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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council January 2022 County Council Meeting held virtually through MS Teams on Monday 10th January 2022

### **PRESENT**

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

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin.  |
| Directors/ Heads of FunctionHead of FinanceHead of I.T. | L. Maxwell, J. Frehill, T. Walsh, M. Mulhern, C. Ward. R. FitzGerald.T. Kavanagh. |
| Senior Executive Officers | C. Hurson, S. Conroy, J. Moroney Ward, S. Furlong. |
| Administrative Officers | M. Reilly |
| Senior Staff OfficerAssistant Staff OfficerClerical OfficerIT. SupportSord | L. Abbey.A. Hagan.D. Murphy.R. Saiz.A. O’Brien. |

The Mayor, Councillor P. Kavanagh, presided

Apologies were received from Councillors M. Duff, L. Dunne

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.

### **H1/0122 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the December County Council Meeting on 13th December 2021which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor P. Kavanagh seconded by Councillor C. O’Connor.

[H1 (a) December Council Minutes â€' 13th December 2021](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73412)

### **H2/0122 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.

### **H3/0122 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H4/0122 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### **H5/0122 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### **H6/0122 REPORT FROM JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE - FOR NOTING**

Councillor E. Murphy, Chair of JPC, presented this report highlighting concerns raised and complimented Mr. C. Ward, Director of Housing Social and Community Development and his team for their work with the committee. The Mayor, Councillor P. Kavanagh, echoed Councillor Murphy’s sentiments and thanked her for her work as Chair.

**Summary Report of Meeting of South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee on Friday 19th November 2021 through Microsoft TEAMS**

**In Attendance:**

**Committee Members:**
Cllr. Emma Murphy (Chair), Cllr. Yvonne Collins, Cllr. Mick Duff; Cllr. Louise Dunne; Cllr. Lynn McCrave, Cllr. Shane Moynihan, Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin, Cllr. Deirdre O’Donovan, Cllr. Shirley O’Hara, Cllr. Liona O’Toole, Cllr. Baby Pereppadan, Cllr. Peter Kavanagh (Mayor), Sean Crowe T.D., Emer Higgins T.D., John Lahart, T.D.; Mark Ward T.D., Chief Superintendent Peter Duff, An Garda Síochána;  Colm Ward, South Dublin County Council; Sue Dorgan, Public Participation Network; Trevor Bissett, Clondalkin Drugs & Alcohol Task Force; Grace Hill, Tallaght Drugs & Alcohol Task Force.

**Also in attendance:**
Noreen Byrne, North Clondalkin LPF; Superintendent Ian Lackey, An Garda Síochána, Inspector Paul Maycock, An Garda Síochána; Sergeant Eoin Beatty, An Garda Síochána; Sarah Middleton, An Garda Síochána; Jennifer Moroney Ward, Andy Lane, Maria Nugent, Fionnuala Keane & Margaret Farrell (all South Dublin County Council).

**Others Present:**
Maurice Garvey, The Echo; William O’Connor, The Echo; Ian Begley, Daily Mail.

**Apologies:**
Cllr. Carly Bailey; Cllr. Derren Ó Brádaigh; Emer Meighan, Public Participation Network; Enda Creegan, Public Participation Network; Chief Superintendent Finbarr Murphy, An Garda Síochána.

**1. Introduction**

The Chair, Cllr. Murphy, opened the meeting.

**2. Minutes of Meeting held on 17th September 2021 & Matters Arising**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Duff and agreed as a true record of the previous meeting with no matters arising.

**3. Correspondence**

None.

**4. Governance**

4.1 It was noted that the vacancy from the Social Inclusion Pillar is to be filled by the Public Participation Network.

4.2 Arrangements for the attendance by a South Dublin representative at the Ballyfermot LPF are to be followed up with Dublin City Council.

**5. Garda Reports**

**5.1 Tallaght & Rathfarnham – DMR South**
Chief Superintendent Duff gave a presentation with an overview of activity and statistics for the area which included the following:
• Remote fraud with a number of accounts being compromised - information on the Garda website <https://garda.ie>.
• Recent firearms seizures in in the Tallaght area in recent weeks with related investigations ongoing.
• Details of Operation Tombola for Halloween, with the assistance of the Council, resulting in removal of a number of bonfires.
• Ongoing engagement with transport stakeholders LUAS and Dublin Bus.

Cllrs. Duff and Dunne, Deputy Crowe and G.Hill raised issues including:
• prevention of widespread use of Nitrous Oxide and whether JPC can request legislation be brought in to regulate the sale of nitrous oxide.
• Policing of scrambler bikes over the Christmas period.
• Details of the age of those involved with minor harm and assault cases.
• Intimidation of Council staff involved in removing bonfire material.

In response, Supt. Duff advised that:
• It is not currently illegal to purchase or carry nitrous oxide - Gardai can highlight risks but it is up to the Oireachtas to change legislation.
• New legislation is currently going through the Oireachtas in relation to scrambler bikes - it is generally too dangerous to pursue those on scrambler bikes.
• Statistics show that incidents of minor harm and assault are across all age groups.
• The Gardai have supported Council staff in the removal of bonfire material.

Deputy Crowe agreed to raise the use of Nitrous Oxide at a national level.

**5.2 Clondalkin & Rathcoole – DMR West**
Inspector Paul Maycock presented a report.

Cllrs. Kavanagh and Ó Broin raised issues including:
• Need for increased patrols at cemetery on Monastery Road due to vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
• Noting the reduction in drug searches and ASBO this year, query on how regularly ASBOs are used.
• Can Youth Services be linked in to areas where there is vandalism as part of community policing.
• Welcomed the clinic held in the Towers Reception Centre.

In response, it was noted that:
• An Garda Síochána will increase patrols on Monastery Road to help deter vandalism & anti-social behaviour.
• The Council should engage with Public Realm and review the height of the wall around the cemetery.
• Last year there were higher statistics of drug searches due to increased patrolling and a higher level of engagement with people during Covid policing.
• ASBOs have been used in Ireland for a number of years but only in specific circumstances with a ticket for public order offences being more appropriate in many instances.

**5.3 Lucan & Ronanstown – DMR West**
Sergeant Beatty on behalf of Chief Superintendent Murphy, presented a report including the following:
• Community Policing: The local Community Policing units will continue to liaise with residents to establish Neighbourhood Watch schemes, organise Lucan Garda Station Open Day, continue bike marking and tool engraving workshops and to liaise with local schools.
• Centenary Celebrations in 2022 will have a strong community appreciation element and involvement

Cllr. Murphy, Deputy Ward, Cllrs. Dunne & Cllr. Moynihan raised the following:
• Domestic violence reporting and supports available in the County.
• Sharing of information regarding anti-social behaviour with the Council.
• Storage of drugs in long grass areas and hedge rows and liaising with the Council on cutting such areas.
• Possibility of An Garda Síochána implementing a primary school programme and engage with young people in a positive way to try and deter young people for becoming drug dealers.

In response:
• Under the general guidance of the Assistant Commissioner for the DMR, Domestic Abuse Coordinators are being rolled out, along with support from other agencies. A Domestic Abuse Coordinator will be engaged however there are high risk markers in particular cases. Police forces worldwide find victims of domestic violence are reluctant to report issues - they may call in crisis mode and when the violence reduces, they can be reluctant to press charges.
• Information relating to anti-social behaviour is shared in a formal process once convictions are made. An Garda Siochána have a good relationship with the Council in dealing with issues reported by the Council.
• Gardai carry out searches of any areas where drugs have been reported to be stored and will work with the Council on areas with an ongoing problem.
• An Garda Siochána engage regularly with primary schools and there is also a Juvenile Liaison Officer in the district.

The Committee agreed to issue a press release to be aware of the dangers of scrambler bikes.

**6 Local Policing Fora Reports**

**6.1 Clondalkin LPF:** The Clondalkin section of the report was noted. The Clondalkin LPF meeting has been postponed until the New Year.

**6.2 D12 LPF:** The D12 section of the report was noted.

**6.3 West Tallaght Community Safety Forum:** The West Tallaght Community Safety Forum report was noted. The West Tallaght Community Safety Forum public meeting has been postponed until the New Year.

**6.4 North Clondalkin, Lucan and Palmerstown LPF:** This report was given by Noreen Byrne and was noted with the following two questions raised:
• What is happening with the boundary wall located between two estates in Lucan?
• How is the budget to be spent on the Safety & Inclusion study for Clondalkin, are there any updates?

Deputy Higgins and Cllrs. Murphy, Moynihan and McCrave raised the following:
• All LPF meetings should be encouraged to meet online if restrictions are in place.
• Plans for a Rathcoole LPF?
• Illegal dumping at Grange View.
• The boundary wall should be raised at the next Lucan Area Committee Meeting.

In response it was noted that:
• LPF meetings will be facilitated online by the Community Department.
• There is an ongoing issue of illegal dumping in Castle Park/Grange View is subject of discussions with local residents and the Council are also in the process of finalising a design for redevelopment of the area.
• The boundary wall has been inspected and is not dangerous but one side of the boundary has been taken in charge by the Council and the other side has not.
• Funding has been secured through the Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme for public realm improvements to the Black Lane in Neilstown.
• Balgaddy & MacUilliam will also benefit from public realm initiatives due to an increase in the budget and Sláintecare funding.

**7. JPC Strategic Plan 2016-2022**

The report was noted and the committee was informed that advice has been sought from the Policing Authority regarding a new plan in 2022.

**8. JPC Subgroups: Drug Subcommittee**

The Drugs Subcommittee last met in May 2021 and it has not been possible to meet since due to various reasons but A. Lane will arrange a meeting early in 2022.

**9. Any Other Business**

Tallaght Drug & Alcohol Task Force Research proposed for inclusion on agenda for the next JPC meeting. 2110204\_TDATF\_Research\_Report-FINAL.pdf (tallaghtdatf.ie)

Video relating to the dangers and correct uses of Scrambler bikes to be circulated on Christmas Day via social media.

Deputy Lahart noted the progress made on the Scrambler Bill and requested representations be made from the JPC to the County Development Plan to install pro scrambler bike areas, similar to the scheme in Moyross.

C. Ward advised that if any local representatives wish to propose an area suitable to the community for a scrambler bike area, the Council will consider the initiative further.

**10. Schedule of Meetings for 2022**

JPC meetings are scheduled for the following dates in 2022:

Date Time Place
10a.m. Friday 28th January 2022 via Microsoft Teams
10a.m. Friday 22nd April 2022 (venue tbc)
10 a.m. Friday 16th September 2022 (venue tbc)
10 a.m. Friday 18th November 2022 (venue tbc)

The meeting ended at 11.40am.

The report was **NOTED**.

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh, seconded by Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh and **RESOLVED:**

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 13, Questions numbered Q1 – Q14 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/0122 QUESTION: Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive for details of the further dumping blackspot treatment and monitoring proposed under the Anti-Dumping initiative and how the use of cctv footage will feature in same.

**REPLY:**

The Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI)  was first introduced by the *Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications* in 2017 and is administered by the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) on behalf of the Eastern-Midland Region.

South Dublin County Council has successfully won funding, by submitting schemes and projects which meet the qualifying criteria, including the purchase of equipment to aid the inspection of areas where illegal dumping is known to take place and to assist in identification of those responsible for same.

South Dublin County Council continues to carry out CCTV monitoring of dumping blackspots and has cases against several individuals listed in the courts for January 2022. It is hoped that successful prosecutions may deter others from committing dumping offences.

Public lighting has been installed during 2021 under the Anti-Dumping Initiative Programme in a notorious blackspot as a deterrent to people dumping there at night and to increase the quality of any CCTV images we obtain in the future. Installation of covert CCTV during the months following the installation of the public lighting led to a cessation of dumping activities.

In 2021 the council continued the Mattress Amnesty Scheme and we had a record year with 938 mattresses collected. We also trialled a pilot ‘Bulky Waste collection’ service with Recycle IT, Clondalkin. Both of these initiatives were specifically targeted to reduce the potential for the waste to end up in Halloween bonfires.

In the past 3 years, due to funding received under the ADI, South Dublin County Council has successfully removed over 26 tonnes of waste material from blackspots, diverted over 28 tonnes of waste and 2,849 mattresses from potentially being dumped as well as issued over 50 fixed penalty notices and brought 22 legal cases against those who have sought to dump material illegally.

The 2022 ADI schemes are being prepared for submission to the WERLA in April and will again focus on the National Waste Enforcement Priorities and adhere to the key measures of prevention, abatement, education & awareness and enforcement. At present we are continuing to identify areas where CCTV can be installed in 2022, either by the Council or in conjunction with the Pure Project, to gather evidence for legal proceedings against those involved in illegal dumping. As and when areas of dumping are identified they will be inspected to see if they are suitable to be included on a schedule for CCTV monitoring.

### **Q2/0122 QUESTION:** **Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update firstly in relation to the proposed county wide signage strategy including details of the agreed locations for improved signage and secondly in relation to the proposed noticeboards/digital noticeboards.

**REPLY:**

A policy on Directional Signing was adopted by the Council at the Council Meeting on 12/10/2020

The policy relates to Local Directional Signing

“3.9 Local Direction Signs (LDS) are signs that provide directions for people to places of local interest (i.e. services and facilities) and are aimed at pedestrians and cyclists.”

Which has the purpose of

“3.11 The purpose of LDS is to provide people with information relating to how they can find their way to, and around, an area and what they can do while there. The intention is that having a consistent style, format and content within Local Directional Signs helps people find their way wherever they are in Dublin. The purpose is to ensure a consistency of style, layout and approach to maximise impact and visibility for visitors throughout the Greater Dublin Area.”

The signing relates to

“3.12 The following are those locations where the Local Directional Signs should be provided:

* Tallaght Town Centre, the 9 historic villages and District Centres
* Public parks and open spaces
* Key transport nodes
* Heritage and cultural trails “

Follow Discussions at Area Committee Meetings the following locations were identified for consideration in the initial stage of signing roll out.

**Lucan/ Palmerstown/ North Clondalkin Area**

Palmerstown Village

 Dodsboro District Centre

 Waterstown Park

Adamstown Railways station

**Tallaght Area**

Tallaght Town Centre

Castletymon District centre

Tymon Park

The Luas Stations

**Clondalkin Area**

Clondalkin Village

 Bawnogue District Centre

 Corkagh Park

 The Luas and Rail Stations

**Rathfarnham/ Templeogue/ Firhouse/ Bohernabreena Area**

 Templeogue Village

 Rathfarnham Castle Park

 Rosemount District centre

All locations and proposals are subject to funding.

A public procurement procedure was held in 2021. A framework to enable the engagement of Consultants to advance these schemes is currently being finalised and it is intended that a Consultant will shortly be appointed.

It should be noted that Public Realm are in the process of preparing a scheme for Kiltipper Park under the same framework.

With regards to the Digital Noticeboards the Economic Development Department reports as follows

*South Dublin County Council have held off in pursuing the development of a digital outdoor advertising network for the Local Authority during the Covid pandemic but will pursue this initiative when commercial market conditions improve. This matter is subject to ongoing review.*

### **Q3/0122 QUESTION:** **Councillor B. Lawlor**

To ask the Chief Executive how much Local Property Tax was paid for by the Council for local authority houses in 2021

**REPLY:**

A total of €711,702.73 was paid to the Revenue Commissioners by this Council in respect of the 2021 local property tax liability for social housing properties.

### **Q4/0122 QUESTION:** **Councillor B. Lawlor**

To ask the Chief Executive what the total rent arrears due to the Council from tenants on HAP and RAS is for 2020 and 2021

**REPLY:**

There is a current net debit of approximately €763k due to the Council in respect of existing and former Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) tenancies.  The corresponding figure was approximately €741k at the end of 2020.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) tenancies are managed by the national HAP Shared Service unit in Limerick County Council with a current net debit of approximately €141k due to that unit in respect of tenancies established for South Dublin County Council housing applicants.  The corresponding figure was approximately €188k at the end of 2020.

### **Q5/0122 QUESTION:** **Councillor K. Mahon**

To ask the Chief Executive how many homes have been provided in the SDCC area, ie built and connected to the ESB mains, through the Strategic Housing Development scheme introduced in 2017?

**REPLY:**

There are 19 SHDs permitted in South Dublin as of Q3 2021, see table below. The last digits in the reference number refer to the year granted and are as follows:

3 granted in 2018, two of which are under construction

7 granted in 2019, three of which are under construction

7 granted in 2020, none of which are under construction

2 granted in 2021, permission not commenced

4 further SHD applications are awaiting decision from An Bord Pleanala

A total of 636 units are completed to date.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.**  | **Planning Permission (No. of Units Permitted)**  | **Units Completed to Date**  | **Units under Construction**  | **Units Permitted but not Commenced**  |
| ABP-300555-18  | 524  | 149  | 44  | 331  |
| SHD3ABP-302398-18  | 459  | 413  | 18  | 28  |
| SHD3ABP-303306-18  | 438  | 0  | 0  | 438  |
| SHD3ABP-305343-19  | 381  | 74  | 307  | 0  |
| SHD3ABP-305267-19  | 1034  | 0  | 116  | 918  |
| SHD3ABP-305556-19  | 290  | 0  | 0  | 290  |
| SHD3ABP-305563-19  | 488  | 0  | 0  | 488  |
| SHD3ABP-305763-19  | 328  | 0  | 0  | 328  |
| SHD3ABP-305857-19  | 252  | 0  | 0  | 252  |
| SHD3ABP-305878-19  | 590  | 0  | 72  | 518  |
| SHD3ABP-306602-20  | 463  | 0  | 0  | 463  |
| SHD3ABP-306705-20  | 502  | 0  | 0  | 502  |
| SHD3ABP-307092-20  | 250  | 0  | 0  | 250  |
| SHD3ABP-307222-20  | 496  | 0  | 0  | 496  |
| SHD3ABP-307698-20  | 204  | 0  | 0  | 204  |
| SHD3ABP-308088-20  | 224  | 0  | 0  | 224  |
| SHD3ABP-308398-20  | 208  | 0  | 0  | 208  |
| SHD3ABP-309658-21  | 163  | 0  | 0  | 163  |
| SHD3ABP-309836-21  | 241  | 0  | 0  | 241  |
|   | **7535**  | **636**  | **557**  | **6342**  |

### **Q6/0122 QUESTION:** **Councillor K. Mahon**

To ask the Chief Executive to list existing approved Strategic Housing Developments in the SDCC area and provide information on how long approval has been granted?

**REPLY:**

There are 19 SHDs permitted in South Dublin as of Q3 2021, see table below. The last digits in the reference number refer to the year granted and are as follows:

3 granted in 2018, two of which are under construction

7 granted in 2019, three of which are under construction

7 granted in 2020, none of which are under construction

2 granted in 2021, permission not commenced

4 further SHD applications are awaiting decision from An Bord Pleanala

A total of 636 units are completed to date.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.**  | **Planning Permission (No. of Units Permitted)**  | **Units Completed to Date**  | **Units under Construction**  | **Units Permitted but not Commenced**  |
| ABP-300555-18  | 524  | 149  | 44  | 331  |
| SHD3ABP-302398-18  | 459  | 413  | 18  | 28  |
| SHD3ABP-303306-18  | 438  | 0  | 0  | 438  |
| SHD3ABP-305343-19  | 381  | 74  | 307  | 0  |
| SHD3ABP-305267-19  | 1034  | 0  | 116  | 918  |
| SHD3ABP-305556-19  | 290  | 0  | 0  | 290  |
| SHD3ABP-305563-19  | 488  | 0  | 0  | 488  |
| SHD3ABP-305763-19  | 328  | 0  | 0  | 328  |
| SHD3ABP-305857-19  | 252  | 0  | 0  | 252  |
| SHD3ABP-305878-19  | 590  | 0  | 72  | 518  |
| SHD3ABP-306602-20  | 463  | 0  | 0  | 463  |
| SHD3ABP-306705-20  | 502  | 0  | 0  | 502  |
| SHD3ABP-307092-20  | 250  | 0  | 0  | 250  |
| SHD3ABP-307222-20  | 496  | 0  | 0  | 496  |
| SHD3ABP-307698-20  | 204  | 0  | 0  | 204  |
| SHD3ABP-308088-20  | 224  | 0  | 0  | 224  |
| SHD3ABP-308398-20  | 208  | 0  | 0  | 208  |
| SHD3ABP-309658-21  | 163  | 0  | 0  | 163  |
| SHD3ABP-309836-21  | 241  | 0  | 0  | 241  |
|   | **7535**  | **636**  | **557**  | **6342**  |

### **Q7/0122 QUESTION:** **Councillor R. McMahon**

To ask the Chief Executive to give a report on the progress on the District Heating Scheme - when will it start functioning and when will it be fully functioning and how much carbon emissions will it save per annum?

**REPLY:**

The Tallaght District Heating Scheme is being led by South Dublin County Council. The scheme will also operate as Ireland’s first not-for-profit heat utility and will make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions in the area.

Works on the Tallaght District-heating pipe-network were commenced by GMC Utilities Group on behalf of Fortum on the 21st May 2021 in the grounds of TUD Tallaght. Pipelaying and pipe-testing on campus was completed by the end of July 2021. Excavation and pipe-laying works then commenced on the Belgard Road linking TUD to the DH Energy-centre site beside the Amazon data-centre on Airton Road. Work progressed well through August and September but unmarked and unmapped buried- services at the Airton Road junction resulted in 6 weeks of additional work  which was completed at the end of November.

Excavation and pipe-laying works were also commenced on Belgard Square North in September and this section was completed in mid-November. Works were halted from the start of the Christmas period in compliance with Garda Operation Open City ( previously Operation Free-Flow).

60% of the pipe-network is now laid, tested and reinstated.

Works recommence on the 10th January 2022 from the roundabout at the junction of Belgard Square North and East in the direction of Tallaght Hospital. This work will require the closure of the east-bound lane of Belgard Square North for a period of approximately 8 weeks with traffic being diverted to Belgard Square West and then onto Belgard Square South.

Principal Construction commenced construction works on the Energy-centre building in August 2021 . Substructural works are now completed, structural steel frame is in position, blockwork is underway and external cladding and roofing will commence in early January 2022.

The project delivery programme has been impacted by some COVID related delays and two utility company related delays.  The completion date for the District-heating project including supply of heat to TUD Main Building and County Hall is currently estimated that this first Phase will be operational from July 2022.

This initial phase of the Tallaght District-heating is estimated to save 1600 tonnes of carbon annually.

### **Q8/0122 QUESTION:** **Councillor R. McMahon**

To ask the Chief Executive what measures are the Council taking to educate and actively encourage the citizens of the county to reduce their carbon footprints.

**REPLY:**

In 2019 South Dublin County Council published it Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024. The CCAP defines our targets on CO2 reduction and improvements in energy efficiency in our operations. The CCAP contains 130 actions that will help progress South Dublin County Council towards carbon neutrality by 2050.

South Dublin County Council and all Local Authorities are recognised as uniquely placed within communities to provide leadership on Climate Action and to support our citizens in in their personal endeavours to reduce CO2 emissions and to build resilience against the effects of Climate Change.

Achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 is an ambitious goal, however it is a national target that will demand significant investment and cooperation between all sectors including public, private and individual households. South Dublin County Council is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 while ensuring that our journey adheres to the principles of just transition.

As the Local Authority, we lead by example. We are working to ensure that our own buildings, infrastructure and operations do not waste energy. We achieve this through upgrading heating systems and lighting with modern energy efficient technologies, and by monitoring and reviewing our energy consumption including electricity, gas and diesel. To date we have achieved an improvement of 45.7% in energy efficiency over our baseline figure. We publish our improvements and savings annually in our energy review.

South Dublin County Council has been actively upgrading the Building Energy Rating (BER) of our social housing stock. Earlier phases included a programme of replacing windows and doors, improving ventilation and upgrading insulation. The current programme will focus on deeper retrofits of heating systems and installation of solar panels. While this work will be carried out on our own social housing stock, it will present opportunities and inspiration for private home owners to improve the fabric of their own properties and benefit through grants from the SEAI and savings on increasing fuel prices. South Dublin County Council have provided Home Energy Saving Kits in our libraries. These kits which can be withdrawn from the libraries include instruments to help identify opportunities where improvements can be made and guidance on appropriate solutions.

We understand and acknowledge that carbon emissions from transport are a major concern for our citizens. We rely on fossil fuels to transport our families to schools, work and recreation. South Dublin County Council is working with the TII and NTA to develop a range of alternative transport options to private car use.

The Cycle South Dublin programme of works being rolled out over the next 8 years will develop over 260 km of high quality cycle routes strategically linking residential developments with schools, employment centres and essential services.

We are also working with the NTA and Dublin Bus to develop the Bus Connects project to improve the local bus services and encourage a shift from private car use to more sustainable modes of transport.

SDCC are working with key stakeholders to deliver a Dublin Region Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy.

SDCC are currently preparing the next County Development Plan. The CDP and associated documents will provide guidance to ensure that all development in the county is designed and completed in a sustainable manner to help reduce CO2 emissions over the entire lifespan of the development.

Our natural play spaces have been developed to promote creativity and provide healthy alternatives for our younger citizens to engage in outdoor activity.

The inaugural Dublin Climate Action Week (DCAW21) took place from 13th - 19th September 2021. Organised by the four Dublin Local Authorities, the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Dublin’s Energy Agency Codema, the week comprised a programme of over 100 online and in-person events which aimed to inspire, share knowledge and highlight best practice in climate action. Events such as the Sustainable Living Workshop, Let’s Talk Climate Action Workshop and the Circular Economy Event held Rathfarnham Castle Park aimed to inform and educate citizens how to live more sustainably and reduce their impact.

The Sustainable Energy Community programme is run by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), Ireland’s national energy authority. South Dublin County Council is working with Sustineo, the appointed mentor for communities in South Dublin and Codema, Dublin’s Energy Agency to facilitate and support homeowners, sports clubs, community centres, local businesses and churches transition to Sustainable Energy Communities.

SDCC will provide bridging finance to support communities to develop their Energy Masterplans. The cost will be recouped from the SEAI.

South Dublin County Council has also committed to providing financial support for sustainable energy projects identified in Energy Masterplans and deemed beneficial to communities under the SDCC Climate Innovation Fund. Awareness campaigns helping individuals, families and communities reduce their food waste are ongoing. As food waste is a significant contributor to climate change, reducing it is one of the simplest and most effective ways householders can reduce their carbon emissions. Recent campaigns include Summer BBQ Food Waste with Catherine Fulvio and Reduce Food Waste at Christmas.

Our Climate Innovation Fund was used to deliver a series of workshops to community groups and organisations interested in learning how to develop and implement climate action and carbon reducing strategies at home and at local and community level.

Our climate action team produces and circulates quarterly newsletters on ongoing climate action projects in South Dublin. The climate action newsletter is supported by regular social media updates on community opportunities and projects.

We are currently developing a South Dublin County Council Climate Action Website. The website will present viewers with progress reports on our projects, information on local initiatives and resources on how to get involved and manage local community projects.

Through our public consultation process, we engage with all sectors of society, we provide a platform for citizens to raise their concerns or seek clarification on aspects of our plans. Recent public consultations were held on the County Development Plan, Cycle South Dublin, Flood Alleviation Schemes.

The climate action team collaborate with local schools and clubs to help promote and instil sustainability into lifestyles. We promote cycling at schools through safety training and cycle bus programmes. We encourage schools to participate in the Green Schools programme. We engage with schools on air quality projects including Schools Streets and WeCount. Our climate action team regularly meet and cooperate with Comhairle na nÓg on climate and biodiversity projects.

The climate action team engage with the South Dublin Chamber to coordinate and support projects that can benefit our business partners. Our Climate Innovation Fund has been used to develop a Green Business Training Programme to facilitate businesses and SME’s with on-site resource efficiency assessments and toolkits to help reduce waste, improve efficiency and ultimately reduce the impact of businesses. Businesses are encouraged to participate in networking events to help disseminate knowledge and experience and become climate action leaders within their own communities.

SDCC will continue to engage with our community groups and business partners in 2022 to help reduce CO2 emissions across the County.

### **Q9/0122 QUESTION:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to present a report on his review of the recent Halloween Season; will he give details of the costs involved in dealing with the challenges and also state what progress is being made in repairing Open Spaces damaged by Bonfires and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

The clean up of bonfire sites was completed in November, landscape reinstatement at sites where this is required will not take place until Spring 2022 as ground conditions are not suitable at present.  The cost information given below does not include reinstatement costs which are not known as yet.

A total of 180 bonfire sites have been recorded around the County in 2021 and this is a substantial reduction from the 280 sites recorded in 2020.  There appears to be a number of factors to which the reduction can be attributed and these include the vigilance and efforts taken by local residents to prevent bonfires in their areas.  The Council held meetings with Kilnamanagh Neighbourhood Watch as well as residents from Aylesbury and Tymon North this year in advance of Halloween to coordinate the efforts of the residents, the Council and the Gardai in identifying and removing material stockpiles and minimising the impact of bonfires on those areas.  A meeting was also held with Clondalkin area elected members on the same matter.  The pre-Halloween collections of the Council show an increase from 2020 in materials intercepted before Halloween with Council crews out collecting material on 13 of the 14 days prior to Halloween. It is also quite likely that the weather helped to reduce the number of bonfires held this year also.

The tonnage collected before Halloween in 2020 was 237 tonnes however this has increased to 332 tonnes in 2021.  Public Realm crews collected 70 tonnes of bonfire material on Halloween weekend itself and 33 tonnes of material on the bank holiday weekend prior to Halloween. The tonnage removed from bonfire sites after Halloween has reduced which is consistent with the number of fires held, this figure was 355 tonnes in 2020 and this has decreased to 276 in 2021.  The overall tonnage has increased slightly from 592 tonnes in 2020 to 608 tonnes in 2021.  The overall cost shows a slight increase also however the final figure is estimated at present.

A comparison of statistics for 2020 and 2021 is set out below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   |  2021 | 2020  |
|  Number of bonfires |  180 | 280  |
|  Tonnage collected before Halloween |  332 |  237 |
|  Tonnage collected after Halloween |  276 |  355 |
|  Total tonnage collected |  608 |  592 |
|  Total costs |  €155,000 (estimated) |  €150,000 |

### **Q10/0122 QUESTION:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on actions taken to deal with the challenges presented recently by Storm Barra and will he make a detailed statement?

**REPLY:**

**Preparations:**

South Dublin County Council staff attended briefings by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management on Sunday afternoon December 5th, Monday the 6th ,Tuesday 7th, and Wednesday the 8th with the National Directorate, Met Éireann, the OPW, other Local Authorities and other agencies.

South Dublin County Council’s Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) met on Monday 6th December to review preparations for the anticipated high winds and rain of Storm Barra.

The SWAT meeting brings together key staff from across the Council to co-ordinate works that need to be done before, during and after the storm event. Representative from Roads, Public Realm, Drainage, Community & Housing and the Communication Section attend the SWAT meeting.

Works were carried out prior to Storm Barra to prepare the county for the event and the high wind and rain with fallen debris and flooding conditions.

Trash screens on the rivers and streams particularly at culverts were checked and cleared of any debris. Road gullies were checked for blockages and cleared, leaves are of concern at this time of year and were removed.

**Summary of Impacts**

Spot flooding occurred on roads in locations across the county and roads crews were out dealing with these impacts as they arose.

Trees and branches were reported down in circa 50 locations. Crews from the Public Realm and Road Maintenance sections of the council attended to these, making them safe and removing debris.

The Water Services Section was also out making sure water and wastewater infrastructure was working and any tripped-out pumping stations were put back online promptly.

Communication with the public is a key activity for the council during any weather event. Social media updates to the public were posted before and during Storm Barra and updates from Met Éireann, Tii, and other relevant bodies were reshared on SDCC platforms.

### **Q11/0122 QUESTION:** Councillor C. O'Connor

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details of plans to provide new Libraries in the County and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council are committed to the delivery of new libraries in Adamstown and Dublin West as well as a Library Hub in Rathcoole. A new Library Development Plan will be drafted in 2022 for the period 2023 to 2027, which will include these projects as well as plans to upgrade existing libraries to the standard of those added to the network during the term of the current development plan, Castletymon and North Clondalkin.

Adamstown Library will be delivered as part of the continued development of Adamstown Town Centre. Provision of €3.9m has been made in the 2022 to 2024 Capital Programme.

Early in 2022, South Dublin County Council will progress the identification of an appropriate site for a library facility in the Citywest area, thereby meeting the objectives of the Fortunestown Local Area Plan and the delivery of public services to support the area’s inhabitants. Provision of €3.5m has been made in the Capital Programme to deliver a new purpose built library in the area, while plans for the Rathcoole Library Hub are still at concept stage.

Paul Fusco - County Librarian

### **Q12/0122 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive to detail actions he is taking to encourage the development of Cycle Parking Bays throughout our County and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

Active Travel have been supporting the rollout of cycle parking across South Dublin County with funding from the NTA.

In the second half of 2021 an application process for free cycle parking and installation for Schools and Sports Clubs was initiated, for which over 45 applications were received.  It is intended to fill the requirements of all of these applications, and the work of installing these cycle parking facilities will begin in February 2022.

A new funding application has been made to the NTA for 2022 for further cycle parking and the Active Travel Team will be working with EWCC / Public Realm as well as alongside Schools and Clubs to fulfill even more cycle parking requirements at additional locations.

It is worthy to note that in addition to the cycle parking directly delivered by the Council, new developments approved through the planning application process must also provide a certain level of cycle parking, and the standards for cycle parking are setout in the County Development Plan.  These standards may differ depending on the type of land use and the extent of the proposed development.

### **Q13/0122 QUESTION:** **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the Chief Executive will he give assurances of support to Community Centres who are seriously concerned at the rising costs of insurance; will he give details of advice he offers in the matter and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

The Council's 2022 revenue budget provides a total of €1,502,800 for the maintenance, support, staffing and upkeep of community facilities including €500,000 new funding for community centre management and governance initiatives. A review of community facilities management examining the operational capacity and sustainability factors affecting community facilities across the county will inform a more strategic approach to funding and supporting community facility management in line with the increased provision in the revenue budget.   As part of this review, under the guidance of the Social, Community and Equality SPC, there will be engagement with local boards of management regarding the management, operations and challenges for community facilities that will increase the evidence base for future investment planning in community facilities across the County.  However, it should be noted that this support is intended to enhance governance and good practice for facilities but is not intended to provide funding for insurance or other operational costs.

More immediately, the Community Activities Fund (CAF) providing funding support to community groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas will open for applications later this month with a closing date at the end of February.  The CAF is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) in South Dublin.  It will provide support for:

* Facility development/renovation/repair/improvement;
* CCTV/energy efficiency/outdoor improvements;
* Equipment purchase;
* Non-pay costs (e.g. utility bills, waste collection charges, insurance costs etc.)

More details on the CAF will be available on [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie) later this month.

### **Q14/0122 QUESTION:** Councillor C. O'Connor

To ask the Chief Executive what actions he is taking to deal with the boarded up vacant Council houses and returning them to housing stock for allocations; in respect of each Electoral Area, will he detail how many such units have been dealt with this year and also how many such units are now vacant and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

Our Housing Maintenance and Refurbishment section undertake re-let works on vacant housing stock throughout the County to ensure stock is brought back into productive use for letting as soon as possible. In 2021, re-let works were completed on vacancies arising in 134 Council-owned social homes.

There are currently 91 vacant homes within our housing stock, representing 0.95% of our overall stock.  These are at various stage of the re-letting process as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Pre-Works** | **Works In Progress** | **Ready for Allocation** | **Total** |
| Clondalkin | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| Lucan | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Rathfarnham-Templeogue | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Palmerstown-Fonthill | 18 | 4 | 7 | 29 |
| Firhouse-Bohernabreena | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Tallaght Central | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Tallaght South | 11 | 22 | 8 | 41 |
| Total | 32 | 41 | 18 | 91 |

Allocations processes are underway for many of these properties and our housing allocations, maintenance and estate management teams are engaged in ongoing review of all aspects of the re-let process, including tenancy surrenders, contractor appointments, use of direct labour resources, work scheduling, offers/allocations and the use of the new integrated housing system, to work to continue to increase efficiencies and improve our average re-let times.

### **H7/0122 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H8/0122 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H9/0122 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 9 a) Chief Executive's Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73459)
[HI 9 b) Statistical Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73444)
[HI 9 c) 2020 Totals and Jan-Nov 2021 Totals - Local Indicators](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73445)

[HI 9 d) Finance Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73418)

**Billing and Collection Statement**





**Use of overdraft facility**

Department approved overdraft facility = €25,000,000

No of days in Overdraft from 1st January to 17th December 2021 = 1

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, informed the Members of the recent replacement of the Strategic Housing Development scheme with the Large-Scale Residential Development scheme informing that the planning process for such developments has reverted to Local Authorities, he referred to the impact of Covid19 on staffing levels.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. McManus, R. McMahon, P. Kavanagh, E. Murphy, K. Mahon, D. Ó Brádaigh, P. Kearns and C. King. Queries were raised regarding the number of social housing units built in 2021, the new Large-Scale Residential Development scheme, and tree planting. The establishment of the Women’s Caucus was highlighted, Councillors also commended staff on all their hard work throughout the year.

Mr. D. Mc Loughlin, Chief Executive and Mr. Mulhern, Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation, responded to the Members queries and thanked them for their comments.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **H10/0122 LUCAN DEMESNE CAR PARK PART 8 – FOR APPROVAL**

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

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council gave notice in accordance with Part 8 requirements to construct a 2 no. Car Parks on the R835 entering Lucan as set out below**:**

**Site A**

* 7 no. on-street parking spaces
* Parallel parking spaces of 2.5x6m dimensions,
* Buffer of 1.2m.
* Removal and relocation of existing low level wall,
* Removal and replacement all existing trees,
* Removal and replacement of existing low level hedge,
* Planting of additional trees along low level wall,
* Removal and relocation of existing gate,
* Removal and relocation of existing bus stop,
* Removal and relocation of existing road traffic signage,
* Removal and relocation of existing tourism signage,
* All associated landscape, planting and surface renewal works
* All ancillary works

**Site B**

* 10 no. off-street parking spaces to include1 no. Wheelchair Accessible parking space and elderly parking spaces
* Construction of permeable paving,
* Construction of low-level wall at roadside perimeter of carpark,
* Planting of additional trees/shrubs in car park,
* Construction of gate to carpark,
* Provision of bicycle parking facilities,
* Removal and relocation of existing road traffic signage,
* Removal and relocation of existing tourism signage,
* All associated landscape, planting and surface renewal works
* All ancillary works.

The proposal has undergone Appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and screening for Environmental Impact Assessment under the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, persons wishing to inspect printed plans and particulars of the proposed development could do so by making an appointment, and printed plans and particulars were available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 during office hours from 14th Oct 2021 to 11th Nov 2021.

The plans and particulars of the proposed development were available for inspection online on the Council’s Public Consultation Portal website http://consult.sdublincoco.ie and submission could be made via the portal of by post during the period from 14th Oct 2021 to 26th Nov 2021.

By the closing date 3 No. submissions were received. These have been summarised and responded to with recommendations in the Chief Executive's Report.

**It is recommended that, as the proposal is in conformity with proper planning and sustainable development the Council proceed with the Part 8 proposal to construct the Proposed Car Parking Facilities at Lucan Demesne, in the townland of Lucan, Dublin.**

[H10 (b) 02 CE Part 8 Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73415)
[H10 (c) 03 Part 8 Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73420)
[H10 (d) Lucan Demesne Car Park P8 Drawing Site A](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73387)
[H10 (e) Lucan Demesne Car Park P8 Drawing Site B](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73388)
[H10 (f) Lucan Demesne Car Park P8 EcIA Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73395)
[H10 (g) Lucan Demesne Car Park P8 Location Map](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73386)
[H10 (h) Lucan Demesne Car Park P8 Public Notice](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73391)
[H10 (i) Lucan Demesne Car Park P8 RSA report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73392)
[H10 (j) Lucan Demesne Car Park P8 Screening Determination AA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73389)
[H10 (k) Lucan Demesne Car Park P8 Screening Determination EIA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73390)
[H10 (l) Lucan Demesne Car Park P8 Screening Report AA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73393)
[H10 (m) Lucan Demesne Car Park P8 Screening Report EIA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73394)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Gogarty, E. O’Brien, M. Johansson, and P. Kavanagh, who spoke in support of the Part 8 and queried the location of the pedestrian crossing.

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

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor L. Donaghy and **AGREED** that, as the proposal is in conformity with proper planning and sustainable development the Council proceed with the Part 8 proposal to construct the Proposed Car Parking Facilities at Lucan Demesne, in the townland of Lucan, Dublin, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

### **H11/0122 KILCARBERY UPDATE - FOR NOTING (PRE-RECORDING)**

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

[H10 Kilcarbery Update (Pre-recorded)](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73447)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson, E. Ó Broin, C. King, P. Holohan, W. Carey, K. Mahon, D. McManus, and P. Kavanagh. The Members raised queries regarding the allocation of affordable housing units, numbers of declarations of interest received to date, the provision of the community centre, creche and retail area, the CREL scheme, provision of social housing on the site formerly proposed for the school, and the timeline for the project. The Members expressed disappointment that the Department of Education had decided not to provide the school as had previously been planned for.

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

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **H12/0122 DESTINATION LUCAN TOURISM PROPOSITION - FOR NOTING**

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

[H12 (a) Lucan Tourism Product and Proposition Plan](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73425)
[H12 (b) Lucan Tourism Product Plan Powerpoint Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73426)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. O’Toole, M. Johansson, E. O’Brien, J. Tuffy and G. O’Connell, who welcomed the report and raised queries in relation to water quality of the Liffey river, Shackleton Mill, car parking, public engagement and requested a presentation on all the major projects planned for the Lucan area.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development responded to the Members queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **H13/0122 CORPORATE PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW - 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 13 a) Letter to Mayor and Elected Members](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73416)
[HI 13 b) Report on Corporate Plan Achievements 2021](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73417)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors R. McMahon and L. O’Toole regarding de-carbonizing zones and hybrid/remote working.

Mr. D. Mc Loughlin, Chief Executive responded to the Members queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

**H14/0122 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR M. DUFFFROM THE ARTS, CULTURE,**

**GAEILGE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES SPC AND NOMINATION OF A NEW CHAIR - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**REPLY:**

A vacancy exists on the Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC following Councillor M. Duff’s resignation as Chair of the SPC and it is a matter for the Council to nominate a replacement to fill the vacancy.

This is now before the Council for consideration.

[H14 (b) Resignation of Councillor M. Duff from Chair of Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73422)

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor P. Kearns and **AGREED** that Councillor A. Edge be appointed to the Chair of Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC in place of Councillor M. Duff.

### **H15/0122** **RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR B. LAWLOR FROM THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC REALM AND CLIMATE CHANGE SPC AND NOMINATION OF A NEW CHAIR - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**REPLY:**

A vacancy exists on the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC following Councillor B. Lawlor's resignation as Chair of the SPC and it is a matter for the Council to nominate a replacement to fill the vacancy.

This is now before the Council for consideration.

[H15 (b) Resignation of Councillor B. Lawlor from Chair of Environment SPC](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73430)

## It was proposed by Councillor C. King and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh and **AGREED** that Councillor D. McManus be appointed to the Chair of Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC in place of Councillor B. Lawlor

Councillors P, Kavanagh, C. O’Connor, D. McManus, C. King and A. Edge thanked Councillors M. Duff and B. Lawlor for all their work as SPC Chairs.

Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive, expressed his appreciation to Councillors M. Duff and B. Lawlor and welcomed Councillors A. Edge and D. McManus as new SPC chairs.

### **H16/0122 CHANGES IN SPC MEMBERSHIP - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**REPLY:**

 Further to the following resignations:

 - Councillor D. McManus from the Housing SPC to the Environment SPC.

 - Councillor A. Edge from the Environment SPC to the Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC.

 - Councillor G. O'Connell from the Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC seeking nomination to the Environment SPC.

It is a matter for the Council to appoint replacements to fill these vacancies and this is now before the Members for consideration and recommendation.

[H16 (b) Change of Environment SPC Membership](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73435)
[H16 (c) Change of Housing SPC membership](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73436)
[H16 (d) Change of membership of Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73450)

It was proposed by Councillor D. Manus and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh and **AGREED** that Councillor B. Lawlor be appointed to the Housing SPC in place of Councillor D. McManus

## It was proposed by Councillor P. Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **AGREED** that Councillor G. O’Connell be appointed to the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC in place of Councillor A. Edge.

### **C1/0122 CORRESPONDENCE**

[(a) Correspondence from Minister for European Affairs](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73404)

[(b) Correspondence from TÃ¡naiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73405)

[(c) Correspondence from Minister for Planning and Local Government](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73406)

[(d) Correspondence from Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defense,](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73407)

[(e) Correspondence from the office of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration Youth](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=73408)

The correspondence was **NOTED**.

### **Motions**

**SM1/0122** **Emergency Motion:**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 15 (5) of Standing Orders the Mayor, Councillor P. Kavanagh, proposed and the Members **AGREED** to deal with an Emergency Motion in the names of Councillor C. King. F. Timmons, D. Ó Brádaigh, W. Carey, M. Johansson, G. O’Connell, E. Ó Broin, A. Edge, A, Hayes, P. Holohan, K. Mahon, C. O’Connor, Y. Collins, E. Murphy, D. Richardson, L. Whelan, L. Sinclair, P. Gogarty, R. McMahon, P. Kearns, S. Moynihan, E. O’Brien, T. Costello, L. O’Toole. C. Bailey, L. Donaghy:

“That this Council calls on the Minister Stephen Donnelly to immediately and without hesitation fund the two Crack Cocaine Outreach Services provided by CARP & JADD in Killinarden and Jobstown respectively to ensure these vital and life saving services remain in place to support those many many Crack cocaine addicted victims in our Community who avail of these services, one third of whom are Women - after the Funding ran out on December 31st 2021”

### The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M1/0122 CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY**

### **It was proposed by Councillor Peter Kavanagh and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons**

This county council reaffirms its commitment to tackling the climate and biodiversity emergency and commits to creating more habitats for wildlife and biodiversity in our county.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council has a number of plans and strategies in train and is committed to their implementation to help tackle the challenges presented by Climate Change and to support the retention, protection and development of biodiversity in the county as set out below.

SDCC will continue to progress the actions outlined in the Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024. Targets on energy efficiency improvements and carbon reduction have been updated to reflect targets outlined in the National Climate Action Plan 2021 targets legislated for in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. SDCC surpassed the target of 33% improvement in energy efficiency by 2020.

Our current targets on climate action are;

* A 50% improvement in the Council’s energy efficiency by 2030 (revised from 33% by 2020)
* A 51% reduction in the Council’s greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net carbon zero by 2050 (revised from 40% reduction by 2030)
* Make Dublin a climate resilient region by reducing the impacts of future climate change related events.
* Actively engage and inform our citizens on climate change.

Many of actions presented in the CCAP relate to SDCC’s operations and our plans to decarbonise our own fleet and buildings and to improve the efficiency of our public lighting infrastructure by replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs. Phase 1 of the replacement programme (2014-2020) has been completed. 9,689 SOX lighting units have been replaced with more efficient LEDs. Phase 2 of the programme is underway and SDCC plan to replace a further 1,500 units in 2021. The energy performance of public lighting has improved by 34.5% since the baseline. This represents and absolute reduction of 9.8GWh of primary energy and 3,450 tonnes of CO2.

SDCC will continue to replace older less efficient lighting in our buildings. To date, more than half of the lighting fixtures in County Hall have been replaced with LED units and a reduction of 68% in energy consumption has been achieved and 53 tonnes of CO2 emissions have been avoided.

The Tallaght District Heating Scheme is being led by South Dublin County Council. The scheme will also operate as Ireland’s first not-for-profit heat utility and will make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions in the area, with annual saving of almost 1,500 tonnes of CO2 in its first phase.

The Climate Change Action Plan includes targets for Nature Based Solutions and the Council is progressing actions such as the delivery of a Green Infrastructure Strategy, the Biodiversity Action Plan, a Parks and Open Space Strategy and a Guideline for developers and others regarding the implementation of Nature Based Sustainable Drainage Systems; which are all supported by policies in the Draft County Development Plan 2022-2026. Other actions include increasing annual tree planting, developing native tree trails, implementing a control plan for alien invasive species in parks and open spaces and managing and monitoring identified pollinator protection sites (see wildflower meadows below for further information).

The Council’s Tree Management Policy ‘Living with Trees’ 2021-2026 highlights the economic, social, environmental, ecological and aesthetic benefits in addition to enhancing biodiversity and mitigating Climate Change. The tree canopy in the County will be expanded to combat Climate Change. Trees act as carbon sinks, storing carbon as they grow, reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere and thereby reducing Climate Change impacts, which is central to our Climate Action Plan objectives.

A range of projects are being implemented under the SDCC Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).  These projects are co-ordinated by the Heritage Officer and agreed by the Internal Steering Group for Biodiversity.  Progress on the Plan’s implementation is reported to Council through the meetings of the Joint SPC Sub-committee for Biodiversity.

Funding for biodiversity projects is drawn primarily from the County Heritage Plan budget (LUPT) and from EWCC.  Additional biodiversity funding is also sought from external funding bodies including the National Biodiversity Action Plan implementation programme managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The key projects underway in 2021 which involve partnership funding between SDCC and NPWS are: Survey of Pollinator Sites in 3 Council Parks (Tymon, Waterstown, and Lucan Demesne); Ecological Survey of St. Finian’s Churchyard, Lucan.  The outcome of an additional application for funding from NPWS for an Invasive Species training video is awaited.

Other BAP projects and activities undertaken and funded under the BAP/Heritage Plan budget include: Tymon Park Hedgerow and Woodland Survey; Swan-tagging project in Council Parks; support for the National Tidy Towns Pollinator Award; purchase of biodiversity information booklets. The Heritage Officer also continues to submit weekly biodiversity columns to the local Echo and has contributed to the development of biodiversity policy for the preparation of the draft County Development Plan (Green Infrastructure Chapter and Heritage Chapter).

While responsibility for the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan rests within the remit of LUPT, actions for biodiversity that address objectives in the BAP are also undertaken or managed by other Council sections.

The Community Environment Action Fund promotes sustainable development by supporting small-scale environmental projects at local level. A number of biodiversity projects have been supported under this Fund in recent years. The grant is co-funded with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and in 2019/20, €40,000 was distributed to groups.

SDCC’s Climate and Environmental Awareness Office is also working with the other Dublin Local Authorities and the Regional Waste Management Office to deliver a pilot Composting for Schools Project.  The pilot project will work with schools to prevent and manage landscape trimmings and garden cuttings on site so that they can become ‘zero landscape waste’ schools, as well as help encourage the use of brown bins for food waste.  Both will help schools eliminate disposal of biodegradable waste to save money and to generate compost that can be used in school gardens for growing flowers, vegetables etc.

Public Realm have drafted and are implementing SDCC's Pollinator Action Plan 2021 – 2025 which tailors the actions contained within the All Ireland Pollinator Plan (of which SDCC area a signatory) to the environment of SDCC’s parks and open spaces.  This helps to deliver the Council’s commitment to promoting habitats for pollinators in this county and to addressing the rapid decline in our bee populations. One third of bee species in Ireland are threatened with extinction due to the reduction in the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in our landscapes. As part of the our pollinator action plan SDCC have implemented a communication plan and have kept the public informed over a variety of platforms on SDCC’s actions in their locality relating to pollinators.

Some of our actions to benefit pollinators and biodiversity have been underway for some time within our parks. For example, in order to develop wildflower meadows specific to our county, altered mowing regimes have been in place in a number of the Council’s larger parks/open-spaces. This reduced frequency of grass cutting allows wildflowers to flower and set seed, providing additional opportunities for pollinating insects which are currently challenged by habitat loss and chemical usage.  The wildflower meadow locations total 145 ha and this area is growing year on year.  Surveys are underway in these meadows to quantify their benefit to pollinators. It is intended to increase the amount of meadowland in the county in line with the outcomes of the surveys.

Our ongoing projects on Flood Alleviation, SuDS guidance, the Dublin Urban Rivers Life (DURL) project which will deliver 5 Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW's), and collaborations with LAWPRO and local community led groups including Friends of the Camac, will ensure that the rich biodiversity and habitats in our waterways are protected and that levels of natural resilience are established to defend and support recovery.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Kavanagh, L. O’Toole, K. Mahon, C. O’Connor, L. Whelan, L. Sinclair, Y. Collins, and R. McMahon. All Members spoke in support of the motion.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M2/0122** [**EMPLOYMENT COMPLIANCE ON CONSTRUCTION SITES**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=73191)

### **It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor C. King:**

That this council agrees that the Chief Executive should seek to put in place an agreement with the Trade Union Federation (BATU) for a system of employment compliance inspections on all construction sites whereby SDCC have contracted out works to building contractors. That the aim of which is to tackle the problem of bogus self-employment status on building sites initiated by SDCC.

**REPORT:**

This motion is seeking to have South Dublin County Council act in a role that is outside of its remit as the relevant enforcement bodies of this motion i.e. of tax, social welfare and employment law are the Workplace Relations Commission, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the Revenue Commissioners. For this reason this motion as presented cannot be implemented by the executive.

By way of providing information on public works contracts, the conditions of the public works contracts place an obligation on the main contractor to ensure compliance with the relevant aspects of the law governing payments to (and on behalf of) employees for all those employed on the construction site, this is not limited to their own employees but for all sub-contractors who provide labour to the site.  Contracting authorities are required to ensure that the ‘Rates of Pay and Conditions of Employment Certificate’ is received with each payment application and, in the event of non-compliance, to withhold payment until the matter is rectified.

The requirements regarding record keeping in the contracts are intended to assist enforcement bodies in gathering evidence in relation to non-compliance.  Where issues of non-compliance are discovered, contracting authorities should always report such matters to the relevant enforcement body since only they have the authority to bring prosecutions under the relevant legislation and to search and recover the appropriate evidence necessary to bring proceedings.

Councillor W. Carey spoke on the motion.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:

That this council agrees that the Chief Executive should seek to put in place an agreement with the Trade Union Federation (BATU) for a system of employment compliance inspections on all construction sites whereby SDCC have contracted out works to building contractors. That the aim of which is to tackle the problem of bogus self-employment status on building sites initiated by SDCC. ***“Furthermore, this Council will write to the Workplace Relations Commission, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the Revenue Commissioners asking them to police the issue of bogus self-employment on Local Authority projects.”***

A discussion continued with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson, G. O’Connell and K. Mahon who spoke in support of the Motion.

Ms L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management responded to the Members queries in relation to the response to the original Motion, informing that enforcement is not within the remit of SDCC, she confirmed that a letter can be issued if the amendment to the Motion is agreed.

Further discussion continued with contributions from Councillors P. Kavanagh, K. Mahon, and W. Carey,

The amendment to the Motion proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh was then put to the Members:

That this council agrees that the Chief Executive should seek to put in place an agreement with the Trade Union Federation (BATU) for a system of employment compliance inspections on all construction sites whereby SDCC have contracted out works to building contractors. That the aim of which is to tackle the problem of bogus self-employment status on building sites initiated by SDCC. ***“Furthermore, this Council will write to the Workplace Relations Commission, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the Revenue Commissioners asking them to police the issue of bogus self-employment on Local Authority projects.”***

The amendment to the Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M3/0122** [**LITTER BINS**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=73117)

### **It was proposed by Councillor L. O'Toole and seconded by Councillor G. O’Connell:**

This committee requests the Chief Executive agree to carrying out a review of our public litter bins. Further to question raised and answered in previous meeting (October 21) and Given that "The issues of size, colour and shape of litter bins were not considered in that review" has been made clear, we now ask that our bins/design are considered for a review if its confirmed that our bins have not changed since their initiation.

QUESTION NO. 28 QUESTION:

Councillor L. O'Toole

Over the last 18 months+ we all experienced challenges in our parks in particular the demand put on our public litter bins/litter bin service. Can then Chief Executive confirms to members as to when litter bins (their size, colour, shape etc) were last reviewed.

**REPLY:**

A review of the litter bin service was carried out under the remit of the Environment, Climate and Public Realm SPC commencing in November 2016 and concluding in February 2017, with reports presented to both of those SPC meetings. This review examined a wide range of issues including the number of bins in service, the configuration of the collection routes, unauthorised use of litter bins, the issue of dog fouling waste, smart solar powered bins and a number of other issues. The issues of size, colour and shape of litter bins were not considered in that review. The operation of the litter bin service remains under constant review due to the changing nature of the demands on the service, increasing waste tonnages arising from servicing of bins and other issues. The 2017 report from the litter bin review then led to a trial of solar powered, smart street litter bins being carried out from November 2019 to May 2020 in the Rathfarnham area. Reports on this trial were then presented to the Environment, Water and Climate Change SPC at both the May and September 2020 meetings of the SPC. Reports and reviews listed above are available at the following link <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/our-council/council-meetings/strategic-policy-committees/>

**REPORT:**

The review carried out by the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC in 2017 was a comprehensive one which examined all aspects relevant to the provision of the litter bin service.  The report was presented to the SPC in 2 stages and was agreed and at no time was it suggested that the issues of size, colour or shape should be included in the terms of the review. Reports and reviews listed above are available at the following link <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/our-council/council-meetings/strategic-policy-committees/>

The issues of colour and shape of the bins provided are aesthetic issues which do not affect the provision or the capacity of the service in any way.  The issue of bin size or capacity is one which arises from time to time and this can be resolved by the provision of additional units if deemed necessary.

There are in general 2 bin types used by public realm, a black and gold cast iron bin used in many town centre locations and a mild steel bin dark green in colour in other locations.  It should be noted that other non-standard bin types have also been used in other locations such as in conjunction with public realm improvement or village improvement schemes (for example at Manor Road in Palmerstown, and along the Zip project in Tallaght Village, both completed in recent years).  It remains open at all times to the Public Realm Section to procure and use other bin types if so desired.

It is not proposed to carry out a further review of litter bins at this time, however litter bin design/aesthetic can be included in future Litter Bin Reviews.  Information relating to the provision of new bins, replacement of existing bins, the demand for additional units, the frequency of the service, operational issues, tonnage of waste collected, cost of the service and problem locations continues to be collated on an ongoing basis and this information can be made available to elected members as they require it.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. O’Toole, G. O’Connell, who spoke on the motion, Councillors L. Donaghy, J. Tuffy, P. Kavanagh and W. Carey queried the intent of the motion.

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

Councillor L. O’Toole accepted the Report on the Motion.

### **M4/0122** [**VOTING RIGHTS**](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?noinc=true&id=73085)

### **It was proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:**

That this council supports expanding voting rights to include 16 and 17 year olds. Should the motion be agreed, writing to notify An Taoiseach, the Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform and the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed, letters will be issued to An Taoiseach, the Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform and the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. Sinclair, L. Donaghy, C. Bailey, Y. Collins, J. Tuffy, E. Murphy, C. King, L. Whelan, W. Carey, S. Moynihan, P. Gogarty, P. Holohan, L. O’Toole, P. Kearns, A. Edge, S. McEneaney and K. Mahon, all spoke in support of the Motion.

A **ROLL CALL VOTE** was then called for by Councillors C. King, P. Gogarty, L. Donaghy, and G. O’Connell, the result of which was a s follows:

**FOR: 33 (THIRTY-THREE)**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M5/0122 COLLECTING LEAVES**

### **It was proposed by Councillor T. Costello and seconded by Councillor C. King agreed to MOVE without debate.**

Given the amount of hard work undertaken by volunteers to collect and bag fallen leaves can this council provide residents with clear bags next year 2022, the lack of provision of clear bags for volunteers this year is resulting in some people using black sacks which leads to delayed collection.

**REPORT:**

The Council’s Street cleaning contract includes leaf sweeping during the autumn period. There has been an increase in budget expenditure of €169,300 since 2020, on this service since the new road sweeping contract started. Leaves are removed from public roads and footpaths throughout the county. This usually begins in September and extends to the end of January each year. Residents can contact via info@sdublincoco.ie or telephone 01 4149000 or they can contact Public Realm directly on publicrealm@sdublincoco.ie and their request will be added to the list for the contractor.  Since September 2021 the council has responded to 1,238 calls to collect bags of leaves and for additional leaf sweeping requests, the majority of these were carried out within 2 days of receiving the call.

The work undertaken by volunteers is much appreciated, however, providing heavy duty plastic bags for leaves is not considered good practice for the environment as they are immediately ripped open by the contractor to compost the leaves. Public Realm will examine various types of collection bag options including robust compostable bags and reusable hessian bags for future use. Approximately 4,000 rolls of heavy duty bags were issued to residents/groups in 2021 through the Social Credits Scheme.

The Environmental Awareness Office will work with residents’ associations and/or Tidy Towns groups/Community groups to find alternative ways to address this issue. For example building a composting system such as leaf moulds whereby the leaves can be reused locally as mulch/compost which is a valuable resource and can be used to enrich soils.

### **M6/0122 FAST TRACK SURGERY**

### **It was proposed by Councillor M. Johansson and seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh:**

That the Chief Executive write to the Minister of Health to fast track surgery for the 82 children with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus currently waiting, and that provision of services is made to Disabled Children within elective Hospital settings as well as acute Hospital settings to avoid a repeat of this situation in the future.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed, a letter will be issued to Minister of Health. A response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson, T. Costello, C. King, V. Casserly and P. Kavanagh, all spoke in support of the Motion.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

Meeting Finished at 6:53pm.

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

Mayor

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