

May 2024

Chief Executive's Report

WorkIQ at Innovation Quarter

About the Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive's Report for South Dublin County Council is presented to elected members at each monthly Council meeting. Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, requires the Chief Executive to prepare a management report in relation to the performance of executive functions, including implementation of policy or other matters required by the Council in the exercise of its reserved functions, and the provision of services. It should be viewed in conjunction with the various updates provided to Area Committee Meetings as well as the quarterly Capital Progress Report to full Council as part of the reporting structures to assist the elected members with their governance and oversight responsibilities.

The report includes important updates and information from across our various directorates and departments together with a range of key statistics that were developed in conjunction with the elected members. It provides the opportunity to highlight major news events and to focus on different areas of our work that may not always gets the attention it deserves while a selection of images from recent events is also included.

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Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Huge role played by planning in supporting the Corporate Plan

Over the last five years the planning and transport teams have played a huge role in supporting delivery of this Council's Corporate Plan and the update for this month will highlight several of these key achievements.

The planning team has spent much of its time focused on unlocking delivery in the Counties important regeneration areas.

In Adamstown the team has delivered the Celbridge Link Road, Tandys Lane Park and Airlie Park, as well as the Adamstown Plaza and is currently working on the design of the Central Boulevard Park. These projects have helped push forward the delivery of homes in the SDZ (Strategic Development Zone). There are now c4,600 homes built and a further 2,900 homes with planning permission.

In Clonburris, the SDZ Planning Scheme

was adopted in 2019 and the team have secured over €230m of funding to deliver ten strategic projects. The first of which, the 'Southern Link Street' is on site. In Clonburris, 957 homes are currently being built and 3,426 homes have planning permission (as of Q1 24.)

The planning team have prepared several important plans. In 2022 the Council adopted a new County Development Plan, which is an ambitious forward looking plan that will shape the whole County until 2028.

In 2020 the Council adopted the Tallaght Local Area Plan. This plan has shaped several housing schemes that have already started on site. This plan also paved the way to securing €35m of URDF funding to deliver several transformational projects in Tallaght including Tallaght Stadium, public realm and our housing scheme. The team has prepared an ambitious

plan for City Edge, as well as a County wide Biodiversity Action Plan and a draft Local Area Plan for Clondalkin is underway.



Airlie Park, Adamstown

Delivering a sustainable connected transport network

Delivering a sustainable connected transport network is a key Corporate Plan objective and to this end, we have supported the NTA with; delivering a new Bus Connects mobility hub at Liffey Valley centre; and works to upgrade Kishogue station to open in summer 2024.

The Council has funded and delivered a significant new road extension to the R120 improving transport access into the Grange Castle area.

The Council has completed works at Saggart, Tempogue and Castletymon, and Dodsboro. Works will start soon in Lucan, Rosemount and Bawnogue.

Safe Walking and Cycling in South Dublin

A safe walking and cycling network is a key Corporate Plan objective.

With this objective in mind, in 2021 the Council adopted the Cycle South Dublin programme, which sets a vision for South Dublin to become one of Ireland's most cycle friendly Counties. The programme includes 65 projects to be progressed by 2030. Since then the Council has successfully delivered the following active travel projects;

- Dodder Greenway phases 2, 3 and 4
- Tallaght public realm improvements
- Avonbeg Road
- N81 to Jobstown Junction
- Monastery Road
- Templeville and Limekiln Road
- Grange Road
- D24 phase 1

We have been working to deliver smaller road safety projects and since 2020 the Council has delivered 145 traffic calming schemes and 28 pedestrian crossings.

We have delivered safety improvements at 15 schools and have ramped up our plans to deliver several more schemes in the coming year. We have 92 school wardens in place and provide students with access to cycle training support.



Some Key Statistics

17,210 homes have received planning permission with 7,533 homes built

4,600 planning applications assessed

1,020 planning enforcement cases closed

787 road maintenance and repair jobs completed at a cost of €34m

8,718 public lights upgraded to LED lights

295 winter gritting runs completed

3,541 traffic lights have been repaired

€540,000 of heritage funding has been secured to support 42 heritage projects



Dodder Greenway Community Cycle



Housing, Social and Community Development

Innovative Housing Management and Supports

Since 2019, we launched our integrated housing system to maximise customer service, stock management and organisational efficiency with over 18,000 users now registered. 3,404 homes have been allocated including 816 homeless households of which 106 tenancies were supported through Housing First..

We have supported private rented tenancies through 6,621 property inspections and 4,705 Housing Assistance Payments. We launched a 'Rightsizing Strategy' for older people in under occupied housing and approved 784 Disabled Persons and 2,356 Older Person's Grants to support residents to remain in their homes.

Our strategic plan 'Housing Disabled People 2021-26' was adopted with a target of 7% of all new homes in mixed tenure developments to be wheelchair accessible. Over €18m has been invested in our planned maintenance and energy efficiency programmes to upgrade our existing housing stock.

We undertook a strategic review of our community development and estate management supports and interventions and created a new Anti-Social/Community Safety Team.



Healthy, Active and Participative

We have positively influenced the quality of life in our county over the last five years by leading and promoting community development, health, well-being, recreation and activity. A number of community facilities were delivered including Rathcoole Court House, Old School House, Saggart and Orchard Lane, Clondalkin. We supported community centres and groups by providing 1129 grants. SDCC was the first local authority to develop and implement our 'Active South Dublin Plan' to maximise promotion, development participation, inclusion and physical awareness.

We are currently finalising our new Local Economic and Community Plan with a dynamic implementation programme for South Dublin County from 2024-2030.

Delivering Quality Social and Affordable Housing Across the County

During the term of this Council, we have progressed a wide range of housing developments to suit mixed incomes through various channels including our own build programme, Part V, Approved Housing Bodies, affordable purchase, cost rental, acquisitions and turnkey purchases under our Housing Delivery Action Plan. Some key deliverables from 2019 to present include 2,145 new build homes including 229 Age Friendly and 14 Traveller Accommodation homes. In addition we leased 484 homes and purchased 278 acquisitions.

Over 1,300 new social and affordable homes on Council lands are currently under construction or have planning permission including: 88 social and affordable homes in Kilcarbery and our first 133 cost rental homes in Belgard Square, Tallaght, which will be delivered in early 2025.

116 social and affordable homes in Clonburris SDZ are currently under construction. The final stage of the tender process for construction of 266 social, affordable and cost rental homes at Kishogue is near completion with site commencement now projected for September 2024. The Part 8 for 119 social homes on the Public Private Partnership site adjacent to Lynch's Park is due to be advertised this summer. Our project partners are finalising planning compliances to commence construction on the Killinarden Foothills project, which will deliver 635 social, affordable and private homes.

Design work is ongoing to progress Part 8 planning applications for approximately 1,500 social and affordable homes on Council lands across Phases 3, 4 & 5 in Clonburris and the Rathcoole lands before the projects are submitted to An

Bord Pleanála. We also advanced 127 Rebuilding Ireland/Local Authority Home Loans, delivered 70 affordable purchase homes and 21 caravan loans.



Age Friendly Homes in Templeogue

Integrated and Socially Connected Communities

From 2019-2024, we have taken the lead on the delivery of equality and interagency initiatives including:

- Launch of our County Age Friendly Strategy
- Promoting safer communities through the JPC & Junior Safety Forum
- LEADER Programmes to support our rural communities and businesses
- Supporting young people through the work of CYPSC and Comhairle na nÓg
- Delivery of STEAM programme for Traveller children under '300K Have your Say' funding
- Supporting the Community Integration Forum with Community Recognition Funding of €4.8m to support the development of facilities and infrastructure in communities who have welcomed new arrivals.



Opening of Redeveloped Glenasmole Community Centre



Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

Library Services

Over the past five years, our library service has achieved remarkable milestones, significantly enhancing access to knowledge and resources for the community. With an investment exceeding €10m, we introduced two new state-of-the-art libraries in Castletymon and North Clondalkin. Additionally, the introduction of two new mobile libraries revolutionised the service. Amidst the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, we seized the opportunity to innovate, providing library services directly to the doorsteps of the housebound, with over 100 monthly visits. Notably, Palmerstown Library saw increased opening hours, catering to the growing needs of the community. Collaborating with Amazon Web Services, we inaugurated the Think Big Space, offering workshops in robotics and virtual reality to over 8,000 children so far. Embracing future growth, the Council adopted the Our Library, Our Future Development Plan for 2023-2027, while achieving a remarkable recovery to pre-pandemic levels of usership, with active membership soaring to 60,000 in 2024 from 30,000 at the peak of the pandemic. The commitment to further development is evident in the progress made on new libraries in Citywest and Adamstown, with an additional investment exceeding €20m earmarked for 3,000 square metres of library space, underscoring our dedication to advancing the library service and enriching the lives of its citizens.



Arts & Culture

The past 5 years have been action-packed in relation to arts and culture. Ambitious and forward-thinking strategies in South Dublin Arts Development Strategy 2022-2026 and South Dublin Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 were launched. The development of the Local Live Performance programme since 2021 has seen over 110,365 people attending 271 events. One of the highlights of the programme was 'Live at the Stadium', headlined by Jerry Fish and several local performers. South Dublin Live has also evolved to be an intrinsic part of the arts office programme. Rolling out 'In Context 5 - Connect', where six new Public Artworks will be delivered in 2024. 'Seedlings', initiated in 2023, is specifically for the 0-12 year olds and supports the Council's commitment to the development of meaningful access to the arts, with over 130 children involved in the programme to date. NOISE Music provided young people with opportunities to participate in music creation and performance, with almost 600 workshops delivered.

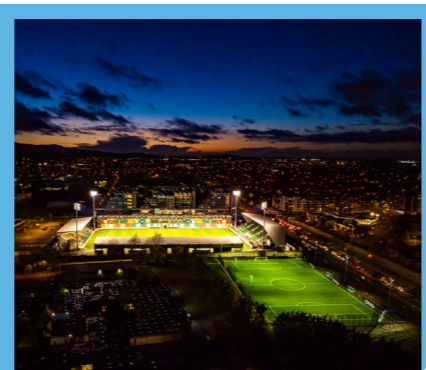
Economic Development & Local Enterprise

This Council's term has been marked with many achievements in the economic, enterprise and tourism development of the County. Continued investment in Grange Castle has seen the completion of the €7m Grange Castle West Access Road, incorporating a full utility services corridor for future development and two significant sites that have been the subject of disposal for a high-profile media centre and a new global pharmaceutical facility respectively. The Grange Castle Masterplan has been adopted, which provides for up to 12,000 new jobs being created. The last five years has seen the progression of the Economic Masterplan for the re-development of the 12th Lock of the Grand Canal. Two strands of the Masterplan have moved on to Part 8 Planning stage. Of significance also is the completion of the 4th Stand at Tallaght Stadium; a high-class stadium facility for 10,000 spectators meeting FAI and UEFA standards, with plans for future use as a 20,000 capacity concert venue. Located in the Innovation Quarter, Work IQ Innovation Centre was completed

in early 2024. WorkIQ is a 4-storey 2,980msq building that provides three floors of flexible office accommodation to support start-up enterprises. The Innovation Centre can accommodate up to 60 businesses, supporting the future creation of over 700 jobs worth €80m to the economy.

LEO South Dublin has excelled in supporting businesses, with over 10,000 participants attending LEO programmes over the past 5 years. There has been an unprecedented uptake of Training Online Voucher grants, soaring from an average of 50 grants annually to over 700 in 2020, totalling 1,118 over the past 5 years, with financial support exceeding €1.145m. This has been supported by the Client Stimulus Scheme, providing financial assistance to SMEs with €215k of funding and the Small Business Scheme providing €740k in funding to local businesses. The Evaluation and Approvals Committee approved over 123 projects, totalling €3.447m, and supporting 192 jobs, with the potential for an additional 300

jobs in the years ahead. Our commitment to fostering entrepreneurial talent extends to the educational sphere, with the Schools Enterprise Programme engaging over 600 students annually. The County's SCENE network was set up in 2021 and now has 232 members, whilst the Network of Enterprise Women South Dublin membership has grown to over 479 participants.



Tallaght Stadium

Tourism Promotion

We have advanced the development of our Tourism Strategy through investing in our heritage trails. Our annual programme of events and festivals has seen 120,000 people attend our markets. Up to 20,000 people have attended events and festivals from outside of the County, whilst 10,000 people attended our International Food and Craft Event over the past two years and the Round Tower Visitor Centre has welcomed up to 500,000 visitors over the past five years. 2024 saw the launch of our Tourism Strategy, which will support the creation of up to 5,000 jobs and will be worth €340m to the economy annually. Progress has been made on the development of Lucan Destination Town, Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre, Tallaght Heritage Centre, the 12th Lock area and The Castle Stables at Rathfarnham.

Rathfarnham Stables and Courtyards - Artist Impression





Council Women's Caucus

The Council's Women's Caucus was set up 2022 to increase women's engagement and representation in local politics. Then-Deputy Mayor Cllr Laura Donaghy, and Cllr Emma Murphy, the first Chair, hosted a historic first-ever networking event on International Women's Day; 8th March 2022 to celebrate the launch. The Caucus is for women Councillors, past and present, of all parties and parties of none, to discuss and campaign on issues predominantly affecting women. Key Priorities include:

- Informal Networking
- Motions and Policy
- Increasing Female Leadership Participation Countywide
- Tackling Barriers for Women in Politics in SDCC

The Caucus has been very active since its inception, hosting events for each International Women's Day and other activities to build support for women in politics; Women of South Dublin event, training on using Canva, the Irish Menopause workshop provided by SeeHerElected, also hosting Representatives from South Dublin branches of Women's Collective Ireland. We hope and aim to see the resumption of the Caucus and its essential work later in 2024.



Meetings and Motions

Over the term of the Council, our meetings administration team, working with Councillors and members of the public have delivered a total of 575 meetings, mixed between Council Meetings, Area Committee Meetings, Committee's, steering groups and departmental meetings amongst others.

We have also responded to 4,695 Councillor questions and 4,816 motions. The number of members representations logged with and responded to by the Council was 50,410, with HSCD and EWCC related topics receiving 40% and 32% of all queries respectively.

Connecting People and Possibilities: A Journey of Innovation, Technology and Security

In the ever-evolving landscape of technology, the past five years have been transformative for our IT (Information Technology) department. From groundbreaking innovations to fortified cybersecurity measures, our IT team has navigated challenges and embraced opportunities to propel our organisation forward. It is our objective to advance the Council's use of information and communication technology (ICT) through secure, modern, and intelligent initiatives enabling better experiences and outcomes in service delivery. Some key milestones over the past five years include:

- Strengthening Cybersecurity Posture
- Transition to Hybrid Working: Adapting to the New Normal
- Keeping the County on the Map:

- Our Geographic Information and Spatial Activities
- Complete Migration to M365: Empowering Collaboration and Productivity
- End User Computing - Empowering Staff through ICT Excellence
- Upskilling: Re-imagining the workforce in a new era of cyber
- Digital Infrastructure: Providing the power to deliver
- Transforming how we work through Major Applications, Development, and Web
- Innovation Awards: Celebrating Creativity and Excellence

In conclusion, the past five years have been a period of remarkable growth and achievement for our IT department. From garnering recognition for innovation to fortifying our cybersecurity defences, our team has

demonstrated resilience, creativity, and a relentless commitment to excellence. As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our pursuit of leveraging technology to drive positive change and propel our organisation towards even greater heights of success.



Council's Innovation Awards

Participatory Budgeting

A new form of local democracy called 'Participatory Budgeting' was introduced in 2017. This new pilot initiative, called 300K - Have Your Say, put budget decisions directly into the hands of our citizens by providing a discretionary fund of €300,000 to promote community engagement in each local electoral area. The aim of this process is to make budgeting more transparent and accessible and to open up participation to people who would never have been involved before, it gives people real power to make decisions for their community. Over the lifetime of the initiative local communities have rewarded €1.8 million in funding for 62 projects in all 6 Local Electoral Areas. A review is currently underway to assess the participatory budgeting initiative for the next Council term.



Inaugural Womens Caucus meeting held in 2022



Environment, Water and Climate Change

Improving the Aesthetic Appearance of our County

Over the past five years, SDCC has implemented an ambitious programme of park provision and upgrades investing €15 million in new parks at Adamstown - Tandy's Lane and Airlie Park. Additionally, we have embarked on a series of park upgrades, with new plans completed for several parks including Killinarden Park, Corkagh Park, Jobstown Park, Whitestown Stream, Kiltipper Park, St Cuthberts Park, Carrigmore and Quarryvale Park. The total budget for these upgrades is €23.5 million, with design and planning stages already completed. The Sports Pitch Strategy ensures efficient management and maintenance of existing pitches while planning for new ones across the county, including a €5 million provision for Artificial Grass Pitches like those completed at Sean Walsh Park and Airlie Park. Recreational facilities have been expanded with 55 natural playspaces and seven teenspaces completed, the

latter with further plans underway, representing a total investment of €2 million. Other amenities provided include half-court MUGAs, callisthenics and parkour areas, boules courts and exercise equipment. SDCC's efforts, aim to enhance public spaces, promote physical activity and cater to diverse recreational needs across the county. Through strategic investments and thoughtful planning, they continue to improve community well-being and enrich leisure experiences for residents and visitors while fostering a vibrant community environment. Over the lifetime of the current Council a total of 350 minor improvement works schemes to parks and public open spaces have been approved by the Council at a total cost of €6.8 million. These schemes include footpath construction and upgrades, public lighting schemes, boundary treatments and entrance works, small

play and recreational facilities, tennis and basketball court improvements, bridge improvement works as well as planting and landscaping schemes.



Sean Walsh Park - Artificial Pitch

Creating a sustainable low carbon & climate resilient county

SDCC adopted a new Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, replacing the 2019-2024 plan which delivered a range of projects including **Tallaght District Heating Scheme**, Ireland's first not-for-profit heat utility, making a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions in the area. **Public lighting upgrades** - 10,000 lamps replaced with energy efficient LEDs. **Cycle South Dublin** delivering walking and cycling routes. **Three flood alleviation schemes. SuDs guidance documents. Fleet Transition Strategy** developed. **Climate Training Programme** delivered. **Environmental Awareness** delivered a range of schools and community initiatives including Eco Week, Relove Fashion, Tidy Towns grants, Dublin Climate Action Week.

Supporting a Green Infrastructure Network across the County

Within the last five years, SDCC have developed a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy that is being implemented on the ground, with new developments retaining as many natural features that support biodiversity on site as possible and integrating natural-based SuDs and flood resilient features into those developments. The utilisation of South Dublin's Green Space Factor enables the practical implementation of the GI Strategy. SDCC's Green Space Factor was commended at the Irish Planning Institute Awards 2023. Signing the National Pollinator Plan led to SDCC developing their own Pollinator Plan, resulting in 185 hectares of meadows, boosting biodiversity in our parks and open spaces. Several ecological surveys confirm increased flora and fauna presence. Notably, SDCC won the National All Ireland Pollinator Plan Award for the Best Town Park (Tymon Park) on two occasions for their actions supporting pollinators. A mini woodland trail in Sean Walsh Park involved planting 900 native trees, with 40,000 trees planted across the County since. Additionally, three integrated constructed wetlands were developed and the Dublin Urban Rivers Life (DURL) project removed wastewater from 5,000 misconnected properties.



Managing Regulatory, Licencing & Enforcement requirements

SDCC have worked with the EPA, An Garda Síochána, the WERLA and other councils over the last five years, in the oversight and enforcement of waste activities. Through annual RMCEI plans, 14,700 environmental inspections were carried out and new technologies including drones were used to safely carry out inspections. Through environmental initiatives, 4,674 mattresses and 13,610Kg hazardous liquids were diverted from being dumped. Through involvement with the PURE project, 3,500 volunteers were involved in clean ups of rural uplands. Dublin County Dog Shelter commenced operating in October 2021 providing service for the three Dublin County Councils. Two Litter Management Plans were adopted by Council.



Heatworks - District Heating Scheme

Launch of Tallaght Innovation Quarter



Later this month, the new Innovation Quarter in Tallaght will be launched with an event on 23rd May marking both the official opening of Work IQ, the Council's new €16 million purpose-built innovation centre, and the completion of a major €8 million new public realm scheme linking Work IQ with County Hall, the Cultural Quarter and Tallaght Town Centre as well as the planned future Tallaght Mobility Hub.

Strategically located on Council-

owned land in Tallaght Town Centre, Work IQ is a key part of the new Innovation Quarter urban district being developed by SDCC that also includes a new cost rental apartment scheme (which, along with Work IQ, will be served by the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, Heatworks) and Innovation Square, a new flagship public park.

The Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan, adopted in 2020, set the framework for 11,000 new homes

WorkIQ Key Features

- Private or shared office space
- Meeting and conference rooms;
- Tailored business supports
- Onsite networking events, workshops and innovation showcases
- Collaboration opportunities with partners including the Local Enterprise Office, Enterprise Ireland, South Dublin Chamber, Technological University Dublin, Tallaght University Hospital

and 15,000 new jobs in the area and the Innovation Quarter development is an integral element in delivering on the ambition of the LAP.

Innovation Quarter is also part of a combined investment of over €80m in infrastructure projects in the centre of Tallaght, including new link roads, major public realm enhancements, the delivery of the fourth stand at Tallaght Stadium and a proposed new Heritage Centre.

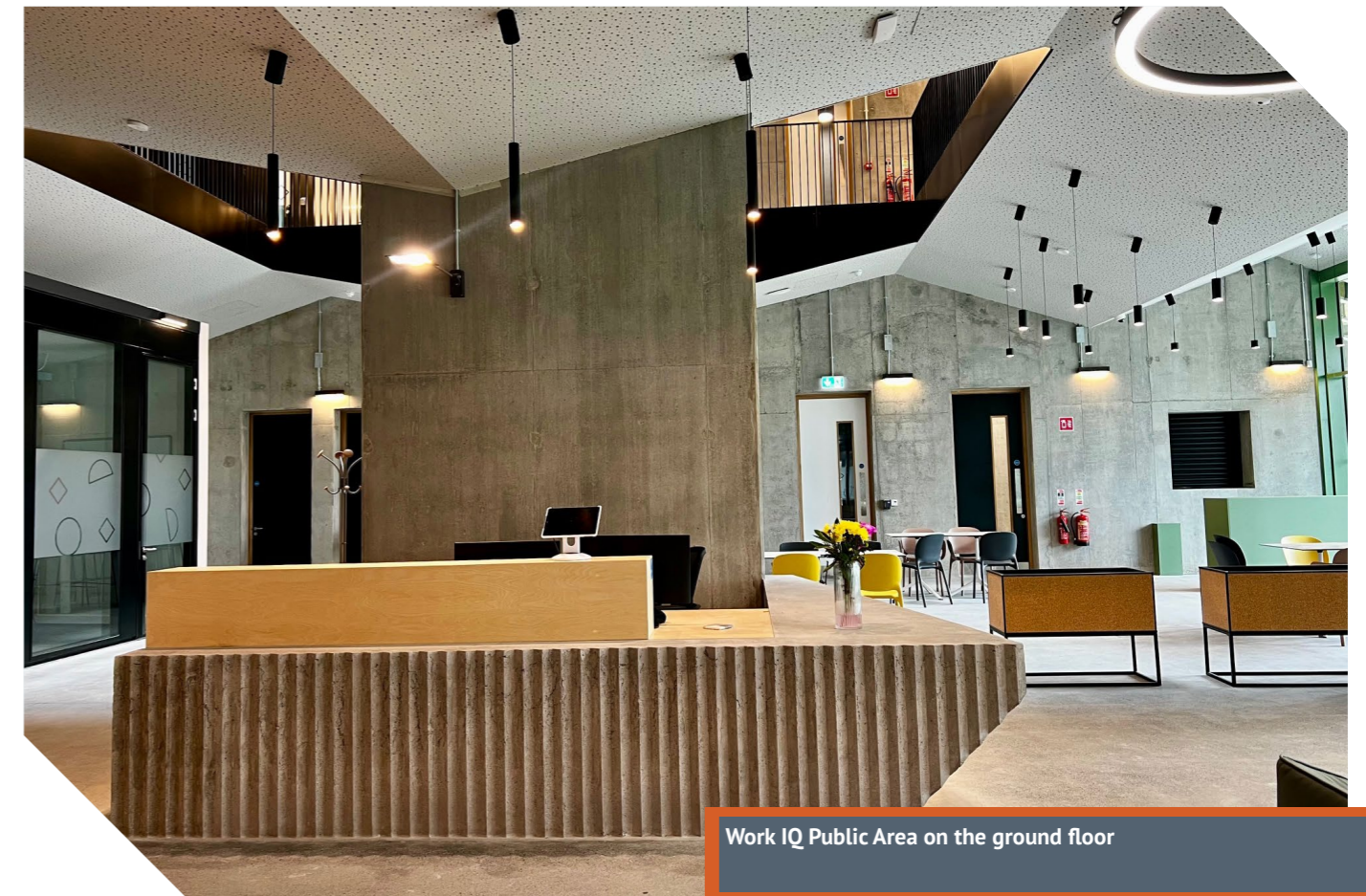
Work IQ, a four-storey, 3,000 square

metre new home for start-ups and growing enterprises in South Dublin, offers three floors of flexible office accommodation including private and shared office space and co-working options as well as a range of meeting and conference rooms. It will be operated on behalf of the Council by Oxford Innovation, who currently manage the largest network of innovation centres in the UK, hosting more than a thousand innovative early-stage businesses.

The centre, which also features a ground-floor public area with town hall space and a café area that face directly onto a stunning new urban plaza, will provide tailored business supports and will host regular onsite networking events, workshops and innovation showcases. Clients of Work IQ can also expect to benefit from collaboration opportunities with key Council partners including the Local Enterprise Office, Enterprise Ireland, South Dublin Chamber, Technological University Dublin, Tallaght University Hospital and many private others.

Innovation Quarter is underpinned by an ambitious public realm project, which has delivered a pathway of connected public open spaces at Innovation Square, Chamber Square and at the planned transport interchange, merged with mixture of planting, urban and soft landscaping, biodiversity features, new seating and new pedestrian and cycling desire lines, linking Tallaght Town Centre and Cookstown. This has set the benchmark for the future public realm development in Tallaght Town Centre while also providing inviting and animated public open spaces that will foster social interaction, bringing vibrancy and vitality to the area.

The launch of the Innovation Quarter represents a major investment in the future of Tallaght as a vibrant urban centre, delivering a transformative new district that will support job creation and economic growth while also enhancing local community development and the cultural identity of South Dublin.



Work IQ Public Area on the ground floor

Celebrating 30 Years of South Dublin County Council



Original Council Members

Pictured left (front l-r): Cllr Catherine Quinn; Cllr Finbarr Hanrahan; Hugh Hanley, Deputy Manager; An Cathaoirleach Cllr Don Tipping; An Leas Cathaoirleach Stanley Laing; John Fitzgerald, County Manager; Cllr Breda Cass; Cllr Cáit Keane; (middle l-r): Cllr Guss O'Connell; Cllr John Hannon; Cllr Sean Ardagh; Cllr Michael Keating; Cllr Pat Rabbitte; Cllr Colm Tyndall; Cllr Margaret Farrell; Cllr Alan Shatter; Cllr Máire Mullarney; Cllr Mary Muldoon; (back l-r): Cllr Charlie O'Connor; Cllr Ann Ormonde; Cllr Mick Billane; Cllr Colm McGrath; Cllr Peter Brady; Cllr John O'Halloran; Cllr Thérèse Ridge; Cllr Eamonn Walsh; Cllr Pat Upton and Cllr Ned Gibbons.

Tipping, John Fitzgerald, County Manager, and Hugh Hanley, Deputy Manager. This has increased to the 40 Councillors we have today, reflecting the significant growth and expansion of the County over that time. The Council featured some notable names including then TDs and subsequent Ministers Pat Rabbitte and Alan Shatter, along with currently serving Councillors Guss O'Connell and Charlie O'Connor, who are the only remaining sitting elected members from that time and both of whom have signalled that they are retiring at the end of the current Council term after long and distinguished service, marking the end of an era.

Staff who moved to the newly built offices to take up their new positions had been given the option of moving to a choice of the three new Dublin local authorities while promotional opportunities, which followed an extended recruitment embargo, provided additional incentives for the move. Another notable change was the introduction of technology, with SDCC being one of the first local authorities to provide all staff supplied with desktop computers while automated book lending was also introduced then at

the County Library, which was delivered along with the new County Hall. Staff also found the new offices less accessible with limited public transport options in contrast to today with the introduction of the Luas in particular reflecting the advancement of Tallaght and South Dublin since then.

April 2024 also marked the 125th anniversary of the first local elections in Ireland following the enactment of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 which provided the legislative basis for much of our present local government system. The 1898 Act changed the nature of Irish local governance, replacing undemocratic grand juries with a more representative system. All of Ireland's local authorities trace their origins directly or indirectly to the first elections which took place in April 1899, followed by their first Council meetings in the same month. Those inaugural Council elections marked particular advances in Irish democracy including extending the franchise beyond the landed gentry to include householders and it was also the first time that women were afforded voting rights.



Tallaght then

History In The Making

The inaugural meeting of South Dublin County Council took place on Wednesday 5th January amid a fanfare of trumpets.

Councillors and local dignitaries assembled in the grounds of the R.T.C. for a flag-raising ceremony, before adjourning to the lecture theatre for the official speeches. Council Chairperson, Cllr. Don Tipping, was presented with a new chain of office by the Regional Manager of the Bank of Ireland. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Cllr. Tipping said the creation of the new council is a unique opportunity for positive

change. "Our immediate task is to carve out and establish a clear identity for the entire area, especially the two major towns of Tallaght and Clondalkin" he said. With a population of over 210,000 people, the South Dublin administrative area is the second biggest in the state.

"With a greater than average youth population, severe unemployment and related social problems, our priority must be to create opportunities for jobs" he continued.

One of the more immediate responsibilities of the new council

will be accepting the ownership of Dublin Corporation lands and housing stock. Cllr. Tipping believes the

new council should be relevant in every home and "each citizen's life". "This should be positive and challenging" he says. "With over 55,000 more parks and open spaces than most local authorities, we can and will, be successful in placing South Dublin centre stage of positive



John Glynn & Co.
SOLICITORS AND COMMISSIONERS FOR OATHS

Have you had a motor accident?

This year, South Dublin County Council celebrates 30 years in existence which began following the enactment of the Local Government (Dublin) Act, 1993 dissolving Dublin County Council and creating three new administrative counties in Dublin from 1st January 1994 along with the then Dublin Corporation. The inaugural meeting of the new Council took place in January

1994 in the temporary setting of Regional Technical College Tallaght (now the Technological University Dublin Tallaght Campus) while its first meeting in the new County Hall, Tallaght was held on 17th June 1994.

As part of the establishment of the new County, Councillors remained in post from the 1991 local elections

TAXI

Official Openings of Airlie Park Pavilion & Glenasmole Community Centre



April has been a busy month for the Council with many projects reaching completion and new facilities delivered for citizens to enjoy:

Airlie Park Pavilion

South Dublin County Council officially opened the new pavilion building at Airlie Park, Adamstown. with changing facilities and Tram

café.

The design incorporated a small stream into the park landscape which augments the biodiversity of the area and augments the western boundary of the park. It has been designed for all abilities and ages, with a range of recreational opportunities that will invite users back for repeat visits

Sod Turnings and Openings in April and May

- Glenasmole Community Centre
- Airlie Park Pavilion - Changing facilities and Tram café
- Sod Turning in Jobstown
- Tymon Boules Court
- Whitestown Bridge Completion
- Innovation Quarter will be officially opened on 23rd May.

and Tram café is a welcome addition to the park facilities.

The new park and pavilion has been designed and delivered to a high standard to enhance the identity of Adamstown and has been designed for all, with a range of recreational

opportunities for the community to enjoy.

It's delivery was supported by way of a grant from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) and SDCC's own funding. This financial support was linked to the delivery of 2,000 new homes within the Adamstown SDZ, which have been successfully completed. The Council would like to thank the local residents for their forbearance during the construction stage and their support of the park and pavilion since it has been opened.

Official Opening of Glenasmole Community Centre

The newly redeveloped Glenasmole Community Centre was officially opened by the Mayor, Councillor Alan Edge on Wednesday 24th April.

The project led by the Glenasmole Community Association and supported by our Community Services team sees the original community hall, built in the early 1970's, transformed into a modern multi-purpose facility with a

community hall, meeting room, large kitchen facilities, café area and an adjoining all weather multi use games area.

The costs of the redevelopment works were met from a combination of local community fundraising, support from Community Finance Ireland and the Community Association securing significant grant funding from Rural Dublin Leader and the Council acting in partnership as the main project funding partners.

Phase 2 of the project will see the development of a community campus on lands surrounding the Community Centre with the Community Association having secured €140,000 of funding for Intergenerational Outdoor Activity Spaces through the Council's 'Have Your Say' Initiative in 2019.

We are delighted to also announce that the official opening of Rathcoole Courthouse will take place on Monday 24th May at 11:30 a.m. and the Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre will open on Thursday 30th May at 2.30p.m.



Official opening of Glenasmole Community Centre



The forthcoming acquisition of Lucan House and Demesne by South Dublin County Council presents the most significant strategic opportunity for the Council to acquire an asset recognised as one of National historical importance for the citizens of South Dublin and the country at large.

Historically, there is some evidence of occupation on the lands since the 12th Century with the Sarsfield family becoming involved in or around 1566. The Sarsfield family remained in control of the property until they were dispossessed of the lands in 1641.

The impressive Georgian-Palladian house was built c1772 by the Vesey family and extends to a seven bay two storey over basement structure with associated outbuildings as were required and were a standard in an estate of this scale in the late 18th century. The remaining Demesne of 30 Acres associated with the property consists of

some areas of manicured lawn mixed with heavily wooded areas. The Demesne boasts a section of the River Liffey and the Griffen and as such is an area of high amenity value in the Liffey Valley.

The Italian Government bought Lucan House in 1954 and it has been in private ownership until this acquisition. There is a rich history associated with the Italian Government and that is celebrated in the inauguration of Parco Italia within the 12 acre parkland to the front of Lucan House. This is further supported by the impressive "Buffalo Grazing" sculpture trail by

renowned Italian artist Davide Rivalta comprising eight one-ton bronze buffalo sculptures, which also forms part of the acquisition. The cultural significance of this trail is recognised in that the trail concept was devised by the Italian Ambassador and the Italian National Gallery of Modern & Contemporary Art.

The acquisition of Lucan House is expected to be finalised in June 2024 and €10.95m was made available in the budget to secure its acquisition but also to commence the process of understanding the future role it will play within the County as a tourism, community and County

amenity.

Following the handover of the property to the Council, there will be a detailed assessment of the property and grounds. The Council will also put in place a plan to facilitate managed public access to the grounds, whilst consultants will be appointed in Q3 2024 to develop a masterplan for Lucan House and its associated 30 acres.

The objectives of the masterplan will be to develop a plan for Lucan House and Demesne as a tourism, community and County amenity; a focus on the conservation of natural and built heritage; as well as examining the optimal economic, recreational and environmental uses to benefit Lucan and the wider County.



Buffalo Sculptures at Lucan House (c. Irish Times)

Lucan House will provide a significant opportunity to bring forward a new tourism and community amenity that will further contribute to Lucan's rich heritage and history. With its designation as a destination town and the current

investment by the Council in Lucan's public realm, creating a connected network of primary and secondary attractions within a coherent network of public spaces and supporting activities, as well as linkages to the Grand Canal Greenway, the reopening of Lucan House to the public will not only complement these works but will elevate the village's attractiveness as a visitor destination, thereby supporting the local economy.

With the acquisition of Lucan House, it is exciting times ahead for both the Lucan community and the citizens of the County.

A Focus On Lucan House



The Dining Room at Lucan House

Images of the Month



The first meeting of the current Council in 2019

Images of the Month



Official opening of Tymon Boules Court



Official Sod Turning at Jobstown Park



Try One - Boxing at the Park Community Centre

Images of the Month



Mayor Alan Edge at the official opening of Glenasmole Community Centre

Images of the Month



Mayor Alan Edge at the awards ceremony of the Student Enterprise Programme - Scoil Mochua



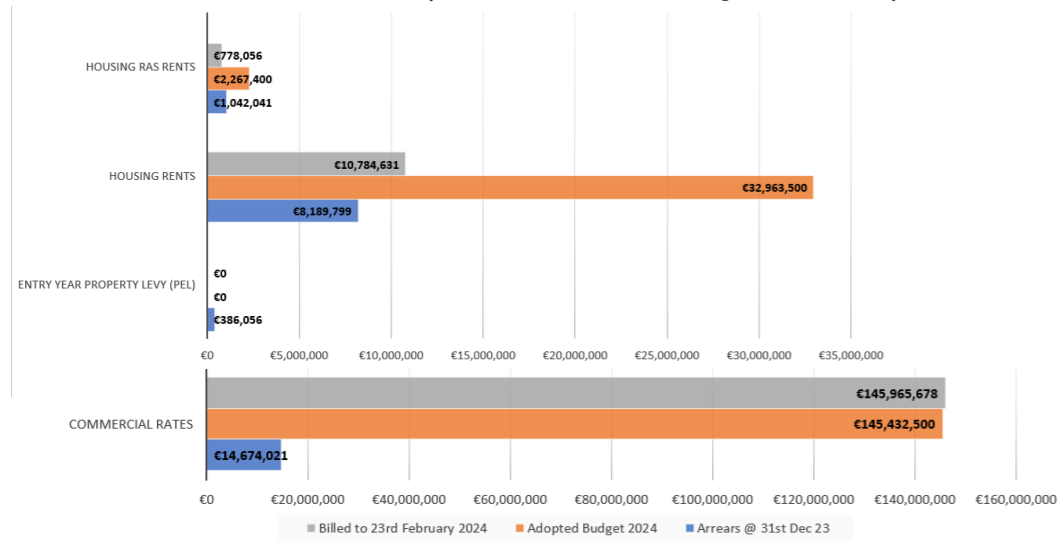
Airlie Park and Pavilion



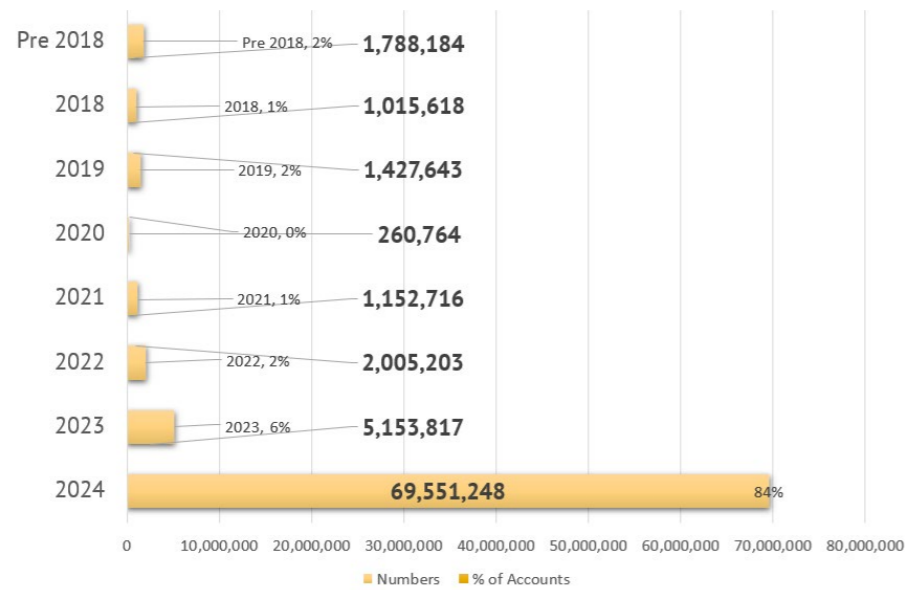
Mayor Alan Edge at the launch of ECO Week at Mount Seskin Community School, Jobstown.

Finance Report

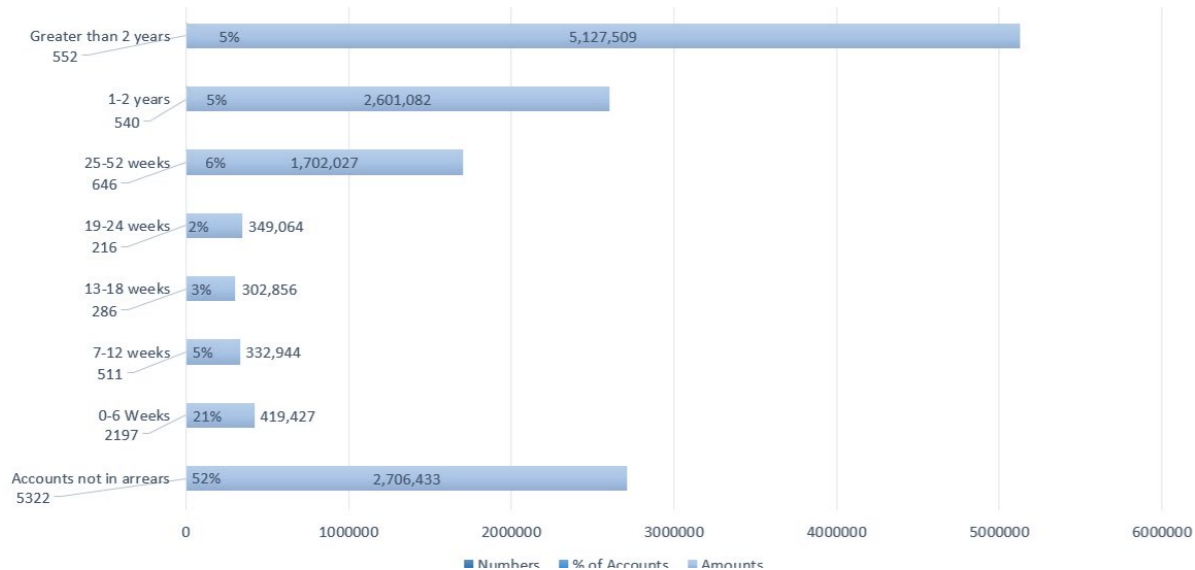
Billing & Collection Statement (billed to 26th April 2024)



Rates Aged Debt



Rents Aged Debt



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

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