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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council October 2024 County Council Meeting held on Monday 14 October 2024

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adelaide, D. | Kearns, P. |
| Ahern. C. | Lawlor, B. |
| Barnes, S. | Mannion, R. |
| Brady, C. | McCrave, L. |
| Carey, W. | McMahon, R. |
| Casserly, V. | McManus, D. |
| Collins, Y. | Moore, G. |
| Costello, T. | Moynihan, S. |
| De Courcy, L. | Murphy, E. |
| Donnelly, D. | Ó Broin, E. |
| Duff, M. | O’Hara, S. |
| Dunne, L. | O’Toole, L. |
| Edge, A. | Pereppadan, Baby |
| Egan, K. | Pereppadan, Britto |
| Fennell, N. | Richardson, D. |
| Gilligan, T.  | Sinnott, J.  |
| Gogarty, P. | Spear, J. |
| Hayes, A. | Timmons, F. |
| Holohan, P. | Tuffy, J.  |
| Johansson, M. | Whelan, N. |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | C. Ward. |
| Directors | J. Frehill, M. McAdam, T. Walsh, E. Leech, L. Maxwell, R. Fitzgerald |
| Head of IT | T. Kavanagh |
| County Architect | C. Harte |
| Senior Executive Officer | M. Murtagh |
|  Administrative Officer | M. Reilly |
|  Communications Manager | D. Healy |
| Senior Staff Officer | K. McLoughlin |
| A/ Staff Officer | D. Murphy |
| Assistant Staff Officer | L. Farrell |
| EVAD | P. Jackson |

The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan, presided

**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 Baby Pereppadan, 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 Ms Vera Holohan, Mother of Councillor Patrick Pearse Holohan, and Councillor John Naughton, the Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan expressed sympathy and condolences to both families.

### **H1/1024 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

[H1 September 2024 Council Minutes](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83740)

Minutes of the September Council Meeting held on 9th September 2024 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

### **H2/1024 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

No Reports

**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

No Reports

**c) Tallaght Area Committee**

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management

No Reports

**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

No Reports

### **H3/1024 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**H3 (A) APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY AND OTHER BODIES**

Councillor S. Moynihan nominated the following appointments to Statutory bodies

**Civic Theatre Committee**: Councillors Britto Pereppadan and T. Costello

**Clondalkin Local Area Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce**: Councillors M. Johansson, W. Carey and E. Ó Broin.

**Dublin 12 Local Area Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce**: Councillor P. Kearns

**Dublin Bus Forum**: Councillors M. Duff, T. Costello, K. Keane and R. Mannion

**Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**: Councillors T. Costello, M. Duff J. Spear, W. Carey, A. Edge and V. Casserly

**Commemorations Committee**: Councillors S. Barnes, Y. Collins and W. Carey

**JPC**: Defer to next Council meeting.

**LCDC:** Councillors A. Hayes, Y. Collins and S. Barnes

**Infrastructure Naming Committee:** Councillors L. McCrave, S. Moynihan, M. Duff and P. Kearns

**€300k HYS Committee**: Defer to next Council meeting.

**Tallaght Community Arts**: Councillors E. Murphy and J. Sinnott.

**Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce**: Councillors A. Edge, M. Duff, Baby Pereppadan and N. Whelan

**South-Western Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce**: Councillor M. Duff

**South Dublin County Partnership:** Councillors E. Murphy, Baby Pereppadan and M. Duff

**Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education & Training Board**: Councillor P. Kearns to replace Councillor C. Ahern following his resignation.

**Liffey Valley Management Advisory Committee**: Councillors P. Gogarty, V. Casserly, L. O’Toole, C. Brady, J. Tuffy, S. Moynihan, A. Hayes, N. Fennell, G. Moore and M. Johansson.

**Regional Health Forum:** Councillors S. Barnes, T. Costello, L. O’Toole, Baby Pereppadan, J. Tuffy, Y. Collins and N. Whelan

Councillor J. Sinnott informed the Members of his unavailability to sit on the Tallaght Community Arts Committee.

The vacancy to be filled at the next Council meeting.

The nominations were proposed by Councillor S. Moynihan and seconded by Councillor M. Duff were **AGREED**.

**This is now before full Council for final approval.**

**H3(B) REPORT ON CONFERENCES/TRAINING**

[**Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/zza37y2001s142.html) provides for the authorization of Members’ attendance at conferences both home and abroad.

**Training Notified Since March 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** |
| AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2024 | AILG | *Monaghan*  | 11th - 12th September 2024 |
| September Training Module | AILG | *Offaly* | 28th September 2024 |
| ICSH Finance and Development Conference 2024 | Irish Council of Social Housing | Sligo | 16th - 17th October 2024 |
| October Training Module | AILG | Limerick | 2nd November 2024 |
| November Training Module | AILG | Galway  | 16th November 2024 |

**Training Confirmed Attended Since July 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** | **Councillors in Attendance** |
| None |   |   |   |   |

Listed below are conferences which have been notified to South Dublin County Council and whose appropriateness has been vetted by the members’ working group in accordance with Circ. Letter 02/10.

**Conferences Notified Since July 2024**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** |
| Kennedy Summer School 2024 | Kennedy Summer School | Wexford | 29 - 31 August |
| Macgill Summer School 2024 | Macgill Summer School | Donedal | 18th – 20th July |

**Conferences Confirmed Attended Since July 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** | **Councillors in Attendance** |
| None |   |   |   |   |

**Requirements on members in relation to attendance at conferences**
(1) Having been authorised to attend an event under section 142, a councillor is required in all circumstances to –

1. a) attend that event and participate in the proceedings to the greatest extent possible, and
2. b) submit a written report within 15 days to the Cathaoirleach, who shall submit the report to the next ordinary meeting of the council. The report must indicate the nature of the meeting and contain a summary of the proceedings. This report shall be made available free of charge on request to any member of the public; for this purpose it may be put on the local authority’s website. The requirements in relation to reports by attendees and making the report available to the public are in large part new requirements under section 142(5)(f) (as amended) and section 142(5)(fa).

As authorisation under this section is a reserved function Members are required to pass the following resolution:

### “In accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001 attendance by Members at the Conferences / Seminars outlined in the report is hereby authorized."

### The Reports were proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor S. O’Hara and **AGREED.**

### **H4/1024 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### **H5/1024 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor S. Moynihan and **RESOLVED:**

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q52 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**”

### **Q1/1024 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on details of inspections on privately rented homes in 2023 and 2024. Report to include the total number of inspections carried out; dwellings inspected not meeting regulatory requirements; improvement Letters issued to landlords for improvements to be carried out; Improvement Notices served on landlords for improvements to be carried out; prohibition Notices served on landlords; and Prohibition Notices served on landlords.

**REPLY:**

Detail of inspections carried out on privately rented homes in 2023 and up to 1st October 2024 are set out below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |   | **2023** | **2024 (Q1-Q3)** |
|   | Number of inspections that did not meet regulatory requirements on 1st inspection and issued with improvement letter | 1174 | 2767 |
|   | Number of inspections that met regulatory requirements on 1st inspection | 445 | 588 |
|   | **Total number of 1st inspections** | **1619** | **3355** |
|   | Number of inspections that did not meet regulatory requirements on re-Inspection and issued with improvement letter   | 858 | 594 |
|   | Number of inspections that met regulatory requirements on re-inspection | 662 | 329 |
|   | **Total number of re-inspections**  | **1520** | **930** |
|   | **Total number of inspections** | **3139** | **4285** |
| Number of improvement notices issued on dwellings  | 0 | 7 |
| Number of prohibition notices issued on dwellings | 0 | 0 |

The Council actively engages with the landlords of dwellings that continue to fail to meet regulatory requirements after re-inspection. When compliance cannot be achieved through active engagement, improvement notices are issued on the dwellings. If these notices do not result in the necessary improvements, the situation will ultimately lead to the initiation of legal proceedings. Currently, two cases are pending commencement of such proceedings.

### **Q2/1024**  **Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details of the % of commercial rates charged by the council each year since 2007

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**REPLY:**

The table below sets out the budgeted rates income per year as a percentage of the total Council income for the years 2007 to 2024

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Budgeted income**  | **Rates income**  | **%** |
| **2007** | **€308,318,200** | **€114,155,640** | **37.03%** |
| **2008** | **€284,279,400** | **€121,501,500** | **42.74%** |
| **2009** | **€284,254,700** | **€123,001,800** | **43.27%** |
| **2010** | **€253,553,100** | **€124,470,100** | **49.09%** |
| **2011** | **€249,016,300** | **€125,098,000** | **50.24%** |
| **2012** | **€236,978,600** | **€122,896,000** | **51.86%** |
| **2013** | **€230,491,600** | **€122,734,000** | **53.25%** |
| **2014** | **€217,714,300** | **€99,823,500** | **45.85%** |
| **2015** | **€220,595,300** | **€102,725,600** | **46.57%** |
| **2016** | **€225,453,700** | **€118,480,200** | **52.55%** |
| **2017** | **€227,992,900** | **€118,704,400** | **52.06%** |
| **2018** | **€232,431,300** | **€123,099,400** | **52.96%** |
| **2019** | **€242,865,600** | **€128,314,400** | **52.83%** |
| **2020** | **€255,755,400** | **€132,007,300** | **51.61%** |
| **2021** | **€268,019,900** | **€134,863,000** | **50.32%** |
| **2022** | **€281,713,700** | **€141,267,400** | **50.15%** |
| **2023** | **€306,070,600** | **€145,285,400** | **47.47%** |
| **2024** | **€338,321,100** | **€145,432,500** | **42.99%** |

### **Q3/1024**  **Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive if glyphosate is used by council staff and contractors, and if so what was the total amount used in 2023 and thus far in 2024?

**REPLY:**

Glyphosate based herbicides are used by both the Public Realm Operations Section and the Council's road sweeping contractor for the control of weeds.  The total usage in 2023 is recorded as 942 litres while the total usage in 2024 to date is 832 litres and this can be expected to rise slightly before the end of year.  The reduction arises from the Council's efforts to reduce the usage of glyphosate where possible in line with the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive.  It is worth noting that the laneways in Palmerstown and Dublin 12 have been fully cleaned including weed removal and treatment throughout the year.  A tender competition to procure a new road sweeping service to commence from 1 January 2025 is underway and this includes a requirement to reduce the use of glyphosate in the provision of the contract services year on year throughout the contract period.

### **Q4/1024**  **Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details of average wait times for Garda checks on successful housing applicants.

**REPLY:**

To date in 2024, the Housing Department has received one thousand three hundred and thirty eight (1338) reports with an average processing time of twelve weeks. There are currently three hundred and forty nine (349) 'Section 15' requests outstanding, the majority of which are requested from Tallaght, Clondalkin and Lucan/Ronanstown Garda stations. The Council has written to the Superintendents for these districts highlighting the impact on our housing allocation timeframes and our willingness to work with An Garda Síochána to review and streamline the process to improve efficiencies.

### **Q5/1024**  **Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the chief executive what caps exist on the number of social homes that can be purchased by the council in 2024 with funding from central government

**REPLY:**

The Council was delegated sanction from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) to acquire up to 140 homes under the Social Housing Acquisition Programme 2024. Flexibility is being applied to enable local authorities who can demonstrate that there is an additional demand to increase their allocation by plus 50% (e.g. South Dublin with an allocation of 140 can work towards an overall pipeline of 210). For acquisitions that are above the local authority allocation plus 50%, advance approval will need to be obtained from the DHLGH.

### **Q6/1024**  **Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a list, in tabular format by LEA, of the number of locations and volume M2 of footpath repairs carried out during 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

[Q6(a)2020 RWP](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83645)
[Q6(b)2021 RWP](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83646)
[Q6(c)2022 RWP](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83647)
[Q6(d)2023 RWP](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83648)

**REPLY:**

The square meterage of each scheme is not recorded but the overall footpath repair is recorded in our annual KPIs

2021 - 76610m2

2022 - 57443m2

2023 - 64233m2

### **Q7/1024**  **Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive to report, in tabular format by LEA, how much was spent on footpath repairs during 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

[Q7(a)2020 RWP](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83640)
[Q7(b)2021 RWP](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83641)
[Q7(c)2022 RWP](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83642)
[Q7(d)2023 RWP](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83643)

**REPLY:**

We do not have a breakdown of the expenditure in the format requested but attached is the list of each scheme and the associated allocation; the expenditure will be closely aligned with these.

### **Q8/1024**  **Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on homeless services and supports in our county including those provided by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE).

**REPLY:**

The Council continues to work proactively to address the ongoing challenges for households in need of accommodation by increasing new housing supply through partnerships with approved housing bodies, ongoing choice based letting and other allocation options, turning around vacant Council properties for re-letting, supporting HAP tenancies and engaging with landlords on potential tenant in-situ acquisitions.

Households at risk of experiencing homelessness should engage with the Council to examine prevention measures including possible alternative accommodation and our Homeless team are available to help those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Working in conjunction with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DHRE), this unit operates an advice clinic in County Hall, Tallaght and provides outreach services across the County as well as detailing emergency accommodation options including central placement, self-accommodate, family hubs and other supported accommodation. Emergency accommodation is arranged for those assessed as homeless through the assessment and placement service and we will continue to actively explore further options for the provision of emergency accommodation across the County in collaboration with the DHRE. In addition, the homeless outreach service operates all year round for rough sleepers across the County, working with other agencies, including the HSE, in identifying rough sleepers and connecting them with appropriate accommodation and support services and this service will also play a vital role in assisting homeless rough sleepers during the winter months.

In 2024, €4,475,400 has been allocated for homeless services including additional staff and supports, directly and through the DRHE and we are committed to refining and improving our performance in this area to achieve higher levels of delivery and reduce homelessness in our County given its importance, particularly in the current circumstances.

### **Q9/1024**  **Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive what standards and quality of services and care are in place for homeless service providers, including those provided by the Dublin Regional Homes Executive (DRHE) and how are these measured.

**REPLY:**

All emergency accommodation across the Dublin region fall under a quality standards framework. The National Quality Standards Framework (NQSF) was rolled out for NGO properties in 2019 and an adapted version of standards for private emergency accommodation commenced implementation in 2022.There are several monitoring tools in place to measure standards, these include:

* Quarterly key performance indicators (KPI’s)
* NQSF inspections
* Independent inspections by Eamonn O’Boyle & Associates
* Unannounced site visits by the standards and property teams
* Dublin Fire Brigade inspections

### **Q10/1024**  **Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on oversight of homeless services, are services inspected, how are they inspected, and to provide any reports available on inspections of service providers in our county and to indicate whether on independent oversight is in place.

**REPLY:**

All emergency accommodation across the Dublin region fall under a quality standards framework. The National Quality Standards Framework (NQSF) was rolled out for NGO properties in 2019 and an adapted version of standards for private emergency accommodation commenced in 2022. There are methods of oversight in place which include:

* NQSF inspections which are performed by the DRHE’s monitoring and standards team who review the service provision and practices within the service. Both staff and service users are interviewed during this process.
* The DRHE tendered for an independent inspectorate in 2022. EOBA were successful and commenced in October 2022. Inspections cover fire safety standards, environmental health standards and food safety standards across all emergency accommodation. These reports are published quarterly on the [DRHE website](https://www.homelessdublin.ie/).
* The DRHE’s standards and property teams carry out unannounced site visits across all emergency accommodation. The following are checked during these site visits; fire logs, staffing levels, assessing complaints and occupancy checks

### **Q11/1024**  **Councillor W. Carey**

To ask the Manager to outline the amount of homes that have been levied with the rent surcharge agreed in the 2020 budget and to give an accurate figure totalling monies collected with this charge and to give a breakdown of persons per home affected by this charge and if he could offer this in tabular form.

**REPLY:**

The Council's Annual Budget 2020 included an additional three euro per week as part of the Council’s differential rent scheme with effect from 1st February 2020. This was to reflect increased provision for costs associated with our housing stock, planned and response maintenance, re-let repairs and other housing services.

The weekly differential rent is calculated based on a percentage of the total household aggregated assessable income plus three euro. The additional three euro charge is applied to all tenancies and is not levied on individuals. The income from the charge is relative to the number of live tenancies on a particular week. Based on the current number of tenancies, the charge is approximately €1.7m per annum.

### **Q12/1024**  **Councillor W. Carey**

to ask the manager to issue a full report and analysis on the implementation of the new rent increases imposed by SDCC from April 2021 and that this report be available prior to November budget is agreed.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 11,106 households who pay their rent directly to South Dublin County Council as detailed below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account type** | **Number of Accounts** |
| Council | 9986 |
| RAS | 590 |
| Leasing | 530 |

As per the Council’s Annual Financial Statements, the following rental income was charged and collected for the years 2021-2023 (includes Council, RAS and Leased tenancies)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rental income 2021 | Rent charged | €29,998,710 |
|   | Rent collected | €29,359,056 |
| Rental income 2022 | Rent charged | €30,589,387 |
|   | Rent collected | €31,247,364 |
| Rental Income 2023 | Rent charged | €35,079,289 |
|   | Rent collected | €34,505,222 |

The increase in rental income from 2021-23 is due to multiple factors including: an increase in housing stock each year, the additional three euro charge per household, higher household incomes due to employment growth in a vibrant economy and increases in social welfare payments. In addition our rents team during this period have completed 11,893 rent assessments to ensure that all persons and household income is accurately recorded. The Differential Rent Scheme is calculated based on 10% of the total household aggregated assessable income plus three euro. Households whose net income is in excess of the relevant social housing income eligibility threshold for their family size will pay an additional 10% on any income in excess of the relevant social housing income eligibility threshold for their family size. It is estimated that approximately 2,800 tenancies have household incomes above the social housing thresholds. No retrospective debits are applied to rent accounts above the thresholds and rent increases are only effective from a current date. A full report and analysis of housing rental charges/income will be prepared as part of the annual budget process for 2025.

### **Q13/1024**  **Councillor W. Carey**

To ask the manager if the legal dept can review the need for informal groups to require public liability insurance when booking use of SDCC community centres and facilities. These are often prohibitive to groups attempting to start up, evolving and growing, when trying to get voluntary groups established.

**REPLY:**

The Council is advised by our insurers Irish Public Bodies that community/voluntary organisations using Council owned facilities should have public liability insurance and within their policy have South Dublin County Council indemnified to the value of €6.5million. The Community Services Department would also advise the same, on the grounds of best practice and good governance for both community facilities operations and community/voluntary groups.

A community facility's board of management may have the provisions within their public liability insurance policy to insure and cover the activities of a new voluntary group using their centre, who are just starting up for an initial time. Once established the group should then take out their own insurance policy based on the above advice. Our community development team is available to assist and advise community facility boards of management and community groups on such matters.

### **Q14/1024**  **Councillor W. Carey**

To ask the manager would it be possible to review the need for multiple community groups operating within the sphere of common community spaces to require individual public liability policies,  instead SDCC providing an umbrella policy that various groups can sign up to.

**REPLY:**

The Council is advised by our insurance provider Irish Public Bodies that community/voluntary organisations using Council owned facilities should have public liability insurance and within this policy have South Dublin County Council indemnified to the value of €6.5million. The Community Services Department would also advise the same, on the grounds of best practice and good governance for both community facilities operations and community/voluntary groups.

A community facility's board of management may have the provisions within their public liability insurance policy to insure and cover the activities of new voluntary groups using their centre, who are just starting up for an initial time. Once established the group should then take out their own insurance policy based on the above advice. Our community development team is available to assist and advise board of managements and community groups on such matters.

### **Q15/1024**  **Councillor W. Carey**

to ask the manager to outline and offer a figure for rent collected as a result of specific changes to assessment criteria introduced in April 2021. ie a figure for rent collected over and above tenancy thresholds for 2021,2022,and 2023.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 11,106 households who pay their rent directly to South Dublin County Council as detailed below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account type** | **Number of Accounts** |
| Council | 9986 |
| RAS | 590 |
| Leasing | 530 |

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The increase in rental income from 2021-23 is due to multiple factors including: an increase in housing stock each year, the additional three euro charge per household, higher household incomes due to employment growth in a vibrant economy and increases in social welfare payments. In addition our rents team during this period have completed 11,893 rent assessments to ensure that all persons and household income is accurately recorded. It is estimated that approximately 2,800 tenancies have household incomes above the social housing thresholds. No retrospective debits are applied to rent accounts above the thresholds and rent increases are only effective from a current date.

### **Q16/1024**  **Councillor T. Costello**

If a HAP property does not meet satisfactory standards when inspected what course of action is taken.

**REPLY:**

Where contraventions of the minimum standards for private rented accommodation as set out in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 are identified, an improvement letter issues to the landlord detailing works to be completed within a prescribed timeframe. Both the Council and the Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) actively work with landlords with the aim of achieving compliance.

Failure by the landlord to complete the required works may result in escalation to enforcement proceedings. These include the following;

**Improvement Notice**
On recommendation by the EHO, an improvement notice may be served by the Council where there are significant contraventions of the regulations, or a history on non-compliance with improvement letter(s).

**Prohibition Notice**
On recommendation by the EHO, where a landlord fails to comply with an improvement notice, the Council may serve a prohibition notice. The prohibition notice directs the landlord not to re-let the property until contraventions identified in the improvement notice have been remedied.

**Legal Proceedings**

On recommendation by the EHO, the Council may consider initiating legal proceedings where a landlord fails to comply with an improvement notice or re-lets a property in breach of a prohibition notice.

### **Q17/1024**  **Councillor T. Costello**

How many abandoned vehicles have been removed by SDCC year to date?

**REPLY:**

Each report received is investigated by the Council's Litter Warden Service. As a result of these investigations, the number of vehicles deemed to be abandoned and removed by the Council is listed in the table below.

The outcomes of most of the reports received, fall into four broad areas as follows:

* the vehicle was either moved after the owner was contacted by the Council or was not at the reported location when investigated.
* the vehicle is in use or being sold/put back on the road by the owner
* Garda matter
* Relates to parking issues

The numbers of vehicles reported to South Dublin County Council as abandoned and the outcomes of these cases including the numbers of vehicles removed by the Council in 2024 to date is set out in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **2024 to date** |
| Number of Vehicles reported to SDCC as abandoned/burned out | 422(390 abandoned vehicles & 32 burned out) |
| Burned Out Vehicles removed by SDCC |   15 |
| Moved by owner or not at location when investigated | 168 |
| Garda matter |    21 |
| Removed by Gardai |       2 |
| Owner selling or putting back on road |     82 |
| Parking Issue |     27 |
| **Deemed abandoned and removed by SDCC** |     25 |
| Investigation ongoing at year/month end |     65 |
| Cost of removal (inc. VAT) | €3,586.61 |

### **Q18/1024**  **Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the manager for details on spending associated to illegal dumping for the past 12 months - tabular month on month

**REPLY:**

The total expenditure on removal of illegal dumping in 2023 was as set out in the table below, broken down by month.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jan | €47,242 |
| Feb | €114,392 |
| Mar | €202,962 |
| April | €82,416 |
| May | €135,053 |
| June | €161,294 |
| July | €65,814 |
| Aug | €149,221 |
| Sept | €147,732 |
| Oct | €82,434 |
| Nov | €161,650 |
| Dec | €180,367 |
| Total | €1,530,577 |

### **Q19/1024**  **Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the Chief Executive to give a report on the wait time for Garda Clearance to be carried out, report to include wait times on new applications and existing tenancies.

**REPLY:**

There is no difference in the process for requesting information from the Gardaí in respect of new housing applicants and existing tenants.  Since 1st January'24 we have received one thousand three hundred and thirty eight (1338) reports with an average processing time of twelve weeks. There are currently three hundred and forty nine (349) 'Section 15' requests outstanding, the majority of which are requested from Tallaght, Clondalkin and Lucan/Ronanstown Garda stations. The Council has written to the Superintendents for these districts highlighting the impact on our housing allocation timeframes and our willingness to work with An Garda Síochána to review and streamline the process to improve efficiencies.

### **Q20/1024**  **Councillor T. Costello**

To ask the manager how many offers of housing was declined in 2022 / 2023 and 2024 YTD

**REPLY:**

Detailed below is the number of housing offers declined 2022- present. It should be noted that refusal of two reasonable offers will result in the deferral of the applicant for a period of 12 months.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of offers refused** |
| 2022 | 213 |
| 2023 | 194 |
| 2024 to date | 211 |
| **Total** | **617** |

### **Q21/1024**  **Councillor M. Duff**

Could the Manager please give details of the number of requests that were made for tree removals, resulting from damage to property between 2020 to 2024. Could he also detail the number of cases where the householder was asked to provide an Engineers report?

**REPLY:**

During the period from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2024 the Council received a total of 14,407 queries which are logged on the customer care system and which related to the management of trees in one way or another. The total number of requests received during this period for tree removal and which specifically mention damage being caused to private property is 328, and of that total 44 requests for submission of structural survey reports were issued by the Council in response. Many of the requests received relate to damage being done above ground such as tree branches in conflict with a roof or rainwater system, and in these instances the damage can be easily seen and rectified.  In many instances this will lead to pruning the tree to the boundary rather than removal.

The Council’s Tree Management Policy document 'Living with Trees' outlines the importance of trees from both an aesthetic and environmental view. The policy states that trees in an urban environment may conflict with people and infrastructure creating pressure for trees to be pruned or felled. In circumstances where structural damage can be repaired or reasonably resolved by appropriate engineering solutions, the Council will not normally consider removal of a tree, except where the tree is considered to be of poor structural or physiological condition. The policy document states that property owners will at their own expense be expected to provide evidence from an appropriately qualified professional that a tree has caused damage to their property and that all reasonable engineering alternatives have been explored before felling will be considered. Where evidence is provided which demonstrates that a Council owned tree is the cause of damage, the Council will take appropriate action on a case by case basis.

### **Q22/1024**  **Councillor L. De Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive what steps are in place to enforce planning refusals when they are not adhered too?

[254533officialresponse](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83580)

**REPLY:**

The legislative process relating to planning enforcement is set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000.

Any development that requires planning permission but has not been granted permission  is classed as ‘unauthorised development’. Carrying out unauthorised development is an offence and anyone who has undertaken unauthorised development may be subject to enforcement proceedings.

When a planning authority receives a complaint, it will generally carry out an initial analysis to consider the matter, and following this the planning authority may
initiate an investigation.

Where an enforcement complaint is found to be valid, the planning authority may issue a warning letter.

A warning letter informs the person concerned that the planning authority is aware that they may be carrying out unauthorised development. The person  concerned is given a four-week period to reply to the warning letter.

Where a warning letter has been issued, the planning authority must carry out an investigation into the alleged unauthorised development. If the planning authority determines that unauthorised development has taken place, it must also determine whether the requirements of the warning letter have been met before taking further action.

Where the planning authority establishes, following an investigation, that unauthorised development which is not trivial or minor is being carried out, and that the person carrying out the development has not remedied the situation (e.g. by removing the offending development or by securing planning permission) the planning authority must take further action. According to planning law, the planning authority needs a compelling reason for taking no further action in such a case.
Further action will normally take the form of an enforcement notice requiring the person concerned to rectify the situation. The planning authority should, where possible, make its decision on further action within 12 weeks of sending the warning letter.

In circumstances where the planning authority believes urgent action is required, it may issue an enforcement notice without issuing a warning letter.

An enforcement notice will normally:
• instruct that any development being carried out without planning permission must stop;

• instruct that if the development has planning permission but work is not being carried out in accordance with the conditions of the permission, that steps have to be taken to ensure the development is in line with the planning permission;

• inform what steps are required to be taken within a specified period. These could include removing, or altering a structure, stopping the use of land, or returning
land to its previous condition before the unauthorised development began; and

• outline that if these steps are not taken within the period stated, that the person may be guilty of an offence and that the planning authority may enter the land and do the work itself. The owner or developer will have to pay the cost of this work. The owner or developer may also have to pay other related expenses such as legal costs.

Where an enforcement notice is not complied with, the planning authority can take the matter to court. Penalties for breaching planning law are set out in the
Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. These penalties depend on the nature of the offence but, penalties can include a criminal conviction and a fine
and/or a prison sentence.

### **Q23/1024**  **Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive to what extent does the council intervene when it comes to anti-social behaviour and when does it become a matter of An Garda Siochana.

**REPLY:**

The Council's [Anti- Social Strategy](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/estate-management/anti-social_behaviour_strategy.pdf#:~:text=The%20objective%20of%20this%20strategy%20is%20to%20assist%20in%20the) applies to local authority tenants. Anti-social behaviour is defined in the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 as the following:

1. The manufacture, production, preparation, importation, exportation, sale, supply, possession for the purposes of sale or supply, or distribution of a controlled drug (within the meaning of the Misuse of Drugs Acts 1977 to 2007)
2. Any behaviour which causes or is likely to cause any significant or persistent danger, injury, damage, alarm, loss or fear to any person living, working or otherwise lawfully in or in the vicinity of a house provided by a housing authority under the Housing Acts 1966 to 2014 or Part V (as amended) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 or a housing estate in which the house is situate and, without prejudice to the foregoing, includes—

(i) Violence, threats, intimidation, coercion, harassment or serious obstruction of any person

(ii) Behaviour which causes any significant or persistent impairment of a person’s use or enjoyment of his or her home, or

(iii) Damage to or defacement by writing or other marks of any property, including a person’s home

While particular incidents can fall within both anti-social and criminal classifications it is important to state that the local authority’s role is to pursue incidents through the anti-social provisions of the Housing Acts using the civil law and An Garda Síochána‘s role is to pursue incidents through criminal justice mechanisms.

### **Q24/1024**  **Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the process of getting Garda clearance for people to become social housing tenants.

**REPLY:**

Section 15 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997 provides for housing authorities to obtain criminal record checks in respect of persons applying for social housing. When a person/s has accepted the offer of housing with the Council, a request is then issued to the relevant Garda station to carry out a criminal record check, on all persons over 18 years old in the household. A report is then issued by the Gardaí and reviewed by the housing authority. In general, the allocation process then proceeds however, in a minority of cases further investigation maybe required on estate management grounds.

### **Q25/1024**  **Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive officer to outline the process in which a person can apply for homes with adaptations and outline how a person would be successful/unsuccessful.

**REPLY:**

The Council operates a medically approved list in respect of applicants with enduring life long medical conditions. On approval applicants are added to this list following an assessment of the submitted HMD Form 1 and supporting documentation. Those in need of standard accommodation will continue to have access to the on-line Choice Based Letting(CBL) system. Applicants with physical disabilities do not have access to CBL and will be offered suitable available properties from our medical section in accordance with the allocation scheme. Opportunities are afforded to these clients and their occupational therapists to view the property if required.

There are currently 392 medically approved applicants with a further 277 approved for supported living. Of these applicants 240 have been approved by the Council for ground floor accommodation with 105 persons requiring wheelchair accessible accommodation. Refusal of two reasonable offers will result in a deferral for a period of 12 months.

In addition, there are [Housing Grants](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/housing-grants/) available to private homeowners and Council tenants who require adaptations to be carried out to their homes to assist with their disability needs.

### **Q26/1024**  **Councillor T. Gilligan**

To ask the manager how many planning applications in 2024 have been received and how many have been rejected?

**REPLY:**

Up to 30th September 2024, 691 planning applications had been received. During this time period, 41 planning applications were deemed to be invalid (approx. 6% of applications).

### **Q27/1024**  **Councillor P. Gogarty**

To ask the Chief Executive for a list of attendance at each mobile library from January 2023 to date, including attendance to services that have since been withdrawn or new services set up?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council has a fleet of 3 mobile libraries currently serving 35 public stops per week, approx. 1,800 public stops per year. These stops are reviewed regularly and the timetable updated twice a year. In addition, the mobiles complete over 100 school visits per year, as well as participating in almost 100 events, such as Park Days, St. Patrick's Day Parades, and other once-off occasions. The attendance statistics for these stops are included with this reply in summary and detailed format.

[Q27(ii) Summary - Mobiles Statistics 2023](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83623)
[Q27(iii) Summary - Mobiles Statistics 2024 (to date)](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83624)
[Q27(iv) Detailed - Mobiles Statistics 2023](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83625)
[Q27(v) Detailed - Mobiles Statistics 2024 (to date)](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83626)

### **Q28/1024**  **Councillor P. Gogarty**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the annual costs for each mobile library; and if a statement can be made on the matter?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council has a fleet of 3 mobile libraries and 2 library delivery vans. While a breakdown of costs by each vehicle is not available, the non-pay cost of the fleet for the full year 2023 can be broken down as follows:

Fuel - €11,000

Vehicle Maintenance, Operation and Fleet Management - €56,000

Cleaning - €2,200

Programming/Events - €7,000

Computer/Internet - €3,200

Total - €79,400

### **Q29/1024**  **Councillor P. Gogarty**

To ask the Manager, in the absence of a central online location that provides such information being available, to outline for the benefit of the elected members the seasonal opening and closing times of all car parks managed by SDCC in the county and to make this available for all citizens in a suitable part of the website in the coming weeks?

**REPLY:**

The opening and closing times of car parks located within parks are currently available on the SDCC website:  <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/sport-and-recreation/parks/>

In addition the following Council car parks which do not close and are covered under the Parking Pay & Display Scheme are listed below

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Name** |
| Palmerstown | Kennelsfort Road Upper Public Car Park |
| Rathfarnham | Rathfarnham Castle Car park |
|   | Village Court Public Park |
|   | Rosemount Shop Centre Car Park(known as Marian Road) |
| Tallaght | Oldbawn Road Public Car Park |
|   | Westpark - Tallaght Courthouse |
|   | Main Street, Tallaght |
| Templeogue | Fortfield Park Public Car Park |
|   | Riverside Cottages Public Car Park |
|   | Rear of the Morgue - Piggery Car Park |

### **Q30/1024**  **Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive how much is budgeted for 2024 for the SDCC brand review?

**REPLY:**

 There is €66,150 budgeted for 2024 for Brand Strategy Services, which are being delivered in parallel with the Councils Corporate Plan 2025-2029.

### **Q31/1024**  **Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive how many households are currently paying rent to SDCC including HAP and RAS?

**REPLY:**

There are currently 11,106 households who pay their rent directly to South Dublin County Council as detailed below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account type** | **No.** |
| Council | 9986 |
| RAS | 590 |
| Leasing | 530 |

In addition, there are 2432 active HAP accounts who pay their rent directly to the national shared service managed by Limerick County Council.

### **Q32/1024**  **Councillor M. Johansson**To ask the Chief Executive to provide any details of housing projects delivered through the LDA in the county since its introduction in 2023, including a breakdown of social, cost rental, affordable purchase and private purchase units.

**REPLY:**

The Land Development Agency, through its partnerships with homebuilders (Project Tosaigh) has delivered 628 cost rental and social homes in the South Dublin County Council area including:

* Parklands, CityWest, Dublin 24 (55 cost rental homes)
* The Quarter, CityWest, Dublin 24 (236 cost rental homes and 133 social homes)
* Cookstown, Dublin 24 (204 homes, which includes 20 social homes)

The Agency is committed to its strong partnership with South Dublin County Council and will work actively with members and officials to deliver more affordable and social homes to meet the county’s housing need.

### **Q33/1024**  **Councillor M. Johansson**To ask the Chief Executive what percentage of the council's Revenue account income has been made up by Local Property Tax, each year since its introduction?

**REPLY:**

Local Property Tax (LPT) was introduced under the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, with new powers conferred on local authorities to vary the basic rate of LPT by up to 15% from 2015.

The percentage of the Council’s revenue account funded by Local Property Tax is shown below:



### **Q34/1024**  **Councillor K. Keane**To ask the Chief Executive what powers the council have to enforce the recommendations of council environmental health inspections on HAP properties

### .

**REPLY:**

The minimum standards for private rented accommodation are set out in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019. The Council has a statutory obligation to enforce the regulations, and to inspect private rented accommodation to ensure minimum standards are met. Inspections of Housing Assistant Payment (HAP) properties, privately rented properties, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) properties, and properties managed by Approved Housing Bodies are carried out on a pro-active basis, and in response to complaints from tenants.

By agency agreement, Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) from the Health Service Executive carry out the enforcement function on behalf of the Council. Where contraventions of the regulations are identified, an improvement letter issues to the landlord detailing works to be completed within a prescribed timeframe. Both the Council and the EHOs actively work with landlords with the aim of achieving compliance. Failure by the landlord to complete the required works may result in escalation to enforcement proceedings. These include the following:

**Improvement Notice**
On recommendation by the EHO, an improvement notice may be served by the Council where there are significant contraventions of the regulations, or a history on non-compliance with improvement letter(s).

**Prohibition Notice**
On recommendation by the EHO, where a landlord fails to comply with an improvement notice, the Council may serve a prohibition notice. The prohibition notice directs the landlord not to re-let the property until contraventions identified in the improvement notice have been remedied.

**Legal Proceedings**
On recommendation by the EHO, the Council may consider initiating legal proceedings where a landlord fails to comply with an improvement notice, or re-lets a property in breach of a prohibition notice.

### **Q35/1024**  **Councillor K. Keane**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the process by which disabled tenants can view the property before they accept the councils offer.

**REPLY:**

The Council operates a medically approved list in respect of applicants with enduring lifelong medical conditions. On approval applicants are added to this list following an assessment of the submitted HMD Form 1 and supporting documentation. Those in need of standard accommodation will continue to have access to the on-line Choice Based Letting(CBL) system. Applicants with physical disabilities do not have access to CBL and will be offered suitable available properties from our medical section in accordance with the allocation scheme. Opportunities are afforded to these clients and their occupational therapists to view the property if required.

There are currently 392 medically approved applicants with a further 277 approved for supported living. Of these applicants 240 have been approved by the Council for ground floor accommodation with 105 persons requiring wheelchair accessible accommodation. Refusal of two reasonable offers will result in a deferral for a period of 12 months.

### **Q36/1024**  **Councillor R. Mannion**To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans for SDCC to amend policy/practices allowing for information relating to the progress of CRTiS applications to be shared with the tenant.

**REPLY:**

The Cost Rental Tenant in-Situ (CRTiS) Scheme is administered by the Housing Agency. It is a scheme that is available where a tenant household faces the termination of their tenancy due to the landlord’s intention to sell the property. The scheme is available if the tenant household:

* is not able to purchase the property from the landlord
* is at risk of homelessness
* is not eligible for, or currently in receipt of social housing supports (that is in receipt of HAP or in the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

If a tenant has a query about CRTiS they can contact the Housing Agency by phone at 1800 000 024 or via email at tenantinsitu@housingagency.ie.

### **Q37/1024**  **Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Chief Executive if legislation allows for SDCC to extend the eligibility timescale for Homeless HAP to 90 days, in line with the typical notice periods granted through the courts if facing eviction

**REPLY:**

The Homeless HAP scheme operated by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) on behalf of the Dublin local authorities, provides discretion to exceed the HAP rent limits for homeless households, if this is necessary in order to source suitable accommodation. To qualify for HAP under this scheme, a household must be accepted as homeless within the meaning of [section 2 of the Housing Act 1988](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishstatutebook.ie%2Feli%2F1988%2Fact%2F28%2Fsection%2F2%2Fenacted%2Fen%2Fhtml&amp;data=05%7C02%7Celeech%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C1b40d07d374d43ae98a508dce6da3767%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638639072117033827%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C4000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=ykig%2FUSCiv3NNEgv8gmMhJ4X3Qa5bR997J%2B%2Bu%2Bfv98o%3D&amp;reserved=0) by one of the 4 Dublin local authorities.

If the risk of homelessness is in the near future (within three months) the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) has agreed that Homeless HAP rates may be approved to prevent homelessness where possible. This allows for the maximum discretion of 50%.

### **Q38/1024**  **Councillor S. Moynihan**

To ask the Chief Executive to specify the number of Medical Practitioners that are engaged by the Council in the determination of HMD1 forms, broken down by academic or medical qualification and the number determinations made by year for the years 2019-2024 and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

The Council were advised by the Health Service Executive (HSE) in August 2023, that they would be longer be providing a service to sign off on HMD1 housing application forms. In the interim, a cross departmental committee was established comprising of senior management and our senior social worker within the Housing Department to assess submitted HMD1 forms for approval of medical applications. We are currently preparing a tender to procure an independent medical assessor. We also work closely with the members of the South Dublin Housing Disability Steering Group (HDSG) which consists of representatives from the HSE, disability sector (representatives from mental health, physical, intellectual and sensory), disabled persons advocates and approved housing bodies.

There are currently 392 medically approved applicants with a further 277 approved for supported living. Of these applicants 240 have been approved by the Council for ground floor accommodation with 105 persons requiring wheelchair accessible accommodation.

### **Q39/1024**  **Councillor L. O’Toole**

Can the Chief Executive provide an update on the feasibility study regarding the implementation of a freepost system for people returning official documents to South Dublin County Council, such as grant applications, housing applications, and submissions on planning applications?

**REPLY:**

The following motion was agreed at a Special Council meeting in July 2021:

**“To ask the Chief Executive to look into the cost implications in introducing a freepost system for people wishing to write to South Dublin County Council, to encourage greater participation in local democracy, for people returning official documents, such as grant applications & housing applications.”**

The below figures present this cost estimate, updated to current costs, regarding an introduction of a FREEPOST system for people returning official documents, based on the submission of approximately 500 applications involving applications for housing, HAP, Tenant Disabled Persons Grant, and Older Persons/Disability private grant:-

Provision of 500 pre-printed envelopes                            €   85.00

Postage for 500 envelopes                                            €1,425.00

Estimated monthly cost                                              €1,510.00

Estimated annual cost for postage and stationery                          €18,120.00

Cost for 1 annual Licence                                                             €165.00

                                **TOTAL ANNUAL ESTIMATE                   €18,285.00**

The Council’s current projected postage costs for 2024, without the Freepost provision, is €130,000.

Of relevance here is the national digital strategy for public service, **Connecting Government 2030** which launched in 2022 and sets out the strategy for public service in Ireland to drive a step-change in how public services will be presented and used in the future with the target set for 90% of all applicable public services to be consumed online by 2030. South Dublin County Council's introduction of the Housing Online and ePlanning services are examples of progress made by this local authority in achieving this target.

### **Q40/1024**  **Councillor L. O’Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive at what stage is a tree in a housing estate deemed inadequate, particularly when it has been identified as overgrown, unsuitable for residential areas, and causing issues such as sap damage to property?

**REPLY:**

Trees within the Councils ownership are surveyed as part of the 3 year Tree Maintenance Programme as well as on an individual basis, if required. In instances where trees are alleged to be overgrown or unsuitable these can be listed for an individual survey following which any required works will be scheduled as necessary to ensure the health and safety of residents as well as for the benefit and longevity of the trees themselves.

It is important to note, that all actions undertaken as part of tree maintenance are directly informed by the Council approved, ‘Living with Trees’ policy. The following items deal with the issues listed:

As per Section 4.3 Tree removal or pruning will not be undertaken where:

* Trees are perceived to be too large.
* Satellite dish TV reception is interrupted.
* Sunlight may be blocked from reaching properties or gardens.
* Views are obstructed.
* Seasonal or naturally occurring events happen, for example, falling leaves, fruit, seeds or berries, honeydew sap, bird droppings, pollen allergies.
* Insects or other non-hazardous wildlife are present.

In terms of trees in conflict with the built environment, Section 6.5 outlines the following: In circumstances where structural damage can be repaired or reasonably resolved by appropriate engineering solutions, the Council will not normally consider removal of a tree, except where the tree is considered to be of poor structural or physiological condition. Property owners will, at their own expense, be expected to provide evidence from an appropriately qualified professional that a particular tree is or has caused damage to their property and that all reasonable engineering alternatives have been explored before felling will be considered. Where evidence is provided which demonstrates a Council owned tree is the cause of damage, the Council will take appropriate action on a case by case basis.

It is important to note that while the Council seek to retain as many trees as possible across the County to assist in the efforts being made against Climate Change and to contribute towards our Green Infrastructure, works will be actioned to fulfil legal obligations as well as to ensure the safety of the public and properties.

Tree works will be undertaken:

* Where an inspection has identified visible decay, fungal brackets indicating possible root and trunk decay or any other defect that would lead to the tree failing.
* A tree is dead or visibly in decline.
* To abate an actionable nuisance, where branches are touching buildings, for example, physical contact with walls, windows and gutters.
* Where road signs, traffic signals, street lights, and sightlines for vehicles and pedestrians are obscured.
* Evidence has been provided that the tree is a contributing factor in causing structural damage that cannot be reasonably addressed by an alternative solution and proactive tree management has had no mitigating effect.

### **Q41/1024**  **Councillor L. O’Toole**

Can the Chief Executive clarify why trees that appear to be of a potentially dangerous height have been allowed to remain in place?

**REPLY:**

Trees within the Councils ownership are surveyed as part of the 3 year Tree Maintenance Programme as well as on an individual basis, if required. In instances where trees are alleged to be overgrown or unsuitable they can be listed for an individual survey following which any required works will be scheduled as necessary to ensure the health and safety of residents as well as for the benefit and longevity of the trees themselves.

It is important to note, that all actions undertaken as part of tree maintenance are directly informed by the Council approved, ‘Living with Trees’ policy. Section 6.16 outlines the Councils approach to trees that are considered ‘too big’ or ‘too large’:

Residents may feel apprehensive about the size of a tree and consider it dangerous. However, trees are not dangerous just because they are perceived as tall, too big for their surroundings or move in the wind. Tree movement in high winds is natural and one of the ways they can withstand strong winds. Other problems would need to be shown for the Council to consider the tree to be dangerous.

### **Q42/1024**  **Councillor L. O’Toole**

Could the Chief Executive please provide a detailed report on the transportation of the exceptional abnormal loads, weighing 490 tonnes each, from Dublin Port to Grange Castle?

[IMG\_6295](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83596)

**REPLY:**

Beginning on the 26 September 2024, 11no. Exceptional Abnormal Loads of 490 tonnes each will be transported from Dublin Port to power generating sites within Grange Castle and Profile Park.

These exceptional abnormal loads will be transported on the public roads during the night to coincide with the lowest background traffic numbers.

These loads comprise of gas turbines needed to generate electricity to supply to the National Grid in times of critical power usage.

The 11no.  generating units are the largest loads transported on our South Dublin Road network to date and are the culmination of months of planning by South Dublin County Council, the TII, the NTA, and the clients’ design, and haulage teams.

The first of these loads were successfully transported on the 26/27th September.

### **Q43/1024**  **Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive if the reduction of the vacancy refund credit to 25% (in the 2024 budget) has improved the occupancy of vacant commercial and industrial premises this year.

**REPLY:**

At the Annual Budget meeting of South Dublin County Council held on the 16th November 2023, the council resolved, in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019 as amended, to vary the level of refund credits on vacant properties within the administrative County of South Dublin.

The credit that applies to eligible persons was reduced from 50% to 25% for the financial year ending 31st December 2024. The reduction in vacancy refund credit is to incentivise the productive use of existing commercial properties and to deter vacancy and dereliction.

The vacancy refund credits processed/in process to date, for the rates year 2023 applies to 275 properties and has a full rates value of €2,680,000, with a credit value of €1,340,000.

As many applications for vacancy refund credits are not made until year end or until the following year in which the premises was vacant, it is difficult to gauge if the level of occupancy has improved during 2024. However, for the rates year 2024 to date, the vacancy refund credits processed or notified to us, apply to a total of 95 vacant properties with a rates value of €887,000 and a credit value of €221,750.

As a comparative, at 3rd October 2023, we had been notified of 150 vacant properties in SDCC area. With 95 properties being notified in 2024 at the same date, this could indicate that there is less property vacant at this stage.

### **Q44/1024**  **Councillor J. Sinnott**To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the allocation of €1.5M in the 2024 budget to address outstanding road, footpath and laneway maintenance as well as repairs and legacy tree and hedge management issues across the County.

**REPLY:**

A laneway cleaning programme has been implemented on the laneways in the Dublin 12 and Palmerstown areas, this programme of work has covered in excess of 20 km of laneways and will soon be completed.  It has involved the removal of illegally dumped items followed by the sweeping of the laneways to remove any litter, debris and vegetation including weeds.  Finally, all areas have been treated for further weed growth.

A substantial additional provision was made in the 2024 revenue budget for tree maintenance and this has enabled a much increased programme of tree maintenance to be carried out this year.  To the end of August a total of 6,417 trees have been pruned, 666 trees have been removed and 2,297 trees have been planted.  By year end these numbers are expected to increase to 10,000 trees pruned along with 1,000 trees removed and 3,500 trees planted and this represents approximately a 33% increase in activity over other recent years.

The hedge maintenance programme implemented by Public Realm involves once per year cutting of hedges in general except those within parks which do not conflict with pedestrians or cyclists and these are cut once every two or three years.  Locations in proximity to footpaths and cycletracks are currently being identified where two cuts per year are required and arrangements are being made to carry out two cuts on these, one between September and December 2024 and the second between January and February 2025.

With regards to the footpath and road repairs, we undertook a significant area of repair in the laneways around Palmerstown this year. Works in these areas are quite complex due to the difficulty with access, this is resulting in a much higher cost per sqm than what we see with our normal footpath repairs.

### **Q45/1024**  **Councillor J. Sinnott**To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update or report on the €200k allocated under the 2024 budget to fund increased supports to business in receipt of the Trading Online Voucher Scheme to promote e-commerce capability.

**REPLY:**

The Trading Online Voucher scheme is funding by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) is aimed at established microbusinesses, including sole traders, with little of no trading online capability, operating in sectors where the market has not already compelled them to develop this capability.

The scheme offers a grant of up to €2,500 (subject to match funding) to help micro-enterprises (10 employees of less) to develop their ecommerce capability, and in turn reap the positive enterprise impacts of trading online.

The application process for the Trading Online Voucher Scheme is a competitive process and is available to businesses with

* Limited or no trading online presence
* 10 or less employees
* Turnover of less than €2m
* Applicant business must be trading for at least 6 months\*
* Business must be located in the area covered by the LEO to whom they make their application i.e. South Dublin LEO cannot accept applications from businesses located outside our jurisdiction.
* Previous voucher recipients may apply for a second voucher

### **Q46/1024**  **Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive what formal commercial arrangements/licences are in place with car sharing companies and their access to parking in car parks across South County Dublin.

**REPLY:**

The use of Club Cars is being supported and promoted as part of a sustainable lifestyle.  Use of Club Cars enables the occasional use of a vehicle resulting in the reduction of the number of vehicle ownership and vehicles on the road in the county. A car club is a means of sharing a car (or van) between different people, allowing individual drivers and households to experience the benefits of access to a car, while reducing and often removing the cost and need to own and maintain one.

 A car club vehicle with the proper license and permit may park in a paid parking place, in a paid parking area in a public road or in a car park intended for the parking of mechanical vehicles. Club Car licence and permits are manged through the Control of Parking Byelaws, 2021 and applications were assessed to ensure that the location of the club car did not impact public parking on busy village streets.

Currently there are three **Licenced** parking operators. Each licence covers 25 No. permits. In total there are forty three (43) vehicles **permitted** to use the roads in the South Dublin County Council Administrative area as follows: -

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Address** | **ACM** | **Go Car** | **Drive You** | **Yuko** | **Total** | **Total Per Area** |
| Station Road , Adamstown. | Lucan/Palmerstown | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |   |
| Lucan Road, Palmerstown | Lucan/Palmerstown | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 |   |
| Lucan Village, Main Street | Lucan/Palmerstown | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |   |
| Gandon Cresent, Lucan | Lucan/Palmerstown | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |   |
| Kennelsfort Road,Palmerstown | Lucan/Palmerstown | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |   |
| Manor Road, Palmerstown | Lucan/Palmerstown | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |   |
| Griffeen Glen Avenue, Lucan | Lucan/Palmerstown | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 16 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Castle Cresent, Clondalkin | Clondalkin | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |   |
| Main Street , Rathcoole | Clondalkin | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |   |
| Main Street, Newcastle | Clondalkin | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Greenhills Road, Tallaght | Tallaght | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |   |
| Old Greenhills Road,Tallaght | Tallaght | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |   |
| Old Bawn Road , Tallaght | Tallaght | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |   |
| Airton Road, Tallaght | Tallaght | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |   |
| Parklands Road Ballycragh, Tallaght | Tallaght | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Village Court Car Park, Rathfarnham | RTFB | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |   |
| Fortfield Park, Templeogue | RTFB | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |   |
| Castle Cresent, Rathfarnham | RTFB | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |   |
| New Car Park, Templeogue Village | RTFB | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |   |
| Woodstown Cresent, Ballycullen | RTFB | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |   |
| Westbourne Lodge, Ballycullen | RTFB | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |   |
| St Peters Road, Walkinstown | RTFB | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |   |
| Rossmore Road,Templeogue | RTFB | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 12 |
|  Total |   |   |   |   |   | 43 |

As the number of interested operators increases, and permits are due for renewal, the Council will assess the ratio of permitted vehicles to the number of available spaces in specific areas.

### **Q47/1024**  **Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details as to how much of the €70,000 allocated for Conferences Abroad under Budget 2024 has been spent to date.

**REPLY:**

The Draft Annual Budget was considered by Members at the Budget Meeting held on Thursday November 16th. The budget was adopted as presented with the exception of the adjustments necessary to implement the following resolutions:

“That the Draft South Dublin County Council Budget as presented for the local financial year ending 31st December 2024 is hereby amended as follows:-

1. That the provision of €1,056,300 in C0801 Local Authority Water Services as provided by the Chief Executive be increased by €10,000 to €1,066,300 to provide for community water fountains
2. That the provision of €4,124,400 in D0601 General Community & Enterprise Expenses as provided by the Chief Executive be increased by €15,000 to €4,139,400 to provide for Play Streets programme

3. That the provision of €22,239,200 in F0301 Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces as provided by the Chief Executive be increased by €30,000 to €22,269,200

* €15,000 to provide for a Sensory Gardens initiative
* €15,000 to provide for accessible and inclusive play equipment in playgrounds in the County
1. That a provision of €86,900 in H0905 Other Expenses be provided by the Chief Executive be increased by €15,000 to €101,900 for Women’s Caucus to support new/existing female elected representatives in 2024

### **Q48/1024**  **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the chief Executive When will public notice-boards become available in SDCC village's so that local groups can inform the public about their upcoming events?

**REPLY:**

The Council is expected to initiate a tender process in Q4 2024 to secure a partner for the implementation of an outdoor advertising strategy, which will see the development of a communications network across the County. Once the tender process has been complete, the Council will work with the procured partner to identify appropriate sites for the new structures, secure planning permission and roll-out the delivery of the new infrastructure in County. Subject to the tender process and securing planning permission for the new advertising structures, it is anticipated that the new infrastructure will start being erected in 2025 and 2026, which will enable the promotion of Council related services and events.

### **Q49/1024**  **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive For a report into the 300K Have your say by year 2019 – 2024 and LEA as to what funds where not spent in each LEA and what happened to these funds?

**REPLY:**

€300K Have Your Say was a participatory budgeting initiative that ran in each Local Electoral Area (LEA) in South Dublin County from 2017 to its completion in 2023. It was the first participatory budgeting initiative of its kind, both for South Dublin county Council and in Ireland.

Following completion of the roll-out in each LEA in 2023 (note: many projects are still in delivery, as set out in the accompanying documentation), a full evaluation of the initiative was carried out by independent evaluator, Dr Rob Worrell. The findings and recommendations of this report were presented to and are accepted by the Council, including a specific recommendation related to the fact that there was no process for the re-allocation of unspent funding when a project is unable to go ahead and that this should be addressed in any future iteration of participatory budgeting.

At the  Organisation Procedures and Finance Committee meeting in September 2024, it was agreed that a new Steering Group would be established to examine the recommendations from this evaluation report and consider how best to progress their implementation. The formation of this Steering Group is underway.

[Q49(ii)300k Monies spent report per LEA](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83711)

### **Q50/1024**  **Councillor F. Timmons**

### To ask the Chief Executive for a report on dog fouling. Report to include if there are plans for an increase in fines for dog fouling and for more regular patrol of dog patrols?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council continues to look for new and innovative ways to help combat the issue of dog fouling, and over the last number of years has engaged in awareness campaigns across radio, cinema and social media to increase awareness around the issue of dog fouling.

The level of fine which is applied, if a dog fouls in a public place is set by statute, in this instance the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended, and not by South Dublin County Council.  Under [Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997,](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1997/act/12/section/22/enacted/en/html)where faeces has been deposited by a dog in any place to which the section applies, the person in charge of the dog shall immediately remove the faeces and shall ensure that it is properly disposed of in a suitable sanitary manner. An on the spot fine of €150 can be imposed on the owner of a dog who fails to remove dog faeces from a public place, with the maximum fine for this offence being €4,000.

The difficulty with enforcement of Section 22 is the requirement for witness testimony, to report that the offence happened and that an identified person is the person in charge of the dog. In the absence of such testimony, fines cannot be issued. The Council continues to encourage resident's groups and/or individuals to assist the Warden Service in this regard.

Dog litter, if properly bagged can be disposed of in a standard litter bin. The Council provides standard type litter bins in its main parks and at the dog runs which have been provided in those parks. In total there are approximately 850 litter bins provided at park locations in the county, on streets and in villages and urban centres. This number has increased in recent years and will continue to increase as the need arises.

Dog litter is picked up in the same way as litter is through our cleansing services across the county which includes:

* The servicing of on-street litter bins on a daily basis, the service consists of full-time operatives servicing litter bins on dedicated routes each day and this includes servicing of bins on Sundays and bank holidays.
* Daily cleaning of town and village centres in Tallaght, Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown, Rathcoole, Rathfarnham, Templeogue and Walkinstown.  This service is also provided on Sundays and bank holidays.
* Daily cleaning of parks and servicing of park litter bins on a daily basis.
* The operation of mobile cleansing crews dealing with the cleaning and litter picking of parks and estate open spaces, including the response to illegal dumping and collections from Tidy Towns and community clean up events.
* The road sweeping service provided under contract to the Council by Oxigen Environmental Ltd.

These services are considered to be priority services within Public Realm, and in this regard, they are the first tasks to be assigned to staff each day.  What this means in effect is that where a regular operative is not available on a given day a replacement is assigned to their task as a priority, before any other tasks are assigned.

Information relevant to the provision of these services is included in the reports on the Litter Management Plan which are presented to the area committees on a yearly basis.  Any issues raised by elected members through this process are taken into consideration and responded to in an appropriate manner.

Cleansing services are kept under constant review and as issues come to light through area committee business, membersnet and customer care items or through ongoing monitoring and supervision they are responded to in a timely manner.  Where certain changes or improvements to a service are required then these have always been acted on and this will continue to be the case.

South Dublin County Council currently employs two full time Dog Wardens within the administrative area. The Dog Warden's role is the enforcement of the Control of Dogs Act 1986 as amended.  This includes:

* responding to complaints relating to dogs not under effectual control and/or dangerous dogs
* carrying out of licence checks and the initiation of enforcement proceedings where possible
* seizure and collection of unwanted/stray dogs and removal to the dog pound.

Dog Litter Signage is available and requests for signage from registered resident's groups can be made through the Council's Social Credit Scheme.

### **Q51/1024**  **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive what heritage grants will SDCC apply for this year to protect our heritage by LEA?

**REPLY:**

Please find an update on grants under the National Architectural Conservation Grant Schemes, Heritage Council, Local Biodiversity Action Plan Fund and Creative Ireland.

National Architectural Conservation Grant Schemes:

There are currently two different Architectural Conservation Grant Schemes in operation which are managed and administered by the Councils Architectural Conservation Officer and funded by the Department of Housing, Local Gov and Heritage (Architectural Heritage & Policy Unit).

Both schemes are to provide financial assistance to owners/occupiers of Protected Structures or properties within Architectural Conservation Areas in supporting architectural conservation repair works.

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2024 was announced last November 2023 with applications closing in January 2024.   The Architectural Conservation Officer submitted the following projects to the Department and all were successful in receiving funding under BHIS. All projects are currently underway and the date for project completion is next week with recoupment submission to the Dept due by November 8th 2024.

BHIS 2024 LIST OF PROJECTS:

SDC01/24 - 588 Wood view Cottages, Rathfarnham (ACA), Works comprise of the conservation repair of 6 no. historic timber sash windows to halt further deterioration and to improve ventilation and energy efficiency.

Grant Funding - €8,115.25 (50% of total estimated cost of works).

SDC02/24 - Rathcoole Health Centre, Rathcoole , The repair, restoration and reinstatement of the original stone boundary wall which forms part of the Protected Structure.

Grant Funding - €15,000 (max. grant funding available)

SDCO3/24, The Old Glebe House, Newcastle - Repair of original timber panelled front door and repair and upgrading of 18 no. timber sliding sash windows., Grant Funding - €15,000 (max grant funding available).

SDC04/24 - Knocklyon House (Rutland Centre), Roof Repairs - Grant works include removal of fibre cement slate and concrete ridge tiles, remove and replace lead valley, soakers and cover flashing with code 5 lead, with counter flashing set into the render and sealed with hydraulic lime.

Grant Funding - €8,370.62 (50% of total estimated cost of works).

SDC05/24 – No. 7 The Crescent Lucan – Repair and upgrading of 2 no. original timber sash windows to include draught proofing.  Repairs to original front door, draught proofing and decorating.

Grant Funding - €3,370.90 (50% of total estimated cost for works)

SDCO6/24 – No. 8 The Crescent, Lucan - Repair of 3 no. original sash windows, retaining original glass for re-fitting to restored sashes. Front Door - full restoration of door, stripping paint and repair.  Install draught seals, install threshold & decorate. Grant Funding - €4,835.10 (50% of total estimated cost for works).

SDCO7/24 - St. Marys Church, Tallaght Priory - Roof repairs - The lead in the upper roof is to be replaced.  The outer valley will require repairs including removing ineffective liner and replacing with fleece membrane correctly applied, covering all joints etc.  Repair works to rainwater goods are also included. Grant Funding - €15,000 (max grant funding available).

The Historic Structures Fund (HSF) was announced last November with applications closing in January.   The successful project was approved by the Department with a total fund of €50,000 being provided for conservation repairs to St. Finian’s Old School House, Peamount Hospital.  The HSF scheme for 2025 has not yet been announced but in line with previous years an announcement is likely during Nov/December.

BHIS 2025

A Revised Scheme for BHIS was announced by the Minister during July 2024 for next year.  The BHIS Architectural Conservation Grant Scheme for 2025 has been revised and the new closing date for applications is the 27th September 2024 the change was announced by the Department and seeks to give applicants more time to get works completed.  The amount of grant aid has also been revised allowing a greater level of funding to be provided.

The Councils Architectural Conservation Officer is currently assessing grant applications which have been received under BHIS 2025.  Qualifying grant projects will be submitted to the Department for final approval and successful applications will be announced by January 2025.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Fund, Creative Ireland Programme & Heritage Council

The Heritage Officer regularly engages with the Heritage Council’s programme of support for County Heritage Plans which is restricted to applications from Local Authority Heritage Officers. This grant scheme is currently closed and will next be accepting applications in Quarter 1 of 2025. SDCC has been successful with funding applications in previous years from the Heritage Council.

The Heritage Officer also regularly successfully engages with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Fund as administered by National Parks and Wildlife Service, and also with the Creative Ireland Programme. Both grant schemes are currently closed for applications.

A programme of potential SDCC heritage projects for implementation under the Heritage Plan budget 2025 has not yet been compiled and agreed, so it is not possible at this time to outline which projects will be applied for by LEA in the year ahead. There are no other programmes of grants for heritage projects relating to the Heritage Officer’s remit that are currently accepting applications.

### **Q52/1024**  **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive would he give a report to how the highest priority vulnerable families with a disability are prioritised. Report to include when appropriate accommodation is expected be found for them in order to meet the UN Convention the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**REPLY:**

In accordance with our Housing Allocations Scheme, applicants approved on the basis of medical priority are placed on the medical list which is operated on a time on list basis and suitable accommodation is allocated through specially adapted new build or existing accommodation when available or provided. Every effort is made to provide persons with a disability or specific medical need with an appropriate home having regard to medical requirements, housing needs and proximity to service providers and supports.

Housing Applicants who have been awarded medical priority for standard housing have access to the Choice Based Letting (CBL) system. However, applicants who have been awarded medical priority for specially adapted housing do not have access to CBL where their needs are very specific and cannot be met and require delivery of specially adapted homes.

Where an existing specially adapted property becomes available, reports from occupational therapists and other medical supports are assessed to determine the property meet an applicant’s needs, before an offer of housing is made. In some cases, a site visit to the property is carried out with the applicants and their support team to assess the suitability of the property.  All applicants can also at any stage discuss their accommodation needs with staff in the allocation’s sections.

On this basis, neither purpose-built, specially adapted properties, nor properties that have had significant Disabled Persons’ Grants works carried out are advertised through CBL. Instead, these properties are usually matched with the needs of a housing/transfer applicant. In some cases an existing tenant awaiting significant DPG works to be carried out on their current home may also be considered for the property as the terms of the scheme require the Council to make the best use of all specially adapted housing stock and it can also be more feasible to transfer a tenant to an available specially adapted home where it is excessively costly or challenging to carry out the required works to their current property.

Under our Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026, we are committed to increased delivery of suitable homes to meet the needs of households with medical priority through our own construction programme, Part V delivery, partnership with AHBs and through casual vacancies of specially adapted accommodation in our existing housing stock.

### **H6/1024 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H7/1024 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development, and were **CONSIDERED**.

[H7(i) Section 183 Kilcarbery report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83705)
[H7(ii) Kilcarbery Grange site map](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83706)

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive also addressed the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, W Carey, M. Johansson, D. Adelaide, P. Gogarty, J. Spear, E. Ó Broin, D. McManus, S. O’Hara, K. Keane, N. Whelan, R. McMahon, S. Moynihan, L. O’Toole, L. Dunne, A. Edge, J. Tuffy, M. Duff, A. Hayes, V. Casserly, D. Richardson, P. Kearns and P. Holohan.

Queries were raised in relation to sustainable communities, traffic and infrastructure, social and affordable housing, provision of a school, related costs of development and implications should the disposal be rejected.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive, and Mr. J. Frehill, Director for Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development also responded to the Members queries.

The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan, then called for a **ROLL CALL VOTE,** the result of which is as follows:

**FOR: 32 (THIRTY TWO)**
Councillors C. Ahern, S. Barnes, C. Brady, W. Carey, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, T. Costello, L. De Courcy, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, N. Fennell, T. Gilligan, P. Gogarty, A. Hayes, P. Kearns, B. Lawlor, R. Mannion, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, D. McManus, G. Moore, S. Moynihan, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, S. O’Hara, Baby Pereppadan, Britto Pereppadan, D. Richardson, J. Sinnott, J. Tuffy and N. Whelan.

**AGAINST: 7 (SEVEN)**Councillors D. Adelaide, D. Donnelly, P. Holohan, M. Johansson, K. Keane, J. Spear and F. Timmons.

**ABSTAIN: 1 (ONE)**Councillor L. O’Toole.

As a result of the Roll Call Vote, The Section 183 for disposal of additional site in Kilcarbery was **APPROVED** on the proposition of Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor A. Hayes.

### **H8/1024 MANAGERS REPORT & CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT - FOR NOTING**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive and were **CONSIDERED.**

[HI 8 a) Chief Executive's Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83704)
[HI 8 b) Capital Project Progress Report - October 2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83754)
[HI 8 c) Finance Report](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83628)
[HI 8 d) Statistics Report - September 2024](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83764)

### **H8/(c)1024 FINANCE REPORT**

### **A screenshot of a computer**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive and were **CONSIDERED.**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. McManus, A. Edge, P. Gogarty, J. Spear, C. Brady, K. Keane, M. Johansson, P. Kearns, Y. Collins, L. De Courcy, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy, S. Moynihan, P. Holohan, L. O’Toole, C. Ahern, L. McCrave and W. Carey.

Queries were raised in relation to public lighting, CCTV in public spaces, Lucan Pool, Lucan Village Green, Griffeen Bridge, Lucan House, Kingswood Sports Hub, Safe Routes to School, Citywest creche and community centre, housing maintenance requests, EV Charging, Kilcarbery Community Centre, vacant homes grants, Jobstown park, Rathfarnham Castle, Dodder Greenway and traffic management plans.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H9/1024 APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY AND OTHER BODIES - 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**.

### **H9/(b)1024** List of Outside Bodies

LIST OF STATUTORY BODIES

LOCAL

**DODDER GREENWAY STEERING COMMITTEE (**3)

To appoint 3 member to the **Dodder Greenway Steering Committee**

([Paragraph 18, Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2001](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0037/sched10.html) applies)

One Member from the Firhouse – Bohernabreena Local Electoral Area

One Member from the Rathfarnham - Templeogue Local Electoral Area

One Member from the Tallaght Central Local Electoral Area

**TALLAGHT COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE** (2)

To appoint 1 member to the **Tallaght Community Arts Centre**

([Paragraph 18, Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2001](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0037/sched10.html) applies)

 Councillor E. Murphy was appointed at September 2024 OP&F.

**REPLY:**

By virtue of its democratic mandate South Dublin County Council is entitled to make appointments or nominations to a range of joint bodies and other elected bodies.

In accordance with [**Schedule 10 (4) of the Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0037/sched10.html#sched10-l1-4) (Meetings and Proceedings of Local Authorities ) the Council will consider the election, appointment or nomination of members (councillor and non-councillor where appropriate) to these bodies at the Annual Meeting of a Local Authority in an election year.  Appointment to some, under the relevant statutory or other provisions, may fail to be considered and will be made at a later date to the Annual Meeting.

Paragraph 19 (10 of Schedule 10 of the 2001 Act also requires a local authority to seek to promote the objectives of an appropriate gender balance in the making of appointments to its own committees and to other bodies. A local authority is permitted, in the case of appointments to its own committees and in certain instances to other bodies, to appoint non-members with relevant knowledge or experience and may avail of this mechanism to work towards improved gender balance in the making of its appointments.

Vacancies exist on the Tallaght Community Arts Centre committee and The Dodder Valley Greenway committee - these are now before the Members for consideration.

Councillor V. Casserly made the following nominations:

**Tallaght Community Arts:** Councillor Alan Edge

**Dodder Greenway Steering Committee:** Councillors Emma Murphy,
Mick Duff and David McManus.

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor A. Edge and **AGREED**.

### **H10/1024 OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENT 2025 - FOR APPROVAL**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Director of Finance, and was **CONSIDERED**

**REPLY:**

In accordance with [**Sections 106 (7) and 106 (3)(a) of the Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0037/sec0108.html#partxii-chapi-sec108) borrowing is a reserved function which requires the approval of the local authority and the appropriate Minister.

The Council currently has an approved overdraft facility of €25M in order to provide for temporary cash flow timing differences.  The overdraft facility has been utilized twice during 2024.  It is considered prudent to renew the overdraft accommodation of €25M for the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025. Costs associated with the overdraft are limited to interest charges if the facility is used as the bank does not charge for the overdraft facility.

Accordingly, it is recommended that the Council approve, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the securing of an overdraft accommodation (to a maximum limit of) €25m for the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor D. McManus and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Overdraft Accommodation Requirement 2024 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**”

### **H11/1024 LPT VARIATION REPORT - FOR APPROVAL**

### The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Director of Finance, and were **CONSIDERED**

[H11 (a) LPT Local Adjustment Factor](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83692)
[H11 (b) South Dublin Fin 09 2024 Provisional 2025 LPT allocations](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83693)
[H11 (c) LPT Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83757)

Councillor L. McCrave proposed and Councillor S. Moynihan seconded that the LPT be reduced by 15%.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. McCrave, L. Dunne, S. Moynihan, R. McMahon, P. Holohan, D. Adelaide, J. Spear, J. Sinnott, M. Johansson and P. Gogarty. Queries were raised regarding discretionary funding, the Council’s designation of the LPT. going to the government, increasing corporation rates, the importance of improving communities and the principal of ensuring a steady income.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive, and Mr. R. FitzGerald, Director of Finance, responded to the Members queries.

It was **RESOLVED** “That South Dublin County Council hereby determines that the basic rate of Local Property Tax should stand varied downwards by fifteen percent (15%) for the year - 1st November 2024 to 31st October 2025 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in the local authority’s administrative area” and was **APPROVED.**

### **H12/1024 TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2025-2029 - FOR APPROVAL**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. E. Leech, Director for Housing and Community Development and was **CONSIDERED.**

[H12 (a) Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-29](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83768)
[H12 (c) TAP 2025-29 Presentation](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83790)

**REPLY:**

**Introduction**

In accordance with Section 10 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, the Council is required to prepare, adopt and implement a new Traveller Accommodation Programme to meet the existing and projected accommodation needs of the Traveller Community who are eligible for social housing support within the South Dublin County Council administrative area. The new Traveller Accommodation Programme will cover the period from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2029.

The Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Local Government issued a number of directions under the Act in relation to the preparation of the new Traveller Accommodation Programme and these are contained under Circular 46/2023, together with ‘Guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption and Implementation of Local Authority Traveller Accommodation Programmes 2025 – 2029’.  The Minister has specified that the latest date for adoption of accommodation programmes is the 31st December 2024.

**Consultative Process**

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 requires an extensive and thorough consultation process to underpin the preparation and implementation of the accommodation programme with all interests concerned. Accommodation programmes are required to be prepared and implemented in consultation with other local public authorities, community groups and other bodies, Travellers both directly and via the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Traveller support groups and the public in general.  The purpose of these consultation provisions is to ensure that the views of all concerned with or affected by proposals for Traveller Accommodation are considered.

On 9th January 2024, notice of the intention to carry out the 'Assessment of Need' and to prepare the draft accommodation programme was given to members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, the Health Services Executive, and all five adjoining Housing Authorities.  The closing date for the receipt of submissions prior to the publication of the draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 was 8th February 2024. 5 submissions were received from Clondalkin Travellers Development Group, Tallaght Travellers Community Group and the Irish Traveller Movement, National Traveller Women's Forum and Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, National Traveller MABS and Irish Coalition to end Youth Homelessness.

The Council in collaboration with the Clondalkin and Tallaght Traveller community development teams also engaged independent consultants to conduct three focus group meetings with Travellers in April 2024.The needs and preferences of the participants were explored and the requirement for diverse and culturally appropriate choices was highlighted. Participants identified a desire for well-structured sites with safe and healthy living conditions and dedicated space for cultural practices. A desire for proximity to family was also expressed. The participants also highlighted the need for genuine consultation with accountability and transparency.

The draft programme was published on 1st July 2024 and notice of its publication was advertised in the local press and on the Council’s website, social media platforms and our consultation portal. Notification was also provided to the elected members and members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, and the five adjoining Housing Authorities. Following publication, a two-month period in which interested parties could make submissions on the draft programme commenced. The closing date for submissions was Friday, 30th August 2024.

**Outcome of public consultation process:**

A total of 4 submissions were received during the consultation period from Clondalkin Travellers Development Group, Tallaght Travellers Community Group, Cena and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council which are categorised as follows:

* 3 written submissions received via email relating to various issues
* 1 written submission received via email relating to transient sites.

**Summary of issues raised:**

**Provision of a transient site for Travellers be a priority under the new Traveller Accommodation Programme.**

**Response:**
As outlined in the draft Traveller Accommodation Programme, it is an objective of the Council to consider the provision of transient accommodation in the county during the term of the current Traveller Accommodation Programmes. However, in consultation with other Dublin Local Authorities, it has been confirmed that there is no consensus among Travellers for transient sites in their respective areas.  It was collectively agreed among the four Dublin Local Authorities to adopt a regional approach to addressing this matter.

Consideration for their provision within the Dublin regional area will only be given if there is consensus amount Travellers in the region for these sites.  This consideration will be coupled with the development of a national policy governing their location, management, and control.  This approach ensures alignment with the needs and preferences of the Traveller community.

**Provision of culturally appropriate housing**

**Response:**
The Council constructs and refurbishes Traveller specific accommodation projects in accordance with guidelines issued under section 123(6) of the Housing Act 1988, as amended by the 1998 Act.  These guidelines are available on the departmental website at [www.housing.gov.ie](http://www.housing.gov.ie) which were prepared in consultation with representatives from the Traveller community and National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. Extensive consultation is also undertaken with residents in respect of the design and layout of their new homes and the Council have engaged Cena a recognised approved housing body led by Travellers to assist in a number of consultation processes. It should also be noted that the research for developing draft guidance on the planning and design of Traveller specific accommodation is currently being finalised by the DHLGH.

**Long term accommodation**

**Response:**
An assessment of the projected accommodation needs of Travellers arising from the duration of the programme has been carried out. The results indicate that there is projected need for an additional 146 units of accommodation.  These will be achieved by the construction of new Traveller specific group housing developments, refurbishment of existing vacant units and standard social housing allocations.

**Homelessness**

**Response:**
The Council recognises the vulnerability of Travellers who are experiencing homelessness, and we continue to work and collaborate closely with the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (DRHE) to assist individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. In the interim, while awaiting the availability of social homes, homeless families are supported by the Council’s Homeless Unit which helps those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The Unit provides comprehensive outreach assistance as well as detailing emergency accommodation options, including central placement, self-accommodate, family hubs, and other supported accommodation. The Council is committed to ensuring that all individuals in need receive the necessary support and guidance during their time of need and we recognise the literacy and digital issues facing Travellers who are seeking to access homeless services.

**Caravan Loans**

**Response:**
It is acknowledged that Travellers can face difficulty in accessing finance to purchase caravans/mobile homes. In response, the Council volunteered to be one of the pilot local authorities for the new Caravan Loan Scheme launched by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in 2021 and we also participated in the 2023 National Caravan Loan Scheme. The Council remains committed to facilitating access to suitable accommodation for Travellers through this financial support scheme subject to funding from the DHLGH.

**Provision of Traveller Specific Age Friendly Accommodation**

**Response:**
It is proposed to consider the provision of housing specifically designed/adapted for older members of the Traveller Community within this programme. While it is noted that the life expectancy is generally lower among members of the Traveller Community, there is an observable increase in the age profiles with some older Travellers tenants residing in accommodation that is no longer suitable for their needs. New group housing developments at Fonthill, Kishogue and Owendoher Haven have all incorporated age friendly homes and the Council will also consider adaptation works to existing homes where required.

**Tenant Participation**

**Response:**
The Traveller Accommodation Unit welcomes and encourages tenant participation in the management and maintenance of our Traveller specific accommodation.  The team meet various resident’s associations and community groups on site regularly and on an informal basis. In addition, monthly outreach clinics are held in collaboration with the Tallaght and Clondalkin Traveller community development projects.

**Wrap around supports for Traveller families**

**Response:**
Approval has been granted for the recruitment of a dedicated Traveller Liaison Officer who will work with and support Travellers with their housing options. This addition will greatly enhance the team and strengthen the Council’s efforts in providing effective culturally appropriate support services to Travellers.

**Chairperson of the LTACC should be ex-officio member of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee**

**Response:**
The guidelines recommend that the Strategic Policy Committees will have two-thirds of its membership drawn from the elected representatives of the Council and that one-third of the membership be drawn from external sectoral groupings. The Housing SPC will have 8 elected members, plus 1 representative from the Development Construction Sector, 2 PPN (1 community, 1 social inclusion pillar) and 1 Trade Union. A number of elected officials who are members of the Housing SPC are also represented on the LTACC and this ensures communication and collaboration between the two committees.

**Recommendation**

Following a review of the submissions and having regard for the legislative requirements, it is now recommended that the Council proceed with the draft ‘Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029’ in the foregoing report. Accordingly, the following Motion is proposed for adoption:

“The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025–2029 is hereby adopted by South Dublin County Council.”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors A. Edge, J. Spear, P. Holohan, P. Gogarty, M. Johansson, W. Carey, K. Keane, D. Adelaide and F. Timmons. Queries were raised in relation to deferring the item, relocation of residents through the construction period, transient sites, and proposed new sites.

Ms. E. Leech Director for Housing and Community Development, responded to the queries.

Councillor J. Spear proposed and Councillor D. Adelaide seconded a motion to defer the item.

The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan, then called for a **ROLL CALL VOTE** to defer the item**,** the result of which is as follows:

**FOR: 4 (FOUR)**
Councillors D. Adelaide, M. Johansson, K. Keane and J. Spear.

**AGAINST: 24 (TWENTY FOUR)**
Councillors C. Brady, W. Carey, V. Casserly, D. Donnelly, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, N. Fennell, P. Gogarty, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, B. Lawlor, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, G. Moore, S. Moynihan, E. Murphy, S. O’Hara, Baby Pereppadan, Britto Pereppadan, D. Richardson, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy and N. Whelan.

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

As a result of the Roll Call Vote the deferral of the item was **NOT AGREED**.

The Reports were **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor V. Casserly, and **RESLOVED** that:

**“The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025–2029 is hereby adopted by South Dublin County Council.”**

### **H13/1024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS - FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. E. Leech, Director for Housing and Community Development and was **CONSIDERED**

**REPLY:**

The online rolling application process provides community and voluntary groups who are responding to locally identified needs within their communities with the opportunity to apply for assistance from the Council under the following categories:

* Community Development Grants
* Community Events Funding
* Sports Development Grants

Applications are assessed by the Community Development Team under the following criteria:

* Impact on local community and local community involvement.
* Proven track record of project delivery and non-duplication of activities in the local area.
* Sustainable and value for money projects with clear/accurate costings.
* Existing funds available to the group/alternative funding sources.

Following the assessment process and having regard to the available budget **9** grants totalling **€15,250.00** were approved for **9** local groups summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **No:** | **Amount** |
| Sports Development Grants | 9 | €15,250.00 |
| **Total** | **9** | **€15,250.00** |

The final list of approved grants together with their respective approved grant amounts is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Group** | **Funding Category Applied For** | **Sub-Category of Grant** | **Amount** |
| KRFC Mens Shed | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €1,000.00 |
| LJays Elite Martial Arts | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €3,000.00 |
| Clondalkin Cricket Club | Sports Development Grant | Coach Training | €1,000.00 |
| St. Patrick's GAA Club | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €2,500.00 |
| Start Bright Early Years and After school services | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €1,250.00 |
| This Is Me Neurodiversity | Sports Development Grant | Programme Delivery | €2,000.00 |
| Rathcoole Baton Twirlers | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €2,500.00 |
| Clondalkin/Lucan Women's Network | Sports Development Grant | Coach Training | €500.00 |
| Knocklyon Junior Badminton Club | Sports Development Grant | Programme Delivery | €1,500.00 |

Councillor S. Moynihan raised a query in relation to the closing date for the SIF Grant.

Ms. E. Leech, Director for Housing and Community Development, responded to the Member’s query.

The report was **NOTED**

### **H14/1024 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

(A) Correspondence RE European Parliament has been elected

(B) Motion passed at Wexford County Council - Zero tolerance approach to violence

(C) Resolutions agreed by Members of Sligo CC RE Community Employment Schemes

(D) Resolutions passed by Leitrim CC - RE Strategic Gas Emergency

(E) Resolutions passed by Leitrim CC - RE Zero tolerance approach to violence

(F) Resolutions passed by Roscommon CC - Illegal dumping

(G) Resolutions passed by Roscommon CC - Min. Chambers VAT rate

(H) Resolutions passed by Roscommon CC - Min.Ryan VAT rate

[European Parliament has been elected](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83734)
[Motion passed at Wexford County Council - Zero tolerance approach to violence](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83725)
[Resolutions agreed by Members of Sligo CC RE Community Employment Schemes](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83728)
[Resolutions passed by Leitrim CC - RE Strategic Gas Emergency](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83727)
[Resolutions passed by Leitrim CC - RE Zero tolerance approach to violence](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83726)
[Resolutions passed by Roscommon CC - Illegal dumping](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83729)
[Resolutions passed by Roscommon CC - Min. Chambers VAT rate](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83730)
[Resolutions passed by Roscommon CC - Min.Ryan VAT rate](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/sdcc/departments/corporate/apps/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=83731)

The Correspondence was **NOTED.**

### **M14/1024 Quiet Streets Programme**

It was proposed by Councillor C. Brady seconded by Councillor Britto Pereppadan Councillor and **MOVED** without debate that

This council calls on the Chief Executive, in the interests of road safety and as an additional traffic management tool, to implement a Quiet Streets programme in our county.

**REPORT:**

Quiet streets are streets that have been enhanced to improve the atmosphere and safety of residential areas. They help to create a more vibrant and enjoyable living environment for residents.

Typically, streets chosen for such a programme receive tailored solutions that aim to reduce the impact of through vehicular traffic on residents while enhancing air quality and making the street a more attractive and pleasant place to spend time or play. Vehicular speeds are also reduced through the deployment of junction tightening and the street design using measures from the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets.

Solutions might also include planters or bollards to stop through motor traffic using the street and prevent cars from taking 'shortcuts’ through residential areas, a practice often called ‘rat-running’.

Quiet streets are delivered using ‘filtered permeability’. This means people walking, wheeling and cycling can take the most direct route, but cars that are just passing through are diverted away to reduce through traffic. Quiet streets retain vehicle access for residents living on a street, while preventing through traffic.

As the introduction of such a programme would require significant funding and staff resources, it is intended to include the Quiet Streets proposal in the work programme for the LUPT SPC.

### **M16/1024 Disability Services Recruitment**

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **MOVED** without debate

To call on the Government to introduce an emergency strategy to address the crisis in disability services in terms of the recruitment and retention of essential staff.

**REPORT:**

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

### **M17/1024 HGV Parking**

It was proposed by Councillor P. Gogarty seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **MOVED** without debate

That the Chief Executive ensures that signs are installed at the entrances to estates in our county to give full legal effect to the HGV parking ban implemented in the early 2000s, commencing with urgent cases identified by Councillors.

**REPORT:**

A number of cases of vans and small lorries parking in residential estates have been raised by Councillors at Traffic Management Meetings and by members of the public to the Roads Department.

The SDCC Traffic section asked an Garda Síochána to enforce the existing general HGV no parking policy, who have told us that a general policy to ban HGV's in housing estates is not enforceable.

It is their advice that there must be specific information signage erected at each location to inform residents that a parking restriction is in place and a description of the nature of that restriction.

It is a requirement that all Statutory Signing and Lining receive approval from the Garda Commissioner.

The SDCC Traffic section currently plan to engage with the Gardai and erect signage in a residential estate in one Lucan housing estate as a pilot measure.

**Motions Not Reached:**

### **M1/1024 Apartheid Free Zone**

Councillor J. Spear

That Council agrees to make South Dublin County Council an apartheid-free zone and boycott all Israeli goods.

###  **M2/1024 Compulsory Purchase Order**

Councillor M. Johansson

That the Chief Executive initiate Compulsory Purchase Order proceedings on all sites that are on the Derelict Sites Register (as published 20/06/2024)

### **M3/1024 Public Bins**

Councillor N. Whelan

This Council calls on the Chief Executive to immediately reverse the policy of removing public bins from this county as a method of reducing illegal dumping of domestic waste and requests that all public bins removed for this reason are replaced as a matter of urgency.

### **M4/1024 Public Health Nurses**

Councillor D. Adelaide

That the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, calling on him to meet with local representatives regarding the lack of public health nurses in the south Dublin county area.

### **M5/1024 Communication Boards**

Councillor R. Mannion

This Council welcomes and commends the roll out of Communication Boards at playing facilities in SDCC which aim to improve accessibility and inclusive play for children with language difficulties, and calls on the Chief Executive look at the feasibility of their inclusion in other parks, pitches or play facilities where appropriate.

### **M6/1024 Housing Adaptation Grants**

Councillor Y. Collins

That this Council writes to the Department of Housing asking that, when assessing eligibility for Housing Adaptation Grants, that the income of the whole household, as opposed to the individual seeking assistance, should not always be taken into account, and that there be flexibility to determine each application on a case by case basis to prevent undue hardship

### **M7/1024 Community Benefit Scheme**

Councillor W. Carey

That this Council calls on the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to introduce a community benefit scheme to be paid into by companies and business interests that use extensive state resources but offer a low worker/job ratio comparative to industrial norms.

### **M8/1024 Estates TIC**

Councillor E. Ó Broin

This Council agrees to develop a method for residents living in estates that have not yet been taken in charge (TIC) to liaise with SDCC on the work needed for an estate to be at the TIC standard.

### **M9/1024 State of Palestine**

Councillor F. Timmons

That South Dublin County Council notes the decision by the Government to recognise the State of Palestine and now calls on the Taoiseach to pass the Occupied Territories Bill which has been supported at all stages by a majority of members of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann.

### **M10/1024 Inspections of illegally parked cars**

Councillor J. Sinnott

This Council calls for increased inspections for cars illegal parked and breaches of road safety in the vicinity of schools in local residential areas at drop off and pick up times throughout the county.

### **M11/1024 Responsible Dog Ownership**

Councillor E. Murphy

That South Dublin County Council invests in a standalone educational campaign on responsible dog ownership focussing on dog fouling, appropriate signage, the role of the dog wardens, bye-laws on dogs in public open spaces and dogs in the home.

### **M12/1024 Solid Fuels**

Councillor C Ahern

That this Council undertakes an inspection campaign this winter to ensure all retailers only stock and sell approved solid fuels.

### **M13/1024 AHB’s**

Councillor T. Costello

That SDCC engage with AHB's regarding no pet policies when allocating housing, pets are an integral part of a family and people should not be faced with the decision to surrender them or refuse an offer

### **M15/1024 SPHE Curriculum**

Councillor L. de Courcy

That this council calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Children, Norma Foley and ask her to remove the portions of the SPHE curriculum dealing with sex, pornography and gender identity in horrendously explicit and wholly inappropriate terms for 12-15 year old children.

### **M18/1024 Modular Homes**

Councillor L. O'Toole

That this Council urgently requests a meeting with the relevant government departments and organisations involved in the modular homes project.

 *Meeting Ended at 18:58.*