**Corporate Plan Annual Report 2022**

In the context of Corporate Plan achievements, 2022 was all about the reopening of the economy, dealing with the residual impacts of COVID, the reestablishment of stalled priorities and focusing on the future. While very significant progress was made, the year was not without its challenges and frustrations, as the confluence of post covid challenges and the impacts of the war in Ukraine led to supply chain issues, significant inflation, project delays and a continuing accommodation and housing crisis.

As in the case of Covid, the war in Ukraine has proven to be a significant disruptor to corporate planning, as Ireland has had to provide temporary protection for nearly 70,000 refugees. South Dublin County has played its role in this regard and while the Council has not been directly involved in planning the response, it has supported the national effort through the local integration support forum, providing welcome and basic community supports, sourcing accommodation where appropriate and assisting with the accommodation pledge process.

In relation to housing generally, the Council adopted and received government approval for its five-year housing strategy, with delivery targets for 3,707 social and 1,133 affordable units. The 2022 target of 400 was 98% fulfilled, with 391 units delivered despite construction delays and contractor difficulties. The delivery of the initial phase of social and affordable units in Kilcarbery marked a significant milestone in our overall strategy. Likewise, securing €186m URDF funding for the Clonburris SDZ will underpin the delivery of 2,500 social and affordable homes at this location in the years ahead. The first two phases totalling 382 units secured planning approval during the year and have progressed to detailed design.

While construction generally was disrupted in the context of supply chain issues, materials inflation and tender uncertainty, a few important projects got underway, including Tallaght Innovation Centre, Tallaght Stadium, Saggart Community Centre, Rathcoole Courthouse and a range of smaller projects, including teen spaces at Ballycragh, Tandy’s Lane and Esker. Tender delays were experienced with a range of other projects, which are now scheduled to start early in the new year including Tallaght public realm, Tymon district centre, Corkagh and Killinarden parks, the Grand Canal extension, Sean Walsh Astro pitch and Templeogue Intergenerational Centre.

We continued to progress our plans for investment in community infrastructure including new community centres in Citywest, Newcastle, Ballycullen, Killinarden and Kilcarbery. We adopted our new Library Development Plan. In addition to the imminent commencement of work on Corkagh and Killinarden parks, we progressed St Cuthberts Park through planning and commenced planning for the redesign of Jobstown and Quarryvale parks.

Job creation, enterprise and tourism all come within the definition of economic development. In this regard, the opening of an additional 500 acres at Grange Castle, the commencement of Tallaght Innovation Centre and the advancement of planned enterprise/innovation centres at the 12th Lock and Adamstown, are all positive developments from 2022. €14m investment in our cycle network and greenways, the approval of the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre, the completion of Templeogue village improvement works, plans approved for Lucan village and Rathfarnham Castle Stables and the completion of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, are a clear indication of progress in the past 12 months.

In the context of planning for the future, we completed our review of the County Development Plan, prepared the framework for the largest urban renewal project in the State titled “City Edge” along the Naas Road, commenced the preparation of the Clondalkin LAP and in a more recent initiative, commenced an economic study for the development of the 12th Lock area, for which a scheme of development will be brought forward in early 2023. Also, with regard to forward planning, the Council approved 17 developments under the Part 8 process ranging from housing, to cycle and greenway schemes, community infrastructure, playing pitches and village improvements.

As always, we have sought to involve citizens and communities in the broadest possible way in bringing the county forward. We have expanded our communication channels introducing websites on climate action, Cycle South Dublin and are developing a new citizen planning portal. We reintroduced the very successful “300K Have Your Say” collaborative budgeting initiative and are now webcasting our Council meetings. Notwithstanding the challenges outlined, very real progress was made in delivering on our corporate objectives in 2022 and the immediate prospects for 2023 are likewise positive.