**Corporate Plan Annual Report 2020**

In a year dominated by COVID-19, Corporate Plan achievements may appear secondary but are nevertheless an important reflection of the significant effort of the organisation to maintain essential services, develop critically important infrastructure and plan for the future during this very challenging year.

The onset of COVID-19 and the reporting of the first case on 29th February initiated a sustained period of change in our lives, responsive action and reaction to a world pandemic that demanded our utmost attention. As a democratic institution, unit of government and the provider of essential services, the requirement was simply to maintain these services as best possible, while protecting staff and maintaining public safety. What followed in the nine months to the year end was a sustained collaborative effort across the organisation to this end. Vital public services continued with minimum disruption, communities including our most vulnerable were supported through resilience and wellbeing programmes, while the ongoing development and future provision of social infrastructure, including much needed housing was maintained. With government funding, critical financial supports were administered for business including €58m in rates waiver support and €32m in restart grants. Business continuity was sustained across the organisation by virtue of our ICT preparedness, the flexibility of staff and the innovation and adaptability shown in adopting new ways of working, consulting online with communities and the early and sustained adoption and implementation of all health and safety protocols.

Notwithstanding these challenges, it is worth reflecting in summary fashion the considerable progress made in the pursuit of our corporate objectives throughout 2020. Housing construction continued following a short period of construction closure. A further 534 houses were added to stock, while work continued on major projects such as the commencement of Kilcarbery and the tender of Killinarden. A new Age Friendly Housing Strategy and accompanying Rightsizing Policy have been adopted. In keeping with this programme, new elderly housing schemes at Whitestown Way and Fernwood/Maplewood commenced construction, while smaller schemes at Templeogue and Old Bawn are out to tender. We are positioned to again increase our output in 2021 with other schemes advancing through planning, most notably at Clonburris, Balgaddy and Nangor Road, Clondalkin.

In the context of community, recreation and amenity services, notable achievements included the completion of new libraries at Tymon and Clondalkin, the progression of Lucan Pool, new pavilions at Corkagh and Old Bawn, the completion of Kiltipper Park and the substantial advancement of new parks in Adamstown to the value of €15m. The final phase of Tallaght Stadium costing €7m, the construction of a new community centre in Saggart and substantial enhancements to Corkagh Park were brought through planning and will all commence in 2021. We completed our Play Space Programme bringing total numbers provided to 49 while our Teen Space Programme commenced with an annual funding provision of €500k. Finally, the adoption of a 5-year Playing Pitch Strategy sets out our plans for the development of over 20 additional playing pitches in that period to cater for new and ever-growing communities.

Urban regeneration and public realm enhancements have been a considerable focus in recent years. During this year Saggart village improvements were completed, Templeogue got underway, while €45m of URDF funding was confirmed for urban regeneration works to central Tallaght. This bundle of complementary projects were brought through planning in 2020 including a new Innovation Centre, a transport mobility hub at the Luas terminus, the completion of Tallaght Stadium, a new civic plaza and pedestrian links and inner urban roads to open up the Tallaght LAP area. Following the near completion of the Village Enhancement Scheme, Council has now approved its new District Enhancement Scheme with €650k to be invested in two locations annually. Lucan village secured Destination Village status from Fáilte Ireland and tenders have been awarded for the design of the €2.5m enhancement scheme to support its destination status. The planned greenway scheme linking the two canals and passing through Lucan village will also support this initiative. The most significant regeneration area in planning is the Naas Road Regeneration Study currently underway in conjunction with Dublin City Council. The study led by SDCC will examine 700 hectares of regeneration lands with a focus on repurposing this largely industrial area as a new mixed used/residential zone to be developed, over the period to 2040 and beyond. The study costing €1m which is supported by URDF funding was awarded in the summer of 2020 and will be completed in mid-2021.

# Following the launch of our first Climate Action Plan 2019-2024 last year work continued on our programme of initiatives. The council exceeded its carbon emission reduction target to 2020 by reducing our baseline by 33.6%. Significant progress made across a range of areas included the contract signing for the Tallaght District Heating project, the approval and advancement of Whitestown, Poddle and Camac Flood Alleviation Schemes and the replacement of a further 2,000 LED public lights. The planning of constructed wetlands, a substantial Tree Planting and Pollinator Programme and EV charging are among the other initiatives being perused. Also completed was the preparation and adoption of a Biodiversity Strategy. The adoption of Cycle South Dublin with potential associated investment of over €200m in cycling infrastructure, is a critical component of our active travel and climate strategy going forward. Other projects already underway include the Dodder Valley Greenway.

In terms of economic development work commenced on the access road to the new western 500 acre extension to Grange Castle Business Park while the amenity park and castle restoration project were completed in the main park. We continue to work with IDA Ireland on the promotion of the park to international and indigenous companies.

We end the year having completed the initial round of consultation on the review of our County Development Plan. This is a critical component of our work going into 2021. While 2020 was a remarkable and difficult year, it was not without its positives with real progress been made on corporate objectives and the future planning and development of the county.