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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council June 2023 Special Meeting of County Council Meeting held on Thursday 15 June 2023

**PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Carey, W. | McCrave, L. |
| Casserly, V. | McMahon, R. |
| Costello, T. | McManus, D. |
| Duff, M. | Moynihan, S. |
| Dunne, L. | Murphy, E. |
| Edge, A. | Ó Brádaigh, D. |
| Gilligan, T. | Ó Broin, E. |
| Gogarty, P. | O’Connell, G. |
| Gúeret, L. | O’Connor, C. |
| Hagin Meade, L. | O’Hara, S. |
| Hayes, A. | Pereppadan, B. |
| Johansson, M. | Sinclair, L. |
| Lynch, M | Timmons, F. |
|  | Tuffy, J. |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | C. Ward. |
| Directors | L. Maxwell, T. Walsh, E. Leech |
| Senior Executive Officer | M. Murtagh |
| Administrative Officers | D. Healy, M. Reilly |
| Senior Staff Officer  Staff Officer | L. Abbey K. McLoughlin |
| Assistant Staff Officer | D. Murphy |
| Sord | A. O’Brien. |

The Mayor, Councillor E. Murphy, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillors C. Bailey, Y. Collins, L. Donaghy, K. Egan, P. Holohan, P. Kearns, C. King, B. Lawlor, K. Mahon, E. O’Brien, G. O’Connell, L. O’Toole, D. Richardson, L. Whelan.

**WEBCASTING NOTICE**

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.

### **M1/0623 DISABLED DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS TAX CONCESSION SCHEME (DDPS)**

**It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy** that**:**

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.

**REPORT:**

If this Motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Taoiseach. The response, when received, will be circulated to the members.

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M2/0623 RIGHTSIZING**

**It was proposed by Councillor T. Costello and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy** that:

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.

**REPORT:**

The Council’s Rightsizing Policy, adopted by the Elected Members in December 2020, provides for allocation of age friendly homes to people aged 55 or older through the housing list (including homeless, medical priority or HAP transfers), transfers (existing Council tenants rightsizing) or the community list (financial contribution for private homeowners rightsizing).  It is intended that approximately 50% of homes in new age friendly housing developments will be used for rightsizing, with priority for tenants transferring from local areas, and one in five rightsizing opportunities will be available to private homeowners through the Community List.

For inclusion on the community list, the Council and the homeowner must agree that the Council will either purchase their existing home at a discount of 30%-40% or accept a financial contribution from the net proceeds of sale of 20%-50%, depending on the homeowner’s age (see table below):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Age Category** | **SDCC Purchase Discount** | **Financial Contribution to Council** |
| 55-64 years | 40% discount on market value | 1/2 of net proceeds of sale |
| 65-69 years | 40% discount on market value | 1/3 of net proceeds of sale |
| 70-79 years | 30% discount on market value | 1/4 of net proceeds of sale |
| 80+ years | 30% discount on market value | 1/5 of net proceeds of sale |

A new rightsizing guide has been finalised by the Council following consultation with the Older People's Council and the County Age Friendly Alliance and approved by the Housing and Social, Community Equality and Strategic Policy Committees in May 2023. This will be launched in the coming weeks together with a communications campaign promoting the potential and benefits of rightsizing along with a dedicated rightsizing section on our website which will allow older people thinking about rightsizing to explore their options and make an informed choice about their housing options.  Our Age Friendly Healthy Homes Co-ordinator also engages on a case-by-case basis with older person households to discuss rightsizing and other housing and healthcare supports.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Ó Brádaigh, F. Timmons, M. Duff, W. Carey, P. Gogarty, E. Ó Broin, C. O’Connor and E. Murphy who supported the motion.

Ms. E. Leech, Director of Housing and Community responded to the Members.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M3/0623 BAN ON EVICTIONS**

### **It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor M. Johansson** that:

“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.”

**REPORT:**

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

Councillor L. Sinclair proposed and Councillor E.Ó Broin seconded an Amendment to the motion as follows:

*“This Council calls on the Government to extend the ban on evictions until the end of the Housing Crisis and to write to the Office of the Taoiseach in this regard.”*

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey, L Sinclair, M. Johansson, M. Duff, E. Ó Broin, F. Timmons and A. Edge who spoke in favour of the motion and Councillors D. McManus and R. McMahon who spoke against the motion.

Councillor E. Murphy then called for a Roll Call Vote on the Amendment to the item, the result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 7 (SEVEN)**

Councillors P. Gogarty, L. Hagin Meade, A. Hayes, M. Johansson, E. Ó Broin, L. Sinclair and F. Timmons.

**AGAINST: 15 (FIFTEEN)**

Councillors W. Carey, T. Costello, L. Dunne, M. Duff, A. Edge, L. Guéret, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, D. McManus, S. Moynihan, E. Murphy, D. Ó Brádaigh, C. O’Connor, S. O’Hara, and J. Tuffy

**ABSTAIN: 1 (ONE)**

Councillor M. Lynch

As a result of the Roll Call Vote, the amendment to the motion was **NOT AGREED.**

Councillor E. Murphy then called for a Roll Call Vote on the original motion, the results for which are as follows:

**FOR: 12 (TWELVE)**

Councillors W. Carey, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, P. Gogarty, A. Hayes, M. Johansson, D. Ó Brádaigh, E. Ó Broin, L. Sinclair, F. Timmons, and J. Tuffy.

**AGAINST: 10 (TEN)**

Councillors T. Costello, L. Guéret, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, D. McManus, S. Moynihan, E. Murphy, C. O’Connor, S. O’Hara, and B. Pereppadan

**ABSTAIN: 1 (ONE)**

Councillor M. Lynch

As a result of the Roll Call Vote, the original motion was **AGREED.**

### **M4/0623 ROADS BILL 2021**

### **It was proposed by Councillor C. O'Connor and seconded by Councillor T. Costello**:

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.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Transport. The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. O’Connor, F. Timmons, W. Carey, T. Costello, and S. Moynihan, all spoke in favour of the motion.

The motion was **AGREED.**

### **M5/0623 IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE**

**It was proposed by Councillor D. and seconded by Councillor W. Carey**:

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.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council is committed to meeting our responsibilities under the Irish Sign Language Act 2017. Sign language interpreters provide an essential service to both Deaf and hearing people, facilitating communication between Irish Sign Language and English. The Council often hires the services of ISL Interpreters to facilitate communication with Deaf or hard of hearing staff, and to facilitate meetings / events where Deaf people are participating / attending. The Irish Remote Interpreting Service is also available at Customer Care in both County Hall Tallaght and Civic Offices Clondalkin (Booking is essential).

ISL interpreted information is provided within the [Housing Online](http://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/housing-online/) suite of videos and a variety of videos within the SDCC YouTube channel. The SDCC Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Framework is currently being ISL translated.

Councillor D. Ó Brádaigh spoke on the motion.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director for Corporate Performance and Change Management addressed the motion.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M6/0623 FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY**

**It was proposed by Councillor M. Lynch and seconded by Councillor L. Sinclair** that:

South Dublin County Council formally backs the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and urges the Irish government to support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. If passed, a letter should be sent to all local councils and the Minister for the Environment.

[M6 (b) Document submitted by Cllr Lynch](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=79192)

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Lynch, M. Johannson, P. Gogarty, L. Sinclair, S. Moynihan, L. Hagin Meade and W. Carey, all spoke in favour of the motion.

The motion was **AGREED.**

### **M7/0623 LEARN 2 CYCLE WITH A DISABILITY**

**It was proposed by Councillor L. Sinclair and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy** that:

Following the success of the 'Learn 2 Cycle with a Disability' program run by Fingal CC, that management run a similar program here in South Dublin County.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive responded to the motion.

**REPORT:**

The Council are already active in this area and work closely with our neighbouring authorities to share and learn from each other. To date the Council has purchased a trishaw and is working with a volunteer group in the County who take people out on cycle trips (usually elderly and younger people with a disability) in Dodder Valley Park. For the month of June they have had 18 confirmed bookings so far. The Council is also progressing the recruitment of a Disability Sports Officer who will be able to support and expand on this work as well.

The motion was **AGREED.**

The meeting finished at 16.52.

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

Mayor

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