



December 2024

Chief Executive's Report

Opening of Killinarden Park

About the Chief Executive's Report

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

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

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Land Use, Planning and Transportation



South Dublin to Gather Data for Walking and Cycling Report

Sustrans assisted by SDCC Active Travel, will commence data collection in 2025, including interviews with stakeholders, for the next Walking and Cycling Index report which are created every two years.

This report is an independent study of perception, impact, and levels of Active Travel. The index provides a review of the benefits gained by the increase in walking and cycling, with statistics on health, carbon savings and economic benefits, as well as identifying the barriers to increasing walking and cycling levels. The reliability and independence of these reports assist the SDCC Active Travel team to communicate the benefits for everyone and helps to inform the delivery of Cycle South Dublin.

Sustrans are a charity focused on researching and promoting Active Travel in urban areas in the UK and Ireland and also publish the Walking and Cycling Index Data Tool, an interactive tool which allows active travel teams and the public to examine people's attitudes towards and behaviour in walking, wheeling, and cycling. This is available [here](#).



New Housing Supply Monitor Developed

An innovative new Housing Supply Monitor dashboard has been developed by the planning department which will form a key part of reviewing the progress of delivery of the County Development Plan housing targets set out in the core strategy of the Plan.

The dashboard, which is now live, will be updated each quarter, and users will be able to see and filter the number of units delivered since the development plan came into effect in August 2022, where they were delivered including by mapped neighbourhood area, the type of housing, the stages of delivery, the number of bedrooms and length of time to deliver. This innovative project will help deliver better public services and increase digital services.

€96,000 Allocated to Help Preserve our Built Heritage

It was another successful year for grant projects being funded under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2024. Seven projects were completed under BHIS with total project costs amounting to €164,009.17.

The allocation for South Dublin County Council under the scheme for 2024 was €96,000 and owners of Protected Structures and buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas were invited to apply for funding during January.

The grant fund provided support to private owners and public buildings including St. Mary's Church, Tallaght Priory.

The completed projects delivered repairs to historic roofs, repair and upgrading of historic windows and

the conservation of architectural features. 690 days of employment were also created on these projects during the grant period, which included the engagement of specialist contractors, roofers, specialist joiners and conservation architects across the various projects.

The fund is intended to assist with works to safeguard Protected Structures and, in certain cases, works to structures within Architectural Conservation Areas, and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals and tradespeople.

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and is administered by the Council's Architectural Conservation

Officer, LUPT Department.



Bridge Repairs in South Dublin

Bridge Repairs in South Dublin

Following a countywide bridge inspection programme in 2023, the Council undertook a bridge repair programme in 2024. Four bridges in the County have been repaired this year. Repairs of the arch and parapet were carried out on Kiltel Road bridge. The parapet was rebuilt on Slade Road and Cruagh Road bridges including pointing work on the Cruagh Road bridge. Significant structural repairs were also carried out on the Tibbradden Road/Mutton Lane bridge.

Many of these repairs are structural in nature and usually require a road closure to facilitate the repairs. While this can be quite disruptive for traffic movement, the works are essential to securing our road network. The 2025 programme for bridge repairs is currently being finalised.



Sustrans Walking and Cycling Index Report



Housing, Social and Community Development

Housing Adaptation Grants-Update

The new Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People Regulations 2024 came into effect on 1st December 2024. The updated regulations introduce increased maximum grant limits, higher income thresholds and additional income deductions.

The maximum grant allowable for a Housing Adaptation Grant has increased to €40,000, Housing Aid for Older People grant has increased to €10,700 and the Mobility Aid Grant has increased to €8,000. Changes under the regulations include that only the income of the homeowner and spouse/partner or tenant and spouse/partner will be considered. The deduction for a dependent child is increased from €5,000 to €6,250.

New allowances have been introduced for mortgage/rent payments, residential care fees and cost of care in the home. Grant applications for the Housing Adaptation Grant, Mobility Aids Housing Grant and the Housing Aid for Older Persons Scheme can now be made through Housing Online; the Council's Integrated Housing System.



Caravan Loan Scheme 2025

The latest preferential National Caravan Loan Scheme 2025 for Travellers was launched on 7th November by the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning. This programme aims to provide resident Travellers with an affordable, easy to repay loan which substantially increases the loan amount limit from €40,000 to a maximum of €80,000. With the Council arranging an affordable repayment calculation that will span over an agreed timeframe. This scheme is an attractive option for young Travellers both single and married to obtain their first mobile home or to upgrade their existing home. We aim to circulate application forms for the Caravan Loan Scheme countywide in early 2025.

Annual Educational Bursary Awards

The Council reaffirmed its commitment to supporting education accessibility through its 'Access to Third Level Education Bursary' programme at a ceremony on Friday, November 15, 2024.

This initiative, launched in partnership with the then Institute of Technology Tallaght (now TU Dublin) in 2006, aims to alleviate financial barriers for students at risk of educational disadvantage by encouraging them to pursue higher education.

Fifteen students were honoured this year, including eight first-year students beginning their academic journey and seven second-year students who had successfully completed their first year with support from the programme. Each recipient received €2,500 for the 2024/2025 academic year. Additionally, a runner-up student who joined TU

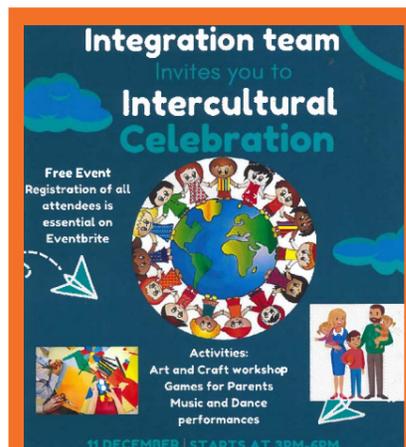
Dublin through its Access Programme was awarded a special grant recognising their their hard work and dedication.

Cllr Mick Duff attended the event on behalf of the Mayor and expressed his gratitude to TU Dublin, for their continued partnership. "Your ongoing support makes this programme possible, and we look forward to continuing this collaboration in the years ahead" he said.

Addressing the students, he added, "I am truly delighted to be part of this initiative. Your achievements in the Leaving Certificate and securing your place here at TU Dublin are commendable. Congratulations to each and every one of you."

The programme highlights the long-standing partnership between the Council and TU Dublin, showcasing

the impact of collaborative efforts to empower young people and promote equal opportunities in higher education.



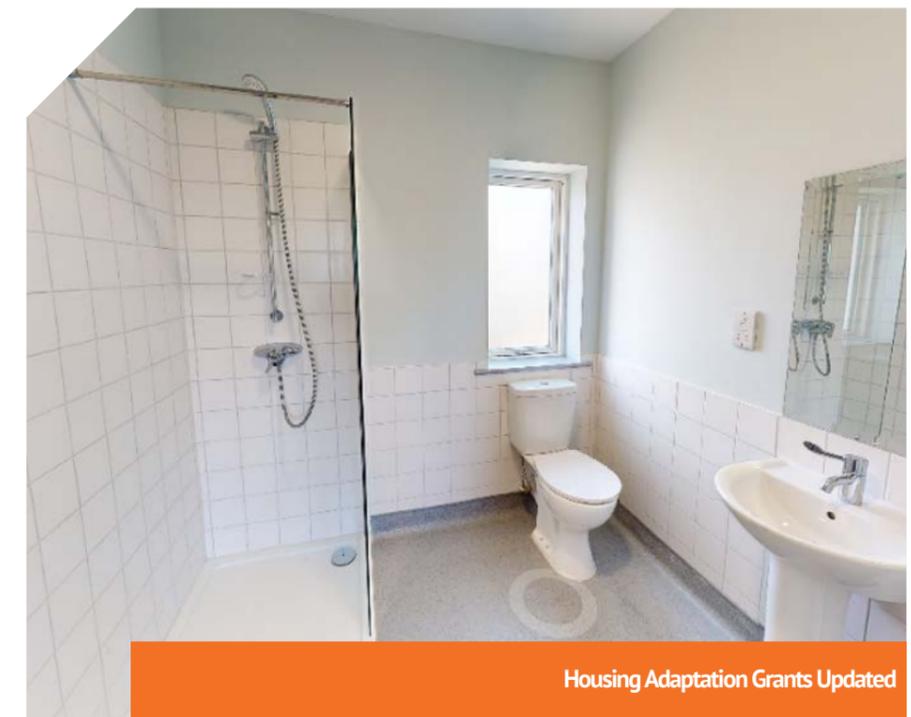
Integration Celebration on 11th December

Intercultural Celebration Event

The Integration Team is hosting an Intercultural Celebration on the 11th of December in Aon Scéal Café, Tallaght Village and The Well Community Space.

The celebration will include workshops for children and their parents who are currently in International Protection, along with music and dance performances.

This end-of-the-year celebration aims to connect the local community with international protection applicants residing in the area and show the similarities between the Irish language and culture with those of other countries.



Housing Adaptation Grants Updated



Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

Discover Something New at Your Library with Firstival!

Are you ready to step into something entirely new? South Dublin Libraries invites you to Firstival, an innovative festival designed for adults ready to explore fresh experiences and expand their horizons!

Taking place this coming January, Firstival will transform library spaces across South Dublin into vibrant hubs of creativity and discovery, encouraging people of all ages to try something they've never done before. At the heart of Firstival lies the "joy of firsts."

Whether you've always wanted to paint, explore modern calligraphy, try the latest exercise craze, pick up a new musical instrument, or dive into creative upcycling, this festival offers something for everyone.

The programme includes hands-on arts and crafts workshops, movement and wellness sessions, and interactive

music experiences, all led by friendly, knowledgeable instructors eager to share their skills. These sessions are perfect for absolute beginners or the simply curious—giving everyone the chance to dive into something new in a warm, supportive environment. Firstival isn't just about learning; it's about building connections.

You'll be joining others who are just as excited to step outside their comfort zones, creating a shared space of enthusiasm and adventure. Together, you'll experience the power of community and creativity that libraries offer beyond the world of books.

Firstival runs from 13th January – 18th January, so mark your calendar! For more information and the full programme lineup, visit www.southdublinlibraries.ie.

At Firstival, you'll find inspiration,

encouragement, and the tools to bring your ideas to life. Join us and find your next favourite activity!



Leaders in South Dublin Network

Leaders in South Dublin Network

The Leaders in South Dublin Network has been established to empower 15 business owners with skills and support to scale their businesses. This builds on the success of LEO South Dublin's inaugural Leadership Programme, where 40 businesses recently celebrated their success during 2024 at a special event held in Work IQ. Meeting bi-monthly, the 15 businesses on the programme gain access to a supportive community of like-minded entrepreneurs, expert insights on leadership, and accountability in implementing their business strategies. This network, combined with our other networks, helps extend the reach of businesses in the County, providing a structured, collaborative environment for strategic development and business success for South Dublin's SMEs.

Origami Monk Clondalkin

Origami Monk, by Ngaire Jackson is a new large-scale monastic sculpture, at the junction of New Nangor Road and Ninth Lock Road. It is a new public artwork in Clondalkin Village and a compelling visual link to the important monastic sites of Clondalkin. The artwork was commissioned as a sister piece to complement An Chluain, by Holgar Lonze which sits adjacent to the Woodford Roundabout. Both were commissioned as heritage pieces, resulting from an open competition and selected by a panel made up of local representatives, Clondalkin Tidy Towns, independent artists, and Council staff from the Arts Office, Public Realm, Land Use Planning and Transportation. It is funded by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage under the Per Cent for Art Scheme.

The sculpture's bold geometric design hints at a 'paper' folding technique, in reference to the Clondalkin Paper Mills, which was formerly located nearby. It's rigid, geometric design alludes to the rigid rules and order that shaped the daily life of a monk.

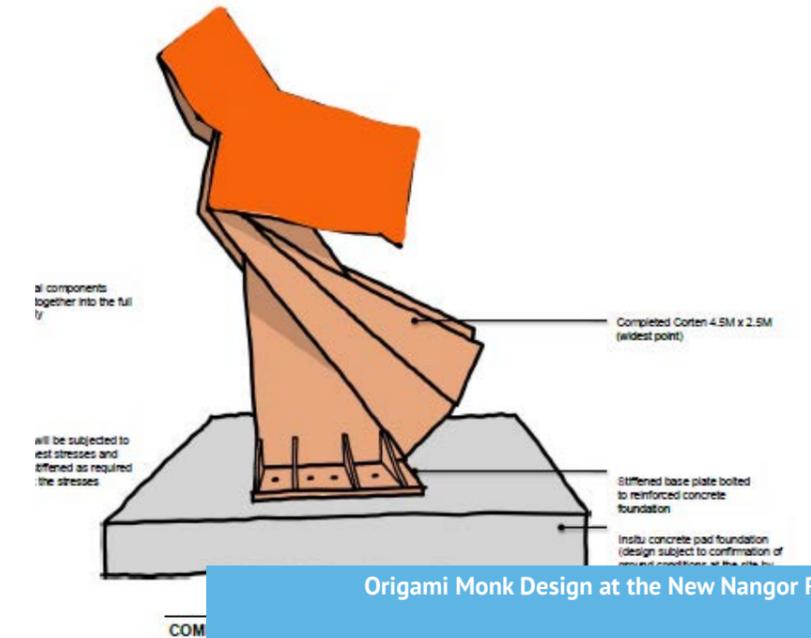
A welcome addition of South Dublin's public artwork, the Origami Monk sculpture will greatly contribute to the cultural vibrancy of the area.



Creative Ireland South Dublin Awards

Creative Ireland South Dublin and the Councils Arts Office are delighted to announce a series of awards as part of its culture-based programme designed to promote individual, community and national wellbeing.

Daragh Goan received The Film Award of €10,000, Dafhyd Flynn received The Incubation Award of €5,000, St. Mark's Community School, St. Rose's National School, St. Maelruain's Senior School and Year of Art each received a School's Culture Award of up to €2,000. Josue Reis received the Artist in Collaborative Practice Award of €10,000, with Alan James Burns receiving the research and development award of €5,000. The purpose of these awards is to promote and support creativity and artistic practice in South Dublin County, with all successful applicants actively contributing to the artistic and cultural life within the County.



Origami Monk Design at the New Nangor Road



Corporate Performance and Change Management

Recruitment Update

2024 has been an exciting and productive year for recruitment. We have employed 140 new members of staff and advertised 52 competitions. We facilitated the employment of 93 Graduates in the four Dublin Local Authorities with nine Graduates taking up employment at South Dublin County Council across eight skills areas. We partnered with Ballyfermot Training Centre to offer 12 candidates a General Operative Traineeship, with an opportunity for a six-month temporary contract. We continued to maintain strong relationships with third level institutions including TUD Tallaght and UCD, facilitating paid and unpaid placements in the area of ICT and Planning. We also partnered with AHEAD, the Education and Employment non-rpofit and the WAM (Willing Able Mentoring) Graduate Programme.

In August, we successfully trialed rolling recruitment and we hope to continue this approach for suitable competitions. We continue to encourage candidates to register for job alerts at sdccjobs.ie and review our general services vacancies on our website with 15 new, exciting roles to be advertised in the coming months.



Christmas Closing Hours and Emergency Contacts

The South Dublin County Council Offices in Tallaght and Clondalkin, will close for Christmas on Tuesday 24th December 2024 at 12pm, reopening on Thursday 3rd January 2025 at 9.00am. The Council Libraries will be closed from Monday 23rd December at 8pm and will reopen on Thursday 2nd January at 9:45am.

Our staff remain on hand throughout the Christmas period to respond to emergencies. Please phone the number below should you need to over the Christmas period: Emergency Contact Number 01 457 4907.

Annual Staff Safety and Wellbeing Seminar Returns

The Council hosted its Annual Safety and Well-being Seminar in the Civic Theatre on November 19th which was attended by staff across the organisation.

Tony O'Reilly is the co-author of 'Tony10', the bestselling and award-winning book that tells the story of his gambling addiction and subsequent recovery. Tony shared his unique perspective and insight into the issue of problem gambling and its impact on individuals, families, and communities.

Barbara Brennan is a Workplace Mental Health Solutions Expert, with a background in public campaigns and reshaping corporate mental health policies, Barbara brought her professional expertise along with personal experience, having overcome a life-altering suicide attempt in 2008.

On the day, the Staff Well-being strategy was launched and the Well-being Champions were introduced to those who attended the event. Well-being Champions are new to SDCC and are part of a pilot group that have attended two days in Psychological First Aid training that has provided them with the skills and knowledge to equip them in their role. The Well-being Champions (pictured above) are colleagues who are available throughout the year to assist with and promote our calendar of Well-being events. They also signpost staff who may reach out to them to the support services such as the Staff Welfare Officer and the Employee Assistance Programme service provided by Spectrum Life.

Our Well-being Champions were thanked for volunteering into this role and

their enthusiasm and desire to have a positive impact on a well-being culture in the organisation was recognised and welcomed.



Illuminating the Christmas Tree at Clondalkin

Christmas Lights and Market in Parthalán place

As we enter into the festive season, Mayor Baby Pereppadan had the pleasure of officiating the official lighting of the Christmas Tree in Tallaght and at County Buildings in Clondalkin as well as the all new South Dublin Christmas Market at Parthalán Place.

The festive evening also featured performances from the Kingswood Community Choir and the Dublin Ukelele Collective, with Christmas Songs, Festive treats, crafts and Christmas Cheer. This successful addition to the Councils' events calendar is another step to ensuring Parthalán Place becomes a vibrant space throughout the year.



140 new members of staff have joined the Council in 2024



Environment, Water and Climate Change

South Dublin's Multi Award Winning Parks and Projects

The Irish Landscape Institute Design Awards evening saw SDCC win six awards across multiple categories. The ILI Awards recognise excellence in design and delivery of landscape projects across the country by the professional body for landscape architects in Ireland.

Adamstown's Tandy's Lane Park and Airlie Park won under the category of Built Project-Public Parks. Whitestown Stream Park in Tallaght was also Highly Commended in this category. All 3 projects are excellent examples of parks providing much-needed facilities to local communities, encouraging healthier lives, while supporting biodiversity and improving the environment. SDCC also won the top award in the landscape planning category for the innovative Green Space Factor policy implemented within the current County Development Plan. The Mini Woodland Programme was Highly Commended under the Sustainability Category. Under the category of Heritage Landscapes, SDCC's recent upgrade of the landscape around ElyArch and the creation of Ely Arch Park was Highly Commended. SDCC was also Highly Commended under the Category of Linear Landscapes for the creation of the landscape corridor along the N81.



Arthurstown Renewable Energy Project

Permission has been granted by Kildare County Council to install a 200kW solar PV plant at Arthurstown landfill in Co. Kildare.

The landfill is in the aftercare phase but the site continues to be a large energy user due to various systems on site which include the leachate treatment plant, leachate and groundwater transfer pumps and the pumping system delivering treated leachate to the public sewer.

The solar PV plant is expected to reduce the energy supplied to the site from the grid by around 30% of current usage levels and this will contribute to the Council's efforts to achieve its energy efficiency and emission targets in 2030.

Council's Heating Scheme "HeatWorks" Scoops Energy Award at the SEAI Awards

HeatWorks, South Dublin County Council's District Heating Scheme in Tallaght, won the Innovative Deployment of Renewable Energy Award at the SEAI Energy Awards. The SEAI Energy Awards recognise and reward excellence in all aspects of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

This Innovative Deployment of Renewable Energy award recognises organisations that have demonstrated a high level of innovation in the deployment and/or operation of a functioning renewable energy project. Projects may be in renewable heat, electricity or transport, and may include projects for self-supply to a discrete facility. South Dublin County Council was the only nominee in the Innovative Renewable Energy category who was assessed by the judging panel

to have met the category eligibility criteria and the required threshold of excellence, an incredible achievement in itself and proof of the commitment to innovation in the County.

The Tallaght District Heating Scheme (TDHS) is the first large-scale district heating network of its kind in Ireland. It operates under HeatWorks, Ireland's first not-for-profit energy utility, fully owned by the Council. The District Heating Scheme is unique in that it is the only scheme in Ireland or the UK to use waste heat from a local data centre. It also provides an original low-carbon solution, optimising recyclable heat with innovative heat pump technology.

This award follows previous accolades for the scheme, including the prestigious 'Emerging District Energy

Market' award at the Global District Energy Climate Awards in Brussels and the Climate Change award at the 2023 Excellence in Local Government Award



Funding Announced at Round Tower GAA Club

€96,000 Secured From Community Climate Action Programme

€96,000 has been secured by a Clondalkin-based climate action project from the national Shared Island Fund, with delivery commencing in 2025.

The successful groups of Strand 1a of the Community Climate Action Programme were recently received at County Hall by the Deputy Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr. Alan Hayes. Strand 1a of the Programme will see Round Tower GAA Club in Clondalkin and Mountfield Community Association Omagh, Tyrone, delivering in partnership a joint climate action project.

Work will include LED floodlighting retrofit and solar panel installation, helping to decarbonise both community groups' operations.



Tandy's Lane Park and Airlie Park which won the Built Project-Public Parks Award at the Irish Landscape Institute Design Awards



Quality Housing for Everyone

Every five years, the Council develops a new Corporate Plan that sets the objectives and priorities for the Council for the next five years. The Corporate Plan shapes a vision for the County and the Council as an organisation, while setting the values that underpin our ambitions and how we propose to deliver on them.

The plan also considers our existing plans and policies and all other appropriate legislation and policies. This is an extensive process and involves consultation with both internal and external stakeholders, data analysis and reporting from across the organisation.

During the extensive consultation process, we engaged with over 931 people including citizens and staff through an online survey, a hardcopy was also available through our library network. The survey ran from 9th September through to 12th November. We also provided workshops by

an independent facilitator to staff, Elected Members and the Public Participation Network Executive. These workshops allowed participants to engage with the challenges facing South Dublin County Council and discuss solutions, while the key strategic priorities that were identified.

The result of the survey, workshop reports and written submissions were analysed and reported to the Senior Management Team to assist them in the shaping of the Corporate Plan objectives, the vision for the County and the values to be included in the

Corporate Plan with the vision for the Council being a place that meets the needs and ambition of everyone in South Dublin.

The values identified were to be an organisation that is Future-focused, Leading with Determination, Inclusive and Supportive and Accountable and Transparent.

Some of the key strategic issues which were raised in the consultation surrounded; Public Infrastructure and Maintenance, Housing and Development, Community Service and Support and Environmental Services and Sustainability.

A Focus On

Corporate Plan 2025-2029

This plan also takes into consideration of the United Nations Strategic Development Goals and the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty across the whole document. The Council is committed to leading on sustainable development and driving progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to meet Ireland's commitments which will aim to achieve peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty recognises the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and protect human rights for service users, staff, members and policy beneficiaries. Our ambitions in relation to and compliance with



Climate leadership - Leading a Just Transition Towards Net Zero

the Duty have been a key focus at all stages of preparation, consultation and drafting of the Corporate Plan and will be implemented through all our functions.

The draft Corporate Plan is now presented to the full December

Council meeting for Councillors to vote on whether to adopt the plan. We will continue to update citizens, internal and external stakeholders and staff on the progress of the plan and on its implementation when adopted.



Making South Dublin the Best Place to do Business

€9 Million Investment in Parks at Killinarden and Jobstown



Killinarden and Jobstown Parks Upgraded with €9 Million Investment in New Park Amenities

Winter 2024 has seen the completion of 2 significant projects by SDCC, which have rejuvenated 2 neighbourhood parks in west Tallaght. The official opening of Killinarden Park took place on the 27th November and was followed very quickly by the opening of the €2.5m Jobstown Park. Killinarden Park and Jobstown Park are well embedded in their respective

communities and used every day by people getting to shops, schools and employment and are well-used by local sports clubs and schools. Despite this positive experience, the parks have suffered from anti-social behaviour and degradation which has made the experience for park users unappealing and sometimes unpleasant.

Pump Track Workshop at Jobstown

As part of SDCC community engagement and activation of the upgraded park facilities, the Active South Dublin Team organised a workshop on the 9th November on how to use the new pump track in Jobstown Park with Lucan BMX Club and Cycling Ireland. It was fantastic to see so many local children, teenagers, and adults trying out the pump track.

SDCC engaged with park users and the local communities who live near both parks to find out what they wished to see in their parks and how they could be improved. We had an overwhelming response from people who wanted the park to belong to the community again, wanted the park to be at the heart of each neighbourhood and become a place they could use every day, walking, cycling, playing, meeting neighbours and generally enjoying the outdoors. Both parks were designed by Nicholas DeJong Associates based on the community

feedback and a range of activities were proposed and included in the plans.

Killinarden Park works commenced 12 months ago which were supported by funding from the National Transport Authority; who funded the new east-west lit, shared walking and cycling route, which was a key request from the local community. Killinarden park has new accessible routes, high-quality entrances and plazas, signage and lighting. It also contains plenty of the recreational activities the communities requested such as playspaces, exercise equipment, Multi Use Games Areas and skate facilities. The project also includes an upgrade of the popular sports pitches in the park and planting and ecological improvements.

Jobstown Park is a 29-acre greenfield park which has now been transformed into a welcoming, secure, and vibrant community park that meets the growing needs of the community. The park upgrade consisted of focal park entrances, a teen space, an outdoor workout area, a pump track,

a natural playground, a dog park, a footpath exercise loop, and a cycle south Dublin link that will connect to the wider cycle infrastructure, pitch enhancements, landscape and biodiversity improvements including the planting of 300 mature trees. The much-anticipated pump track and calisthenics area has been opened, which was then followed by the opening of the teen space and play space. SDCC also received grant funding in late 2024 through the Sports Capital application process to upgrade two pitches in Jobstown Park as well as the existing MUGA, it's expected this work will be progressed in 2025.

SDCC is delighted with the new look and facilities in both parks, and pays special tribute to all the Councillors, residents, clubs, local groups and interested parties who contributed their time and efforts to assisting in the re-development of these two neighbourhood parks. We trust their rejuvenation leads to a new lease of life for both parks and look forward to many years of park enjoyment for communities in west Tallaght.



Mayor of South Dublin Cllr. Baby Pereppadan officially opening Killinarden Park

A budget for 2025 with proposed expenditure totalling €391,942,200 was approved by the Elected Members at our annual budget meeting on 14th November 2024. This budget reflects the needs of a County that continues to develop and grow, with all the associated service demands and infrastructure requirements which that brings. The first budget of the new Council term features a range of increased resourcing to improve the impact of key public services including:

Over €26.6 million for housing maintenance to ensure appropriate and efficient service levels for an expanding housing stock, including continued planned maintenance funding and extra provision for reletting of vacant properties. €6.97 million for facilities and services to respond to local and regional homeless challenges and to support households to exit homelessness.

€24.9 million for maintenance of footpaths, regional and local roads.

€24.1 million for management, maintenance and development of parks, pitches and open spaces, including almost €4.6 million for tree maintenance, with extra funding once again provided to deal with emergency and remaining legacy works outside the tree programme schedule.

€13.3 million for litter management and cleansing.

€12.3 million for community, sports and wellbeing initiatives and grants.

€27 million for the regional fire service.

The most significant level of funding in the budget is to support the provision of social homes through Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's) and long-term leasing, with plans for expenditure of almost €104 million in this regard. Funding is also continued for various initiatives to progress our Climate Action Plan, particularly through continued investment in retrofit works to improve the energy efficiency of Council-owned buildings, funding the transition to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil from diesel for all our large vehicles by Q1 2025 and continued transition to Electrical Vehicles (EVs) for smaller vehicles throughout the year, along with additional climate action related operational, community, adaptation and innovation programmes.

Economic and tourism development, along with quality infrastructure and placemaking, all support ongoing investment and future prosperity in South Dublin and, for 2025, commercial rates are being maintained at existing levels, the vacancy rate refund credit is being reduced to 0% to strongly encourage occupancy

of vacant commercial and industrial premises, while €2.9 million will be spent on traffic signal, bridge and regional road improvement programmes along with €1.9 million for further enhancements in our towns, villages and public realm. We are also providing over €1.6 million to support management and promotion of the extended Grange Castle Business Park and significant funding is also ring-fenced for the 12th Lock Masterplan (€1.5 million) and projects under our Tourism Strategy (€1.3 million). In addition, we will continue with our Business Support Fund and other supports for small and medium businesses through our Local Enterprise Office and working in partnership with South Dublin Chamber. We are also providing €300k for the operation of the Work IQ Innovation Centre in Tallaght and €100k for an economic plan for Rathfarnham Village in conjunction with the proposed Rathfarnham Castle / Stables project.

Community and voluntary work, together with our investment in social and cultural amenities and programmes, provide a better quality of life and wellbeing in the County and this is recognised

in our community, sports, and libraries programmes all of which are being expanded in 2025. Specific provisions of note include €3.1 million to complete local parks upgrades at St. Cuthberts, Quarryvale, and Jobstown and for continued investment in teenspaces and playgrounds, while €2 million will be spent on pitch improvements, new astro pitches, sports pavilions, and storage facilities in parks and €1 million is earmarked to support management of community centres. We have also increased the libraries' book fund and have plans for additional cultural and artistic programmes with the Civic Theatre and Rua Red. We are bringing Tradfest events to South Dublin in January 2025 along with a range of seasonal festivals including for St. Patrick's Day, Halloween and Christmas and a programme of events for Parthalán Place in Tallaght.

Making the budget was a collaborative process with input from many Councillors and the outcome reflects and addresses key priorities for our citizens, including providing for inclusive, safe and sustainable communities, which is critical to underpinning quality of life

€24.1 million for Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces



A Focus On

€391 Million Council Budget Approved for 2025



€104 million for the Provision of Social Homes and Long-Term Leasing

budgets within the lifetime of this Council up to 2029 will be directly linked to the future LPT variation decisions.

Organisationally, we continue to expand our workforce to deliver the level of services committed to in this budget and to manage a significantly expanding capital programme. This is reflected by a 12.5% increase in payroll costs on the 2024 projected outturn as well as plans to improve our recruitment profile and processes. Corporate funding is also included for key organisational and workplace development initiatives, enhancing our connectivity with local communities and citizens, and other key corporate and governance measures including managing data access, cyber security, ongoing digitisation of services and debt management.

All of this means that the Council's budget for 2025 addresses a broad range of priorities that will allow us to effectively meet the needs of local citizens, communities and businesses in 2025, as well as providing the basis for greater opportunity for all in South Dublin under our new Corporate Plan over the next five years, as we seek to be a place that meets the needs and ambitions of everyone living, working and visiting here.

and opportunity for all. Along with our commitment to the implementation of the Public Sector Duty Framework and ongoing work on housing adaptation grants, age-friendly initiatives, Traveller inclusion and support, integration, sports inclusion, neurodiverse initiatives and many other programmes, extra funding is provided for accessibility works, a fund for a new equality and access work plan and a range of initiatives to support the introduction of the new Community Safety Partnership. In addition, specific projects requested by local Councillors include widespread roll-out of solar-powered litter bins in town centres and parks, resources to tackle graffiti more effectively in local areas, a Columbarium wall and car park improvements at Bohernabreena cemetery, fit-out of new youth facilities in Citywest and Adamstown, family trails in Sean Walsh Park and Lucan House/Parco Italia,

improvements to pedestrian crossings and local road markings, enhanced cleansing of laneways and cycle tracks under the street cleansing service, examination of feasibility of additional sports facilities in Brookfield, Kingswood, Tymon, Collinstown etc. and a roll out of school streets.

The budget is largely funded by central government grants (40%), commercial rates (39%), and income from rents, loans, and service fees (13% combined), while Local Property Tax (LPT) currently accounts for approximately 3% of income. Our potential to expand key services and also to accommodate additional budget requests from Councillors while balancing the budget for 2025 was achieved despite the maximum 15% LPT reduction being applied by the Council at the October meeting. However, the ability to provide such discretionary extra measures in future

Images of the Month



Cycling Ireland and Lucan BMX Workshop at New Pump Track in Jobstown Park

Images of the Month



Mayor of South Dublin Cllr. Baby Pereppadan at the Official Opening of Killinarden Park



Cllr. Liona O'Toole at the launch of the new Play Innovation facilities at Collinstown Sports Complex



Some of South Dublin County Council's School Wardens at County Hall for Training Exercises

Images of the Month



The Councils Public Realm Team picking up six awards at the Irish Landscape Institute Design Awards

Images of the Month



Todhchaí Geal Gaelach, Irish language leadership programme launched in South Dublin



Community Climate Action Project Phase 1 Launched



Sod Turning for Kiltipper Park

Finance Report

Billing & Collection Statement (billed to 22nd November 2024)

	(provisional) Arrears @ 31 Dec 2023	Adopted Budget 2024	Billed to 22nd November 2024	Rec'ts/Credits to 22nd November 2024	Arrears @ 22nd November 2024	% of BILLED income achieved
Via Billing Systems						
Commercial Rates	€14,674,021	€145,432,500	€148,788,746	€141,667,623	€21,795,144	95%
Entry Year Property Levy (PEL)	€386,056	n/a	€0	€277,823	€108,233	72%
Housing Rents	€8,189,799	€32,963,500	€30,781,416	€30,998,907	€7,972,308	101%
Housing RAS Rents	€1,042,041	€2,267,400	€2,107,236	€1,911,584	€1,237,693	91%
						% of Budget Income Achieved
Via Cash Systems						
NPPR Charge	n/a	€150,000	n/a	€124,968	€0	83%
Planning Fees	n/a	€1,288,000	n/a	€789,684	€0	61%
Fire Certificates	n/a	€1,200,000	n/a	€1,251,750	€0	104%
Parking Fees	n/a	€780,000	n/a	€715,436	€0	92%
Irish Water	€373,437	€6,596,300	€4,050,239	€3,938,985	€484,691	60%
	€24,665,354	€190,677,700	€185,727,637	€181,676,761	€31,598,068	

Rates Aged Debt			PEL Aged Debt		
Year	Bal O/S	%	Year	Bal O/S	%
2024	13,066,882	60%	2024	€0	0%
2023	3,108,299	14%	2023	€7,738	7%
2022	1,283,833	6%	2022	€88,016	81%
2021	940,386	4%	2021	€2,728	3%
2020	157,417	1%	2020	€2,637	2%
2019	1,077,053	5%	2019	€2,791	3%
2018	757,744	3%	2018	€1,370	1%
pre 2018	1,403,530	6%	Pre 2018	€2,953	3%
Totals	€21,795,144	100%	Totals	€108,233	100%

Rents Aged Debt			
Category	Numbers	Amounts	% of Accounts
Accounts not in Arrears	5985	2,733,018	57%
0-6 weeks	1878	364,316	18%
7-12 weeks	432	294,280	4%
13-18 weeks	276	305,928	3%
19-24 weeks	208	365,853	2%
25-52 weeks	617	1,730,530	6%
1 - 2 years	531	2,730,304	5%
Greater than 2 years	507	4,914,114	5%
Totals	10,434	€7,972,308	100%
Average Rent		69.72	

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