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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council January 2025 County Council Meeting held on Monday 13 January 2025

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adelaide, D. | Kearns, P. |
| Barnes, S. | Lawlor, B. |
| Brady, C. | Mannion, R. |
| Carey, W. | McCrave, L. |
| Collins, Y. | McMahon, R. |
| Cosgrave, P. | McManus, D. |
| Costello, T. | Moore, G. |
|  de Courcy, L. | Murphy, E. |
| Donnelly, D. | Ó Broin, E. |
| Duff, M. | O’Hara, S. |
| Dunne, L. | O’Toole, L. |
| Edge, A. | Pereppadan, Baby |
| Farrell, H. | Pereppadan, Britto |
| Fennell, N. | Sheehy, J. |
| Gilligan, T.  | Sinnott, J.  |
| Hayes, A. | Spear, J. |
| Holohan, P. | Timmons, F. |
| Johansson, M. | Tuffy, J.  |
| Keane, K. | 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 |
| A/Senior Executive Officer | B. Shannon |
|  Administrative Officer | M. Reilly |
|  Communications Manager | D. Healy |
| Senior Staff Officer | K. McLoughlin |
| A/ Staff Officer | D. Murphy |
| Assistant Staff Officer | L. Farrell |

The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillors V. Casserly and D. Richardson.

Before the commencement of the meeting, Councillor W. Carey expressed his apologies to the Members following a comment made at the December meeting of the Council.

### **H1/0125 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

### [December Council Minutes - 9th December 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84754)

### [Special Council meeting minutes - 19th December 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84790)

Councillor R. McMahon raised a query in relation to the December Council minutes.

Ms. M. Reilly, Meeting Administrator responded to the Member’s query.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management suggested the issue be brought to the OP&F meeting on January 23rd 2025.

The Members **AGREED.**

Minutes of the December Council Meeting held on 9th December 2024 and December Special Meeting of the Council held on 19th December 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 M. Duff**.**

### **H2/0125 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

**a) Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area Committee**

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

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

**b) Clondalkin Area Committee**

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

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

**c) Tallaght Area Committee**

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

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

**d) Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee**

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

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

### **H3/0125 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H4/0125 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

1. **Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage & Libraries SPC**

[H4 (a) (i) Minutes of ACGH&L SPC Meeting May 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84788)

[H4 (a)(ii) Report of ACGH&L SPC Meeting December 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84789)

1. **Environment, Water, Climate Change & Biodiversity SPC**

[H4 (b)(i) Minutes of EWCC SPC Meeting May 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84759)

[H4 (b)(ii) Report of EWCC SPC Meeting December 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84758)

**c) Housing SPC**

 [H4 (c)(i) Minutes of the Housing SPC 9th May 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84783)

[H4 (c)(ii) Report of Housing SPC 5th December 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84785)

1. **Social, Community, Equality & Integration SPC**

[H4 (d)(i) Minutes of Social, Community, Equality SPC 21st May 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84784)

[H4 (d)(ii) Report of Social, Community, Equality SPC 10th December 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84786)

1. **Land Use, Planning & Transportation SPC**

[H4 (e) Report of LUPT SPC December 2024](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84734)

The reports were **NOTED**.

Councillor E. Ó Broin raised a query in relation to the programme of works for the EETD SPC.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management, responded to the query.

### **H5/0125 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 R. McMahon.

### “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q13 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED”**

### **Q1/0125 Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive, Why has SDCC been signed up to the unelected and unaccountable "Global Covenant of Mayors" since 2012 and what effect has this had on climate driven policy?
[Covenant of Mayors SDCC - submitted by Councillor](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84677)

**REPLY:**

The EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy is a voluntary initiative supported by the European Commission, which brings together local governments throughout Europe, voluntarily committing to implementing EU climate and energy objectives.

SDCC elected members agreed to become one of the signatories to The Covenant of Mayors in [2012](http://intranet/Cmas/viewmeetingagenda.aspx?id=919) Headed Item 9. The initiative was revised to the “The EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy”.  As part of the [September 2017](http://intranet/Cmas/viewmeetingagenda.aspx?id=1586) County Council Meeting Headed Item 16, the Elected Members reconfirmed its support and became signatories of the EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

As a signatory of the EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, South Dublin County Council endorses the shared vision for 2050: accelerating the decarbonisation of their territories, strengthening their capacity to adapt to unavoidable climate change impact, and allowing their citizens to access secure, sustainable and affordable energy. Through this partnership, SDCC gains access to a network of like-minded local governments, sharing knowledge and resources that will help deliver on its ambitious climate goals and ensure a resilient and sustainable future for residents.

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy was formed in 2017, which brings together 10 regional covenants, listed below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| South Asia | European Union & Western Europe | Eastern Europe & Central Asia |
| Middle East & North Africa | Oceania | Sub Saharan Africa |
| Latin America & the Caribbean | Southeast Asia | East Asia |
| North America |   |   |

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy builds upon the commitment of thousands of cities and local governments within the individual regional covenants, to partner with national and international educational and research institutions to tackle the climate crisis through local initiatives, provision of finance, citizens engagement and sustainable infrastructure.

SDCC as a signatory to the EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, is a signatory to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. [Home - Global Covenant of Mayors](https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/)

### **Q2/0125 Councillor L. Dunne**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide the total number of residential units built across the county since the introduction of the Strategic Housing Development process in 2017, including a detailed breakdown in table format of units delivered within each Local Electoral Area?

**REPLY:**

The Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 introduced a new type of planning application known as Strategic Housing Development (SHD).  SHDs applied to all planning applications of 100 or more housing units and 200 or more student accommodation bed spaces.  The Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 Commencement of Certain Provisions) (No. 3) Order 2017 commenced the SHD process with an effective date of 3rd July 2017.

SHD applications were made directly to An Bord Pleanala.  The SHD system was introduced for a defined timeline and has since been replaced by the Large Scale Residential Development (LRD) applications which are made to the Local Authority in the first instance.  The transition from SHD to the LRD process began on 17thDecember 2021.

The total number of residential units built across the county since the introduction of the Strategic Housing Development process in 2017, including a detailed breakdown of units delivered within each Local Electoral Area is shown below.

Part 8 figures are collected separately and are not included in these figures. Where local authority housing went through a non-Part 8 planning application process e.g. Kilcarbery (SHD), Killinarden (LRD), the figures are included.

 

### **Q3/0125 Councillor L. Dunne**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide the current number of individuals on the social housing list, including a detailed breakdown of Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) & Rental Accommodational Scheme (RAS) tenants. Additionally, please include the corresponding figures for each year since 2017.

**REPLY:**

According to our records the table below provides a breakdown of the number of households on the housing list including HAP and those on the RAS Fixed transfer list:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Housing List | 8,061 | 7,215 | 6,864 | 6,714 | 6,346 | 6,010 | 6,204 | 6,102 |
| HAP  | 2,339 | 2,938 | 3,273 | 3,736 | 4,073 | 4,213 | 4,353 | 4,517 |
| RAS Fixed transfer list | 201 | 176 | 144 | 97 | 93 | 71 | 67 | 61 |
| **Total** | **10,601** | **10,329** | **10,281** | **10,547** | **10,512** | **10,294** | **10,624** | **10,680** |

### **Q4/0125 Councillor L. Dunne**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide the current number of individuals on the homeless list for 2024, including the corresponding figures for each year since 2017.

**REPLY:**

The table below provides a summary breakdown of the data held at 31st December for households registered as homeless with South Dublin Council for the period 2017-24.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Single Male | 223 | 262 | 277 | 256 | 238 | 242 | 300 |  201 |
| Single Female | 53 | 62 | 57 | 58 | 55 | 65 | 94 |  77 |
| Couples | 10 | 6 | 13 | 16 | 17 | 24 | 24 |  17 |
| Families | 189 | 298 | 241 | 177 | 158 | 165 | 280 |  203 |
| **Total Homeless Households** | **475** | **628** | **588** | **507** | **468** | **496** | **698** | **498** |

In 2024, 265 homes were allocated to homeless households, representing a significant increase compared to 172 allocations in 2023 and the 71 in 2022.

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.

### **Q5/0125 Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Director to confirm the timeframe to access to Homeless HAP has been extended to 3 months (from previous 6 weeks), as per response to Item ID: 84412 submitted at the October Council meeting, in order to align with typical notice periods granted by the Courts.

**REPLY:**

The Homeless HAP scheme is operated by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) on behalf of the Dublin local authorities. 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  four Dublin local authorities.

In accordance with DRHE guidelines, the Homeless Unit can approve households for Homeless HAP, twelve weeks prior to their validated Notice to Quit date. To expedite the Homeless HAP assessment process, applicants should submit their Notice of Termination and Threshold validation letter as soon as possible.

### **Q6/0125 Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans to amend the Cost Rental Tenant in Situ (CRTiS) system to facilitate information sharing with the tenant during potential procurement procedures.

**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.

### **Q7/0125 Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Chief Executive/Department Director if adaptation grants or requests for adaptation works are available to facilitate changes that are recommended to support individuals with cognitive, developmental and/or sensory disabilities, not just physical needs, and if access to these adaptations are applicable to properties occupied by SDCC tenants.

**REPORT:**

There is no provision under the Disabled Persons Grant Scheme for adaptations to social homes for individuals with cognitive, developmental and/or sensory disabilities. Examples of works/adaptations carried out under the scheme include:

* Ramps
* Stairlifts
* Level access shower installation
* Downstairs toilet
* Small works

However, where a household has been granted medical approval based on a person in the household being diagnosed with cognitive, developmental and/or sensory disabilities, that household maybe granted additional bedroom space, for example approval from a 2 bedroom requirement to a 3 bedroom requirement. All allocations remain in accordance with the Allocation Scheme which is based on time on list.

### **Q8/0125 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on what can South Dublin County Council do to protect hedgerows throughout South Dublin County Council, report to include enforcement process.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County has a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna, including insects, birds, fish and micro-organisms and their habitats in which they live and interact, such as grasslands, woodlands, streams, hedgerows, boglands, public parks and private gardens.

Ireland is a signatory to the Convention of Biological Diversity and has developed its National Biodiversity Action Plan in line with EU and International Biodiversity strategies and policies. In 2019 the Dáil and South Dublin County Council separately declared a climate and biodiversity emergency. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 sets out measures to protect 30% of EU land and sea territory with 10% of this ‘strictly protected’ and sets out measures aimed to achieve this. The importance of biodiversity and landscape in Ireland is underpinned by National Strategic Outcome 7 ‘Enhanced Amenity and Heritage’ of the National Planning Framework and associated strategic investment priorities in the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan. NPO 59 of the National Planning Framework and RPO 7.15 and 7.16 of the RSES reinforce the need to ensure protection and enhancement of environments and habitats. The role of biodiversity is further strengthened with the adoption of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021-2025) providing for natural management measures to protect native species.

Hedgerows often mark historic field patterns and townland boundaries and significantly enhance the landscape character of rural areas. Trees and hedgerows also perform a vital role as wildlife habitats, biodiversity corridors and essential green elements in the County’s green infrastructure network. They have a further crucial role in carbon sequestration (capturing and storing carbon), contributing to the alleviation of climate change.

In relation to the protection of hedgerows across the county; **SDCC's County Development Plan** has several Policies and Objectives that specify the requirement to protect and enhance hedgerows. These policies and objectives are particularly strong when land is subject to development that requires planning permission. The enforcement of these policies and objectives are set out in national planning legislation. These policies and objectives include the ones set out below

**Policy NCBH2: Biodiversity:** Protect, conserve, and enhance the County’s biodiversity and ecological connectivity having regard to national and EU legislation and Strategies.

**NCBH2 Objective 3:** To protect and conserve the natural heritage of the County, and to conserve and manage EU and nationally designated sites and non-designated locally important areas which act as ‘stepping stones’ for the purposes of green infrastructure and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

**NCB9 Objective 4:** To ensure that development along and adjacent to the Grand Canal protects and incorporates natural heritage features including watercourses, wetlands, grasslands, woodlands, mature trees, hedgerows and ditches and includes an appropriate set-back distance or buffer area from the pNHA boundary to facilitate protected species and biodiversity and a fully functioning Green Infrastructure network.

**NCBH11 Objective 3:** To protect and retain existing trees, hedgerows, and woodlands which are of amenity and / or biodiversity and / or carbon sequestration value and / or contribute to landscape character and ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management taking into account Living with Trees: South Dublin County Council’s Tree Management Policy (2015-2020) or any superseding document and to ensure that where retention is not possible that a high value biodiversity provision is secured as part of the phasing of any development to protect the amenity of the area.

**NCBH11 Objective 4:** To protect the hedgerows of the County, acknowledging their role as wildlife habitats, biodiversity corridors, links within the County’s green infrastructure network, their visual amenity and landscape character value and their significance as demarcations of historic field patterns and townland boundaries. (Refer also to Chapter 4: Green Infrastructure).

**NCBH11 Objective 5:** To ensure that intact hedgerows / trees will be maintained above the 120m contour line within the County ensuring that the strong rural character will not be diluted and that important heritage features and potential wildlife corridors are protected.

**GI1 Objective 1:** To establish a coherent, integrated and evolving GI Network across South Dublin County with parks, open spaces, hedgerows, trees including public street trees and native mini woodlands (Miyawaki-Style), grasslands, protected areas and rivers and streams and other green and blue assets forming strategic links and to integrate and incorporate the objectives of the GI Strategy throughout all relevant land use plans and development in the County.

**GI2 Objective 2:** To protect and enhance the biodiversity and ecological value of the existing GI network by protecting where feasible (and mitigating where removal is unavoidable) existing ecological features including tree stands, woodlands, hedgerows and watercourses in all new developments as an essential part of the design and construction process, such proactive approach to include provision to inspect development sites post construction to ensure hedgerow coverage has been protected as per the plan.

**GI2 Objective 5:** To protect and enhance the County’s hedgerow network, in particular hedgerows that form townland, parish and barony boundaries recognising their historic and cultural importance in addition to their ecological importance and increase hedgerow coverage using locally native species including a commitment for no net loss of hedgerows on any development site and to take a proactive approach to protection and enforcement.

SDCC's tree management policy: **Living with Trees 2021-2026** sets out the policies relating to the management of trees; (which includes trees within hedgerows) on council-owned public lands. It includes the following policy:

**Policy:** The Council will wherever possible try to avoid removing a tree or undertaking unnecessary pruning works where there is no good arboriculture reason. It has a duty to manage the tree population for the benefit of the wider community and in accordance with good arboriculture practices.

In relation to the general protection of hedgerows across the county:

The **Wildlife Acts, 1976 and 2000, and EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC** legally protect hedgerows if they contain a bat roost, meaning that a licence from the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) is required for any disturbance. **Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976** is also pertinent to the management of hedgerows as it prohibits cutting, burning, or otherwise destroying vegetation between 1st March to 31st August to protect nesting birds.

The **EU Nature Restoration Law was adopted in June 2024**. Article 11 sets out targets for Member States to achieve increasing trends in the grassland butterfly index, stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils, and share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features, such as hedgerows. There are other targets for forestry, aquatic ecosystems, and urban areas. Measures for individual landowners will be voluntary and financially incentivised through various schemes. The new law is mandatory for Ireland as an EU Member State, with a legal obligation to meet the targets for nature restoration.

For farmland; the **Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027**sets out a  ‘Space for Nature’ requirement, which falls under the Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) No. 8. The implementation required to achieve the standard is as follows:

*"GAEC will apply to all agricultural area, with certain limited exceptions. Farmers will be required to provide ‘space for nature’ features on at least 4% of holding area. Features will include (inter alia) land lying fallow, hedgerows, drains/ditches, buffer strips, stone walls, ponds, habitats, monuments, scrub, rock, etc. Certain landscape features are designated, e.g., hedgerows, ponds, archaeological monuments, and restrictions will apply on their removal. Hedgerow removal is only permitted in exceptional cases and under certain conditions"*

**(CAP Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027 Summary Ireland. Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, November 2022)**.

The **EIA (Agriculture) Regulations 2011** apply to farmers and proposals for certain hedgerow removal involve an initial screening process followed by an EIA if deemed necessary. The mandatory thresholds for screening are either 500m of hedgerow and  / or the restructuring of greater than 5ha of land by the removal of field boundaries. If these thresholds increase to 4km and / or 50ha respectively, a mandatory EIA is required. The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations Information Leaflet for Farmers (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine), specifies that sub-threshold works must still go through screening if they “may have a significant effect on the environment”.

In a reply to the Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area Committee meeting in November 2024, the Land-Use Planning and Transport Dept (LUPT) noted that the Agriculture (EIA) Regulations require screening for such works in a nature area, defined in the Regulations as including ‘a place, site or feature of ecological interest, the preservation, conservation or protection of which is an objective of a development plan or local area plan (within the meaning of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2010), draft development plan or draft local area plan, or proposed variation of a development plan, for the area in which the development is proposed’.

In this regard, a number of objectives in the County Development Plan 2022-2028 (see above) were referenced as having relevance to the definition of ‘nature area’

As the implementation of the EIA (Agriculture) regulations is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine; LUPT sent an email seeking the setting up of a protocol between the Department and South Dublin County Council which would ensure that the objectives of the County Development Plan are taken account of in the consideration of any screening or relevant enforcement process.

The Department responded by email on 31st October 2024 acknowledging the email and advising that the correspondence had been brought to the attention of their Section Manager who in turn will bring it to the attention of the relevant officials within the Forestry Division (in relation to trees).  It was also indicated that the email would be forwarded to the Environmental Impact Assessment section of the Department (in relation to hedgerows). This latter was forwarded to their EIA section on 1 November 2024. SDCC await a reply to progress the protocol and LUPT intend to follow up on same in 2025.

### **Q9/0125 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has considered to use the concourse areas  of South Dublin County Council offices as a temporary exhibition space for local artists' works?

**REPLY:**

The redesign of the Concourse in County Hall means it is now a multi-purpose civic space with a variety of possible uses for both large and small events including exhibitions, and indeed the number of different events hosted in the space has grown considerably since completion of the renovations last summer.

However the Concourse is also a place of access for visitors who are attending meetings with officials and Councillors, including Council Meetings, as well as people making payments to the Cash Office, people who work in the building and for the children and parents using the creche. Clondalkin Civic Offices similarly has a variety of uses, with the additional feature of offices that are rented to external organisations.

Any individual enquiry for use of either space will take these activities and needs into account when considering the request, as they cannot be negatively impacted by any event. The nature of an exhibition that extends over a longer period i.e. longer than a day, unless it can be hosted in a small self-contained area, may mean that either concourse is not a suitable venue.

The concourse in County Hall was previously used as temporary exhibition space, including for local artists' work. This practise was discontinued for practical reasons in or around 2008, which coincided with the opening of Rua Red and the refurbished County Library. Both venues now host exhibitions on an ongoing basis. The Council's network of libraries across the county facilitate exhibitions for local artists, and the Arts Office provides bursaries to support the development of local artists.

### **Q10/0125 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the process used by SDCC to assign properties to people on the medical priority list

**REPLY:**

Medical approval for housing may be awarded if the following three criteria apply to a household:

1. If the tenant or someone in the household has anenduring lifelong disability or medical condition and
2. The current accommodation is not suitable to meet the needs of the person with a enduring lifelong disability or medical condition and
3. A change in housing will improve or stabilise the circumstances of the person with an enduring lifelong disability or medical condition

Applicants are required to submit HMD Form 1 and all the relevant medical documentation to support their application to the Medical Section.  These documents will be assessed and applicants will be notified of the Council’s decision in writing.

There are currently 491 applicants awarded medical approval with a further 258 applicants approved for supported living. Of these applicants 166 have been approved by the Council for ground floor accommodation and 119 applicants require wheelchair accessible accommodation.

In 2024, 131 properties were allocated to households on the medical approval list, which includes tenants transferred due to medical needs. This represents a substantial increase compared to 38 in 2023.

All allocations are carried out in accordance with the Council's Allocation Scheme which operates on a time on list basis.

### **Q11/0125 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive what the average wait time is for someone to be housed once assigned to the medical priority list

**REPLY:**

There are currently 491 households approved for medical priority and a further 258 approved for supported living. See table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Standard** | **Area of Preference**  | **Physical** | **Physical** | **Intellectual/Sensory/****Mental Health** |
| **No.** |  | **Ground Floor** | **Wheelchair**  | **Standard** |
| 134 | North | 39 | 27 | 66 |
| 181 | South | 58 | 42 | 83 |
| 176 | Both | 52 | 35 | 89 |
| **491** |  | **149** | **104** | **238** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Supported** | **Area of Preference** | **Physical** | **Physical** | **Intellectual/Sensory/****Mental Health** |
|  |   | **Ground Floor** | **Wheelchair** | **Standard** |
| 45 | North | 5 | 7 | 33 |
| 92 | South | 2 | 3 | 87 |
| 121 | Both | 10 | 5 | 106 |
| **258** |   | **17** | **15** | **226** |

In 2024, 131 properties were allocated to households on the medical approval list which includes tenants transferred due to medical needs. This represents a substantial increase in comparison to 2023 when there were 38 allocations to households on the medical approval list.

The average waiting time for the allocation of accommodation to households with medical approval, including tenants transferred on medical grounds by property size is detailed in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 Bed | 5.52 years |
| 2 Bed | 5.13 years |
| 3 Bed | 6.57 years |
| 4 Bed |  9.00 years |

### **Q12/0125 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive what the average wait time is for a council tenant with a disability awaiting adaptions to their home

**REPLY:**

The Housing Disabled Persons Grant (DPG) aims to improve the living conditions of tenants with disabilities by funding essential home adaptations. Works may include level access showers, disabled access ramps, stairlifts, downstairs bathroom and hand and grab rails. In 2024, the Council received 103 applications for DPG works. The table below provides a breakdown of works completed in 2024:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DPG WORKS 2024** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Works** | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **June** | **July** | **Aug** | **Sep** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** | **Total** |
| Level Shower | 7 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 34 |
| Ramp | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Stairlift | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 26 |
| WC | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Small Works | 5 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 17 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 92 |
| Other | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Total** | **16** | **7** | **14** | **8** | **6** | **11** | **18** | **18** | **12** | **11** | **17** | **23** | **161** |

Small works such as grab, hand and stair rails can be completed within in a short period of time. Timeframe for completion of other works can vary depending on the level of priority and the scope of the works. The Council categorises applications and the timeframe for works completed by priority  in 2024 is detailed below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Priority 1 – High level of need** | up to 12 months |
| **Priority 2 – Moderate level of need** | up to 3 years |
| **Priority 3 –  Reduced level of need** | +3 years |

### **Q13/0125 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the average time it takes to approve a grant for adaptions due to disability to a private home

**REPLY:**

The average turnaround time for a fully completed application for a Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People is currently 6.5 weeks. It should be noted that delays can occur where an application is received without all supporting documentation.

Revised regulations for the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People scheme came into effect on 1st December 2024.  The following grants are available to private homeowners in the South Dublin administrative area:

**The Housing Aid for Older People Scheme**

This scheme is available to assist older people (aged 66+) living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out.

The effective maximum grant of €10,700 to cover up to 100% of the cost of works, may be available to applicants with gross household incomes of up to €37,500 per annum, tapering to 30% for applicants with gross household incomes of between €62,501 to €75,000 per annum. The same means test applies in every local authority area and is in line with the criteria for assessment of need for social housing.

The grant can be used for essential repairs including:

* Roof repair or replacement
* Electrical wiring upgrade
* Repair or replacement of doors and windows
* Repair broken heating or provide heating where there is none.

Grants are no longer available for the purchase of new fossil fuel boilers.

**The Mobility Aids Grant** **scheme**

This scheme provides grant aid to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, primarily, but not exclusively, associated with ageing.

The effective maximum grant under the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme is €8,000, which may cover 100% of the cost of works. Applicants must have a gross household income of up to €37,500 per annum.

The types of work allowable under this scheme are to improve access in your home, for example:

* Installation of grab rails
* Ramp construction
* Accessible shower installation
* Stair lift installation
* Fixed track hoists (excluding service, maintenance and training costs)

**The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability scheme**

This scheme provides grant aid to applicants to assist in the carrying out of works that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation needs of a person with a physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual disability.

The effective maximum grant of €40,000 to cover up to 100% of the cost of works, may be available to applicants with gross household incomes of up to €37,500 per annum, tapering to 30% for applicants with gross household incomes of between €62,501 to €75,000 per annum.

The types of work allowable under the scheme can be varied and may include:

* Ramp or other access solutions
* Grab rails installation
* Accessible bathroom facilities, for example an accessible shower or a downstairs toilet
* Stair lift installation
* Fixed track hoists (excluding service, maintenance and training costs)
* Space for wheelchair access
* Extension (typically for a bedroom or bathroom to accommodate a person with a disability)

More information on the schemes is available on the Council’s website  [**www.sdcc.ie**](http://www.sdcc.ie/)

### **H6/0125 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROAD**

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

### **H7/0125 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 (a) Disposal of fee simple Cornerfield, Kilteel Road, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84694)

### [**H7 (a) MAP**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84696)

The report was proposed by Councillor Baby. Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **AGREED**.

[**H7 (b) Disposal of fee simple in 3 School Road, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin.**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84698)

[**H7 (b) MAP**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84697)

The report was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **AGREED**.

[**H7 (c) Disposal of fee simple in 126 Loreto Avenue, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84699)

[**H7 (c) MAP**](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84700)

The report was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor Y. Collins and **AGREED.**

### **H8/0125 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT - FOR NOTING**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive and was **CONSIDERED.**

[HI 8 a) Chief Executive's Monthly Report January 2025](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84757)

[HI 8 b) Statistics Report](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84791)

[HI 8 c) Finance Report](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84773)

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H9/0125 COMMUNITY 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 **CONDSIDERED.**

The Community Infrastructure Fund of €450,000 was provided in the Revenue Budget 2024. This scheme offers community groups, including sports clubs, the opportunity to apply for funding to assist with the costs of either constructing new facilities or for the modernisation and/or expansion of existing facilities. Groups, including boards of management of community facilities, could apply online for grants ranging from a minimum of €5,000 up to a maximum of €50,000 during the period from 13th September to 11th October 2024. A detailed assessment process was undertaken based on the following criteria: local community impact, value for money, funding, sustainability and viability. A total amount of €401,750 has been approved in community infrastructure grants as detailed below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Facility/Group** | **Project** | **Amount Approved** |
| Clondalkin Cricket Club | Installation of Cricket Lane Nets | €5,000.00 |
| Áras Chrónáin Ionad Cultúir | Upgrade of Emergency Exit Fire Doors | €6,800.00 |
| Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre | Installation of Motorised Window Blinds | €13,700.00 |
| Tallaght Rugby Club | Upgrade of Club Facilities & Replacement of 2 Equipment Containers | €8,000.00 |
| 112th Knocklyon Scouts | Den Upgrade Works – Upgrade of Toilet Facilities | €30,000.00 |
| Palmerstown Parish Centre | Upgrade of Heating System | €29,000.00 |
| Quarryvale Community and Youth Centre | Community Centre Heating and Room Upgrades | €50,000.00 |
| Esker Celtic Football Club | Clubhouse Bathroom Upgrades | €7,250.00 |
| 23rd Dublin Lucan Scout Group | Upgrade and Replacement of Heating Boiler in Den | €14,000.00 |
| Ballyroan Community and Youth Centre | Community Centre Upgrade and Refurbishment | €39,000.00 |
| Glenview Lodge -Cheeverstown House CLG | Refurbishment of Glenview Lodge | €50,000.00 |
| Tallaght Athletic Club | Installation of High Jump Facility | €25,000.00 |
| Tallaght Martial Arts | Fit Out of New Martial Arts Training Facility | €30,000.00 |
| JADD Project CLG | Upgrade of CCTV System | €5,000.00 |
| Jobstown Community Centre | Upgrade and Refurbishment to Community Centre | €50,000.00 |
| Brookfield Youth and Community Centre | Upgrade and Refurbishment Works to Community Centre | €32,000.00 |
| Rathcoole Men’s Shed | Upgrade and Fit Out of Men’s Shed | €7,000.00 |
| **Total** | **€401,750.00** |

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. O’Toole, N. Whelan and E. Murphy with queries raised in relation to remaining balance of the fund and expressed condolences to the family and friends of Mrs Leah French, Manager of Knockmitten Community Centre who recently passed away.

Ms. E. Leech, Director of Housing & Community Development, responded to the queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

###  **REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Replies**

[(a) i) Reply received from Minister for Justice Helen McEntee T.D. in response to Motion 2 (Violent Assaults) September 2024 Council Meeting Agenda](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84704)

[(a) ii) Motion 2 (Violent Assaults) September 2024 Council Meeting Agenda](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84705)

**Acknowledgements**

**Correspondence**

[(b) Correspondence received from Wexford County Council in relation to Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84706)

[(c) Correspondence received from Donegal County Council in relation to Rainwater Harvesting](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84708)

[(d) Correspondence received from Donegal County Council in relation to Town Councils](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84709)

The correspondence was **NOTED**.

### **M1/0125 Benefit Scheme for Low Workers**

**Proposed by Councillor W. Carey seconded by Councillor F. Timmons**.

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.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey, M. Johannson, J. Sinnott, L. de Courcy, R. McMahon, D. Adelaide and P. Holohan.

A **Roll Call Vote** was called on the Motion in the names of Councillors B. Lawlor, R. McMahon and M. Duff: the result of which is as follows:-

**FOR: 20 (TWENTY)**

**Councillors D. Adelaide, W. Carey, P. Cosgrave, D. Donnelly, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, N. Fennell, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, M. Johansson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, R. Mannion, E. Ó Broin, J. Sinnott, J. Spear, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy and N. Whelan.**

**AGAINST: 8 (EIGHT)**

**Councillors S. Barnes, B. Lawlor, R. McMahon, L. McCrave, S. O’Hara, L. O’Toole, Baby Pereppadan and Britto Pereppadan.**

**ABSTAIN: 6 (SIX)**

**Councillors Y. Collins, T. Costello, L. de Courcy, T. Gilligan, G. Moore and E. Murphy.**

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

### **M2/0125 Taking in Charge**

**Proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin seconded by Councillor J. Sinnott**.

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.

**REPORT:**

Taking in Charge is the formal legal process through which responsibility for certain public areas, structures and services in a private residential development are transferred to, or put in the charge of, the Council.  In some instances, the extent of the Taking In Charge may not cover all of these services.

The legislative basis is contained in Section 180 of Planning & Development Acy 2000, as amended, and Section 11 of Roads Act 1993.

The Council has a policy and method in place to guide the process of Taking in Charge and more information on this, including what information is required, is already available on the Council's website

[Taking in Charge Policy-Standards - SDCC](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/commencement-and-completion/completion/taking-in-charge-policy-standards/)

<https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/commencement-and-completion/completion/taking-in-charge-policy-standards/>

A developer, or the majority of the homeowners in question (subject to certain conditions -  See Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended) may submit a written request to the Council to have the development Taken in Charge.

The Council must be satisfied that the development has been completed in compliance with the conditions of the planning permission and the Council’s technical requirements, or that four years have passed since the expiry of the planning permission and no planning enforcement action has been taken.

The new Planning and Development Act 2024 was signed into law by the President on 17th October 2024. The Act comprises 26 Parts, many of which are split into Chapters. There are 637 Sections and Seven Schedules. It is envisaged that the Minister will put Regulations in place relating to specific sections of the Act. The Act will therefore, be commenced in stages. Section 261 of the new Act covers the TIC process.

It is proposed that the LUPT SPC consider the implications of the relevant sections of the new Act and Regulations with regard to the taken in charge process and prepare a policy for adoption by the Council.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin, E. Murphy, Y. Collins, L. de Courcy, J. Sinnott, A. Edge, L. O’Toole, J. Spear, B. Lawlor, P. Cosgrave, P. Kearns, W. Carey, R. Mannion, R. McMahon, J. Tuffy and L. McCrave. Queries were raised in relation to resources, bonds, and the Taking in Charge process.

Mr. M. McAdam, Director for Land Use, Planning and Transport, responded to the Members.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M3/0125 Occupied Territories Bill**

**Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons seconded by Councillor M. Duff**.

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.

**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.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, M. Duff, N. Whelan, J. Spear, L. de Courcy, P. Holohan, E. Ó Broin, Y. Collins, A. Edge, P. Kearns, M. Johansson, P. Cosgrave, E. Murphy and J. Tuffy.

A **Roll Call Vote** was called on the Motion in the names of Councillors A. Hayes, E. Murphy and F. Timmons the result of which is as follows:

**FOR: 30 (THIRTY)**

**Councillors D. Adelaide, S. Barnes, W. Carey, Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, T. Costello, D. Donnelly, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, H. Farrell, N. Fennell, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, M. Johansson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, B. Lawlor, R. Mannion, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, S. O’Hara, Baby Pereppadan, Britto Pereppadan, J. Sheehy, J. Sinnott, J. Spear, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy and N. Whelan.**

**AGAINST: 3 (THREE)**

 **Councillors L. de Courcy, R. McMahon and G. Moore.**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

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

### **M4/0125 Illegal Parking**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott seconded by Councillor N. Fennell.**

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.

**REPORT:**

The enforcement of illegal parking at schools during drop-off and pick-up times is a matter for the Gardai.  Most schools have a relationship with their local Gardai, where the Gardai enforce the parking at times to deter illegal parking.  However, limited resources prevent this to be carried out on an ongoing basis.  In addition, the schools engage with the parents regularly through messaging systems instructing them not to park illegally.

There is a limited number of Traffic Wardens under contact patrolling the administrative area of South Dublin County Council who are generally assigned to the villages and surrounding area to enforce the Control of Parking ByeLaws, and it would not be practical for them to police the school areas.

The Active Travel team working with An Taisce and the NTA are delivering improvement works outside schools as part of the Safe Routes to School Programme. These works deter parking directly outside schools, reduce speeds and improve the environment close to schools. Details of the SRTS Programme can be found online at the following website; [Safe Routes to School | Promoting Safe Travel to Schools](https://saferoutestoschool.ie/)

It is intended that proposals for an additional, complementary, programme of works at schools in the South Dublin County Council area will be brought to the LUPT SPC for consideration.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Sinnott, Y. Collins, E. Ó Broin and T. Costello, queries were raised in relation to responsibility of South Dublin County Council regarding illegal parking at schools.

Mr. M. McAdam, Director of Land Use, Planning and Transport replied to the Members queries.

The motion was **AGREED** with acceptance of the Report.

### **M5/0125 Responsible Dog Ownership**

**Proposed by Councillor E. Murphy seconded by Councillor L. O’Toole**.

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

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council will consider an investment in an educational and awareness campaign aimed at promoting responsible dog ownership. The campaign will focus on key issues such as dog fouling, clear and effective signage, the role and responsibilities of dog wardens, adherence to local bye-laws governing dogs in public open spaces and promoting best practices for keeping dogs in homes.

The campaign will include public workshops, digital material that will be shared on our social media, media outreach, and the involvement of local dog owners, communities, and relevant authorities such as our Dog Wardens. The aim of the campaign will be to raise awareness, educate dog owners about their responsibilities particularly regarding dog fouling, public safety, and compliance with local bye-laws.

This campaign will be timely, with the recent announcement by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD on the introduction of new regulations regarding the ownership, breeding and sale of XL bully dogs and has subsequently together with the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien TD, confirmed additional funding for the resourcing of Dog Warden services in 2025.

Since 1 October 2024, new regulations will prohibit the importing, breeding, selling and re-homing of XL Bully type dogs.  From 1 February 2025, it will be illegal to own an XL Bully type dog without a ‘Certificate of Exemption’ issued by the local authority in which the dog resides.  XL Bully owners have between 1 October 2024 and 31 January 2025 to apply for a Certificate of Exemption. XL Bully owners in the South Dublin County Council area can get more information as well as downloading the required forms here: [XL Bully Regulations - SDCC](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fenvironment%2Fanimal-welfare%2Fxl-bullies-certificate-of-exemption%2Fxl-bully-regulations.html&amp;data=05%7C02%7Csconroy%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Ce426fc9622764cb7ed9608dce9f7c856%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638642497880749578%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=xuajuZOpCtjksfUaNVdQtzTjUwkuDRvHkusbMfwL1UE%3D&amp;reserved=0)

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 radio and cinema adverts to increase awareness around the issue of dog fouling. An example of one of these short videos is attached.

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.

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 residents’ 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 over 850 litter bins provided at parks locations in the county, on streets and in villages and urban centres.

Dog Litter Signage is available and requests for signage are considered on a case-by-case basis. The location of the request is examined  and if deemed suitable signs can be erected. If there is/are registered group(s) in existence in an area, signage may be provided directly to the group through the Social Credit Scheme with the caveat that such signage erected must have due regard for public health and safety, and must not impede visibility or restrict traffic, cycling and pedestrian flow. South Dublin County Council will review all relevant signage in relation to dogs in line with this campaign.

South Dublin County Council 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, and seizure and collection of unwanted/stray dogs and removal to the dog pound.

Further information in relation to dogs and dog ownership can be found on our website here: [Dogs - SDCC](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/animal-welfare/dogs/dogs.html)

 [M5 (b) Dog Fouling campaign video](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=84646)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Murphy, Y. Collins, L. O’Toole, N. Fennell, T. Costello, M. Duff, S. Barnes, P. Kearns, L. McCrave and J. Sheehy.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Water and Climate Change addressed the Members on the motion.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M6/0125 Approved Housing Bodies**

**Proposed by Councillor T. Costello seconded by Councillor Y. Collins**

That South Dublin County Council engage with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) 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.

**REPORT:**

The Council has previously engaged with Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's) regarding 'No Pet Policies'. They have advised that this policy is in place often at the request of the management company in multi- unit developments. Reasons why pets are refused include inadequate space to hold a pet, the possibility of the pet becoming a noise nuisance to neighbours and damage to the property. The Council will always advise prospective tenants whether pets are permitted or not in a property to enable applicants to make an informed decision. It should be noted that exceptions to this can be made in the case of tenants with a disability that require an assistance or guide dog. Many of the AHBs have advised they operate a 'Pet on Permission Policy'.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors T. Costello, Y. Collins, L. de Courcy, R. Mannion, M. Johansson, L. Dunne, N. Fennell, E. Murphy and L. McCrave.

Ms. E. Leech, Director of Housing and Community Development addressed the Members on the motion informing of pet policies within South Dublin County Council.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M7/0125 SPHE**

**Proposed by Councillor L. de Courcy seconded by Councillor R. McMahon**

That this council calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Children, to remove the portions of the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum dealing with sex, pornography and gender identity in horrendously explicit and wholly inappropriate terms for 12–15-year-old children.

**REPORT:**

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. de Courcy, N. Whelan, N. Fennell, J. Spear, J. Sinnott, M. Duff, E. Murphy, A. Edge, P. Kearns, D. Adelaide, F. Timmons, L. Dunne, R. McMahon, W. Carey, M. Johansson and L. O’Toole who all spoke to oppose the motion.

A **Roll Call Vote** was called on the Motion in the names of Councillors P. Kearns, A. Edge and E. Murphy the result of which is as follows:

**FOR: 3 (THREE)**

**Councillors L. de Courcy, R. McMahon and G. Moore.**

**AGAINST: 29 (TWENTY NINE)**

 **Councillors D. Adelaide, C. Brady, W. Carey, Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, T. Costello, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, H. Farrell, N. Fennell, A. Hayes, M. Johansson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, B. Lawlor, R. Mannion, L. McCrave, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, S. O’Hara, L. O’Toole, Baby Pereppadan, Britto Pereppadan, J. Sheehy, J. Spear, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy and N. Whelan**

**ABSTAIN: 1 (ONE)**

**Councillor D. Donnelly.**

As a result of the **Roll Call Vote** the motion **FELL**.

### **M10/0125 Older Persons Home Refurbishment.**

### **It was Proposed by Councillor M. Duff seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and MOVED without debate.**

That this Council calls on the Manager to review the situation of when an Older Persons social house is void, that refurbishment of the bathroom should ensure accessibility to a walk in shower and comfort height toilet, as standard, for the new tenants needs, as per an Occupational Therapist report.

**REPORT:**

Approved social housing applicants whose households comprise solely of persons aged 55 or over will be considered for age friendly specific accommodation in accordance with our policies for rightsizing and the allocation of age friendly accommodation. The Housing Maintenance and Refurbishment Section undertake required accessibility refurbishment works as recommended by occupation therapists where necessary as part of the re-let process. It should be noted that such works are based on individual applicants’ needs and therefore are not part of routine re-let works.  However, all of our age friendly accommodation is designed to meet the needs of older persons living independently for longer.

In our new age friendly housing developments, we install as standard; a level access shower or wet room and provide sufficient space and adequate support in walls so that bathrooms can be upgraded to a fully compliant with Part M building regulations if the need arises in the future.

***Meeting ended at 19:10***

***Motions Not Reached:***

### **M8/0125 Garda Clearance**

Councillor N. Fennell

This council agrees that Garda Clearance should be carried out by the council on a council applicant once the applicant is on the housing list 10 years to prevent delays once an applicant is approved for their council home.

### **M9/0125 Tree Management Policy**

Councillor Britto Pereppadan

To ask the chief executive for a revision of our current Tree Management Policy 'Living with Trees', to include a scheme to address overgrown trees that are unsuitable for residential areas.

### **M11/0125 Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty**

Councillor J. Spear

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

### **M12/0125 Cost Rental Scheme**

Councillor N. Whelan

This council calls on the new housing Minister to re-evaluate the Cost Rental scheme to make it affordable for the people it is intended to reach.

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

Mayor

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