



December 2022

# Chief Executive's Report

Chambers Ireland Awards 2022



# About the Chief Executive's Report

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

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

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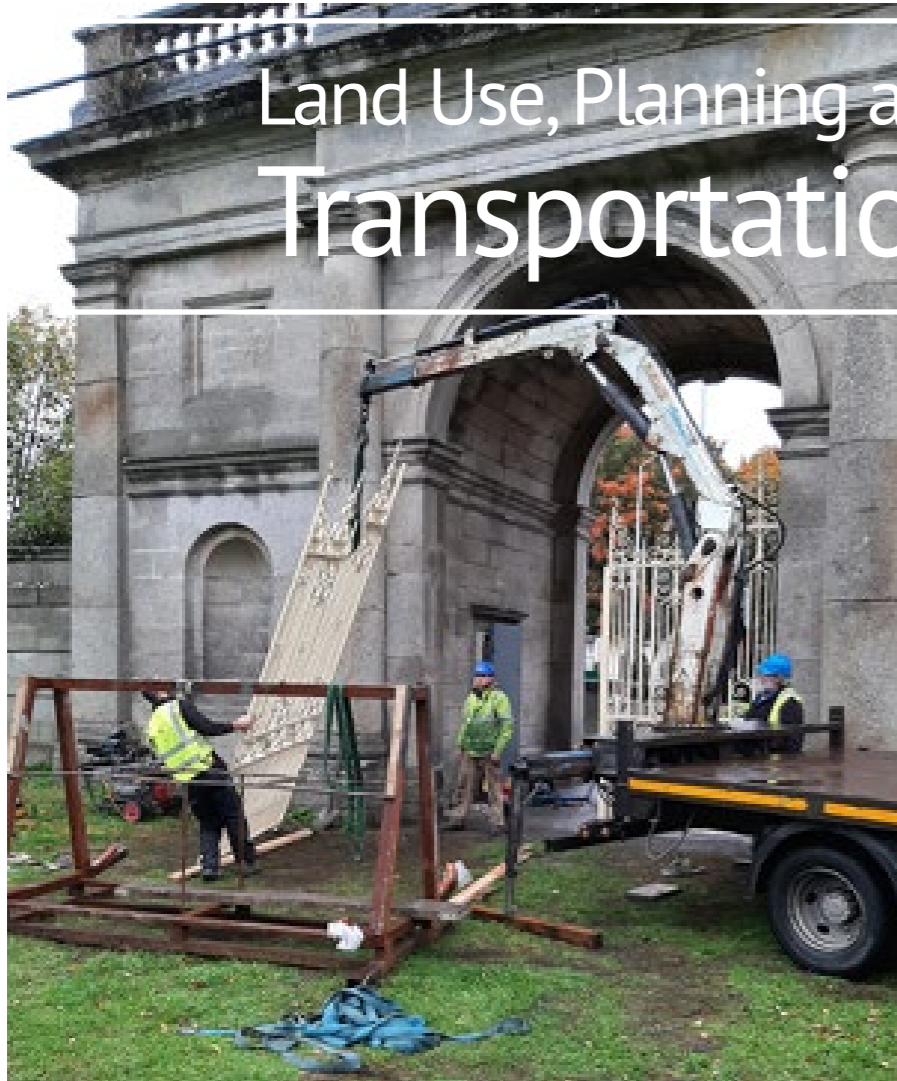
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# Land Use, Planning and Transportation

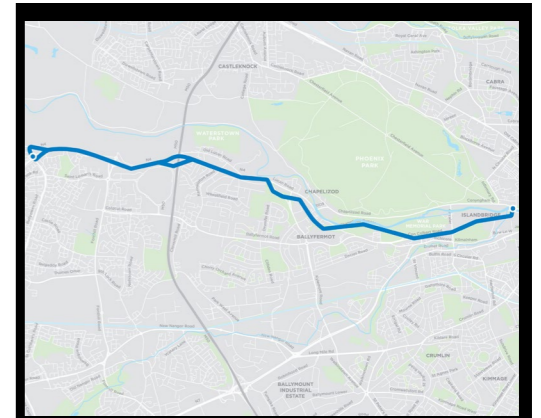


## Provision of new bike parking

The Council has been actively progressing the installation of new Bike Parking across the County and in 2022.

We have had another successful year with bike parking been well used at our public parks, schools, and sports clubs across South Dublin and this year we have provided 500 additional bike parking spaces. We are delighted to say that the usage at schools such as Firhouse Community College, Templeogue College, St Mac Dara's, St Annes GAA Club has been exceptional to the point that we added further capacity at these locations to cater for the demand.

We are now preparing to commence the next stage of bike parking provision in early 2023. As part of this phase we will have Bike Shelters on offer alongside Sheffield Stands and Bike Repair Stations for which the demand is already high. Our Active Travel website has a GIS maps page which pinpoints the locations of all our Bike Parking. We continue to work on and create the environment that will provide bike parking facilities across South Dublin and enable people to make more choices on cycling to their destination.



## Bus Connects planning application Lucan to City Centre Core Bus Corridor

The NTA has applied under Section 51(2) of the Roads Act 1993 to an Bord Pleanála for approval in relation to a road proposal consisting of the construction of the Lucan to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme.

The consultation period for this application is live and submission are invited in writing to an Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Division) 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin1, D01 V902 between Wednesday 2nd November 2022 and Wednesday 11th January 2023. Further information on the particulars of the scheme can be obtained at [www.lucanscheme.ie](http://www.lucanscheme.ie) A presentation on the application was given to the Council's SPC in November. The Council will make an official submission on the scheme as part of this consultation process

## Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022

It was another successful year for grant projects funded under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme. The Built Heritage Investment Scheme is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and is administered by the Councils Architectural Conservation Officer. The fund assists with works to safeguard protected structures and, in certain cases, works to structures within Architectural Conservation Areas, and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals and tradespeople.

The allocation for South Dublin County Council under the scheme for 2022 was €96,000. South Dublin County Council invited owners of Protected Structures and buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas to apply for funding during January 2022. Seven projects have

been completed this year with projects ranging from roof repairs, repairs to original timber sash windows, repairs to original boundary walls and gate piers. Rathfarnham Parish Church was provided with grant funding for repairs of the church organ. Funding was also provided for the repair and restoration of the original wrought iron gates at Ely Gate (Dodder Arch) which is a landmark structure and set within public open space.

The total cost of the works completed under BHIS projects for 2022 amounted to €179,112.57 with €126,794.60 in private leveraged funds. 317 days of employment were created which included the engagement of specialist roofers, specialist joiners, stone masons, wrought iron specialist and a master organ builder.



Built Heritage Investment Scheme

## Light Segregation Active Travel Schemes

There are several cycle lanes on existing roads across the County. Much of these are defined by solid or advisory lines, and whilst this is helpful in reminding vehicles to be careful, enhanced measures can provide additional safety for cyclists, making cycling a safer option for people.

The Council is installing bollards and bolt down kerbs in a number of locations across the County. These measures provide increased segregation and will encourage potential or hesitant cyclists to use the network as a preferred mode of transport. The transport team have identified several locations across the County including at Taylors lane, Doddsborough Rd, Ballyowen Rd and Rathfarnham Rd.

It is anticipated that additional funding will be provided by the National Transport Authority in 2023 to enable the further roll out of these light segregation measures in suitable locations across the county.



Ballycullen Rd & Killininniny Rd Cycle Lane Segregation





## Housing, Social and Community Development

### Estate Enhancement Works in MacUilliam and Balgaddy

Calisthenic equipment has recently been installed on the open green space located between Meile an Rí and Tor an Rí. The Estate Management team arranged for pupils from Balgaddy Senior National School to visit Tymon Park where they were given a demonstration on how to use the equipment. The pupils and teachers were so impressed, that they are now planning to include Calisthenics as part of their PE curriculum.

In consultation with the resident's association, the soft play area in the Mac Uilliam Estate was removed and replaced with a 'Trim Trail' that runs around the circumference of the park to encourage residents to engage in physical activity. Estate Management have also funded the planting of new mature trees and bulbs in the open green spaces.

We have recently completed the external painting of homes at the entrance to Mac Uilliam which has improved the overall appearance. There are plans to extend the programme in 2023 to other areas within the estate. Funding for the Calisthenic equipment in Balgaddy and Trim Trail in MacUilliam were provided under the Sláintecare initiative.



### Local Authority Home Loan Interest Rate Changes

The fixed interest rate for all new loans drawn down under the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) scheme will increase by 0.5% from 10 December 2022. While interest rates on existing LAHL mortgages will not be affected, all new borrowers under the scheme after this date will have the following interest rates applied:

- 3.35% for mortgages up to 25 years
- 3.45% for mortgages over 25 and up to 30 years

The dedicated website <https://localauthorityhome loan.ie/> including related documents and the online calculator for prospective applicants will be updated from 10 December 2022.

### Active Cities

Active Cities is a national project to get as many people exercising and participating in physical activity as possible in our biggest urban cities. It is facilitated by South Dublin County Sports Partnership in South Dublin and is underpinned by four key pillars:

- The principle of **Active Systems** underpins the entire project, emphasising collaboration and partnership to get people more active, with various Council departments such as Community, Sports, Public Realm, working together & with external agencies towards the programme goals.
- Under the theme of **Active Environment**, several projects are being funded to get people active in our environment including a new exercise loop at Whitestown Stream,

a boules pitch in Griffeen Park and BoxUp, a mobile app for free use of sports and leisure equipment in local parks.

- As part of **Active Societies**, community initiatives will promote physical activity during themed events such as Bike Week, National Play Day and National Walking Week.
- The **Active People** strand will see the continued roll-out of targeted events like Park Run, Men on the Move and Girls Schools Project to increase participation and physical activity.

Our Active Cities Project Officer Darragh Conway is coordinating the programme in South Dublin and he can be contacted through [info@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:info@sdblincoco.ie).



SDCC Dodder Park Run

### Community Support Fund 2022 (Community Enhancement Programme)

On 23rd November 2022, the Department of Rural and Community Development launched funding for the Community Support Fund 2022, under the Community Enhancement Programme. The fund will be administered through the South Dublin Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas. with:

- non-pay running costs (e.g., energy or waste costs) or other non-pay operating costs (e.g., rental/lease costs, insurance bills etc.)
- funding for repairs/improvements to facilities, purchase equipment (e.g., tables, chairs, tools, signage, laptops/printers, training equipment etc.)

Our online grants portal will be open for applications from 23 January 2023 until 12 noon on 24 February 2023. For further information please contact [communitygrants@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:communitygrants@sdblincoco.ie).



Calisthenics at Tymon Park



# Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

## Rowlagh Reads Roddy Nov / Dec 2022

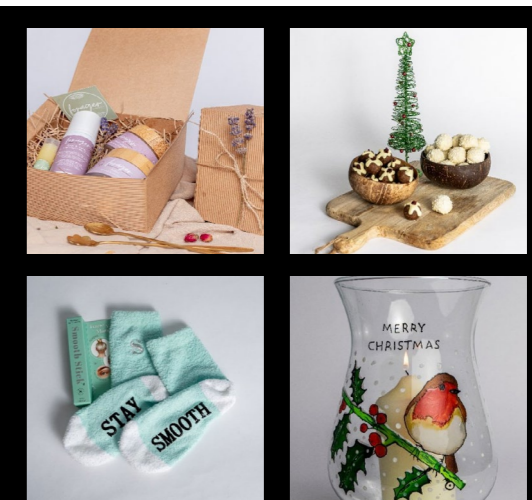


### National Ploughing Championships

South Dublin County Council's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) were delighted to be represented by Lucy & Me at the annual National Ploughing Championships, held in Ratheniska Co. Louth

Lucy & Me were joined by a host of well-known faces who dropped into the Local Enterprise Village across the three days, including An Tanaiste, Leo Varadkar, US Ambassador to Ireland, Claire Cronin, Minister of State Damien English, Newstalk's former Dragon, Bobby Kerr and RTE's Anne Cassin. They all had the chance to meet with Sarah Power from Lucy & Me, the children's furniture company from LEO South Dublin where there was great interest and excitement around her innovative range of products.

For Sarah, this was her company's "first time at the Ploughing Championships, and we were blown away at the scale of the event and the level of visitors to the LEO Showcase".



### LEO Clients Product Christmas Photoshoots

The Local Enterprise Office facilitated a photoshoot for clients to update their portfolio and website leading up to the all-important Christmas period. Over 25 clients embraced the opportunity to get updated professional photos taken of their products.

These photos will be used to showcase the incredible food and craft products produced in the county. A number of clients from professional and consultancy services also availed of this to update their portfolio and personal branding. The photos will be used across their websites and social media platforms.

### Rowlagh Reads Roddy

Rowlagh Reads Roddy – is an inter-generational, community reading event similar to the One City, One Book but with a twist. The idea behind it is that the whole community of Rowlagh will be reading Roddy's books at the same time. The adults will read his works for adults and the children will be reading his books for children. Rowlagh is an area of deep socio-economic disadvantage, but the community here is amazingly resilient and faces its challenges with courage and good humour.

We have been organising a series of events in the area – book club discussions, art workshops and much more – in local schools and community centres, Men's Sheds, and other locations. The icing on the cake will be a visit

from the man himself!

Roddy has availability in his calendar to visit NCL on Friday 2nd December. We can ensure a warm welcome from this community.

To highlight this event, we have been popping up around the locality when least expected, taking pictures of members of the community with a Roddy Doyle book in hand!

Locals have been looking out for themselves on South Dublin Libraries social media pages and we anticipate they will join us on 2nd December – where they will get to meet Roddy himself in a relaxed environment and also enjoy refreshments and some live music from The Commitments movie.



Lucy & Me at the National Ploughing Championships

### Export and Leadership Development Programme 2022/2023.

This is the first accredited programme that is being run by South Dublin LEO to enhance SME leadership ability within South Dublin to grow and internationalise their businesses.

The programme will be delivered over 6 months and will include training and mentoring and each business will complete a strategic plan for growth and export development over the period. Twelve businesses from the county have been selected to participate in the programme across a number of sectors including manufacturing, food, tech and fashion.

All successful attendees will obtain a cert in "Advanced Certificate in SME Strategic Management" on completion of the programme in April 2023.



Development Programme Participants in the Council Chamber





## Corporate Performance and Change Management

### South Dublin County Council Women's Caucus

South Dublin County Council continues its work to directly promote female participation in politics.

The Council has been awarded a grant under 'Increasing the Participation of Women in Local Government' to support training for the Women's Caucus.

The purpose of women's caucuses is to strengthen cooperation between women in political life across party lines and to help build the capacity of women councillors; especially newly elected councillors, through formal and informal mentoring and promote women's equality in Local Government.

The establishment of a women's caucus in South Dublin will increase the visibility and profile of women councillors, provide opportunities for formal and informal mentoring, as well as collaborative ways of working.



### Christmas Opening Hours & Contact Number For Emergencies

South Dublin County Council residents should note the following arrangements over the Christmas period.

South Dublin County Council will close on Friday 23 December at 12 noon and will reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2023 at 9.00 am. In case of emergency, the Council can be contacted through the emergency number at 01- 4574907.

Please refer to [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie) for all up-to-date Council news.

### Safety and Wellbeing Seminar – 22nd November 22

A safety and wellbeing seminar was held for outdoor and indoor staff of South Dublin County Council on November 22nd in the Civic Theatre. The aim of the seminar was to inform and engage staff on the importance of safety and wellbeing in every aspect of day to day operations.

Spread out over two sessions, almost 400 staff heard from incredible speakers such as:

Jack Kavanagh who, after a life altering injury, choose to see his injury as an opportunity to grow, learn and reset his view on life, in the following years Jack has challenged the limits of his situation.

Brian Pennie who became clean after 15 years of chronic heroin addiction. Since embracing his second chance at life, he has become a doctor of neuroscience and

psychology, a lecturer at the top two universities in Ireland, a life coach to some of Ireland's most influential leaders, and a consultant to some of the world's largest organisations. He has also published his memoir, Bonus Time, launched his own business, Change is Possible, and reached millions of people with his online content.

Michael Murray who is the Public Safety Manager at ESB Networks where he is responsible for the development and implementation of the ESB Network Public Safety Strategy which involves proactively engaging and collaborating with stakeholders on raising awareness in the area of electrical safety associated with working near ESB Networks overhead lines and underground assets. He is very active among stakeholder groups in the Agricultural and construction sectors as well as with the emergency services and local authorities.



Jack Kavanagh  
Safety & Wellbeing Seminar

### Area Committee meetings to be webcast

The Council will extend webcasting to Area Committee meetings from January 2023. Anyone wishing to view an Area Committee meeting or a Council meeting live can log in from the Council meetings page on [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie).

Should you miss a meeting, or would like to view a section of the meeting again, the archives allow you to view the meeting at your leisure and, allow you to jump to specific agenda points.

This extension of webcasting Area Committee meetings demonstrates our commitment to promoting transparency, and supporting understanding and participation in local democracy.



Area Committee Meetings will now take place in County Hall





# Environment, Water Climate Change

## 1,200 Trees planted in Mini Woodland at Mill Lane, Palmerstown

On Wednesday 23rd November 2022 a large group of local community volunteers, local schools, staff and clients of Stewarts Hospital, Public Realm staff and corporate volunteers joined Mayor, Cllr Emma Murphy to plant a Mini-Woodland in Mill Lane Park. The schoolchildren and their teachers from St Lorcan's Boys National School also gave great assistance in distributing the trees for planting all around the site and telling people the names of the plants. 20 staff who had volunteered from Ernst and Young were busy digging holes and planting. Members of the Dodder Action Group and Stepping-Stones Forest group, who are experienced in the planting technique, distributed tools, and oversaw the event.

The staff and clients of Stewarts hospital and local residents worked tirelessly to get all the planting done along with

staff from SDCC Public Realm Section, who had co-ordinated the event, provided the plants and ensured that the volunteers were all well looked after.

Everyone recognises that tree planting is a key measure in addressing climate change and tree-cover targets are rightly ambitious. The mini woodlands technique SDCC is implementing grows trees at 10 times the normal rate with an estimated 20 to 100 times more biodiversity and 40 times more carbon absorption that previous planting techniques. They are highly effective in terms of improving biodiversity as you can achieve the ecological diversity of a 100-year-old woodland in just 10 years.

This programme helps SDCC achieve our tree planting targets and gives community groups a great opportunity to participate in direct Climate Action.

The planting of mini- woodlands, which is an objective of the County Development Plan, will be continued in parks,

**SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**BOTTLE BANK LOCATIONS**

Aherne Public House Car Park, 101 Raven Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24  
Ashleaf Shopping Centre, Sweeneystown Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12  
Avoca Rathcoole, Rathcoole, Co Dublin  
Ballyboden St Enda's GAA, 147 Broomfield Road, Broomfield, Dublin  
Ballyowen Castle Shopping Centre, Castle Street, Ballyowen, Lucan, Co Dublin  
Bawnogue Enterprise Centre, 100 Enterprise Park, Bawnogue, Clonsilla, Dublin 22  
Bawnogue Youth & Community Centre, Bawnogue Road, Clonsilla, Dublin 22  
Bihemabrenna Bus Terminal, Clonsilla, Co Dublin  
Buglers Ballyboden House, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 16  
Carmac Valley Caravan Park, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 16  
Clock Tower Pub/Kingswood Lodge, Ballyboden Road, Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Corkagh Park West, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Corkagh Park, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Fettercairn Community Centre, Fettercairn, Tallaght, Dublin 24  
Fitzhouse Community Centre, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Grange Castle Business Park, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16  
Greenhills Community Centre, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Griffen Road, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Griffen Valley Park, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Griffen Valley Park, Newcastle Road, Lucan, Co Dublin  
Kilnarden Heights SDCC Maintenance, Tallaght, Dublin 24  
Kinmasagh Community Centre, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Knocklyon Supervisul, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Lord Lucan, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Lucan Sports and Leisure Centre, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Lucan Supervisul, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Mill Clondalkin, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Palmerstown Shopping Centre (Supervisul), Palmerstown, Dublin 22  
Perrystown Community Centre, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Quarryvale Community Centre, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Rathfarnham - Old Orchard pub, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Rathfarnham SC, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Roadstone Sports Club, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Sean Walsh Depot, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
South Dublin County Council HQ, Tallaght, Dublin 24  
St Jude's GAA, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Tallaght Leisure Centre, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
The Square Shopping Centre, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
The Red Cow Complex, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Tymon Park Car Park, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Tymon Road North, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Tymon Par Car Park, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22  
Whitechurch Shopping Centre, 100 Ballyboden, Dublin 22

**Keep Recycling - Bottle Bag Giveaway**

open spaces, schools, business and sport campuses across the county in the coming years and we would encourage people to volunteer to be part of this exciting initiative.

## Keep Recycling - Bottle Bag Giveaway

With the festive celebration comes extra waste and more recycling of glass bottles and jars. This leads to huge demand on our bottle banks.

To help with the extra glass being recycled and to encourage people to bring home their containers, the Environmental Awareness section of South Dublin County Council are giving away 500 sturdy, reusable glass recycling bags.

To get your hands on one of these bags please email your details to [envawareness@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:envawareness@sdblincoco.ie). Bags must be collected from County Hall Tallaght on a first come first served basis and will be available for collection from the 5th-16th December. For locations of your nearest bottle banks please see our handy flyer.

## Major Emergency Management in South Dublin

South Dublin County Council has an ongoing Major Emergency Management (MEM) programme in place to set out common arrangements and structures for front-line public-sector emergency management in Ireland. This is based on the internationally recognised systems approach that, proposes a cycle of continuous activity through five stages of emergency management: Hazard identification; Mitigation; Preparedness; Response; and Recovery.

The Major Emergency Plan (MEP) has been prepared by SDCC to facilitate the response & recovery from major emergencies, and to coordinate with the other two designated Principal Response Agencies: The Health Service Executive (HSE) and An Garda Síochána. (Dublin Fire Brigade are considered a PRA as part of the Local Authority). SDCC and other Local Authorities comprising, Dublin City, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Kildare, and Wicklow, are part of the Eastern Region MEM Group, which meets regularly for further coordination.

The Major Emergency Plan includes sub-plans such as Flood Emergency Plans and Severe Weather Plans which outline mobilisation procedures and regional coordination protocols for responding to challenges presented by an Irish winter. The plans are supported by SDCC's Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) – this group, comprised of senior operational personnel, meet to assess preparedness for a given weather event (*a status orange, or above, weather warning*) and agree appropriate actions, including informing the public via social media and other platforms.

Major Emergencies are very rare events, but you can take steps to feel as safe and secure as possible. For more info on how to cope with an emergency, visit:

- [The Office of Emergency Planning homepage](#)
- [The Office of Emergency Planning, Preparing for Major Emergencies Handbook](#)
- [The Road Safety Authority, Severe Weather Advice](#)
- [Met Eireann Weather Warnings Explained](#)
- [Met Eireann Weather Warning Updates](#)
- [Dept. of Housing, Planning and Local Gov. Major Emergencies FAQs](#)
- [Be Winter Ready](#)
- [List of HSE services currently affected by major emergencies](#)
- [National Directorate Fire and Emergency Management](#)



## St. Cuthbert's Park gets go ahead!

The Part 8 (Planning) Consultation for the proposed upgrade of St Cuthberts Park has been approved by the Council. The proposals shown include:

Walking/cycling routes, grassed sports pitches, multi-use games area, teen space, natural play areas, outdoor exercise equipment, performance/events area, seating, bike parking, planting of trees, wildflower grassland and bulbs, dogs off leash area, signage works to boundaries, accesses, and entrances. The proposals include consideration of St Cuthberts Church, which is within the park as well as a Moated Site and a Graveyard Site.

SDCC would like to thank everyone for their involvement in all the stages of consultation who assisted greatly in the development of the proposals. The Council has approved just over €1m for the project and the next stage is to proceed to detailed design and tender for construction in 2023.



Emergency Management Continuous Activity System



# NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2021



## Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2021

### South Dublin County Council improved performance last year, new report shows

South Dublin County Council improved its performance across a range of indicators during 2021, despite Covid-19 and other challenges, and while providing additional innovations and services.

The NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2021 shows South Dublin County Council made advances last year, particularly in the areas of job creation and mentoring, rates and housing loans collection, maintaining a low vacant home rate

and the percentage of litter or pollution free areas.

Essential services were delivered throughout 2021, even as South Dublin County Council played a vital role in the national response to the pandemic.

The local authority provided a range of new supports and grants to the public and businesses during the pandemic, including resilience and wellbeing community supports and

changes to the public realm in the interests of public health and safety and local businesses.

Alongside this, South Dublin County Council continued to deliver essential services throughout, as the Performance Indicators Report 2021 shows.

- At the end of 2021, South Dublin County Council owned 9,575 social housing units, having added 5 units to our housing stock in 2021
- The overall percentage of South Dublin County Council housing stock that was vacant at the end of 2021 was just 0.95%
- In 2021, €1,485,150 was invested in strengthening 9.3km of local roads. Total roads improvement and maintenance expenditure increased by €104,724 from 2020.
- As South Dublin County Council continues to focus on energy efficiency and climate targets, the percentage of the public lights using energy efficient LED lights in the county increased to 52.3% from 46% in 2020.
- Total number of planning cases being investigated by South Dublin County

Council increased to 750 in 2021 compared to 680 in 2020.

- In 2021, a total of 789 private rented dwellings were inspected by South Dublin County Council.
- In 2021, 85.71% of the registered private water schemes in South Dublin County were monitored by the local authority.
- The median percentage of areas surveyed and found to be unpoluted, litter-free or slightly polluted in the county increased from 87% in 2020.
- Of the 74 South Dublin County Council planning decisions appealed to An Bord Pleanála in 2021, 72.97% were confirmed by An Bord Pleanála.
- In the case of fire, the median number of minutes taken to mobilise the fire brigade in full-time stations in South Dublin County in 2021 was 01:30
- In 2021, there were a total of 306,644 visits to South Dublin County Council libraries and a total of 693,748 items were borrowed.
- In 2021, a total of 23 community organisations were included in the Public Participation Network for South Dublin County Council

- In 2021, the total net number of jobs created with the assistance of South Dublin County Council Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) was 39.
- There were more than four million visits to council websites and our social media following increased by 19% to 126,228 in 2021.

Commenting on the report, Chief Executive Daniel McLoughlin paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of South Dublin County Council employees, saying:

“South Dublin County Council continued to provide hundreds of services throughout 2021. At the same time, we played a vital role in the national response to the pandemic, supporting communities, businesses and local economies.

“We are continually seeking to improve services and increase efficiency and we made significant progress in a range of areas last year. We will build on our progress, continue to innovate and deliver quality public services.”



Kilcarbury Grange Affordable Dwelling Scheme



# South Dublin Libraries Celebrating Neurodiversity

## South Dublin Libraries celebrating Neuro Diversity

**This programme and the Toys, Training and Technology (TTT) collection are designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties, disabilities, or more significant needs.**

The TTT collection is a catalogue of specialised toys, software and assistive technology which can be accessed free of charge in branches throughout South County Dublin and can be borrowed or utilised by joining up at any South Dublin library. Items in the catalogue can be collected by the borrower at their nearest branch library. Membership is free to any

individual who lives, works, or goes to school in South Dublin. The collection was chosen by the staff of South Dublin Libraries in partnership with occupational therapists working in the community. The project also includes the training element celebrating Neurodiversity with an annual series of free lectures and workshops. These events offer further guidance, support

### Library Events

and networking opportunities for parents, teachers, and healthcare professionals.

Library staff organised an excellent programme of events throughout October and November on neurodiversity across the branch network supported by the Dormant Accounts Fund. Highlights included:

- Sensory Processing Disorder – Overloaded, Overwhelmed and Misunderstood! (online event)
- Autism and Toilet Training – a gentle developmental approach with ASIAM Training Officer Amanda McGuinness.
- All about ADHD! with Ken Kilbride, CEO ADHD Ireland.
- Sensory Storytime
- Autism and Sleep
- Introduction to Lámh Modules
- Helping Neuro-Diverse teenagers who struggle with Organisation
- Down Syndrome 101

For up-to-date details of future talks and events relating to the TTT catalogue and celebrating Neurodiversity please email us and ask to join the mailing list at [talib@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:talib@sdblincoco.ie). Attendance at all events is free of charge and open to everyone but advance booking is required.

South Dublin Library staff are working to ensure that all our libraries are accessible to neurodivergent people. Staff have been given the opportunity to avail of Autism Awareness Training by AsIAM. South Dublin Libraries sensory offerings includes dedicated Sensory Quiet Time each month, sensory equipment such as ToverTafel "Magic Tables", sensory boxes, sensory walls, and a sensory garden. Along with these our branches offer Touch Type Read Spell classes for those with Dyslexia and access to Lexia, a literacy support system, for Deis schools across South Dublin. For more information, please contact your local library.



Annual series of free lectures and workshops celebrating Neuro Diversity



# SDCC Wins Innovation Award at the 2022 Chambers Ireland Awards



## South Dublin County Council win Local Authority Innovation Award for the Think Big Space project, in partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS) at the 2022 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards

Mayor of South Dublin County Council (SDCC) Cllr Emma Murphy, SDCC Chief Executive Daniel McLoughlin and staff from South Dublin County Council attended the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards which were held in the Crowne Plaza on Thursday 24th November, where the Council were nominated for an impressive 8 awards in 8 different categories and were shortlisted for the prestigious Local Authority of the Year Award.

The Council projects nominated included Tallaght District-heating Network in Climate Change, Women in Local Government in Diversity & Inclusion, Cycle South Dublin in Health & Well-being, Think Big Space in partnership with AWS in Local Authority Innovation, Grange Castle Business Park in Promoting Economic Development, Clondalkin Community Bicycle Hub in Supporting Sustainable Communities, Sustainable Drainage Guidance Project in Sustainable Environment & NOISE Music in

Sustaining the Arts.

Accepting the award for the Local Authority Innovation Award on behalf of South Dublin County Council were Mayor Cllr Emma Murphy and County Librarian Paul Fusco for the Think Big Space project, in partnership with AWS.

The AWS Think Big Space is a new educational lab located beside the Tallaght Luas stop, which aims to inspire an interest in science, technology, engineering, arts, and maths. It provides a dedicated space for students, educators, and communities to explore innovative and imaginative ideas through interactive hands-on technical education. AWS has opened AWS Think Big Spaces across the world; however, this is the first AWS Think Big Space to launch in Europe.

Speaking at the award ceremony, Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council, Danny Mc Loughlin said: "I am delighted to see so many South Dublin County Council projects nominated for the Excellence in Local Government Awards. This is testament to the quality, creativity, and innovation of our staff across the entire organisation. I would like to congratulate the libraries team and of course our partners AWS for the introduction and development of the Think Big Space in Tallaght which won the Local Authority Innovation Award. This innovative project highlights how progressive our Library Services are and will help and encourage South Dublin children to develop and hone their creative thinking."

Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy, who collected the award said: "It is with great pride that I accepted this award alongside County Librarian Paul Fusco. The Libraries Team work hard to create inclusive library spaces for all the citizens of the county. The Think Big Space was created in partnership with AWS and is the first of its type in Europe. This project provides an interactive learning space and encourages interest in STEAM topics. I would also like to congratulate all the nominated projects and associated staff teams. I am immensely proud that our local authority was nominated in eight categories and shortlisted for the Local Authority of the Year. This is an acknowledgement of all the hard work and the range of innovative projects being delivered to South Dublin citizens."



Chambers Ireland Awards held at the Crowne Plaza, Santry





# Dréacht Buiséad Bliantúil | 2023 Draft Annual Budget

**The annual budget of South Dublin County Council represents the cost of providing an extensive range of public services and supports to our resident population of 300,000, the many commuters who traverse our county daily, business and tourist visitors and over 7,000 business entities.**

In addition to current services, it also provides an opportunity to provide funding for future infrastructural needs to support a growing population.

The 2023 Budget adopted by the elected members amounts to €306m. This is funded from a variety of sources including local property tax, rents, government grants and most importantly commercial rates, which amounts to €143m or 47.5% of total income.

In preparing and adopting the budget, the elected members were conscious of the economic context, which while having moved beyond COVID, is nevertheless heavily influenced by residual issues around economic disruption, which have been compounded by the Ukrainian war, the continuing fallout from Brexit and world

events. In this context the key facets of the budget include:

- Having regard to current challenges for business and households, there are no increases proposed for local property tax, rates, or rents.
- The retention and continued investment in front line services to cater for our ever-increasing population and expanding communities. In this regard €10m additional funding has been provided to underpin frontline services. Among the most recognisable of these include €111.8m on housing services, including €17.6m to maintain our 10,000 public homes. We will spend €19.2m on the local road network, €23.2m on fire services, €25.3m on maintaining our parks and public areas, €13.2m on street cleaning and litter management, €6.2m on keeping 30,000 public lights maintained

and lit, €14.4m on water services, €9.8m on planning services and €3.5m on community grants and support schemes.

- We aim to continue and expand our proactive programme of climate action initiatives with a significant expansion of activity in 2023 provided for, including the preparation of a new Climate Action Plan, the commissioning of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, a comprehensive study on options for the decarbonisation of our fleet, a pilot study around solar panels on our community buildings, a similar study on a solar project on Arthurstown landfill and the roll out of Phase 1 of our plans for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.
- The economic development of the county is a core objective which we continually progress through projects and programmes funded through our annual budget. In 2023 these include further investment in our Town and Village Programme, most notably an additional €500,000 for Clondalkin village enhancements, €500,000 for the next phase of the N81 landscaping project at

the Old Bawn junction, the continuation of the €1m Business Support Fund, €1.25m to support tourism projects including the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre and the Rathfarnham Castle Stables projects, €500,000 towards the completion of Tallaght Stadium and a further €1m towards the Tallaght Heritage Centre. The 12th Local Economic Development Strategy will be brought to Council in Q1 of 2023 and €1.5m has been provided to underpin "kickstart" projects on Council owned land, with an emphasis on enterprise, innovation and the arts.

- Population growth creates demand for new community facilities. The 2023 Budget places a continued emphasis on provision the funding of community infrastructure, including an additional €1.5m for library development, €1m for the development of Citywest Community Centre, €500,000 for St Cuthberts Park, €300,000 each to start implementing plans for Jobstown and

Quarryvale Parks, an additional €500,000 for Whitestown Stream and €1m towards the Astro Pitch Programme.

- The Council has in recent years taken on vastly increased responsibilities across areas such as planning, housing, climate action, the maintenance of new facilities in addition to the requirement to support an expanding population. In this context and the need to continuously improve service quality, additional financial support has been included to increase staff resources.

A comprehensive organisational capacity study and workforce plan was completed to inform future staff investment. In summary, an additional 100 staff are required across the organisation over the next two years. To support the implementation of this workforce plan, an additional €2.9m has been provided to support additional employment in 2023.

- The continued support and voluntary effort of our communities is critical to the wellbeing of the county. As in previous years circa. €3m in community grants and financial assistance schemes have been provided, as well as additional supports for sports, community centres, arts, libraries, social inclusion, age friendly initiatives and childhood development. An additional €500,000 has been provided to support community centres, while €300,000 has been provided to support initiatives arising from the planned publication of our first Local Sports Strategy next year.

The Budget as presented is progressive and mindful of the challenges ahead, including resourcing and cost increases associated with inflation. It seeks to protect and enhance service delivery, promote economic development, accelerate community provision with due regard to national priorities and the commitments of our five-year Corporate Plan.

## A Focus On

# Annual Budget 2023



Budget 2023 - Adopted at the November Council Meeting



# Images of the Month



Dodder Park Run

# Images of the Month



Corkagh Podcast Launch



Safety & Wellbeing Seminar at the Civic Theatre



Mill Lane Mini Woodland Planting



# Images of the Month



Calisthenics with Balgaddy kids in Tymon Park

# Images of the Month



Light Up Your Bike Launch



Active Cities Flag Raising



Rowlagh Reads Roddy in Local Hairdressers



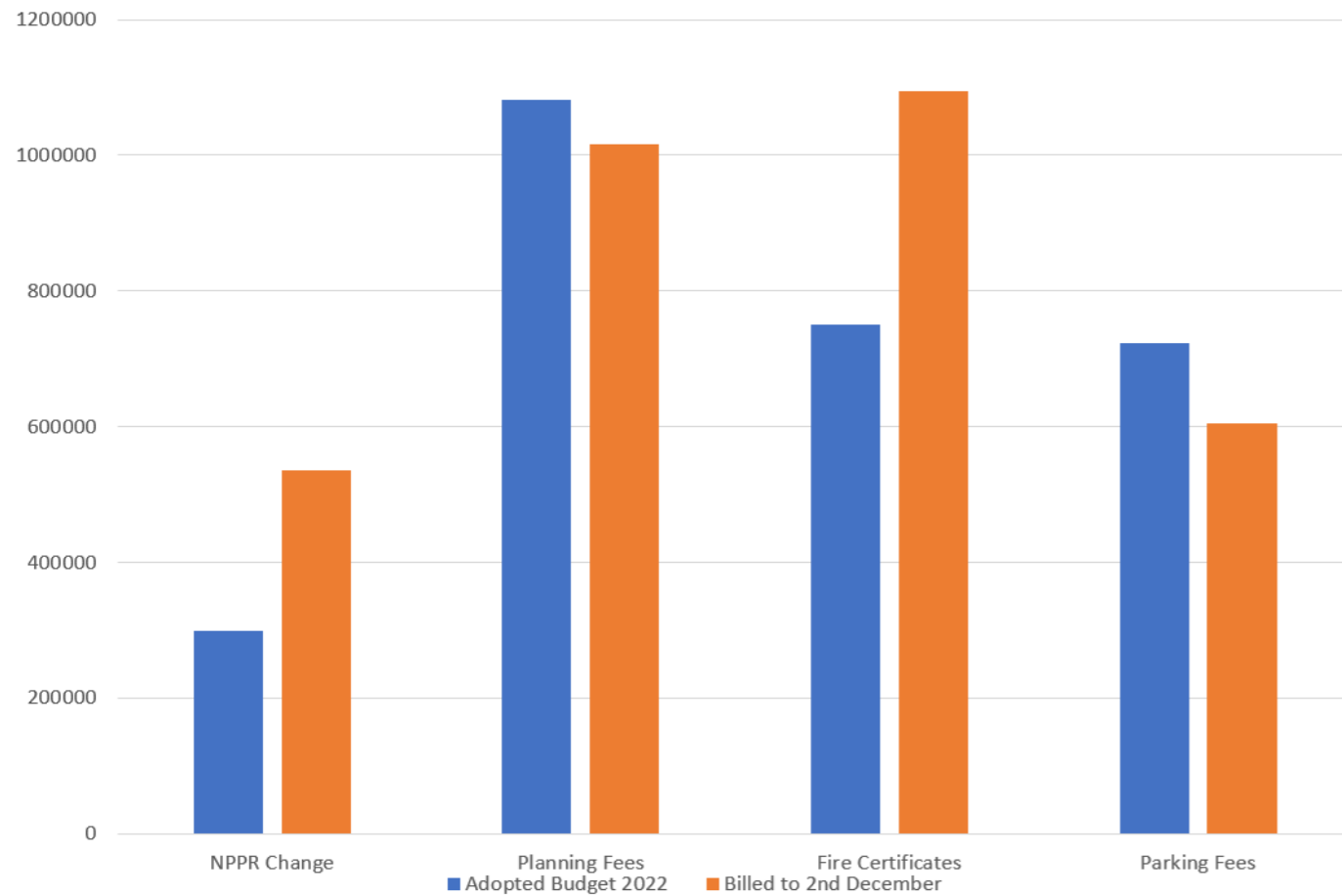
# Finance Report

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Income Sources via Cash Streams



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

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