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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council May 2023 County Council Meeting held on Monday 8 May 2023

**PRESENT**

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

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | D. McLoughlin. |
| Directors | J. Frehill, M. Mulhern, L. Maxwell, T. Walsh, C. Ward |
| Head of Finance | R. FitzGerald. |
| Head of IT | T. Kavanagh |
| Senior Executive Officers | E. Leech, M. Murtagh. E. Clancy, L. Leonard. |
| Local Sports Co-ordinator | T. McDermott. |
| Administrative Officers | D. Healy, M. Reilly |
| Senior Staff Officers | L. Abbey |
| Assistant Staff Officers | D. Murphy |
| Sord | A. O’Brien. |

The Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillors C. King and K. Mahon.

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Councils website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014, the Data Protection Act 1988, General Data Protection Regulations (EU) 2016/679 and the Defamation Act 2009. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the legislation.

Therefore, by entering the Council Chamber and using the seats around the meeting tables, public gallery etc. you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting.

The Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, welcomed everyone and informed the Members of the etiquette for Hybrid Meetings:

Members attending remotely must check that they can access the “Chat Function” before commencing the meeting.

Members can indicate they wish to speak on an item through the chat function – using “Speak please.”

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 attending in person can indicate they wish to speak by signalling to the Chair.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a minute’s silence was observed as a mark of respect on the recent loss of former Councillor Derek Keating. Councillors V. Casserly, E. O’Brien, P. Gogarty, J. Tuffy, G. O’Connell, M. Duff, D. Ó Brádaigh, S. Moynihan and Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive expressed their sympathy and condolences.

The Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, informed that a Book of Condolence would be opened by South Dublin County Council.

### **H1/0523 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the April Council Meeting held on 11th April 2023 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor E. Murphy seconded by Councillor L. Hagin-Meade

[(a) April Council Minutes 11th April 2023](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78685)

**At this point, the Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy proposed, and the Members AGREED to vary the sequence of items on the agenda in order to take Headed Item no. 12 (H12) next and welcomed Ms. Louise Burke and Ms. Sophie Harrison from Sport Ireland to the meeting.**

### **H12/0523 LOCAL SPORTS PLAN - FOR NOTING**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. C. Ward, Director of Housing, Social and Community Development, and Mr. E Seydak from S3 Solutions, Consultants, and was **CONSIDERED.**

[H12 Local Sport Physical Activity Plan 2023-2028 Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78679)
[H12 Local Sport Plan 2023-2028](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78716)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Tuffy, E. Murphy, L. Sinclair, S. Moynihan, E. Ó Broin, L. Hagin Meade, P. Kearns, R. McMahon, W. Carey, C. Bailey, P. Holohan, V. Casserly, T. Costello, M. Johansson, G. O’Connell, and L. McCrave. Councillors welcomed thse Report and commended the team on their work. Queries were raised regarding funding and resources.

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

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **H2/0523 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, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area Committee Meeting**

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.*

### **H3/0523 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H4/0523 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### **H5/0523 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy, seconded by Councillor S. Moynihan and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q28 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/0523 QUESTION: Councillor C. Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the Tenants-In-Situ scheme. Report to include the number of properties offered to SDCC, sales that have been completed to date and explain any barriers/blockages the Council has encountered related to this scheme.

**REPLY:**

The Council has been notified by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage of approval for 150 property acquisitions in 2023.

At the end of April 2023, 220 expressions of interest have been received from landlords/property owners interested in selling their property to the Council, of which:

* 17 properties have been purchased or are at sale agreed stage.
* 75 properties are at valuation/negotiation stage where the Council is seeking to purchase having completed all pre-purchase checks.
* 90 properties at various stages of due diligence & pre-purchase checks
* 38 properties are not proceeding due to either the property being vacant/tenant no longer in-situ, the tenant having been made a reasonable offer of alternative accommodation or where the property is not deemed suitable for acquisition.

Where expressions of interest are received from property owners, various standard due diligence checks are undertaken in relation to property condition, valuation and conveyancing and the general steps in the process are as follows:

* Determine the housing need of the household and suitability of the property concerned to the household's needs with a flexible approach being taken to prevent homelessness where possible.
* Ascertain the validity and timelines of the Notice of Termination.
* Explore options for suitable alternative accommodation where available.
* Undertake condition survey and valuation of the property.
* Commence negotiation on an acquisition price for the property.
* Where a sale price is agreed, the Council’s Law Department are then instructed to complete the conveyancing process.

Individual property purchases can be delayed for various reasons such as the owner not having full legal title, various planning issues, outstanding property taxes, general contractual conditions of sale not in place etc. The process is also reliant on timely progress from the vendor’s legal and sales agents, so timeframes vary from purchase to purchase.

The Council is taking appropriate steps to ensure that our first response will be to support households to try to prevent homelessness in cases where tenants have been served with a notice of termination by their landlord.  A recent press release issued by the Council to advise tenants what to do if they find themselves in this situation is available at the following link: [SDCC important information regarding notices of termination.html](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/news/south-dublin-county-council-important-information-regarding-notices-of-termination.html)

Additional resources have been temporarily re-assigned to this work area from elsewhere within the Housing, Social and Community Development directorate and additional external technical resources have also been procured to ensure that the existing potential acquisitions are progressed as promptly as possible.

Inter-authority arrangements are also in place with neighbouring and other local authorities as required to progress potential acquisitions for South Dublin housing applicants in HAP supported tenancies at risk of homelessness in other local authorities’ administrative areas and vice versa.

The level of activity and resource requirements for tenant in-situ purchases will continue to be reviewed in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in the coming months to ensure that we are able to prevent homelessness where possible.

### **Q2/0523 QUESTION: Councillor C. Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on emergency accommodation in SDCC over the last five years. Report to include the number of emergency accommodation beds available to in the SDCC area and to detail any capacity issues.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 506 homeless households on the Council’s housing list comprising the following:

* Single Males: 229
* Single Females 74
* Couples: 24
* Households with Children: 179.

To date in 2023, 47 allocations have been made to homeless households.

129 homeless households are currently availing of self-accommodate options in hotel or bed and breakfast accommodation. Our Homeless Unit continues to provide assistance to those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and work with DRHE to organise emergency accommodation for those assessed as homeless through the Assessment and Placement Service.  Emergency accommodation for homeless households across Dublin is sourced on a regional basis by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive in partnership with this Council and other Dublin local authorities.  Within South Dublin County, the following emergency accommodation is currently provided:

Family Hubs:

* High Street Family Hub (Abberley): a privately managed facility with 58 rooms (including 9 large family rooms) which is currently fully occupied with 54 households, some of whom require more than one room due to family size.
* Firhouse Family Hub: managed by Respond Housing with 20 rooms and currently fully occupied by 20 households.
* Springfield Family Hub: also managed by Respond Housing and fully occupied accommodating 12households in 12 family rooms.
* Cappaghmore Family Hub: Recently opened facility managed by Peter McVerry Trust, comprising 8 rooms for smaller families (see update in Chief Executive’s Report for April Council meeting [**monthly-report-april-2023-final.pdf (sdcc.ie)**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/our-council/policies-and-plans/chief-executive-s-reports/monthly-report-april-2023-final.pdf))

Accommodation for Singles:

* Finnstown: privately managed facility comprising 45 rooms (with capacity for sharing) for single females.
* Killininey: managed by Peter McVerry Trust with capacity for 21 for single males.
* Kiltipper: managed by Peter McVerry Trust with capacity for 15 single males.
* Riversdale House, managed by Dublin Simon, with 25 rooms for single, older persons.

Refuge facilities, provided and managed by Saoirse supported by the Council, are operational in Tallaght and Rathcoole to support women and children escaping domestic violence and abuse.  Additional supported/step down/transitional accommodation is also provided by approved housing bodies and other voluntary organisations including at Neilstown, Springfield, Kiltalown and Glencarrig.

The Council, in conjunction with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive, will continue to explore potential options for additional family hubs and other supported accommodation in the County.

Our Homeless Outreach Worker is currently actively engaged with eight rough sleepers identified in the most recent local count of rough sleepers, but we do not collate official numbers of “sofa surfers”.  While there is currently adequate emergency accommodation to facilitate those rough sleeping, offers of such accommodation are often refused and their needs can be complex and require a coordinated response and we work with the Dublin Simon Outreach team and other agencies to provide appropriate supports.

The Council does not collate official figures in relation to new arrivals, whether Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in relation to Ukraine or International Protection Applicants, in the County being provided with accommodation through the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

### **Q3/0523 QUESTION: Councillor C. Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive to give a report on any planned increase in emergency accommodation for individuals and families located within the SDCC area and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 506 homeless households on the Council’s housing list comprising the following:

* Single Males: 229
* Single Females 74
* Couples: 24
* Households with Children: 179

To date in 2023, 47 allocations have been made to homeless households.

129 homeless households are currently availing of self-accommodate options in hotel or bed and breakfast accommodation. Our Homeless Unit continues to provide assistance to those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and work with DRHE to organise emergency accommodation for those assessed as homeless through the Assessment and Placement Service.  Emergency accommodation for homeless households across Dublin is sourced on a regional basis by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive in partnership with this Council and other Dublin local authorities.  Within South Dublin County, the following emergency accommodation is currently provided:

Family Hubs:

* High Street Family Hub (Abberley): a privately managed facility with 58 rooms (including 9 large family rooms) which is currently fully occupied with 54 households, some of whom require more than one room due to family size.
* Firhouse Family Hub: managed by Respond Housing with 20 rooms and currently fully occupied by 20 households.
* Springfield Family Hub: also managed by Respond Housing and fully occupied accommodating 12households in 12 family rooms.
* Cappaghmore Family Hub: Recently opened facility managed by Peter McVerry Trust, comprising 8 rooms for smaller families (see update in Chief Executive’s Report for April Council meeting [**monthly-report-april-2023-final.pdf (sdcc.ie)**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/our-council/policies-and-plans/chief-executive-s-reports/monthly-report-april-2023-final.pdf))

Accommodation for Singles:

* Finnstown: privately managed facility comprising 45 rooms (with capacity for sharing) for single females.
* Killininey: managed by Peter McVerry Trust with capacity for 21 for single males.
* Kiltipper: managed by Peter McVerry Trust with capacity for 15 single males.
* Riversdale House, managed by Dublin Simon, with 25 rooms for single, older persons.

Refuge facilities, provided and managed by Saoirse supported by the Council, are operational in Tallaght and Rathcoole to support women and children escaping domestic violence and abuse.  Additional supported/step down/transitional accommodation is also provided by approved housing bodies and other voluntary organisations including at Neilstown, Springfield, Kiltalown and Glencarrig.

The Council, in conjunction with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive, will continue to explore potential options for additional family hubs and other supported accommodation in the County.

Our Homeless Outreach Worker is currently actively engaged with eight rough sleepers identified in the most recent local count of rough sleepers, but we do not collate official numbers of “sofa surfers”.  While there is currently adequate emergency accommodation to facilitate those rough sleeping, offers of such accommodation are often refused and their needs can be complex and require a coordinated response and we work with the Dublin Simon Outreach team and other agencies to provide appropriate supports.

The Council does not collate official figures in relation to new arrivals, whether Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in relation to Ukraine or International Protection Applicants, in the County being provided with accommodation through the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

### **Q4/0523 QUESTION: Councillor C. Bailey**

How many properties have been identified as vacant/derelict and how many of those has SDCC intervened in with the intention of bringing the property back into use over the last 5 years?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County has the current lowest national vacancy rate in the state at 1.4% and Tallaght Central is the electoral area with the lowest national vacancy rate at 0.7%.  Through our Vacant Homes Office, the Council maintains a register of potentially vacant, privately-owned homes that are monitored and investigated on an ongoing basis to assess the potential to use the various support schemes available to bring such properties back in to productive use. There are currently 62 properties being monitored on the Vacant Homes Register, shown below by electoral area:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Electoral Area** | **No. of Properties** |
| Clondalkin | 15 |
| Firhouse/ Bohernabreena | 9 |
| Lucan/Palmerstown | 5 |
| Rathfarnham/ Templeogue | 14 |
| Tallaght South | 7 |
| Tallaght Central | 12 |
| **Totals** | **62** |

Upon investigation, and where ownership is established, it generally transpires that most properties reported as vacant/derelict either have occupiers, are currently in the process of being sold/renovated or are subject to probate/receivership processes.  Where this is not the case, the status of each property is then reviewed regularly along with follow-ups to encourage owners to engage with the Council and find solutions for any genuinely vacant/derelict properties.

The national Vacant Homes Action Plan*,*launched in January 2023, consolidates the various strands of work to address vacancy, with data on progress and delivery to date and actions being pursued. This Action Plan includes objective 19.5 from *Housing for All*which provides for the introduction of a new programme for the CPO of vacant properties for resale on the open market.  Under this Programme, local authorities are now required to adopt a proactive, planned and systematic approach to the identification and activation of vacant and derelict properties. The main steps of the Programme include:

* identification of vacant and derelict properties,
* identification of and engagement with owners,
* communication regarding the various schemes and measures in place to support bringing the property back into use, and
* where owners of vacant and derelict properties cannot be identified or where they are unwilling to engage, use of available legislative powers to compulsory purchase or acquire such properties using either the Housing Act,1966 or the Derelict Sites Act, 1991.

Acquired properties may subsequently be used for social housing, made available for sale on the open market or used for other purposes e.g., community use and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has set a target for this Council for 25 vacant and derelict properties to enter the Compulsory Acquisitions Programme in 2023 with 4 compulsory acquisitions to commence in 2023.

The Council has a range of legislative powers available to deal with under-utilised and derelict properties including legislation pertaining to compulsory purchase and derelict sites.  Derelict sites legislation has been reasonably well utilised in South Dublin in recent years with six properties vested by the Council under that legislation and this option will continue to be considered if alternative solutions are not arrived at to address the vacancy.  Last July, the Council published notice of our intention to compulsorily acquire a further four properties in Tallaght under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 which is awaiting determination by An Bord Pleanála and we have also recently acquired a derelict site in Clondalkin that will potentially be developed for housing purposes.  The Derelict Sites Register remains under continuous review, including considering the use of the CPO process where appropriate.

Any potentially vacant homes can be reported through [**https://vacanthomes.ie/**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvacanthomes.ie%2F&amp;data=05%7C01%7Celeech%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C0ce71baf10d448a18a9208db47cb0102%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638182709464822028%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=C4n3y9%2Fv9UvdCJuzavUjsuGSAHZp0zNefJt4hFo1oAw%3D&amp;reserved=0)with further information also available at [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie).

The Urban Regeneration and Housing Act defines a **vacant site** as any land (exceeding 0.05 hectares) where:

* In the case of residential land, there is a need for housing in the area, the site is suitable for housing and the majority of the site is vacant or idle, or is not being used primarily for the provision of housing (subject to the most recent purchase of the site occurring after it became residential land), and,
* In the case of regeneration land, the majority of the site has not been in use (i.e., vacant) for an extended period of time and where the fact that the site being vacant is having a negative impact on existing amenities or on the character of the area.

A site entered on the Council's Vacant Sites Register, and for which a market valuation has been determined pursuant to the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015, is liable for a vacant site levy.  However, in line with the prescribed legislation, an owner may appeal the levy imposed to An Bord Pleanála, and similarly where in any year there is a change in ownership of a vacant site, then the amount of vacant site levy to be charged in respect of that site for that year, and for the preceding year, is zero, which means that the Vacant Sites register for the past 5 years is "fluid" to a certain extent.

There are currently five sites included in the vacant sites register which is published by the Council at the following link: <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/vacant-sites/>.  The Vacant Sites register, and levy will be replaced by the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) over the coming years, but the levy will continue to apply and accrue until the charge on land associated with the RZLT is levied in accordance with relevant legislation.  Any outstanding charges in respect of the vacant site levy will remain against the land in question to be collected by the Council.

### **Q5/0523 QUESTION: Councillor C. Bailey**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on Compulsory Purchase Orders relating to vacant/derelict homes instigated by SDCC over the last five years. Report to include the challenges/barriers of using a CPO.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County has the current lowest national vacancy rate in the state at 1.4% and Tallaght Central is the electoral area with the lowest national vacancy rate at 0.7%.  Through our Vacant Homes Office, the Council maintains a register of potentially vacant, privately-owned homes that are monitored and investigated on an ongoing basis to assess the potential to use the various support schemes available to bring such properties back in to productive use. There are currently 62 properties being monitored on the Vacant Homes Register, shown below by electoral area:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Electoral Area** | **No. of Properties** |
| Clondalkin | 15 |
| Firhouse/ Bohernabreena | 9 |
| Lucan/Palmerstown | 5 |
| Rathfarnham/ Templeogue | 14 |
| Tallaght South | 7 |
| Tallaght Central | 12 |
| **Totals** | **62** |

Upon investigation, and where ownership is established, it generally transpires that most properties reported as vacant/derelict either have occupiers, are currently in the process of being sold/renovated or are subject to probate/receivership processes.  Where this is not the case, the status of each property is then reviewed regularly along with follow-ups to encourage owners to engage with the Council and find solutions for any genuinely vacant/derelict properties.

The national Vacant Homes Action Plan*,*launched in January 2023, consolidates the various strands of work to address vacancy, with data on progress and delivery to date and actions being pursued. This Action Plan includes objective 19.5 from *Housing for All*which provides for the introduction of a new programme for the CPO of vacant properties for resale on the open market.  Under this Programme, local authorities are now required to adopt a proactive, planned and systematic approach to the identification and activation of vacant and derelict properties. The main steps of the Programme include:

* identification of vacant and derelict properties,
* identification of and engagement with owners,
* communication regarding the various schemes and measures in place to support bringing the property back into use, and
* where owners of vacant and derelict properties cannot be identified or where they are unwilling to engage, use of available legislative powers to compulsory purchase or acquire such properties using either the Housing Act,1966 or the Derelict Sites Act, 1991.

Acquired properties may subsequently be used for social housing, made available for sale on the open market or used for other purposes e.g., community use and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has set a target for this Council for 25 vacant and derelict properties to enter the Compulsory Acquisitions Programme in 2023 with 4 compulsory acquisitions to commence in 2023.

The Council has a range of legislative powers available to deal with under-utilised and derelict properties including legislation pertaining to compulsory purchase and derelict sites.  Derelict sites legislation has been reasonably well utilised in South Dublin in recent years with six properties vested by the Council under that legislation and this option will continue to be considered if alternative solutions are not arrived at to address the vacancy.  Last July, the Council published notice of our intention to compulsorily acquire a further four properties in Tallaght under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 which is awaiting determination by An Bord Pleanála and we have also recently acquired a derelict site in Clondalkin that will potentially be developed for housing purposes.  The Derelict Sites Register remains under continuous review, including considering the use of the CPO process where appropriate.

Any potentially vacant homes can be reported through [**https://vacanthomes.ie/**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvacanthomes.ie%2F&amp;data=05%7C01%7Celeech%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C0ce71baf10d448a18a9208db47cb0102%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638182709464822028%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=C4n3y9%2Fv9UvdCJuzavUjsuGSAHZp0zNefJt4hFo1oAw%3D&amp;reserved=0)with further information also available at [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie).

The Urban Regeneration and Housing Act defines a **vacant site** as any land (exceeding 0.05 hectares) where:

* In the case of residential land, there is a need for housing in the area, the site is suitable for housing and the majority of the site is vacant or idle, or is not being used primarily for the provision of housing (subject to the most recent purchase of the site occurring after it became residential land), and,
* In the case of regeneration land, the majority of the site has not been in use (i.e., vacant) for an extended period of time and where the fact that the site being vacant is having a negative impact on existing amenities or on the character of the area.

A site entered on the Council's Vacant Sites Register, and for which a market valuation has been determined pursuant to the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015, is liable for a vacant site levy.  However, in line with the prescribed legislation, an owner may appeal the levy imposed to An Bord Pleanála, and similarly where in any year there is a change in ownership of a vacant site, then the amount of vacant site levy to be charged in respect of that site for that year, and for the preceding year, is zero, which means that the Vacant Sites register for the past 5 years is "fluid" to a certain extent.

There are currently five sites included in the vacant sites register which is published by the Council at the following link: <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/vacant-sites/>.  The Vacant Sites register, and levy will be replaced by the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) over the coming years, but the levy will continue to apply and accrue until the charge on land associated with the RZLT is levied in accordance with relevant legislation.  Any outstanding charges in respect of the vacant site levy will remain against the land in question to be collected by the Council.

### **Q6/0523 QUESTION: Councillor L. Dunne**

To ask the Chief Executive how many Trades People/Apprentices are directly employed by the Council & if there are any plans to increase those numbers?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council currently employs 41 trades people of various disciplines. A significant Apprenticeship Scheme was run over the last number of years and is now complete. The Council is progressing plans to re-establish a new scheme in 2023.  The Council has been fully supportive in its endorsement of the Apprenticeship Scheme over the years and recognises the value of the scheme both to the Council and Apprentices and the significant contribution made to the organisation by the apprentices throughout the duration of the schemes.

### **Q7/0523 QUESTION: Councillor L. Dunne**

To ask the Chief Executive how many homeless individuals/couples/families are currently being accommodated or not in the County with the following breakdown in table format of the type of accommodation that they are currently residing or none: Hotels HUB's Women's Refuge Safe Houses Long term homeless accommodation managed by voluntary agencies International Protection/Refugee accommodation Direct Provision Sofa Surfers Street Sleepers

**REPLY:**

There are currently 506 homeless households on the Council’s housing list comprising the following:

* Single Males: 229
* Single Females 74
* Couples: 24
* Households with Children: 179

To date in 2023, 47 allocations have been made to homeless households.

129 homeless households are currently availing of self-accommodate options in hotel or bed and breakfast accommodation. Our Homeless Unit continues to provide assistance to those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and work with DRHE to organise emergency accommodation for those assessed as homeless through the Assessment and Placement Service.  Emergency accommodation for homeless households across Dublin is sourced on a regional basis by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive in partnership with this Council and other Dublin local authorities.  Within South Dublin County, the following emergency accommodation is currently provided:

Family Hubs:

* High Street Family Hub (Abberley): a privately managed facility with 58 rooms (including 9 large family rooms) which is currently fully occupied with 54 households, some of whom require more than one room due to family size.
* Firhouse Family Hub: managed by Respond Housing with 20 rooms and currently fully occupied by 20 households.
* Springfield Family Hub: also managed by Respond Housing and fully occupied accommodating 12households in 12 family rooms.
* Cappaghmore Family Hub: Recently opened facility managed by Peter McVerry Trust, comprising 8 rooms for smaller families (see update in Chief Executive’s Report for April Council meeting [**monthly-report-april-2023-final.pdf (sdcc.ie)**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/our-council/policies-and-plans/chief-executive-s-reports/monthly-report-april-2023-final.pdf))

Accommodation for Singles:

* Finnstown: privately managed facility comprising 45 rooms (with capacity for sharing) for single females.
* Killininey: managed by Peter McVerry Trust with capacity for 21 for single males.
* Kiltipper: managed by Peter McVerry Trust with capacity for 15 single males.
* Riversdale House, managed by Dublin Simon, with 25 rooms for single, older persons.

Refuge facilities, provided and managed by Saoirse supported by the Council, are operational in Tallaght and Rathcoole to support women and children escaping domestic violence and abuse.  Additional supported/step down/transitional accommodation is also provided by approved housing bodies and other voluntary organisations including at Neilstown, Springfield, Kiltalown and Glencarrig.

The Council, in conjunction with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive, will continue to explore potential options for additional family hubs and other supported accommodation in the County.

Our Homeless Outreach Worker is currently actively engaged with eight rough sleepers identified in the most recent local count of rough sleepers, but we do not collate official numbers of “sofa surfers”.  While there is currently adequate emergency accommodation to facilitate those rough sleeping, offers of such accommodation are often refused and their needs can be complex and require a coordinated response and we work with the Dublin Simon Outreach team and other agencies to provide appropriate supports.

The Council does not collate official figures in relation to new arrivals, whether Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in relation to Ukraine or International Protection Applicants, in the County being provided with accommodation through the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

### **Q8/0523 QUESTION: Councillor L. Dunne**

To ask for a report on units acquired under Part V legislation. Report to include number of units in the last 5 years to be broken down by area.

**REPLY:**

The following numbers of properties have been procured under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for each Local Electoral Area (noting the electoral area boundary changes in 2019):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Local Electoral Area** | **2018** |   | **Local Electoral Area** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** |
| Clondalkin | 9 |   | Clondalkin | 22 | 19 | 8 | 26 |
| Lucan  | 62 |   | Firhouse-Bohernabreena | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Rathfarnham | 14 |   | Lucan | 56 | 35 | 54 | 50 |
| Tallaght Central | 7 |   | Pamerstown-Fonthill | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Tallaght South | 48 |   | Rathfarnham-Templeogue | 14 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Templeogue-Terenure | 7 |   | Tallaght Central | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| **Total** | **147** |   | Tallaght South | 33 | 46 | 32 | 37 |
|   |   |   | **Total** | **135** | **108** | **107** | **113** |

Anticipated Part V social housing delivery, directly for the Council or through Approved Housing Bodies, including long-term leased properties in some limited circumstances, is a significant element of the Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan up to 2026 while recent changes to Part V also mean that any new planning permissions for housing development on land purchased from August 2021 will have a 20% Part V requirement, which can include affordable housing.

### **Q9/0523 QUESTION: Councillor L. Dunne**

To ask the Chief Executive how many housing planning applications have been approved in the County in the last 5 years, and to confirm how many have been completed.

**REPLY:**

In the past 5 years 434 housing planning applications have been granted permission with potential yield of 16,002 Residential units.

3,822 of these units have been completed, 4,672 are under construction, and the remaining 7,508 units are yet to commence.

### **Q10/0523 QUESTION: Councillor L. Hagin Meade**

To ask the manager to describe and list in tabular form, the types of public benches available in South County Dublin public realm, noting height differentials and inclusive attributes, examples would include: no back/ low arm/ wheelchair inclusive / supportive of those with hip or knee replacements / suitable for arthritis sufferers.

**REPLY:**

Details of benches that are made in-house by Public Realm staff are set out in the table below.  In addition to these there are benches that have been purchased directly from street furniture suppliers and installed in new park and playground developments.  Seating has been provided over the years as parks and other areas have been developed and this has resulted in seating of different types and make being installed in accordance with what was available at the time.

In general seating is provided at a height of 450mm, some seats have been provided back and arm support and some without.  The current preference is to provide robust seating with back and arm rest, however these have not always been provided.  In some locations picnic benches have been provided and at some of these locations picnic benches which are accessible to wheelchair users have been provided.  Seating provided tends to be of a standard format and in general does not include special or once-off features.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of bench** | **Height of bench off ground** | **Height of armrest off ground** | **Height of backrest from seat** | **Height of tabletop** | **Space for wheelchair/pram** |
| Bench with no back | 450mm | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Bench with back & armrest | 450mm | 700mm | 450mm | N/A | N/A |
| Universal accessible bench | 450mm | 700mm | 450mm | N/A | 920mm |
| Picnic table | 450mm | N/A | N/A | 850mm | N/A |
| Universal accessible picnic table | 450mm | N/A | N/A | 850mm | 920mm |

### **Q11/0523 QUESTION: Councillor L. Hagin Meade**

To ask the Council to outline the current plant-based offerings for food and beverages within South Dublin County Council run restaurants, cafes and catering services and to provide in tabular form, the number and percentage of total options that are plant-based food and beverage options therein.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council does not run restaurants, cafes or catering services directly, such services are provided by Contractor through a tender process.  The Council would not be involved with the day to management of the facility; however, the contractor would be required to ensure that the content of each menu is sufficiently well balanced in its composition and incorporate appropriate choice to meet customer needs.

### **Q12/0523 QUESTION: Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive what local employment clauses are currently contained in the tendering contracts for Part 8 projects, and to provide the full wording of it?

**REPLY:**

Whilst procurement is primarily focused on enabling the delivery of public services in a sustainable manner by ensuring value for money and broad access to public procurement opportunities for businesses, there are possibilities to deliver wider social and environmental aims through the procurement processes. This can be achieved through the inclusion of social considerations as requirements throughout the process, from setting the specifications and award criteria through to the management of the contract.

Examples of social considerations that can be factored into procurement processes include employment and training opportunities for disadvantaged groups; disability access; promoting social inclusion; or combating climate change. As with other aspects of public procurement, there are EU and national rules that determine what and how such considerations can successfully be incorporated.

The Council’s commitment to including social clauses is reflected in the Council’s Corporate Procurement Plan. To date, social employment clause provisions have been included in two library construction projects and two housing development projects as follows:
• North Clondalkin Library
• Castletymon Library
• Kilcarbery Housing Development
• Killinarden Housing Development

The social employment clauses contained similar provisions, as summarised below:
• A percentage of the aggregate number of person weeks to be carried out by individuals who were registered on a national unemployment register for a continuous period of at least 12 months immediately prior to their employment
• A percentage of the person weeks to be carried out by individuals employed under a registered scheme of apprenticeship or equivalent national training or educational work placement arrangement

### **Q13/0523 QUESTION: Councillor M. Lynch**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on the implementation of the renter’s safety net for households at risk of eviction due to the sale of their home.

**REPLY:**

Staff in the Housing Department are working to progress the acquisition of 'tenant-in-situ' properties, prioritising acquisitions of properties where the tenancy is subject to a valid Notice of Termination which is due to expire or has passed.

We are conscious that households may have received a notice of termination from their landlord and may be unsure about what to do.  Any household who has received a notice of termination and who has no alternative accommodation can contact us and our immediate response will be to support households to try to prevent homelessness.

Where a person or household is eligible for social housing:
We will assess the availability of social housing properties, provide advice on applying for Choice Based Lettings (where available), or advise the person or household on the level of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) they may be eligible to receive.

In some cases, we will assess if the property in which the tenant currently resides is suitable for acquisition if it is being offered for sale and the owner is interested in selling to the local authority. In prioritising properties for acquisition, consideration will be given to aspects such as cost and value, condition of the property, size and suitability for tenants. If there are social housing units available via the local authority or an Approved Housing Body, allocation to these will also be considered.

Where a person or household is not eligible for social housing:
We can assess and refer households for the Cost Rental Tenant-in-Situ scheme managed by the Housing Agency and provide advice or direct to appropriate services.

The Cost Rental Tenant-in-Situ scheme is available for tenants who are not eligible for social housing and are at risk of homelessness. Local authorities are a first point of contact for this scheme, but it is managed by the Housing Agency. Under the scheme the Housing Agency can purchase a property and rent it to the tenant. Local authorities will undertake an initial assessment of the tenant’s circumstances and refer details to the Housing Agency for consideration, where the tenant is at risk of homelessness and the Cost Rental Tenant-in-Situ scheme applies.

Where a tenant wishes to purchase their home, local authorities can advise and support on the Local Authority Home Loan scheme. We are aware that the Government is examining implementing a ‘right of first refusal’ for tenants to purchase their homes, as well as expanding the First Home shared equity scheme. SDCC will be able to provide more information on these when available.

Households are advised that the provision of emergency accommodation will be a last resort only where no other appropriate alternative can be identified. Households in emergency accommodation will be supported to access more permanent accommodation.

We have assigned additional resources to with notice of termination queries and cases as quickly as possible, having regard for available supports but affected tenants may also wish to contact the Residential Tenancies Board, Threshold or other tenant support services for support and advice on tenant rights.

* SDCC Housing Allocations – htallocs@sdublincoco.ie – 01-4149090
* SDCC Homeless Services – sdcchomeless@sdublincoco.ie – 01-4149364 - [Homeless Services - SDCC](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/finding-a-home/homeless-services/)
* Homeless Central Placements - 1800 707 707 – open from 10am to 10pm each day.
* How to apply for council housing SDCC - [Finding a Home - SDCC](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/finding-a-home/)
* Residential Tenancies Board - 0818 30 30 37 - [Home | Residential Tenancies Board (rtb.ie)](https://www.rtb.ie/)
* Threshold [- Threshold](https://threshold.ie/email-an-advisor/) - [Home - Threshold](https://threshold.ie/)

Tenants that have been served a valid Notice of Termination and who are aware that their landlord is selling the property should ask the landlord to contact SDCC by email at eoi@sdublincoco.ie to discuss options around the possible acquisition of the property by the Council.

### **Q14/0523 QUESTION: Councillor M. Lynch**

To ask the Chief Executive what steps is the council taking to ensure to expand its existing 'tenant-in-situ' scheme to ensure that renters in receipt of HAP or RAS aren't made homeless due to the sale of the property including what extra resources (e.g., manpower and budgetary) is the council devoting to ensure this?

**REPLY:**

The Council has been notified by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage of approval for 150 property acquisitions in 2023.

At the end of April 2023, 220 expressions of interest have been received from landlords/property owners interested in selling their property to the Council, of which:

* 17 properties have been purchased or are at sale agreed stage.
* 75 properties are at valuation/negotiation stage where the Council is seeking to purchase having completed all pre-purchase checks.
* 90 properties at various stages of due diligence & pre-purchase checks
* 38 properties are not proceeding due to either the property being vacant/tenant no longer in-situ, the tenant having been made a reasonable offer of alternative accommodation or where the property is not deemed suitable for acquisition.

Where expressions of interest are received from property owners, various standard due diligence checks are undertaken in relation to property condition, valuation and conveyancing and the general steps in the process are as follows:

* Determine the housing need of the household and suitability of the property concerned to the household's needs with a flexible approach being taken to prevent homelessness where possible.
* Ascertain the validity and timelines of the Notice of Termination.
* Explore options for suitable alternative accommodation where available.
* undertake condition survey and valuation of the property.
* Commence negotiation on an acquisition price for the property.
* Where a sale price is agreed, the Council’s Law Department are then instructed to complete the conveyancing process.

Individual property purchases can be delayed for various reasons such as the owner not having full legal title, various planning issues, outstanding property taxes, general contractual conditions of sale not in place etc. The process is also reliant on timely progress from the vendor’s legal and sales agents, so timeframes vary from purchase to purchase.

The Council is taking appropriate steps to ensure that our first response will be to support households to try to prevent homelessness in cases where tenants have been served with a notice of termination by their landlord.  A recent press release issued by the Council to advise tenants what to do if they find themselves in this situation is available at the following link: [SDCC important information regarding notices of termination.html](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/news/south-dublin-county-council-important-information-regarding-notices-of-termination.html)

Additional resources have been temporarily re-assigned to this work area from elsewhere within the Housing, Social and Community Development directorate and additional external technical resources have also been procured to ensure that the existing potential acquisitions are progressed as promptly as possible.

Inter-authority arrangements are also in place with neighbouring and other local authorities as required to progress potential acquisitions for South Dublin housing applicants in HAP supported tenancies at risk of homelessness in other local authorities’ administrative areas and vice versa.

The level of activity and resource requirements for tenant in-situ purchases will continue to be reviewed in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in the coming months to ensure that we are able to prevent homelessness where possible.

### **Q15/0523 QUESTION: Councillor M. Lynch**

To ask the Chief Executive what steps is the council taking to ensure implementation of the new 'cost rental backstop' whereby the council or an Approved Housing Body (AHB) will purchase the home of renters who are not in receipt of HAP or RAS but who are facing homelessness due to the sale of the property including what extra resources (e.g., manpower and budgetary) is the council devoting to ensure this?

**REPLY:**

The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, has established the Cost Rental Tenant In-Situ (CRTiS) Scheme which will operate on a temporary administrative basis from 1st April 2023. Under this scheme, the Housing Agency may acquire a home with tenant(s) in-situ where a Notice of Termination has been issued due to the intended sale of the home, subject to certain conditions relating to the status of the tenant(s) and the property.

This Council is in the process of carrying out the initial assessment of tenants who present claiming to be at risk of homelessness because a landlord has issued a valid Notice of Termination due to an intended sale of the property.  This assessment is conducted in the same manner and using the same evidence base as any other situation in which a person presents to the Council and claims to be at risk of homelessness.

Where the Council judges such tenant(s) to be at risk of homelessness, and the household is not in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment, the Council will pass details of the tenant(s) and property to the Housing Agency for consideration of the acquisition. The Housing Agency will have delegated sanction and discretion to make acquisitions, subject to the Acquisition Cost Guidelines issued by the Department to Local Authorities for acquisition of individual second-hand homes for social housing provision.

As this scheme is only recently launched, the level of activity and resource requirements for tenant in-situ purchases will be examined in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in the coming months based on demand for the scheme.

### **Q16/0523 QUESTION: Councillor K. Mahon**

With regard to the Motion passed at the February Council Meeting on Section 254 applications can the manager provide the likely timetable for the introduction of the new measure and when it will be mandatory to erect a site notice with each new Section 254 application.

**REPLY:**

The Planning Authority notes the February 2023 Council Motion for site notices to accompany section 254 license applications for telecommunication cabinets and masts.

Currently, and outside of the prescribed procedure as set out in Section 7 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, this Planning Authority has revised procedure with inclusion of S. 254 license applications on our planning register and on our weekly lists.

In response to the above motion the Council is examining options around how this might be introduced. The first option would include a Council request for applicants to erect a site notice. However, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) makes no provision for site notices in the statutory procedure set out for dealing with these license applications. If a site notice is not installed by the applicant, the Local Authority has no powers to require the applicant to do this. If a site notice is not installed it would not be possible for the Local Authority to ‘invalidate’ that application and it would have no impact on determining the licence. This may likely lead to inconsistencies and could cause confusion. The second option is whereby local authority staff are required to install a site notice, which would be very challenging for the Council to manage and resource. SDCC and the CCMA are also engaging with DHLGH on this issue in the context of making changes to the emerging Planning and Development Bill to introduce such a requirement thereby giving it a statutory footing.

 As of yet there is no timescale for implementing a preferred approach.

### **Q17/0523 QUESTION: Councillor K. Mahon**

To ask the manager to update on the repair and maintenance arrangements for bicycle stations in the County and whether there will be further stations installed and mapped? Can further locations be submitted for consideration for new installations.

**REPLY:**

The Council has a proactive a programme of works with to supply Cycle Stands/Shelters and Bike Repair stations this year at Schools, Clubs and Public Areas across the County. In total for 2023 we plan to deliver 10 new bike shelters, 17 bike maintenance locations and c.300 bike parking spaces and c.20 junior stands. The exact quantum will be determined based on the final budget available and may vary from these figures. For example, we are currently installing Bike Stands at Colaiste Eanna, Firhouse Credit Union and repairing stations at the Dodder Greenway and numerous other areas.

### **Q18/0523 QUESTION: Councillor R. McMahon**

Could the Manager give an update on the proposed list of protected structures, that were being investigated following the Development Plan motions last year.

**REPLY:**

The adopted County Development Plan includes the following objective in relation to the inclusion of potential protected structures into the record of protected structures as follows:

**NCBH19 Objective 9:**

To investigate the merit of including the following on the Record of Protected Structures and where such merit is identified to undertake the necessary public consultation process under the Planning and Development Acts:

* Palmyra House, Whitechurch Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.
* Friarstown House and outbuildings, Bohernabreena, Co. Dublin D24 F890.
* SIAC Bridge, Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.
* Old Milestone on north-west side of Templeogue Road Set in front of the modern boundary wall of No. 211 Templeogue Road, Dublin 6W.
* Fort (or Callaghan’s) Bridge, Kiltipper / Friarstown Upper / Ballinascorney Lower, Dublin 24.
* Granite Boundary Stone outside Nos. 50 / 52, Whitehall Road, Dublin 12.
* Road sign Bothair An Racadair, Whitehall Road

Investigation is underway on the identified structures to ascertain whether they have sufficient merit to be recommended for inclusion in the RPS. Structures must be examined in line with criteria set down in guidelines issued by the Minister. Once all the structures have been examined by a professional conservation architect, and where they meet the relevant criteria, the Council will initiate the formal section 55 process under the Planning and Development Acts. This process provides for a notice to be served on the owner or occupier and for a six-week public consultation period followed by a CE Report on the submissions. The making of an addition to, or a deletion from, a record of protected structures is a reserved function.  Work is underway on these assessments, and it is anticipated that the statutory 'section 55' would commence in 2024.

### **Q19/0523 QUESTION: Councillor E. Murphy**

To ask the CEO to report as to what is the current position in relation to the commencement of the review of the Rural Housing Policy and Local Needs Criteria under H17 Objective 1 in the South Dublin County Development Plan and when is it going to be implemented?

**REPLY:**

The adopted County Development Plan 2022-2028 includes an objective to review the existing rural housing policy as follows:

**'H17 Objective 1:**

*To commence a review of the Rural Housing Policy and Local Need Criteria within six months of the adoption of the Plan and to include a public consultation as part of this process.'*

While it is recognised that a timeframe was put on the commencement of the review it was done at a time when the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage had indicated that the new Rural Housing Guidelines were to be published within the same timeframe.  This has not materialised. Given that new Rural Housing Guidelines will issue and that the Planning Authority must have regard to them, it would be premature to advance a new rural housing policy at this time.

However, it is intended, by way of preparatory work this summer, to review rural housing policies in the EMRA region and in other counties which have a similar rural / urban make-up as South Dublin County. This will allow for a comparison with South Dublin’s rural housing policy.

It will also be important to ensure that the release of CSO data on small areas later this year feeds into the preparatory work, analysis and decision making of any revised policy.

Until such time as the key documents and data outlined above are available to inform decision making it would be premature to do more than the proposed preparatory work on a new policy.  Until such time as a new rural housing policy is adopted, residential development within the rural hinterland will be carefully managed through the adopted Rural Housing Policy and Local Need Criteria in accordance with the *Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines* (2005) and Circular SP 5 / 08 and PL 2 / 2017 Local Need Criteria in Development Plans: Conformity with Articles 43 and 56 (Freedom of Establishment and Free Movement of Capital) of the European Community Treaty.

### **Q20/0523 QUESTION: Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh**

To ask the manager to detail the current processing time of housing applications now that the move to digital applications is complete and how does this compare with the previous 12-week timeframe for processing paper applications?"

**REPLY:**

754 new housing applications were received through the Housing Online (HOL) in 2023, up to the end of April, with an additional 196 hard copy applications received in the same timeframe.

The number of online applications is very positive demonstrating the digital capability of applicants and the Council will continue to promote online applications and the facility to upload supporting documentation through the HOL portal.  The volume of online applications is positively impacting on operational efficiency reducing manual data input and removing the need to follow up on incomplete applications.

Fully completed applications with all the required documents are currently assessed within the required 12-week timeframe but this timeframe will reduce when current staffing vacancies are filled.  A housing application must be processed and approved before applicants can avail of housing supports including HAP/Homeless HAP.

### **Q21/0523 QUESTION: Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh**

To ask the Chief Executive for a breakdown of those on the housing list, broken down by type of home requested, the size of household and whether medical transfer has been approved. Response to report on net (standard list) and gross housing need (including HAP, RAS, transfers etc).

**REPLY:**

**Housing List:**

There were 5,941 households on the Council's housing list as of 1st May 2023, shown by area of preference and housing need as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Housing Need** | **North of Naas Rd.** | **South of Naas Rd.** | **Both Areas** | **Total No. Households** |
| 1-bed | 750 | 1,228 | 983 | 2,961 |
| 2-bed | 594 | 673 | 712 | 1,979 |
| 3-bed | 314 | 298 | 277 | 889 |
| 4-bed | 28 | 33 | 51 | 112 |
| **Totals** | **1,686** | **2,232** | **2,023** | **5,941** |

**Transfer List:**

780 current tenant households are included on the Council's transfer list, shown by area of preference and housing need, as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Housing Need** | **North of Naas Rd.** | **South of Naas Rd.** | **Both Areas** | **Total No. Households** |
| 1-bed | 47 | 87 | 19 | 153 |
| 2-bed | 43 | 94 | 43 | 180 |
| 3-bed | 115 | 149 | 57 | 321 |
| 4-bed | 42 | 52 | 32 | 126 |
| **Totals** | **247** | **382** | **151** | **780** |

**Medical Need:**

513 households have been awarded medical priority (of which 350 are households included in the housing list figures above and 161 are households included in the transfer list figures above), shown by area of preference and housing need, as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Housing Need** | **North of Naas Rd.** | **South of Naas Rd.** | **Total No. Households** |
| 1-bed | 69 | 110 | 179 |
| 2-bed | 43 | 58 | 101 |
| 3-bed | 73 | 73 | 146 |
| 4-bed | 44 | 43 | 87 |
| **Totals** | **229** | **284** | **513** |

**HAP:**

5,105 households are currently in HAP supported accommodation, shown by area of preference and housing need, as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Housing Need** | **North of Naas Rd.** | **South of Naas Rd.** | **Both Areas** | **Total No. Households** |
| 1-bed | 161 | 295 | 464 | 920 |
| 2-bed | 501 | 828 | 1,301 | 2,630 |
| 3-bed | 327 | 403 | 727 | 1,457 |
| 4-bed | 30 | 21 | 47 | 98 |
| **Totals** | **1,019** | **1,547** | **2,539** | **5,105** |

**RAS:**

831 households are currently in RAS supported accommodation, shown by current area of accommodation and housing need, as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Housing Need** | **North of Naas Rd.** | **South of Naas Rd.** | **Total No. Households** |
| 1-bed |  71 | 73 | 144  |
| 2-bed |  108 | 116 | 224 |
| 3-bed | 215 | 206 | 421 |
| 4-bed | 17 | 24 | 41 |
| **Totals** | 411 | 419 | 830 |

**RAS Fixed Transfer List:**

69 households (who are included in the RAS figures above), are currently on the RAS Fixed Transfer List, shown by area of preference and housing need, as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Housing Need** | **North of Naas Rd.** | **South of Naas Rd.** | **Both Areas** | **Total No. Households** |
| 1-bed | 0 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| 2-bed | 7 | 2 | 6 | 15 |
| 3-bed | 11 | 0 | 18 | 29 |
| 4-bed | 1 | 1 | 13 | 15 |
| **Totals** | **19** | **7** | **43** | **69** |

### **Q22/0523 QUESTION: Councillor Eoin Ó Broin**

To ask the chief executive what the price of going for a Swim is in the SDCC owned Swimming Pools in Tallaght and Clondalkin and what it is expected to be in the new pool in Lucan?

**REPLY**

The various current prices for use of the pools in the Clondalkin and Tallaght Leisure Centre pools that are operated by South County Dublin Leisure Services on behalf of the Council are shown in the links to the websites for each facility below:

<https://www.tallaghtleisure.com/prices/>

<https://www.clondalkinleisure.com/prices/>

The Elected Members will be aware that the Council recent agreed a contract with Aura Leisure for the management of the Lucan Leisure Campus, including Lucan Swimming Pool.  While pricing will be finalised closer to the opening of the new facility, the contract requires a pricing policy which facilitates the operation of a commercially viable and professionally managed leisure campus, and which ensures that the facilities are affordable for all sections of the community including through pay-per-use pricing options.

### **Q23/0523 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the CEO to state how many new applications for Housing have been received so far in 2023 and will he confirm how the Housing Department is coping with the pressure dealing with the applications and will he make a statement?

**REPLY:**

754 new housing applications were received through the Housing Online (HOL) in 2023, up to the end of April, with an additional 196 hard copy applications received in the same timeframe.

The number of online applications is very positive demonstrating the digital capability of applicants and the Council will continue to promote online applications and the facility to upload supporting documentation through the HOL portal.  The volume of online applications is positively impacting on operational efficiency reducing manual data input and removing the need to follow up on incomplete applications.

Fully completed applications with all the required documents are currently assessed within the required 12-week timeframe but this timeframe will reduce when current staffing vacancies are filled.  A housing application must be processed and approved before applicants can avail of housing supports including HAP/Homeless HAP.

### **Q24/0523 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the CEO to refer to the new Voting Registers and confirm the number of Voters in each Electoral Areas.

**REPLY:**

Voter numbers in each of the Electoral Areas are set out below: -

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **LOCAL ELECTORAL AREAS** | **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS** |
| CLONDALKIN | 29,616 |
| FIRHOUSE/BOHERNABREENA | 25,953 |
| LUCAN | 22,138 |
| PALMERSTOWN/FONTHILL | 24,951 |
| RATHFARNHAM/TEMPLEOGUE | 39,863 |
| TALLAGHT - CENTRAL | 28,869 |
| TALLAGHT - SOUTH | 22,459 |
| **TOTAL:** | **193,849** |

### **Q25/0523 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the CEO if he has maintained contacts to ensure that the quality of the water supply into our County does not create any concerns; will he give assurances and make a statement?

**REPLY:**

Public water supplies are tested and monitored in accordance with the European Union Drinking Water Regulations 2014 legislation (as amended).  Sampling plans are in place for each water supply and Uisce Éireann agree these with the Environmental Protection Agency on an annual basis.

Information on drinking water quality, including latest water quality reports, can be found on Uisce Éireann's website [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

SDCC Water Services maintains close contacts with Uisce Éireann regarding the quality of public water supplies and works with them to address any issues where necessary.

Members are reminded that Uisce Éireann is the national water services authority responsible for water supply and wastewater drainage, and that they have a Local Representative Support Desk that members can contact at: localrepsupport@water.ie

### **Q26/0523 QUESTION: Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the CEO to report on his ongoing actions to deal with the challenges of the climate crisis; will he detail his endeavours to promote the Council's work in that regard among the public and will he furnish a detailed statement?

**REPLY:**

SDCC's Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024, sets out measures/actions to reduce our impact on the climate and prepare South Dublin to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Work has commenced on the Climate Action Plan 2024-29 as it is a Statutory Requirement for LAs under the Climate Action and Low Carbon (Amendment) Act 2021. To date.

* Consultant appointed to undertake the Climate Risk Assessment for the four Dublin LAs.
* Procurement being finalised to appoint a consultant to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Reporting for the CAP.
* Internal Engagement commenced:
* Workshop held with Senior Management
* Workshops scheduled with the Climate Action Groups to review CAP Actions

The statutory Public Engagement Process preliminarily is scheduled for September – November 2023 and early engagement with the Elected Members and SPC Members will be undertaken in June to facilitate discussion on SDCC’s new Climate Action Plan. Statutory Public Engagement Process preliminarily scheduled for September – November 2023.

The plan, which will be ambitious in its targets, is considering actions where the local authority can influence, co-ordinate//facilitate and advocate for climate action in wider society.

In addition to delivering on the targets and actions of the CAP the Climate Team also works with stakeholders across the county to highlight the work we are doing and to inform the citizens of South Dublin of actions they can take at home, in the community and in work to reduce their impact on the climate.

[www.southdublinclimate.ie](http://www.southdublinclimate.ie) The Council launched a dedicated climate action website in 2022. The site showcases the climate action that the Council are undertaking in the county, with updates on our climate actions, spotlights on our key responses to the climate crisis, and a latest news section on local, regional and national climate change responses. We also want to inspire climate action. As such, the website is also a place for citizens to find out what they can do.

Climate Newsletter: Citizen engagement via the website is complemented by a quarterly citizens climate newsletter, which details current Council climate action on a specific, rotating thematic area. The Climate Team works with the Communications Unit to promote our website news articles and newsletters via our social channels.

Dublin Climate Action Week (DCAW) is delivered regionally in partnership with Fingal County Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Dublin City Council, the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO), and Codema, Dublin’s Energy Agency. The week offers a range of events which aim to inform citizens, increase awareness and highlight the need for urgent climate action by all sectors of society.  Events delivered included a Climate Festival in Tymon Park, biodiversity walks in Waterstown Park and Tymon Park, school workshops in Clondalkin and Ballyroan libraries, and a webinar on Sustainable Drainage Systems at home for citizens.

Specific workshops and engagement days are also delivered to communities, 3rd level, and schools to build climate engagement throughout the year. Furthering citizen engagement, the Council are currently hiring for the role of Community Climate Action Officer, to work with communities in South Dublin to distribute the new Community Climate Action Fund, worth €1,073,000 over three years. This fund is crucial to activate climate action outside of the direct control of the Council to address the wider emissions profile in the county. The fund will be launched in South Dublin in 2023.

### **Q27/0523 QUESTION:**  **Councillor C. O'Connor**

To ask the CEO to detail his last review of Grave spaces throughout our County; will he give assurances in respect of the issue and make a statement?

**REPLY:**

The preparation of a burial ground’s strategy was commenced by the Environment, Water and Climate Change SPC in 2022 and this process is examining the provision of grave spaces in the County.  The examination of related issues will look at the current and future provision of grave spaces in privately developed graveyards as well as Council owned ones.

There are 3 Council owned graveyards where graves are available for sale and these are Bohernabreena, Saggart and Newcastle graveyards.  There are currently 126 plots available for sale in Bohernabreena with scope for the development of another 2,200 plots with the next 600 of these to be developed later this year.  There are also cremation plots and angels plots available in Bohernabreena and these are being developed in accordance with need and demand for them.

The extension to Saggart graveyard in 2001 provided approximately 700 additional spaces with 310 of these still remaining.  There is no scope for further development of additional plots in Saggart graveyard.

The Muslim graveyard at Newcastle currently has 91 plots available for both adults and children and this section will be further developed as required.  There is scope for the development of an additional 900 plots in Muslim section.  In the non-denominational section of Newcastle graveyard there are 494 plots available with scope to develop a further 1,600 plots in the future.

There are no grave plots remaining in Esker graveyard however provision has been made in the 2023 revenue budget for the development of a Columbarium Wall for cremation urns, and plans are being prepared for this at the present time.  A new privately operated graveyard, Esker Lawns Cemetery, has opened recently in the area with 3,400 grave plots available there.

The privately operated graveyards at Newlands Cross, Mount Venus and Kilmashogue continue to operate and the available capacity at these locations will be established through the review process and preparation of the burial ground’s strategy.

### **Q28/0523 QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive For a report into how contracts for housing are awarded and what role the council plays in ensuring employers are employing Bricklayers legally - for example Bricklayers who are supposed to be employed by direct PAYE and not through self-employment?

**REPLY:**

Housing construction projects are procured in line with EU and National procurement rules and regulations.  Conditions for 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.

Enforcement of tax, social welfare and employment law are matters for the relevant State authorities, including the Workplace Relations Commission, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the Revenue Commissioners.

### **H6/0523 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

**H7/0523 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development.

**LD 1551 Proposed disposal of plot of land adjacent to 20 Elm Close, Griffeen Valley, Lucan, Co Dublin to Aisling Dee and Carl Geoghegan**

Aisling Dee and Carl Geoghegan have applied to purchase a plot of Council owned land adjacent to their dwelling at 20 Elm Close, Griffeen Valley, Lucan, CoDublinto incorporate into their garden.

The matter was examined in consultation with the Council Valuer who has recommended the following terms and conditions which are considered to be fair and reasonable, and which have been accepted by the Applicants.

Accordingly, I now recommend that the Council disposes of its interest in the plot of land measuring 52.22 square metres or thereabouts adjacent to 20 Elm Close, Griffeen Valley, Lucan as outlined in red on the attached Drawing No. LR/09/22to Aisling Dee and Carl Geoghegan in accordance with Section 211 & 212 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 subject to the following terms and conditions as recommended by the Council Valuer:-

1. *That the subject plot comprises an area of 55.22 square metres or thereabouts as shown outlined in red on attached Drawing No. LR/09/22.*
2. *That the Council disposes of the subject plot for the consideration of €10,000 (ten thousand euro) plus VAT (if applicable).*
3. *That the land is disposed of with full freehold title and vacant possession.*
4. *That the Applicants hold the freehold or equivalent interest in No. 20 Elm Close, Griffeen Valley, Lucan, Co. Dublin.*
5. *That the Council retains a wayleave over the portion of the subject plot shown coloured yellow on attached Drawing No. LR/09/22 and no construction works of any kind are permitted on the wayleave area.*
6. That the Applicants incorporate the subject plot into the curtilage of their property and boundary feature constructed to be in accordance with the Planning and Development and the Building Control legislation. The boundary feature to be similar to the existing boundary wall and to be agreed to the written satisfaction of the Council’s Public Realm Section before commencement of works.
7. *That all trees in the open space area be adequately protected and relevant measures to ensure this to be agreed with Council’s Public Realm Section prior to commencement of works.*
8. *That the Applicants pay €1,500 as contribution to the Council’s legal fees.*
9. *That the Applicants pay Council Valuer fees of €1,200 plus VAT.*
10. *That the Applicants are responsible for any VAT and stamp duty liability associated with this disposal.*
11. That in the event of any name change to the Applicants prior to formal completion of the legal transfer, the Applicants must provide documentary evidence to the Council proving that the new named party is one and the same as the named Applicants heretofore to enable the transfer to complete.
12. That each party shall use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
13. That the Law Agent shall draft the necessary legal agreements and shall include any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
14. That no contract enforceable at Law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
15. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.
16. That each party shall use their best endeavours to complete the transaction within a reasonable timeframe following adoption of the disposal resolution.
17. That the Law Agent shall draft the necessary legal agreements and shall include any further terms deemed appropriate in Agreements of this nature.
18. That no contract enforceable at Law is created or intended to be created until such time as contracts have been exchanged.
19. That the disposal is subject to the necessary approvals and consents being obtained.

The lands being disposed of form part of lands acquired by Deed of Dedication from Jetview Property Developments LTD in 1999 for the purposes of open space.

**Daniel McLoughlin**

**Chief Executive**

It was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy, seconded by Councillor Y. Collins, and **AGREED** that the LD 1551 Proposed disposal of plot of land adjacent to 20 Elm Close, Griffeen Valley, Lucan, Co Dublin to Aisling Dee and Carl Geoghegan be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

### **H8/0523 MANAGERS REPORT** - **FOR NOTING**

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

[HI 8 a) Chief Executive's Report - May 2023](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78646)
[HI 8 b) Statistical Report - April 2023](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78698)
[HI 8 c) Finance Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78678)

Mr. D. McLoughlin informed the Members that an Agreement in Principle, had been reached to purchase Lucan House, which is subject to contract.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Gogarty, E. O’Brien, C. O’Connor, M. Lynch, J. Tuffy, E. Ó Broin, M. Johansson, D. Ó Brádaigh, Y. Collins and S. Moynihan. Members welcomed the news regarding Lucan House and raised queries in relation to Lucan Swimming Pool, Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre, the Draft Waste Management Plan for Circular Economy, the Griffeen Road and Quarryvale Park consultations.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **H9/0523 DECLARATION OF PUBLIC ROADS TAKING IN CHARGE OF A HOUSING ESTATE UNDER SECTION 180 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000. ADDRESS: ABBOTS GROVE HOUSING ESTATE, BALLYCULLEN, CO. DUBLIN – FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use, Planning & Transport.

**REPORT:**

The following report was circulated and considered at the April 2023 meeting of the Rathfarnham Templeogue Firhouse Bohernabreena Area Committee

"The following advertisement was published in the Local newspaper and on the Council Consultation Portal.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993, South Dublin County Council hereby gives notice of its intention to consider the making of a declaration that the road listed hereunder be a public road.

**ABBOTS GROVE HOUSING ESTATE, BALLYCULLEN, CO. DUBLIN.**
In accordance with the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended, the Council considers the Taking in Charge of the open spaces, sewers, watermains and drains within the attendant ground of the development.

This matter will be considered by South Dublin County Council at its Council Meeting on the 8th May 2023.

Maps showing the roads and the areas to be taken in charge are available for viewing at the Council’s public consultation portal at [**http://consult.sdublincoco.ie**](http://consult.sdublincoco.ie/) from 27th February 2023 until 6th April 2023.

Objections or representations regarding the above proposal may be made via the portal or in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Land Use, Planning and Transportation, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 A3XC. The latest date for receipt of postal objections or representations is 5.00 pm on the 6th April 2023 and via the portal by 6th April 2023."

No submission were received during the Submission period.

The recommendation is that, if this committee agrees:

That the proposal to declare that the road be a public road and that the Taking In Charge of open spaces, sewers, watermains and drains within the attendant ground of the development of Abbots Grove Estate shall be considered by the Full Council meeting on May 8th 2023".    **End of report to ACM.**

The members of the Rathfarnham Templeogue Firhouse Bohernabreena Area Committee noted that the Taking In Charge map as published reflect the areas to be Taken In Charge i.e., roads, footpaths and play place but that the **soft landscaping areas and green areas would not be taken in charge,** and that the recommendation to the ACM and that of the ACM to Council should reflect this.

The AC recommended that Taking **in Charge the roads and footpaths, play space, sewers, watermains and drains within the attendant ground of the development of Abbots Grove Estate as per the published map shall be considered for Taking in Charge by the Full Council meeting on May 8th 2023.**

This matter is now before the Council.

[H9 (b) Abbotts Grove TIC schedule](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78641)
[H9 (c) Abbotts Grove TIC map](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78639)

It was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy, seconded by Councillor A. Edge, and **AGREED** that the Taking in Charge of Abbots Grove Housing Estate, Ballycullen, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

### **H10/0523 DECLARATION OF PUBLIC ROADS TAKING IN CHARGE OF A HOUSING ESTATE UNDER SECTION 180 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000. ADDRESS: CLORAGH MILLS, EDMONDSTOWN ROAD, RATHFARNHAM, DUBLIN 16 – FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use, Planning & Transport.

**REPORT:**

The following report was circulated and considered at the April 2023 meeting of the Rathfarnham Templeogue Firhouse Bohernabreena Area Committee

"The following advertisement was published in the Newspapers and on the Council Consultation Portal:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended, the Council considers the Taking in Charge of the Open Space, Footpaths, Pedestrian Bridge and Public Lighting external and adjacent to the Cloragh Mills apartment block development. This matter will be considered by South Dublin County Council at its Council Meeting on the 8th of May 2023

Maps showing the open space, footpaths, pedestrian bridge and public lighting to be taken in charge are available for viewing at the Council’s public consultation portal at http://consult.sdublincoco.ie from 27th February 2023 until the 6th April, 2023.

Objections or representations regarding the above proposal may be made via the portal or in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Land Use, Planning and Transportation, South Dublin County Council, County Hall,
Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 A3XC. The latest date for receipt of postal objections or representations is **5.00 pm on the 6th April 2023** and via the portal by 6th April 2023."

There were no submissions received on this proposal.

The recommendation is that, if this committee agrees:

That the proposal to Take in Charge the Green Open Space, the Footpath along the river, the pedestrian bridge and the public Lighting external to the Cloragh Mills Apartments shall be considered for Taking in Charge by the Full Council at the May 8th, 2023, meeting.**" END OF ACM REPORT**

The members of the Rathfarnham Templeogue Firhouse Bohernabreena Area Committee recommended as follows:

**That the proposal to Take in Charge the Green Open Space, the Footpath along the river, the pedestrian bridge and the public Lighting external to the Cloragh Mills Apartments be considered for Taking in Charge by the Full Council at the May 8th, 2023.**

This matter is now before the Council.

[H10 (b) Cloragh Mills TIC schedule](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78643)
[H10 (c) Cloragh Mills TIC map](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78645)

It was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy, seconded by Councillor A. Edge, and **AGREED** that the Taking in Charge of Cloragh Mills, Edmondstown Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

### **H11/0523 300K HAVE YOUR SAY SHORTLIST – FOR APPROVAL**

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

**Re: €300K Have Your Say – Participatory Budgeting for Tallaght South & Saggart areas**

The €300K Have Your Say initiative for the Tallaght South and Saggart areas was launched by the Mayor on 13 March 2023 in Brookfield Youth and Community Centre. The submission period for the development of ideas was open between 13 March and 21 April. Four workshops were held during this period in St. Mary’s GAA Saggart, Jobstown Community Centre, Killinarden Community Centre and one online workshop.

The Communications campaign for the initiative during this period focused first on promoting the workshops and then on obtaining idea submissions from the public through website. This was done through social media, local press and leaflets delivered to households and local businesses in the area advertising the initiative. The Council’s community team also reached out to local groups and the Public Participation Network during this time.

By the close of the submissions period on 21 April with the Council had received 187 project submissions from the public. Each submission was then assessed under the agreed criteria by the Executive team and then considered by the Steering Group. All submissions were assessed for eligibility under the following criteria, previously agreed by the Steering Group:

* A project that would benefit a significant number of people living in their community.
* A project that is achievable within the maximum €300,000 allocation and without significant maintenance costs thereafter
* A project that is deliverable within 12 months
* A project that is not already planned for by the Council within an existing programme of work.
* A project that is within the remit of the Council and is not the responsibility of another government department or public body.
* Is not project that would be considered for funding through an existing grant scheme, such as the Council’s Community Grants Scheme
* On land that is in public ownership and is not on private property.
* A project that is within the Tallaght South LEA or the Saggart Community area.
* The purchase of vehicles is excluded from this initiative.

The attached shortlist of 22 projects is the outcome of this process and the approval of the Members is now required for the Shortlisted projects.

**Next Steps**

The following is a summary outline of the next steps following today’s Council meeting.

1. All submissions will receive a response indicating if they were shortlisted, and if not shortlisted, an explanation will be given of the reason.
2. There will follow a multi-channel communications campaign to promote the shortlisted projects and encourage the public to vote.
3. The online voting portal will be prepared for voting to open on 15 May for a two week period. Voting is online and at the following locations / dates
* Heritage centre – Saggart – Evening (6-9pm), Wednesday 17th May & Wednesday 24th May (this location has to be manned by SDCC staff)
* Brookfield Youth and Community Centre, Full Day – Community Centre staff to man – Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 17th – 19th
* Jobstown Community Centre, 22nd – 26th May
* Fettercairn Centre, 17th  – 22nd May
* Killinarden Centre, 17th – 26th May
1. The voting period closes on 28 May and the public announcement of the winning projects will be announced at the Results night on 7 June in Fettercairn Youth and Community Centre.
2. The winning proposals will be implemented within 12 months where possible.

[H11 2) Shortlist for Public Vote](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78718)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Murphy, C. O’Connor, L. Dunne, E. Ó Broin and P. Kearns. Members welcomed the report and commended the hard work of the staff and the Steering Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy, seconded by Councillor L. Dunne, and **AGREED** that the 300k Have Your Say Shortlist, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

### **H13/0523 UPDATE ON LAND USE & MOVEMENT CONCEPT FOR LANDS AT RATHCOOLE - FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use, Planning & Transport.

[H13 Update on Land Use Planning Framework for Rathcoole Lands](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78651)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, E. Ó Broin, M. Johansson, J. Tuffy, W. Carey, G. O’Connell, and P. Gogarty. Queries were raised regarding tenure type, Traveller accommodation, vehicular access, traffic, environmental impact, and time frame for the opening of the school.

Mr. M. Mulhern, Director of Land Use, Planning & Transport responded to the Members queries.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **H14/0523 TALLAGHT HERITAGE CENTRE UPDATE – FOR NOTING**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development.

[H14 Tallaght Heritage Centre Update](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78653)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors A. Edge, T. Costello, P. Kearns, R. McMahon, C. O’Connor, C. Bailey, M. Duff, and L. Dunne. Members welcomed the Report and congratulated the management and staff for all their hard work.

The Report was **NOTED**.

### **C1/0523 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Replies**

(a) [Reply received from Minister for Health in relation to Motion 4 (Free Contraception) at the January 2023 Council Meeting](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78612)

**Acknowledgements**

[(b) Acknowledgement received from the Taoiseach in relation to Motion 3 (Declaration of Conflict of Interest Form) at the January 2023 Council Meeting](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78613)
[(c) Acknowledgement received from the Taoiseach in relation to Motion 11 (All-Ireland Citizens' Assembly) at the February 2023 Council Meeting](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78614)
[(d) Acknowledgement received from Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in relation to Motion 9 (Childcare) at the March 2023 Council Meeting](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78611)
[(e) Acknowledgement received from Minister for Justice in relation to Motion 12 (Domestic Violence Legislation) at the March 2023 Council Meeting](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78615)

**Correspondence**

[(f) Correspondence from Cork County Council re. Planning Development Bill](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78577)
[(g) Correspondence from Westmeath County Council re. Regional Public Banking System](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78578)
[(h) Correspondence from Wicklow County Council re. Irish Forestry Land](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78579)
[(i) Correspondence from Clare County Council re. Croi Conaithe Scheme](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=78580)

Replies, Acknowledgements & Correspondence were **NOTED**.

At this point in the meeting the Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, recognising that it was Mr. D, McLoughlin, Chief Executive’s last meeting welcomed his family to the public gallery and called on Members, who had requested to speak, in this regard.

Councillors S. Moynihan, A. Edge, L. Dunne, L. Hagin Meade, P. Kearns, C. Bailey, D. McManus, R. McMahon, G. O’Connell, E. O’Brien, V. Casserly, P. Holohan, M. Duff, J. Tuffy, W. Carey and C. O’Connor wished Mr. D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive best wishes and thanked him for all the hard work throughout his tenure in South Dublin County Council.

Mr. C. Ward, Director of Housing, Social & Community Development thanked Mr. D, McLoughlin, Chief Executive, on behalf of the management team and staff.

Mr D. McLoughlin, Chief Executive thanked the Members for their kind words.

Meeting Finished @ 19:10

**Motions Not Reached**

### **M1/0523 COMMUNICATION FOR PUBLIC TREE REMOVAL**

**Councillor C. Bailey**

That this Council agree a protocol that communicates to residents in writing when a public tree close to their home needs to be removed.

### **M2/0523 HIGH EXCESS DEATHS IN 2023**

Councillor P. Holohan

This council calls on the minister for health to set up an independent enquiry to explore the reasons for Irelands 2023 high excess deaths figures and to make a statement on it.

### **M3/0523 RETROFITTING OF EXISTING HOUSING STOCK**

**Councillor E. Ó Broin**

This council agrees to set out an ambitious timeframe for retrofitting its existing housing stock to a level that ensures (i) the comfort of tenants via efficient heating systems, (ii) the health of tenants by the elimination of damp and mould and (iii) that climate targets are met via a substantial reduction in the use of fossil fuels for heating and cooking.

### **M4/0523 DISABLED DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS TAX CONCESSION SCHEME (DDPS)**

**Councillor F. Timmons**

South Dublin County Council condemns the re-imposition of what the Supreme Court described as arbitrary, unjust, discriminatory, and unnecessary criteria for the Disabled Drivers and Passengers Tax Concession Scheme (DDPS), an act that has all the hallmarks of being constitutionally unsound and calls on Government to introduce emergency legislation to address the situation.

### **M5/0523 RIGHTSIZING**

**Councillor T. Costello**

To assist people with the process of right sizing housing SDCC will arrange information seminars to outline, the requirements, the rules, the facts about living in age friendly housing.

### **M6/0523 BAN ON EVICTIONS**

**Councillor W. Carey**

This Council calls on the Government to extend the ban on evictions until the end of the January 2024 and to write to the Office of the Taoiseach in this regard.

### **M7/0523 ROADS BILL 2021**

**Councillor C. O'Connor**

That this Council agrees that the passage of the Road Traffic and Roads Bill 2021, which deals with the issue of scramblers, is taking too long and calls on the government to expedite the process.

### **M8/0523 BAN ON FLIGHTS**

###  **Councillor L. Sinclair**

That, in a bid to reduce carbon emissions, this council calls for a ban on flights between locations that are linked by a train journey of less than four hours. On passing a letter issue to the Minister for Transport.

### **M9/0523 IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE**

**Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh**

That this council agrees that South Dublin County Council provide service information to be made available in Irish Sign Language, highlighting the option to request a sign language interpreter for appointments and pointing to general assistance in this regard.

### **M10/0523 COMPOST TREE PRUNINGS**

**Councillor A. Edge**

This council agrees that, following on from the feasibility study budgeted for in 2021, the Executive proceeds with a scheme to compost in-house all tree pruning’s, grass cuttings and other organic matter arising from public realm maintenance and to make full use of the compost in terms of anaerobic digestion and distribution of the locally produced compost as part of a move to a truly circular economy.

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

Mayor

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