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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council February 2025 County Council Meeting held on Monday 10 February 2025

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adelaide, D. | Kearns, P. |
| Barnes, S. | Lawlor, B. |
| Brady, C. | Mannion, R. |
| Carey, W. | McCrave, L. |
| Casserly, V. | McMahon, R. |
| Collins, Y. | McManus, D. |
| Cosgrave, P. | 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. | Richardson, D. |
| Gilligan, T.  | Sheehy, J. |
| Hayes, A. | Sinnott, J.  |
| Holohan, P. | Spear, J. |
| Johansson, M. | Timmons, F. |
| Keane, K. | Tuffy, J.  |
|  | Whelan, N. |
|  |  |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | C. Ward. |
| Directors | J. Frehill, M. McAdam, T. Walsh, E. Leech, L. Maxwell, R. Fitzgerald, E. Burke |
| Head of IT | T. Kavanagh |
| County Architect | C. Harte |
| County Librarian | P. Fusco |
| 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 | A. Holohan |

The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan, presided.

**WEBCASTING NOTICE**

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Therefore, by entering the Council Chamber and using the seats around the meeting tables, public gallery etc. you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting.

The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan, welcomed everyone and informed the Members of the etiquette for Hybrid Meetings:

Members attending remotely must check that they can access the “Chat Function” before commencing the meeting.

Members can indicate they wish to speak on an item through the chat function – using “Speak please.”

Members must be able to be seen, specifically for roll call, when speaking and voting.

Mics to be on mute until invited to speak through the Chair.

Members attending in person can indicate they wish to speak by signalling to the Chair.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a minute’s silence was observed as a mark of respect to acknowledge the recent passing of two former Councillors and Mayors of South Dublin County Council, Eamonn Walsh and Jim Daly. The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan and Councillor P. Cosgrave expressed sympathy and condolences to both families.

At this point, the Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan proposed, and the Members **AGREED** to vary the sequence of items on the agenda in order to take Headed Item no. 12 **(H12)**.

### **H12/0225 SAGGART PRIMARY CARE CENTRE MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION – FOR APPROVAL**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. M. McAdam, Director for Land Use, Planning and Transportation, and were **CONSIDERED.**

[H12 (a) Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84986)

[H12 (b) Presentation](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85083)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, T. Gilligan, M. Duff, P. Cosgrave, P. Holohan, S. O’Hara, L. de Courcy, E. Ó Broin, W. Carey, J. Tuffy, L. Dunne, D. Adelaide, D. Donnelly, P. Kearns and R. McMahon. Queries were raised in relation to staff resources, pedestrian access, location, landscaping and public/private partnership.

Mr. M. McAdam, Director for Land Use, Planning and Transportation responded to the members queries.

As per statutory requirements, a material contravention of the County Development Plan must be passed by not less than 30 Members of the Council. A **Roll Call** Vote was called the result of which is as follows:

**FOR**: **39 (THIRTY-NINE)**

**Councillors D. Adelaide, S. Barnes, C. Brady, W. Carey, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, L. de Courcy, D. Donnelly, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, H. Farrell, N. Fennell, T. Gilligan, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, M. Johansson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, B. Lawlor, R. Mannion, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, D. McManus, G. Moore, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, S. O’Hara, L. O’Toole, Baby, Pereppadan, Britto Pereppadan, D. Richardson, J. Sheehy, J. Sinnott, J. Spear, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy and N. Whelan.**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

As a result of the **Roll Call Vote** The Saggart Primary Care Centre Material Contravention proposed by The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons was **RESOLVED**.

### **H1/0225 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

[January Council Minutes - 13th January 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85110)

Minutes of the January Council Meeting held on 13th January 2025 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 Y. Collins.

### **H2/0225 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*

### **H3/0225 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management, and were **CONSIDERED:**

1. [Calendar of Meeting Dates](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84982)
2. [Report on Conferences/Seminars](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84979)

[(c) Training and Development Programme for Elected Members 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85089)

[(d) Participatory Budget Steering Group Nominations](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84970)

The reports were **APPROVED** on the proposition of Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy.

### **H4/0225 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### **H5/0225 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **RESOLVED**:

### “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q24 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/0225 Councillor D. Adelaide**

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

**REPLY:**

Under the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019, the Council has a statutory obligation to enforce minimum standards in private rented accommodation. Inspections of private rented properties and follow-up actions are undertaken to ensure compliance with the Regulations.  Inspections are primarily carried out on the Council's behalf by external contractors as part of a planned inspection programme covering properties supported by Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) tenancies and private properties. In addition to this planned programme, properties are inspected by the Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) where complaints are reported directly to the Council.

Where properties fail any of the nine regulatory minimum standard items, the landlord is notified of non-compliance and requested to resolve the issue(s) identified with follow-up inspections arranged as necessary.  Where there is continued contravention of the regulations further to inspections and improvement letters, the matter may be escalated by the EHOs who may proceed to initiate legal proceedings if the required works are not completed within a set timeframe.

In 2024, the Council exceeded our private rental inspection target of 3926 by 21.55% as set by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The Council’s private rental inspection team is available to assist and can be contacted by phone 01 4149153 or by email priu@sdublincoco.ie

The details of private rental inspections for 2023 and 2024 are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Total dwellings inspected | Total dwellings Non-compliant | Improvement letters: | Improvement notices: | Prohibition notices |
| 2024  | 4772 | 3594 | 4431 | 8 | 1 |
| 2023  | 2732 | 1174 | 2032 | 0 | 0 |

### **Q2/0225 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive how many homes South Dublin County Council plans to lease from private owners for use as social homes, and the related cost to leasing these homes in 2025?

**REPLY:**

As of January 2025, the table below details the number of privately owned properties leased by the Council for the provision of social homes:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Leasing Scheme** | **Number of Units** | **Monthly Cost** |
| Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) | 737 | €914,594 |
| Long Term Lease Schemes (LTS) | 957 | €1,556,468 |

The Council receives funding for the provision of long term leased homes from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with tenants paying the Council a weekly differential rent.

### **Q3/0225 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive the yearly funding provided to the Council by the Government, and the accompanying number of homes to be retrofitted for 2025?

**REPLY:**

The Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme (EERP) was launched with the aim of funding the retrofit of social homes requiring insulation and energy upgrade works over a 10 year period.

For 2025, South Dublin has been allocated a preliminary target of 83 homes with funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage of €2.82 million. The programme allows for an average spend of €34,000 per property on eligible energy efficiency works. There is also an additional €169,320 funding available for project management fees.

### **Q4/0225 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive how many Form-15 notifications have been received by the Council for each year (including 2024) in relation to short term lets as required by the supplementary new Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 2) Regulations 2019 amend the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended and apply from 1st July 2019?

**REPLY:**

The Short Term Letting (STL) Regulations, which were due to expire at the end of 2021, were extended as a consequence of their connection with the Rent Pressure Zone legislation.

Under these regulations, arrangements applicable in rent pressure zones are set out as follows:

* Short term letting is defined as the letting of a house or apartment, or part of a house or apartment, for any period not exceeding 14 days.
* Homesharing (the letting of a room or rooms in a person’s principal private residence) will continue to be permissible on an unrestricted basis and be exempted from the new planning requirements.
* Homesharers will be allowed to sub-let their entire principle private residence (house or apartment) on a short term basis for a cumulative period of 90 days where they are temporarily absent from their home.
* Where the 90 day threshold is exceeded, change of use planning permission will be required.

Anybody wishing to avail of these planning exemptions is required to register this with the relevant local authority by completing a Form 15 Notification.

South Dublin has received 2 Form 15 Notifications - one was received in  2022 and one was received in 2023.

Replacement legislation involving the registration of short-term letting properties, which is under development in conjunction with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Fáilte Ireland, is at an advanced stage and is expected to be in place in 2025.

Once this legislation is in place, it is anticipated that all short term tourist accommodation in Ireland will be registered with Fáilte Ireland and this will replace the  Form-15 Notifications currently being supplied to Local Authorities.

In the interim, the existing STL Regulations will remain in place until the new STL registration regime is operational.

### **Q5/0225 Councillor L. de Courcy**To ask the Chief Executive what Garda Vetting procedures are in place for all volunteers helping out at community events where children and/or vulnerable adults may be in attendance?

**REPLY:**

The Council risk assess all facilitators/volunteers that we directly engage for activities to establish if they meet the conditions detailed in Schedule 1 of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016, which specifies the criteria for relevant work or activities relating to children or vulnerable persons. In general, Garda Vetting is required where someone will be working with the same group of children and/ or vulnerable adults over a number of weeks and may build up a relationship with them.

In addition, under the Children First Act, 2015 (as amended) each individual service area of the Council that has contact with children must undertake a risk assessment and prepare a child safeguarding statement of the risk and outline the procedures in place to manage and / or mitigate any risk identified.

A copy of South Dublin County Council's Child Safeguarding Policy and Statement are available at [Child Safeguarding - SDCC](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/our-council/policies-and-plans/child-safeguarding/)

### **Q6/0225 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the current percentage of houses presented for the 'Tenant in-situ' scheme being purchased, compared to the percentage of houses being refused?

**REPLY:**

There have been 698 expressions of interest under the Tenant in Situ Scheme received by the Housing Department up to January 2025. Of these 24% (169) have been purchased under the housing acquisitions programme. 51.2% (358) have not progressed and 24.8% (171) are currently under consideration.

All applications under the Tenant in Situ Scheme are subject to standard due diligence checks to ensure that properties are suitable for acquisition. Reasons for not progressing vary but can include provision of alternative accommodation for tenants, a finding of unsuitability following a building condition survey, cost of unit exceeds DHLGH acquisition cost guidelines or discovery of issues relating to title during the conveyance process.

### **Q7/0225 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the current average time from when someone enters homeless accommodation until they are housed alternatively?

**REPLY:**

The Council is aware of the need for the provision of appropriate housing and related services to meet the needs of housing applicants and homeless persons in the County and continues to work proactively to address the ongoing challenges 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.

In 2024, there were 267 homes allocated to homeless households across the county with an average wait time of 5.9 years.

### **Q8/0225 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details of how many tenant-in-situ acquisitions were not progressed in 2024 due to properties being over- or under-occupied?

**REPLY:**

In 2024, 5 property acquisitions did not progress due to the property being over/ under-occupied. 3 properties were over occupied and 2 properties were under-occupied.

### **Q9/0225 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive how many households presented as homeless in SDCC in 2024 due to eviction by private landlords, including how many of those were HAP or Homeless HAP tenancies?

**REPLY**

The table below outlines the number of new presentations following the receipt of a valid Notice to Quit by month in 2024.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **June** | **July** | **Aug** | **Sept** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec**  | **Total**  |
| **No. of NTQ** | 20 | 19 | 22 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 21 | 23 | 13 | 21 | 12 | 16 | 224 |

### **Q10/0225 Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Chief Executive would it be possible to include and update engaged local groups when works for their areas are scheduled regarding urban tree and hedge management, to ensure best use of resources, and that works undertaken best meet the needs of the community?

**REPLY:**

The Public Realm maintenance schedule is available to all residents as well as tidy towns and other environmental groups on the Council website at the following link - [Public Realm Operations Map | South Dublin County Council](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/Home/CleansingMap).  The schedule currently contains planned dates for cleansing and grass cutting as well as collection of waste which has been collected by tidy towns and environmental groups.  The road sweeping schedule as implemented by Oxigen Environmental Ltd on the Council's behalf is also available at this location.  The proposal to make both hedge and tree maintenance information available will be examined and these will be added to the online maintenance schedule if possible.  The hedge maintenance programme will conclude at the end of February in accordance with the wildlife act exclusion between March 1st and August 31st.  If the hedge maintenance schedule can be made available on line then this will be done for the next programme which will commence after September 1st.

### **Q11/0225 Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Chief Executive would it be possible to include and update engaged local groups when works regarding footpaths, lighting and roads are scheduled for their areas, to ensure best use of resources, and that works undertaken best meet the needs of the community?

**REPLY:**

Residents and community groups feed into the preparation of our annual plans by submitting requests for works via our customer care system or deputations. The requested locations are inspected and if work is warranted then they are added to the list of locations for consideration for future road work programmes. The extents of works undertaken are determined based on defects and surface deterioration.

As part of the Road Opening Licence conditions the works contractor is required to give residents three days advance notification of works at their property and to engage with the resident to ensure that a level of access can be retained.

Also, following presentations to the Area Committees and to the Full Council, it is proposed to publish details of our annual works programmes on our website once agreed. Further details of the scheduling and location of such works will be kept up to date in 2025 (for example on the Road and Footpath Programme and on the Active Travel programme).

### **Q12/0225 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive how he engages with Owner Management Companies who manage common areas that include social housing, to ensure that the fees SDCC pay to the OMC are put to good use?

**REPLY:**

An increasing number of residents in the County now live in apartments, duplexes and houses that are part of multi-unit developments with common areas, or shared spaces and services. In most cases, the shared facilities for the benefit of the residents are controlled and operated by an owners’ management company (OMC) on behalf of its members, who may be owner-occupiers or landlords. OMCs are established to manage and maintain common areas in multi-unit developments and are the legal owners of the common areas on behalf of the owners of the homes.

The Council currently pays management fees to sixty- four OMCs in respect of seven hundred and eight five social homes. Our housing officers and maintenance teams are active in these estates and where our staff observe or receive complaints regarding the management of common areas in a mixed tenure development, contact is made with the relevant OMC or their property management agent to discuss the issues. The most common complaints from tenants relate to the cleaning of communal areas and delays in maintenance and repairs. Similarly, the OMC can contact the Housing Department regarding issues relating to our tenant(s) for non-compliance with ‘house rules’ including anti-social behaviour, noise pollution and waste management.

A number of staff from our Housing Department recently attended a Multi- Unit Development training and awareness session with the Housing Agency in relation to the housing authority’s role and responsibilities. In addition, the new Programme for Government outlines plans for improving the management of these developments by moving responsibility for the Multi-Unit Development Acts to the Department of Housing to streamline support for OMCs and improve oversight. It also proposes the establishment of a unit in the Housing Agency to regulate OMCs to ensure effective governance.

### **Q13/0225 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the criteria in South Dublin County Council for the upgrading/repainting of faded road markings including double yellow lines and yellow boxes?

**REPLY:**

A list of roadmarkings requiring renewal is drawn up on an ongoing basis from customer requests and road inspector observations. On a regular basis the Area Engineer will issue the most current list of locations to our designated roadmarking contractor as a works order.

If there are specific locations of concern please refer them to the roads department for inspection and inclusion on future works orders.

### **Q14/0225 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the total spend by South Dublin County Council on social media advertising in 2024 broken down by social media company.

**REPLY:**

The total spend on social media advertising in 2024 across all social media platforms was €5,295.44. Below is breakdown of spend per platform:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meta** | **X** | **LinkedIn** | **Tik Tok** | **YouTube** | **Total** |
| €3,705.55 | €474.02 | €1,115.87 | 0 | 0 | €5,295.44 |

### **Q15/0225 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive if there are any plans to increase or reduce the number of playing pitches in the South Dublin County Council Area?

**REPLY:**

Recognising the challenges in the provision of sports pitches; South Dublin County Council commissioned a Sport Pitch Strategy (SPS) in 2020 to provide the Council with a clear evidence base and set of recommendations for future outdoor sports facility development across the district over the coming years. A SPS is a strategic assessment that provides an analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) in the local authority. The strategy and the evidence upon which it is based is delivered using insight from specific Governing Bodies of Sport, national guidance and local stakeholder input. The strategy focused on the following sports: Soccer, GAA, Rugby Union, Hockey, Cricket and Athletics.

Meeting pitch demand requires actions on a number of fronts and the SPS defined 5 main actions for the council to deliver; the actions are set out below as follows:

**Increase maintenance of existing pitches to improve match play equivalents:**
Following adoption of the strategy the Council has provided additional revenue budget to support these actions. A significant annual pitch maintenance budget covers regular fortnightly maintenance and includes a sum of for engagement of specialist contractors to do minor drainage improvements as well as goal mouth repairs and replacement of goal posts. SDCC manage regular grass cutting of pitches by direct labour.

The Council’s Public Realm Section has also in the past 5 to 7 years carried out major pitch upgrades including installing drainage systems on pitches in Tymon Park (4), Jobstown Park (1), Butler McGee Park (1), Clondalkin Park (1) and Ballymount Park (1). These schemes have been funded through a combination of sports capital funding as well as council own capital and revenue resources, with other funding where available.

A further 14 pitches have received sports capital funding, (including the successful grant of 10 new pitch upgrades as part of the 2024 allocation announced last year); with plans to progress these on a phased basis to decrease impacts on clubs' access to pitches. 2 of these pitches upgrades are underway at present in Griffeen Valley Park and Glenaulin Park, a further pitch upgrade is being delivered with the upgrade of St. Cuthbert's Park and upgrades on 2 No. Jobstown pitches are planned for 2025. The installation of such drainage schemes will improve waterlogging and playability issues on those pitches which require this level of intervention.

**Develop a revised allocation policy; including pitch sharing and multipurpose use of facilities where appropriate:**
In 2021, the Council introduced a new online Pitch Allocation and Booking system which went live for the 2021/2022 playing season. The South Dublin County Council’s Annual Allocation of Pitches/Sporting Facilities – Policy and Conditions can be found at [www.sdcc.ie/bookapitch](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/sport-and-recreation/playing-pitches-and-facilities/allocation-of-pitch-sporting-facilities-policy-and-conditions.pdf). Once clubs are allocated pitches via the online system they are given access to “Pitch Manager” software which enables the club to manage and record all activity on the pitches allocated to them.

The information allows SDCC gather valuable key data to better manage and maintain pitches against a scenario of growing demand. It will also help identity any pitches that are underused and provide more availability for pitch sharing etc.

**Reserve ability to change the configuration of pitches:**
This ability is built into the allocation policies, and pitches are swapped out as required/if appropriate. Flexibility in configuration/layout is provided as much as possible at the planning and design stage to future proof pitches to allow for changes as required.

**Provide new grass pitches to meet capacity issues:**
New grass pitches have been recently delivered as set out below and new pitches are also planned as part of developments:

* Dodder Valley Mt Carmel: (1 athletics track, 1 soccer pitch: Construction completed)
* Adamstown SDZ parks: (1 cricket pitch complete at Airlie, 1 GAA-sized pitch complete at Tandy’s Lane Park)
* Firhouse/Ballycullen area (1 GAA sized pitch-provided via development)
* Rathcoole park: provision of a larger GAA sized pitch in conjunction with IW works-complete.
* Newcastle LAP area (1 small sized pitch-provided via development-built and to be transferred to council in short term)
* Fortunestown area (2 pitches via development- built. and 1 No. additional pitch planned for Carrigmore Park-Part 8 passed)
* Kiltipper Park Phase 2 (1 GAA sized pitch, 2 soccer sized pitches under construction)
* Rathcoole area in conjunction with GAA (TBC.)
* Clonburris SDZ parks  (5 grass soccer sized pitches planned)

**Provide Artificial Grass Pitches to augment long term capacity and meet training need:**
At present; there is a council approved and funded 3G Artificial Grass Pitch Programme, based on the recommendations from the SPS and is agreed and underway. 2 No. artificial grass pitches have been delivered (at Airlie Park and Sean Walsh Park) as part of this programme of delivery, the other 3 no. required locations are in the west and east of the county and the new Strategic Development Zone area at Clonburris plans to provide 1 No. GAA sized / multi-sport Artificial Grass Pitch and 1 No. soccer sized / multi-sport Artificial Grass Pitch within the SDZ area.

The SPS defined future locations of additional floodlit artificial grass pitches, as it provides evidence based upon local team usage and future team generation rates that would be the predominant users of the facility. The SPS demonstrates that there is a need to provide AGP’s as a vital asset to the local community in terms of a training and match-play facility for clubs, teams and others. The delivery of the SPS is reviewed on a regular basis and implementation is reported and discussed at the relevant SPC. Artificial grass pitches can support far more matches and training sessions compared to regular grass pitches and the sports pitch strategy recommends the provision of 5 No. pitches across the county to allow for an even distribution and facilitate use county-wide as set out above.

### **Q16/0225 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive what the average response time is to emails received to the info@sdublincoco.ie and on average the number of emails received to this account per month - for 2024 and 2025.

**REPLY:**

Unfortunately the requested information is not available from the Customer Contact System. We can advise that 23,899 customer care queries were received in 2024 in total, and 13,863 of those were by email. We can provide average response times for all queries received by Department or by Month, but we cannot provide it by the contact channel used, i.e. phone, email, or online.

### **Q17/0225 Councillor J. Spear**

Could the Chief Executive please report on how many people have mortgages with the Council?

**REPLY:**

At the 31st December 2024, the Council’s loan book had a value of approximately €49 million spread across 548 accounts.  These loans were advanced under a range of schemes, details as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scheme** | **No. of accounts** |
| Affordable Housing Loan | 268 |
| Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan | 125 |
| Shared Ownership accounts | 82 |
| Income Related Housing Finance Agency loan | 21 |
| Housing Purchase Loan | 20 |
| Local Authority Home Loan | 32 |
| Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan | 0 |
| **Total** | **548** |

The Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) and the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan (LAPR) are the only loan schemes currently available to applicants.

### **Q18/0225 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive how SDCC are being proactive in identifying areas where trees need to be protected, particularly where trees are on private land but on boundaries to public locations?

**REPLY:**

The Council's 'Living with Trees' policy 2021-2026 was adopted by the elected members following a detailed review of policy in this area by the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC during 2021.  'Living with Trees' addresses and promotes the role that trees play in fighting climate change and their contribution towards the environment as well as their social, economic, health and wellbeing benefits and outlines the Council's policy for the management of the stock of publicly owned street trees, trees in parkland locations and trees located on estate open spaces. It includes measures to maintain them in accordance with agreed programmes and sets out a proactive tree management programme to expand the tree canopy in the County. South Dublin are also proactive by undertaking trees and woodland surveys on its own properties, and have recently one done for Tymon Park.

In relation to land both public and private, across the county; the council have adopted policies regarding the retention of trees, and it is an objective across the County Development Plan, including through the Green Infrastructure Strategy and through objectives listed in the Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Chapter (Chapter 3) and the Green Infrastructure Chapter (Chapter 4).  The value of trees is also highlighted in Section 4.2.3 Climate Resilience, and they form part of the calculation process for a successful Green Space Factor which is required from applicants during the planning development application process.

Within private development sites, where trees and hedgerows are specified to be retained as part of the development, usually a condition is applied to the grant of planning permission to protect the trees that are specified for retention and prevent their removal. A condition to retain trees on private land, as part of a Grant of Planning Permission, grants a high level of protection. Typically as part of  the conditions of the permission, a developer is required to ensure tree protection fencing is in place prior to any construction commencing and for the duration of the works. This ensures trees are protected and is in line with British Standard BS5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction. Failure to adhere to these conditions (even without damage being done to the trees) results in the developer not being in compliance with their grant of permission and enforcement action can be taken.

As an added layer of protection, and if appropriate to sustainable planning and development, SDCC sometimes seek a tree bond to be lodged, to ensure there is a financial penalty if the developer fails to either implement tree protections or, indeed, damages trees. The bond is a strong financial disincentive that encourages strong compliance with the conditions of planning in relation to tree protection and prevention of damage to them.

Similar proposals apply to development proposals that bound public land and SDCC frequently make comment and / or make conditions relating to such proposals. In the case of trees on a shared party boundary, there are provisions within legislation for landowners to prune trees that overhang their property. The permission of landowners on both sides of the boundary are typically sought before works commence, but this is not required by law.

### **Q19/0225 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive do current planning applications require that the applicant specifically highlights where existing trees are located on a site and what they plan to do to retain these?

**REPLY:**

The Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) have many stringent requirements in order for a planning application to be validated and thereafter considered for permission. These include items such as the scale of maps and plans, requirements around the description of development, if an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is included. The Regulations also require identification of "significant tree stands" in submitted plans as well as other features of a development site. This term is somewhat subjective.

For large applications or applications where there are large numbers of trees within the boundary of the development site, an applicant will often be required pursuant to County Development Plan policy to provide a tree survey map identifying the quality of current tree cover, rating the quality of individual trees as well as landscaping plans identifying any trees that are proposed for removal and/or replacement and trees that are proposed for retention. These specialist reports are often requested as part of pre-planning consultations or as additional information requests with reference to County Development Plan policy. The Planning Department relies on the expertise of its Parks and Public Realm Department for advice in relation to trees.

### **Q20/0225 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the number of sites where SDCC has had to engage from a planning enforcement perspective for felled trees for 2021 - 2024?

**REPLY:**

Between 1/1/2021 and 31/12/2024 a total of 11 planning enforcement files were opened relating to either complaints alleging the removal / felling of trees and hedgerows without the benefit of planning permission OR for noncompliance with trees and hedgerow related conditions of planning permission.

Some 5 of these files are still open.

### **Q21/0225 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive can he issue a report that residents associations and tidy towns could use in regard to litter and dumping- what the bye laws state and the fines involved, and requirements for the public to dispose of their waste?

**REPLY:**

Residents' associations and Tidy Towns committees play a crucial role in maintaining clean and litter-free communities. Understanding local bye-laws, associated fines, and proper waste disposal requirements is essential for effective community engagement.

**Litter and Waste Management Bye-Laws in SDCC**

South Dublin County Council has established specific bye-laws to prevent and control litter, as well as to regulate the storage, presentation, and segregation of household and commercial waste. These regulations are designed to maintain public spaces and ensure environmental sustainability.

**Fines and Penalties**

Under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, leaving or throwing litter in a public place is an offence. Offenders may receive an on-the-spot fine of €150. If the matter proceeds to the District Court and the offender is convicted, the maximum fine can be up to €4,000.

Additionally, SDCCs Waste Management – Household & Commercial Waste Bye-Laws outline penalties for non-compliance with waste presentation and segregation requirements. Specific fines and enforcement measures are detailed within these bye-laws.

All households and commercial properties must either use a authorised waste collector or transport the waste themselves to an authorised waste facility. Failure to comply with the bye-laws may result in a €75 Fixed Payment Notice being issued.

If the alleged offence continues the matter may be re-investigated under Section 32 of the *Waste Management Act 1996 as amended* where prosecution in the District Court could lead to a Class A fine of between €4,000 and €5,000.

**Public Requirements for Waste Disposal**

Residents and businesses are required to adhere to the following waste disposal guidelines:

* **Proper Presentation**: Waste must be stored in appropriate bins and presented for collection in accordance with the council's schedule. Improper presentation, such as leaving waste in plastic bags on the street, is prohibited.
* **Segregation**: Waste should be segregated into recyclables, organic waste, and general waste, following the council's guidelines to facilitate effective recycling and reduce landfill use.
* **Use of Authorized Collectors**: Only authorized waste collectors with valid permits should be used for waste disposal. Utilizing unauthorized collectors is an offence and may result in fines.

**Community Engagement**

Residents' associations and Tidy Towns committees can support these efforts by:

* **Organizing Clean-Up Events**: Regular community clean-ups can help maintain public spaces and foster community spirit. These clean up events can be organised in conjunction with SDCC Public Realm section.
* **Educational Campaigns**: Informing residents about proper waste disposal practices and the importance of adhering to bye-laws can lead to better compliance.
* **Reporting Violations**: Encouraging community members to report instances of illegal dumping or littering to the council can aid in enforcement efforts.

The attached bye laws and Litter by Law leaflet will be helpful to residents associations and tidy towns groups in sharing the knowledge and information with the community. By understanding and promoting adherence to these regulations, communities can work together to create a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

[Q21 (b) Litter and the Law](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85036)

[Q21 (c) Litter Bye Laws](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85037)

[Q21 (d) Household and Commercial Waste Bye Laws 2018](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85060)

### **Q22/0225 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive can he consider what role SDCC take in Pedestrian safety and at Pedestrian crossings and ask would he consider a safety campaign?

**REPLY:**

In 2024, South Dublin County Council installed 13 new pedestrian crossings for pedestrian safety across the county.

The Council recently appointed a new Road Safety Officer, and already there are plans to run several awareness  and education programmes aimed at highlighting "crossing the road dangers" to Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs) such as pedestrians while they are out walking or crossing the road.

The programmes planned will highlighting the importance of being visible to drivers,  and will encourage all pedestrians to cross the road at a safe place and also to take some personal responsibility for their own safety.

Pedestrian crossings are maintained and checked regularly through the Council's operational programme with crews ensuring that the crossings are in good safe working order.

National Road Safety Week falls annually during the month of October coinciding when the clocks go back, thus making it the appropriate time to highlight the dangers to Pedestrians and all VRU’s.  Accordingly, as part of South Dublin County Council 2025 Road Safety Education Programme, we plan to run a  Safety Awareness Campaign’ on Pedestrian Safety during the Month of October, in line with the National Awareness Campaign run by the Road Safety Authority.

### **Q23/0225 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive what role, if any, park rangers have in parking and wheelchair parking in our parks?

**REPLY:**

The South Dublin County Council [Parks and Open Space Bye Laws 2011](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/download-it/publications/parks-and-open-spaces-bye-laws-2011.pdf) set out (under section 3 of the bye laws headed Traffic) the conditions under which vehicles are allowed to enter and be parked in a public park in the county.  The bye laws cover the areas of vehicles that are prohibited from entering the park, the maximum speed limit for vehicles that are permitted to enter the park and the parking of vehicles in car parks and the permitted use of those car parks.  The primary duties of the park ranger relate to the implementation of the parks bye laws and this covers all aspects of the bye laws including traffic and parking.

### **Q24/0225 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to give the exact number of Dáil electors on the electoral register that was in operation for the General Election on the 29th November 2024 for each of the constituencies of Dublin Mid West and Dublin South West, and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

Based on the Rolling Register generated on 8th November 2024 and Balance List generated on 21st November 2024, the number of Dáil electors on the Electoral Register, for the General Election held on the 29th November 2024, for the South Dublin constituencies were as follows:-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Dublin Mid West** |  85,769 |
| **Dublin South West** |  114,832 |

### **H6/0225 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROAD – FOR APPROVAL**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. M. McAdam, Director for Land Use, Planning & Transportation, and were **CONSIDERED.**

[H6 (a) (i) Taking in Charge of Hallwell Estate Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85003)

[H6 (a) (ii) Hallwell Estate TIC Map](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85056)

[H6 (a) (iii) Hallwell Estate Roads Schedule](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85057)

[H6 (b) (i) Taking in Charge of the Ballyowen Square Estate Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85007)
[H6 (b) (ii) Ballyowen Square TIC Map](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85058)

[H6 (b) (iii) Ballyowen Square Roads Schedule](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85059)

Councillor E. Ó Broin raised a query in relation to the developers engagement the Taking in Charge process.

Mr. M. McAdam, Director for Land Use, Planning & Transportation responded to the Member’s query.

The reports were **NOTED** and proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor by L. O’Toole and **RESOLVED:**

**“**That the Taking in Charge of Hallwell Estate and Ballyowen Square Estate be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

### **H7/0225 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 for Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development and were **CONSIDERED.**

[(a) Disposal of fee simple in 100 Sarsfield Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84973)

[(a) Map](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84974)

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

“That the disposal of fee simple in100 Sarsfield Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

[(b) Disposal of plot of land adjacent to 51 Castle Park](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84975)

[(b) Map](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84976)

Councillor R. McMahon raised a query in relation to a boundary wall.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director for Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development responded to the Member’s query.

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

“That the disposal of plot of land adjacent to 51 Castle Parkbe **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

[(c) Proposed renewal of Lease for part ground floor & 1st floor offices to the Commissioner of Public Works (OPW) - County Hall, Belgard Square North, Tallaght, Dublin 24](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84993)

[(c) Map](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84994)

Councillor R. McMahon raised queries regarding the timeframe for renewal of and terms of the lease.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director for Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development, responded to the Member’s queries.

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

“That renewal of lease for part ground floor & 1st floor offices to the Commissioner of Public Works (OPW) - County Hall, Belgard Square North, Tallaght, Dublin 24 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

[(d) Proposed renewal of Lease for 8 carparking spaces to the Commissioner of Public Works (OPW) in Basement Level -3, Block A, Tallaght Cross East, Tallaght, Dublin 24](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84995)

[(d) Map](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84996)

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

“That renewal of Lease for 8 carparking spaces to the Commissioner of Public Works (OPW) in Basement Level -3, Block A, Tallaght Cross East, Tallaght, Dublin 24 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

### **H8/0225 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT - FOR NOTING**

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive, expressed condolences on the recent passing of two former Councillors and Mayors of South Dublin County Council, Eamonn Walsh and Jim Daly. He then presented the following report, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED.**

[HI 8 a) Chief Executive's Report - February 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85084)

[HI 8 b) Statistics Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85134)

[HI 8 c) Finance Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85054)

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H9/0225 CORPORATE PLAN 2024 REVIEW REPORT - FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. L. Maxwell, Director for Corporate Performance and Change Management and was **CONSIDERED.**

[HI 9 Report on Corporate Plan Achievements 2024](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85137)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Sinnott, and R. McMahon with queries raised on tracking and review of targets.

Ms. L. Maxwell Director for Corporate Performance and Change Management, responded to the Members queries.

The report was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor J. Sinnott and **AGREED**.

### **H10/0225 2025 SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN - FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. L. Maxwell, Director for Corporate Performance and Change Management and was **CONSIDERED.**

[HI 10 2025 Service Delivery Plan](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85155)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson, D. Adelaide, J. Spear, R. Mannion, E. Ó Broin, K. Keane, P. Kearns, L. Dunne and B. Lawlor with queries raised in relation to outsourcing of works.

Ms. L. Maxwell Director for Corporate Performance and Change Management responded to the Members queries.

A **Roll Call Vote** was called, the result of which is as follows:

**FOR: 31 (THIRTY-ONE)**

**Councillors S. Barnes, C. Brady, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, L. de Courcy, D. Donnelly, L. Dunne, H. Farrell, N. Fennell, T. Gilligan, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, P. Kearns, B. Lawlor, R. Mannion, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, D. McManus, G. Moore, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, S. O’Hara, L. O’Toole, Baby Pereppadan, D. Richardson, J. Sheehy, J. Sinnott, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy and N. Whelan**

**AGAINST: 4 (FOUR)**

**Councillors D. Adelaide, K. Keane, M. Johansson and J. Spear

ABSTAIN: 1 (ONE)**

**Councillor W. Carey**

As a result of the **Roll Call Vote** the Annual Service Delivery Plan was **APPROVED** on the proposition of Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor D. McManus.

### **H11/0225 CLONDALKIN LIBRARY PART 8 - FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. P. Fusco, County Librarian and was **CONSIDERED.**

[H11 (a) Clondalkin Library Part 8 CE Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84988)

[H11 (b) Clondalkin Library Part 8 Presentation](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85097)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin and L. de Courcy with queries raised in relation to costs and restoration of the library.

Mr. P. Fusco, County Librarian responded to the Members queries.

The Clondalkin Library Part 8 was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **AGREED.**

### **H13/0225 CAMAC VALLEY UPGRADE PART 8 - FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Water and Climate Change and was **CONSIDERED.**

[HI 13 (a) Presentation Camac Valley Caravan Camping Park - Part 8](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85073)

[HI 13 (b) CE Report: Camac Valley Caravan Park Part 8](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85074)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Cosgrave, W. Carey and L. Dunne who welcomed the report and raised queries in relation to the demand and cost for glamping.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to the members queries.

The Camac Valley Upgrade Part 8 was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor P. Cosgrave and **AGREED.**

### **H14/0225 SECTION 85 WITH DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL ON THE RIVER PODDLE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME  – FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Water and Climate Change and was **CONSIDERED.**

[H14(a) Introduction of the Section 85](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85023)

[H14(b) Section 85 Agreement](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85010)

[H14(c) Schedule 1 Drawing RPFS-NOD-01-XX-DR-C-08160](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85011)

[H14(d) Schedule 1 Drawing RPFS-NOD-01-XX-DR-C-08165](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85012)
[H14(e) Schedule 1 Drawing RPFS-NOD-01-XX-DR-C-08170](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85013)

Councillor R. McMahon raised a query in relation to the requirement for a Section 85.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to the Member’s query.

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **AGREED**:

“That South Dublin County Council enters into an agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 with Dublin City Council for the Management of the construction of the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme on behalf of Dublin City Council by South Dublin County Council.”

### **H15/0225 PUBLIC REALM AND SURFACE WATER MINOR WORKS PROGRAMMES 2025 – FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Water and Climate Change and was **CONSIDERED.**

[H15 Public Realm and Surface Water Minor Works Programmes 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85061)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors Y. Collins, P. Kearns, P. Holohan, D. McManus, L. O’Toole, L. de Courcy, P. Cosgrave, L. McCrave and E. Ó Broin with queries raised in relation to Boden Park, Jobstown Park, flooding issues and Irish Water.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to the Members queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H16/0225 ROAD AND FOOTPATH WORKS PROGRAMME 2025 – FOR NOTING**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. M. McAdam, Director for Land Use, Planning and Transportation, and were **CONSIDERED.**

[H16 2025 Roadworks Programme](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85045)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. McManus, L. Dunne, W. Carey, N. Whelan, Y. Collins, L. O’Toole, L. McCrave and F. Timmons with queries raised in relation to patching of potholes, Fortunestown Road, Bawnogue District Centre, Tallaght Village, Newcastle, Tower Road and Nangor Road.

Mr. M. McAdam, Director for Land Use, Planning and Transportation responded to the members queries

The report was **NOTED**.

### **C1/0225 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Replies**

**Acknowledgements**

**Correspondence**

[a) Claire County Council Motion regarding GAA Pricing](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84989)

[b) Clare County Council Motion regarding Housing Aid for Older People Grant](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84990)

[c) Leitrim County Council Motion regarding Presidential Elections](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84991)
[d) Roscommon County Council Motion regarding rural and urban isolation and loneliness](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/84992)

The correspondence was **NOTED.**

### **M1/0225 Garda Clearance**

It was proposed by Councillor N. Fennell and seconded by Councillor L. Dunne that:-

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.

**REPORT:**

Section 15 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997 provides for housing authorities to request ‘Garda Checks’ in respect of persons applying for social housing. When an offer of housing with the Council has been accepted by an applicant(s) a request is then issued to the relevant Garda station in respect all persons over 18 years old in the household. Garda clearance must be current at the time of acceptance for a council property.

The Estate Management team have met with the recently established Business Services Unit in DMR South Division to discuss the new processes introduced for Garda checks in the division. Requests are now made directly to this dedicated unit and this has led to a significant reduction in the turnaround times in the Tallaght Central/South, Firhouse/Bohernabreena and Templeogue/Rathfarnham electoral areas.

3,812 clearance checks were requested countywide from An Garda Siochana in 2024 with 3,225 returned to date.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors N. Fennell, E. Ó Broin, N. Whelan, Y. Collins, J. Sheehy, P. Holohan, E. Murphy, L. Dunne, W. Carey, B. Lawlor and P. Kearns, with queries raised on the process of Garda clearance.

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

A **Roll Call Vote** on the motion was taken the result of which is as follows:

**FOR: 12 (TWELVE)**

 **Councillors D. Adelaide, W. Carey, D. Donnelly, L. Dunne, N. Fennell, P. Holohan, M. Johansson, K. Keane, R. Mannion, D. Richardson, J. Spear and N. Whelan.**

**AGAINST: 13 (THIRTEEN)**

 **Councillors Y. Collins, A. Hayes, P. Kearns, B. Lawlor, R. McMahon, D. McManus, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, L. O’Toole, Baby Pereppadan, J. Sheehy, F. Timmons and J. Tuffy.**

**ABSTAIN: 8 (EIGHT)**

 **Councillors S. Barnes, V. Casserly, P. Cosgrave, L. de Courcy, H. Farrell, L. McCrave, S. O’Hara and J. Sinnott.**

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

### **M2/0225 Tree Management Policy**

As Councillor Britto Pereppadan was not present at the meeting the motion **FELL**.

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.

### **M3/0225 Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty**

It was proposed by Councillor J. Spear and seconded by Councillor M. Johansson that:-

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

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a letter will be issued to all local Councils and the Minister for the Environment.  The responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Spear, M. Johansson, P. Kearns, A. Hayes, L. Dunne, P. Holohan, E. Murphy, D. Adelaide, D. McManus, H. Farrell, J. Sinnott, R. Mannion, and K. Keane.

A **Roll Call Vote** on the Motion was called the result of which is as follows:

**FOR: 16 (SIXTEEN)**

 **Councillors D. Adelaide, P. Cosgrave, H. Farrell, A. Hayes, M. Johansson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, R. Mannion, R. McMahon, E. Ó Broin, D. Richardson, J. Sinnott, J. Spear, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy and N. Whelan.**

**AGAINST: 12 (TWELVE)**

 **Councillors S. Barnes, V. Casserly, L. de Courcy, D. Donnelly, L. Dunne, P. Holohan, B. Lawlor, L. McCrave, D. McManus, S. O’Hara, Baby Pereppadan and J. Sheehy.**

**ABSTAIN: 4 (FOUR)**

 **Councillors Y. Collins, N. Fennell, E. Murphy and L. O’Toole.**

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

***Meeting ended at 19:00***

***Motions Not Reached:***

### **M4/0225 Cost Rental**

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.

### **M5/0225 Tenant In Situ**

Councillor P. Holohan

This Council calls upon the Minister for Housing to remove the need for a notice to quit to be issued to a tenant before a landlord can enter the Tenant in situ scheme.

### **M6/0225 Multi Unit Development**

Councillor J. Sinnott

This Council calls on the Minister for Justice for a review of the existing management company legislation, under the Multi Unit Development Act in place since 2011, to ensure that it is fit for purpose and that it acts in the best interests of residents.

### **M7/0225 Ethical Procurement Policy**

Councillor L. Dunne

This Council resolves to adopt a rights-based Ethical Procurement Policy (EPP) that takes fully into account existing obligations and standards. The EPP will incorporate widely accepted and precisely formulated international standards and explain clearly how the policy will be implemented. The primary aim of the EPP is to ensure that human rights obligations are properly acknowledged, observed and respected at all stages of the procurement process.

### **M8/0225 Section 39**

Councillor M. Johansson

That this Council agrees to write to the Minister for Health to express the Council's full support for Section 39 organisations and staff, including support for any industrial action workers decide to take, and call on the Minister to restore full pay parity to these workers.

### **M9/0225 INMO**

Councillor D. Adelaide

That this Council writes to the Taoiseach and the President of the INMO, endorsing the INMO nurses and Midwives who have voted overwhelmingly to take industrial action in response to unsafe staffing levels.

### **M10/0225 Building Contracts**

Councillor L. de Courcy

That this committee asks South Dublin County Council to change its policy when awarding building contracts to include investigations into past contract infringements, or actions beyond the scope of the contract, and weigh these up when awarding new contracts.