



Comhairle Contae  
Átha Cliath Theas  
**South Dublin County Council**

# Draft

# Annual Report 2024

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## Mayor's foreword

It has been an honour to serve as the First Citizen of South Dublin. This year has been both exciting and rewarding, but above all, it has been a privilege to meet so many incredible people who contribute to making this county a truly inclusive and vibrant place.

Throughout my term so far, I have had the opportunity to launch and support numerous fantastic projects and initiatives. Some of my personal highlights include the return of the Tallaght St. Patrick's Day Parade, which was a tremendous success and has the potential to grow even further in the coming years. Another standout moment was the official opening of the newly constructed North Stand at Tallaght Stadium in September.

Tallaght Stadium has become a hub for major sporting events, regularly hosting Shamrock Rovers' men's and women's teams, FAI Women's National Team matches, and a variety of other sports such as rugby, GAA, and American football. With its recent expansion, the stadium is now capable of hosting large-scale events, including concerts and public gatherings. The completion of the North Stand and the upgraded facilities ensure that the stadium continues to thrive as a focal point for both sports and community events. I was honoured to be part of unveiling this significant development.

As Mayor, I have also had the privilege of attending several Mini Woodland Planting events across South Dublin, including in Dodder Valley Park, Griffeen Valley Park, Jobstown Park, Clondalkin Park, and Ballycragh Park. It was truly inspiring to see various volunteer groups come together to enhance our local environment, strengthen community ties, and improve the quality of life for all residents. Community-led environmental action like this is essential in tackling the pressing challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss affecting our planet.

Additionally, I have had the honour of marking the opening and upgrades of several parks across South Dublin, including Carrigmore Park, Greentrees Park, and Quarryvale Park. Parks play a vital role in providing green spaces for relaxation, recreation, and social connection, contributing to the well-being of our communities. It is fantastic to see ongoing investment in these spaces, which bring immense benefits to local residents.

As I look ahead to the remainder of my term in the Mayoral Office, I am excited about the new initiatives planned for the year and the challenge of meeting the ambitious goals outlined in our five-year Corporate Plan.

I encourage you to continue working with South Dublin County Council by engaging with our consultation processes and initiatives, actively participating in your local communities, and embracing opportunities to strengthen our county in business, tourism, and inclusivity. Together, we can achieve our vision for a thriving and dynamic South Dublin.

## Chief Executive's foreword

The final annual report under our Corporate Plan 2019-2024 presents a picture of considerable progress across key areas of service delivery and capital projects, reflecting the ongoing development of the county as we reached the milestone of thirty years in existence.

In November, we adopted the Revenue Budget for 2025 with proposed expenditure totalling €391,942,200, representing a 17.5% increase on the previous year. A new Three-Year Capital Programme for 2025 to 2027 with proposed investment of €1,746,733,00 in housing, infrastructure and facilities was also presented to the council in December.

The following selected areas of note provide an overview of some of the great work and achievements during 2024, with considerably more detail available throughout the various sections of the report.

Progress under our Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) was maintained with output of 774 new social homes, meaning that since the HDAP commenced in 2022, a total of 1,815 new-build social homes have been delivered in the county, most notably with delivery of developments at Balgaddy and Nangor Road. We provided 210 long-term lease properties and 55 affordable purchase homes in 2024, as well as progressing substantial plans for additional social and affordable homes with the Belgard cost rental apartments nearing completion and the Kilcarbery Grange joint venture project moving into its fourth phase. A new Traveller Accommodation Programme was adopted while seven new group homes were delivered at Fonthill.

We made 1,245 social housing allocations including 267 allocations to homeless households, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of homeless households in the county, while our continued focus on addressing vacancy saw our average re-let time for social homes reduce to just over 20 weeks with only 95 social homes vacant at year end. We vested four vacant houses at St. Maelruan's and approved 64 vacant homes refurbishment grants with 37 grants paid to date.

The Two-Year Progress Report on the delivery of the objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028 was presented to council in December along with our new online housing supply monitor with 5,475 residential units completed since the Development Plan came into effect and planning permission in place for a further 12,649 homes by the end of Q3 2024. Delivery of strategic infrastructure in partnership with private landowners within Clonburris SDZ enabled large scale housing development with 2,196 homes complete or under construction there.

Under our new Climate Action Plan, which was adopted in February, our estimated improvements since the 2018 baseline figures are 45.5% for energy efficiency and 43% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions respectively, while the Community Climate Action Fund supported a portfolio of 28 projects with funding of over €1.1million. Implementation of the Clondalkin Decarbonising Zone commenced, and we contracted a partner to provide public

electric vehicle infrastructure charging stations while also increasing our electric vehicle numbers and replacing diesel use with renewable hydrotreated vegetable oil for our larger vehicles. We provided 22.5 kilometres of new and upgraded cycle lanes under the Cycle South Dublin programme, 85 social homes underwent energy efficiency retrofits, and 1,690 existing public lights were upgraded to LED.

Our new Local Economic and Community Plan was adopted in December to guide economic and community development over the next six years. Completion of the new Work IQ innovation centre for start-up businesses complemented in tandem with LEO supports and continued development of Grange Castle Business Park to attract and support both indigenous and foreign direct investment, were key steps for economic development. We processed 5,178 Increased Cost of Business grants with a value of over €13.6m to support small and medium businesses while we also commenced processing the new Power Up Grant by year end.

Upgrades, including the new North Stand, at Tallaght Stadium have seen an increasing national and international profile thanks to our sporting partnerships there. We also progressed our plans for the economic, cultural, and social masterplan at 12<sup>th</sup> Lock. In terms of tourism, the first stages of our Hellfire development at the Dublin mountains commenced and the acquisition of Lucan House during the year provides a significant strategic opportunity.

The Community Integration Forum continued to shape interagency supports and services for new arrivals to the county with an integration team also established within the council, while local communities benefitted from €2,249,663 in funding under the Community Recognition Fund. We also continued to provide over €1.6million through our community department and rolled out an online booking system for 24 community centres while new community facilities were delivered at Saggart, Glenasmole, Clondalkin village, Rathcoole and Balgaddy. We continued the implementation of our Active South Dublin Plan as well as the Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare programmes with 124,057 participants on council-led sports and community initiatives.

Our programme of public realm improvements and district enhancements continued with significant work completed around Parthalán Place and County Hall in Tallaght and Castletymon and Dodsboro district centres, while works also started on improvements to Lucan village. We cleaned 11,162 kilometres of roads and collected 11,034 tonnes of waste as well as extending the road sweeping programme to include cleaning of back lanes and sweeping of segregated cycle tracks.

11,632 environmental inspections were carried out and, after providing additional funding in our budget, activities under our three-year tree maintenance programme reached 9,475 trees surveyed, 10,927 trees pruned, 1,144 trees and 625 stumps removed, and 3,651 trees planted.

An additional €4.5 million was collected in commercial rates, bringing the total collected to over €145.7 million representing our highest amount ever collected and also resulting in reducing arrears by over one million to their lowest since 2008. We increased collection of differential

rents by 12% with €34.9 million collected and reduced housing loan arrears to approximately €300,000.

All of this progress relies on the commitment of our staff, and we continue to recruit and expand to match both the level of services required and our ambition for the county. We commenced a process to update our strategic workforce plan to ensure proactive management of our current and future workforce to enable us to meet strategic challenges and changing needs efficiently. 143 new staff joined us during the year while 82 existing staff were promoted, with 69 people leaving for other opportunities and 44 retiring.

The year was notable for the local elections and the ongoing support of councillors new and not so new throughout the year, was another key factor in our achievements. In December, the adoption of a new Corporate Plan for 2025 to 2029 provides us with a platform to build on all that has been achieved in 2024, with a renewed purpose to provide greater opportunity for all as we seek to be a place that meets the needs and ambitions of everyone in South Dublin.

# Mission and Values

Our mission is to make our county a vibrant and inclusive place  
for the people who live, visit, work, and do business here,  
now and for the future.

The following values guide the work of all employees and elected members:

## **Customer service**

We are committed to providing an accessible, courteous, consistent, impartial and responsive service. We will operate a citizens' charter including a complaints and redress system to support this commitment.

## **Sustainability**

We will act in a responsible, sustainable way regarding finance, the environment, community affairs and socioeconomic issues. Sustainability means meeting the needs of people today without harming the ability to meet the needs of future generations.

## **Inclusiveness, equality and accessibility**

We will prioritise social inclusion, equality of access and opportunity, and the needs of the most vulnerable people in society when we design and deliver services.

## **Innovation, creativity and diversity**

We will look at new, creative and different ways to deliver services and solve problems, and will encourage the people, groups and organisations we work with to do the same.

## **Accountability and transparency**

We will communicate clearly and openly with people, and we will be transparent in all our decision-making.

## **Value for money**

We will use our resources efficiently, and we will continually review and evaluate our performance.

## About the Council

South Dublin County Council celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> year in 2024 as it was established on Saturday, 1 January 1994. The council operates in an area of 223 square kilometres and the county is bounded by Dublin city to the northeast, the Dublin mountains and Wicklow to the south, the river Liffey to the north separating it from Fingal and Kildare to the west.

The county has a population of 301,075 people living in 106,074 homes according to the 2022 census results, representing an 8% population increase from the previous census in 2016.

The Council is made up of 40 Elected Members spread across seven electoral areas. The Mayor is elected by the members at the annual meeting in June. Following the Local and General Elections in 2024, South Dublin became the first council in Ireland to reach and exceed gender parity with 21 female councillors in 2024. Along with the Corporate Policy Group, six Strategic Policy Committees develop and recommend policy to the Council. Committees are made up of Elected Members and representatives of the business, farming, environment, community and trade union sectors.



# Our Principal Services

## **Economic, enterprise and tourism development**

- Economic development and promotion of the county for investment
- Enterprise development and supports
- Asset management
- Library services, the arts office and cultural infrastructure
- County promotion and tourism development

## **Land use, planning and transportation**

- Development management
- Forward Planning
- Roads construction and maintenance
- Traffic management
- Public lighting
- Building control
- Heritage and conservation promotion

## **Housing, social and community development**

- Social housing programme
- Housing allocations, maintenance and refurbishment
- Social services, estate management and community development
- Age-friendly and social inclusion initiatives
- Sports programmes and health and wellbeing initiatives

## **Environment, water and climate change**

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Major emergency management
- Waste and enforcement
- Water and drainage services
- Veterinary services
- Public realm management and maintenance

## **Organisational capacity and accountability**

- Corporate services
- Human resource management
- Financial management
- Information and communication technologies
- Architectural services
- Legal services

## Council Meetings 2024

There were 86 meetings of the full Council, Organisation, Procedure and Finance Committee, Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and Area Committee's comprising:

- 10 County Council Meetings
- Inaugural Council meeting following the local elections
- 2 Special Meetings of the County Council
- 1 Annual Budget Meeting
- 6 Organisation, Procedure and Finance Committee Meetings (including 1 Special Budget Meeting)
- 10 Corporate Policy Group meetings

The four Area Committees met:

- 8 Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse-Bohernabreena meetings
- 8 Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart/Brittas meetings
- 8 Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin meetings
- 8 Tallaght Area Committee meetings

In addition, there were:

- 18 meetings across the six Strategic Policy Committees
- 2 meetings of the Joint Policing Committee
- 3 Audit Committee Meetings

### Retirements

After 33 years of service to South Dublin, Councillors Guss O'Connell and Charlie O'Connor announced that they would not seek re-election in the June local elections. Guss O'Connell served as a Councillor from 1991 until 2024 as an Independent. Charlie O'Connor was also elected to the Council in 1991 and was elected to Dáil Éireann in 2022 and re-elected in 2007 before returning to the Council.

## Strategic Policy Committees

One of the statutory functions of the Corporate Policy Group is to make proposals for the allocation of business as between strategic policy committees and for the general co-ordination of such business. Below is the membership and the work programmes and their agreed work plans of each SPC in 2024.

### Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC

Pre 2024 Local Election Chair: Cllr Guss O'Connell

Post 2024 Local Election Chair: Cllr Louise Dunne

Director: Jason Frehill

#### **Membership January – May 2024**

##### **Council Members**

Guss O'Connell (Independent) (Chair)

Mick Duff (Independent)

Kenneth Egan (Fine Gael)

Alan Hayes (Independent)

Mark Lynch (Green)

Terea Costello (Fianna Fail)

##### **Sectoral Members**

Ms Freda Manweiler – Public Participation Network (PPN)

Ms Elaine Vince-O'Hara – Education Training Board (ETB)

#### **Membership June 2024 – December 2024**

##### **Council Members**

Louise Dunne (Sinn Fein) (Chair)

Darragh Adelaide (People Before Profit)

Sarah Barnes (Fine Gael)

Dean Donnelly (Independent)

Glen Moore (Irish Freedom Party)

Eoin Ó Broin (Social Democrats)

### **Sectoral Members**

Emma Kennedy – Business Commercial

Noel Gavin - Public Participation Network (PPN)

Yemi Ojo - Public Participation Network (PPN)

### **2024 PROGRAMME OF WORK**

- Implementation of the Library Development Plan
- Adamstown and Dublin West Libraries - Future plans and project updates
- Role of Creative Ireland, Crinnu na Nog, Music Generation etc in the development of arts and culture in the County
- Public Art Steering Committee Reports and Updates
- Development and promotion of Tallaght Cultural Quarter
- Support the role and development of Rua Red and the Civic
- Tallaght Heritage Centre - Future plans and project updates
- Implementation of the County Heritage Plan or any successive (succeeding) Plan
- Gaeilge sub-committee
- Implementation of ReFrame Arts Development Strategy 2022 - 2026
- Joint meetings/workshops with other SPCs in crosscutting themes.

## **Economic, Enterprise, and Tourism Development SPC**

Pre 2024 Local Election Chair: Cllr Cathal King

Post 2024 Local Election Chair: Cllr Vicki Casserly

Director: Jason Frehill

### **Membership January – May 2024**

#### **Council Members**

Cathal King (Sinn Féin) –(Chair)

Lynn McCrave (Fine Gael)

Ronan McMahon (Independent)

Leah Whelan (Solidarity)

Ed O'Brien (Fianna Fáil)

Louise Dunne (Sinn Féin)

Liona O'Toole (Independent)

Pamela Kearns (Labour)

### **Sectoral Members**

Jack McDonnell - TUD Tallaght

Michael Noonan - PPN

Sherri Brennan - Business Chamber of Commerce

### **Membership June 2024 – December 2024**

#### **Council Members**

Vicki Casserly (Fine Gael) (Chair)

Shane Moynihan (Fianna Fail) – Elected to the 34<sup>th</sup> Dáil on 29<sup>th</sup> November

Justin Sinnott (Social Democrats)

Ronan McMahon (Independent)

Shirley O'Hara (Fine Gael)

Pamela Kearns (Labour)

Paddy Holohan (Independent)

Liona O'Toole (Independent)

#### **Sectoral Members**

Simon Van Lonkhuyzen - Business Commercial (overseas)

Harry Simpson – Business Commercial (indigenous)

Betty Tyrrell-Collard – Trade Union

Lisa Rowntree – Public Participation Network (PPN)

Prashant Shukla – Public Participation Network (PPN)

Dr Miriam O'Donoghue – TUD Tallaght

## **2024 PROGRAMME OF WORK**

- Implementation of the Local Enterprise Office Development Plan 2021 – 2024
- Grange Castle – Future development, masterplan, marketing and contribution to Economic Development of the County
- The Innovation Centre - Future plans and operational updates
- Local Enterprise Office Feasibility and Priming Grant studies
- Business Support Fund review to address Evening Time Economy opportunities
- 12<sup>th</sup> Lock and Micro Enterprise Centre initiatives - Future plans and project updates
- Implementation of South Dublin County Council's Tourism Strategy 2024 – 2029, including tourism projects at the Dublin Mountains, Rathfarnham Castle Courtyard, and Lucan House etc.
- The development and expanded use of Tallaght Stadium
- Preparation and implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan
- Preparation of County Economic Strategy
- Joint meetings/workshops with other SPCs on crosscutting policies

## **Land Use Planning and Transportation Spc**

Pre 2024 Local Election Chair: Cllr Lyn Hagin Meade

Post 2024 Local Election Chair: Cllr Teresa Costello

Director: Mick Mulhern/Mick McAdam

## **Membership January – May 2024**

### **Council Members**

Lyn Hagin Meade (Green Party) (Chair)

Paul Gogarty (Independent)

Derren Ó Brádaigh (Sinn Féin)

Baby Pereppadan (Fine Gael)

Eoin Ó Broin (Independent)

Yvonne Collins (Fianna Fáil)

### **Sectoral Members**

Eoin Ahern - PPN

## **Membership June 2024 – December 2024**

### **Council Members**

Teresa Costello (Fianna Fail) (Chair)

David McManus (Fine Gael)

Ciarán Ahern (Labour) – Elected to the 34<sup>th</sup> Dáil on 29<sup>th</sup> November

Niamh Fennell (Sinn Féin)

Paul Gogarty (Independent) – Elected to the 34<sup>th</sup> Dáil on 29<sup>th</sup> November

Jess Spear (People Before Profit)

### **Sectoral Members**

Fergus Sharp – Business Commercial

Sean O’Neill – Development Construction

Eoin Ahern – Public Participation Network (PPN)

Declan Hanley - Public Participation Network (PPN)

## **2024 PROGRAMME OF WORK**

- County Development Plan – Update on City Edge Variation
- County Development Plan – Update on monitoring of the adopted County Development Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment
- ‘Rights to Light’ explained
- Public Right of Way (discussion on identifying new rights of way)
- Clondalkin Local Area Plan update
- Development Contribution Scheme update
- Heritage Plan review
- Biodiversity Action Plan update
- Planning and Development Act 2024 update

## **Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change Spc**

Pre 2024 Local Election Chair: Cllr David Manus

Post 2024 Local Election Chair: Brian Lawlor

Director: Teresa Walsh

### **Membership January – May 2024**

#### **Council Members**

David McManus (Fine Gael) - Chair

Emma Murphy (Fianna Fáil)

Dermot Richardson (Sinn Féin)

Madeleine Johansson (Solidarity)

Francis Timmons (Independent)

Alan Edge (Independent)

Vanessa Mulhall (Green Party)

#### **Sectoral Members**

John Kiberd - Public Participation Network (PPN)

Deirdre Mooney - Business Commercial

Donnie Andersen - Agricultural and Farming

### **Membership June 2024 – December 2024**

#### **Council Members**

Brian Lawlor (Fine Gael) (Chair)

Linda de Courcy (Independent Ireland)

Trevor Gilligan (Fianna Fail)

Roisin Mannion (Sinn Fein)

Lynn McCrave (Fine Gael)

Dermot Richardson (Independent)

Francis Timmons (Independent)

#### **Sectoral Members**

Peter Lantry – Business Commercial

Benedict Chukwurah - Public Participation Network (PPN)



## **2024 PROGRAMME OF WORK**

- Sports Pitch Strategy Implementation (Pavilion Programme)
- Waste Enforcement programme of works including WERLA Priorities
- New Waste Management Action Plan for a Circular Economy
- Regional Waste Management Office Report
- Circular Economy and Environmental Awareness Activities
- Revised Draft of Casual Trading Byelaws
- Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 – Implementation Plan
- Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE Project
- Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF)
- Local Authority EV Charging Strategy
- Burial Ground Strategy
- Decarbonisation zone (Clondalkin)
- DeliveREE Project update
- Environmental Noise Action Plan 2023 – 2027

## **Housing SPC**

Pre 2024 Local Election Chair: Cllr Charlie O’ Connor

Post 2024 Local Election Chair: Cllr Mick Duff

Director: Elaine Leech

## **Membership January – May 2024**

### **Council Members**

Charlie O’Connor (Fianna Fáil) - Chair

Laura Donaghy (Green Party)

Kieran Mahon (Solidarity)

Joanna Tuffy (Labour)

Shane Moynihan (Fianna Fáil)

William Carey (Sinn Féin)

Brian Lawlor (Fine Gael)

### **Sectoral Members**

Betty Tyrrell-Collard - Trade Union

Sharon Harty - Public Participation Network (PPN)

Gerry Stockil - Public Participation Network (PPN)

## **Membership June 2024 – December 2024**

### **Council Members**

Mick Duff (Independent) (Chair)

Caroline Brady (Fine Gael)

William Carey (Sinn Féin)

Yvonne Collins (Fianna Fail)

Madeline Johansson (People Before Profit)

Joanna Tuffy (Labour)

Britto Pereppadan (Fine Gael)

### **Sectoral Members**

Betty Tyrrell-Collard – Trade Union

Motuba Misoro – Public Participation Network (Social Inclusion) (PPN)

Krystyna Zalewska - Public Participation Network (Community) (PPN)

Isabelle Gallagher – Development Construction

## **2024 PROGRAMME OF WORK**

- Implementation of Housing Delivery Action Plan
- Affordable Housing and Cost Rental Schemes including eligibility and allocation
- Allocations and Housing Need including review of the Allocation Scheme
- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Energy-Retrofit, Planned Maintenance and Voids Programmes
- Tenant Participation/Engagement Strategy
- Implementation of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027
- Anti-Social/Community Safety Strategy
- Vacant Homes Schemes
- Housing Communications, Data and Systems

## Social, Community and Equality SPC

Pre 2024 Local Election Chair: Cllr Trevor Gilligan

Post 2024 Local Election Chair: Cllr Emma Murphy

Director: Elaine Leech

### **Membership January – May 2024**

#### **Council Members**

Trevor Gilligan (Fianna Fáil) – (Chair)

Paddy Holohan (Sinn Féin)

Vicki Casserly (Fine Gael)

Shirley O'Hara (Fine Gael)

Lilian Guéret (Fianna Fáil)

Justin Sinnott (Social Democrats)

#### **Sectoral Members**

Lynn Byrne - Public Participation Network (PPN)

Daire Hennessy - Public Participation Network (PPN)

## Social, Community, Equality and Integration SPC

### **Membership June 2024 – December 2024**

#### **Council Members**

Emma Murphy (Fianna Fail) (Chair)

Niamh Whelan (Sinn Fein)

Kay Keane (People Before Profit)

Alan Edge (Independent)

Alan Hayes (Independent)

Baby Pereppadan (Fine Gael)

#### **Sectoral Members**

Emily Smart - Public Participation Network (PPN)

Daire Hennessy - Public Participation Network (PPN)

Noel Gavin – Business Commercial

## **2024 PROGRAMME OF WORK**

- Local Economic and Community Plan
- Implementation of Active South Dublin, Local Sports Plan
- Community and Leisure Facilities - Capital Programme, Strategy and Governance
- Community and Sports Grants
- Community Development including Social Inclusion, Integration Strategy
- and Health and Wellbeing Initiatives
- Age Friendly Strategy including Dementia Inclusive Community Pilot
- Playstreets Initiative
- Community Endeavour Awards 2024

# Local Community Development Committee

**Chair:** Tricia Nolan – South Dublin Volunteer Centre

**Vice-Chair:** Valerie Hogg – Adult Education Officer, DDLETB

<b>South Dublin County LCDC Membership</b>  <b>Edel Clancy – Chief Officer, South Dublin County LCDC</b> <b>Maria Nugent, LCDC Coordinator</b>		
Sector	Name	Organisation
<b>Public – Statutory Interests (8)</b>		
Local Authority	<b>Elaine Leech</b>	Director of Services, SDCC
	<b>Thomas Rooney</b>	Local Enterprise Office
	<b>Cllr. Yvonne Collins</b>	Elected Representative
	<b>Cllr Sarah Barnes</b>	Elected Representative
	<b>Cllr. Alan Hayes</b>	Elected Representative
State Agencies (minimum 2)	<b>Margaret McQuillan</b>	Health Service Executive
	<b>Eugene Donnelly</b>	Department of Social Protection
	<b>Valerie Hogg – Vice Chair</b>	Adult Education Officer, Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board
<b>Private – Non Statutory Interests (11)</b>		
Local and Community Development	<b>Simon Monds</b>	South Dublin County Partnership
Civic Society/Local Community Interests	<b>Tricia Nolan, Chair</b>	South Dublin County Volunteer Centre
	<b>Andy Leeson</b>	Foroige
	<b>Dr. Noel McCarthy</b>	Community Representative
	<b>Helena Fitzgerald</b>	Community Representative
	Vacancy	Community Representative
Environmental Pillar	Vacancy	Public Participation Network Environment Pillar
Community and Voluntary Pillar	<b>John Conroy</b>	Public Participation Network-Community Pillar
	<b>Sean Farrell</b>	Public Participation Network-Community Pillar
Social Inclusion Pillar	<b>Sharon Harty</b>	Public Participation Network- Social Inclusion Pillar
	<b>Noreen Byrne</b>	Public Participation Network- Social Inclusion Pillar

# Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2030

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is an integrated strategy that will guide economic and community development across South Dublin County over the next six years.

Prepared collaboratively by the South Dublin County Council, the Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), the plan reflects extensive consultation with communities, businesses, education and training providers, government agencies, and key stakeholders throughout the region.

The LECP 2024–2030 was presented by the South Dublin County LCDC to the Council on 9th December 2024.

The plan outlines:

- 6 High-Level Goals
- 120 Targeted Actions

High Level Goals identified are as follows:

1. For the County of South Dublin to become a better place in which to live and work.
2. To improve the physical and mental health of those living and working in South Dublin.
3. Increase access to education, upskilling and lifelong learning to further meet the social and economic needs of residents and employers now, and into the future.
4. Fairness, collaboration and innovation to be at the core of South Dublin's transition to becoming a low carbon county.
5. Empower communities through smart initiatives and skills development to help make their areas better places in which to live, work and visit.
6. For society within South Dublin County to be more inclusive, equitable and welcoming of diversity

A two-year implementation plan commences in 2025 and a progress report will be submitted to the LCDC twice a year.

## **The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Funding 2025**

Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Funding 2024, launched by the Department on 6th December 2023.

South Dublin County LCDC were allocated:

- €254,979.91 capital funding for the Local Enhancement Programme to use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.
- €50,995.98 capital funding ring-fenced for Women's Groups.

47 Grant applications were received in total.

The Minister issued a press release to notify successful applicants of their awarded grants in April 2024.

### **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024–2028**

The SICAP 2024–2028 programme commenced in January 2024, continuing its vital role in addressing social exclusion and supporting communities across South Dublin County.

Following a successful open tender competition, South Dublin County Partnership CLG was awarded the contract to deliver the programme throughout the county.

As part of its governance and accountability framework, the South Dublin County Partnership provides regular updates on SICAP activities and outcomes at each LCDC meeting.

## The Audit Committee

The Audit Committee 2019 – 2024 held its last meeting in May 2024. Its membership was as follows:

Councillor Teresa Costello

Councillor David McManus

Councillor Guss O’Connell

George Kennington, Partner Audit, Crowe (Chair)

Ann Horan, Chairperson of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland

Martin Nolan, Head of Compliance, Bright Software Group

Eilis Quinlan, Quinlan and Co Chartered Accountants.

Following the local elections a new Audit Committee was formed for the duration of the new Council. The membership of the Audit Committee for 2024 – 2029 is:

Councillor Caroline Brady

Councillor Niamh Fennell

Councillor Joanna Tuffy

Ann Horan, Chairperson of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (Chair)

Martin Nolan, (Chair) Head of Compliance, Bright Software Group

George Kennington, Partner Audit, Crowe Ireland

Eilis Quinlan, Quinlan and Co Chartered Accountants

Among the reports considered in 2024 were the NOAC Performance Indicators 2023 Report and an analysis of the performance of SDCC in this context, and the Local Government Audit Service’s Value for Money Reports that were published in 2024 relating to an Overview of Rates Revisions in Local Authorities, Debt Management of Collections in Local Authorities and an Overview of the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme .



## The Equality and Human Rights Framework Duty

South Dublin County Council continued to implement the Equality and Human Rights Framework, which was developed during 2022. This fulfils the Council's commitment under the Corporate Plan and the legal requirement under Section 42 (Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty), of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014. The 'Duty' sets out the responsibilities for all public bodies in Ireland to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of their employees, customers, service users and everyone affected by their policies and plans.

The Council's cross departmental Equality and Human Rights Working Group guides, supports and monitors the implementation the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. Public Sector Duty information pages are available on both the Staff intranet and the Council's website [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie)

**The following actions taken throughout 2024 are examples of how SDCC are implementing the Public Sector Duty across the Council:**

### **Action Plan for Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty:**

Our 2024 Action Plan for Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty was published along with an implementation plan and is available on [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie). We recognise the need to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination and protect the dignity and human rights of staff, Councillors and customers alike. This commitment is underpinned by a legal obligation provided for in the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014. This plan identifies key moments and actions to ensure ongoing implementation of this duty and provides terms of reference for our cross-departmental working group established to oversee implementation.

### **Corporate Plan 2025 -2029**

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty recognises the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and protect human rights for service users, staff, members and policy beneficiaries. Our ambitions in relation to and compliance with the Duty were a key focus at all stages of preparation, consultation and drafting of the Corporate Plan 2025-2029 and will be implemented through all our functions.

### **Your Vote Your Voice**

South Dublin County Council's "Your Vote Your Voice - an easy-to-read guide to voting" booklet was available across our digital channels and in print form in our local libraries. Ahead of the local and general elections, the purpose of the booklet is to provide information on how to exercise your right to vote, such as information on the different types of elections and voting that takes place in Ireland and how you register to vote. This booklet is an action delivered under our Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Framework.

### **Community Integration Forum:**

With the introduction of the new permanent LAITs (Local Authority Integration Teams) within SDCC, the local government sector now has an important role in integration for the following cohorts of people:

- Applicants for International Protection (IP Applicants)
- Those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status
- Programme Refugees
- Beneficiaries of Temporary Accommodation (BOTPs)

The Community Response Forum has been successful at bringing together stakeholders in supporting BOTPs in the County. With the introduction of the LAITs, integration supports will extend into IP and IRPP and the Community Response Forum is now named the Community Integration Forum. The Integration Support Coordinator will be a key stakeholder and will use this forum to engage and communicate with all stakeholders and escalate key issues as required

### **Equality, diversity and inclusion artist bursary**

In 2024, the Arts Office awarded the first Equality Diversity and Inclusion artist bursary to Newton Barabara, a Nigerian film and theatre-maker, who arrived in Ireland in February 2023 seeking international protection. Through a partnership between the Arts Office, the Abbey Theatre and Citywest Transit Hub, Newton undertook a 12-week programme of workshops with residents of the Transition Hub, culminating in the staging of Halfway to Heaven. Newtons Theatre for Development is a programme that uses drama and storytelling as a transformative tool for empowerment and community building

### **Sanctuary runners**

Active South Dublin partnered with the HSE and organised a weekly bus to take residents from the Citywest hub to Dodder Valley Park for the parkrun which takes place in the park every Saturday morning. They also partnered with colleagues in South Dublin Library Services to arrange a sporting footwear and clothing collection in support of Sanctuary Runners, the volunteer group that organises running events for IPA's and BOTP's. Sanctuary Runners is a solidarity-through-sport initiative which uses running, jogging and walking to bring together asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and all Irish residents.

### **Intercultural celebration**

The Integration Team is hosted an Intercultural Celebration on the 11th of December in Aon Scéal Café, Tallaght Village and The Well Community Space. The celebration will include workshops for children and their parents who are currently in International Protection, along with music and dance performances. This end-of-the-year celebration aims to connect the local community with international protection applicants residing in the area and show the similarities between the Irish language and culture with those of other countries.

### **Empowering neurodiversity**

The Neurodiverse South Toy Collection is a specialised collection of resources available for free borrowing at any branch of South Dublin Libraries. Aiming to provide support for children and adults with neurodiverse needs, learning difficulties, disabilities, or complex needs, the collection includes resources in the categories of core developmental aids, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, language communication and social skills, play and life skills, and sensory and tactile aids. The Neurodiverse South project also includes an annual series of free lectures and workshops. These events offer guidance, support and networking opportunities for parents, teachers, and healthcare professionals. The project adds to a range of measures in our libraries to make them welcoming spaces for all, including regular sensory times, and the provision of Cubbie sensory regulation spaces. For up-to-date details on the Neurodiverse South Project see [www.southdublinlibraries.ie](http://www.southdublinlibraries.ie)

### **Women in sport week**

Active South Dublin organised an exciting week of activities for Women in Sport Week. This event not only promoted fitness but also emphasizes the importance of women's involvement in various sports and recreational pursuits. Women in Sport Weeks looks to celebrate, promote, highlight, and encourage women in sport at all levels and in all roles. With a week of free events, come and try classes from dancing, to keep fit or American Football, there was something for all.

### **International women's day**

To celebrate International Women's Day, South Dublin's Women's Caucus held an exhibition in Rua Red on Wednesday 6 March highlighting some of the amazing women from South Dublin who give their time and energy freely to enhance their communities and make them a more inclusive place to live. The initiative, Women of South Dublin, started back in October 2023 when members of the public were invited to nominate inspirational South Dublin women from all walks of life, who show leadership and whose work benefits their communities. The exhibition moved to Tallaght Library until the 15th of March with a digital campaign live for the entire month of March. This digital experience invited you to learn about their stories and how taking small actions within your community can lead to lasting, positive change.

Our libraries held events to mark International Women's Day across South Dublin, including workshops and discussions with female leaders, artists, entrepreneurs, and historians of women's history, aimed to inspire, educate, and spark meaningful dialogue. Tallaght Library hosted Embrace and Empower: a panel discussion with Women's Collective Ireland Tallaght. Tallaght Library also hosted Count Her In: Brewing Empowerment and Celebrating Women - an International Women's Day afternoon tea party with social entrepreneur, author and TEDx speaker Debbie Deegan. At Castletymon and Ballyroan Libraries, there was a focus on women's history, including a forum on the status of women in independent Ireland. North Clondalkin Library hosted Hear my Voice, a music and open mic spoken word event led by Kilkenny born singer, songwriter, poet and folk musician, Bríd Lyons. For this event, the focus was on female

songwriters and poets, and members of the public were invited to share their own poems and prose

### **South Dublin Women's Caucus**

The first meeting of the Women's Caucus following the local elections took place on Thursday 26th of September in the Council Chamber with new members joining their colleagues for the first time. The Women's Caucus is apolitical and open to current and past female Councillors with the aim of increasing women's engagement and representation in local politics.

### **South Dublin County Council – majority female membership**

Following the General Election in November which resulted in three South Dublin County Councillors being elected to Dáil Éireann, three new Councillors, Cllr. Paddy Cosgrave (Labour), Cllr. Jacqueline Sheehy (Fianna Fáil) and Cllr. Helen Farrell (Independent) were co-opted at a Special Meeting of the Council on 19th December. With the addition of Councillors Farrell and Sheehy, South Dublin County Council became the first Council in the history of the State to have majority female membership, with 21 women representing 52.5% of the Council.

### **International men's day**

International Men's Day took place on November 19th, 2024. In recognition of this, the Council highlighted the importance of creating awareness and open discussions about men's health. The Marie Keating Foundation held a Men's Health webinar on Tuesday November 12th for all staff. The aim of this workshop is to increase knowledge on the most common cancers that affect men. It contained information about the signs and symptoms of these cancer types and how to spot symptoms in addition to information on how men can reduce their risk of these common cancers.

### **Gender pay gap report**

South Dublin County Council published its third annual Gender Pay Gap Report, highlighting the percentage difference between what men and women are paid on average in the organisation, irrespective of roles or levels. Our 2024 report shows a Gender Pay Gap of -9.77%. This figure reflects the fact that the average earnings of all females in South Dublin County Council is 9.77% higher than the average earnings of all males in the organisation.

### **EU Access Cities Award**

The Access City Award has been created by the European Commission to reward cities that have prioritised accessibility for persons with disabilities. Accessible spaces – both physical and virtual – are the first step to equality. If persons with disabilities cannot access transportation, shops, parks, websites and so on, they cannot make their own choices and take control of their lives. South Dublin County Council was awarded the Special Mention Award for Landscape and Playground Areas at the event which was held in Brussels for our work on developing accessible play spaces in the County.

**Literacy friendly local authority**

Council documents were plain English and equality proofed including text for various webpages, Senior Management Team Plan, the Council's 2023 Annual Report, recruitment documents, draft Climate Change Action Plan, Health and Safety related policies and notices, various staff policies, and the South Dublin Today and South Circular newsletter.

## Progress under the Official Languages Act and Irish Language Legislation

Appointment of a new Irish Language Officer in March 2024

In 2024, a total of 7 complaints received from An Coimisinéir Teanga (Irish Language Commissioner) were resolved, including 2 complaints carried forward from 2023. These complaints related to signage. 1 additional complaint received in 2024 has been carried forward to 2025 as it pertains to a wider review of signage processes.

Public bodies are obliged to place 20% of their annual advertising in Irish, while 5% of all advertising spend to be placed in Irish language media only. Reporting on 2024 performance is due for submission in 2025.

Educational material and compliance guidance for meeting advertising requirements developed and circulated via staff intranet.

Recommendation received from An Coimisinéir Teanga to review the organisational practices SDCC operates to ensure compliance with subsections 10(b) and 10(c) of the Official Languages Act 2003 in future.

The final provisions of the Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021 came into effect on 21 December 2024. SDCC will continue to engage with An Coimisinéir Teanga and the Department regarding Irish language services and legislation.

# Council Awards and Achievements in 2024

## **First Council in History of State with Majority Female Membership**

First Council in Ireland to reach and exceed gender parity. 52.5% women on 40-member Council

## **Tallaght District Heating Scheme Wins Energy Globe Award 2024**

The Tallaght District Heating Scheme has been awarded the prestigious [Energy Globe Award 2024](#) for Ireland, recognising its significant contribution to sustainable heating and carbon reduction in the Tallaght area. The Energy Globe Award is an environmental prize, awarded to sustainable projects. Heatworks will now go forward to represent Ireland at the International Awards Ceremony, held annually in Austria.

## **Irish Landscape Institute Design Awards**

South Dublin County Council was recognised for its achievements at the Irish Landscape Institute Design Awards, winning six awards across multiple categories. SDCC took home the top prize in the Built Project – Public Parks category for the newly delivered Tandy's Lane Park and Airlie Park in Adamstown, with Whitestown Stream Park in Tallaght also highly commended.

## **National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards**

South Dublin County Council's age friendly housing development at Brady's Court, Old Bawn, Tallaght has been recognised in the 2024 National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards winning in the Housing Award category.

## **Over €1.1m allocated to 28 Projects under the Community Climate Action Programme**

As part of the call for Sports Capital Grant funding in 2023, 31 applications were made for new and upgraded facilities in SDCC's parks and open spaces. SDCC have recently received notice that all grants applied for facilities in our parks and open spaces have been granted. The projects cross a wide variety of sports and range from small scale to large scale projects.

## **Five South Dublin Parks receive Green Flag Award**

The parks honoured with Green Flags are Waterstown Park, Sean Walsh Park, Tymon Park, Corkagh Park, and Rathfarnham Castle Park.

## **Excellence in Local Government Awards**

South Dublin County Council was shortlisted for nine projects:

- New Urban Squares and Linear Park for Tallaght in Urban Revival
- Mini Woodland Scheme in South Dublin in Climate Change
- Women of South Dublin in Communications
- Teenspace Programme Review in Diversity and Inclusion
- South Dublin Community Public Services Day in Festival of the Year

- Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre in Heritage and Built Environment
- Library Labs: STEAM at South Dublin Libraries in Local Authority Innovation
- Networking of Enterprising Women in South Dublin (NEWS) in Promoting Economic Development
- Adamstown: Sustainable by Planning, Design and Implementation in Supporting Sustainable Communities



# Delivery of the 2024 Service Plan and the Corporate Plan

The following are the key achievements and progress made under the delivery of the 2024 Service Delivery Plan and the final year of the Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024.

## Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

### **Maintain a supportive business environment**

The LEO South Dublin Evaluation and Approvals Committee approved 37 projects providing the direct creation of 51 new positions with the potential for a total of 230.5 jobs over a three-year period.

96 Trading Online Vouchers were approved to help small businesses develop their online trading presence, exceeding our target of 55 set by Enterprise Ireland.

A full LEO training programme was delivered comprising of 117 courses, which were attended by 1,668 participants. 13 Start Your Own Business courses were successfully delivered to over 183 participants.

Under LEO South Dublin's targeted training programmes, 15 clients successfully completed the export focused leadership and strategy development programme; 38 projects were approved for consultancy support under the national Green4Micro Programme; 19 companies were approved for the LEAN programme, and 25 companies participated in the Digital Start programme.

23 Technical Assistance for Micro Exporter grants were approved for businesses in sectors such as clothing and manufacturing, food, electronics, and med tech.

675 mentoring assignments were made across all business sectors, including finance, social media/marketing, and business management.

27 projects were approved for financial support through the Business Support Fund.

Seven of South Dublin's best up and coming craft and design businesses participated in the Showcase Ireland Creative Expo 2024, one of Ireland's largest international trade shows.

Our Local Enterprise Week 2024 took place in March with LEO South Dublin hosting 16 events, including the South Dublin Local Enterprise Awards which saw Jim Dunne, Smart Studio winning the overall award. They went on to represent South Dublin in the National Enterprise Awards.

The LEO South Dublin Student Enterprise Programme County Final was held in March in Technological University Dublin, Tallaght, with an estimated 650 students from 20 schools taking part in the annual programme.

In September, the Local Enterprise Office held a Network for Enterprising Women in South Dublin (NEWS) event for Women In Business in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght and was hosted by Sarita Johnston, Director of Business Planning with Capstone Business Advisors Limited. The event was titled “Stepping Up: Stepping Out and Empowerment.” The event brought together 80 industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and change-makers to discuss the journey of stepping out, taking risks and empowering others.

In October, the LEO South Dublin Leaders Network was launched at a special event in Work IQ as part of a LEO Certificate Awards ceremony to build on the success of the Strategic Leadership for Growth programme by sustaining the development and growth of these leaders and their businesses.

LEO supported business networks continued to expand with NEWS membership increasing to 426 and SCENE (South Dublin Creative Economy Network) growing to 295 members. A full programme of events took place throughout 2024 for both networks. The Dublin regional event for the flagship National Women’s Enterprise Day took place in October and was attended by over 240 female entrepreneurs.

13 participants from the third Strategic Leadership for Growth programme were presented with their Advanced Certificates in SME Strategic Management, following their participation on the six-month programme and submission of their Growth and Export Plans.

Construction of the new Work IQ €16m Innovation Centre was completed and the 2,980 m2 facility for entrepreneurs, start-ups, and SMEs which will ultimately be home to up to 60 businesses, was officially opened in May 2024 by then Mayor, Cllr. Alan Edge and then Minister of Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D., and currently has 11 businesses in occupation.

### **Support and increase foreign direct and indigenous investment in the county**

Construction commenced on Phase 2 of the Grange Castle West Access Road as part of the activation of the Grange Castle Masterplan which aims to create up to 12,000 jobs.

Development and expansion work continued by several major Grange Castle clients leading to increased jobs both during construction and in the longer term.

The proposed studio /media park development by Lens Media moved forward with a grant of planning issued in December.

Significant progress was made on progressing the 12<sup>th</sup> Lock Masterplan to create a new economic, cultural, and social quarter. Part 8 approval was granted for the 12<sup>th</sup> Lock Studio and for the Grange Cottage and Outbuildings proposals and an architect-led design team was appointed to lead its development.

Mountpark Ltd commenced construction of a new large-scale logistics facility, which is accessed through Grange Castle West. This is a significant investment for the county and the area delivering much needed facilities for the logistics sector.

### **Manage our assets to fully support economic development**

Following the completion of the new North Stand which was officially opened at the Shamrock Rovers v. Bohemians League of Ireland fixture in September by Mayor Baby Perrepadan and then Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien T.D., Tallaght Stadium can now accommodate over 10,000 supporters. The stadium hosted many memorable domestic, continental and international fixtures during the year to record crowds.

A new 15-year lease was secured with Shamrock Rovers FC as long-term tenant for Tallaght Stadium while a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding was agreed with the FAI for use of the stadium by international teams.

A competitive process to secure a new tenant for the undercroft space of Tallaght Stadium's North Stand was carried out and Tallaght Martial Arts, a local sports club with a track record of national and international success, will take up occupation in 2025.

The acquisition of Lucan House and accompanying Demesne lands of 30 acres from the Italian government was completed in mid-2024. Procurement of an architect led team to prepare a masterplan for the future use followed. The potential offered by this strategic investment given the history, heritage, and amenity value of the property, is extremely significant for the local area and the wider county.

### **Maximise the contribution of arts, libraries, heritage and the Irish language to the citizen and visitor cultural experience**

2024 was another successful year for our libraries with more than 60,000 active members across the branch network engaging in over 1.3m library related transactions during 946,412 visits from members of the public.

Our libraries continue to deliver a vibrant programme of events, workshops and classes. 7,761 events were held, attracting almost 150,000 attendees.

The My Open Library service launched at Lucan Library in September providing 7 days a week, 365-days a year opening adding an additional 43 opening hours per week, with plans to extend the service to more branches in 2025.

South Dublin Libraries now offers 429 opening hours per week across our branch network of seven libraries, up from 372 in 2022.

In addition, visits to mobile library stops in 2024 totalled 35,722, up from 27,284 in 2023, which represented a 31% increase.

We continued work to expand the library network with significant progress made on the delivery of Citywest Library, with work due to commence in 2025. Plans were progressed for access improvements and refurbishment works at Clondalkin Library under the Part 8 planning process while a pre-planning application for Adamstown Library is expected to be lodged in the first half of 2025.

The Red Line Book Festival took place in October. The programme was a true testament to the power of the written word, with 50 events which spanned genres, voices, and perspectives. The events were attended by 5,051 people (up from 2,934 people attending 40 events in 2023).

The Parthalán Place naming process was completed and launched in September. The first major public event to take place in the newly developed public square at Parthalán Place was the Tallaween launch event on 19<sup>th</sup> October. The Tallaween installation was seen by 5,672 people up to its close on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

The Library Labs programme was introduced in 2024, which is a year-long STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) events programme, devised to promote digital learning and STEAM amongst all ages across the county. 5,911 people attended 396 STEAM events in libraries in 2024.

Following its launch in 2022, Think Big Space has continued to engage the local community in digital education. In 2024, over 7,000 students participated in workshops on Lego Robotics and Virtual Reality.

Our libraries continue to promote the heritage and the history of the county through regular events programmes, including Seachtain na Gaeilge in March, National Heritage Week in August, and with the launch of the South Dublin Stories podcast. 2,374 people attended 118 history events in libraries in 2024.

390,161 visits were made to arts centres and venues.

The Arts Office presented 119 live performance events, attended by audiences of 34,127 through South Dublin Live, the Night Belongs to Us, Ruaille Buaille Lucan Childrens Music Festival, Culture Night, and Music Generation South Dublin.

NOISE Music had a total attendance of 1,884 in 295 DJing, music production and performance workshops held in 30 locations, including schools, libraries and youth centres. 1,623 children and young people participated in music education in various school, community, library and other events and programmes through Music Generation South Dublin.

*Seedlings* Children's and Early Years Arts programme delivered six artists residencies, in early years settings and schools reaching over 120 children. The *MAD Mag* Creative Writing programme was initiated for children aged 7 – 12 and took place in three schools and the Mother

Tongues Language Explorers programme took place in libraries, community centres and Direct Provision Centres.

33 emerging and established artists of all disciplines received bursaries and awards to develop their practice and create new work, including a new Equality Diversity and Inclusion Artist Bursary Award in partnership with the Abbey Theatre, to theatre and filmmaker Newton Barabara working with residents of Citywest Transit Hub on the drama production *Halfway to Heaven*.

Through the Creative Ireland South Dublin Programme, we delivered Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of children's creativity, with 2,752 children and young people participating.

### **Implement a tourism strategy focused on new product and brand development**

A new Tourism Strategy was launched in February, outlining our strategic priorities for tourism development in South Dublin from 2024 to 2029, to build on the importance of tourism to the local economy.

A three-stage non-statutory public engagement process was undertaken as part of the development of the Rathfarnham Stables masterplan. Over 1,000 people engaged in onsite tours, an online questionnaire, and a series of focus groups. A number of building conditions surveys and ground investigations overseen by an archaeologist were undertaken as part of work in relation to the conservation management plan.

Consultants continued to work on the detailed design and development of the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre with works on invasive species at the walled garden in Massey's Wood being completed in 2024.

Tender documents and updated cost estimates have now been completed for Tallaght Heritage Centre and are being reviewed before proceeding further with the project.

74,554 people visited the Round Tower Visitor Centre and a new tender was finalised for its operation but unfortunately the operator ceased trading in December and a renewed process was initiated.

Tymon Park Outdoor Food and Craft Market ran each Saturday from April to June and supported other events such as the Community Department's Africa Day festival which took place alongside this market in May.

The Tourism Event and Festival Grant Scheme supported 13 events during the year, including Dublin Masters Basketball, Robot Riots, Irish National Scale Model Show and BrickCon, which attracted nearly 5,000 visitors to the county. The estimated local economic dividend from the 13 events was €645,291.

Rathfarnham Castle Christmas Market returned in December attracting over 3,000 visitors to see 40 food and craft traders, live entertainment, promoting local artisan products, food, craft,

and local businesses. The OPW opened Rathfarnham Castle and was very busy with guided tours. A second Christmas Market took place in Parthalán Place in Tallaght, as a new offering for this location.

We launched a dynamic new Dublin Discovery Trails app, bringing trails from across Dublin together for better promotion and coordination and including additional languages for text and audio. The Templeogue Village Walking Trail launched in September, supporting our suite of walking trails which already included Tallaght, Clondalkin and Rathfarnham.

Eight grant applications were received under our Shopfront Improvement Scheme.

Agreement was reached to expand Ireland's leading trad and folk festival to South Dublin. Tradfest In South Dublin took place in a number of historic and atmospheric venues across South Dublin in January 2025, with local communities getting to experience trad music in venues such as Áras Chrónáin Ionad Cultúir, Glenasmole Community Centre, Brú Chrónáin Round Tower Visitor Centre, Court of Petty Sessions in Rathcoole, as well as St Maelruain's Church in Tallaght.

<b>Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development Key Statistics</b>	<b>2024 Totals</b>
LEO jobs supported	51
LEO mentoring participants	675
Trading online voucher applications approved	96
Business support grants expenditure	€280,528
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328
Active library members	60,741
Expenditure on new library stock	€531,768
Library visitors	946,412
Library items borrowed	964,295
Number of festival and tourism events supported	13
Visitors to Brú Chrónáin Round Tower Visitor Centre	74,554
Visitors to arts centres	390,161
Arts grants paid	124
Value of arts grants paid	€1,463,775

## Land Use, Planning and Transportation

### **Strategic planning for resilient growth**

The Two-Year Progress Report on the delivery of the objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028 was presented to Council in December alongside an online Housing Supply Monitor. Good progress has been made with 90% of the 878 objectives being either completed, on-going or starting.

A county-wide employment land review accompanied the Two-Year Progress Report which will facilitate the forthcoming South Dublin Economic Strategy and the identification of future employment zoning needs.

The Residential Zoned Land Tax 2024 final maps were prepared, consulted on, and made ready for publication on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. These will be followed by the 2025 draft maps which are being made ready for publication and consultation on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

856 planning applications were determined, including 13 Large-scale Residential Developments while 825 planning compliances were determined, 462 planning enforcement cases were closed, and six housing estates and roads were taken in charge. 160 Section 247 pre-planning consultations also took place.

11 Section 254 licences were determined.

36 applications for Certificates of Exemption from the provisions of Section 96 of Part V (Housing Supply) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 were processed and 75 applications for declarations of exemption under Section 5 of the Planning Act were also progressed.

By Q3 2024, 5,475 residential units were completed since the Development Plan came into effect, meeting the Core Strategy targets, with planning permission in place for a further 12,649 homes.

Informal consultation was undertaken for a County Heritage Plan with a draft plan now being prepared for formal public consultation.

The Office of the Planning Regulator, who has a statutory role in reviewing all planning authorities, completed their South Dublin review and found that all functions are being delivered on a satisfactory basis and that the planning department is delivering on its responsibilities in a highly effective manner in many areas.

We made the National Online Planning Portal available, providing applicants and agents with an option to submit their planning applications in electronic format. Uptake of the new system has been strong, with 50% of all planning applications received in 2024 submitted through this system and 75% of all applications received in December submitted electronically.

### **Connect places through sustainable mobility projects**

We made significant progress in delivering the Cycle South Dublin Programme with National Transport Authority (NTA) funding of €22.8 million spent on the design and delivery of new active travel infrastructure. This was further supplemented with additional funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), as we delivered 22.5km of new and improved cycling routes and 8km of new walking links, while also progressing design work for a further 90km of new and improved walking and cycling routes.

Works were completed on active travel projects at Grange Road, Dodder Valley Greenway Phase 4, Templeville Road (Phase 1), Griffeen Road, Limekiln Road, Castletymon Road (Phase 1), D24 Phase 1 and Rossmore Road.

School street improvement works were completed at several schools including St. Marks in Springfield, Scoil Maelruain in Tallaght, Coláiste Chillian in Clondalkin, as well as St Lorcan's and St Brigid's in Palmerstown.

The Tallaght Town Centre public realm project was completed and work commenced on the construction of the Airton Road extension in Cookstown.

We worked closely with the NTA and Irish Rail on design and planning for new Bus Connects routes and on the plans for the DART+ Southwest Scheme which will both see significant improvements in the level of public transport available in the county. We also supported Irish Rail on the upgrade of the existing Kishogue rail station and surrounding environs at Clonburris with the station officially opened in August.

Four bridges were repaired with expenditure of €500,000 and plans were progressed to repair a further seven bridges in 2025.

Our road works programme was fully delivered including 162 improvement works to roads and footpaths while 18 traffic calming projects and 19 new pedestrian crossings were also delivered.

1,690 existing public lights were upgraded to LED and 4,757 public lights were repaired.

### **Through the built environment promote a sense of community in the different places of South Dublin**

The Castletymon and Dodsboro District Centre enhancement schemes were completed and works commenced on the Rosemount District Centre. Works also commenced on the Lucan Village enhancement scheme and major repairs to the boundary wall of Lucan House were completed in December.

Part 8 planning permission was secured for the Bawnogue District Centre enhancement project, and contractor procurement is underway.

The preparation of a proposed variation to the County Development Plan for City Edge progressed and public consultation will be carried out in 2025 when the relevant sections of the Planning and Development Act 2024 are commenced.



A third round of pre-draft public consultation on the Clondalkin Local Area Plan commenced in November with one-to-one stakeholder meetings. Further consultation workshops will be held in January 2025 to progress delivery of the plan.

Work continued on developing and implementing the Heritage and Biodiversity Action Plans.

In Clonburris Strategic Development Zone, Stage 1A of the Southern Link Street was completed and opened. Construction commenced on the Stage 1B of the Southern Link Street which received DHLGH Final Business Case approval. 3,427 homes have received planning permission, of which 2,196 are complete or under construction. Planning applications were submitted for the Stage 2 Northern Link Street project and the Kishogue train station opened.

In Adamstown Strategic Development Zone, capital projects at Tandy's Lane, Celbridge Link Road, Airlie Park, and Adamstown Plaza have all been completed with funding from DHLGH and the Council. A minor amendment to the SDZ Planning Scheme was approved by An Bord Pleanála. Planning permission was granted for the DHLGH supported Central Boulevard Park and detailed design commenced.

We continued to work proactively with Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council on development and promotion of the Dublin Mountain Heritage trail, including holding several walking tours, library talks, archaeology training for volunteers and developing a new Storymap.

We facilitated the upgrade of St. Finian's former schoolhouse, Peamount Hospital under DHLGH's Historic Structures Fund and a further seven heritage upgrade projects were supported under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme.

Land Use, Planning and Transportation Key Statistics	2024 Totals
Enforcement files closed	462
Building control inspections (number of units inspected)	428
Public lights repaired	4,757
Traffic lights repaired	1,265
Public lighting LED replacements	1,690
New and upgraded footpaths (square metres)	61,483
New and upgraded cycle lanes (linear metres)	22,535
Village and district enhancement expenditure	€2,555,177
Private homes approved	1,240
Private homes commenced	4,882
Planning applications received	933
% planning applications granted	69
Pre-planning meetings held within 8 weeks	114

## Housing, Social and Community Development

### **Deliver quality social and affordable housing to meet housing need across the county**

Progress under our Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) continued with the delivery of 1,042 new social and affordable homes across all streams, including 777 new social homes completed through our direct build programme, Part V, Approved Housing Bodies and turnkey opportunities, 210 properties provided through long- term leases and 55 new affordable purchase homes.

In Clonburris, construction progressed on 116 social and affordable homes at the Canal Extension site while the tender process for 266 homes at Kishogue concluded with construction to commence on-site shortly. The Part 8 planning application for 118 social homes to be delivered through the PPP mechanism was approved in November and a Part 10 planning application for approximately 2,500 further homes is nearing completion and will be lodged with An Bord Pleanála in Q1 2025.

82 social and 29 affordable homes were delivered under the Kilcarbery joint venture development with Phase 3 now substantially complete and Phase 4 to complete in Q3 2025 while development of 88 social and affordable homes on an adjacent site commenced in December following S183 approval by councillors in October.

Construction continued on Innovation Square, our 133-apartment development which is the first local authority funded standalone cost rental development in Ireland, with these homes, situated in the new Innovation Square urban district of Tallaght, due to be fully completed and launched to the market in Q1 2025 with rents discounted by more than 25%.

Pre-planning compliances were completed and enabling works commenced on site for 620 new private, social and affordable homes in the Killinarden Foothills joint venture project while consultants have been appointed to progress the Rathcoole Masterplan through to a Part 10 planning application in 2025.

New homes were completed and allocations progressed on social housing developments at Balgaddy, New Nangor Road and Lindisfarne. Construction is ongoing at Homeville and St. Aongus Green and contractors were appointed for Part 8 approved developments at St. Ronan's Crescent and Pearse Brothers Park.

Seven proposed housing developments were advertised under Section 179A temporary planning exemption for social and affordable housing with construction/enabling works commenced on six sites by year end and one proposed development delayed due to legal proceedings.

Seven homes were delivered in a new Traveller group housing scheme at Fonthill.

## **Provide optimal and innovative housing management, supports and regulations for better tenancies and estates**

We continued to manage and maintain our social housing stock of 10,302 and 957 leased properties and supported 4,517 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and 737 Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) tenancies.

We made 1,245 housing allocations including 267 allocations to homeless households following 341,103 expressions of interest received through our Choice Based Letting system.

118 properties were purchased under the tenant-in situ acquisition scheme with a further 71 progressed to sale agreed/conveyancing.

3,287 new applications for social housing support were received along with 191 rightsizing applications from social housing tenants and private homeowners.

1,092 households presenting to Homeless Services were supported.

4,772 private rented properties were subject to initial inspections.

706 private housing grants were approved, and 161 social housing adaptation works were completed.

97 applications were received for the Local Authority Home Loan scheme with €7.67 million provisionally approved to borrowers.

We allocated 184 re-let properties at an average turnaround time of 20.64 weeks.

85 home upgrades were completed under the national Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, with a further 263 homes upgraded under our Windows and Doors Programme.

Our new Housing Customer Centre facilitated 1,893 appointments, and 12,144 housing customers are now registered with our Integrated Housing System to which an online application process for private housing grants was added.

17,423 housing maintenance requests were received with 12,243 repairs completed.

A county-wide vacant homes survey was undertaken to support our use of DHLGH funding to bring vacant homes back into use and 146 Vacant Homes Refurbishment Grant applications were received, with 64 approved in principle and 37 grants paid to applicants.

New estate management structures were introduced with 375 pre-tenancy meetings held, 69 tenancy warnings issued for anti-social behaviour, 22 abandonment notices served, and 12 tenancies terminated.

## **Lead inclusion, equality and interagency initiatives for integrated and socially connected communities**

The implementation of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) continued under the guidance of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). South Dublin County Partnership were awarded the contract to deliver SICAP on behalf of the local authority.

The Community Response Forum was renamed the Community Integration Forum and held 11 meetings for the year with a new focus on interagency services and supports for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) and International Protection Applicants (IPAs).

A new Integration Team was established in May to support IPAs and BOTPs to integrate with local communities. The team have held over 50 clinics in accommodation centres and built a network of relationships with other agencies and hosted a series of events including Refugee Week in June.

The 19 projects awarded funding under Community Recognition Fund 2023 progressed with 13 completed and the remaining six to be finished in early 2025. An additional €2,249,663 in funding was awarded under the Community Recognition Fund 2024. There were two calls for applications in 2024 with five projects being approved in the first call and seven projects awaiting departmental approval from the second call.

The South Dublin Older Peoples Council's key objective was to increase their visibility and awareness through the delivery of the inaugural Age Friendly Expo in South Dublin held in May. Several countywide projects including a digital literacy course, Active Aging and Care and Repair programmes progressed in conjunction with the Age Friendly Alliance and Age Friendly Ireland. A 'Dementia Inclusive Community' was established in Rosemount District Centre, Ballyroan including the launch in October of a dementia café which runs monthly on the second Tuesday of the month in Ballyroan Community and Youth Centre.

A new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 was approved in October.

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) monitored the delivery of the Traveller Accommodation Programme, the Equality Action Plan, the caravan loan scheme, estate/waste management, fire safety, a STEAM project for young people and a new playground facility in Owendoher Haven.

The Public Services Fun Day took place in July in conjunction with The Square and An Garda Síochána to celebrate and highlight the work of essential services providers at a free family event.

The Community Endeavour Awards recognising and rewarding community effort and achievement was hosted by the Mayor in the Plaza Hotel, Tallaght in October.

Our Education Bursary Awards in conjunction with the Technological University of Dublin saw 16 students from local schools each awarded €2,500 towards their third-level education expenses.

Comhairle na nÓg completed their mental health awareness campaign and directory of services available to teens experiencing mental health. The Comhairle concluded its business with the Annual Youth Conference which took place in The Plaza Hotel in October and was attended by 80 young people from schools and youth services.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC) and Local Policing Fora meetings were held throughout the year with two JPC Meetings and two JPC Steering Group Committee meetings, three JPC Drugs subcommittee meetings, eight West Tallaght Community Safety Forum meetings, one Clondalkin Local Policing Forum Public meeting, the establishment of the Newcastle Rathcoole, Clondalkin Community Safety Forum, 12 North Clondalkin Community Safety meetings and eight Dublin 12 Local Policing Forum meetings.

12 Transport Forum meetings took place with councillors and staff present along with representatives from An Garda Síochána, Dublin Bus, Go Ahead, Luas and other agencies.

Domestic Violence and Abuse Awareness training was delivered by Saoirse Domestic Violence Services to 52 frontline staff members and 10 elected members.

The Community Department collaborated with 'A Playful City' to deliver a new play street initiative in July and October with residents in Citywest Village, Cremorne, Knocklyon, Anne Devlin Avenue, Ballyroan and Cushlawn Dale, Tallaght.

### **Lead a healthy, active and participative county**

The Local Community Development Committee met seven times and the Local Economic and Community Plan was adopted in December. This integrated plan involving multiple internal and external stakeholders will guide economic and community development over the next six years.

31 community centre management support fund grants were approved totaling €729,245 along with 17 community infrastructure fund grants (€401,750), 177 community development grants (€263,990), summer project grants (€77,753) and 100 sports grants (€185,052).

24 community centres are now using the online booking system which was used by the public to book 89,868 hours in our facilities for 114,931 participants generating €758,975 in revenue.

Work was completed to deliver new community facilities at Saggart School House, Glenasmole, Orchard Lodge Age Friendly Centre and Balgaddy along with upgrade works on Rathcoole Courthouse.

Plans progressed for the Citywest and Kilcarbery community facilities, and local engagement and design work continued for upgrades to existing community facilities at Newcastle, Ballyroan and The Park Centre.

Works commenced on the all-weather pitch at Belgard Community Centre and design work also began on the proposed Whitechurch Sports Facility.

Implementation of our Active South Dublin Plan continued with delivery of school programmes including indoor rowing, athletics, swimming and the ‘Try One Challenge’ in community centres and settings, along with ongoing support for the Active South Dublin amateur sports awards. Additional highlights included the expanded Active Parks programme in July and August, the Colour Dash in Corkagh Park with 1,500 participants in September and a new nine-hole disc golf facility in Corkagh Park, the first public course of its kind in Ireland.

Our Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare programmes continued with a range of initiatives to address energy poverty, community safety including the Community Safety Innovation Fund - Generation Connections Project in Mac Uilliam, health inequalities, gambling related harm awareness and period poverty. We also supported the ‘Grow it Yourself Schools Programme,’ a health and wellbeing programme held across the community centre network and community-based health screening and assisted with the delivery of a new natural playground in Jobstown Park.

<b>Housing, Social and Community Development Key Statistics</b>	<b>2024 Totals</b>
Household housing needs assessed	7,618
Allocations (new tenancies)	1,043
Homeless households	498
Homeless exits / preventions	720
Homes in local authority ownership	10,302
Social and affordable homes under construction	473
Local authority homes vacant	95
Average re-let time (weeks)	20.64
Expenditure on planned maintenance	€7,783,968
Homes completed under Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme	85
Maintenance requests received	17,423
Maintenance requests completed	12,243
HAP/ RAS tenancies	5,254
Private rented dwelling inspections	4,772
Community grants paid	477
Visitors to leisure facilities	683,415
Participants in council led sports and community initiatives	124,057

## Environment water and climate change

### **Create a sustainable low carbon and climate resilient county**

A new Climate Action Plan (CAP) for 2024-2029 was approved in February, setting out the mitigation, adaptation, and other climate action measures to create a low carbon and climate resilient county. The continuing energy crisis and climate related weather events have further emphasized the importance of the four key targets of our Climate Action Plan and our objectives to improve our energy efficiency, reduce energy waste, and cut greenhouse gas emissions. Focus on the development of resilient systems that consider the potential for future climate change events will build confidence and reliability in our services. This proactive approach combined with citizen engagement and education awareness will empower and encourage communities to act at a local level. The 129 actions in our CAP collectively address four key targets, which are framed by the Climate (Amendment) Act 2021 and the national Climate Action Plan:

50% improvement in SDCC's energy efficiency by 2030.

51% reduction in SDCC's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030.

To make South Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing impacts of future climate change related events; and

To actively engage and inform our communities on climate action.

In this regard, key highlights from 2024 include:

Estimated improvement in energy efficiency for 2024 is 45.5% since the baseline.

Estimated 43% reduction in total GHGE missions (Electricity + Direct) since the baseline.

The Clondalkin Decarbonising Zone Implementation Plan commenced with extensive stakeholder engagement activities being held to develop a community vision for the DZ.

The Community Climate Action Fund supported a portfolio of 28 projects with total funding of over €1.1million for local community climate action projects while 12 Sustainable Energy Communities have been supported to work closely with the local SEC Mentor.

Planning approval was obtained for the development of a 200kW Solar Photo Voltaic plant to provide renewable energy for onsite operations at Arthurstown Landfill with a feasibility study for the installation of a larger 20 MW solar PV plant also underway.

ePower have been contracted to provide public EV infrastructure charging stations at initial 14 locations

A new fleet management system has been introduced, Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), a renewable diesel fuel derived from plant-based oils, fats, or greases, replaced diesel in 21 vehicles and a further three electric vehicles were added to our fleet.

We achieved the NTA's Silver Smarter Travel Mark, demonstrating a commitment to changing attitudes and behaviours on walking, cycling and public transport usage and continued to facilitate public transport routes, in partnership with the NTA and others.

We continued our progress towards ISO 50001 Energy Management accreditation by developing an energy management system to improve our energy use, and procurement is advancing for energy performance contracts for large council-owned buildings (County Hall/County Library, Civic Theatre, Clondalkin Civic Offices, Tallaght and Clondalkin Leisure Centres).

A Major Emergency Management Plan is in place and is regularly reviewed to deal effectively with the possibility of new risks and threats.

The Whitechurch River and Poddle River Flood Alleviation Schemes are under construction and design is progressing for the Camac Flood Alleviation Scheme. Further flood and general maintenance projects were also undertaken at Newcastle, Rathcoole and Saggart.

Five Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICWs) were constructed which completes this section of the Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE (DURL) Project. The ICWs are performing well and are thriving with nature. Pollution has been reduced for e. coli and also for nutrients such as ammonia and phosphorus.

We have continued to support the Green Schools Programme with 22 schools awarded additional green flags.

30 public drinking water fountains are now installed with eight more at planning stage and, to date, 216,060 litres of water have been dispensed.

Tallaght District Heating Scheme (TDHS) delivered low carbon heat to current customers and new connections were established for Work IQ and 133 cost rental apartments at Innovation Square. The scheme will reduce CO2 emissions by 1,500 tons once the first phase is at full operation. An additional connection to TUD Tallaght Catering College will be completed in Q1 2025 and works were ongoing to expand the network to Cookstown with pipework laid in the Airtown Road extension to futureproof connections in this important growth area. TDHS has been selected for EU Rodeo funding during 2024 to assist the next phase of expansion.

### **Improve the aesthetic appearance of our county for economic and social development**

We continued implementation of the actions in our Litter Management Plan 2023 – 2025.

Under our Street Cleaning Programme, 11,162 kilometres of roads were cleaned and 11,034 tonnes of waste were collected. The scope of the road sweeping programme was extended to include cleaning of back lanes and sweeping of segregated cycle tracks.

62 projects were completed under our public realm improvement works programme.



Consultants have been appointed to progress designs for the road realignment of the next phase of the N81 and the junctions therein (N81 Tallaght Central Strategy) with landscape improvements to be incorporated into delivery of the road realignment.

The current three-year Tree Maintenance Programme has seen 9,475 trees surveyed, 10,927 trees pruned, 1,144 trees and 625 stumps removed, and 3,651 trees planted.

Nine Tidy Towns groups were supported through three rounds of grant funding and the PURE (Protecting Uplands and Rural Environments) project was also supported. Tidy Towns groups, residents' associations and other volunteers organised regular local clean-ups with an estimated 5,700 clean-ups occurring, while Halloween saw 400 bags of bulbs and 175 Civic Amenity passes issued.

The Environmental Education Programme included 480 climate/environmental awareness sessions and delivered a range of schools' programmes such as Eco Week Composting for Schools, Relove Fashion and competitions. The Social Credits Scheme helped deliver 47 new clean-ups, 19 new minor landscaping projects and 21 new paint enhancement projects.

The Burial Grounds Programme provided for 600 new plots added to Bohernabreena and a contract has been entered into for development of a Columbarium Wall in Esker Cemetery.

### **Support a green infrastructure network across the county to provide shared space for amenity, recreation, biodiversity protection, flood management and adaptation to climate change**

Our Green Infrastructure Strategy continues to be implemented through the County Development Plan and the Biodiversity Plan. Related actions include the delivery of Sustainable Urban Drainage Solutions (SuDs), the Tree Maintenance, Meadowlands and Mini Woodlands Programmes and implementation of ICWs.

Delivery of the public realm capital programme progressed with development of additional parks, recreational and sporting facilities including:

Completion of the extensive upgrade of Killinarden Park, including park re-design and new recreational facilities to complement the existing and newly upgraded sports pitches, and major improvement works to Jobstown Park including new park entrances, a teen space, an outdoor workout area, a pump track, a natural playground, a dog park, a footpath exercise loop, a cycle link, and landscaping with biodiversity enhancements, including the planting of 300 mature trees.

Upgrade of Whitestown Stream Park with new entrances, a play-exercise trail, a footpath loop, a cycle link, bridges, planting, signage, seating, a kick-around area, and biodiversity spaces, Greentrees Park with a new footpath exercise loop, the planting of mature trees, park benches, bulb planting, and enhanced pedestrian entrances, and Ely Arch green space which involved improvements to landscape boundaries, paving, steps providing access to the Arch and green space, a Ballylusk courtyard, tree planting, and passive recreation opportunities.

Ongoing Corkagh Park upgrade works, including the hub area, fairy woodland trail, car parks upgrades and expansion and new way finding and signage.

Construction works continuing for Tymon Park's new Intergenerational Centre while the upgrades to Quarryvale Park and St. Cuthbert's Park also significantly progressed and works commenced on the provision of new facilities at Kiltipper Park in October.

The Pavillion Programme progressed through planning to tender stage and pitch improvement works continued with pitch upgrades in Glenaulin and Griffeen Parks underway while work also commenced on an artificial grass pitch at Knockmitten, supported by the Community Recognition Fund.

Camac Valley Caravan and Camping Park progressed to public consultation under the Part 8 planning process.

Kiltalown Park playground was completed, a boules pétanque court was installed in Tymon Park and a sensory sculpture walk was delivered in Rathfarnham Castle Park.

Actions under the Biodiversity Action Plan continued in rural and urban areas through our Pollinator Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy, Mini Woodlands and Tree Management Programmes. The area of long and short flowering meadows was expanded to 195 hectares under the Pollinator Action Plan. Tree canopy coverage was increased through the planting of 3,651 trees and five mini woodlands. (Since 2020, the Mini-Woodlands Programme has seen around 26,975 trees planted in our parks, improving biodiversity and creating wildlife corridors in urban green spaces.)

446 allotments were managed with 30 new allotments under development at Graydon Park in Newcastle.

### **Manage regulatory, licensing and enforcement requirements, including service level agreements**

Progress was made through proactive litter and waste enforcement services for higher cleanliness standards:

11,632 inspections were carried out under our 2024 Annual Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Plan.

1,225 litter patrols and 2,286 non-routine waste inspections were carried out, with 347 litter fines issued and 17 court appearances, and 98 inspections were carried out on waste permitted sites.

611 tonnes of waste was collected from street bins along with 4,724 tonnes of waste from illegal dumping.

The new Code of Practice for the operation of CCTV/Use of Mobile Recording was implemented with new protocols developed for deployment.

Anti-dumping initiatives included a mattress amnesty which diverted a record 1,341 mattresses from the waste stream to be recycled and collection of over 8.5 tons of hazardous household liquids.

National enforcement priorities included household and commercial waste, producer responsibility initiatives, end of life vehicles and metals, construction and demolition waste and tackling illegal waste operators.

171 Derelict Site investigations were carried out and four houses at St. Maelruan's were vested in April.

In managing and monitoring compliance with Control of Horses and Control of Dogs legislation, 36 horses were seized, and 441 dogs entered the shelter. On 1 October 2024, it became illegal to import, breed, rehome or resell XL Bully dogs. 24 applications have been received to date with 19 certificates of exemption issued.

We continued to implement the SLA agreement with the Food Safety Authority.

Annual service plan actions in water and wastewater services were delivered under the new Master Cooperation Agreement and Support Service Agreement with Uisce Éireann.

The 2024 programme of measures for the River Basin Management Plan was successfully delivered.

The Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan (NAP) is now completed for Round 4 of the Environmental Noise Directive (END). The overall number of public consultations received was 83, with 44 relating to South Dublin.

Continued to implement recommendations from the Dublin Region Air Quality Plan. There were no breaches of Particulate Matter 10 Microns (PM10) in 2024, at our two fixed monitoring sites at Tallaght and Lucan.

<b>Environment, Water and Climate Change Key Statistics</b>	<b>2024 Totals</b>
Grass cut (hectares)	7,236
Trees pruned	10,927
Trees planted	3,651
Plastic bottles saved through use of drinking water from fountains	96,867
Biodiverse meadowland maintained (hectares)	195
Climate action Initiatives under Climate Action Plan	129
Local authority energy savings	45.5
Environmental/climate action awareness sessions	480
New recreational facilities (e.g., playspaces, teenspaces, pitches etc.)	27
Pollution cases that were the subject of a complaint	2,647
Pollution cases closed	1,610
Provision of walking and cycling routes in parks/open spaces (kilometers)	165,031

## Organisational Capacity and Accountability

### **Support the policy and leadership role of councillors in providing effective local government**

The local government election process was managed to ensure the integrity, transparency, and efficiency of the elections in accordance with the relevant legislation. 111 candidates ran for election to 40 seats with average voter turnout of 41.4% across the county.

Ahead of the Local Elections in June, our “Your Vote Your Voice - an easy-to-read guide to voting” booklet was made available across digital channels and in print form in our local libraries while promotional drives for registering to vote included events in TUD, in local schools and communities, and advertising campaigns on bus shelters, radio, digital and press media.

Support provided to the Mayor through the Mayor’s Office including the management of the diary and protocols.

108 meetings of the Council, Corporate Policy Group, Area Committees, Strategic Policy Committees, and other committees were supported with a total of 1,140 Headed Item reports provided, and 1,562 councillor questions and Motions responded to.

The establishment of the new Council following the local elections with induction training, provision of equipment and ongoing supports provided to the elected members to enable them to perform their duties.

At the Annual meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, Councillor Baby Pereppadan was elected as the new Mayor of South Dublin County Council and Councillor Alan Hayes was elected as Deputy Mayor for the coming term.

The highlight of the work of the Women’s Caucus in 2024 was the Women of South Dublin exhibition to celebrate inspiring local women, which was shortlisted for an Excellence in Local Government Award.

Following co-option processes in September and December after the local and general elections respectively, South Dublin County Council became the first local authority in the State to have a majority of female public representation, with 21 women and 19 men on the Council.

The new Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Scheme 2024 – 2029 was adopted in September following a public consultation process and SPC Standing Orders were also updated as a result.

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) agreed the SPC programmes of work for 2024, the strategy for the new Corporate Plan and the budget strategy for the 2025 budget, along with oversight of council meeting agendas.

Liaison continued across the Dublin local authorities on the development, implementation and governance of voter.ie and compliance with the legislative changes to the electoral register. By

year-end 213,345 people were on the electoral register, an increase of 9% from 194, 884 at the end of 2023.

### **Deliver quality services that treat all service users with dignity, respect and equality**

Redesign of the concourse of County Hall was completed to enable a civic engagement and event space and procurement to develop a workplace upgrade and refurbishment strategy was also completed.

The 2024 Action Plan for Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty was published along with an implementation plan and training rolled out for the working group to support its delivery.

17,312 customer queries and 5,332 councillor representations responded to within the deadlines set out in the Customer Charter and 147,460 telephone calls were also responded to.

An Irish Language Communications Officer was appointed to support organisational compliance with the provisions of the Official Languages Act.

In partnership with the other three Dublin local authorities, we embarked on Gaeilge365, an Irish language innovation programme to increase the number of daily Irish speakers in Dublin with two particularly significant initiatives commenced: ‘An Chomhairle Chraiceáilte’ targeting our employees, and ‘Todhchaí Geal Gaelach’ for transition year students.

Our Green Public Procurement Working Group established, with training provided and preparation for the implementation of national GPP criteria underway.

### **Foster a strong governance culture in the organisation**

The new Corporate Plan 2025 – 2029 adopted in December following extensive councillor, staff and public consultation and engagement, with just under 1,000 participants involved in the consultation processes.

The Corporate Governance Framework was actively promoted, managed and monitored corporately including the Ethics Framework, the reporting of Political Donations for Councillors, Section 142 Register of Councillor Payments and Attendance and the Section 141 Register of Councillor Payments and Attendance to outside bodies, Protected Disclosures reporting, the Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report and compliance with the requirements of the Lobbying Act, to ensure all council business is conducted in a transparent way. Legislative changes were reviewed, and measures implemented to ensure compliance. New Code of Governance for the Local Government Sector in place.

The Corporate Performance Reporting Framework also actively supported the values of accountability, transparency and value for money, through the Chief Executive’s monthly report including performance indicators and digital dashboards, the 2023 Annual Report and the 2024

Service Delivery Plan and application across into PMDS. Analysis of the NOAC Performance Indicators was presented to the Audit Committee and circulated across the organisation and a performance verification process was also completed by NOAC.

The new Audit Committee was established with four meetings facilitated to support key responsibilities including consideration of Internal Audit reports and the Local Government Audit of the Annual Financial Statement.

Procurement changes saw the introduction of a new OGP eTenders System in 2023 and ongoing upgrades to the system during 2024 meant the Procurement unit had to ensure all new updates were communicated to staff in a timely manner through the Steering group.

124 contracts of over €25,000 in value were awarded during the year.

Implementation of the 2024-2026 Procurement Plan including quarterly meetings of the Steering Group, ongoing maintenance of the contracts database and procurement pipeline, compliance checks and the provision of both procurement and green public procurement training, advice and information to staff.

The Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report for 2023 was published and submitted to NOAC.

A Data Protection Officer was appointed through external service provision to liaise on all matters with the Data Protection Commission, including a full response to the commission on an ongoing audit of surveillance technology for law enforcement purposes, handling data breaches and ongoing compliance issues.

337 Freedom of Information and Data Access requests were responded to.

### **Build public trust through the delivery of effective communications and citizen engagement**

Development of our brand strategy, architecture and creatives progressed, informed by a discovery phase which included desk-top research and active engagement across local, national and international stakeholders and experts on place-branding.

Over 1.6 million people engaged with us on social media and over 1.7 million people accessed information on our websites.

Area Committee Meetings webcasting commenced in January and all webcasted meetings are now live streamed on social media.

An independent evaluation of the Have Your Say participatory budgeting initiative was carried out and the recommendations were presented and agreed for development / implementation.

The summer and winter editions of our newsletter, South Dublin County Today, were published and the summer edition was delivered to every home, school and business across the county in June.

Corporate publications including the Annual Report for 2023, the 2024 Service Delivery Plan and monthly reports and indicators on progress, were presented to the Council and published on the “Our Performance” section of [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie).

Ongoing staff communications were supported through the intranet, staff app, digital newsletters and digital screens across work locations.

Management of content on new outside screens across the County Hall campus and with the creation of Parthalán Place.

### **Develop organisational capacity to actively support the delivery of the Corporate Plan objectives and the local government reform programme**

During the year, 143 new staff joined us, 82 existing staff were promoted, 69 staff left to pursue other opportunities, and 44 staff retired. We held 67 recruitment competitions over 161 days (representing almost 65% of available working days). Up to November, 1,980 application forms were processed and some 815 candidates interviewed, including managing recruitment of 93 graduates in the LGMA Graduate Programme in the Dublin region with 11 graduates across seven skill areas joining SDCC.

Strategic workforce planning commenced and will be fully aligned with our new Corporate Plan. This proactive management of our current and future workforce will enable us to meet strategic challenges and to maintain a well-structured workforce of an appropriate size with capacity to meet changing needs efficiently.

We continued building stronger relationships with third-level institutions such as UCD and TUD Tallaght, facilitating nine internship placements in LEO, ICT, and Planning while our partnership with AHEAD to deliver the WAM programme resulted in two 12-month paid placements for graduates with disabilities.

Rolling recruitment was successfully trialled to recruit Clerical Officers in a shorter timeframe and 38 summer students were employed on 10-week contracts.

Our Employee Induction Programme to welcome new employees was updated to incorporate cyber security training.

A General Operative (GO) Traineeship programme was developed and rolled out, with nine GOs successfully completing.

Our 2024 Gender Pay Gap Report was published in December showing average earnings of all females working with us are 9.77% higher than the average earnings of all males.

We continued to implement our Innovation Strategy, including organising and delivering events for the 6th Annual Innovation Week and Staff Innovation Awards.

Performance management training and training needs analysis reviews were conducted with outdoor staff and line managers across all depots. Managers were also supported in managing sick leave and absenteeism through HR data analytics, advisory support, visual leaflets and other measures.

A comprehensive schedule of staff training and development events was delivered, including 226 training courses, mentoring and coaching programmes, external training requests, conference attendance, and the Scheme of Assistance for formal education courses.

Our new Organisational Development team launched a Secondary Schools Outreach Programme to promote SDCC as an employer of choice to senior cycle students. Initial communication was with ten DEIS schools, and the programme will be further developed in 2025.

Health and safety procedures continued to be prioritised with quarterly safety consultative meetings and 390 site inspections across all work areas. The management team received bi-monthly reports from the Health and Safety Officer on the incidents reported and provided full oversight of the safety management system.

Events continued under the Staff Wellbeing Action Plan including Workplace Well Being Day, Breast Cancer Awareness month, staff smoking cessation programmes, a safety and wellbeing Seminar, employee health checks and the flu vaccination programme.

A new Staff Wellbeing Strategy was launched in November setting out our vision and aims for employee wellbeing up until 2027. A Wellbeing Champions Programme was introduced to support the Staff Wellbeing Strategy comprising of 14 employees in a voluntary capacity who lend a non-judgemental listening ear to colleagues at local level, promote self-care, provide emotional support and promote and increase awareness of the many health and wellbeing initiatives and activities.

Our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provided by Spectrum Life provides a 24/7/365 service involving confidential counselling and support for staff and councillors who may be experiencing difficulties, with the programme also extended to immediate family members.

Effective industrial relations structures were supported by management and trade union engagement in accordance with the objectives of the Public Services Stability Agreements through monthly meetings, quarterly workforce planning meetings and attendance at the WRC and Labour Court when agreed local mechanisms are exhausted.

Our superannuation operations successfully transferred to My Pay Shared Services.

## **Provide robust financial management and risk management systems**



The work of our Debt Management Unit continued with an additional €4.5 million collected in commercial rates, bringing the total collected to over €145.7million representing our highest amount ever collected and also resulting in reducing arrears by over €1m to approximately €13.6 million which is the lowest figure since 2008.

We also increased collection of differential rents by 12% with €34.9 million collected and there was continued improvement in the collection rate for housing loans with loan arrears reducing from €0.8m to €0.3m.

Positive engagement with Tailte Éireann (formally the Valuation Office) resulted in 109 valuations being processed which will provide ongoing additional funding in future.

5,178 Increased Cost of Business grants were processed to support small and medium businesses with a value of over €13.6m while we also commenced processing the new Power Up Grant (PUG) by year end.

In November, the Council adopted the Revenue Budget for 2025 with proposed expenditure totalling €391,942,200, representing a 17.5% increase on the previous year.

A new Three-Year Capital Programme for 2025 to 2027 with proposed investment of €1,746,733,00 in housing, infrastructure and facilities was presented to the Council in December.

The Annual Financial Statement for 2023 was prepared within the required deadline of 31st March 2024 and the subsequent audited accounts and audit report were submitted to the Council and Audit Committee.

Our payments to suppliers for the year amounted to €380 million, an annual increase of 34%.

A range of training was provided to staff across the organisation to enhance financial management and understanding.

### **Advance our use of information and communication technology through secure, modern, and intelligent initiatives enabling better experiences and outcomes in service delivery**

We continued to execute strategic operations focusing on remote working support, infrastructure upgrades, and security enhancements, including conducted continuous monitoring, remediation of security issues, synchronisation with security incident and event management systems, internal and perimeter penetration tests, and ransomware readiness assessments.

We decommissioned outdated servers, upgraded domain controllers, optimized device management systems, improved virtualization environments, and transitioned to newer storage solutions while also activating cloud-based backups, transitioning database backups to a new solution, implementing and testing cloud-native backup solutions.

A tender for design software was published and we launched public and internal geographical information systems, supported the DURL project, and managed GDPR risks within the geographical information system environment.

We changed remote support tools, migrated from traditional phone systems to internet-based phone systems, and removed admin rights on staff laptops/PCs.

We enhanced the helpdesk system and supported a variety of public-facing projects as well as advancing our project monitoring system and initiating an organizational-wide governance project for data analytics.

We conducted housing surveys, continued database version migration, decommissioned older database servers, and upgraded staff devices to a newer operating system.

We initiated a CE orders replacement project, supported the co-pilot initiative, and provided support for major emergency management and local coordination centres.

<b>Organisational Capacity and Accountability Key Statistics</b>	<b>2024 Totals</b>
Customer queries closed within deadline	17,312
Members' representations closed within deadline	5,332
Freedom of information/data access requests responded to	337
Number of citizens who actively engaged in council consultations (including consultation portal, citizen surveys and PB votes)	3,094
Telephone calls answered	147,460
Social media engagement	1,649,582
Web pages opened	1,713,463
Social media followers	158,719
People on the electoral register	213,345
Staff learning and development courses	226
Total IT expenditure	€6,769,982
Procurement number of contracts over €25,000 awarded	124

# Appendices

## Appendix 1.1 Statement of Internal Financial Control (SIFC)

### Introduction

I, Colm Ward, Chief Executive (CE) of South Dublin County Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Director of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the financial statements of South Dublin County Council for the year ended 31 December 2024, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents fairly the financial position of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the audited body conform with the statutory or other authorisation under which they purport to have been carried out.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of South Dublin County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines the South Dublin County Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2024.

The *Statement of Comprehensive Income* represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of the South Dublin County Council.

The key sources of income for South Dublin County Council are as follows:

<b>Income Source</b>	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
Goods and Services	€63,090,822	€63,743,793
Grants and Subsidies	€134,819,148	€95,938,862
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	€3,408,450	€6,148,882
Rates	€148,824,757	€143,348,935
Local Property Tax	€11,509,642	€6,276,017

Activity on our Income and Expenditure account for 2024 is as follows:

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
Income	€361,652,819	€315,456,489
Expenditure	€313,476,236	€260,195,033
Transfers to Capital	€48,143,346	€55,206,355
Exceptional Item	€0	€0
Surplus (Deficit) for	€33,237	€55,101
Prior Year Adjustment	€0	€0
Opening Revenue Reserve	€12,337,595	€12,282,494
Closing Revenue Reserve	€12,370,832	€12,337,595

Income for 2024 increased by €46.2m with the increase of €38.8m in grants and subsidies being mainly attributable to growing activity under the Payment and Availability and Leasing schemes. We also received €17m in grants from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment which was distributed to local businesses under the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) schemes and the Power Up Grants (PUG). Income from social rents rose by €3.5m to €34.8, while income from commercial Rates rose by €5.5m to 148.8m. Following a review of baseline funding by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, income available to the Revenue account from Local Property Tax rose from €6.2m to €11.5m.

The council's closing revenue reserve at €12,370,832 increased by the €33,237 surplus for the year. The continued surpluses over the last number of years demonstrates our commitment to maintaining a strong financial position.

The *Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)* represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- long term debtors – housing loans
- current assets- including stock, debtors, cash at bank

- current and long-term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- various reserves/balances

The Net Assets of South Dublin County Council at the end of 2024 total €4,391,210,241 and are as follows:

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
Fixed Assets	€3,631,422,426	€3,455,636,442
Works in Progress	€272,267,506	€205,252,370
Long Term Debtors	€345,557,877	€212,538,294
Current Assets	€639,069,211	€613,470,962
Current Liabilities	€88,185,772	€94,020,886
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	€550,883,439	€519,450,076
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	€408,921,007	€273,860,703
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	€4,391,210,241	€4,119,016,479

A *Statement of Funds Flow* was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

### **System of Internal Financial Controls**

As Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by South Dublin County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to South Dublin County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

### **Financial control environment**

As Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.

- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

### **Administrative Controls and Management Reporting**

As Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- Procedures for key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority.
- There are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

### **Procurement compliance**

South Dublin County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

### **Internal audit and Audit Committee**

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that South Dublin County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which South Dublin County Council is exposed, and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that South Dublin County Council has an effective Audit Committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- i. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it.
- ii. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function.
- iii. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings.
- iv. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- v. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in South Dublin County Council.

### **Risk and control framework**

South Dublin County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the greatest extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk registers which detail the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified, and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the draft Annual Report submitted to Council members by 30 April each year and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June each year.

Signed by:   
**Chief Executive**

Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025



## Appendix 1.2: Financial Statements

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2023

#### INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division. Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

#### Expenditure by Division

		Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
		2024	2024	2024	2023
	Notes	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building		125,274,516	126,515,407	(1,240,891)	(2,372,049)
Roads Transportation & Safety		34,384,529	7,270,209	27,114,320	25,759,469
Water Services		12,933,165	8,628,422	4,304,743	3,318,538
Development Management		40,305,992	26,789,968	13,516,025	10,904,469
Environmental Services		41,293,356	6,038,913	35,254,443	30,873,037
Recreation & Amenity		49,140,543	4,945,686	44,194,857	38,734,166
Agriculture, Food and the Marine		1,504,612	513,913	990,699	1,005,798
Miscellaneous Services		8,639,522	20,615,902	(11,976,381)	(13,859,932)
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	15	<b>313,476,236</b>	<b>201,318,420</b>		
<b>Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates &amp; Local Property Tax</b>				<b>112,157,816</b>	94,363,496
Rates				148,824,757	143,348,935
Local Property Tax				11,509,642	6,276,017
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>	16			<b>48,176,583</b>	55,261,456
<b>Transfers from/(to) Reserves</b>	14			(48,143,346)	(55,206,355)
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>				<b>33,237</b>	55,101
<b>General Reserve @ 1st January 2024</b>				12,337,595	12,282,494
<b>General Reserve @ 31st December 2024</b>				<b>12,370,832</b>	12,337,595

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31st DECEMBER 2024

## BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	1		
Operational		2,374,981,272	2,212,506,785
Infrastructural		1,140,499,441	1,139,173,785
Community		27,554,621	15,546,375
Non-Operational		88,387,091	88,409,497
		<b>3,631,422,426</b>	<b>3,455,636,442</b>
<b>Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	2	272,267,506	205,252,370
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	3	345,557,877	212,538,294
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stocks	4	-	-
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	142,674,583	97,516,251
Bank Investments		493,170,612	512,070,496
Cash at Bank		3,190,354	3,850,553
Cash in Transit		33,661	33,661
		<b>639,069,211</b>	<b>613,470,962</b>
<b>Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)</b>			
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Creditors & Accruals	6	88,185,772	94,020,886
Finance Leases		-	-
		<b>88,185,772</b>	<b>94,020,886</b>
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>		<b>550,883,439</b>	<b>519,450,076</b>
<b>Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</b>			
Loans Payable	7	139,949,491	147,101,051
Finance Leases		-	-
Refundable deposits	8	37,257,843	35,512,498
Other		231,713,673	91,247,154
		<b>408,921,007</b>	<b>273,860,703</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>4,391,210,241</b>	<b>4,119,016,479</b>
<b>Represented by</b>			
Capitalisation Account	9	3,631,422,426	3,455,636,442
Income WIP	2	223,191,262	211,549,695
General Revenue Reserve		12,370,832	12,337,595
Other Specific Reserves		-	-
Other Balances	10	524,225,721	439,492,746
<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>4,391,210,241</b>	<b>4,119,016,479</b>

# STATEMENT OF FUNDS FLOW AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

## FUNDS FLOW STATEMENT

	Note	2024 €	2024 €
<b>REVENUE ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net Inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	17		(50,960,209)
<b>CAPITAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Returns on Investment & Servicing of Finance			
Increase/(Decrease) in Fixed Asset Capitalisation Funding		175,785,984	
Increase/(Decrease) in WIP/Preliminary Funding		11,641,567	
Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves Balances	18	71,362,649	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance			258,790,199
Capital Expenditure & Financial Investment			
(Increase)/Decrease in Fixed Assets		(175,785,984)	
(Increase)/Decrease in WIP/Preliminary Funding		(67,015,136)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Capital Balances	19	12,499,310	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Capital Expenditure and Financial Investment			(230,301,809)
Financing			
Increase/(Decrease) in Loan Financing	20	295,376	
(Increase)/Decrease in Reserve Financing	21	871,015	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Financing Activities			1,166,391
Third Party Holdings			
Increase/(Decrease) in Refundable Deposits			1,745,344
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	22		<u>(19,560,083)</u>

## Appendix 1.3 Entertainment and Associated Expenses

Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2001 requires that the annual report of a local authority record the expenditure and other particulars in connection with the provision of receptions and entertainment in relation to:

- a.** Distinguished persons, and
- b.** In connection with the holding of special events relevant to its function.

Pursuant to this requirement, South Dublin County Council hereby confirms that this figure was €2,567.60 in total for 2024.

## Appendix 1.4 Acceptance of Gifts by the Council

There were no gifts received by the local authority in 2024.

## Appendix 2.1 Elected Members

### January 2024 – June 2024

#### Clondalkin

Councillor Trevor Gilligan	FF
Councillor Shirley O’Hara	FG
Councillor Kenneth Egan	FG
Councillor Francis Timmons	IND
Councillor William Joseph Carey	SF
Councillor Laura Donaghy	Green
Councillor Eoin Ó Broin	SD

#### Rathfarnham – Templeogue

Councillor Justin Sinnott	SD
Councillor Yvonne Collins	FF
Councillor Lynn McCrave	FG
Councillor Pamela Kearns	LAB
Councillor Ronan McMahon	IND
Councillor David McManus	FG
Councillor Mark Lynch	Green

#### Lucan

Councillor Ed O’Brien	FF
Councillor Vicki Casserly	FG
Councillor Liona O’Toole	IND
Councillor Paul Gogarty	IND
Councillor Joanna Tuffy	LAB

#### Palmerstown – North Clondalkin

Councillor Guss O’Connell	IND
Councillor Derren Ó Brádaigh	SF
Councillor Madeleine Johansson	PBP

Councillor Alan Hayes	IND
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Councillor Shane Moynihan	FF
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#### **Firhouse – Bohernabreena**

Councillor Lyn Hagin-Meade	Green
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Councillor Lilian Guéret	FF
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Councillor Brian Lawlor	FG
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Councillor Emma Murphy	FF
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Councillor Alan Edge	IND
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#### **Tallaght Central**

Councillor Kieran Mahon	SOL
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Councillor Charlie O'Connor	FF
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Councillor Mick Duff	IND
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Councillor Teresa Costello	FF
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Councillor Cathal King	SF
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Councillor Vanessa Mulhall	Green
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#### **Tallaght South**

Councillor Patrick Pearse Holohan	IND
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Councillor Leah Whelan	SOL
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Councillor Dermot Richardson	SF
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Councillor Louise Dunne	SF
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Councillor Baby Pereppadan	FG
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### **June 2024 – December 2024**

#### **Clondalkin**

Councillor Trevor Gilligan	FF
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Councillor Shirley O'Hara	FG
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Councillor Darragh Adelaide	PBP
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Councillor Francis Timmons	IND
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Councillor William Joseph Carey	SF
Councillor Linda de Courcy	IND IRE
Councillor Eoin Ó Broin	SD

#### **Rathfarnham – Templeogue**

Councillor Justin Sinnott	SD
Councillor Yvonne Collins	FF
Councillor Lynn McCrave	FG
Councillor Pamela Kearns	LAB
Councillor Ronan McMahon	IND
Councillor David McManus	FG
Councillor Ciarán Ahern	LAB – Elected to the 34 <sup>th</sup> Dáil on 29 <sup>th</sup> November
Councillor Paddy Cosgrave	LAB – Co-opted at the December Council meeting

#### **Lucan**

Councillor Caroline Brady	FG
Councillor Paul Nicholas Gogarty	IND – Elected to the 34 <sup>th</sup> Dáil on 29 <sup>th</sup> November
Councillor Helen Farrell	IND – Co-opted at the December Council meeting
Councillor Vicki Casserly	FG
Councillor Liona O’Toole	IND
Councillor Joanna Tuffy	LAB

#### **Palmerstown – North Clondalkin**

Councillor Glen Moore	IND
Councillor Shane Moynihan	FF – Elected to the 34 <sup>th</sup> Dáil on 29 <sup>th</sup> November
Councillor Jacqueline Sheehy	FF – Co-opted at the December Council meeting
Councillor Madeleine Johansson	PBP
Councillor Alan Hayes	IND
Councillor Niamh Fennell	SF

**Firhouse – Bohernabreena**

Councillor Sarah Barnes	FG
Councillor Róisín Mannion	SF
Councillor Brian Lawlor	FG
Councillor Emma Murphy	FF
Councillor Alan Edge	IND

**Tallaght Central**

Councillor Britto Pereppadan	FG
Councillor Niamh Whelan	SF
Councillor Jess Spear	PBP
Councillor Mick Duff	IND
Councillor Dean Donnelly	IND
Vacant	FF

**Tallaght South**

Councillor Patrick Pearse Holohan	IND
Councillor Cllr Kay Keane	PBP
Councillor Dermot Richardson	IND
Councillor Louise Dunne	SF
Councillor Baby Pereppadan	FG



## Appendix 2.2 Payments Made to Councillors in 2024

### **Representational Payment Totals**

• Representational Payments	€1,188,685.42
• Monthly Payments	€183,519.96
• Local Representation Payment	€105,644.74
• Strategic Policy Committee Chairperson's Allowance Total	€35,692.90
• Mayor's Allowance	€30,127.38
• Deputy Mayor's Allowance	€6,025.48
• Training	€19,935.30
• Conferences	€3,455.64
• Security Allowance	€2787.87

Total of Expenses paid to members in respect of attendance at meetings of the County Council and its Committees - €1,575,874.69

## Appendix 2.3 Council Membership of Committees and Other Bodies

### Association of Irish Local Government

Councillor	Party
Emma Murphy	FF
Shirley O'Hara	FG
David McManus	FG

### Civic Theatre Committee

Councillor	Party
Britto Pereppadan	FG

### Clondalkin Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force

Councillor	Party
Madeleine Johansson	PBP
William Carey	SF
Eoin Ó Broin	SD

### Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board

Councillor	Party
Yvonne Collins	FF
Pamela Kearns	LAB
Vicki Casserly	FG
Mick Duff	IND

### Dublin 12 Local Drugs Task Force

Councillor	Party
Pamela Kearns	LAB

#### Dublin Bus/Luas Community Forum

Councillor	Party
Mick Duff	LAB
Kay Keane	PBP
Róisín Mannion	SF

#### Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly

Councillor	Party
Jacqueline Sheehy	FF
Joanna Tuffy	LAB
David McManus	FG

#### Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd

Councillor	Party
Yvonne Collins	FF

#### Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Councillor	Party
Mick Duff	IND
Jess Spears	PBP
William Carey	SF
Alan Edge	IND
Vicki Casserly	FG

#### Local Authority Members Association

Councillor	Party
Brian Lawlor	FG

#### Regional Health Forum - Dublin - Mid Leinster

Councillor	Party
Sarah Barnes	FG
Liona O'Toole	IND
Baby Pereppadan	FG

Joanna Tuffy	LAB
Yvonne Collins	FF
Niamh Whelan	SF

#### South Dublin Local Community Development Committee

Councillor	Party
Alan Hayes	IND
Yvonne Collins	FF
Sarah Barnes	FG

#### South Dublin County Partnership

Councillor	Party
Emma Murphy	FF
Baby Pereppadan	FG
Mick Duff	IND

#### South Western Regional Drugs Task Force

Councillor	Party
Mick Duff	IND

#### Tallaght Community Arts Centre

Councillor	Party
Emma Murphy	FF

#### Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force

Councillor	Party
Alan Edge	IND
Mick Duff	IND
Baby Pereppadan	FG
Niamh Whelan	SF

## Inter Local Authority Committee on Fire/Ambulance Services and Emergency Management

Councillor	Party
Lynn McCrave	FG
Louise Dunne	SF
Paddy Cosgrave	LAB

## Infrastructure Naming Committee

Councillor	Party
Mayor - Chair	-
Alan Hayes	IND
Yvonne Collins	FF
Sarah Barnes	FG

## Commemorations Committee

Councillor	Party
Sarah Barnes	FG
William Carey	SF
Yvonne Collins	FF

## 300K Have Your Say Steering Group Membership

	Councillor	Party
Liffey	Councillor Y. Collins	FF
	Councillor P. Kearns	Lab
	Councillor V. Casserly	FG
	Councillor W. Carey	SF
	Councillor D. Adelaide	PBP
	Councillor M. Duff	IND
	Councillor A. Hayes.	IND
	Mayor	-

## Appendix 2.4: Training and conferences attended by Councillors in 2024

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
AILG Annual Training	Wicklow	14th February
AILG Module 1	Limerick	27th January
AILG Module 2	Kilkenny	21st March
AILG Induction Training	Mullingar	11th July
AILG Induction Training	Cork	13th July
AILG Module 4	Tipperary	26 <sup>th</sup> September
AILG Module 5	Sligo	24th Oct
AILG Module 6	Waterford	16th Nov
LAMA Spring Training	Donegal	19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> January
LAMA Autum Training	Meath	17th -18th Oct
AIR regions	Limerick	7th and 8th Feb
MacGill Summer school	Donegal	18th -20th July
AILG Autumn Training	Monaghan	11th and 12th Sept
Irish Council for Social Housing	Sligo	16th -17th Oct
Kennedy Summer School	Wexford	30th Aug

## Appendix 3 Corporate Plan 2020 2024 Indicators

Corporate Plan Goals	Measurement / Indicator	Baseline Data 2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Anticipated Level	2024
<b>Economic, enterprise and tourism development</b>	Business support initiatives and expenditure	35 (€300,000 expenditure)	28 (€260,000)	22 (€17,116)	22 (€286,888)	20 (€135,351)	22 / €150,000	28/€280,528
	Jobs created or supported in Grangecastle Business park	6,000 (incl. construction), 5,400 supported	6150	5328	7,750 (including construction)	5328	8,000 (including construction)	8,000 (including construction)
	Economic development land disposals	20	20	Not listed in KPIs	2	1	2	0
	Active library members	47,462	49,835	29,045	57,000	60,268	60,000	60,741
	Library space in metres squared (m2)	5,798	7,712	7,791	7,872	7,872	7,872	7,872
	Festivals / tourism events	11	2	2	7	7	8	13
<b>Land use, planning and transportation</b>	Private homes completed	1,107	949	696	1,659	2,029	2,800	2,579
	New and upgraded footpaths - in metres squared (m2)	74,644	60,903	1,100	71,500	67,231	67,000	61,483
	New and upgraded cycle paths - in metres squared (m2)	7,508	14,000	14,124	25,540	22,382	13,500	22,535
	Village and district centre enhancement schemes completed	1	1	0	1	1	2	2
	Public LED lighting upgrades completed	1,736	2,158	1,561	1,321	2,012	1,600	1,690
	% of pre-planning meetings held within eight weeks of request	54%	66%	65%	62%	74.5%	75%	69%
<b>Housing, social and community development</b>	New housing allocations	618	580	744	442	535	700	1,043
	Homeless exits / preventions	738	767	725	365	526	600	720
	Amount of planned maintenance expenditure	€1.7 M	€476,000	€1.57million	€4.67million	€7,802,954.50	€10,000,000	€7,783,968
	Interagency meetings	39	45	44	48	100	115	154
	Visitors to council leisure facilities	593,463	136,345	210,304	547,570	667,904	750,000	683,415
	Participants on council-led sports and health and well-being initiatives	136,187	75,698	74,025	133,460	111,030	120,000	124,057

Corporate Plan Goals	Measurement / Indicator	Baseline Data 2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Anticipated Level	2024
Environment, water and climate change	Climate action initiatives under climate action plan	43	118	120	154	154	125	129
	Properties protected by flood protection schemes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Local authority Energy savings	34.4%	45.7%	40.0%	41.3%	43.4%*	45.5%* <sup>1</sup>	46.8%* <sup>2</sup>
	Trees planted	1,914	1954	688	2303	751	3,500	3,651
	Environmental / climate action awareness sessions	131	66	226	223	179	225	480
	New play spaces / teen spaces / pitches	15	12	11	12	21	16	27
Organisational capacity and accountability	People on the electoral register	194,497	196,496	195,291	194,007	194,884	199,000	213.345
	Customer queries received	78,006	83,578	83,715	56,490	38,371	32,083	27,144
	Customer queries closed within deadline	72,814 (93%)	90%	74,269	50,088	29,541	24,704	17.312
	Members Reps (matters raised by Elected Members) received	9,609		10,233	9,343	12,258	12,000	15,553
	Members reps closed within deadline	4,925 (51%)		5,580	5,283	3,934	11,400	5.332
	Freedom of Information / Data Access requests responded to	287	273	295	269	338	350	337
	Citizens who actively engaged with us through our consultation portal, citizens survey, and participatory budgeting votes cast.	6,164	2,469	9,410	13,219	2,038	6,660	3.094
	Learning and development courses per staff member	2.78 (average)	2	2	3	2.6	4	2.13

<sup>1</sup> 2024 figure is an estimate based on SDCC 2030 glidepath

<sup>2</sup> Final 2024 figure to be confirmed by SEAI in Q2 2025



## Appendix 4: Senior Management Team 2024

Chief Executive (appointed March 2024)	Colm Ward
Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management	Lorna Maxwell
Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development	Jason Frehill
Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change	Teresa Walsh
A/Director of Housing, Social and Community Development	Elaine Leech
A/Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation	Mick McAdam
Head of Finance	Ronan Fitzgerald
Head of Information Systems	Tommy Kavanagh
Law Agent	Sean O'Shea
County Architect	Cian Harte