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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council November 2021 County Council Meeting held virtually through Microsoft 365 Teams on Monday 8 November 2021

**PRESENT**

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

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin.  |
| Directors/ Heads of Function Heads of Function County Architect | L. Maxwell, T. Walsh, M. Mulhern, C. Ward, J. FrehillT. Kavanagh, R. FitzgeraldE. Conroy |
| Senior Executive Officers | C. Hurson, S. Conroy, J. Moroney Ward |
| Administrative Officers | M. Reilly, N. Noonan, A. McNally  |
| Senior Staff OfficerStaff OfficerAssistant Staff OfficerClerical Officer | L. AbbeyA. MallonA. HaganD. Murphy |

The Mayor, Councillor P. Kavanagh, presided

Apologies were received from Councillors K. Mahon, E. Murphy, and L. Whelan

At the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor, Councillor P. Kavanagh, informed the Members that members of the public will be in attendance at the meeting, he then read out the etiquette for the virtual meeting:

-Members to check that they can access the “Chat Function” before we commence the meeting.

-Members must be able to be seen, specifically for roll call, when speaking and voting.

-Mics to be on mute until invited to speak through the Chair.

-Members can indicate they wish to speak on an item through the chat function – using ‘Speak Please’.

-The ‘Chat Function’ is not to be used for comments.

-The meeting will be recorded for minute taking purposes only.

### **H1/1121 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

### a) Minutes of 11th October County Council Meeting 2021which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor P. Kavanagh seconded by Councillor F. Timmons

[H1 October Council Meeting Minutes - 11th October 2021](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72726)

**At this point the Mayor Councillor P. Kavanagh proposed and the Members AGREED to vary the sequence of items on the agenda in order to take Headed Item no. 15 (H15) and no. 9 (H9) next:**

### **H15/1121 CHAIR OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT ON THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020 AND AUDITOR’S REPORT - FOR NOTING**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. Eilis Quinlan, Chair of the Audit Committee was **CONSIDERED**:

Audit Committee report to Council on its consideration of the audited financial statement 2020 and auditor’s report. REPORT: 1. Introduction At the Audit Committee meeting held on 21st October 2021, the Principal Local Government Auditor was in attendance to review and discuss his audit and report in respect of the Council’s Annual Financial Statement 2020. Where questions were posed by committee members, these were responded to by the Auditor and the committee was satisfied with the responses. Issues highlighted by the Auditor were discussed and considered by the committee along with the Chief Executive’s responses to those issues raised. In accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014, I set out hereunder the Committee’s report in respect of the key issues considered by the committee and our overall conclusions.

2. COVID-19 – Impact on Local Authorities The committee noted the significant impact of the Covid-19 outbreak and mitigation measures on the finances of the local authority during 2020. The Local Government Auditor highlighted two schemes in particular that were introduced to support local businesses, the Restart Grants scheme and the Rates Waiver scheme. 2 The committee were satisfied with the detailed information provided in the audit report in relation to these two schemes and noted the new measures dealing with the accounting treatment of same in the audited Annual Financial Statement 2020.

3. Financial Standing - The net surplus for the year in the amount of €21k after transfers to reserves of €45.7m was noted by the committee. The committee also noted the significant movements during the year in the finances in the following areas: the increase in bank investments of €51m and the increase in creditors and accruals of €56m.

4. Income Collection - The Local Government Auditor highlighted the collection yields from Rates, Rents & Annuities and Housing Loans in 2020. The committee noted the yields for 2020. In relation to the commercial rates collection figures, the Local Government Auditor explained how the collection percentage is not comparable with previous years due to the accounting treatment of the Rates Waiver scheme. Had the grant income been treated as collected and not waived the collection would be 89%. The Chief Executive commented that a collection of 89% shows a steady and continued improvement in the rate collection. This was noted by the committee. The Local Government Auditor highlighted that the collection yield for housing rents decreased and “remains poor at 74%”. The committee recognises the seriousness surrounding poor collection of housing rents which will require ongoing attention and review by Council management, to improve the collection rate. The committee noted the Chief Executive’s response outlining the impacts that Covid-19 has had on the lives of Council tenants and the various impediments to the Council as a result of national government directions concerning pandemic related restrictions. The committee welcomed the increase in the collection percentage for housing loans in 2020 and the corresponding reduction in arrears at year end. The Local Government Auditor again raised concerns in relation to the system for recording and accounting for housing loans. The committee noted this and the Council’s response consisting of a comprehensive review and the introduction of a project to integrate housing loans into the Council’s financial management system. The Local Government Auditor highlighted the 14% increase in gross debtors, including those from the main income collections. The committee welcomes the establishment of an expanded Debt Collection Unit to provide a more targeted approach in the collection of outstanding monies due to the Council.

5. Capital Account The Local Government Auditor confirmed the decrease in capital expenditure from €111m in 2019 to €90m in 2020 and the decrease in capital income from €157m in 2019 to €127m in 2020. The committee acknowledge the understandable reduction in activity in relation to capital projects during 2020.

6. Voluntary Housing and Approved Housing Bodies - The Local Government Auditor made reference to historic recommendations made in relation to the administration and oversight of funding provided to Approved Housing Bodies. The committee noted the Chief Executive’s response which indicates that the introduction of the new integrated housing system and associated processes should address these recommendations. The auditor also highlighted the need to address a cumulative debit balance relating to voluntary housing schemes from previous years. The committee noted the Council’s commitment to consider funding of this balance during the upcoming budget process.

7. Fixed Assets - The committee noted the increase in fixed assets from €3,336m in 2019 to €3,359m at the end of 2020. The Local Government Auditor again highlighted the need for a comprehensive property register for all Council property. The committee noted the Chief Executive’s response detailing the progress being made in relation to the new property database.

8. Loans Payable - The committee noted the reconciliation of the differences between Housing Finance Agency and Council records which had been highlighted in the 2019 report.

9. Procurement - The committee noted the framework in place to support staff compliance with procurement requirements and the auditor’s findings that there was significant progress made in the procurement function in the Council since last year. The committee welcomes the improvements in compliance levels from the auditors testing and noted that there remains a small number of instances of non-compliance. This ongoing issue was discussed with the auditor and will continue to be monitored by the committee. The committee acknowledged the Chief Executive’s response that the focus and oversight on procurement compliance will continue across the organisation.

10. Local Authority Companies - The Local Government Auditor detailed the five companies in which the Council has an interest and noted that all five companies are limited by guarantee. The most recent financial statements for these companies were noted in the Council’s Annual Finance Statement. The committee noted that in one instance, 2020 financial statements were not available at the date of preparation of the audited Council AFS.

11. - Governance & Propriety The Local Government Auditor gave an overview of the Internal Audit function referring to the staff makeup of the unit and its productivity during the year. He highlighted the important role that Internal Audit has in providing the Chief Executive with assurance in relation to the governance of the organisation. The auditor also highlighted the activity of the Audit Committee during 2020.

12. Risk Management - The Local Government Auditor made reference to the Council’s risk management policy and risk register which includes risks at both corporate and departmental levels. Risks are rated and relevant mitigation actions are recorded as appropriate against the risks. No issues were identified by the auditor. This was noted by the committee.

13. Ethics Declarations - The committee noted that the auditor confirmed that the annual ethics declarations were received for all council members and designated staff as required by legislation.

14. Conclusion - Having considered the Local Government Auditor’s report and discussed the various issues with him, the Audit Committee is satisfied with the level of improvement that has taken place over the last number of years in the areas of governance, improved processes and systems, and notes the continuing progress made in relation to legacy issues. The Audit Committee raised some concerns on individual ongoing items mentioned earlier in this report and have noted the planned measures to address these matters. The committee will continue to monitor progress on outstanding issues as part of their work programme by receiving and considering updates from Management.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. McManus, R. McMahon, G. O'Connell, W. Carey, B. Lawlor, K. McMahon, and E. Ó Broin who raised queries regarding rent arrears, planned measures and sufficient provision for same and the debt collection unit.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive responded to the members queries informing of issues addressing rent arrears under Covid restrictions. He advised that the Head of Finance can report further at the Council’s OP&F meeting. He thanked Ms. E. Quinlan and the Audit Committee for all their hard work.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management thanked the Ms E. Quinlan and the Audit Committee for the report and hard work.

Ms. E. Quinlan, Chair of the Audit Committee, responded to the members confirming that the Committee is satisfied with planned measures in relation to rent arrears and thanked the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management for their assistance.

The Report was **NOTED.**

### **H9/1121 AMENDMENT OF SUPPLEMENTARY STANDING ORDERS – FOR APPROVAL**

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

**REPLY:**

In preparation for the Annual Budget meeting, members are now asked to confirm their agreement to hold all necessary Council meetings remotely for the duration of public health restrictions due to the pandemic.

**These Standing Orders provide the means and guidance for the conduct of any remote or hybrid meeting of South Dublin County Council and its subcommittees held under the provisions of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Section 29) (Local Authorities) (Designation) Order 2020 (S.I. No. 445 of 2020) Order 2020.**

**For any period of time that ~~Level 5~~ restrictions have been imposed by Government, all necessary Council meetings will be permitted to proceed online.**

**Remote Meetings: definition of place**

1. Given the designation of local authorities, the meetings of SDCC may now be held
* the Council Chamber
* an external venue used to accommodate meetings of the Council
* one or more Council buildings or rooms, linked remotely
* a virtual meeting using MS Teams, or another online platform as chosen by the Council
* a combination of the above to provide for physical and/or remote attendance by elected members.

A decision to hold any statutory meeting remotely or with some members attending remotely should only be taken as a last resort and in respect of each meeting i.e. on a meeting by meeting basis~~.   The provisions re virtual meetings or attendance by elected members remotely shall not apply to Council meetings that adopt or amend the County Development Plan, or the annual Budget Meeting or AGM~~. In the case of any meetings that allow a combination of physical/and or remote attendance by elected members the Mayor shall physically attend the meeting to Chair the meeting.

That these provisions, which are being introduced under the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 Section 29 Order 2020 (S.I. No. 445 of 2020, the 2020 Act being emergency legislation, which contains a sunset clause because the law is meant to be emergency temporary legislation, will be reviewed formally by the Council at a monthly Council no later than the date of June 2021.

**Management of Remote Meetings**

1. Members should notify the Meetings Administrator in advance if they intend to attend the meeting remotely.
2. Any member participating in a meeting remotely must, when they are speaking, be able to be heard (and seen, where practicable) by all other members in attendance, and the remote participant must, in turn, be able to hear (and see, where practicable) those other members participating.
3. The Mayor will at the outset, and at any reconvening of a meeting, call a roll call of participating members and ensure that they can hear and, where practicable, see those in attendance. Any member participating remotely should also confirm at the outset and at any reconvening of the meeting that they can hear and, where practicable, see the proceedings. Members should inform the meeting if they lose connection in accordance with provisions on connectivity within the agreed standing orders.
4. The attendance of those members at the meeting will be recorded by the Meetings Administrator.
5. The normal quorum requirements for meetings as set out in the Council’s Standing Orders will also apply to a remote meeting. Members attending physically and remotely will together constitute a quorum.
6. Each member participating remotely has personal responsibility to ensure and confirm to the Meetings Administrator that there are no other persons present who are not entitled to be either hearing or seeing consideration of such items, and/or recording the proceedings, in accordance with standing orders that apply.
7. Subject to compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), the Meeting Administrator may facilitate the recording of the meeting for the purposes of taking minutes. However, this recording shall only be used for this purpose and will be deleted once the minutes are agreed.

**Meeting procedures**

1. The Meetings Administrator will coordinate the facilitation of the meeting. An appropriate official will assume responsibility for controlling the conferencing technology employed for remote access and attendance, and to administer the member interaction, engagement and connections on the instruction of the Mayor.
2. Members should allow sufficient time to establish a connection prior to the commencement of the meeting to allow themselves and the Meeting Administrator the opportunity to test the connection.
3. The Mayor, at the beginning of the meeting, will explain the protocol for members’ participation. The Mayor’s ruling during the debate will be final**.**
4. Members who wish to speak should use the notification process as directed by the Mayor, and then speak when invited.
5. The rules of debate as set out in existing standing orders will apply.

**Voting**

1. A vote taken remotely in accordance with the Standing Orders of the local authority constitutes a valid vote towards the decision of the Council. Voting will take place by a roll call vote.
2. Where a member loses connectivity during a statutory vote, every effort will be made to re-establish a connection. If a connection cannot be restored within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the Chairperson, the elected member may phone the Mayor or the Meetings Administrator to vote, who will inform the members of the vote and the vote will be recorded accordingly.

**Leaving a Remote Meeting**

1. Members leaving the meeting should make every effort to inform the Mayor by the appropriate means that they are exiting the meeting to ensure there is a Quorum remaining and so that it is not presumed to be a loss in connectivity.

**Declaration of Interests**

1. Any Member participating in a remote meeting who declares a disclosable pecuniary or other beneficial interest, under Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001, in any item of business that would normally require them to leave the room, must also leave the remote meeting, advising the Mayor and members at the time of departure and this shall be recorded in the minutes. Their departure will be confirmed by the Meetings Administrator, who will invite the relevant Member by agreed means set down in the standing orders to re-join the meeting at the appropriate time.

**Attendance of Public and Media at a Remote Meeting (Section 45(3) Local Government Act 2001 – 2014)**

1. Members of the public and media may be present at a remote meeting which is not webcast live but must maintain silence and observe any directions given by the Chair or by any employee in attendance.
2. Members of the media and public should give prior notice of joining virtually in accordance with agreed local arrangements. To manage numbers and attendance, the meetings administrator may consider utilising electronic invitations compatible with the platform in use.
3. Where the authority is webcasting live, attendance of public and media is via that means.

**MEETINGS IN COMMITTEE**

1. In line with the provisions of Section 45 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council may by resolution decide to meet in committee for the whole or part of the meeting concerned.
2. Should the Council elect to meet in Committee for some or all of the meeting the Meetings Administrator or designated person will ensure that there are no members of the public or media in remote attendance or remotely accessing the meeting or are able to hear or see the proceedings once the exclusion has been agreed by the meeting.
3. Where the Council has by resolution decided to meet in committee for the whole or part of the meeting concerned, each member participating remotely has personal responsibility to ensure and confirm to the Meetings Administrator that there are no other persons present who are not entitled to be either hearing or seeing consideration of such items, and/or recording the proceedings, in accordance with standing orders that apply.

Councillor L. Sinclair proposed that the Item ‘be now put’ as the issue, in relation to remote meetings, had been previously discussed. Councillors C. King and W. Carey supported the proposal.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor L. Sinclair and it was **AGREED** that the amendment of supplementary standing orders be **APPROVED.**

“To delete in its entirety the following paragraph -

**For any period of time that ~~Level 5~~ restrictions have been imposed by Government, all necessary Council meetings will be permitted to proceed online.**”

The reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor P. Kavanagh, seconded by Councillor L. Sinclair, and **RESOLVED.**

Following the resolution Councillor J. Tuffy submitted a point of order informing of her internet connection issues during the discussion on this item and requested that her opposition to amendment of Supplementary Standing Orders be noted.

**H2/1121 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

**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

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

**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.

### **H3/1121 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H4/1121 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### **H5/1121 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon, and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Questions numbered Q1 – Q21 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/1121 QUESTION: Councillor Yvonne Collins**

To ask this Council to set out, in tabular form by LEA, the income generated from permitting third party advertising on public spaces e.g. roundabouts for 2018,2019 and 2020, together with details of any proposed changes to this scheme going forward.

**REPLY:**

The Council's Public Realm Section advertised a roundabout sponsorship scheme in 2016.  A total of 24 roundabouts were included on the scheme and bids were invited for sponsorship of these roundabouts.  The locations were graded in terms of their average daily passing traffic and a minimum bid was specified for each roundabout.  Regrettably the scheme only attracted sponsorship for 6 of the 24 locations and in some cases the minimum bid was offered.  An appraisal of the scheme has been carried out and a new scheme is being considered at present.  The total income generated over the period 2016 to 2021 is in the region of €40,000. In addition to this a number of roundabouts have been sponsored by the Square who have arranged for the improvement and maintenance works to be carried out directly by their landscaping contractor.

### **Q2/1121 QUESTION: Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive how many complaints have been received 2019 2020 & 2021 ytd in relation to unoccupied privately owned homes that have fallen into a state of disrepair and thus having a negative effect on the neighbourhood - for example damage to homes either side / rodent activity / antisocial behaviour - what is the general course of action taken.

**REPLY:**

Since 2019, 125 properties have been reported as potentially vacant in the County, either through [**http://vacanthome.ie**](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&amp;d=jJOE2wL3y_Q1YXrxCkROYD7gW2g0XOuP_9rvhS5U8Q&amp;s=344&amp;u=http%3a%2f%2fvacanthome%2eie%2f) or directly to the Council, as per the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Status | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Total |
| Being Investigated | 22 | 15 | 20 | 57 |
| Vacant | 5 | 2 | 6 | 13 |
| Occupied | 45 | 8 | 2 | 55 |
| Total | 72 | 25 | 28 | 125 |

All properties reported are inspected and checks are undertaken through land registry and various other sources to establish ownership.  Upon investigation and where ownership is established, many properties reported as vacant actually either have occupiers, are currently in the process of being sold/renovated or are subject to probate/receivership processes before occupancy is resumed. 57 properties are subject of ongoing investigation to monitor these such processes.

The status of each property under investigation is reviewed on an ongoing basis with owners encouraged to engage with the Council and find solutions for any genuinely vacant properties but the Council does also have a range of legislative powers available to deal with under-utilised and derelict properties including under legislation pertaining to compulsory purchase and derelict sites.  In recent years, six properties have been vested by the Council under derelict sites legislation and this option will continue to be considered if alternative solutions are not arrived at to address the vacancy, including through initiatives such as the Repair and Leasing Scheme and the Buy and Renew Scheme as well as leasing, HAP and RAS that are explored with owners.

### **Q3/1121 QUESTION: Councillor K. Mahon**

Can the Chief Executive please provide a map of the areas that are currently identified for wild flower meadows and an outline of the tendering process and plan for their upkeep in the coming seasons?

**REPLY:**

There are currently 145 ha of grassland in the county managed for biodiversity and this area is increasing year on year.  The link below is to a map of the pollinator sites which are mostly in the larger parks within the county.  In 2019 the Council issued a call for tenders for the annual cutting of the wildflower meadows which also includes the collection, lifting and removal of the grass cuttings.  A single party framework agreement was put in place for this service following the tender process and we are currently in the second year of a four year agreement for provision of the service.

[**h]ttps://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/pollinators/pollinator-county-map-2021-b.pdf**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/pollinators/pollinator-county-map-2021-b.pdf)

### **Q4/1121 QUESTION: Councillor K. Mahon**

Can the Chief Executive please provide an outline of the Councils grass cutting policy including areas that are designated not to be cut for ecological reasons?

**REPLY:**

The Council's regular grass cutting programme provides for the cutting of grass on playing pitches weekly and the cutting of all other areas including parks, estate open spaces and roadside grass margins on a fortnightly basis.

Currently 145 hectares of grassland within the county's main parks are managed for biodiversity, the purpose of which is to provide food and habitat for wildlife and pollinating insects.  These grasslands are managed differently to the areas mentioned above, they require cutting once per year and also require the collection of the grass cuttings. The collection of the grass cuttings removes nutrients from the ground which would otherwise promote the continued growth of grass, the starving of the ground of nutrients allows the natural wildflowers to flourish instead.  The large volume of grass to be cut annually requires that this work is spread across autumn and spring, and this ensures that there are areas of habitat available at all times throughout the year.  The area of managed grassland has grown by approximately 50% in the past 3 years and is expected to grow in the coming years.

### **Q5/1121 QUESTION: Councillor David McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive the total amount received by SDCC under the commercial rates waiver, the amount given by SDCC under the restart grant and if a statement can be made on these items?

**REPLY:**

**Commercial Rates Waiver**

Circulars Fin 11/2020 and Fin 16/2020 announced a six month and three month waiver, respectively, of Commercial Rates for 2020. They allowed for a 100% waiver for a 9 month period in the year for all businesses, with a small number of categories excepted. The value of these waiver schemes to South Dublin County Council for 2020 was €59,229,298.

In January 2021, a new Commercial Rates waiver scheme for the First Quarter (Q1) of 2021 was announced in Circular Fin 1/2021. This was a more tailored scheme and applied to businesses closed by, or badly impacted by, Level 5 restrictions and a number of eligible categories were detailed within the scheme.

This scheme was extended for Quarter 2 of 2021 and Quarter 3 2021, under Circulars Fin 5/2021 and Fin 14/2021. The value of the waiver schemes applied up to the end of Quarter 3 2021 for South Dublin County Council is €24,934,170.95 and benefited 2,298 properties.

A standalone waiver scheme for Q4 of 2021 has recently been announced by the Government under Circular Fin 20/2021, it will be a targeted waiver to support certain sectors. The broad categories eligible are as follows:

* Hospitality (including restaurants and cafes)
* Leisure
* Miscellaneous entertainment
* Certain tourism related categories
* Airports

The three-month waiver will be applied to eligible businesses in Quarter 4 of 2021 and will take the form of a credit in lieu of rates. The value of the waiver is equivalent to the value of 25% of the annual rate bill for 2021.

**Restart Grant Scheme**

The total value of grants awarded under the Restart Grant and Restart Grant Plus schemes, including any top ups, amounted to €30,853,949 across 3,701 applications.

The initial Restart Grant scheme opened on 22nd May 2020 and closed for applications on 22nd July 2020.

The Restart Grant Plus scheme was announced by Government as part of the July Stimulus package. It opened for applications on 10th August 2020 and closed on 31st October 2020.

Additional top up supports were also announced for eligible businesses; “Wet Pub” top-up of 40% on 28th August 2020 (public houses where food is not available), Level 3 restriction 30% top-up on 21st September 2020 (all businesses) and Level 3 extension 20% top-up on 7th October 2020 (all businesses). These schemes are now all closed.

### **Q6/1121 QUESTION: Councillor David McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive the number of housing rent accounts in arrears currently and the number of these accounts in arrears more than five years, and if a statement can be made?

**REPLY:**

There are currently 3,958 Housing rent accounts in arrears, 52 of these accounts are in arrears more than five years.

The Council’s Debt Management Unit take a very compassionate approach to tenants who have found themselves accruing housing rent arrears and have been endeavouring to engage with tenants in rent arrears through several means, including:

* Corresponding with tenants concerning their arrears
* “Face to face” contact with our Housing Inspectors to assist tenants to understand their arrears situation
* Discussing various payment options to address the arrears within a reasonable time period
* Agreeing sustainable debt management plans to resolve the arrears issue.

During the period of the pandemic, in line with Government policy, the Debt Management Unit has not engaged in any legal action for the recovery of dwellings. The Debt Management Unit continues to engage with tenants with arrears to assist in resolving their arrears.

The Council recognises the challenges that some tenants have faced during the period of the pandemic and are sympathetic to their circumstances. Some tenants have dealt with income reductions and these tenants require a rent re-assessment to determine the appropriate rent payable for their income. Once re-assessments have been complete, the Debt Management Unit will once again engage with these tenants to put in place a sustainable debt management plan.

The focus of the Debt Management Unit is to engage with tenants and offer constructive and sustainable plans to address their arrears. It is only as a last resort that the Council will seek a legal solution to an arrears problem.

### **Q7/1121 QUESTION: Councillor David McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive for the amount outstanding in development levies currently, the amount outstanding long term where legal action may now be required and if a statement is available?

**REPLY:**

##### **As at 30th September 2021 a total of € 30,159,477.97 was outstanding in respect of Development Contributions, while €23,380,852.25 was received between 1/1/2021 and 30/9/2021.  (A total of €20, 857,183.42 was received in 2020).**

In accordance with the condition of planning permission Development Contributions are due prior to commencement of development, and the liability is triggered by the raising of an invoice following the submission of a statutory Commencement Notice, a notification that a person intends to carry out works.

The Council has a managed debt collection system in place and in the majority of cases, particularly where the amount of levies conditioned as part of the grant of planning permission is high, clients are accommodated on a phased payment arrangement.

 Usually, the phasing arrangement is agreed along the following lines:

* 1/10   Units  -  floating payment of 10% plus one unit – phasing on sale of units
* 11/20 Units – floating payment of 15% plus agreed monthly instalment/phased on sale of units
* 20 +Units  - Floating payment of 20%  plus agreed monthly instalment/phased on sale of units

Clients have the option to pay through Electronic Fund Transfer / Cash Office or by Cheque and if a client experiences difficulties regarding payment every effort is made to support them to overcome any issues.   The finance unit also operates a letter reminder and letter warning system, in which constant contact is made with the client to ensure payment is received and the matter resolved.

Currently, phasing arrangements are in place in respect of € 26,291,112.51 of the outstanding debt and the balance is kept under review. Payment arrangements are made based on a case by case basis depending on the circumstances involved in the individual permissions and in certain cases as appropriate, legal proceedings are initiated for recovery of the debt.

Certificates of Compliance in respect of units are also withheld until payment in respect of the said units are made.

### **Q8/1121 QUESTION: Councillor Eoin Ó Broin**

What is the purpose of the SDCC out of hours phone number (01 4574907)?

**REPLY:**

The Out-of-hours contact number is provided for members of the public to use if they need to contact the Council in an emergency situation, outside of the Council's operating hours. It is complemented by the operation of the emergency on-call system whereby the call is assessed to determine the nature and scale of the emergency and where necessary the on-call crews are deployed to address the issue before the resumption of normal working hours. Non-urgent calls are logged for next day follow up by the Council.

### **Q9/1121 QUESTION: Councillor Eoin Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive what his strategy or approach is with the regular trimming of hedges and branches of trees that block road signs, block footpaths and block cycle paths? The motivation for the question is that I have so far in 2021 submitted over ten members reps asking for trees or hedges that are blocking roads signs, footpaths or cycle paths to be trimmed which makes me wonder how this vital service is organised?

**REPLY:**

There are certain obligations and restrictions in place relative to trimming / hedge cutting. It is not the responsibility of Local Authorities to cut roadside hedges but rather cutting and maintenance of roadside hedges is the responsibility of the landowner/occupier of the land .

Under [Section 70 of the 1993 Roads Act](https://www.bing.com/search?q=section+70+roads+act+1993&amp;qs=UT&amp;pq=section+70+roads+act+1993&amp;sc=1-25&amp;cvid=0ABB4B2AD68A4D90901CF1D181F6EE4B&amp;FORM=QBRE&amp;sp=1) the owner or occupier of land shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on the land is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road.

Hedge trimming should be carried out between 1st September and 28th February as between the 1st March and 31st August each year it is an offence under [Section 40 (1)(a) of the Wildlife Act 1976](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/section-40-wildlife-acts-consolidated.pdf) as amended by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Heritage Act 2018 to cut, grub, burn or otherwise destroy any vegetation.

Regular inspections of all the trees and hedges across the county is not possible, however, as locations are identified these are investigated and landowners are served with an enforcement letter where appropriate.

The Council's Public Realm Section operates an annual hedge cutting programme for hedges around parks and open spaces and also hedges which are adjacent to footpaths and cycle tracks, where the land and hedge are in Council ownership.  The programme commences in October each year and runs to the end of February, hedges in general are cut once per year.  The programme is organised in such a way that hedges which can give rise to safety concerns on footpaths or cycle tracks are cut at the start of the programme in the period October to December.  Hedges within parks which do not interfere with footpaths or cycle tracks are cut towards the end of the programme in January/February and in some cases these are cut less often than once per year.

### **Q10/1121 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to update members on supports currently available for Business and Enterprise in our County and may we have a statement?

**REPLY:**

Local Enterprise Offices South Dublin provide a range of complementary supports to support people who want to start up or grow a business.  The supports range from providing an initial "First Stop Shop" service where individuals can receive advice on the steps involved in setting up a business, to the provision of grants for feasibility studies, provision of financial support for the establishment of new businesses or expansion of existing ones and the provision of a range of soft supports such as training and mentoring.

Financial supports are available to qualifying businesses only, in the establishment and/or growth phase of their business and who employ up to ten people.  Businesses operating in the domestic market (regardless of numbers employed) such as sole traders, micro businesses and small and medium sized companies may avail of the soft supports available from the Local Enterprise Office, such as First Stop Shop, Mentoring and/or Training programmes.

The range of supports is designed to assist businesses to grow by being able to provide targeted, and appropriate, assistance at each stage of their development. These supports are outlined in more detail in the following sections:

* https://www.localenterprise.ie/SouthDublin/Financial-Supports/
* https://www.localenterprise.ie/SouthDublin/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/
* https://www.localenterprise.ie/SouthDublin/Training-Events/
* https://www.localenterprise.ie/SouthDublin/Training-Events/Mentoring/

South Dublin *South Dublin County Council’s continues to operate*

*The Business Support Fund*

There are four funds specifically designed to address key issues for businesses in the County. Three of the funds support physical works and are aimed at encouraging occupiers to improve the investment potential of industrial estates or units in which they are resident, in particular, those industrial estates experiencing high levels of obsolescence, dereliction, vacancy, and abandonment. One of the funds is specifically aimed at supporting existing small scale businesses and start-up businesses utilising previously vacant units.

[*https://www.localenterprise.ie/SouthDublin/Enterprise-Development/Business-Support-*](https://www.localenterprise.ie/SouthDublin/Enterprise-Development/Business-Support-)*Fund/*

*And*

The Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme, which is intended to improve the appearance of independently owned shops fronting public streets, making streets and villages in South Dublin County Council’s administrative area more aesthetically pleasing to both residents and visitors. The scheme provides grants for something as simple as painting to replacing an entire shopfront.

The council is working through issuing grants to eligible businesses under the Fáilte Ireland supported Outdoor Seating and Accessories scheme for tourism and hospitality businesses across the County.

The council continues to operate the Tourism Event and Festival Grant funding programme which is aimed at organisations and organisers who plan to hold a public festival or event within South Dublin County Council’s administrative area. The aim is to fund innovative events/festivals that are supported by local businesses and communities which will add value to the County’s tourism product. Key priority areas such as cultural, food, sports and activity-based tourism, aimed at growing the visitor economy are included in the grant offering while adhering to National Health Guidelines.

### **Q11/1121 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he is working on a post Covid Tourism Strategy for the County and will he present an update?

**REPLY:**

Fáilite Ireland is in the process of developing a new regional tourism strategy for the Dublin region, which will have due regard to the upheaval within the tourism and hospitality sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.  South Dublin County will be consistent and align with the overall Fáilte Ireland Strategy, supporting it's delivery and incorporation into any future South Dublin Tourism initiatives and strategies. In the meantime, the Council is progressing a number of ongoing projects as set out in the County Tourism Strategy 2015-2020 such as the Greenway Projects and the Lucan Destination towns public realm improvements. In addition, pending completion of legal proceedings and in the event of a favourable outcome, South Dublin County Council are committed to advancing the delivery of the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre.

### **Q12/1121 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has a Severe Weather Plan in place for the forthcoming winter season; will he details discussions he has had with outside bodies in the matter and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) are in contact with Local Authorities throughout the winter. Met Eireann also contact the Severe Weather Assessment Teams from across the Local Authority Sector during the winter season.

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 will hold a pre-winter meeting on 3rd November, this pre-winter meeting occurs annually to plan for the winter season ahead and ensure that preparations are put in place.

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.

This Rest Centre Plan was recently exercised in a live scenario in Tallaght in September. The Civil Defence, Dublin Fire Brigade, An Garda Siochana, the HSE and South Dublin staff from the MEM section and the Housing and Community Section participated in this exercise.

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 2021-2022 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 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/](http://www.sdcc.ie/)

The Eastern Region Emergency Planning Steering and Working Groups are forums that manage Emergency Planning and Management.  These groups meet on a regular basis and are comprised of representatives from An Garda Siochana, HSE, DFB, Defence Forces, Coast Guard, Civil Defence, and the Local Authorities from DCC, SDCC, FCC, DLR, WCC, KCC.

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>

### **Q13/1121 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to present an update on all current Council Housing projects throughout our County; will he details new completion dates where Covid restrictions have impacted on building programmes and will he make a general statement?

**REPLY:**

Many of this Council's approved housing developments were completely closed down for significant periods during Covid-related restrictions and this has obviously impacted on projected completion dates for schemes.  In addition, the construction sector is currently experiencing numerous challenges relating to labour and materials that may impact on projects and the Elected Members will be kept updated in this regard as necessary.

The Council's current approved housing construction projects and their status including projected completion dates are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Site**  | **No.**  | **Update**  |
| Fernwood/Maplewood | 40 | (Clúid Housing) Site start Q3 2020 - Clúid Housing recently advised updated projected completion date in Q2 2022. |
| Riversdale, Clondalkin | 43 | Site start Nov 2020 for phase 1 of 22 homes. Projected for completion in Q2 2022. |
| Watercourse Grove, Homeville | 16 | Site start Nov 2020 & projected for completion in Q2 2022. |
| St. Catherine’s Way, Knockmore | 12 | Site start Nov 2020 & projected delivery in Q2 2022. |
| Greenfort Gardens | 2 | Site start Nov 2020 and scheduled for completion Q4 2021. |
| Templegoue Village | 10 | Contractor appointed and doing pre-commencement design work - projected for delivery in Q4 2022. |
| Whitestown Way | 81 | (Clúid Housing) Site start Q2 2021 with projected delivery Q1 2023. |
| Old Nangor Road | 10 | (Dublin Simon) Stage 4 approval from DHLGH and site start pending with scheme projected for delivery by Q4 2022. |
| Balgaddy | 69 | Tender to be advertised November 2021. |
| St. Mark Avenue | 41 | Construction to commence October 2021 with projected delivery in Q4 2022. |
| Eircom Site/Nangor Road | 93 | Tenders completed & contractor to be appointed in Q4 2021 subject to DHLGH  approval |
| Old Bawn (Brady’s Field) | 12 | Tender to be advertised November 2021 |
| Lucan Road, Palmerstown | 4 | Part 8 approved September 2020 / Túath Housing.  Tender assessment underway with projected site start Q1 2022 and completion in Q4 2022. |
| Grand Canal Lindisfarne | 19 | Tender to be advertised in December 2021. |
| St. Aongus' Green | 12 | Part 8 approved & detailed design commencing. |
| St. Ronans Crescent | 9 | Part 8 approved & detailed design commencing. |
| Pearse Brothers Park | 10 | Part 8 approved & detailed design commencing. |
| Total | 483 |   |

In addition, the position relating to the various mixed tenure sites previously signalled to the Elected Members is as follows:

**Kilcarbery:** includes 310 social homes - commenced construction in April 2021 with initial tranche of homes due for completion in mid-2022.

**Killinarden:** includes 125 social homes and 372 affordable purchase homes - section 183 disposal approved at September 2021 Council meeting and initial planning submission made to An Bord Pleanála in October 2021.  Works will commence in late 2022 subject to planning approval.

**Clonburris:** will include approximately 380 homes in phases 1 & 2 in a mix of social, affordable purchases and cost rental tenures.  Site investigation surveys have been severely delayed but it is intended to advertise Part 8 proposals for both phases in the coming weeks.

**Belgard Square North:** comprising 133 cost rental homes.  Phase one of tender to select shortlisted potential contractors is complete and final tender to issue.

**Rathcoole:** site being reassessed with an updated report to be brought to the Elected Members before the year end.

### **Q14/1121 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive if Covid restrictions have had any effect on the programme to complete the work on the 2022 Voting Register and will he furnish a statement in the matter?

**REPLY:**

The 2022-2023 Draft Register will be available to the public from the 1st to the 25th November 2021, to check their details online at [www.voter.ie](http://www.voter.ie/) and at the Council’s Civic offices. It is also circulated to local Post Offices, Libraries, Garda stations, County Registrar and to all Councillors, TD’S and MEP’S in South Dublin's Administrative area.

The work on the Draft Register 2022-2023 is ongoing. Corporate Services continue to promote voter awareness through a current online campaign on all social media platforms including a message recorded by the Mayor on the importance of registering to vote, which has also been distributed to Tallaght University Dublin and all Secondary Schools in the South Dublin Administrative area. The Council also supports the national campaigns led by the Department to promote and alert citizens to check the register to reach as wide a target audience as possible.

A Bus Stop advertisement was in place for the period of 20th September until 3rd October to promote the Draft Registration Campaign and an article on Valuing Your Vote, in relation to the importance of voting and registering to vote, was placed in the South Dublin County Council newsletter which was distributed to all households during the summer months, all RFA household forms received are duly processed.

### **Q15/1121 QUESTION: Councillor S. O'Hara**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the number of businesses in South Dublin, broken down by LEA, that received COVID-19 grant funding, including the outdoor dining grant, from the Council since January 2021.

[Q 15 Covid Business Supports](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72719)

### **Q16/1121 QUESTION: Councillor S. O'Hara**

To ask the Chief Executive for the number of Housing Adaptation Grants applications made this year, average processing time, and comparisons with previous years.

**REPLY:**

The Council has received a total of 464 housing adaptation grant applications to date in 2021, with 320 applications having been approved so far this year. Of the approvals this year, 146 relate to applications received in 2021 with 174 for applications received in 2020. A further 66 valid 2021 applications are progressing through the assessment process.

All fully completed grant applications received in 2020 and 2021 were successful with approvals valid for 6 months (with provision for time extensions in exceptional circumstances).  Once grants are approved, applicants are responsible for ensuring that works are completed within the approval period.

A further 252 grant applications are currently at various stages of processing, but many do not have all relevant supporting documentation submitted and are awaiting further information from applicants before being considered for approval.  The average length of time to approve a grant upon receipt of a valid application containing all required documentation is currently approximately 6 weeks.

The table below show information on the number of grants approved, paid out and the value of same for 2019, 2020 and 2021 to date:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Grants Approved** | **Grants Paid** | **Value of Grants Paid** |
| 2019 | 339 | 294 | €2,363,915 |
| 2020 | 275 | 186 | €2,032,783 |
| 2021 (to end Sept) | 320 | 224 | €2,073,502 |

### **Q17/1121 QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to comment on Lack of transport and schools that puts areas in west Dublin under 'development pressure' as highlighted by the Office of the Planning Regulator and to ask how SDCC Planning will work to address these issues.

**REPLY:**

A submission from the Office of the Planning Regulator was received as part of the consultation process for the Draft County Development Plan which took place between July and September 2021.  The Office has a key function in the assessment of statutory plans to ensure consistency with legislative and policy requirements relating to planning.

All 302 submissions received as part of the consultation process for the Draft County Development Plan will be assessed and a CE Report will be submitted to the Members on the 7th December in line with statutory timelines for the Development Plan process. The response to the submission from the OPR will be dealt with separately within the CE Report as required under the legislation.

In their submission, the Office of the Planning Regulator (the OPR) acknowledged the considerable work that the planning authority had undertaken in the preparation of the draft Plan against the backdrop of an evolving national and regional planning policy and regulatory context. In particular, the Office strongly commended the emphasis on addressing the needs of climate change throughout the draft Plan, in particular the positive approaches for green infrastructure and more sustainable travel patterns. The planning authority was also commended for the evidence-based approach supporting the policies and objectives in the draft Plan which include, inter alia, a land capacity analysis, infrastructural assessment and asset-based analysis.

The OPR made a number of recommendations and observations which the local authority is required to address or provide further information on in relation to the policy set out in the Development Plan. These included a recommendation relating to Newcastle and Rathcoole requiring the planning authority to review the extent of land zoned RES-N in those settlements and change any surplus land which provides for a population growth in excess of a percentage growth set out in National Policy Objective 9 in the National Planning Framework. The OPR states that this is necessary to ensure that the growth of these settlements over the plan period has regard to their limited public transport provision and deficits in social services.

The CE will respond to this, and the other recommendations made by the OPR as part of the CE Report on the submissions to the draft plan, which as indicated above, will be submitted to the Councillors on 7th December.

### **Q18/1121 QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into Data centres in SDCC?

**REPLY:**

In the last 20 years Ireland has established itself as The Data Capital of Europe with a large cluster of leading data rich companies serving Europe from Ireland. These include Apple, Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Amazon, LinkedIn, Twitter, Airbnb, with many investing in substantial data centre infrastructure around the country.

According to the IDA, there are a range of factors which attract data centres to Ireland, including availability of land at a reasonable cost, strong experience and project management expertise in building data centres and other large industrial projects and competitive construction costs. Other factors which make Ireland attractive for these companies has included low corporate tax and specific incentives such as accelerated capital allowances for energy efficient equipment. Ireland’s stable political environment and cool climate are also contributing factors which attracts data centres.

The Government supports data centres on a national level and provides policies and objectives which encourage public support for data driven business. Inward investment from the data centre industry since 2009 is now expected to top €10 billion by 2020 with annual investment amounting to €1.3 billion.

South Dublin County Council hosts a significant number of data centres within the Dublin Metropolitan Area.  As of November 2020, 61 out of the 66 data centres nationwide were in the Greater Dublin area, with almost 50% of those within South Dublin.

The majority of SDCC’s data centres are located in clusters on ‘EE’ (Employment and Enterprise) zoned lands in Grangecastle and Citywest, with two located on ‘REGEN’ (Regeneration) zoned lands in the Tallaght / Greenhills area. Data centres in the County have an average floor area of 20,000 sq. m and an average site area of approximately 11 hectares. Of the data centres reviewed for a study carried out by the Planning Department in 2019, there appears to be circa 100 people employed ongoing, during the operational stage, per 20,000 sq. m. While levels of employment are significantly lower than other uses such as office, R&D hubs etc, data centres generate a significantly higher level of revenue in terms of rates.

As of May 2021, there were 34 operational data centres in South Dublin or immediately adjacent. Twenty-three of these were within Grange Castle/Profile Park/Dublin 22 with a further eleven operational within CityWest/Parkwest/Dublin 24.  A breakdown is provided below.

***Table 1.0 Data Centres in South Dublin and immediate surrounds***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Operational** | **Under Construction** | **Planning Approved** | **Planning Application** |
| Grange Castle/Profile Park/Dublin 22 | 23 | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| CityWest/Parkwest/Dublin 24 | 11 | 1 | 4 | - |
| Total | 34 | 3 | 12 | 4 |

Source: Bitpower Energy Solutions Biannual Report May 2021

There is potential for data centres to contribute to renewable energy through redistribution of waste heat. This is being realised in the Tallaght District Heating Project which will use data centre waste heat to power homes and businesses in the area.

It is recognised that data centres create significant demand for energy in the form of electricity in particular. Eirgrid has identified a need to reinforce the electricity network in west Dublin in response to the local increase in the demand for electricity.  A new electricity substation and associated connections are to be completed for the area to meet current demand and to create the potential for future growth.

The Draft County Development Plan 2022-2028 has taken account, through strong policy, of the conflicting nature of data centres, recognising government policy and the need for modern society to be able to store and transmit data whilst also cognisant of the energy demands data centres create. The policy, which has been formulated in liaison with Codema, requires operators/developers to demonstrate a number of key criteria before planning permission can be considered, including: strong energy efficiency measures, onsite renewable energy generation or evidence of engagement with power purchase agreements in Ireland, measures to support the just transition to a circular economy, measures to facilitate district heating or heat networks and evidence of sign up to the Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact.

### **Q19/1121 QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to comment and give a detailed report on The Minister for Agriculture and the Minister of State with responsibility for Forestry at the departments new scheme to fund the creation of new native woodland on public lands and how the council proposes to meet this need including preserving current Woodlands already in SDCC?

**REPLY:**

The purpose of the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme is to encourage Public Bodies to establish new native woodlands on suitable bare land.

The Scheme aims to conserve nature by developing permanent, non-commercial woodlands on public land that will deliver the following benefits:

* Recreation of lost native woodland habitats, rich in biodiversity and cultural significance.
* Reverse the fragmentation of other habitats and the loss of biodiversity corridors within the wider landscape.
* Carbon sequestration from forests that will exist in perpetuity.
* Protection and enhancement of water and associated aquatic ecosystems.
* Provision of attractive woodland amenities, to promote health and well-being and opportunities for outdoor learning amongst local communities.
* Enhancing air quality in urban and peri-urban areas.
* Soil protection and the reclamation of former landfill and brownfield sites.

The first step in the process is to identify a potential site or sites within the public land bank, which if developed into a native woodland, would advance SDCC’s own targets regarding the Sustainable Development Goals, corporate social responsibility, climate targets, etc. The site must also be suitable from a ‘silvicultural’ perspective to grow a new woodland, and also from an environmental perspective, so that negative impacts of other valuable habitats and species are avoided.

South Dublin County Council have commenced a Green Infrastructure Strategy and a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy for the county that will map areas of Green Infrastructure at a strategic level and help the council identify the optimal locations for retention and protection of existing elements of Green Infrastructure (including woodlands), the reinforcement of existing elements that require augmentation or the creation of new Green Infrastructure links and hubs (which can also include woodlands). The Parks and Open Spaces strategy will also examine our public lands at the county wide level and make similar recommendations on how we best develop and manage lands within public ownership and provide the optimal balance between our provision of active and passive recreation and provision and protection of visual amenity and protection and enhancement of biodiversity and environmental habitats.

The Council’s tree management strategy for the period 2015 to 2020 ‘Living with trees’ is being reviewed at present and will be replaced with a new policy document.  The strategy currently deals with the planting and maintenance of trees in on-street locations, it does not consider trees in park or urban woodland settings.  These areas are included in the scope of the review of the strategy and will form part of the new strategy.  Work is due to be carried out to establish the extent of existing woodlands in SDCC ownership, these areas will be mapped in the strategy and this will help to identify areas where there is potential for urban woodlands to be extended or newly developed. The conversion of any open space area to woodland has to be carefully assessed and managed to ensure unintended consequences do not result. Quite a number of SDCC’s parks and open spaces contain species-diverse meadowlands that are important from a biodiversity point of view and support species that do not thrive in a woodland setting; such as protected flora and fauna species, ground nesting birds etc.

The Council's Climate Change Action Plan contains a number of actions under the Nature Based Solutions section which will help to increase tree canopy cover in the County into the future.  These include the following actions -

* To develop an urban woodland management strategy and action plan, and
* To increase tree canopy cover in the County through annual planting and maintenance.

The Public Realm Section seeks to balance the improvement of the environment and increase in bio-diversity and tree planting with the requirement to provide and manage active recreation and safe movement through our parks and open spaces. SDCC plants in the region of 1,500 trees in on-street and open space locations with a budget of approximately €150,000 provided annually for this work.  This planting is intended to be additional to that planned tree planting programme, details of which are presented to the Council's area committees in October and November.

South Dublin County Council has adopted a tree management policy that seeks to manage existing trees appropriately and reduce the amount of trees being removed from public open space for non-essential reasons.  The council manages a large quantity of public trees within the streetscape; which presents its own challenges, so the management and retention of these trees is also an important facet in the Council’s Climate Change Action Plan.  Tree and hedgerow protection and retention of mature trees is arguably as important as new tree planting, as it serves to retain a mature tree canopy that already supports an established ecosystem and existing ecological corridors.

All proposed schemes are examined for opportunities for new tree planting. For example - 500 trees were planted as part of the Ogham Tree trail in Dodder Valley, 367 trees were planted as part of Phase 1 of the upgrading of N81, and there are plans in Sean Walsh Park to implement some mini-woodlands this planting season.

South Dublin County Council is a founding member of the Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP); and the DMP in tandem with Coillte Nature recently announced the Dublin Mountains Conversion Programme as outlined below. SDCC are delighted to partner with Coillte in this proposal through the Dublin Mountains Partnership.

Dublin Mountains Conversion Programme and the Native Woodland Conservation Scheme grant:

"Coillte owns and manages around half of the forests in the Dublin Mountains, with the remainder managed by private forest owners. When this land was first planted with trees between the early 1940s and late 1960s, Dublin was a much smaller city and nobody thought much about outdoor recreation in forests. Today, these forests are among the most important recreational sites for a growing urban population seeking fresh air and green space: Coillte’s most popular forest, Ticknock, sees over 550 visits a day. Until now, Coillte have managed these areas for commercial purposes first, and for recreational purposes second. But because of their popularity and proximity to the city, it’s time to put people’s needs much higher up the agenda. Through the Dublin Mountains Makeover, nine Coillte forests will transition away from the clearfell and replanting cycle towards a different model. Multi-generational forests managed under ‘Continuous Cover Forestry’ (CCF) principles will maintain their green canopy on a permanent basis, and in areas where this isn’t possible, non-native Sitka spruce and lodgepole pine trees will be removed and replanted with native species such as Scots pine, birch, rowan, oak, holly and willow to provide habitat for nature and bring autumn colours to the hills."

Work started on the Dublin Mountains Makeover in June 2020 and continues over the coming years, Collite are moving towards a new ‘continuous cover’ approach to forestry that maintains a permanent forest canopy. In areas where this is not possible, they are clear felling small areas of conifer plantations and replanting them with native woodland within the same year. This will enhance and create habitats for wildlife, enrich the forests’ recreational appeal for people and improve the wider landscape’s aesthetic value. The aim of the Dublin Mountains Makeover is to improve biodiversity, climate resilience and recreation. Over the next 20 years the plan is to increase broadleaf from 5% to 25% (equivalent of about 180ha).

The replanting with native woodland in the Dublin Mountains will be partly funded through the Forest Service Native Woodland Conservation Scheme grant on many of the sites but this grant does not cover the full cost of replanting the sites with native woodland particularly the high cost of  deer protection (fencing required).

The Dublin Mountains represent a significant resource in terms of Green Infrastructure, and the conversion of existing coniferous woodland to broadleaf woodland is considered by the partners to be a significant contribution to the development of native woodland in Ireland. South Dublin County Council will continue to engage with Coillte and our other partners in the development of this programme and examine if further co-ordinated and complementary actions  can complement and enhance the proposed actions regarding the transition to broadleaf, mainly native woodlands.

### **Q20/1121 QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief executive for a detailed report into SDCC and the Community Monuments fund for the last three years ?

**REPLY:**

The Community Monuments Fund (CMF) was introduced under the Jobs Stimulus Package in 2020.  The CMF was established to allow capital investment for essential conservation works to our valuable historic, architectural and archaeological sites and structures.  Eligible projects are drawn from the following categories:

a) projects proposed by a Local Authority in relation to archaeological monuments in public ownership, where a clear heritage focus and community or public benefit has been demonstrated;

b) projects proposed by a Local Authority on foot of applications form private applicants who are the owners or custodians of relevant archaeological monuments where there is a tangible public benefit;

c) projects with a clearly defined heritage focus and community or public benefit proposed directly to the Department by a State-funded organisation working in the heritage area.

In 2020 the Councils Architectural Conservation Officer, LUPT applied for funding under the CMF 2020 under Stream 1 in order to obtain financial assistance to carry out large scale conservation repair and stabilisation works at St. Finian’s Church, Esker, a Protected Structure site.  Works were successfully completed and were partially funded under the Community Monuments Fund and LUPT Architectural Conservation Capital fund to protect and conserve the Ruined Church.

The CMF is running again this year and South Dublin County Councils Architectural Conservation Section and Public Realm Section worked together to apply for funding for phase two works.  Successful applications under the CMF were announced by Minister Noonan TD on the 16th June 2021, with St. Finian’s successfully awarded funding under Stream 3 – which provides grant offers of up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments (including COVID 19 public health measures).  A total of €16,421.59 was awarded which covers the total cost of the works under phase two.

Works under the second phase include; removal of 'ghost' graffiti from church walls to return site to original state.  The reinstate and repair of the Father MacCarten Memorial, which is of great historical significance, the memorial will be given pride of place within the graveyard.  The insertion of pea gravel within the Church will allow for a more suitable material to protect the area.  New Interpretive signage will be provided at the site, this is due to Society of Old Lucan, Community Group involvement and the need for interpretive signs to raise understanding, further awareness and appreciation of the site. The Councils Architectural Conservation Officer and Public Realm are continuing to work together to complete the project by the end of November 2021.

### **Q21/1121 QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive what efforts will be made to protect listed buildings and structures within SDCC given the high risks associated with Climate Change?

**REPLY:**

The South Dublin County Council Climate Change Action Plan includes the following policies;

Action E26 Develop maintenance and condition survey programmes for Council-owned historic and ancient monuments that are informed by climate change impacts; and

Action E27 Conduct research and seek to develop Council-based case studies on appropriate and sensitive retrofitting/energy upgrading of traditional buildings to inform works both to Council-owned properties and to guide private owners.

As part of the Draft County Development Plan 2022-2028 the ‘Architectural Conservation, Adaptability and Placemaking Section’ a number of policies have been included, this approach is supported in Regional Planning policy and will ensure immediate actions are achievable and that those long-term objectives are in line with Government Policy and Climate Change Adaptation.

South Dublin County Council continues to support and provide financial assistance to owners of Protected Structures as part of the Governments National Architectural Conservation Grant Schemes.  Owners/occupiers of Protected Structures can apply for grant assistance for thermal upgrading and energy efficiency works under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme which is financed by the DHLGH and administered by the Councils Architectural Conservation Officer, LUPT Department.  The Community Monument Fund which is also funded by the DHLGH provides financial assistance to Local Authorities and private owners to build resilience in our Protected Structures sites which are Recorded Monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

The Councils Architectural Conservation Officer will continue to advise owners/occupiers and SDCC in relation to best practice for Thermal Upgrading/energy efficiency upgrading to Protected Structures and on Government Policy under the Climate Change Sectoral Plan for Built Heritage.

### **H6/1121 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H7a/1121 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

### The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development and were **CONSIDERED:**

(a) Proposed disposal of lands at Castlefield, Knocklyon, Dublin 16 to Orbitiz Limited

**LD 1092 Proposed disposal of lands at Castlefield, Knocklyon, Dublin 16 to Orbitiz Limited**

The Council is the freehold owner of two sites at Castlefield, Knocklyon, Dublin 16. The two sites were placed for open market sale with appointed selling agent, Vincent Finnegan Commercial, 1st Floor Joe Daly House, Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14.

Following an extensive marketing process the Council Valuer in conjunction with the selling agent has reached agreement on sale terms and conditions which they consider to be fair and reasonable, and which have been accepted by the identified purchaser. This disposal if Agreed will supersede the previous disposal approved at Council meeting held on the 12th of 0ctober 2015 and as set out in Chief Executive Order DEV/83/15.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Council disposes of the sites at Castlefield Knocklyon, Dublin 16 to Orbitiz Limited, 38 Belgrave Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6 in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, subject to the following terms and conditions: -

1. That the subject sites are shown outlined in red on Drawing Nos. LA/13/19 and LA/22/20 comprising an area of approximately 0.783 hectares/1.93 acres or thereabouts.
2. That the purchase price shall be the sum of €2,650,000 (two million six hundred and fifty thousand euro) plus VAT if applicable, payable in the following manner:
3. 10% deposit (plus any VAT due) upon signing of the disposal contract which is conditional on receipt of satisfactory planning permission. The Proposed Purchaser has lodged a booking deposit of €132,000 (one hundred and thirty two thousand euro) with the Council’s Sales Agent, Vincent Finnegan. The booking deposit payment of €132,000 will be set off against the 10% deposit payment (plus any VAT due) in advance of the signing of the disposal contract. The draft disposal contract should be issued to the Proposed Purchaser within eight (8) weeks of Council approval to the disposal of the sites (if approved). The Proposed Purchaser will sign and return the final disposal contract in the agreed form to the Vendor’s Solicitor within fifteen (15) working days of issue.
4. 90% balance plus VAT (if applicable) upon completion of the disposal – please refer to terms 5 and 6 below.

A 12% p.a. interest rate shall apply to any outstanding sums after they became due under the agreement.

1. That the proposed purchaser is Orbitiz Limited.
2. That South Dublin County Council holds registered freehold title in the subject sites subject to a wayleave shown in yellow on attached Drawing Nos. LA/13/19 and LA/22/20.
3. That the disposal is subject to the receipt of an acceptable planning permission for a residential development. The proposed purchaser (acting reasonably) shall be obliged to confirm in writing to the Council within 10 (ten) days of the date of final grant, that a planning permission received from the Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála is acceptable or not to them. If a planning permission is notified to the Council as being acceptable, then this disposal shall complete within 10 (ten) working days from the date of such notification.
4. The final grant of planning permission will determine the final disposal price, and the amount listed in term 2 may be adjusted on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the Heads of Terms agreed between both parties.
5. That the proposed purchaser will lodge a planning application for the proposed scheme within 2 (two) months of signing and exchanging the disposal contract. Failure to lodge a planning application within the stated period shall render the agreement null and void.
6. That the proposed purchaser shall be permitted to lodge a maximum of two comprehensive planning applications to the Planning Authority and two planning appeals to An Bord Pleanála.

The entitlement to lodge a second comprehensive planning application shall only arise if the Planning Authority refuses permission for the first application or if the proposed purchaser (acting reasonably) deems the grant of planning permission by the Planning Authority to be unacceptable and onerous. The second comprehensive planning application, if it occurs, must be lodged within 6 (six) weeks of the date of the Planning Authority’s decision. The proposed purchaser (acting reasonably) shall be obliged to confirm in writing to the Council within 10 (ten) working days of the date of final grant, that a planning permission received from the Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála is acceptable or not to them.
7. That if the Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála refuses permission for the proposed development, or the proposed purchaser (acting reasonably) deems a planning permission to be unacceptable or otherwise fails to comply with any of the conditions above, the contracts will be rescinded, and all monies received will be returned, without the payment of interest.
8. That the proposed purchaser will be responsible for all costs in relation to the planning process.
9. That the proposed purchaser shall satisfy the Council that they have sufficent funds to develop the site in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area.
10. That it is a matter for the proposed purchaser to satisfy themselves as to the existence and/or availability of services within or adjacent to the sites.
11. That each party shall be responsible for their own costs and fees in this matter.
12. That the purchaser shall pay any VAT, Stamp Duty, or taxes arising at any stage in this transaction (expect where any lawful exemption or relief therefrom applies), including on the creation of a contract for sale.
13. That all site investigations (including archaeological investigations), groundworks, overhead cable diversions, demolitions/site clearance/septic site removal (such works are subject to regulations and to obtaining the relevant statutory licences), services connections, development and associated costs incurred in the delivery of the entire completed development shall be borne by the purchaser.
14. That the Council’s Law Agent shall draft the agreements and contracts for review and may include further reasonable terms and conditions as deemed appropriate to give effect to the terms and conditions set out herein, including provision for use of an independent expert to settle any disputes arising, as appropriate, in order to achieve a reasonable balance in the protection of the parties’ interests in the matter.
15. That this proposed disposal is subject to the necessary consents and approvals being obtained from South Dublin County Council.
16. That if no development has been substantially commenced on the subject sites within 2 (two) years of the completion of the sale, the Council reserve the right or option at any time during the third year following the date of completion of the sale, to acquire the site back at the same consideration for which it was sold. In the event that the Council wishes to exercise this right or option it shall notify the purchaser in writing.
17. That the dates for the performance of any of the requirements of the proposed agreement may be amended at the absolute discretion of the Chief Executive.
18. That no agreement enforceable at law is created or is intended to be created until exchange of contracts has taken place.
19. That the Law Agent shall draft the necessary legal agreements and shall include any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
20. That the Council will retain ownership of any boundary walls or sound barriers that adjoins the M50 and a wayleave to access these walls.

The lands being disposed form part of the lands acquired from Thomas Mc Inerney and Company Limited and Meade Plant Hire in 1977 and 1980 respectively for road requirements.

**D. McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

[Map Site 1](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72541)
[Map Site 2](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72542)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor W. Carey, F. Timmons, C. Bailey, M. Johansson, D. Ó Brádaigh, B. Lawlor, A. Edge, A. Hayes, L. Dunne, M. Duff, P. Kearns, Y. Collins, R. McMahon, V. Casserly, C. King, G. O'Connell, and L. Sinclair, who raised queries in relation to consideration of a Part 8 provision of social housing on the site rather than sale for private housing, the sale price of the land, the proposed purchaser, the possibility of SHD development on the site if sold, and the housing capacity of the site.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, and Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development, responded to the Members queries, informing on the circumstance of the site being listed for disposal, indicative timelines for potential Council development, unsuitability of the site for SHD and estimated housing capacity of the site.

The Mayor, Councillor P. Kavanagh, then called for a **Roll Call** vote on the item, the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 8 (EIGHT)**

**Councillor V. Casserly, K. Egan, B. Lawlor, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, D. McManus, S. O'Hara, and B. Pereppadan**

**AGAINST: 28 (TWENY-EIGHT)**

**Councillor C. Bailey, W. Carey, Y. Collins, T. Costello, L. Donaghy, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, T. Gilligan, P. Gogarty, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, M. Johansson, P. Kavanagh, P. Kearns, C. King, S. McEneaney, S. Moynihan, D. Ó Brádaigh, E. Ó Broin, G. O'Connell, C. O'Connor, D. O'Donovan, L. O'Toole, D. Richardson, L. Sinclair, F. Timmons, and J. Tuffy**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed byCouncillor P. Kavanagh, seconded by Councillor L. Donaghy and **FELL.**

“That the Proposed disposal of lands at Castlefield, Knocklyon, Dublin 16 to Orbitiz Limited “

At this point the Mayor, Councillor P. Kavanagh, requested the Deputy Mayor, Councillor P. Donaghy to Chair the meeting.

### **H8/1121 MANAGERS REPORT** - **FOR NOTING**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. D. Mc Loughlin, Chief Executive and were **CONSIDERED:**

[HI 8 a) Chief Executive's Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72701)
[HI 8 b) Statistics Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72634)

[HI 8 c) Local Indicators 2020 totals and January - September 2021 inclusive](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72676)
HI 8 d) Finance Report

**Billing and Collection Statement**

Arrears **@ 31 Adopted Billed to 15th Rec'ts/Credits GL Arrears @ Dec 2020 Budget 2021 October 2021 to 15th 15th October**

**October 2021 2021**

% **of BILLED**

**income achieved**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Via Billing Systems*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commercial Rates | €17,820,823 | €131,774,000 | €131,418,986 | €116,805,399 | €32,434,410 | 89% |
| Entry Year Property Levy (PEL) | €535,775 | €3,089,000 | €6,203,417 | €5,797,563 | €941,629 | 93% |
| Housing Rents | €8,704,725 | €26,622,800 | €21,641,850 | €21,040,772 | €9,305,803 | 97% |
| Housing RAS Rents | €741,040 | €2,219,600 | €1,816,376 | €1,842,695 | €714,721 | 101% |
| ***Via Cash Systems*** |  |  |  |  |  | ***% of Budget******Income Achieved*** |
| NPPR Charge | n/a | €750,000 | n/a | €808,977 | €0 | 108% |
| Planning Fees | n/a | €1,075,500 | n/a | €1,020,705 | €0 | 95% |
| Fire Certificates | n/a | €750,000 | n/a | €972,439 | €0 | 130% |
| Parking Fees | n/a | €512,000 | n/a | €2,352,985 | €0 | 460% |
| Irish Water September 2021 | €847,819 | €8,707,900 | €5,448,181 | €6,193,079 | €102,920 | 71% |
|  | **€28,650,182** | **€175,500,800** | **€166,528,809** | **€156,834,614** | **€43,499,483** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rents Aged Debt** |  | **Rates Aged Debt** |  | **PEL Aged Debt** |
| **Category** | **Numbers** | **Amounts** | **% of Accounts** |  | **Year** | **Bal O/S** | **%** |  | **Year** | **Bal O/S** | **%** |
| **Accounts not in Arrears** | 4452 | **2,013,939** | **45%** |  | **2021** | €18,209,024 | **54%** |  | **2021** | €869,279 | **92%** |
| **0-12 weeks** | 2,357 | 692,632 | **24%** |  | **2020** | €2,412,806 | **7%** |  | **2020** | €33,702 | **4%** |
| **13-18 weeks** | 534 | 455,977 | **5%** |  | **2019** | €4,295,334 | **13%** |  | **2019** | €6,720 | **1%** |
| **19-24 weeks** | 325 | 388,602 | **3%** |  | **2018** | €2,505,302 | **7%** |  | **2018** | €1,370 | **0%** |
| **25-52 weeks** | 889 | 1,884,531 | **9%** |  | **2017** | €2,019,318 | **6%** |  | **2017** | €12,123 | **1%** |
| **1 - 2 years** | 739 | 3,272,796 | **7%** |  | **2016** | €1,172,772 | **3%** |  | **2016** | €13,905 | **1%** |
| **Greater than 2 years** | 582 | 4,625,204 | **6%** |  | **Pre 2016** | €2,990,446 | **9%** |  | **Pre 2016** | €4,532 | **0%** |
| **Totals** |  **9,878** | **€9,305,803** | **100%** |  |  | **€33,605,002** | **100%** |  |  | **€941,629** | **100%** |

**Use of overdraft facility**

Department approved overdraft facility = €25,000,000

No of days in Overdraft from 1st January to 15th October 2021 = 1

 Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, informed the members of the delay in proceeding with construction of the Saggart Community Centre due to the withdrawal of the contractor, he further informed that it will be necessary to go to Tender again and that the Board of the community centre had been appraised of the current situation.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson, S. Moynihan, W. Carey, E. Ó Broin, R. McMahon and D. McManus who commended the report and raised queries regarding housing relets and maintenance, derelict sites, bonfire clean-ups, development levies and Saggart Community Centre.

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

 The Reports were **NOTED**.

At this point the Mayor, Councillor P. Kavanagh re-joined the meeting.

### **H10/1121 300K HAVE YOUR SAY SHORTLIST - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**REPLY:**

Following the launch of the €300K Have Your Say initiative for Tallaght Central on 8 September 2021, three online workshops were held and a promotional communications campaign took place. The communications around the initiative during this period focused first on promoting the workshops and then on obtaining idea submissions from the public through the €300k Have Your Say website. The Council’s community team also reached out to local groups and the Public Participation Network during this time.

The communications around the initiative during the initial period focused on promoting the workshops and then on obtaining idea submissions from the public through the €300k Have Your Say website. This was done through social media, local press and over 18,000 leaflets delivered to households and local businesses in the area advertising the initiative.

Direct contact was made with the Public Participation Network, community groups and organisations in the area. Adverts were placed in the Echo, Dublin People and the free Tallaght News newspaper.

Social media posts on the initiative were seen approximately 228,000 times with around 6,250 interactions with those posts through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Paid advertising was run on Facebook and Instagram. Messages were targeted through location at those within the Tallaght Central Electoral Area.

The deadline for submissions passed on 8 October with the Council receiving 223 project submissions from the public, the second-highest amount ever received for €300k Have Your Say. Each submission was assessed under the agreed criteria by the Executive team and considered by the Steering Group. The following is the agreed criteria for assessing the suitability of projects:

* A project that would benefit a significant number of people living in their community
* A project that is achievable within the maximum €300,000 allocation and without significant maintenance costs thereafter
* A project that is deliverable in 2022
* A project that is not already planned for by the Council within an existing programme of work
* A project that is within the remit of the Council and is not the responsibility of another government department or public body
* Is not project that would be considered for funding through an existing grant scheme, such as the Council’s Community Grants Scheme
* On land that is in public ownership and is not on private property? Land must be in public ownership.
* A project that is within the Tallaght Central Electoral area
* The purchase of vehicles is excluded from this initiative

The resulting shortlist of projects has been finalised through this process and is being recommended by the Participatory Budgeting Steering Group for approval to the November Council meeting and will be available for that meeting.

Following approval by the Council, the Public Vote stage will go live immediately for a two-week period from November 8th until Monday 22nd November. The announcement of the winning projects will be held on the evening of December 1st or 2nd in a venue to be confirmed. As numbers will still be limited under public health advice, the numbers attending this will be limited but all members of the Steering Group and the Tallaght Area Committee, together with the people who submitted all shortlisted ideas will be invited to the announcement.

Everyone who submitted an idea will be contacted and advised whether their idea was successfully listed for the public vote. Those whose ideas had to be eliminated will be provided with an explanation of the reason why their idea did not meet the criteria.

The Tallaght Area Committee will be provided with update reports on the progress made on the delivery of the successful projects throughout 2022.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. O'Connor, M. Duff, T. Costello, L. Sinclair, and R. McMahon who commended the report and the work of the Steering Group, queries were raised in relation to the voting process and clarification on locations listed.

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

[Tallaght Central Shortlist for Public Vote](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72778)

It was proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair and seconded by Councillor M. Duff **AGREED** that the 300K Shortlist be **APPROVED.**

### **H11a/1121 DISCRETIONARY FUND FOR AREA COMMITTEES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

1. **Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area Committee Discretionary Fund Report**

**REPLY:**

The Area Committee Meeting Chairs and Co-ordinators agreed on the process to consider proposals from elected members for the Area Committee Discretionary fund. The following report sets out the proposals received and assessed by the Executive, and considered feasible for elected members to consider:

 Summary of all proposals received:

1. Reflection benches across the Area Committee in selected suitable locations – two different proposals -
* in recognition of the challenges of the COVID pandemic
* to support older people and people with limited mobility to frequent our villages and take an active part in society
1. Accessible swings
2. Devices for students in schools to address the digital divide
3. Street parties goody bags
4. Flagpoles in each village with a permanent plaque giving bring history of the Irish Flag, to be unveiled in 2022
5. Defibrillators for sporting clubs or organisations  that don't have  one
6. Funding for Domestic Violence support organisations & meeting with Area Committee to highlight work
7. Artwork at each village entrance
8. Once off "environmental grant", for the improved mental health and wellbeing of local area users and the enhancement of existing water, or natural corridors
9. Large bulky item collections at recognised litter blackspots – particular area to be decided by the Area Cttee
10. To create an existing area in the Tallaght Town Centre or Tallaght Village as a "Youth Plaza" with seating and appropriate artwork aimed at young people for recreation and socialising.

The following proposals are recommended for approval at Area Committee:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Project / proposal & cost  | Proposer  | Project costs  |
| Reflection Benches (in recognition of the challenges of the COVID pandemic) across the Area Committee in selected suitable locations   |  Cllr Yvonne Collins  |  From circa. €1,000   |
| Reflection benches to support older people and people with limited mobility to frequent our villages and take an active part in society  |  Cllr Peter Kavanagh  |  From circa. €1,000  |

The following criteria was considered in each project / proposal:

* Projects that can avail of funding from other state agencies or are usually funded by another agency or Department were not deemed as suitable for consideration
* Provision of clear project / idea proposals that enable accurate project costings
* New projects / proposals for consideration, that are not already in place
* Projects/proposals demonstrating good value for money and not exceeding €10,000
* One off Projects/proposals demonstrating sustainability and inclusivity
* Projects / proposals that do not require ongoing funding for maintenance, licensing costs, etc.

The report and its recommendations are now before members for their consideration. Proposals agreed by the Area Committee will be brought to the November Council meeting for final approval.

Following contributions from Councillors, Yvonne Collins, Deirdre O Donovan, Pamela Kearns, Laura Donaghy, Carly Bailey, Emma Murphy, Lynn Mc Crave, David McManus, Ronan McMahon and Allen Edge, Sheila Kelly, Administrative Officer responded to the queries raised, the report as circulated was **NOTED**, and it was **AGREED to proceed with the Mobility / Reflection Benches**

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor D. McManus and **AGREED** that the Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/ Bohernabreena Area Committee Discretionary Fund Report be **APPROVED.**

### **H11b/1121 DISCRETIONARY FUND FOR AREA COMMITTEES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

1. **Clondalkin Area Committee Discretionary Fund Report**

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The Area Committee Meeting Chairs and Co-ordinators agreed on the process to consider proposals from elected members for the Area Committee Discretionary fund. The following report sets out the proposals received and assessed by the Executive, and considered feasible for elected members to consider:

 Summary of all proposals received:

1. Reflection benches across the Area Committee in selected suitable locations – two different proposals -
2. in recognition of the challenges of the COVID pandemic
3. to support older people and people with limited mobility to frequent our villages and take an active part in society
4. Accessible swings
5. Devices for students in schools to address the digital divide
6. Street parties goody bags
7. Flagpoles in each village with a permanent plaque giving bring history of the Irish Flag, to be unveiled in 2022
8. Defibrillators for sporting clubs or organisations that don't have one
9. Funding for Domestic Violence support organisations & meeting with Area Committee to highlight work
10. Artwork at each village entrance
11. Once off "environmental grant", for the improved mental health and wellbeing of local area users and the enhancement of existing water, or natural corridors.
12. Large bulky item collections at recognised litter blackspots – particular area to be decided by the Area Cttee.
13. To create an existing area in the Tallaght Town Centre or Tallaght Village as a "Youth Plaza" with seating and appropriate artwork aimed at young people for recreation and socialising.

The following proposals are recommended for approval at Area Committee:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Project / proposal & cost | Proposer | Project costs |
| Reflection Benches (in recognition of the challenges of the COVID pandemic) across the Area Committee in selected suitable locations | Cllr Yvonne Collins | From circa. €1,000 |
| Reflection benches to support older people and people with limited mobility to frequent our villages and take an active part in society | Cllr Peter Kavanagh | From circa. €1,000 |

The following criteria was considered in each project / proposal:

* Projects that can avail of funding from other state agencies or are usually funded by another agency or Department were not deemed as suitable for consideration
* Provision of clear project / idea proposals that enable accurate project costings
* New projects / proposals for consideration, that are not already in place
* Projects/proposals demonstrating good value for money and not exceeding €10,000
* One off Projects/proposals demonstrating sustainability and inclusivity
* Projects / proposals that do not require ongoing funding for maintenance, licensing costs, etc.

The report and its recommendations are now before members for their consideration. Proposals agreed by the Area Committee will be brought to the November Council meeting for final approval.

Following contributions from Councillors, Francis Timmons, Eoin Ó Broin, Peter Kavanagh, Trevor Gilligan, Shirley O’Hara and Willian Carey, Sharon Conroy, Senior Executive Officer responded to the queries raised, the report as circulated was **NOTED**, and it was **AGREED to proceed with Reflection Benches**Bottom of Form

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor D. McManus and **AGREED** that the Clondalkin Area Committee Discretionary Fund Report be **APPROVED.**

### **H11c/1121 DISCRETIONARY FUND FOR AREA COMMITTEES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

1. **Tallaght Area Committee Discretionary Fund Report**

The Area Committee Meeting Chairs and Co-ordinators agreed on the process to consider proposals from elected members for the Area Committee Discretionary fund. The following report sets out the proposals received and assessed by the Executive, and considered feasible for elected members to consider:

 Summary of all proposals received:

1. Reflection benches across the Area Committee in selected suitable locations – two different proposals -
* in recognition of the challenges of the COVID pandemic
* to support older people and people with limited mobility to frequent our villages and take an active part in society
1. Accessible swings
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7. Artwork at each village entrance
8. Once off "environmental grant", for the improved mental health and wellbeing of local area users and the enhancement of existing water, or natural corridors
9. Large bulky item collections at recognised litter blackspots – particular area to be decided by the Area Cttee
10. To create an existing area in the Tallaght Town Centre or Tallaght Village as a "Youth Plaza" with seating and appropriate artwork aimed at young people for recreation and socialising.

The following proposals are recommended for approval at Area Committee:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Project / proposal & cost  | Proposer  | Project costs  |
| Reflection Benches (in recognition of the challenges of the COVID pandemic) across the Area Committee in selected suitable locations   |  Cllr Yvonne Collins  |  From circa. €1,000   |
| Reflection benches to support older people and people with limited mobility to frequent our villages and take an active part in society  |  Cllr Peter Kavanagh  |  From circa. €1,000  |

The following criteria was considered in each project / proposal:

* Projects that can avail of funding from other state agencies or are usually funded by another agency or Department were not deemed as suitable for consideration
* Provision of clear project / idea proposals that enable accurate project costings
* New projects / proposals for consideration, that are not already in place
* Projects/proposals demonstrating good value for money and not exceeding €10,000
* One off Projects/proposals demonstrating sustainability and inclusivity
* Projects / proposals that do not require ongoing funding for maintenance, licensing costs, etc.

The report and its recommendations are now before members for their consideration. Proposals agreed by the Area Committee will be brought to the November Council meeting for final approval.

Following contributions from Councillors Teresa Costello, Mick Duff, Paddy Holohan, Cathal King, Kieran Mahon, Charlie O’Connor, Liam Sinclair and Leah Whelan - Elaine Leech, Administrative Officer responded to the queries raised. The report as circulated was **NOTED**, and it was **AGREED Not to proceed with the Mobility / Reflection Benches.**

The Tallaght Area Committee had decided to consider alternative projects and that the Fund was to remain with the Tallaght ACM for allocation. It was **AGREED** that the Tallaght ACM bring a report on the allocation of the Discretionary Fund to the next Council meeting. The report was **NOTED.**

### **H11d/1121 DISCRETIONARY FUND FOR AREA COMMITTEES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

1. **Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee Discretionary Fund Report**

The Area Committee Meeting Chairs and Co-ordinators agreed on the process to consider proposals from elected members for the Area Committee Discretionary fund. The following report sets out the proposals received and assessed by the Executive, and considered feasible for elected members to consider:

 Summary of all proposals received:

1. Reflection benches across the Area Committee in selected suitable locations – two different proposals -
* in recognition of the challenges of the COVID pandemic
* to support older people and people with limited mobility to frequent our villages and take an active part in society
1. Accessible swings
2. Devices for students in schools to address the digital divide
3. Street parties goody bags
4. Flagpoles in each village with a permanent plaque giving bring history of the Irish Flag, to be unveiled in 2022
5. Defibrillators for sporting clubs or organisations  that don't have  one
6. Funding for Domestic Violence support organisations & meeting with Area Committee to highlight work
7. Artwork at each village entrance
8. Once off "environmental grant", for the improved mental health and wellbeing of local area users and the enhancement of existing water, or natural corridors
9. Large bulky item collections at recognised litter blackspots – particular area to be decided by the Area Cttee
10. To create an existing area in the Tallaght Town Centre or Tallaght Village as a "Youth Plaza" with seating and appropriate artwork aimed at young people for recreation and socialising.

The following proposals are recommended for approval at Area Committee:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Project / proposal & cost  | Proposer  | Project costs  |
| Reflection Benches (in recognition of the challenges of the COVID pandemic) across the Area Committee in selected suitable locations   |  Cllr Yvonne Collins  |  From circa. €1,000   |
| Reflection benches to support older people and people with limited mobility to frequent our villages and take an active part in society  |  Cllr Peter Kavanagh  |  From circa. €1,000  |

The following criteria was considered in each project / proposal:

* Projects that can avail of funding from other state agencies or are usually funded by another agency or Department were not deemed as suitable for consideration
* Provision of clear project / idea proposals that enable accurate project costings
* New projects / proposals for consideration, that are not already in place
* Projects/proposals demonstrating good value for money and not exceeding €10,000
* One off Projects/proposals demonstrating sustainability and inclusivity
* Projects / proposals that do not require ongoing funding for maintenance, licensing costs, etc.

 The report and its recommendations are now before members for their consideration. Proposals agreed by the Area Committee will be brought to the November Council meeting for final approval.

Following contributions from Councillors J. Tuffy, A. Hayes, L. O’Toole, D. Ó Brádaigh and G. O’Connell, the report as circulated was **NOTED**, and it was **AGREED to proceed with the Mobility / Reflection Benches**

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor D. McManus and **AGREED** that the Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee Discretionary Fund Report be **APPROVED.**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Kavanagh, F. Timmons, L. O'Toole, J. Tuffy, A. Edge, Y. Collins, D. Ó Brádaigh, and A. Hayes with queries regarding location, accessibility and nature of the benches proposed and placing of commemorative plaques on the benches.

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

### **H12/1121 CORKAGH PARK UPGRADE PART 8 COMMENCEMENT - FOR NOTING**

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

**REPLY:**

The Corkagh Park masterplan implementation is being progressed as part of the Council's capital programme. The Tyren's-developed masterplan was presented to the Council and noted in December 2019. Since then the Council has appointed BDP Design Consultants to progress the development of the proposals to Part 8 stage. This report outlines the development of the proposals and outlines further informal consultation that will take place to get some initial feedback and to ensure the local community are aware of the coming statutory process.

The Council intends to commence the statutory Part 8 planning process, starting with the statutory public consultation before the end of the year and the final decision on this Part 8 application will be with full Council for a final decision in early 2022.

[H11 Corkagh Park Upgrade Part 8 Commencement Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72698)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, E. Ó Broin, W. Carey and P. Kavanagh, queries were raised in relation to corkagh fisheries, staffing of Corkagh Park, heritage features, market space, and signage in both English and Irish.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to members queries informing of an Event day in the Park and webinars to be held as part of informal pre-Part 8 consultation for the public, with the Part 8 Public Consultation commencing in December.

The Reports were **NOTED.**

### **H13/1121 LUCAN VILLAGE UPGRADE PART 8 COMMENCEMENT - FOR NOTING**

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**:

The Council is progressing three part 8 planning applications for improvement projects in and around the Lucan Village area. More information on the three projects is included in the attached report, but in summary the three projects propose

  The Weir side

* To improve the public area along the edge of the river Liffey. To create more opportunities for seating, more planting and to provide for the ability to have occasional and managed market stalls or events in this location. There is an historic Part 8 already approved to provide new and improved stepped access from the Lucan bridge down the Weir side as well as improvements at the entrance to the Wier side via Watery Lane. These works are not included within this Part 8 but would be delivered alongside this Wier side Part 8 proposal.

  The Lucan Demesne entrance

* To provide an improved arrival point at this important entrance to the Lucan Demesne Park. The proposed works include better public realm, more seating, planting, improved materials, new art work and an enhanced entrance into the Demesne.

The Village Green and main street

* To improve the existing Village Green. To open up this historic and important public space to enable better and increased use by the public. Within the Village Green the design improves access to the river, would provide more seating, more usable spaces, safer pedestrian routes and more diverse planting.
* The scheme also includes a set of public realm improvements to the section of Main Street along the western edge of the Village Green (broadly between AIB and Bank of Ireland). These proposals include more space for seating, pedestrians and planting. The part 8 does not alter the current traffic movements along this section of road, it would retain servicing for local businesses and on-street parking. However, it is proposed to reduce the number of on-street parking bays in this specific stretch of road. Some parking would be retained and there would also be scope to provide a small number of replacement spaces in close proximity.

The Council appointed a design team to support the preparation of these proposals. As part of this work, the Council initially engaged with local ACM Councillors and also with local businesses and interested groups in May 2021 on the early concept ideas. In June of this year a series of on-street and on-line surveys were carried out, which gathered the views of nearly 500 people. These initial meetings and surveys were used to inform the next stage of design. In August and September the Council held another set of briefings with local ACM Councillors on the emerging work. Then in October the Council held three virtual meetings with local businesses and groups to discuss the emerging preferred design. The Council now intends to commence the statutory Part 8 planning process, starting with the statutory public consultation. The public consultation will commence before the end of the year and the final decision on these three Part 8 applications will be with full Council for a final decision in early 2022.

Separate to these three planning applications, the Council are at the very early stages of considering a trial along Main Street between the Village Green and the River Liffey Bridge for a short period of time during 2022. **This trial is not part of these three Part 8 planning proposals**. The purpose of this trail is to assess the potential to provide improved public spaces for the benefit of pedestrians and businesses along this section of the Main Street. This trial is only a proposal that is at concept stage. A design for this will be progressed over the coming months. As part of this design work the intention is to minimise the loss of any car parking spaces along this section of Main Street, but it may involve the re-arrangement of traffic movement. When a draft design is ready next year, the Council will discuss this with Councillors, local businesses and stakeholders. Following this, if a suitable design can be prepared it would be trialled for a period of time to assess its success or not.

[Lucan Village commencement of Part 8 proposals](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72740)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Tuffy, P. Gogarty, L. O'Toole, D. Ó Brádaigh, V. Casserly, E. O'Brien and S. Moynihan who commended the report and raised queries regarding the increased pedestrian space, reduced parking, and consultation with local businesses.

Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation, responded to the members queries informing of three virtual consultation meetings and others which had been held with businesses and key stakeholders in the area for input on the plan and a further informal meeting will be held with local residents to finalise the plan for Public Consultation in early December.

###

The Reports were **NOTED**

### **H14/1121 CASTLE TYMON DISTRICT ENHANCEMENT PART 8 COMMENCEMENT - FOR NOTING**

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**:

In September 2020, the Council agreed a programme of District Centre Enhancement schemes across the County. The agreed programme identifies eight district centres for improvement. Since then the Council has progressed design on the first scheme at Castletymon District Centre in Tallaght. As part of this work the team has carried out informal consultation with local Cllrs via the ACM and with all of the traders in the District Centre.

The Council now intends to commence the Part 8 planning process and to begin the statutory Part 8 public consultation. The consultation will begin in November and will conclude in early January 2022 and following this, submissions will be reviewed. It is the Council's current intention to bring a final Part 8 back to Council for decision in early 2022.

The types of works proposed in the Part 8 are set out in the attachment and include; public realm improvements; new cycling lanes; seating; planting; new art work; as well as shop front and building enhancements. The final details of the shop front and building enhancements are to still be determined with the traders and will require a financial contribution from each trader.

[H13 (b) Castletymon proposed design](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72729)

A discussion followed with a contribution from Councillor E. Ó Broin who queried the ownership of the shopping centre.

Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use Planning and Transportation responded to the member’s query.

The Reports were **NOTED**

### **C1/1121 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council re. Motion - Syringes for Cuba Campaign/End the Blockade
2. Correspondence from Kerry County Council re. To fly the Palestine Flag on November 29th which is the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people

The correspondence was **NOTED.**

### **M1/1121** [**ACCESSIBLE PARKING**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72646)

**It was Proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh**

That South Dublin County Council reiterates its ambition of being a leader in the provision of accessible services. That, as a signal of this ambition, - An audit is carried out on the quality of accessible parking spaces and upgrades carried out where necessary. The number of these spaces is increased by 50%, an increase of 39 spaces. These spaces should be prioritised in areas with a lower proportion of accessible spaces and modified in line with the IWA Best Practice Access Guidelines.

**REPORT:**

SDCC is committed to the provision of accessible services for all, including the provision of accessible parking spaces.

There are currently circa 762no. parking spaces within the county, 77no. or 10% of which are accessible parking spots.

Part M of the Building Regulations state “at least 5% of the total number of spaces” should be mobility impaired spaces while the IWA Best Practice Guidelines recommend “that there is a minimum of  one accessible parking space and additionally one in 15 spaces should be designated for drivers and passengers with disabilities”.

The above numbers show that overall, the SDCC figure of 10% exceeds the recommended minimum standard of 1 in 15 spaces and is more than double the legal standard of 5%.  However, it is noted that mobility impaired parking spaces are not provided at all locations where public parking is provided.

It is now proposed to audit all public parking locations with a view to increasing the volume of accessible parking spaces, particularly at locations where there is a concentration of spaces without mobility impaired spaces

The **MOTION** was **AGREED.**

### **M2/1121** [**INVINCIBLES YARD**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72647)

**It was Proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor and seconded by Councillor M. Duff**

South Dublin County Council calls on the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary excavation works to recover the remains of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly, in what is commonly known as the Invincibles Yard at Kilmainham Gaol. The bodies of these five members of the Irish National Invincibles lie beneath the paving slabs of the yard where they were executed in 1883 for their part in the Phoenix Park assassinations. The families of the five men are represented by the National Graves Association and the wish of the families is for their relatives to be exhumed from Kilmainham Gaol and reinterred in consecrated ground at Glasnevin Cemetery.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Office of Public Works. The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

The **MOTION** was **AGREED.**

### **M3/1121** [**SAFEPASS**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72649)

**It was Proposed by Councillor M. Johansson and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh**

That the elected members of this council call for the reform of Safety awareness training and in particular the Safepass course delivery and pricing. This reform should include a consultation process with the pass holders, standardized pricing in line with the cost of processing, online facilities for renewal and flexibility and an end to current price gouging. We also call for the current extension on expired cards to continue until the conclusion of said reform. If this motion is passed a letter will be issued to Solas, the Minister for Further and Higher Education Simon Harris and the Minister of State for Skills and Further Education Niall Collins.

**REPORT:**

If this Motion is passed a letter will be issued to  Solas, the Minister for Further and Higher Education Simon Harris and the Minister of State for Skills and Further Education Niall Collins.  Responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson and L. Dunne.

The **MOTION** was **AGREED.**

### **M4/1121** [**AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVES**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72648)

### **It was Proposed by Councillor L. McCrave and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh** and **MOVED** without debate:

To ask the Chief Executive to give consideration to developing suitable strategies for this County, Towns and Villages that would ensure that South Dublin County Council is supportive of the objectives of Age Friendly Ireland, including the development of parking initiatives and benches etc. within the County.

**REPORT:**

The Council adopted a new Age Friendly County Strategy in September 2020, building on the previous such strategy, South Dublin’s position as an Age Friendly County and the Council being a signatory of the World Health Organisation Dublin Declaration on Age Friendly Cities and Counties.
The strategy includes nine thematic areas based on the WHO Themes considered to be the key factors affecting the quality of life of older people, namely:
• Transport,
• Housing, Social Participation,
• Respect and Inclusion,
• Civic Participation and Employment,
• Communication and Information,
• Community support and Health Services,
• Outdoor spaces and Public Buildings,
• Safety and Security

The work of the Age Friendly Programme manager over the last 12 months have largely been influenced by responses to the Covid pandemic including providing activity packs, digital supports, online activities and other initiatives for older and vulnerable people along with the community call and keep well campaign. Naturally this has taken some precedence over implementing the strategy, but a range of initiatives are being progressed in conjunction with resources across the Council’s directorates and with key stakeholders such as Tus Nua, the other organisations represented on the County Age Friendly Alliance, and Age Friendly Ireland, the shared service for the national age friendly programme in local authorities. These measures include:

• Supporting improved governance, structures & representation for Tus Nua / Older Persons Council
• Reconstituting the County Age Friendly Alliance to explore and progress appropriate initiatives including age friendly parking, age friendly business programme and ambassador(s), public realm audits, assistive technology, physical activity programmes and other age friendly measures
• Delivery of age friendly housing with our age friendly technical specialist
• Implementation of the recently approved rightsizing policy
• Pilot roll-out of a healthy homes project to support living independently for longer
• Developing an age friendly parking scheme in selected community centres
• Fit-out of age friendly community centre in Orchard Lane, Clondalkin
• Programming for the proposed new intergenerational centre in Templeogue
• Libraries digital ambassador for older people.
• Continued safety and security supports for older people through our locks and carbon monoxide alarms schemes.

Elected Members can contact the Age Friendly Programme Manager with proposals or queries in relation to progressing any of the above or other initiatives.

### **M8/1121** [**PLAYGROUNDS**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72693)

### **It was Proposed by Councillor Carly Bailey and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh** and **MOVED** without debate:

That this council requests that playgrounds across the county include sensory structures as well as planting (and/or other materials) which can act as 'chill out' zones for children with additional needs. Planting could include fragrant/sensory plants, pollinator friendly plants and edible plants. This could be a fantastic way to make our play grounds even more inclusive and accessible.

**REPORT:**

SDCC's play space programme is designed to incorporate natural play elements, as this is shown to have increasing benefits for all. The play space programme, while incorporating natural play, used the existing landscape within the open spaces and parks the spaces were set in. This has the added benefit of retaining existing biodiversity as well as allowing children to benefit from access to nature.

During the delivery of the programme all locations were subject to intense public consultation to ensure the locations were best fit for each community. Similarly with the facilities and the design of the play spaces; in most locations the design responded to the vision the local children had for the play space for their area. There are many parameters to satisfy in the design and location of a playground, and the resulting play spaces are a delicate balance of the requirements in each area.

Where space was available, we included adjacent tree or woodland areas, planted areas and biodiversity within the play area. However in some cases, the play spaces are small, local ones and space was not sufficient to include a planted area. In the smaller local play spaces, which get such intensive use, planting is not always feasible and will not survive the robust use these areas receive. However where space is available areas of planting are included and add significantly to the play value of the play space. Examples of such play spaces are:

The main playground in Tymon Park has wooded areas, willow tunnels and access to biodiverse areas and a variety of landscapes, the woodland playground in Tymon Park is set in the woodland area, the play space at Limekiln is also set in a wooded area, Glendoher has a willow tunnel and  Perrystown is set in areas of shade under trees with also areas in the sun . Some other play spaces that incorporate nature into them include: Hermitage, Griffeen Valley, Corkagh Park, Waterstown, Willsbrook Park, Lucan Demesne, Rathcoole Park, and Knockmitten.

In many locations the adjacent parkland setting is also available to provide additional access to nature. We are seeking through the implementation of the Pollinator Action Plan to improve the natural setting of our parks and these areas, with their variety of plant and animal life, are also available to children, some of whom find them fascinating to wander or run through.

Play is recognised as a vital activity for healthy child development and the aim of the Play space Programme is to deliver play facilities to children close to where they live and therefore increase their opportunities for play and activity every day.  As well as contributing to better physical and mental health for children the play spaces have taken on a significance in terms of becoming focal points and meeting places for local communities.

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

As part of the delivery of the Play space Programme SDCC consulted with the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design and a universal design approach has been taken which recognises the diversity of the population and ensures that our playgrounds can be used by everyone. SDCC have sought specialist advice on several occasions when designing play spaces and when analysing tenders and awarding contracts. Post-construction accessibility audits have been carried out on several of our built play spaces. These audits have proved invaluable as a learning tool and have allowed us to incorporate changes into existing playgrounds and build these improvements into future playgrounds as well.

### **M9/1121** [**HOMELESS SERVICES**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72692)

### **It was Proposed by Councillor Patrick Pearse Holohan and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons** and **MOVED** without debate:

This Council calls on the DHRE to remove the requirement of a local area connection when applicants are trying to gain access to emergency services in the homeless sector.

**REPORT:**

Each Local Authority has a statutory responsibility with respect to the provision of emergency accommodation for households who find themselves homeless in their functional area and are funded under section 10 of the Housing Act 1988 to provide homeless services within that area.

When the Council and/or the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (DRHE) become aware of any households or individuals who become homeless from an area outside of the Dublin region, our outreach services and our frontline teams will support and assist them in engaging with the local authority in the area from which they became homeless.  In such circumstances, the Council and the DRHE work with other local authorities to facilitate a temporary placement while a longer-term accommodation provision is being facilitated there.  In exceptional cases where a household or individual is unable or not likely to return to the County they were last accommodated in and their homelessness is likely to be prolonged, longer-term placements may be made in the Dublin region.

Neither the Council nor the DRHE are in a position, outside of certain exceptional cases, to provide accommodation on an ongoing basis for homeless households or individuals originating from other local authority areas.

### **M10/1121** [**RAINBOW CROSSING**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72716)

### **It was Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh** and **MOVED** without debate:

That this council put a Rainbow walk on at least one road Crossing in SDCC as a symbol of Equality and a visual symbol of the LGBTQ+ community. (<https://gcn.ie/derry-permanent-rainbow-crossing/>)

**REPORT:**

SDCC supports the installation of a Rainbow pedestrian crossing in this Local Authority area.  The traffic section will look at designs that comply with the Traffic Signs Manual for pedestrian crossings and where in line with the manual can add a Rainbow marking to demonstrate the Council's support for inclusiveness and equality policies. The final design and location will need to be considered further. One possible design approach is attached to this motion.

### [M10 Rainbow crossing picture](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72717)

### **M12/1121** [**BAN ON CONVERSION THERAPY**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72670)

### **It was Proposed by Councillor Alan Edge and seconded by Councillor P. Kearns** and **MOVED** without debate:

That this Council writes to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth expressing our support for a ban on all forms of conversion therapy in respect of LGBT+ people and condemning this abhorrent practice.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The reply, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

### **M13/1121** [**30 MINS FREE PARKING**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72709)

### **It was Proposed by Councillor Yvonne Collins and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh** and **MOVED** without debate:

That the 30 minutes free parking and details of how to access it on the parking meters, as per photo attached, be highlighted please to increase awareness amongst members of the public that it is there and how to access it.

**REPORT:**

The 2021 Control of Parking Byelaws provide for 30 minutes free parking. This means that no tariff is due in respect of the first 30 minutes while parked in a Pay & Display area.

There is one exception to the 30 minutes free parking, and this will be applicable at the location where Tariff B, Park and Ride, at Cookstown Way will shortly be operational.

**Notwithstanding the 30 minutes free period, motorists must display a valid ticket or parking permit while parked in a Pay & Display area.**

The new Pay & Display tariffs are effective from 25th October 2021,  and a communication campaign is now being rolled out. This campaign will ensure motorists are fully aware of the free parking time, tariffs payable, Pay & Display locations, and other common parking restriction and prohibitions which routinely attract parking fines.

Details of how to purchase tickets, including for the free 30-minute period, are displayed on the front of all parking meters located across the county.

The 2021 Bye Laws also make provision for new locations for Pay and Display Parking which are currently being rolled out.

[Parking meter](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=72630)

### **M5/1121** [**FAMILY LAW CASES**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72650)

**It was Proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh**

That this Council writes to the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Children and the Law Society asking for a re-examination of the current restrictive in camera rule for family law cases as there is currently a lack of transparency in relation to how decisions are made and why, how time is allocated, what witnesses are called, how experts such as Section 47 assessors are appointed and how a lack of adequate support for those requiring legal aid can affect the outcome of a case - something especially concerning in relation to many genuine parental alienation claims that require detailed evidence to be provided and - equally importantly, those rarer situations where false parental alienation claims can also be made within the system, supported by recommendations from experts using Gardner's contested Parental Alienation Syndrome theory to "immerse" vulnerable children for weeks or months at a time with the party wrongly claiming alienation - and to look at other ways to achieve better transparency and scrutiny of the system while always protecting children's identities and respecting the independence of the courts.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed a letter will be issued to the Minister for Justice, The Minister for Children and the Law Society. Responses, when received, will be circulated to the members.

At this point in the Meeting the Mayor, Councillor P. Kavanagh proposed and the Members **AGREED** to suspend Standing Orders No. 5 to allow the meeting continue for a further 15 minutes until 19:15.

A discussion followed with a contribution from Councillors P. Gogarty, C. Bailey, T. Costello, and V. Casserly who spoke against the motion.

Councillor F. Timmons proposed and Councillor M. Duff seconded an **amendment** to Councillor P. Gogarty’s motion as follows:

“That this Council writes to the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Children and the Law Society asking them to consider the camera rule for family law cases and that there is full transparency in relation to how decisions are made and why, how time is allocated, what witnesses are called, and to consider how experts such as Section 47 assessors are chosen and that these have accredited training in Parental Alienation so as to be able to properly report to the courts, And acknowledge that the provision of legal aid to all parties is an important access to the Justice issue in the best interests of the children, particularly in High conflict cases where the voice of the child may have been manipulated due to Parental Alienation and that they also look at other ways to achieve better transparency and scrutiny of the system while always protecting children's identities and respecting the independence of the courts”

A further discussion took place with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, P. Kearns, Y. Collins, M. Duff, L. Sinclair, L. O'Toole, A. Edge, who spoke against the motion. Councillor W. Carey spoke in support of the motion.

At this point in the meeting The Mayor Councillor P. Kavanagh informed the members that as it was 19:15 the vote on the motion will take place at the December Council meeting.

The meeting ended at 19:15pm.

**Motions not reached**

### **(M6)** [**COVID WEALTH TAX**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72651)

**Councillor L. Whelan**

The period of the pandemic had seen unprecedented hardships for most, with workers in the public and private sector leading the fight against Covid which illustrated clearly what workers are the most valuable in society. Corporations such as Pfizer, Amazon, Microsoft, and many retail giants have made unprecedented profits while PUP payments have been eliminated, rents, house prices and the cost of living have continued to rise and workplace precarity has increased. This Council supports the introduction of a Covid wealth tax to fund directly into public services and the provision of public sector wage increases and agrees to write to all other councils, the Taoiseach and the Minister of Finance stating our position. We point particularly to the significant role played by unpaid student nurses.

### **(M7)** [**FINANCE MOTION**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72652)

**Councillor K. Mahon**

A key part of the Council’s Budgetary strategy for 2022 should be to ensure local communities benefit significantly from the presence of multinational corporations based in the South Dublin County Council area. Corporations such as Amazon, Pfizer and Microsoft have seen already massive profits increase during the pandemic, and profit significantly from the exploitation of tax policy, the environment and local labour. The crisis facing the council on the housing, environmental and community services front are increasing. The council should include the following two measures in its Budget Strategy for 2022:

1) A significant increase in Rates

2) A waiver, rebate or small business support scheme that protects all rates payers below the €100,001- €500,000 Annual Rates Billing Band from any increase.

Based on recent official SDCC figures 156 companies (2.3% of all rate payers) would be affected by such an increase in rates.

### **(M11)** [**HALLOWEEN 2022**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=72705)

**Councillor L. Dunne, Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive to explore the possibility of SDCC hosting an entertainment event targeted at youths for Halloween 2022 using Tallaght Stadium as the venue, and consulting with youth groups etc to provide them with an alternative to illegal bonfires

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

Mayor

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