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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council March 2025 County Council Meeting held on Monday 10 March 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, E. Burke, T. Walsh, E. Leech, L. Maxwell, R. Fitzgerald. |
| Head of IT | T. Kavanagh |
| County Architect | C. Harte |
| Senior Parks Superintendent | S. Furlong |
| 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 minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to acknowledge the recent passing of former Councillor Joe Neville. Councillor E. Murphy expressed sympathy and condolences to his family and friends.

### **H1/0325 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the February Council Meeting held on 10th February 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 F. Timmons

The amended minutes of Council Meetings held in June, September, October, November and December 2024 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

[(a) February 2025 Council Minutes](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85516)  
[(b) December 2024 Council Minutes](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85563)  
[(c) Annual Budget Minutes 2024](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85519)  
[(d) October 2024 Council Minutes](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85520)  
[(e) September 2024 Council Minutes](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85521)  
[(f) June 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85522)

### **H2/0325 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*

### **H3/0325 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H4/0325 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

**a) Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage & Libraries SPC**

[4. (a) (i) Minutes of ACHGL SPC Meeting December 2024](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85461)  
[4. (a) (ii) Report of ACHGL SPC Meeting February 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85462)

**b) Environment, Public Realm & Climate Change SPC**

[4. (b) (i) Minutes of Environment, Public Realm Climate Change SPC Meeting 2nd Dec 2024.](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85481)  
[4. (b) (ii) Note of Environment, Public Realm Climate Change Meeting held on 4th Feb 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85482)

**c) Economic, Enterprise & Tourism SPC**

[4. (c) (i) Minutes of EETD SPC Meeting 19.11.24](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85484)  
[4. (c) (ii) Report of EETD SPC Meeting 12.2.25](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85485)

**d) Housing SPC**

[4. (d) (i) Minutes of the Housing SPC held 5th December 2024](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85523)  
[4. (d) (ii) Report of the Housing SPC held 13th February 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85524)

**e) Social, Community, Equality and Integration SPC**

[4. (e) (i) Minutes of the Social Community Equality and Integration SPC held 10th December 2024](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85499)  
[4. (e) (ii) Report of the Social Community Equality and Integration SPC held 12th February 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85500)

The reports were **NOTED.**

### **H5/0325 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED**:

### “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q38 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.”**

### **Q1/0325 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report following question Item ID: 85622. Report to include details of inspections on privately rented homes in 2023 and 2024 including dwellings inspected not meeting regulatory requirements upon first inspection; dwellings inspected not meeting regulatory requirements upon subsequent inspections (separate column for 2nd inspections)

**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 out as part of a planned inspection programme covering properties supported by Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) tenancies as well as 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 the private rental inspection target of 3926 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](mailto:prui@sdublincoco.ie)

The details of private rental inspections including information on first inspections and follow up inspections  for 2023 and 2024 are detailed below:

**2023:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of Dwellings inspected | Total Inspections Carried out | Dwellings inspected not meeting regulatory requirements on 1st Inspection (Non-compliant) | Dwellings inspected not meeting regulatory requirements on Re-Inspection (Non-compliant) | Improvement Letters | Improvement Notices | Prohibition Notices |
| 2,732 | 3,139 | 1,174 | 858 | 2032 | 0 | 0 |

**2024:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dwellings inspected | Total Inspections Carried out | Dwellings inspected not meeting regulatory requirements on 1st Inspection (Non-compliant) | Dwellings inspected not meeting regulatory requirements on Re-Inspection (Non-compliant) | Improvement Letters | Improvement Notices | Prohibition Notices |
| 4772 | 5739 | 3594 | 837 | 4431 | 8 | 1 |

### **Q2/0325 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the Annual Rate of Valuation used to calculate commercial rates for each year between 2006-2025 inclusive.

**REPLY:**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the Annual Rate of Valuation used to calculate commercial rates for each year between 2006-2025 inclusive.

The total income from Rates is calculated as follows:

Total Expenditure (2025)                                                             €391,942,200

Less income from Grants, Goods & Services & LPT                  €238,772,000

Rates to be Levied                                                                      €153,170,200

The amount of Rates to be levied is divided by the Valuation for the County, which is determined by Tailte Eireann, and this determines the Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV). The Annual Rate of Valuation is decided by the Elected Members of the Council at its Annual Budget meeting. Details of this calculation are provided in “Table A” of the budget book for each year

The Annual Rate of Valuation for SDCC from 2006-2025 was calculated as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Total Expenditure | Income - Grants, G&S, LPT | Rates to be levied | County Valuation | ARV | Revaluation Year |
| 2006 | 269,775,900 | 165,972,400 | 103,803,500 | 1,550,000 | 66.970 |  |
| 2007 | 309,227,200 | 195,071,560 | 114,155,640 | 1,643,000 | 69.480 |  |
| 2008 | 285,782,100 | 166,140,600 | 119,641,500 | 725,100,000 | 0.165 | Revaluation |
| 2009 | 284,254,700 | 162,452,900 | 121,801,800 | 713,229,900 | 0.171 |  |
| 2010 | 254,725,000 | 130,310,000 | 124,415,000 | 745,000,000 | 0.167 |  |
| 2011 | 249,016,300 | 124,018,300 | 124,998,000 | 753,000,000 | 0.166 |  |
| 2012 | 236,978,600 | 114,182,600 | 122,796,000 | 758,000,000 | 0.162 |  |
| 2013 | 230,552,600 | 107,918,600 | 122,634,000 | 757,000,000 | 0.162 |  |
| 2014 | 217,322,200 | 94,526,200 | 122,796,000 | 758,000,000 | 0.162 |  |
| 2015 | 219,295,300 | 96,288,700 | 123,006,600 | 759,300,000 | 0.162 |  |
| 2016 | 225,453,700 | 107,290,900 | 118,162,800 | 729,400,000 | 0.162 |  |
| 2017 | 227,992,900 | 110,874,000 | 117,118,900 | 722,956,200 | 0.162 |  |
| 2018 | 232,431,300 | 110,731,900 | 121,699,400 | 445,784,434 | 0.273 | Revaluation |
| 2019 | 242,865,600 | 119,951,200 | 122,914,400 | 445,342,143 | 0.276 |  |
| 2020 | 255,755,400 | 124,248,100 | 131,507,300 | 476,475,700 | 0.276 |  |
| 2021 | 268,019,900 | 136,245,900 | 131,774,000 | 477,442,201 | 0.276 |  |
| 2022 | 281,713,700 | 141,918,100 | 139,795,600 | 506,505,670 | 0.276 |  |
| 2023 | 306,070,600 | 162,785,200 | 143,285,400 | 519,149,936 | 0.276 |  |
| 2024 | 338,321,100 | 192,888,600 | 145,432,500 | 526,929,419 | 0.276 |  |
| 2025 | 391,942,200 | 238,772,000 | 153,170,200 | 554,964,348 | 0.276 |  |

Revaluation is a national programme to systematically modernise the rateable valuation of all commercial and industrial property in the County, by reflecting modern rental values and contemporary market conditions, thereby improving the transparency of the local authority rating system. South Dublin County had County Revaluations is 2008 and 2018.

### **Q3/0325 Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on maintenance requests received in 2024 with a breakdown including the total number of requests received, the total number of those requests completed (please only include maintenance requests that were requested in 2024, not in previous years), the average time to complete from when the request was initially raised, and the number completed by contractors (as opposed to direct labour).

**REPLY:**

The Council manages over 10,000 social homes and categorises maintenance requests depending on the nature of the problem. These categories are classified as emergency, urgent, routine or cyclical. We respond to requests for repairs according to the guidelines below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY** | **TIMESCALE** | **EXAMPLE** |
| Emergency | 1 – 5 working days | Smoking Fuse Board, Burst water tank |
| Urgent | 10 working days | Leak under sink unit, Leaking roof |
| Routine | 12 weeks + | Replace toilet cistern, Faulty radiator |
| Cyclical | 1 – 7 years | Leaking gutters, replacement hall door etc. |

Of the 17,423 work orders raised in 2024, 11,849 were completed. These works were delivered through a combination of our direct labour team and specialised contractors for electrical repairs and upgrades and heating system repairs and replacement.

Completion timeframes are detailed below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **No. of Work Orders Complete** | **Average No. of Days** |
| Mechanical | 5,358 | 3.21 |
| Plumbing | 3,670 | 7.87 |
| Electrical | 1,583 | 9.80 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,238 | 46.35 |

### **Q4/0325 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the Local Community Safety Partnership, detailing the current status of its establishment including a timeline as to when we may expect the partnerships to start its work.

**REPLY:**

The establishment of Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) is currently awaiting the enactment of the relevant section of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024. Whilst we do not have a concrete date for commencement of the Act as yet, we have been advised that it will be in the coming weeks. We are currently awaiting guidance with regards to the process of identification of members in preparation for the establishment of South Dublin Local Community Safety Partnership.

### **Q5/0325 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on the number of outstanding footpath repair requests recorded by the Council, in tabular format analysed by electoral area by year.

**REPLY:**

Footpath repair requests received are not recorded by LEA. The figures below summarise the number of footpath repair requests we have received over the last four years;

* 2021 – 761
* 2022 – 616
* 2023 – 590
* 2024 – 939

After requests, footpaths are inspected and if works are needed it is be noted for repair by our Area Engineer. Over the last 4 years, significant areas of footpaths have been repaired annually;

* 2021 – 66,610m2
* 2022 – 57,443m2
* 2023 – 64,233m2
* 2024 – 58,138m2

### **Q6/0325 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on the actual spend on footpath repairs for the last four years 2020 to 2024, analysed by local electoral area, including budget allocated to each electoral area for 2025.

[Q6 Footpath Repair Expenditure](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85544)

### **Q7/0325 Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive what security measures will be put in place for the St Patrick's Day parades this year within South Dublin?

**REPLY:**

The council is organising the St. Patrick’s Day parade in Tallaght for 2025. An Garda Síochána are members of the organising committee and they have been consulted and have provided advice on security requirements needed to ensure this is a successful and safe event. The parade route will be supervised by stewards and members of An Garda Síochána will be located on the periphery of the parade route.

The council provides grant funding to community groups across the county to assist with the running of local parades and they are responsible for event management.

 

### **Q8/0325 Councillor D. Donnelly**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the current procedure to deem a house/apartment A Rated (BER) in new current buildings?

**REPLY:**

All new homes constructed by South Dublin County Council are required to have a Building Energy Rating assessment (BER) carried out as part of the completion and handover process for each development. The required BER standard for each home is set out in the contracting authority’s works requirements, issued at tender stage.

Upon completion of the development a suitably qualified assessor must complete a standardised assessment process (in accordance with the procedures set out by SEAI) based on the construction methods used, the heating methods employed, air tightness tests and any other relevant certificates and information. The BER rating which results from this assessment is registered with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. SEAI is responsible for administering the BER system in accordance with the European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Each BER cert has a unique reference number, and can be reviewed on the SEAI website by searching for either the MPRN or BER cert number.

A valid BER Cert must be included as part of the overall submission to the Building Control Authority setting out the grounds for compliance of the development. A newly constructed building cannot be occupied until this submission has been validated by Building Control. Furthermore, a certificate of substantial completion will not be issued by the Employers Representative until the BER is received.

### **Q9/0325 Councillor D. Donnelly**

To ask the Chief Executive what must be in place in an older dwelling to bring the house up to an A rating (BER)?

**REPLY:**

The scope of works necessary to elevate a property to an A Building Energy Rating (BER) is contingent upon its initial BER assessment. For properties currently rated C2 to D2, typical upgrades to achieve an A rating may include:

* Installation of an air-to-water heat pump system.
* Replacement of windows and doors.
* Implementation of comprehensive internal and external insulation upgrades.
* Sealing of fireplaces.
* Installation of a mechanical ventilation heat recovery system.

Our preliminary target set by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for 2025 is for 83 homes to be upgraded under the national energy efficiency retrofit programme with a funding allocation of €2.82m.

### **Q10/0325 Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Chief Executive what number of Age Friendly homes in council stock have been built in the County, broken down by area?

**REPLY:**

Detailed below is the number of local authority age friendly homes by electoral area:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Electoral area** | **Number of age friendly homes** |
| Clondalkin | 74 |
| Firehouse-Bohernabreena | 21 |
| Lucan | 54 |
| Palmerstown-Fonthill | 85 |
| Rathfarnham-Templeogue | 56 |
| Tallaght Central | 94 |
| Tallaght South | 25 |
| **Total** | **409** |

In addition to above the following age-friendly developments are in our current construction programme:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Development Name** | **Number of Homes** | **LEA** | **Estimated Delivery** |
| St Aongus Green | 12 | Tallaght Central | Q4.2025 |
| Sarsfield | 5 | Lucan | Q4.2025 |
| St Ronans Crescent | 9 | Palmerstown - Fonthill | Q1.2026 |
| Alpine Heights | 13 | Clondalkin | Q3.2026 |
| Deansrath/Melrose | 27 | Clondalkin | Q4.2026 |
| Pearse Brothers Park | 10 | Firhouse-Bohernabreena | Q2.2026 |

### **Q11/0325 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive how many 'Age-Friendly & Rightsizing' units (broken down by LEA and in tabular form) does this council have in total in its ownership?

**REPLY:**

The table below outlines the number of age-friendly homes in the council's ownership broken down by LEA:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Electoral Area** | **Number of Age Friendly Homes** |
| Clondalkin | 74 |
| Firehouse-Bohernabreena | 21 |
| Lucan | 54 |
| Palmerstown-Fonthill | 85 |
| Rathfarnham-Templeogue | 56 |
| Tallaght Central | 94 |
| Tallaght South | 25 |
| **Total** | **409** |

An additional 73 units are currently at various stages of the construction process:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Development** | **Area** | **No. of Homes** |
| Pearse Brothers Park | Firhouse/Bohernabreena | 10 |
| St. Aongus Green | Tallaght Central | 12 |
| St. Ronan’s Green | Palmerstown /Fonthill | 9 |
| Sarsfield | Lucan | 5 |
| Alpine Heights | Clondalkin | 13 |
| Deansrath/Melrose | Clondalkin | 24 |
| **Total** |  | **73** |

[Q11 (ii) Age Friendly Housing and Rightsizing Information](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85534)

### **Q12/0325 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive the current units (broken down by LEA and in tabular form) that are awaiting retro fitting and an approximate time frame for completion?

**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.

The table below sets out the current status of properties identified by electoral area:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Local Electoral Areas** | **Pre-Tender Stage** | **Tender stage** | **Contractor Stage** | **Total** |
| **Tallaght South** | - | - | - | - |
| **Tallaght Central** | - | 49 | - | 49 |
| **Firhouse/Bohernabreena** | - | - | - | - |
| **Rathfarnham/ Templeogue** | - | - | - | - |
| **Clondalkin** | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| **Palmerstown/Fonthill** | 37 | - | - | 37 |
| **Lucan** | - | - | 2 | 2 |

### **Q13/0325 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the process for which small businesses can rent or buy premises from the council, report to include a list, broken down by LEA, of all premises for commercial use currently in Council stock.

**REPLY:**

EETD are responsible for a very small number of Council owned units [< 4] that are in commercial use by small businesses. These properties are small-scale commercial units located in the general Clondalkin area. In the event of such a property becoming available, its continued use as a commercial unit is assessed and if appropriate a process is advertised seeking bids from parties seeking to use such properties. The Council have no such properties available for rent or purchase at present.

In the event of small start-up businesses involved in the technology sector are seeking to secure office space, the Council has Work IQ in Tallaght, which supports local entrepreneurs in the County.

### **Q14/0325 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the current approximate wait on social housing?

**REPLY:**

The data below was presented to a recent Housing SPC meeting and outlines the average waiting time by bedroom size and the allocations by LEA, for all allocations completed in 2024.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Electoral Area** | **1-Bed** | **2-Bed** | **3-Bed** | **4-Bed+** | **Total** |
| Tallaght Central | 67 | 25 | 11 | 1 | 104 |
| Tallaght South | 56 | 154 | 114 | 12 | 336 |
| Clondalkin | 62 | 59 | 137 | 9 | 267 |
| Lucan | 55 | 79 | 48 | 4 | 186 |
| Palmerstown/Fonthill | 34 | 33 | 4 | 0 | 71 |
| Firhouse/Bohernabreena | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Rathfarnham/Templeogue | 36 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 73 |
| **Total** | **310** | **389** | **318** | **26** | **1,043** |
| **Time on List for Allocations** | 1-Bed | 2-Bed | 3-Bed | 4-Bed+ | Overall |
| **Average Time On List (years) excluding transfers** | **8.1** | **9** | **9.2** | **10.7** | **9.25** |

### **Q15/0325 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the lowest amount years served on the list in which someone has received a social home?

**REPLY:**

The council's allocation scheme prioritises applicants based on a range of criteria and allows for the disregard of the standard order of priority in exceptional circumstances. In the cases with the lowest time on the housing waiting list, this criteria was applied in relation to preventative homeless for an older person, allocation of a shared tenancy to transition from a congregated setting to a community based supported living arrangement, exceptional compassionate grounds and in respect of a 'hard to let' property on estate management grounds.

The table below outlines the average and shortest waiting time by property type for all allocations completed in 2024:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time on list for allocations (years)** | 1-Bed | 2-Bed | 3-Bed | 4-Bed+ |
| **Average time on list (excluding transfers)** | 8.1 | 9 | 9.2 | 10.7 |
| **Lowest time on list (excluding transfers)** | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.4 |

### **Q16/0325 Councillor D. McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm the number of new-build social homes across South Dublin County Council in 2024 and if an indicative number is available for 2025, and if a statement is available for the elected members?

**REPLY:**

Under the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026, South Dublin County Council had a 2024 delivery target of 718 new build social homes. Through a combination of the council's own build delivery programme, social homes acquired under Part V and through partnerships with the AHB sector, the council delivered 777 new build social homes.

In 2025, the delivery target is 772 for new build social homes. Our provisional pipeline for 2025 has potential for delivery of just over 800 homes.

### **Q17/0325 Councillor D. McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive the revenue foregone from South Dublin County Council for public services of a -15% discount in Local Property Tax, -10% and -5% for 2026?

**REPLY:**

The figures for the 2026 LPT allocation will be made available in the summer of 2025. However, based on the data provided at the 2025 LPT meeting held on the 14th October 2024, the Chief Executive’s on page 4 of his report provided the following data.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Projected South Dublin Co. Co. LPT Income** | | | **2025** | | ***Cost or Gain from:*** | | | | | 1% Variation | €370,498 | 9% Variation | €3,334,480 | | 2% Variation | €740,996 | 10% Variation | €3,704,978 | | 3% Variation | €1,111,493 | 11% Variation | €4,075,475 | | 4% Variation | €1,481,991 | 12% Variation | €4,445,973 | | 5% Variation | €1,852,489 | 13% Variation | €4,816,471 | | 6% Variation | €2,222,987 | 14% Variation | €5,186,969 | | 7% Variation | €2,593,484 | 15% Variation | €5,557,466 | | 8% Variation | €2,963,982 |  |  |   Therefore, based on the 2025 allocation, the best information available at present, the revenue forgone to South Dublin County Council would be as follows:  -15%       €5,557,466  -10%       €3,704,978  -5%         €1,852,489 |

### **Q18/0325 Councillor D. McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive the financial impact from ending the commercial rates vacancy discount between South Dublin County Council’s  Budget 2024 and Budget 2025?

**REPLY:**

The commercial rates vacancy credit scheme allows vacancy credits to be applied to vacant properties where the vacancy is due to

1) The inability to obtain a tenant at a reasonable rent or

2) Where the property was undergoing refurbishment.

The Elected Members approve the vacancy rate as part of the annual budget process.

The vacancy rate for South Dublin County Council was reduced from 25% in 2024 to 0% in the budget for 2025.

This has reduced the amount that the council needs to provide in the vacancy expenditure budget from €1,625,000 to €800,000.

A saving to the Council of €825,000 in 2025.

### **Q19/0325 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if snowdrop (Galanthus) spring flowers are planted around the county in the same way as daffodils are?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council has carried out pollinator planting schemes at numerous locations in recent years and these have included both the planting of wildflower bulbs as well as the sowing of wildflower seeds.  The bulb and seed mix used in the past has included crocus, camassia, tulips and muscari as well as numerous types of daffodil.  While snowdrops have not been planted in the past they can be considered for inclusion in any mix to be used in the future as they have beneficial biodiversity qualities.

### **Q20/0325 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if any measures are undertaken to enhance habitat for kingfishers and otters along the banks of the rivers of the county?

**REPLY:**

A Kingfisher box is being placed on the Poddle Flood Alleviation scheme and the council will look at possible future locations downstream when works commence in that area.  The scheme will also include the installation of an artificial otter holt in an area in Tymon North Park. This location has yet to be decided and it will require that there is no access to it for dogs. Once installed a trail camera will also be installed on it to determine the level of activity there.

On the Whitechurch Flood Alleviation Scheme the Council has also installed an artificial otter holt in St Enda's Park with a further one to be installed upstream during the summer months.  On both schemes and as part of the overall flood alleviation scheme plans the Council will be naturalising river banks and areas of the rivers where possible to promote the safety and encouragement of habitats.

There is a range of objectives in the County Development Plan to protect general habitats and species.  Species like otter and kingfisher are also protected under the Habitats and the Birds Directives, and these are also included within the broad remit of the CDP ecological objectives. The Green Infrastructure objective GI3 Objective 3 is frequently referred to in the Planning Development process to ensure proposed development gives at least a 10m setback from watercourses. The intention of this objective is to protect species like otter and kingfisher. Where relevant in applications for development, the Planning Development process will request ecological mitigation measures to be implemented relating to protected species, including the installation of artificial holts, setts, or nesting boxes. While otter and kingfisher are protected under EU Directives, their breeding sites, in particular, are given significant protection.  Disturbance of these locations is a prosecutable offence.

### **Q21/0325 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the deployment of street-sweeping Green Machines in the villages of the county?

**REPLY:**

The Council currently has three pedestrian sweepers in operation around the county, also known as 'green machines'.  These are powered by unleaded petrol and unfortunately are becoming more difficult to maintain due to the lack of available spare parts.  As part of the plans for the decarbonisation of the fleet arrangements are being made at present to commence a tender process for the purchase of green machines which are powered by electricity.  The tender process for their purchase will commence shortly.

### **Q22/0325 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the approximate time it takes to deal with and remove graffiti from the public realm after it has been reported?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council is responsible for ensuring that public roads are kept litter free (including graffiti) in so far as it is practically possible and the prevention of the creation of litter through the following measures:

* Enforcement and Regulation
* Public Realm operations programmes
* Delivery of Communication, Education & Awareness programmes
* Development of protocols for response to service requests

SDCC removes graffiti as it arises around the county, utilising staff and probation services to respond effectively to any graffiti that is reported. Any graffiti that is considered offensive due to its content is always prioritised. Once our graffiti contractor has been notified the standard removal is within 72 hours and emergency removal which is anything that is considered offensive is removed within 24 hours.

### **Q23/0325 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline how many graffiti removals were undertaken in 2024?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council is responsible for ensuring that public roads are kept litter free (including graffiti) in so far as it is practically possible and the prevention of the creation of litter through the following measures:

* Enforcement and Regulation
* Public Realm operations programmes
* Delivery of Communication, Education & Awareness programmes
* Development of protocols for response to service requests

SDCC have received over 100 referrals of graffiti in 2024 but a high percentage of these referrals contained multiple sites and locations. SDCC removes graffiti as it arises around the county, utilising staff and probation services to respond effectively to any graffiti that is reported. Any graffiti that is considered offensive due to its content is always prioritised. Public Realm have examined the existing graffiti removal process and have identified ways in which we can improve our processes.

In addition to the staff and probation services, a contractor has recently been engaged for graffiti and specialist graffiti removal. This will support a more effective and efficient response to graffiti removal.

There is currently a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with four utility providers. Public Realm have engaged with the utilities and are currently working on updating the council's MOU with them.

To assist in combatting Graffiti, The Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant is made available to community groups and schools through the Environmental Awareness Section. In addition, the South Dublin Canvas project continues to be delivered and is used to discourage graffiti on traffic light boxes.

It is a criminal offence to deface property, and it is a requirement of Section 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 for property owners to remedy defacement.

The purpose of this protocol below is to set out clearly the basic principles for the Council’s management of graffiti, and to provide consistency in approach to graffiti removal across the county:

* If the graffiti is on public property, the Council will arrange for its removal. Depending on the type of surface, chemicals or paint will be used.
* It is the responsibility of all property owners to remove graffiti from their premises.  Where graffiti is on private property the Council will request the property owner to remove the graffiti in the first instance. Depending on the location, and if the property faces onto a strategic public place, the Council will endeavour to have the defacement removed. The Council will require indemnity from the property owner or an agent of the property owner to enter onto the property for the purpose of removal of the defacement. The property owner or an agent of the property owner will sign an indemnity, and, in all cases, there will be a fee involved. No works will take place on private property in the absence of such indemnity and no chargeable work will be carried out until such charges are agreed by both parties.
* If the graffiti is on utility boxes belonging to utility companies, the company concerned will be contacted and requested to remove the graffiti. There is currently a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with four utility providers. These are currently under review. Public Realm senior staff are meeting with the ESB to review their MOU in the first instance and meetings will be arranged with other utility companies following that meeting.

In a limited number of circumstances, it may not be possible to remove the graffiti owing to difficulties accessing sites. There is continuous assessment of benefits and rewards available under the Social Credits Scheme and as groups develop and engage in the Social Credits Scheme more requests are being received and approved for assistance with removal of Graffiti.

SDCC understand the frustrations that graffiti brings to residents and businesses and is working with many groups and organisations to improve the aesthetic appearance of the county. We are grateful to all Councillors and members of the public who continue to help us by identifying areas of graffiti and also where Tidytowns groups have helped in the clean up of same.

### **Q24/0325 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the total spend on graffiti removal by South Dublin County Council in 2024.

**REPLY:**

It is estimated that almost €53,000 was spent on graffiti removal in 2024 by South Dublin County Council. In addition to this spend, a contract is in place since September 2024 to remove all types of graffiti as necessary including specialist graffiti. There are also wages costs associated with graffiti removal that are accounted for separate to the figure of €53,000. In total, there has been in the region of €100,000 spent on Graffiti in 2024.

The Public Realm Section of Environment, Water and Climate Change directorate, has for some years, been working in partnership with the Probation Services to enhance the response to graffiti.  The engagement with the Probation Services stems from a Community Service Graffiti Removal Project which was an initiative of the Probation Services and forms part of community service for offenders.  This partnership involves the identification of specific public areas by the public, their elected representatives or Council staff of areas where graffiti has defaced property throughout the County.  These areas are then inspected by local Anti-Litter Wardens and subsequently referred to either the Council's Graffiti Removal Crew or the Probation Services depending on the specific location or type of graffiti/surface involved.

Following a tender process in 2024, a contractor has been engaged to remove all types of graffiti as necessary including specialist graffiti. Specialist removal is required where the surface or location is not suitable for painting, such as graffiti on a finished concrete surface or a cut stone or brick finish.

The Social Credits Scheme supports and rewards community groups and individuals who take ownership of their environment and improve their local area by carrying out pro-environmental actions such as community clean-ups, maintenance of community gardens, graffiti removal, weeding of footpaths etc. The scheme is open to all community groups in South Dublin County's administrative area including:

* Environmental groups
* Primary and post primary schools.
* Resident's Associations
* Volunteer groups
* Youth groups

The Social Credits Scheme is broken into 3 elements. Clean ups, Minor Landscape Scheme and Paint Enhancement Scheme.  Under the paint enhancement scheme the council provides paint to groups for the removal of graffiti or to carry out minor enhancement projects in their area.  We also supply materials including paint brushes and rollers. Contact the Environmental Awareness team at [envawareness@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:envawareness@sdublincoco.ie) for further information.

To assist further in combatting Graffiti, the Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant is made available each year to run awareness programmes and campaigns for community groups and schools through the Environmental Awareness Section. Applications will be accepted in the coming months for funding of projects which qualify as Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness initiatives. This Grant Scheme has a particular focus on voluntary initiatives by community and environmental groups, and on involving schools and young people in anti-litter and anti-graffiti awareness actions.  More detail on the availability of this grant will be available soon.

### **Q25/0325 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive what steps can South Dublin County Council take to ensure there is no duplication of place/estate names in new developments for example the overuse of the place name "The Park" being used in multiple developments adjacent to each other.

**REPLY:**

While the responsibility for proposing naming and numbering schemes for new developments rests with the developer, the Council advises developers of requirements and approves the eventual scheme.   
  
It is Council policy that the name chosen for a development must reflect the local and/or historical context of the area in which it is located. This should be done in a manner that is not overly obscure or difficult to relate to. This can be achieved by reference to local history; the townland, parish or other long-established name, past industry or employment in the area, local topography, or a well-known association of a significant historical individual, event or custom from the local area.   
  
The name proposed to the Naming and Numbering section of the Planning Department must also not duplicate or be easily confused with an existing name in the county. This is in the interests of owners, occupiers, visitors, service and utility providers and for rapid emergency service provision.

In line with the objectives of the County Development Plan, the scheme proposed to the Council should promote the use of the Irish language and more recently, all submissions are vetted for accuracy and interpretation via our Oifigeach Gaeilge | Irish Language Officer by The Placenames Branch (An Brainse Logainmneacha).   
  
All houses, offices, and other premises are numbered and duplication of numbers on the same road avoided. Generally, premises are so numbered that when travelling away from the entrance (or other focal point) the odd numbers are on the left hand side and the even numbers on the right. Whatever system of allocating numbers is adopted, it is important that there should be consistency within the general area.   Units are also generally named reflecting the street / road name (agreed) onto which the unit orientates.

In the case of blocks of apartments each floor and each apartment is numbered, and more recently unit numbers reflects the floor on which it is located. For example, 1st Floor units are numbered 1xx, 2nd floor units are numbered 2xx etc.

When a naming and numbering scheme is approved by the Council a uniform signage system is expected.  In accordance with the provisions of The Official Languages Act 2003 both English and Irish language names must be displayed with equal prominence,(*unless the approved name is in the Irish Language when only the Irish name needs to be displayed).* The name-plates/signs should be clearly visible to road users, by night as well as by day if possible and should be placed so as to give road users information as to the road-name, when entering the road and, in the case of a long road, at intervals along it.

### **Q26/0325 Councillor J. Spear**

Can the Chief Executive please give an update on the progress of initiating Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) for the properties listed on the derelict sites registry? Please include the date(s) property owners were contacted, any response we've received, and how  the Council plans to proceed with the CPO.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council is currently applying levies to all properties on the Derelict Sites Register, under Section 23 of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

Proceedings have been issued for the Compulsory Purchase of three properties on the Derelict Site Register;

* One of these properties has been listed for sale in January and South Dublin County Council have been informed that this is in the process of being sold. This property will remain on the Derelict Site Register until it no longer meets the criteria of a derelict site. The most recent inspection took place on the 29th of January and further inspections are scheduled. Correspondence has been received throughout February, with the latest response received on the 18th of February.
* Steps are being followed to Compulsory Purchase a second property in line with the Derelict Sites Act 1990. A reference check request has been submitted to the SDCC Inspector for completion. The most recent inspection took place on the 30th of January. Correspondence has been received regarding this property on the 24th and 26th of February.
* Steps are being followed to Compulsory Purchase a third property in line with the Derelict Sites Act 1990.  A reference check request has been submitted to the SDCC Inspector for completion. The most recent inspection took place on the 29th of January. No correspondence has been received from the registered owner of this property as of 27th February.

There are a number of additional properties on the Derelict Sites Register currently being monitored for the initiation of Compulsory Purchase Order proceedings.

Under Section 3 of Derelict Site Act 1990, South Dublin County Council monitors sites in the county that may meet the criteria of a ‘derelict site’ which are not entered on the register until such time as investigations are completed and a determination made that the site is derelict. The Vacant Homes section of the Housing Department and the Derelict Sites Section are continuously working together to identify properties which could be considered for future Compulsory Purchase.

### **Q27/0325 Councillor J. Spear**

Can the Chief Executive please report on whether South Dublin County Council has considered (or would consider) offering re-mortgages for the 548 families/persons who have mortgages with the Council?

**REPLY:**

The current loan schemes available from local authorities are the Local Authority Home Loan scheme or the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation scheme. These loans are available to first time buyers or applicants who qualify under the 'Fresh Start Principle'.

The Council do not currently offer a re-mortgage facility for borrowers. However, depending on individual circumstances pertaining to the homeowner and their loan, an application to re-mortgage with an external financial institution will be considered for those with mortgages on former local authority dwellings. Information and application forms for the council’s consent to re-mortgage are available [on www.sdcc.ie](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/buying-your-home/section-90-consent-to-resale-transfer-of-ownership-or-re-mortgage/).

There is an option for Shared- Ownership mortgage holders to restructure and combine their capital loan and rented equity into a single annuity loan. This allows the borrower(s) to pay the outstanding capital balance on the existing loan while also repaying the council’s rented equity share.

### **Q28/0325 Councillor J. Spear**

Can the Chief Executive please report on the responsibility of the Council to pay for repairs from Council trees damaging private property during Storm Eowyn?

**REPLY:**

Damage caused by a Storm to private property, whether by wind, rain, blown debris, damaged roof tiles or fallen trees, is a matter for consideration by the private property owners own Property Insurance.

The County Council is not legally responsible for unforeseeable storm damage to private property or damage caused by acts of nature.

Liability would only arise from a positive act of negligence by the Council directly causing damage, and damage caused by storm would not create such a liability.

Storm damage is one of the main and primary purposes and coverage provided by private property insurance.

### **Q29/0325 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed outline of how to apply for a Tree Preservation Order for trees and hedgerows in South Dublin County Council that outlines criteria, steps, how and which Section to apply to?

**REPLY:**

Part XII, Section 205 is the relevant provision of the Planning and Development Act (as amended) for a TPO. The making of a TPO is a reserved function of the full Council. Requests for consideration of trees for TPOs should be addressed to the Land Use Planning and Transportation section.

The following extracts are considered relevant in the context of the question and consideration of a TPO request.

**Initiation of Process and Implications**  
Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) states —(1) If it appears to the planning authority that it is expedient, in the interests of amenity or the environment, to make provision for the preservation of any tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands, it may, for that purpose and for stated reasons, make an order with respect to any such tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands as may be specified in the order.

Section 205 (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), an order under this section may—

(a) prohibit (subject to any conditions or exemptions for which provision may be made by the order) the cutting down, topping, lopping or wilful destruction of trees, and

(b) require the owner and occupier of the land affected by the order to enter into an agreement with the planning authority to ensure the proper management of any trees, group of trees or woodlands (including the replanting of trees), subject to the planning authority providing assistance, including financial assistance, towards such management as may be agreed.

***Key takeaways from subsections (1) and (2) outlined above are***:  
The term expedient is not defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Planning Authority considers that practical and necessary is a reasonable interpretation of the term expedient. Interpreted in this context, it must appear to the planning authority that it is practical or necessary (expedient) in the interests of amenity or the environment, to make a TPO. The legislation also requires stated reasons for making an order, this is in addition to it appearing to the planning authority to be expedient in the interests of amenity or the environment.  
Subsection 2 makes clear that there may be financial and / or human resource implications to the Planning Authority because where an order is made on the owner and occupier of the land to manage the trees it may be subject to providing assistance as part of the required agreement with the planning authority. There is no criteria set out for when such assistance is appropriate.

**Making a TPO - Legislative Process**  
The process for proposing to make an order is set out under subsections 3 to 9 of section 205 as follows:

Section 205 (3) (a) Where a planning authority proposes to make an order under this section, it shall—

(i) serve a notice (which shall include particulars of the proposed order) of its intention to do so on the owner and the occupier of the land affected by the order, and

(ii) cause notice of the proposed order to be published in one or more newspapers circulating in its functional area.

(b) A notice under paragraph (a)(i) shall be accompanied by a map indicating the tree, trees, group of trees or woodland to be preserved.

(4) A notice under subsection (3) shall state that—

(a) the planning authority proposes to make an order preserving the tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands,

(b) submissions or observations regarding the proposed order may be made to the planning authority within a stated period of not less than 6 weeks, and that the submissions or observations will be taken into consideration by the planning authority, and

(c) any person who contravenes an order or, pending the decision of a planning authority, a proposed order under this section, shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) The planning authority, having considered the proposal and any submissions or observations made in respect of it, may by resolution, as it considers appropriate, make the order, with or without modifications, or refuse to make the order, and any person on whom notice has been served under subsection (3) shall be notified accordingly.

(6) Where a planning authority intends to amend or revoke an order made under this section, the planning authority shall give notice of its intention to amend or revoke the order, as the case may be.

(7) (a) A notice under subsection (6) (which shall include particulars of the proposed order) shall be—

(i) served on the owner and the occupier of the land affected by the order, and on any other person on whom a notice was served under subsection (3), and

(ii) published in one or more newspapers circulating in the functional area of the planning authority.

(b) A notice under subsection (6) shall be accompanied by a map indicating the tree, trees, group of trees or woodland to be affected by the amendment or revocation of the order.

(8) A notice under subsection (6) shall state that—

(a) the planning authority proposes to amend or revoke the order, and

(b) submissions of observations regarding the proposal may be made to the planning authority within a stated period of not less than 6 weeks, and that the submissions or observations will be taken into consideration by the planning authority.

(9) The planning authority, having considered the proposal and any submissions or observations made in respect of it, may by resolution, as it considers appropriate, revoke the order or amend the order, with or without modifications, or refuse to make the order, as the case may be, and any person on whom notice has been served under subsection (7) shall be notified accordingly.

**Summary of Process**  
As the making of a Tree Preservation Order is a reserved function, the initiation of a statutory process should be agreed through the full council.

Summarising the above process, where the planning authority proposes to make a TPO, it requires a notice to be served on the land owner and occupier alongside public consultation seeking submissions within a 6 week period.

A CE Report would be prepared for the members taking account of the proposal and the submissions. The members consider the proposal and submissions and can then make the order with or without modifications or refuse to make the order.

Should the resolution amend the order further notice is served on the landowner / occupier and a further 6 week public consultation is held.

The person on whom the notice was served is notified of the resolution.

The planning authority must then enter into an agreement with the landowner. As set out above, there may be financial and / or human resource implications for the planning authority as part of any agreement.

Section 205(10) outlines that the any person who contravenes an order or a proposed order shall be guilty of an offence.

Section 205 (11) outlines some of the limitations of a TPO, namely that no such order shall apply to the cutting down, topping or lopping of trees which are dying or dead or have become dangerous, or the cutting down, topping or lopping of any trees in compliance with any obligation imposed by or under any enactment or so far as may be necessary for the prevention or abatement of a nuisance or hazard.

### **Q30/0325 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into the average waiting time for a 1,2,3 or 4 bed home in South Dublin County Council?

**REPLY:**

The data below was presented to a recent Housing SPC meeting and outlines the average waiting time by bedroom size and the allocations by LEA, for all allocations completed in 2024.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Electoral Area** | **1-Bed** | **2-Bed** | **3-Bed** | **4-Bed+** | **Total** |
| Tallaght Central | 67 | 25 | 11 | 1 | 104 |
| Tallaght South | 56 | 154 | 114 | 12 | 336 |
| Clondalkin | 62 | 59 | 137 | 9 | 267 |
| Lucan | 55 | 79 | 48 | 4 | 186 |
| Palmerstown/Fonthill | 34 | 33 | 4 | 0 | 71 |
| Firhouse/Bohernabreena | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Rathfarnham/Templeogue | 36 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 73 |
| **Total** | **310** | **389** | **318** | **26** | **1,043** |
| **Time on List for Allocations** | 1-Bed | 2-Bed | 3-Bed | 4-Bed+ | Overall |
| **Average Time On List (years) excluding transfers** | **8.1** | **9** | **9.2** | **10.7** | **9.25** |

### **Q31/0325 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive would he consider that South Dublin County Council develop an educational awareness program together with local drug task forces and schools in our county to highlight the risk to children's health by repeated inhalation of nitrous oxide?

**REPLY:**

Last May, the Council piloted a Junior Safety Forum with sixth class students in eight primary schools across the county. Through a series of workshops, students discussed safety concerns within their schools and local communities. Among the key issues raised were the risks associated with nitrous oxide and vaping.

In response, the Community Department is collaborating with the Junior Safety Forum, the Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force, Sláintecare, Healthy Ireland, and the HSE to raise awareness about the dangers these substances pose to young people's health. As part of this initiative, the Junior Safety Forum has created a new poster, '*Escape the Vape'*, and is currently developing an awareness video to highlight the harmful effects of nitrous oxide on health, the environment, and the wider community.

These initiatives are set to be launched at the next Junior Safety Forum workshop at the end of March and will be forwarded to all primary schools in the county to help raise awareness.

[Q31 (b) Escape the Vape Poster](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85438)

### **Q32/0325 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive who owns and is responsible for the small green space outside your home? (Green areas between road and footpath)

**REPLY:**

In general the grass margin which lies between footpath and road forms part of the roadway and is therefore a public area. The ownership can vary though and in some cases property ownership can extend into the middle of the road. In terms of maintenance South Dublin County Council cuts grass in larger parks such as regional parks, neighbourhood parks and local parks as well as on larger open spaces within residential estates.  The council does not cut small grass margins in housing estates and their maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner, where the area of grass margin lies in front of their property.

Where the grass margin or area in question is substantially larger than a standard roadside margin then the Council will generally cut these along with the larger open spaces within an estate.  Also where the Council is made aware that a resident is elderly for example and cannot continue to maintain the roadside margin in front of their property then the Council will arrange to maintain those areas once notified of the need.  Residents who require assistant of this kind can also have recourse to their local tidy towns or estate environmental group for assistance where such a group is in place.    Other arrangements apply in some estates where for example the estate in question has not been taken in charge and in such areas an estate management company needs to be established by the residents and this company will then take on to organise maintenance of the estate including grass cutting.  

### **Q33/0325 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on safety parking plans for all local estates within the administrative area of South Dublin County Council.  Report to include how estates can request parking surveys and to recommend parking safety measures.

**REPLY:**

The management of parking in residential areas can vary depending on the location and type of development.

Parking provision for new residential estates is managed in line with the objectives of the County Development Plan and conditions attached to the grant of permission. Therefore this can lead to a variation in the numbers of car park spaces permitted within different developments, depending on the time of grant of permission and construction.

Parking regulation, whether in a housing estate that has been Taken In Charge, or at an "on" or "off" street public parking area, is currently regulated by the 2021 Council's Control of Parking ByeLaws, the general regulation of Parking of Vehicle Restrictions and Prohibitions Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations, 1997, and Road Traffic Signs Regulations,  all of which ensures parking is orderly and fair.

Parking in "gated" residential areas are usually governed by property management.

There is no existing work programme that provides for a project based safety parking inspection of all residential estates.  Such works are primarily led by requests for signage and road markings received from members of the public, representations made by Elected Members on behalf of residents, notification of incidents etc.   These requests are considered by engineering and technical staff and discussed with Elected Members at the Traffic Management Meetings held regularly.

The statutory duty of this Council, as Road Authority, includes responsibility for the specification, construction and maintenance of road signs and markings and it is necessary to consult with the Gardai before installing any new regulatory sign or marking, or amending existing signage or markings.

To initiate a project based inspection work programme would require significant planning and investment, for both financial and human resources.

### **Q34/0325 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the current processing times of the vacant property refurbishment grant?

**REPLY:**

The Council has received 163 Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant applications since the introduction of the scheme in 2022. The current average processing time for applications to issue approval/approval in principle is 56 days. To date 44 grants have been paid which represents 27% of the overall applications received. The assessment process is dependent on applicants submitting the required supporting documentation with their grant application. In order to assist applicants with the application process, explanatory information has been updated on the Vacant Homes webpage on [www.sdcc.ie](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Cfhendley%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C40786fced0d64e8e0c7308dd5711b01a%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638762455653801359%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=8GXw15D1%2FzbRxqXFKcKQZQYz1Rx1%2BgN95bwx2hN1Qsw%3D&amp;reserved=0).

### **Q35/0325 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive how many vacant property grants have been applied for and awarded since January 2024?

**REPLY:**

The table below details the number of vacant property grant applications received and awarded since January 2024:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Summary** | |
| Applications | 100 |
| Grants paid | 5 |
| Final approval stage | 6 |
| Approved/approved in principle | 64 |
| Applications with law | 6 |
| Further information/inspection requested | 8 |
| Declined applications | 2 |
| Withdrawn applications | 9 |
|  |  |

### **Q36/0325 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the current processing times of the derelict property top up grant?

**REPLY:**

The derelict top up grant application process, assessment and inspection are all carried out in accordance with the same procedure for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant and the processing time is dependent on a complete application being submitted. The current average processing time for an application to issue approval/approval in principle is 56 days.

### **Q37/0325 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive how many derelict property top-up grants have been applied for and awarded since January 2024?

**REPLY:**

A derelict top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available for properties that are confirmed to be derelict. To qualify for the top-grant, the applicant must submit an independent report prepared by an appropriately qualified professional confirming that the property is derelict i.e. structurally unsound or dangerous. The property can also be deemed derelict if it is on the local authority’s derelict sites register. The total grant available for a derelict property is therefore up to €70,000.

The table below details the number of derelict property top-up grants that have been applied for and awarded since January 2024.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applications | 9 |
| Grants Paid | 1 |
| Approved/Approved in Principle | 8 |

### **Q38/0325 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive if there is any training provided for council staff who may, in the duty of their work, encounter potential situations where tenants of SDCC may be in danger at the hands of another family member or tenant in the home?

**REPLY:**

In October 2024, domestic violence and abuse awareness training was delivered by Saoirse Domestic Violence Services to 52 frontline staff members over the course of five morning sessions.

This course provided participants with valuable insights into the seriousness and far-reaching impact of domestic violence and abuse on victims, their families, and the essential supports needed to assist them.

Other training supports available to staff in the area of encountering potentially dangerous situations include;

* Personal Safety at Work for Front Line Staff
* Resilience and Personal Well-being
* Dealing with Difficult Customers & Personal Safety at Work
* SafeTalk Suicide Awareness Training
* Child Safeguarding

### **H6/0325 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROAD**

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

### **H7/0325 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.**

1. **Proposed disposal of lands to Jordan Group, T/A Centra, at Castletymon Shopping Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Duff and J. Spear with queries raised regarding right of way.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development responded to the Members’ queries.

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **RESOLVED:**

“That the disposal of lands to Jordan Group, T/A Centra, at Castletymon Shopping Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

**(b) Section 183 Tallaght Martial Arts**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors R. McMahon, P. Holohan, L. O’Toole and J. Tuffy with queries raised in relation to market value, eligibility for grants and criteria for applications.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development responded to the Members’ queries.

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

“That the Section 183 Tallaght Martial Arts be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

### **H8/0325 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**

[H-I 8 (a) Chief Executive's Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85497)  
[H-I 8 (b) Statistics Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85554)  
[H-I 8 (c) Finance Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85498)

The report was **NOTED.**

### **H9/0325 NOMINATION OF A NEW CHAIR FOR THE LAND USE, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION SPC- 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**

**REPLY:**

A vacancy exists on the Land Use, Planning and Transportation SPC following the election of former Councillor Teresa Costello to Seanad Eireann, it is a matter for the Council to nominate a replacement to fill the vacancy.

This is now before the Council for consideration.

Councillor E. Murphy proposed and Councillor M. Duff seconded and the Members **AGREED** that Councillor Y. Collins be appointed as Chair of the Land Use, Planning and Transportation SPC Chair.

### **H10/0325 AUDIT COMMITTEE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

Councillor R. McMahon raised queries in relation to value for money report and debt management.

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

[H-I 10 (a) Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2024](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85489)

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **AGREED** that The Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2024, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

### [H-I 10 (b) Audit Committee Charter](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85490)

### It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **AGREED** that The Audit Committee Charter, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

### [H-I 10 (c) Audit Committee Work Programme 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85491)

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **AGREED** The Audit Committee Work Programme 2025, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

### **H11/0325 PART 8 FOR ENTRANCE AND ROUTE UPGRADE AT LUCAN DEMESNE – 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**

[H-I 11 (a) Part 8 Presentation](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85512)  
[H-I 11 (b) Part 8 Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85525)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. O’Toole, H. Farrell, J. Tuffy and E. Ó Broin with queries raised in relation to accessibility, footpath surface, design and the kayak club.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Water and Climate Change responded to the Members’ queries.

The Part 8 for Entrance and Route upgrade at Lucan Demesne was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor L. O’Toole and **AGREED.**

### **H12/0325 PARKS & OPEN SPACE STRATEGY – FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. S. Furlong, Senior Parks Superintendent for Environment, Water and Climate Change and was **CONSIDERED**

[H-I 12(a) Parks and Open Space Strategy Presentation](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85501)  
[H-I 12(b) Parks and Open Space Strategy](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85385)  
[H-I 12(c) Parks and Open Space Strategy Appendices](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85386)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Kearns, J. Spear, N. Whelan, K. Keane, L. O’Toole, C. Brady, E. Ó Broin, E. Murphy, J. Sheehy, L. McCrave, N. Whelan, N. Fennell, R. McMahon, H. Farrell, P. Holohan and W. Carey

Queries were raised in relation to dog parks, beverage trucks, biodiversity, covered seating, toilet facilities, bins, exercise equipment, accessibility to parks, green space per population, footfall, green corridors, signage, kissing gates, staff resources, and comparison with other local authorities.

Ms. S. Furlong, Senior Parks Superintendent, responded to the Members’ queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H13/0325 OUTDOOR ADVERTISING STRATEGY – FOR NOTING**

### 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.**

### [H-I 13 Outdoor Advertising Strategy](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85573)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors Y. Collins, C. Brady, P. Holohan, L. O’Toole, J. Spear, W. Carey, L. McCrave, L. de Courcy, E. Ó Broin, J. Sheehy, J. Tuffy, M. Duff, H. Farrell, L. Dunne, D. Donnelly, E. Murphy, S. Barnes and P. Kearns.

Queries were raised in relation to on revenue streams, advertisement categories, ethics and standards, emissions and light pollution, the number of boards, aesthetics, solar power, and holograms.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development responded to the Members’ queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H14/0325 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.**

**REPLY:**

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

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

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

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

Following the assessment process and having regard to the available budget **33** grants totalling **€62,746.00** were approved for **30** local groups summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **No:** | **Amount** |
| Community Development Grants | 5 | €4,200.00 |
| Community Events Funding | 5 | €21,557.00 |
| Sports Development Grants | 23 | €36,989.00 |
| **Total** | **33** | **€62,746.00** |

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Group** | **Funding Category Applied For** | **Sub-Category of Grant** | **Amount** |
| Bodearg | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement | €500.00 |
| Clondalkin Travellers Development Group | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1700.00 |
| Kilcronan Resident Association | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement | €500.00 |
| Knockmitten Residents' Association | Community Development Grant | Start Up Costs | €500.00 |
| Liffey Sounds Communication Cooperative Ltd. | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Clondalkin St. Patrick's Day Parade | Community Events Funding | St. Patrick's Day Parade | €8000.00 |
| Kilcronan Resident Association | Community Events Funding | Christmas Community Celebration | €537.00 |
| Rowlagh Parish Community Centre | Community Events Funding | Village / Community Festival | €4000.00 |
| St. Brigid's Festival | Community Events Funding | St. Brigid’s Day Festival | €5985.00 |
| St. Mary's GFC | Community Events Funding | St. Patrick's Day Parade | €3035.00 |
| 168th St. Aengus Tymon North Scout Group | Sports Development Grant | Coach Training | €2,000.00 |
| Adamstown Castle Educate Together N.S. | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €1,500.00 |
| Arthur Griffith Park Football Club (AGP FC) | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €5,400.00 |
| Beacon of Light Counselling Centre | Sports Development Grant | Programme Delivery | €1,250.00 |
| Clondalkin/Lucan Women's Network | Sports Development Grant | Programme Delivery | €300.00 |
| Firhouse Educate Together NS | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €2,669.00 |
| Gardians Volleyball Club | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €1,800.00 |
| Holy Spirit Senior Primary School | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €2,200.00 |
| Kilcronan Residence Association | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €300.00 |
| Killinarden Celtic Football Club | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €1,500.00 |
| Libermann Spiritian School | Sports Development Grant | Programme Delivery | €1,200.00 |
| Little Starts Arch Club | Sports Development Grant | Programme Delivery | €540.00 |
| Lucan Harrier Athletic Club | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €1,000.00 |
| Lucan United Football Club | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €950.00 |
| Mount Seskin Community College | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €2,600.00 |
| Quarryvale Community & Youth Centre | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €1,400.00 |
| Ronanstown Women's Community Development Project | Sports Development Grant | Programme Delivery | €480.00 |
| Sensory Fun with Friends | Sports Development Grant | Programme Delivery | €1,500.00 |
| South Dublin County Partnership Ltd. | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €1,000.00 |
| St Rose's National School | Sports Development Grant | Coach Training | €1,200.00 |
| The Park Community Centre | Sports Development Grant | Programme Delivery | €1,000.00 |
| The Park Community Centre | Sports Development Grant | Equipment | €4,000.00 |
| This Is Me Neurodiversity | Sports Development Grant | Programme Delivery | €1,200.00 |

### The report was **NOTED.**

### **C1/0325 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Replies**

[(a) i) Reply from Minister for Housing regarding Motion M61124 November 2024](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85405)  
[(a) ii) Motion 6 from November 2024 Council Meeting](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85488)

**Acknowledgements**

**Correspondence**

[(b) Roscommon County Council Motion regarding forestry owners and power lines](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85295)  
[(c) Roscommon County Council Motion regarding landowners and fallen trees.](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85297)  
[(d) Roscommon County Council Motion regarding Government Phone Network access](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85299)  
[(e) Roscommon Conty Council Motion regarding students with additional learning needs](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85300)  
[(f) Sligo County Council Motion regarding VAT Rate on Electricity](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85318)  
[(g) Sligo County Council Motion regarding future Carbon Taxes](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85319)  
[(h) Sligo County Council Motion regarding the Tenant in Situ scheme.](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85320)  
[(i) Sligo County Council Motion regarding an eviction ban](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85321)  
[(j) Sligo County Council Motion regarding the dangers of vaping.](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85322)

The correspondence was **NOTED**.

At this point of the meeting Councillor L. Dunne raised a query in relation to her emergency motion being ruled out of order.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors Baby Pereppadan, W. Carey, B. Lawlor, Britto Pereppadan, K. Keane, E. Murphy and D. Adelaide.

The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan suspended the meeting for five minutes at 18:15.

Meeting resumed at 18:20.

A further discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey, Baby Pereppadan and L. Dunne.

### **M1/0325 Cost Rental Scheme**

Proposed by Councillor N. Whelan, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

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.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.  The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

The motion was **AGREED**

### **M2/0325 Tenant In Situ**

Proposed by Councillor P. Holohan, seconded by Councillor D. Donnelly.

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.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.  The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

An amendment to the motion was submitted by Councillor M. Duff, seconded by Councillor L. Dunne.

“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 **while maintaining priority for those applicants under a Notice to Quit”**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Duff, J. Spear, D. Adelaide, Y. Collins, L. Dunne, K. Keane, W. Carey, C. Brady, P. Kearns and D. McManus.

The amendment to the Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M3/0325 Multi Unit Development Act**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy.

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.

**REPORT:**

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors Y. Collins, E. Ó Broin, P. Holohan, M. Duff and B. Lawlor, a query was raised in relation to the Council or Approved Housing Body having membership of a Management Company.

Ms. E. Leech, Director of Housing and Community Development responded to the Members query.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **M13/0325 Revenue Commissioners**

### It was proposed by Councillor C. Brady seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **MOVED** without debate.

That this Council calls on the Minister for Finance to enhance the detection and enforcement capacity of the Revenue Commissioners to tackle the surge in smuggling and black market sales of medicines, tobacco products, and other goods; and to protect both legitimate local retailers and public revenue.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed a letter will be sent to the Minister for Finance.  The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

### **M14/0325 Beacon Free Pedestrian Crossing**

### It was proposed by Councillor H. Farrell seconded by Councillor L. O’Toole and **MOVED** without debate.

To call on the Chief Executive to conduct a comprehensive review and report on the visibility of pedestrians at Belisha beacon-free pedestrian crossings throughout the county. The review should specifically measure pedestrian visibility at a distance of 36 metres (the stopping distance for a car travelling at 50 km/h in wet conditions) during nighttime conditions. The findings should provide clear recommendations for any necessary improvements to enhance pedestrian safety at each location along with an expected timeline for implementation of any necessary improvements, with the most critical improvements flagged.

**REPORT:**

The Department of Transport (DOT) issued guidance to all Local Authority Directors of Service on the use of Type B Zebra pedestrian crossings in circular RW 06/2024. A copy of the official DOT letter along with a detailed Guidance Document is attached to this Motion.

The Department of Transport (DoT), supported by the National Transport Authority (NTA), conducted trials on zebra crossings without flashing beacons in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown and in Limerick City. These trials were informed by international studies from countries such as:

* The Netherlands
* France
* Germany
* Switzerland
* Australia
* New Zealand

The trials aimed to assess the feasibility of removing the requirement for flashing beacons, as their installation adds complexity and cost due to the need for a power connection on both sides of the road. The findings demonstrated that crossings could function effectively without beacons, allowing for a more cost-effective and sustainable approach to increasing safe pedestrian and active travel crossing points.

**Legislation Update**

Following the success of these trials, the Department of Transport updated its guidance in February2024, permitting zebra crossings without flashing beacons.

**New Pedestrian Crossing installed in South Dublin:**

The new pedestrian crossings have been installed on a raised ramp, incorporating the RUS 066 sign in compliance with the updated Department of Transport guidelines.

The Traffic Section inspected ramps, sign visibility, and street lighting at these crossings:

* Pedestrian signs were clearly visible from both directions.
* Street lighting was unobstructed, ensuring proper illumination at night.
* Vehicles were observed slowing down as they approached the ramp, and pedestrians were using the crossing safely.

The Traffic Section is procuring an independent Road Safety Auditor to carry out Stage 3 and 4 Road Safety Audits.

Any recommendations arising from these audits will be implemented accordingly.

We will continue to monitor these pedestrian crossing locations in relation to their operational safety.

[M14 (ii) Department of Transport Letter](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85503)  
[M14 (iii) Treatment of Zebra Crossings Guidance Document](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85504)

### **M15/0325 Family Carers Ireland**

### It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons seconded by Councillor Y. Collins and **MOVED** without debate.

That this council agrees to meet with Family Carers Ireland to explore and look at how and if South Dublin County Council can advance the needs of Disabled Persons.

**REPORT:**

Family Carers Ireland is the national charity supporting family carers throughout the country. If this motion is agreed, Corporate Services will contact Family Carers Ireland to explore their programmes to identify any possible areas of collaboration.

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

**Motions Not Reached:**

### **M4/0325 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.

### **M5/0325 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.

### **M6/0325 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.

### **M7/0325 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.

### **M8/0325 Wildlife intrusive Behaviour**

Councillor W. Carey

That this Council agrees that South Dublin County Council shall develop a policy for dealing with intrusive behaviour of foxes and other wildlife.

### **M9/0325 Domestic Violence**

Councillor K. Keane

This Council agrees to implement a system of allocating units from the current housing stock to victims of domestic violence leaving short term refuges, ensuring they do not end up in emergency accommodation.

### **M10/0325 Small Playgrounds**

Councillor E. Ó Broin

This Council agrees to create a programme for the installation of small playgrounds in housing estates that want them.

### **M11/0325 Homeless Housing Assistance Payment**

Councillor J. Spear

This Council agrees that those in rented accommodation can apply for Homeless Housing Assistance Payment immediately after a valid notice to quit is issued.

### **M12/0325 Accessible Exercise Machines**

Councillor N. Fennell

This Council agrees to have accessible, user-friendly exercise machines, not just calisthenics, in all our county parks, to ensure inclusive and diverse ways of exercise for all people within our county.

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

Mayor

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