celebrate and promote theenjoyment and protection of nature in South Dublin County, promoting engagement with national initiatives and events such as Biodiversity Week, Tree Week, Heritage Week, Pure Mile etc,. | -A Biodiversity Communication Strategy- Establish SPC Sub Committee and SDCC Internal Working Group  | Year 1 - 2  | social media platforms,local media, local and nationalbiodiversity interest groupsand agencies. | Number of posts, pressreleases, media hits,responses, no.articles published. | Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation (LUPT) |
| 2.2 Support rural and urban communities to undertake local biodiversity projects,training, and citizen science, encouraging appropriate initiatives that protectbiodiversity while benefiting local economies. | -Support initiation of 3 community led local biodiversity projects -Provide a minimum of 3 public training events  | On-going across the 6 years of the plan | rural and urban interestgroups, Local EnterpriseOffice, LEADER, environmentalorganisations. | No. of projects applied forand completed. | Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation (LUPT) |
| 2.3 Quantify and promote the economic, social and well-being benefits (natural capital) provided by theCounty’s ecological landscapes (ecosystem services) to help promote and build awareness of these benefits. | Engage appropriate expertise and complete research on one SDCC public park.  | Year 1-2  | NPWS, academicinstitutions. | A quantification of theeconomic benefits derivedfrom the natural worldwhich supports the County’seconomic and socialdevelopment. | Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation (LUPT)and Director of Environment, Water & Climate Change |
| **3. LEADING THE WAY - Policy, Good Governance and Climate Action** |  |
| 3.1 a). Devise and implement good governance strategies to ensure the smooth integrationof national and EU biodiversity legislation and policy requirements into all Councilplans, projects, and services.b). Provide biodiversity training for stakeholders c). Annual reporting on plan implementation  | -Establish SPC Sub Committee and SDCC Internal Working Group - Draft and agree an internal governance process in relation to biodiversity -Provide a minimum of 3 continuous professional development events for stakeholders- Report annually to relevant SPCs and action owners report to full Council at end of Year 2.  | Year 1 - 2 | NPWS, EPA. | Biodiversity considerationsintegrated into all new SDCC plans,projects and services. | Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation (LUPT) and Director of Environment, Water & Climate Change |
| 3.2 Develop and implement best practice biodiversity protection guidance ~~guidelines and~~~~maintenance plans for the County’s habitats and species, for use on Council lands~~~~and as guidance~~ to assist local communities, ~~developers,~~ businesses, farmingcommunity, schools, etc. | Commence and complete biodiversity guidance and information for local community groups, householders and schools for four habitat types and/or species. The four would be agreed with the action owner but for example could include guidance for hedgerows; grassland verges; recording garden birds; planting for pollinators.  | Year 3-6  | NPWS, NBDC. | Number of guideline documentsprepared, launched, and activelypromoted. | Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation (LUPT) |
| 3.3 Promote innovative approaches to developing strategic biodiversity policies and objectives in the preparation process for the SDCC Development Plan 2022 -2018 and the SDCC Green infrastructure Strategy, including promotion of habitat restoration, creation, and rewilding, to improve and to introduce new linkages in the network of wildlife corridors habitats for the County.  | Contribute and influence the development of biodiversity policy in the SDCC Development Plan 2022 -2018 and the SDCC Green infrastructure Strategy. | Year 3-6 | NPWS, EPA, localgroups. | Biodiversity issues mainstreamedacross the reviewed SDCCDevelopment Plan. | Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation (LUPT) |
| 3.4 Coordinate with the Council’s Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 to identifyimpacts on biodiversity arising from climate change, targeting, and implementingnecessary measures to assist biodiversity adapt to changing conditions. | Support the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan 2019 -2024 by carrying out 3 identified biodiversity projects.  | Year 1-2  | Council’s CCAP team,State agencies, NBDC. | Delivery of Green InfrastructureStrategy that assists species adaptto climate change by maintaininginterconnecting and functioning(albeit changing) habitats. | Director of Environment, Water & Climate Change |
| **4. BIODIVERSITY - Protect, Restore and Create** |  |
| 4.1 For SDCC projects, apply the policies from the National Biodiversity Plan and the biodiversity policies and objectives from the active County Development Plan. | SDCC projects to apply the relevant adopted policies and objectives.  | On-going across the 6 years of the plan | NPWS, EPA, expert groups | Number of biodiversity mitigation measures incorporated  | Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation (LUPT)  |
| 4.2 To continue to research methods to further minimise the use of chemical biocides that are harmful to wider biodiversity. | Carry out research and agree appropriate changes in SDCC practices, if required and economically feasible.  | Year 3-6  | NPWS, EPA |  | Director of Environment, Water & Climate Change |
| 4.3 In partnership with Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), local communities, business groups and state agencies, assist with the development of community River Biodiversity Action plans for the County’s rivers, to target protection and restoration measures for these key Green Infrastructure habitats. | Completion of a community led River Biodiversity Action plan. | Year 1 – 2  | LAWPRO, local groups, local business, state agencies | Number of River Biodiversity Action plans | Director of Environment, Water & Climate Change |

**6.0 Summary of Issues and Chief Executive’s Response and Recommendations on Submissions**

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| --- | --- |
| **Issues Raised**  | **Proposed CE Response and Recommendation** |
| **Biodiversity Forum** 5 specific submissions* Submissions requested further detail on the formation, authority, and proposed activity of the County Biodiversity Forum.
* Requested that the Forum have equal representativity from across the County.
* Recommended the formation of an internal Biodiversity Team, with cross-departmental engagement, including Depot staff.
 | The content of the submissions is noted. The Chief Executive considers that a SPC Sub-Committee for Biodiversity will be setup to assist with the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan over the 6-year life to the plan. The SPC Sub-Committee for Biodiversity will be a joint sub-committee comprised of members from the LUPT and EWCC Strategic Policy Committees. The sub-committee will meet as required to make recommendations on the prioritisation and delivery of actions, to review progress on the actions, and to report to the relevant SPCs.An SDCC Internal Working Group comprised of officers from across the Council will be setup to co-ordinate the implementation of agreed projects arising from the Biodiversity Action Plan across the various Council Departments and Sections. Membership of the relevant SPCs includes a PPN representative, whose role facilitates the dissemination of information on the work of the sub committee. **Chief Executive’s Recommendation**It is recommended that text be amended in Section 6.2 of the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan. Full details in Section 5.0 of this report.  |
| **Biodiversity** **Officer**15 specific submissions* Recommendations for a dedicated Biodiversity Officer post to be established to focus on the implementation of the B. Plan.
* Recommendations for a Biodiversity Officer and a cross-departmental Biodiversity Team
* Recommendations for the creation of a Biodiversity Officer/Co-ordinator position and/or Biodiversity Unit, to liaise with Tidy Towns, schools, Parks staff, community groups etc.
 | The creation of a Biodiversity Officer/ Biodiversity Co-ordinator position is subject to budgetary constraints and Work Force Plan parameters. As such, text relating to same is outside the scope of the Biodiversity Action Plan.**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan.  |
| **Biodiversity Protection**80 specific submissions* No actions listed in draft Plan to protect/conserve listed species/ red and amber listed species
* Actions needed to protect biodiversity in specific locations e.g. Liffey Valley, Dodder Valley, Dublin Mts., Council’s parks,
* Actions needed to ensure compliance and enforcement of biodiversity protection measures; the need for accountability for damage to biodiversity; bye-laws to protect biodiversity outside of protected sites
* Positive submissions on the inclusion of the ‘Best Practice’ action
* Recommendations to reduce/stop the use of chemicals in public spaces
* Recommendations for various grassland management techniques for biodiversity enhancement
* Submissions regarding the management of Invasive Species
* Specific recommendations for the implementation of the Liffey Valley SAAO
* Recommendation regarding biodiversity both inside and outside of protected areas.
* Recommendations regarding actions for pollinators
* Recommendations for biodiversity restoration and rewilding
* Recommendations for protection measures for the County’s rivers and riparian habitats
* Need to identify the specific threats to biodiversity in South Dublin County, and target the B. Plan to these threats.
* Submissions on the better retention of trees, for significantly more TPOs, for the review of the Council’s Tree Management plan, for community orchards, and for an increase in the tree cover in the County.
* Submissions re water quality issues, better management of ponds and lakes, unregulated run-off into rivers and streams, domestic mis-connections causing water quality issues.
* Submissions re the need to map and protect wetlands
 | The implementation of each of the proposed actions in the Plan will act to provide the baseline information and knowledge to further protect biodiversity in the County, by contributing to the development and implementation of more robust and enhanced conservation policies and enforcement objectives. Also, improving the integration of biodiversity legislation and policy requirements into all Council plans and projects (Action 3.1 ), will assist in reducing the need for Enforcement/ compliance actions.See amended Action 3.2 of draft Plan: Develop and implement best-practice guidance for local communities. Alternative methods of maintenance can be researched under Action 4.2 in relation to reducing the use of chemicals.SDCC has committed to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and currently manages over 100 ha of parkland for biodiversity.SDCC is currently implementing a mapping and treatment programme for invasive species. See also Action 1.1.ii The implementation of the Liffey Valley Management Plan is beyond the scope of the B.A.P. Contributions to any future implementation of that Plan can be made from the actions of the B.A.P.Biodiversity protection outside of protected sites is an objective of the County Development Plan. The implementation of this Plan will also assist with the identification and protection of this biodiversity. SDCC is a signatory to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. A South Dublin County Pollinator Plan is currently in preparation by EWCC Department. This can be achieved under Action 2.2: Support rural and urban communities to undertake local biodiversity projects etc …Proposed inclusion of an additional specific action for rivers in proposed additional Theme.The implementation of the proposed additional Theme to ‘Protect, Restore, and Create’ will assist with identifying and addressing local threats to biodiversityTrees issues are addressed under Action 1.1.v (To map tree cover and quantify its carbon capture), and can also be targeted under Action 2.2 (local community projects), Action 2.3 (quantifying ecosystem services), amended Action 3.2 (best practice biodiversity protection guidance), Action 3.4 (climate change adaptation measures).Addressing water quality issues are a function of SDCC EWCC Department. This Plan can assist by targeting river issues with the additional proposed action to prepare River Biodiversity Action Plan.A specific Action to survey and map wetlands in the County is addressed under Action 1.1.iv**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**It is recommended that any additional theme‘Biodiversity -Protect, Restore, and Create’ with 3 additional actions. Full details in Section 5.0 of this report. |
| **Climate Change** 2 specific submissions* Recommendations for additional tree planting to address Climate Change actions
 | Addressed under Action 3.4 (Co-ordinate with the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024) **Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan.  |
| **Communications**72 specific submissionsRecommendations for greater SDCC-community engagement projects for biodiversity; for increased digital communications/PR; continue publishing weekly newspaper biodiversity articles; recommendations for wide ranging educational/awareness raising materials for schools, businesses, individuals and community groups; for increased reporting on projects and progress to Council/public; for development and communication of guidelines and best practice; for biodiversity outreach programmes; to improve links/ communications with Tidy Towns and other groups; comment on inadequate consultation process; to target children’s biodiversity education; to encourage Citizen Science projects; to support volunteer Park Guides.Specific locations for projects suggested: Waterstown Park  | Issues relating to the promotion and enjoyment of biodiversity, education, raising awareness, best practice guidelines, PR and media communications can be addressed under Action 2.1 (Develop a Biodiversity Communications Strategy to promote enjoyment and protection of nature etc…) and Action 3.2 (Develop and implement best practice biodiversity protection guidance etc…) **Chief Executive’s Recommendation**It is recommended that Action 2.1 be reworded. Full details in Section 5.0 of this report. |
| **Designate new biodiversity protection areas**9 specific submissions* Recommendations to designate new protected areas for biodiversity e.g. Massey’s Wood as a pNHA; extension to Natura 2000 sites; buffer zones around Natura 2000 sites and pNHAs.

 * Use SAAO mechanism to protect sensitive landscapes from development and recreational pressures
* Identify local sites as Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation and include in Co. Dev. Plan e.g. Brittas Ponds, Rathcoole Wood, hedgerows
 | The designation of proposed Natural Heritage Areas and Natura 2000 sites is a function of National Parks and Wildlife Service.The identification of especially important areas for biodiversity will emerge as surveys are collated (Action 1.1). Which form of protection/designation that may be assigned to local sites of biodiversity interest is more appropriately addressed under the County Development Plan. **Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan. |
| **Ecosystem Services**5 specific submissions* The ecosystem services delivered by woodlands such as Rathcoole Wood are highlighted and recommended for protection, e.g. flood resilience, physical and mental health, increased air purity, and a dynamic carbon sequestration rate
 | Ecosystem Services are addressed under Action 2.3 (Quantify and promote the economic benefits (Natural Capital) provided by the County’s ecological landscapes (ecosystem services). Land use zoning and designations are issues for the County Development Plan. The preparation of the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2022-2028 is a statutory process that has commenced. **Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan. |
| **Editing**14 specific submissions* Recommendations for editing, including typographical errors, suggested additional maps, labelling of photographs, include population statistics, provide additional information on habitats and species, include definition of ‘high nature value areas’ etc.
 | These have each been reviewed.**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan.  |
| **Enforcement Issues**8 specific submissions* Recommendation to quantify habitat loss due to planning issues
* Suggestion that recommendations of other state agencies are not considered adequately during planning process
* Request for a complaints procedure, to follow up on biodiversity damage events.
 | Improving the integration of biodiversity legislation and policy requirements into all Council plans and projects (Action 3.1), will assist in reducing the need for Enforcement/compliance actions.**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan.  |
| **Green Infrastructure**32 specific submissions* Recommendation to create a looped walk behind the Balrothery Weir
* Suggestions of parks and other locations that can act as Green Infrastructure links
* Recommendations to beware of and to avoid situations where amenity provision conflicts with biodiversity protection
* Green roofs suggestion for commercial and residential developments
* Highlighting of development and landscaping as obstacles to Gr. Inf.
* Concerns re loss and fragmentation of Gr. Inf. due to maintenance, scrub removal, culverting, use of attenuation tanks instead of natural hedgerows, ditches etc.
* Maintain the Dublin Mts. as a green belt, clear of development
* Loss of open space/parkland to infill housing, fragmenting Gr. Infr. links.
* Highlighting importance of rivers, riparian habitats, private garden spaces, roadside verges as Gr. Infr. links.
 | The provision of increased formal access to ecologically sensitive areas can result in disturbance to protected species and is not generally encouraged.The development of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for South Dublin County is currently being undertaken for the County Development Plan 2022-2028. This Strategy will directly contribute to the development of biodiversity policies for the new County Development Plan. The Strategy will also identify knowledge gaps and opportunities that this Plan can assist with. A number of the issues raised will be addressed by the County Development Plan process and the integrated Green Infrastructure Strategy.**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan.  |
| **Habitat Creation**36 specific submissions* Recommendations for specific locations for biodiversity creation/ rewilding/ enhancement projects e.g. Waterstown Park, Whitestown Stream, Dodder Valley, Tymon Park, Jobstown Park
* Ringfence landscaping and biodiversity budgets for road construction works
* Consider forest projects such as ‘Food Forests’, mini ‘Stepping Stone’ forests, memorial forest in Kiltipper Park, community orchards
* Review the planting of roundabout, with the Pollinator Plan in mind
* Identify sites for rewilding projects e.g. land fill sites, dumps, old quarries, etc.
* Cerate a Country tree nursery e.g. Kiltipper Park, Friarstown, Tymon Park
* Incorporate additional wetlands in the County
 | The Chief Executive notes the content. It is considered that the Action 3.3 should be reworded and expanded to include the promotion of habitat restoration, creation, and rewilding projects, to improve and to introduce new linkages in the network of wildlife corridors habitats for the County.**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**It is recommended that any additional theme‘Biodiversity -Protect, Restore, and Create’ with 3 additional actions. Full details in Section 5.0 of this report. |
| **Mapping**10 specific submissions* Create a ‘Natural Linkages’ Map
* Map hedgerows, river systems, wetlands, important species, the Liffey Valley, River Management Maps
 | Mapping of habitats and species are be addressed under Action 1.1 (Collate ecological data and survey and map the County etc…)**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan. |
| **Monitoring**8 specific submissions* Recommendations for details to be included re monitoring and reporting of B. Plan actions
* Recommendations to evaluate and monitor how recent permitted developments have contributed features/areas to the G.I. network
 | The Chief Executive notes the content. **Chief Executive’s Recommendation**It is recommended to insert additional columns with Targets/Aims, Action Owners and Timescales in the Actions for Biodiversity Tables.  |
| **Non-Applicable submissions**12 specific submissions* Request for the Management Plans of SDC Natura 2000 sites and pNHAs
* Request for a list of all actions undertaken by SDCC to implement the Liffey Valley SAAO and to seek to improve and extend it since 2016. Also, a list of the specific actions SDCC intend to take up to 2026 re the above point.
* Suggestion for a humane management programme for feral cats
* Restoration of Malachi Horan’s house
* Remove single use plastics from use
* Gather baseline data of EU protected species within Natura 2000 sites and Zones of Influence
* Forestry Licences
* Election Posters
 | These proposals are deemed not to be applicable to the County Biodiversity Action Plan.**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan. |
| **Natural Capital**3 specific submissions* Calculate the value on Biodiversity and Parks/Open spaces
* Assess each green space like a BER Rating i.e. a 'Biodiversity Environmental Rating'
 | The Chief Executive notes the content. Natural capital issues are addressed under Action 2.3**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan.  |
| **Partnerships**25 specific submissions* Recommendations to form partnerships to achieve B. Plan objective e.g. Irish Water, Dublin City Council, Tidy Towns Groups, Coillte, local influencers, local community groups, environmental conservation groups, the Dublin Mountains Partnership, business community, NRA, 3rd level institutions, National Biodiversity Data Centre, other Local Authorities, Transition Year students.
 | The Chief Executive notes the content. Addressed under Actions 2.1 (Develop a Biodiversity Communications Strategy…) and Action 2.2 (Support rural and urban communities to undertake local biodiversity projects …)**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan. |
| **Planning Issue – Rathcoole Wood**16 specific submissions* Recommendation to change the zoning from residential to a protected area
* Recommendation to protect and enhance the Rathcoole Woodlands
* Recommendation that Rathcoole Woodland be recognised as an area of significant ecological importance
* Recommendation that any development be frozen or delayed until a full appreciation for the multiple functions of the woodland is assessed.
* Recommendation to undertake annual ecological surveys and provenance and age studies on very old Hazel trees.
* Undertake research on rewilding, species counts, carbon sequestration, water absorption by trees, and begin sensitive management of the woodland, as Council-owned land.
 | The Chief Executive notes the content. The land in question is zoned under the County Development Plan for residential development. Zoning issues cannot be addressed through the Biodiversity Action Plan but are addressed through the County Development Plan process. The preparation of the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2022-2028 is a statutory process that has commenced. SDCC is undertaking a series of ecological assessments of the Rathcoole area.**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan. |
| **Policy Alignment**15 specific submissions* Recommendation that the Biodiversity Plan should be incorporated into the County Development Plan and not be a standalone document
* Have collective alignment between Council policies and plans such as biodiversity plan, climate action plan, Council’s Litter Management Plan etc
* Embrace the objectives and commitments, as set out in EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and to make sure that its final agreed Biodiversity Action Plan shows due regard to and is in compliance with the Strategy’s goals and actions.
 | The Biodiversity Action Plan is an action of the County Development Plan.Addressed under Action 3.1 (Devise and implement good governance strategies to ensure the smooth integration of national and EU legislation and policy into all Council plans, projects, and services.**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan.  |
| **Resources**21 specific submissions* Clarification needed on how the Biodiversity Plan is to be resourced, both financial and staffing
* Provide the necessary resources with a dedicated unit and staff
* Recommendation for a Biodiversity Grants Programme
* Greater accountability is needed for Council Grants, to determine if the environment or local biodiversity will be impacted and who is eligible - Community Groups, tidy Towns, Schools, Churches, businesses etc.,
* Clarification is needed regarding the future of the Tidy Towns initiative and its grants - difficult to get Tidy Towns projects off the ground without buy-in from SDCC.
* A recommendation to assess and report on current enforcement capacity, to include where improvements and additions to these measures can effectively be established.
* Suggestion to seek financial assistance from the EU’s European Regional Development Fund to support to create or restore wildlife habitats across the county
 | Financial and staffing resources are dependent on budgetary constraints and are a function of the Council Executive.**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan. |
| **Rural Community**4 specific submissions* Consideration needs to be given to the rural aspect of the County, farmland outside of Protected Areas
* B. Plan should formulate and deliver training for farmers and rural landowners on the importance of biodiversity, climate change, water quality and upland management.
* Suggestion that there is a need to expand our understanding beyond the urban landscape
 | Rural communities and rural issues are addressed under Action 2.2 (Support rural and urban communities to undertake local biodiversity projects…)**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan.  |
| **Survey Data**1. specific submissions
* Recommendations for the survey of riparian habitats, hedgerows, native and non-native trees, woodlands, bat corridors, rare and red-listed bird species
* Revisit the 2012 Biodiversity study of the River Glin
* Priority should be placed on facilitating surveys/ studies relating to species, habitats, and ecosystems most vulnerable to the effects of climate change
 | Issues regarding the survey of biodiversity resources are addressed under Action 1.1 (Collate ecological data and survey and map the County…)**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan. |
| **Sustainability**4 specific submissions* Recommendation that communities need to be sustainable to enhance biodiversity, to move towards more responsible production and consumption and put an end to waste
* Recommendation that SDCC considers facilitating the development of an ecovillage on its land.
* Recommendation for more allotments for urban areas, including green-roof spaces
* Support the production of locally produced organic food
 | Addressed under Action 2.1 (Develop a Biodiversity Communications Strategy…)**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan. |
| **Targets**29 specific submissions* B. Plan needs to have specific targets, funding objectives, and programmes, as per the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030
* The Plan needs to be more ambitious, with a clear vision, budget, targets and accountability
* Timelines and reporting mechanisms are needed.
* Key Performance indicators are needed, to ensure success of plan
* Targets should be backed up by policies in the County Development Plan
* Suggestion that the proposed 6-year timeline for the Plan is too long
 | **Chief Executive’s Recommendation**It is recommended to insert additional columns with Targets/Aims and Timescales in the Actions for Biodiversity Tables.  |
| **Waste Control**3 specific submissions* Issues of illegal dumping of garden waste, construction waste,
 | Addressed under Action 3.1 (Devise and implement good governance strategies to ensure the smooth integration of local, national and EU biodiversity legislation and policy requirements into Council plans, projects and service delivery.**Chief Executive’s Recommendation**The Chief Executive recommends no changes to the Draft plan. |

**7.0 List of Persons / Organisations who made a Submission**

* Proinsias Fhlannchadha
* Lorraine MacRory
* Dublin Mountain Conservation and Environmental Group
* Cllr Francis Timmons
* Cllr Francis Timmons
* Yvonne Collins
* David Stanley
* Dara Stanley
* Una Ruddock
* Christine Barretto
* Helen Grogan
* Liam Sinclair Green Party Tallaght
* Palmerstown Meitheal Tidy Towns
* Lucan Tidy Towns
* Sally Graver
* Dublin City Council
* Tallaght Community Council
* Dublin Mountains Partnership
* Four Districts Woodland Habitat Group
* Litter Mugs
* Four Districts Wild Habitat Group
* South Dublin Environmental Network
* Dodder Valley Litter Mugs
* Betsy Omidvaran
* Deirdre Tierney
* Guss O'Connell
* Christine Barretto
* Una Ruddock
* Róisín McAleer
* South Dublin Conservation Society
* Annette O Connor
* Eoin Ó Broin
* Eoin Ó Broin
* Glendoher and District Residents Association and Ballyboden Tidy Towns

Councillors F. Timmons, A. Edge, C. O’Byrne, E Ó Broin, P. Kavanagh, G. O’Connell, K. Mahon welcomed the ambitious report, noted the targets and KPIs set in the report and queried how this Plan interacts with the County Development Plan and the Climate Action Plan. The need for a fulltime biodiversity officer role was queried, also the change from a biodiversity forum to a subcommittee and membership of same, and the option of engaging with the local communities.

### Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, and Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land use Planning and Transportation, responded to the Members queries and welcomed their support. They informed the members that the County Development Plan is the overarching Plan from which the BioDiversity Action Plan derived. They further informed that biodiversity falls under the remit of the Council’s Heritage Officer and clarified that the subcommittee will compromise of members of both LUPT and EWCC SPC’s and report to the Corporate Policy Group for policy changes.

### [H10 CE Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67907)

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor Y. Collins, and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Biodiversity Action Plan be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **H11/1120 REMOTE MEETINGS**

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

**REPLY:**

Following the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Section 29) (Local Authorities) (Designation) Order 2020 (S.I. No. 445 of 2020) given effect by the Minister for Housing, on 20 October 2020, it is proposed to add as an appendix Standing Orders to facilitate hybrid meetings, in that meetings can take place in the designated place and members can also attend the meeting remotely via MS Teams.

To assist the management of hybrid meetings, the attached protocol proposes the method with which to facilitate hybrid meetings.

This is now before the Council for consideration, and if agreed, will come into effect immediately.

[H11 Correspondence from the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning re: Remote Meetings](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67864)

[H11 Protocol for Hybrid Meetings](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67911)
[H11 Supplementary Standing Orders](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67910)

Councillors E. O’Brien, C. Bailey, P. Kavanagh, C. O’Byrne, G. O’Connell, and L. O’Toole contributed to the discussion supporting the option of hybrid. Queries were raised regarding the attendance of the public and media at hybrid meetings, also of the notice required to attend the meeting via Teams and the format of such meetings.

Councillors J. Tuffy, B. Lawlor and P. Gogarty expressed concerns in with hybrid meetings and proposed that further discussion and advice from AILG and LAMA is required before a decision to amend Standing Orders is agreed.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive and Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance & Change Management, responded to the Members queries outlining that approval is required to proceed to arrange for Hybrid meetings to take place and that the process can be discussed in more detail at the OP&F meeting on 26/11/2020. They informed that the Protocols have been slightly amended to reflect a Hybrid meeting and have been well practiced to date in relation to ACM and SPC meetings. It was also outlined that the proposal is an Appendix to Standing Orders for the period of the emergency which was developed in consultation with AILG and LAMA and that the approval of Hybrid Council meetings by the Minister was on foot of requests to facilitate same.

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien clarified to the members that the order to facilitate Hybrid meetings had been moved by the Minister in relation to the COVID 19 pandemic and that this is a temporary situation.

It was proposed by Councillor B. Lawlor and seconded by Councillor J. Tuffy to **DEFER** the Headed item until the December 2020 Council Meeting.

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien then called for a vote by way of a show of hands and the Members **AGREED** the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 13 (THIRTEEN)**

**AGAINST: 20 (TWENTY)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

The proposal to defer the Headed Item **FELL.**

The Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien then called for a vote on to **APPROVE** the Headed Item by way of a show of hands and the Members **AGREED** the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 19(NINETEEN)**

**AGAINST: 11 (ELEVEN)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

Following the result of the VOTE the reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy, and **RESOLVED:**

“That this Council amends Standing Orders in order to regulate the proceedings of the Council in the holding of remote and hybrid meetings where required, for the duration of the Covid 19 pandemic.”

### **H12/1120 SOUTH DUBLIN SCHOOL STREETS PROJECT**

### The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation and were **CONSIDERED:**

At schools across the County there are significant traffic and safety challenges experienced at pick up and drop off time. The ambition of the School Street programme is to improve safety for people, to encourage more people to walk and cycle to school and to increase awareness of the importance for doing this. Depending on each location, typically a range design measures, traffic restrictions and information would be deployed. A school street is generally a road outside or close to a school, or schools, where temporary restrictions are placed on traffic during school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction, generally, applies to school related traffic and through traffic.

The initial programme includes eight school locations across the County, two per ACM, with a priority school location identified in each ACM area.

The Council is being asked to approve the overall programme aim, the objectives, the eight school locations as well as the four priority school locations.

The next step is for officers to engage with each of the four schools, to carry out survey work and identify the scope of works possible at each location. Informed by this the level of resource would be identified and the intention is that funding to deliver the capital works will be available from the National Transport Authority on a project by project basis. This work is needed to determine the timing for delivering works at each school location.

## **Aim**

To restrict motorised traffic within an agreed street, or zone, outside the school gate to enhance a safer environment in which children can feel encouraged to cycle, walk or scoot to school.

**Objectives**

There are three key objectives of the School Street Project. They are:

1. **Improve Road Safety** conditionsoutside a school by reducing traffic congestion at the school gate to make it safer environment for children to cycle, walk and scoot to school.
2. **Improve the local environment** by reducing dependence on motorized transport as the preferred mode of choice to get to and from school. This will lead to a reduction in CO2 emissions and improvement in local air quality.
3. **Promoting better health** as traffic free environments encourage more people to walk and cycle, thus improving our physical health and general wellbeing

**Assessment Criteria**

As discussed with each of the Council’s Area Committee Meetings in May 2020 the following selection criteria have been used to shortlist potential schools:

* Presence of School Warden.
* Road category outside school i.e. Regional, Local or Residential.
* Bus route outside school.
* Whether the school is involved with a existing behavioral change programme e.g. Green-Schools Ireland.
* Is there opportunity to better connect the local environment to encourage walking and cycling.
* Existing issues with parking and traffic congestion.

To provide additional context to the selection criteria used, schools located along regional routes were not considered appropriate, and schools on local or residential routes were observed to establish if there were  premises that might directly be adversely affected by such a scheme.  Similarly, the delivery of school street works cannot negatively impact on existing public transport bus routes.  Pre-existing school involvement with the Green-Schools Programme was determined as a positive as that demonstrated that existing structures are in place to engage the wider school community in behavioral change projects.  Lastly, connectivity opportunity to improve local walking and cycling potential and known traffic issues were observed at all schools.

**Schools**

Under the first criterium 78 schools were considered for the project and were weighted against the criteria.  The assessment process resulted in 8 school street locations being identified as possible locations - two per AC area.   Details of these 8 schools street projects were presented at their respective ACMs in October and agreement was reached at each committee meeting on the preferred four school locations.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **AREA**  | **Progress to pilot phase**  | **Progress at second phase**  |
| Clondalkin ACM  | Gaelscoil Chluáin Dolcain – Old Nangor Road.  | Talbot S.N.S. – Bawnogue.  |
| LPF ACM   | St. Lorcan’s and St. Brigid’s – The Oval | St. Mary’s S.N.S. – Rowlagh  |
| RFTB ACM  | Holy Spirit Schools, Limekiln Lane | Bishop Shanahan and Galvin, Templeogue Wood   |
| Tallaght ACM  | St. Mark’s S.N.S. and J.N.S. – Springfield  | Scoil Maelruain S.N.S. and J.N.S. – Old Bawn |

Table 1: School Street Projects.

**Next steps**

Councillors are asked to agree the overall programme of eight school locations and the preferred school location for each ACM.

Following this the Council will commence detailed worked in each of the preferred four school locations. This will include discussions with the schools, surveys, and design work. This work is needed to determine which of the four school locations can be commenced first.  The intention is that the first school street project will be delivered by September 2021.

The next steps for the project are as follows:

* Full Council 9th November 2020.
* School engagement by December 2020.
* Procurement of supporting technical consultant by January 2021.
* Survey and analysis work at schools by March 2021.
* Design work to be completed by summer 2021.
* First project implementation by September 2021 with the remaining projects to follow.

Councillors C. O’Connell, Y. Collins, L. O’Toole, E Ó Broin, C. Bailey, E. Murphy, P. Kavanagh, T. Gilligan, P. Kearns, R. McMahon and K. Mahon contributed to a discussion in support of the project. Queries were raised regarding the use of segregated cycle lanes, the criteria for eligible schools and carparking.

Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation welcomed the support from the Members and responded to their queries. He informed that segregated cycle lanes would be facilitated where space available, that the criteria to determine eligibility is listed in the report and all 78 primary schools in the county were evaluated, and that carparking will not be provided as part of the project.

[H12 SSP Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67850)

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor E. O’Brien, seconded by Councillor C. Bailey, and **RESOLVED:**

**“**That the South Dublin School Streets Project be **APPROVED”**

### **H13/1120 CYCLE SOUTH DUBLIN PROGRAMME**

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

[H13 a) Cycle South Dublin presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67791)
[H13 b) CySD Brochure](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=67837)

Councillors M. Johansson, C. O’Byrne, L. O’Toole, P. Holohan, Y. Collins, C. Bailey, R. McMahon, P. Kearns, J. Tuffy, P. Kavanagh, K. Mahon and E Ó Broin welcomed the Cycle South Dublin Programme and contributed to a discussion in relation to funding for the Hazelhatch Green Canal Way, the public consultation process, clarity of maps and routes, cost and parking for cyclists, reasons for not cycling and if cycle safety training for children could be incorporated into the programme.

Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation responded to the Members queries informing them that the NTA funding was not received for the Hazelhatch Green Canal Way, however, discussions were ongoing in this regard. He informed that 8 schemes are currently in design by engagement with the NTA. He further informed if the programme is approved it will go to public consultation which would include input from cycle groups and that more detailed maps will be available. He informed that cycle safety is already part of a programme delivered to local schools.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **C1/1120 CORRESPONDENCE**

### Correspondence was **NOTED**

**(a)** Correspondence dated 1st October from the Minister for Justice and Equality in response to Motion 9 (Parental Alienation) at the July Council meeting

**(b)** Correspondence dated 30th October from the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in relation to the report of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation

**(c)** Correspondence dated 1st October from the Polish Ambassador to Ireland in response to Motion 13 (LGBT Community in Poland) at the September Council meeting

**(d)** Correspondence dated 2nd October from Galway City Council in relation to a motion passed at their recent Council meeting calling for additional redundancy payment to be made to the Debenham employees.

**(e)** Correspondence dated 9th October from Wexford County Council in relation to a motion passed at their recent Council meeting calling for an amendment to the remit of Irish Water in regards to rural villages with a population of less than 3,000

### **M2/1120 ASHTON DOG POUND**

### **It was proposed by Councillor T. Costello seconded by L. Sinclair and MOVED without debate:**

That this Council (cognizant of the current Garda investigation) calls on the Chief Executive for a full detailed report on the contractual operation arrangement between SDCC and Ashton Pound, and following on from the detailed report that this urgent issue be listed as a headed item for the next full Council meeting

**REPORT:**

The Control of Dogs Act 1986, [**Section 15(2)**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1986/act/32/section/15/enacted/en/html#sec15) provides for the establishment and maintenance of *"one or more shelters for dogs seized, accepted or detained under any of the provisions of this Act"* and authorises the local authority to *"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"*

South Dublin County Council employs two full time Dog Wardens. Ashton Dog Pound and Warden Service provides the Council with a Dog Pound Service.

The existing contract continues to be monitored and reviewed as part of contract management and oversight. Policies and procedures are regularly reviewed, most recently relating to maintaining services during Covid 19 and lockdown and any required changes to protocols for health and safety purposes.

The contract provides for services to South Dublin County Council including:

* Acceptance of surrendered dogs
* Managing reclaims
* Rehoming in accordance with policy
* Monthly reports to SDCC
* Notify Dog Warden of surrendered or seized dogs detained by Gardaí
* Access for Council representatives at any time

The pound is regularly inspected by Council staff. In addition, the Council’s veterinary Inspectors carry out regular unannounced inspections, at least monthly. To date in 2020, eight such inspections have been carried out. None of these inspections have revealed any issues regarding the welfare of dogs in the pound. Improvements to the facilities have been carried out during the current contract and have been documented.

Ashton Pound Service has an excellent working relationship with the DSPCA, and any dogs taken into the Pound which require veterinary care are treated by the DSPCA. 24-hour access to veterinary care is provided for all dogs in the Pound. The pound operator works with the public and several rescue groups to achieve a high level of rehoming. In 2019 94% of stray, abandoned or unwanted dogs from the South Dublin Administrative Area were either reclaimed by their owner or rehomed.

Ongoing training for Pound staff and Council staff is provided through several sources including attending training seminars and conferences arranged by the Department of Agriculture with updates on legislative changes and through liaison with other Local Authorities Dog Warden services.

The sum of €457,700 is provided in the 2020 adopted annual budget for expenditure in respect of Control of Dogs activities, of which approximately €137,500 is provided for the provision of the pound services outlined above.

The Contract between South Dublin County Council and Ashton Dog Pound and Warden Service expires on 31st December 2020. Prior to this expiry date the Council proposes to go to tender for the provision of Pound Services for the South Dublin administrative area.

An Garda Síochána are currently carrying out an investigation in relation to allegations made in relation to certain aspects of Pound Operations and the Council is not therefore in a position to comment on specifics in relation to Pound operations which may prejudice these investigations.

### **M4/1120 ASHTON DOG POUND**

### **It was proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair seconded by T. Costello and MOVED without debate:**

Following reports of cruelty in Ashton Dog Pound, this Council calls for an immediate investigation of their activities and review of our relationship with them.

**REPORT:**

The Control of Dogs Act 1986, [**Section 15(2)**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1986/act/32/section/15/enacted/en/html#sec15) provides for the establishment and maintenance of *"one or more shelters for dogs seized, accepted or detained under any of the provisions of this Act"* and authorises the local authority to *"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"*

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* Managing reclaims
* Rehoming in accordance with policy
* Monthly reports to SDCC
* Notify Dog Warden of surrendered or seized dogs detained by Gardaí
* Access for Council representatives at any time

The pound is regularly inspected by Council staff. In addition, the Council’s veterinary Inspectors carry out regular unannounced inspections, at least monthly. To date in 2020, eight such inspections have been carried out. None of these inspections have revealed any issues regarding the welfare of dogs in the pound. Improvements to the facilities have been carried out during the current contract and have been documented.

Ashton Pound Service has an excellent working relationship with the DSPCA, and any dogs taken into the Pound which require veterinary care are treated by the DSPCA. 24-hour access to veterinary care is provided for all dogs in the Pound. The pound operator works with the public and several rescue groups to achieve a high level of rehoming. In 2019 94% of stray, abandoned or unwanted dogs from the South Dublin Administrative Area were either reclaimed by their owner or rehomed.

Ongoing training for Pound staff and Council staff is provided through several sources including attending training seminars and conferences arranged by the Department of Agriculture with updates on legislative changes and through liaison with other Local Authorities Dog Warden services.

The sum of €457,700 is provided in the 2020 adopted annual budget for expenditure in respect of Control of Dogs activities, of which approximately €137,500 is provided for the provision of the pound services outlined above.

The Contract between South Dublin County Council and Ashton Dog Pound and Warden Service expires on 31st December 2020. Prior to this expiry date the Council proposes to go to tender for the provision of Pound Services for the South Dublin administrative area.

An Garda Síochána are currently carrying out an investigation in relation to allegations made in relation to certain aspects of Pound Operations and the Council is not therefore in a position to comment on specifics in relation to Pound operations which may prejudice these investigations.

### **M9/1120 SIEGE OF JADOTVILLE**

### **It was proposed by Councillor P. Holohan seconded by Councillor M. Duff and MOVED without debate:**

This Council calls on the Minister of Defence, the Chief of Staff & the Commander in Chief the President to promote and support the Irish Soldiers of A Company 35th Infantry Battalion and in recognition, and award 33 men 33 Distinguished Service Medals and 5 Military medals for gallantly recommended by the late Commandant Pat Quinlan. While serving in the Congo in 1961, under the UN flag, Commandant Quinlan and his battalion came under siege for 5 days while attempting to defend Jadotville and the peace in the small mining town. Segregated by a bridge they were cut off and 90 miles from HQ. The force in which Quinlan and his men fought against were led by Roger Faulques. Roger was hugely experienced in combat and his force heavily outnumbered and out gunned the 35th battalion. The Irish suffered no deaths and only a few wounded. Largely due to Commandant Pat Quinlan's insistence that the entire Company dig trenches. The men were then held in captivity afterwards for a month. Upon return home to Ireland they were not treated as heroes in fact many suffered shame. Internationally this feat has astounded Army's about how Quinlan returned them men who averaged age 18.5 home to their families alive. No doubt these men were nominated by Quinlan because they saved lives through brave and courageous actions - it would be just to honour his wishes of granting these decorations he listed and give closure to the 8 men still alive and the family's and memories of those who fought at Jadotville. In 2017, serving members were awarded Jadotville medals upon the then Taoiseach's recommendation. Although, this is a medal is to be cherished, it was not the MMG or distinguished service medal recommended by Pat Quinlan. At a time when our front-line services and forces are close to conscience. Recorrecting this history opens up and highlights a positive assurance towards these brave men and shows our current men and woman of service that we honour and respect them and we will always stand up for their good name and due merit if we feel it is at question with no time limit till closure is found. If passed, a letter from this Council will be drafted accordingly and dispatched forthwith to the above mentioned.

**REPORT:**

If this Motion is a passed a letter will be issued to the relevant bodies named in the motion and a response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

### **M11/1120 LITTER/GRAFFITI**

### **It was proposed by Councillor C. O’Connor seconded by Councillor M. Duff and MOVED without debate:**

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to publish an updated plan to deal with the Litter/Graffiti issue which is of great concern to communities throughout our County; does he have a view on the recent statements of IBAL in the matter; will he state the amount of fines for Litter/Graffiti abuses collected since January and will he make a statement?

**REPORT:**

The South Dublin County Council Litter Management Plan 2020-2022 adopted by the Members proposes to address the negative impact of litter on our county, improve the quality of life and sense of wellbeing of our residents and enhance our commercial and tourism potential. This is achieved through 1. Communication, Education and Awareness, 2. Enforcement of Legislation and Regulation and 3. Management and maintenance of our Public Realm. A comprehensive Implementation Action Plan is developed for each year of the lifetime of the Litter Management Plan. Monitoring and evaluation of the Annual Plans is reported to the Area Committees. The first report on the current plan was presented to the Area Committees at their meetings held in September 2020.

The 2020 IBAL report noted that the Tallaght area has come on a long way in recent years, ranking 7 of the 10 areas surveyed as either at A or B Grades. The report particularly noted the "*improvement at Tallaght Library / Alexandra House and Environs compared to last year – this time around it was deserving of the top litter grade".* In relation to the Tallaght By Pass it found that *"A very good impression was created travelling along this busy route".*The report also noted the presence of three localised litter blackspots, which it is intended to address through the use of increased monitoring, inspections and through the regular removal of litter in those areas.

Up to the end of September, The Litter Warden Service has responded to 2,846 reports, received through customer care, fix your street and members reps, of littering & illegal dumping, including 159 reports related to Graffiti. Each of these reports was investigated and appropriate action taken.  During this period 244 Fines and Notices were issued.

### **M13/1120 CYCLE LANES**

### **It was proposed by Councillor J. Tuffy seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh and MOVED without debate:**

That the Council will require more cycle lanes in new developments to be segregated, and where investment is being made in existing public roads, that at suitable locations segregated cycle lanes will be planned.

**REPORT:**

All Planning Applications and Road Construction projects hold cyclist safety as a core objective. The design of roads and streets for vehicles and cyclists is guided by Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) and the NTA Cycle Design Manual. These design guides set the standards for design including how best to design and integrate cycle lanes with the road network, including the provision of segregated cycle lanes.

The Council will shortly be commencing public consultation on a programme of cycle lane improvements across the County, referred to as Cycle South Dublin. An objective of that programme is to design new roads and cycle lanes in line with the above standards and where possible to provide segregated cycle lanes.

In accordance with Standing Order no. 15 (5) the Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien

proposed and the members unanimously agreed to suspend standing orders in order to deal with an emergency motion as follows:

In accordance with **Standing Order No. 78** the Mayor, Councillor E. O’Brien proposed and the Members unanimously **AGREED** to suspend standing orders in order to deal with the following Suspensory Motion.

**SM1/1120** The following Suspensory Motion in the names of Councillors Y. Collins, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell, M. Duff, W. Carey, M. Johansson, C. O’Connor, J. Tuffy, F. Timmons, C. O’Byrne, A. Edge, D. O’Donovan, C. Bailey, E. Murphy, R. McMahon, L. O’Toole, S. Fay, P. Kearns, E. Ó Broin, T. Costello, T. Gilligan.

That this Council asks the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and/or any other relevant government Department, to make awnings and canopies exempt from planning permission to facilitate businesses socially spacing their customers outside their premises, particularly during the cold winter months, whilst Covid-19 restrictions are in place.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

 **Meeting Finished @ 17:30**

**Motions Not Reached**

### **(M1) NO CAR DAYS**

### **Councillor E. O'Brien**

To ask the Chief Executive to trial "no car days" in selected towns and villages around the County and to use the opportunity presented by these days to engage with community and business to advance changed mobility within these areas.

### **(M3) SOCIAL HOUSING INCOME LIMITS**

### **Councillor M. Johansson**

That this Council agree that income limits for access to social housing should be removed to allow for a greater social mix in public housing.

### **(M5) DUFFY/CAHILL REPORT**

### **Councillor S. Fay**

During the massive struggle that has been waged by ex- Debenhams workers across the companies 11 stores in Ireland the deficit of workers protection in liquidations has again been sharply exposed. This Council calls for the immediate implementation of the Duffy/Cahill Report, compiled in 2016 in the aftermath of The Clerys dispute- as one way of strengthening workers rights and tackling the legal outs provided to major corporations who engage in tactical liquidations in order to avoid their obligations under hard won workers’ rights. If passed this Council communicates such in writing to Government, to all Local Authorities and to the ICTU offering its support for implementation.

### **(M6) CYCLE PARKING AT PLAYGROUNDS**

### **Councillor C. Bailey**

That this Council asks that bicycle parking stands are installed at all playgrounds and playspaces across the county to encourage families to visit these amenities in ways other than by car. Such cycle parking facilities should be located close to and in sight of the playgrounds and should comprise of Sheffield Bike Stands.

### **(M7) IRISH LANGUAGE**

### **Councillor P. Kavanagh**

This Council agrees to establish a "Coiste na Gaeilge"/Irish Language Committee comprised of elected members and representatives from the executive to oversee the promotion of the Irish Language within the County and to ensure that Council is an example of best practice in the use of Irish.

### **(M8) NON-CONTACT PUSH BUTTONS**

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

Motion Pedestrian Crossings push buttons This committee requests the CE to install Button free sensor systems on all pedestrian traffic lights. In light of the current environment we are living in and will be living in for sometime, any and all prevented measures implemented to assist with the battle against the virus will be welcomed by all in our county.

### **(M10) FUNDING FOR DRUGS TASK-FORCES**

###  **Councillor A. Edge**

'Acknowledging the incredible work done in challenging circumstances by frontline drugs task forces both before and during the pandemic, that the Chief Executive write to Minister Frank Feighan asking him to ensure that funding on a sustainable, ongoing basis for frontline drugs task-forces is included in the upcoming budget.'

### **(M12) CONSTRUCTION SITE PARKING**

### **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

This council notes the nuisance that arises to local residents from construction workers parking their vehicles on the streets of housing estates in the vicinity of construction sites.

This council further notes the farcical situation that regularly arises with residents contacting local representatives, local representatives contacting Gardaí and traffic wardens, and Gardaí and Traffic wardens using up valuable time and resources pursuing illegally parked vehicles of those working on construction sites.

As a measure of restoring the confidence of citizens of the county in the planning process and that SDCC works for them rather than developers, this council deC.s that a condition of planning permission of all construction sites greater in size than one dwelling in the county, have an employee parking plan in place for the duration of construction, which clearly delineates where legal parking will occur without causing an undue nuisance to local residents and wasting the valuable resources of the Gardaí Síochána and Traffic Wardens.

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

Mayor

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