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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council April 2025 County Council Meeting held on Monday 14 April 2025

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adelaide, D. | Kearns, P. |
| Barnes, S. | Lawlor, B. |
| Brady, C. | Mannion, R. |
| Carey, W. | McCrave, L. |
| Casserly, V. | McMahon, R. |
| Collins, Y. | Moore, G. |
| Cosgrave, P. | Murphy, E. |
|  de Courcy, L. | Ó Broin, E. |
| Donnelly, D. | O’Hara, S. |
| Duff, M. | O’Toole, L. |
| Dunne, L. | Pereppadan, Baby |
| Edge, A. | Pereppadan, Britto |
| Farrell, H. | Richardson, D. |
| Fennell, N. | Sheehy, J. |
| Hayes, A. | Sinnott, J.  |
| Holohan, P. | Smyth, A.  |
| Johansson, M. | Spear, J. |
| Keane, K. | Timmons, F. |
|  | Tuffy, J.  |
|  | Whelan, N. |

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | C. Ward. |
| Directors | J. Frehill, E. Burke, T. Walsh, E. Leech, L. Maxwell, R. Fitzgerald. |
| Head of IT | T. Kavanagh |
| Senior Executive Planner | P. Collins |
| A/Senior Executive Officer | B. Shannon |
|  Communications Manager | D. Healy |
| Senior Staff Officer | K. McLoughlin |
| Staff Officer | D. Murphy |
| Assistant Staff Officer | A. Holohan |

The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan, presided

Apologies were received from Councillors T. Gilligan and D. McManus

**WEBCASTING NOTICE**

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Councils website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014, the Data Protection Act 1988, General Data Protection Regulations (EU) 2016/679 and the Defamation Act 2009. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the legislation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **H1/0425 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the March Council Meeting held on 10th March 2025 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

[March 2025 Council Minutes](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85790)

### **H2/0425 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.19 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOLLOWING THE ELECTION TO SEANAD EIREANN OF COUNCILLOR T. COSTELLO**

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

[HI-2 (b) Fianna Fáil Nomination - A. Smyth](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85905)
[HI-2 (c) Fianna Fáil Nomination - A. Smyth Acceptance](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85907)

As a result of the election of former Councillor Teresa Costello (Fianna Fáil) to Seanad Éireann on 1st February 2025, a casual vacancy has occurred on South Dublin County Council (Tallaght Central Electoral Area).

[**Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0037/sec0019.html) provides that a casual vacancy shall be filled by the co-option by the Local Authority of a person to fill the vacancy and such co-option shall be made at the next meeting of the local authority after the expiration of 14 days from the occurrence of the vacancy or as soon after the expiration of the 14 days as circumstances permit.

**Mr. Adam Smyth** has been nominated by Fianna Fáil to replace Senator Costello, and in accordance with Section 19(5) Mr. Adam Smyth's written consent to his proposed co-option has been received.

Members are required to ratify the co-option of Mr. Adam Smyth at today’s meeting.

Senator T. Costello addressed the Members thanking management and staff of South Dublin County Council, and her former colleagues.

Councillors E. Murphy, B. Lawlor, F. Timmons, L. Dunne, P, Kearns and E. Ó Broin wished Senator Costello well and thanked her for her work.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy and seconded by Councillor Y. Collins and **AGREED**.

“That Adam Smyth be co-opted to fill the vacancy to replace Senator T. Costello, Tallaght Central LEA”

Councillor A. Smyth addressed the Members following his co-option.

Councillors M. Duff, B. Lawlor, A. Edge, L. Dunne, P. Kearns, P. Holohan and E. Ó Broin congratulated Councillor A. Smyth and wished him well.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive wished Senator Costello well in her new venture and welcomed Councillor A. Smyth and wished him well.

### **H3/0425 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

1. **Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area Committee**

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

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

1. **Clondalkin Area Committee**

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

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

**c) Tallaght Area Committee**

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

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

1. **Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee**

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

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

### **H4/0425 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

[(a) Calendar of Meeting Dates](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85794)

**(b) Report on Conferences & Training**

[**Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act 2001**](https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2001/act/37/section/142/enacted/en/html#:~:text=(5)%20(a)%20This,to%20the%20performance%20of%20its) provides for the authorization of Members’ attendance at conferences both home and abroad.

**Training Notified Since January 2025**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** |
| IPI Annual Planning Conference   | Irish Planning Institute | The Salthill Hotel, Galway | 10th - 11th April |

**Training Confirmed Attended Since January 2025**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** | **Councillors in Attendance** |
| AIR Regions 2025 | Association of Irish Regions | Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, Westmeath. | 5th February 2025 | Cllr B. LawlorCllr J. TuffyCllr S. Barnes Cllr D. McManusCllr S. O'HaraCllr B. Pereppadan  |

Listed below are conferences which have been notified to South Dublin County Council and whose appropriateness has been vetted by the members’ working group in accordance with Circ. Letter 02/10.

**Conferences Notified Since January 2025**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** |
| Universal Design for Cities  |  EIT Urban Mobility |  Remote |  April 2025 - May 2025 |

**Conferences Confirmed Attended Since January 2025**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** | **Councillors in Attendance** |
| None |   |   |   |   |

**Requirements on members in relation to attendance at conferences**
(1) Having been authorised to attend an event under section 142, a councillor is required in all circumstances to –

1. a) attend that event and participate in the proceedings to the greatest extent possible, and
2. b) submit a written report within 15 days to the Cathaoirleach, who shall submit the report to the next ordinary meeting of the council. The report must indicate the nature of the meeting and contain a summary of the proceedings. This report shall be made available free of charge on request to any member of the public; for this purpose it may be put on the local authority’s website. The requirements in relation to reports by attendees and making the report available to the public are in large part new requirements under section 142(5)(f) (as amended) and section 142(5)(fa).

As authorisation under this section is a reserved function Members are required to pass the following resolution:

“In accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001 attendance by Members at the Conferences / Seminars outlined in the report is hereby authorized.

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

### **H5/0425 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### **H6/0425 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor Y. Collins and **RESOLVED**:

### “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q37 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED”**

### **Q1/0425 Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive would he consider creating a dedicated webpage where residents can easily report faulty streetlights, potholes, or road and footpath issues?

**REPLY:**

The dedicated [Customer Care online form](http://www.sdublincoco.ie/CustomerCare/ContactUs), on the Council's website, enables customers to report issues such as those cited.  The system includes a mapping facility to identify the exact location of the issue, and provide any additional information in the text box provided. Customers can also email the Customer Care section directly on info@sdublincoco.ie with issues.

### **Q2/0425 Councillor L. Dunne**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on how many properties in South Dublin are currently managed by the Council or Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) under the 25-year Enhanced Lease? Report to include how many are expected to be added under this lease in 2025.

**REPLY:**

The Enhanced Leasing Scheme was introduced in 2018 to attract newly built or soon-to-be-built properties with planning permission that had not previously been leased or rented in the previous 12 months. This was with the aim of expanding the supply of social housing through leased properties.

Currently, the council manages 56 homes under this scheme, with no properties managed by Approved Housing Bodies in South Dublin County. No additional homes are expected to be delivered under this scheme in 2025.

### **Q3/0425 Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the number of properties in South Dublin that have been derelict for over 5 years.

**REPLY:**

Sites and/or properties that constitute derelict sites within the definition contained in Section 3 of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 (the Act) are entered on the Register of Derelict Sites. The Register is maintained by South Dublin County Council as required by Section 8 of the Act and includes details on the date that each site was entered onto the Register. There are currently five Derelict Sites listed on the Register for a period of five or more years.

The [**register**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fplanning-building-control%2Fderelict-sites%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Csconroy%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cf76a4f3b938a4321a33708dd71c676af%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638791819378804377%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=3HsPhqOhOmE6It%2BwutMnOjoV7DfQ0C2JvXC8TLeVe9s%3D&amp;reserved=0) is published on the Council's website and updated regularly. Sites that are under investigation are not routinely entered on the register until such time as investigations are completed and a determination made that the site is derelict.

The definition of a Derelict Site, as set out is Section 3 of the Act, is as follows:

*"In this section “derelict site” means any land (in this section referred to as “the land in question”) which detracts, or is likely to detract, to a material degree from the amenity, character or appearance of land in the neighbourhood of the land in question because of—*

*(a) the existence on the land in question of structures which are in a ruinous, derelict or dangerous condition, or*

*(b) the neglected, unsightly or objectionable condition of the land or any structures on the land in question, or*

*(c) the presence, deposit or collection on the land in question of any litter, rubbish, debris or waste, except where the presence, deposit or collection of such litter, rubbish, debris or waste results from the exercise of a right conferred by statute or by common law."*

### **Q4/0425 Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Chief Executive what percentage of trees planted by South Dublin County Council during 2024 were native species?

**REPLY:**

During the course of 2024 South Dublin County Council planted a total of 3,651 trees across the entire County. Of this total number 2,853 were planted under the Public Realm Section's annual tree planting programme while the remainder were planted across various construction and development projects such as various park upgrade schemes, the N81 landscape improvement scheme and the Dodder Valley Green Way.  Of the total number of trees planted approximately 2,000 of these were native Irish tree species and this equates to approximately 55% of trees planted.  In addition to the main tree planting programme and tree planting on development projects a total of 21,325 native whips were planted as part of Mini Woodlands Projects.

The Council endeavours to plant as many native trees as possible however these efforts are impacted by available supply as well as other practical considerations. When planting trees the approach of ‘Right Tree, Right Place’ is considered at all times. Irish species such as oak are considered suitable for open space planting and planting in parks however they are considered unsuitable in a streetscape setting. Mountain Ash provides colour and variety while remaining at a suitable size allowing it to work well within road verges. Care must be taken to plant a variety of species to ensure disease and infection don’t impact large numbers of trees in a single area.

### **Q5/0425 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive to detail the total number of fines issued by the litter warden in the county, in the previous 3 years, by LEA.

**REPLY:**

All incidents of illegal dumping reported or detected in any area are investigated by the Council's Litter Warden Service and all dumped material is searched for evidence. Where evidence is found, the appropriate enforcement action is taken under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.

The Environmental Complaint System operated by South Dublin County Council does not record data by Local Electoral Area. The total number of Litter complaints investigated by the Litter Warden service between 2022 and 2024 was 3,242.

Please see below table of fines issued for the period 2022- 2024 which is divided into South Dublin County Council’s designated litter warden areas.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Litter Warden Area** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **Total** |
| Lucan |   64 |   86 |   41 | 191 |
| Clondalkin |   91 |   84 |   91 | 266 |
| West Tallaght | 142 | 128 | 147 | 417 |
| Saggart/Newcastle/E Tallaght |  72 |   71 |   35 | 178 |
| Templeogue/Walkinstown |  45 |   40 |   59 | 144 |
| **Total** | **414** | **409** | **373** | **1196** |

### **Q6/0425 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the county's Pavilions Programmes regarding the installation of dressing rooms in public parks.

**REPLY:**

SDCC’s pavilion programme was agreed by the Council as part of its commitment to the health and well-being of its citizens. As clubs grow and develop, facilities such as changing rooms, and secure storage areas become essential to a club’s sustainability and success. A review of the pavilion programme was carried out and presented to the Council in April 2024. The review process identified a requirement for additional capital provision, which was approved for the 2025 budget. The programme will deliver sports changing rooms at 10 locations across the county, to facilitate groups using adjacent pitches / sport in parks as set out in the list below:

* Griffeen Valley Park (Part 8 approved)
* Corkagh Park ORR (Part 8 approved)
* Collinstown Park
* Kilnamanagh Open Space
* Dodder Valley Mt Carmel (Part 8 approved)
* Griffeen Valley / Arthur Griffith Park
* Tymon Park South
* Sean Walsh Park Artificial Pitch
* Kiltipper Park
* Willsbrook Park

The Part 8s for all the pavilions that still required planning permission (at Collinstown, Kilnamanagh, Sean Walsh Park, Arthur Griffith Park, Tymon Park South, Kiltipper & Willsbrook) were completed and passed by the Council in November and December 2024.

A framework tender for the modular buildings framework using Corkagh & Griffeen as the primary locations has recently completed. The detailed design and tender processes were extended due to required changes to the contract documents and requests from tenderers for additional time and that tender process closed in March with tenders now under assessment. It is planned to appoint the manufacturers in May with manufacture to take place between May and August with delivery to site in early September for the first 2 locations. Once the manufacturers are appointed we will also progress the remaining locations with them as well.

### **Q7/0425 Councillor M. Johansson** To ask the Chief Executive for a report on actions N14 (Implement a countywide reduction of the usage of chemicals, such as glyphosate, across all council departments) and N15 (Develop a Strategy for the phase out of harmful products such as glyphosate and acrylic paint) of the South Dublin County Council Climate Action Plan?

**REPLY:**

In support of Actions N14 and N15 of the South Dublin County Council Climate Action Plan this Council partnered with Kildare County Council and a number of other local authorities on a research programme  which led to the 2024 publication *Guidelines for Increasing Biodiversity & Alternatives to Herbicides in Public Open Spaces*. This guidance promotes the reduction of glyphosate through alternative weed control methods, native planting, and biodiversity-led maintenance approaches.

A number of alternative weed control methods such as Hot Foam and Hot Water treatment were trialled as part of the research however these methods have not proven viable to date due to low weed mortality rates and the need for frequent reapplication.  Further efforts have been made recently to identify suitable alternatives and in this regard 'electro-physical' destruction of weeds has also been trialled.  Again this method did not prove to be satisfactory however further trials will continue to be carried out until such time as a range of alternative treatment methods have been identified as suitable in the varying types of locations that the Council maintains.

Glyphosate-based herbicides are currently used by the Council's Public Realm Operations Section primarily on high profile entrance roads into the county and in the provision of the road sweeping services contract for the control of weeds on hard surface areas.  The usage of herbicides is decreasing in the Council's maintenance operations with 993 litres of herbicide used in 2022, 964 litres in 2023 and 868 litres used in 2024 and this represents a 13% reduction in usage over those three years.  The Council has now entered into a new contract for road sweeping services including weed control and this is the single largest user of herbicide in the Council's maintenance operations.  A requirement has been included in the new contract for a 10% reduction annually in the use of glyphosate based herbicide through the control of weeds by alternative environmentally friendly means and this will reduce the Council's use of glyphosate by half over the life of the contract.  This reflects the Council's proactive efforts to minimise reliance on glyphosate in line with the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive as well as our own Biodiversity, Pollinator and Climate Action Plans.

A partial ban on glyphosate adopted by the elected members in July 2017 remains in place and is enforced in public parks, gardens, and play spaces. In these areas weed growth is managed through hand removal, strim/mow or by allowing vegetation to grow to promote biodiversity. There are currently no alternative products in use by the Council or its contractors in areas not covered by this ban.  As already mentioned above the terms of the new road sweeping contract allow for a switch to non-glyphosate methods once a suitable alternative is identified and proven effective.  Complementing these measures the Council has significantly shifted its approach to open space management since 2019 with over 210 hectares of meadows (long and short flowering meadows) now in place across the county. This supports biodiversity and aligns with the aims of the Council’s Pollinator, Biodiversity, and Climate Action Plans.

### **Q8/0425 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive for a breakdown of the number of grass cutting staff per depot in the county?

**REPLY:**

Grass cutting resources are assigned across five Public Realm Operations depots, as shown in the table below. Staffing levels can adjust daily or weekly based on grass growth and seasonal needs. During high growth periods, additional staff may be assigned, while numbers decrease towards the end of the grass cutting season or during low rainfall periods. The depot restructuring project moved staff and resources from Sean Walsh Park and Rathfarnham depots to Tymon depot, resulting in a higher number of grass cutting resources there. Areas maintained by Sean Walsh and Rathfarnham depots also transferred to Tymon depot. The areas maintained by each depot are devised to reflect the available resources in that depot and this is under constant review and is adjusted when considered necessary.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Depot | Tractor mower | Ride on mower | Total |
| Waterstown  | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Deansrath | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Corkagh | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Tymon  | 8 | 10 | 18 |
| Saggart | 4 | 4 | 8 |
|   | 24 | 25 | 49 |

### **Q9/0425 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report of the number of four bed units due to be delivered across the whole county in 2025/26 and if any of those are expected to be bungalows?

**REPLY:**

4 bedroom social housing units are scheduled for delivery as follows to December 2026

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LEA | New Build Social Homes | New Build Traveller Homes | 2025 Acquisitions Programme |
| Clondalkin / Newcastle / Rathcoole / Saggart / Brittas Area | 16 | 6 | 1 |
| Lucan / Palmerstown / North Clondalkin Area | 15 | 23\* | 0 |
| Rathfarnham / Templeogue / Firhouse / Bohernabreena Area  | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Tallaght Central/South | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 31 | 31 | 2 |

\*There are 3 x 4 bedroom medically adapted bedroom bungalows included in this figure.

### **Q10/0425**  **Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the efficacy and use of cycle infrastructure within the county? Report to include what measures will be taken to address any issues that arise.

**REPLY:**

The new cycle infrastructure within the county including the routes outlined in the Cycle South Dublin (CySD) Programme is designed in accordance with the National Cycle Design Manual published by the National Transport Authority (NTA). These standards were developed by the NTA to take consideration of Government policy, Climate Action objectives and are in line with International best practice and standards.

The CySD Programme commenced in 2021 and it aims to provide people of all ages and abilities with a well-connected, well designed, and safe cycle network that offers people a credible alternative to using the car. This will be achieved by the provision of a comprehensive and connected cycle network across South Dublin. The active travel team arrange for baseline data to be collected on the main CySD routes so that the impact of the completed project can be measured and compared after project completion. While significant progress has been made on the delivery of active travel projects, substantial work remains to ensure that these routes are well connected and provide a viable alternative for most people to walk or cycle on the daily journeys.

A presentation was made to the LUPT SPC in December 2024, where it was noted that a review of the CySD Programme will commence in 2025.

Additionally, the Council runs a schools cycle training programme across the county each year, which aims to teach school children how to cycle and how to use cycle facilities correctly.

Further details about the CySD programme can be found on our dedicated Active Travel website;

[Active Travel - SDCC](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel/)  <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel/>

### **Q10/0425**  **Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Chief Executive how many complaints were received in relation to anti-social behaviour in council-owned properties, and subsequently how many tenancies were terminated/tenants were evicted in the past 3 years?

**REPLY:**

The council's [**Anti- Social Strategy**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/estate-management/anti-social_behaviour_strategy.pdf#:~:text=The%20objective%20of%20this%20strategy%20is%20to%20assist%20in%20the) applies to local authority tenants. Anti-social behaviour is defined in the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 as the following:

(a) The manufacture, production, preparation, importation, exportation, sale, supply, possession for the purposes of sale or supply, or distribution of a controlled drug (within the meaning of the Misuse of Drugs Acts 1977 to 2007).

(b) Any behaviour which causes or is likely to cause any significant or persistent danger, injury, damage, alarm, loss or fear to any person living, working or otherwise lawfully in or in the vicinity of a house provided by a housing authority under the Housing Acts 1966 to 2014 or Part V (as amended) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

Complaints received are categorised below and are based on the nature and severity of the complaint:

**Category A**

This includes the manufacture, production, preparation, importation, exportation, sale, supply, possession for the purposes of sale or supply or distribution of a controlled substance (within the meaning of the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1977 and 2007)

**Category B**

Any behaviour which causes or is likely to cause any significant or persistent danger, injury, damage, loss or fear to any person living, working or otherwise lawfully in the vicinity of a house provided by a housing authority or a housing estate in which a house is situated without prejudice to the foregoing includes violence, threats, intimidation, coercion, harassment, racism or serious obstruction of a person.

**Category C**

Breaches of terms of a tenancy agreement which do not fall within the above categories. These breaches include but are not limited to the following:

* Running a business, physical condition of property and/or garden, caravan in gardens, feuding, un-authorised occupiers – including sub-letting of property, abandoned properties, joyriding and pet or animal nuisance.

**Complaints received during the period 2022 to 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Category A** | **Category B** | **Category C** | **Total**  |
| 2022 | 245 | 399 | 83 | 727 |
| 2023 | 164 | 373 | 77 | 614 |
| 2024 | 222 | 343 | 88 | 653 |

During the period 2022 to 2024, 1994 complaints were received in total, with 38 tenancies terminated following notices served on properties.  An important role of the anti-social/community safety team is tenancy sustainment. Where breaches of tenancy occur, surrenders are often obtained following extensive investigation and consultation with the tenants and various agencies without the need to apply to the courts for 'Possession Order'.

The council did not obtain any 'Possession Orders' during the three-year period 2022 to 2024 for anti-social behaviour. However, seven applications for 'Possession Orders' are currently with our Law Department and are expected to appear before the Courts in 2025.

A new Anti- Social/Community Safety Strategy will be considered by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee in May and for adoption by the elected members in June'25.

### **Q12/0425**  **Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide clear guidance on the taking-in-charge process for estates/developments not yet maintained by the council that are outside of developer guarantee requirements (i.e. not new-build/recently completed) please

**REPLY:**

When a developer completes a residential estate, the land, the houses and apartments and services are in the developer's ownership. This means the estate is private property and therefore, the maintenance and upkeep of that estate remains with the developer.

The developer can set up a management company,  where the responsibilities for the upkeep and maintenance is transferred to this company.

Where / if a developer gets into financial difficulty, a liquidator or receiver may be appointed to manage the housing estate assets. They can either set up a Owner Management Company or they can apply to get the estate Taken in Charge (TIC) by the Council.

Generally, the Taking in Charge process begins when the developer, OMC or liquidator / receiver submits a Taking in Charge application to the Council.

However, in cases where the developer, the OMC or liquidator is not engaging for a considerable time, the majority of owners of the houses involved may request that the Taking In Charge process be instigated.   More than 50% of the home owners must be in favour of the proposal that the estate be Taken In Charge.   There are certain limitation to the use of this proposal which are outlined in the Planning Act.

If a Taking in Charge process is not fully and properly concluded, the council will not maintain that estate. This is because it remains private property until the statutory TIC process is fully completed.

**Q13/0425**  **Councillor D. McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the 620 homes at the Foothills Killinarden Development.

**REPLY:**

Enabling and site preparation works for Killinarden Foothills development commenced on-site in December 2024, and we now expect the development agreement for this mixed-tenure development of 620 social, affordable, and private homes to be signed off this month, allowing full construction to commence on site next month.

This development will deliver a total of 620 housing units, offering a well-balanced mix of affordable, social, and private homes to meet the growing demand within the community. Beyond housing, the project includes extensive public realm improvements, such as the creation of a new public park, enhanced green spaces, pedestrian-friendly pathways, and a range of community amenities—all designed to foster a vibrant, inclusive, and liveable neighbourhood.

### **Q14/0425**  **Councillor D. McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the 133 cost-rental apartments at Belgard Square North.

**REPLY:**

Construction of Innovation Square, our first standalone cost rental development at Belgard, has now been completed and we are finalising cost rental designation and management arrangements to allow advertising and tenanting of these homes will commence in the coming weeks. A dedicated webpage and webinar will be held in advance of the properties being advertised explaining to interested applicants this new housing tenure, eligibility guidelines and the application process.

### **Q15/0425**  **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive to describe South Dublin County Council Housing and Disability Group, e.g, its membership, its role and if it feeds into any SPC?

**REPLY:**

A Housing and Disability Steering Group (HSCG) was established in the South Dublin County administrative area to assist in the delivery of the Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities.

Membership of the group are at a senior level within their organisation and currently consists of:

* Director of Housing, Social and Community Development (Chair)
* Senior staff from the council’s allocations team
* HSE representatives
* Housing Agency representative
* Representatives from each of the four disability sectors operational in the local area.
* Representatives from up to three Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs).
* Representatives from Disabled Persons Organisations

The role of the Steering Group includes:

* Overseeing local implementation of the National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities, including the housing of people with disabilities transitioning from institutional care
* Developing, monitoring and reviewing of local interagency protocols, as appropriate
* Developing plans to meet the housing needs and related supports for people with disabilities
* Working with all agencies in the provision of services to people with disabilities including employment, education and training
* Acting as a forum for the exchange of information

The Steering Group meets a minimum of four times a year and minutes/presentations from the meetings are included on the Housing SPC agenda.

### **Q16/0425**  **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if South Dublin County Council have a role with regard to regulating that substandard solid fuels e.g. smoky fuels and wet firewood, are not sold in commercial outlets?

**REPLY:**

The Environmental Health Officer (EHO) Department of South Dublin are authorised officers under The Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuel) Regulations 2022 and carry out inspections of all solid fuel retailers in the county.

Some of the changes that now apply under the 2022 Regulations include:

* Coal products and manufactured solid fuels must have a smoke emission rate of less than 10 grams per hour.
* Coal products and manufactured solid fuels, must have a sulphur content of less than 2%.
* Fuel products which are 100% biomass products including, wood products and wood logs, supplied in units of two cubic metres or less, must have a moisture content of less than 25%.
* Wood logs supplied in units of two cubic metres or more shall be accompanied by a notice outlining the need to store and season wet wood until it is sufficiently dried.
* It will not be possible to sell turf via retail, online or other media, in public places.

In addition to the above, retailers must ensure that each product they offer for sale is:

* Supplied or provided by a person/company that is registered with the EPA.
* That all products are included in the list of approved fuels, by the EPA.
* That all bags are suitably labelled and properly sealed.
* That a register/record is retained, of all fuels sold in the preceding twelve (12) months.

Such records should include all invoices, credit notes, and dispatch or delivery documents detailing the products purchased from a producer, including the registration number issued to the producer by the EPA

The Environmental Health  Department maintains a data base list of solid fuel merchants and retailers. This database includes:

* An alphabetical list of solid fuel retailers.
* Separate files for each solid fuel retail businesses.
* All SDCC correspondences and communications linked to each solid fuel business.
* All interactions with solid fuel retailers including all new research findings on air quality, in relation to the sale of solid fuel.

Each winter period, the Environmental Health Dept carries out approximately thirty (30) unannounced visits and inspections of solid fuel merchants across the county. These businesses are largely selected based on the following information and intelligence gathered:

* Solid fuel merchants.
* Where solid fuel retailers were non compliant in previous inspections.
* Where solid fuel products are also sold generally such as petrol filling stations, hardware stores, and grocery stores.
* New entrants into the solid fuel market.
* Where solid fuel retailers not sampled in previous year.

In October and November 2024, the Environmental Health Department of  South Dublin in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), carried out a targeted inspection and sampling blitz across the county. This programme extended across the entire Dublin region and was done in parallel with Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and Fingal County Council. Samples of solid fuels were taken and sent to Scotland for sulphur testing. It is expected that a similar targeted approach will occur on an annual basis, and particularly where non-conformances were witnessed.

As a result of the above collaboration, a Dublin Solid Fuel Enforcement Network (DSFEN) has now been established across the four Dublin authorities. Clear benefits of such collaboration includes pooling of resources, exchanging information and intelligence and greater awareness of the origins of fuels and the transport throughout the country.

South Dublin is also an active member of the Local Authority Solid Fuel Enforcement Group throughout Ireland. This group had their latest National meeting this week, and Environmental Health Officers from South Dublin attended. There still appears to be a large movement of solid fuels between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and from the North across the Irish Sea to Scotland. Speakers from both sides of the border reinforced their commitment to tackle suppliers of non-compliant fuels and following a review of last year’s fuel sampling results, by DECC  and the EPA, it is expected that additional enforcement  resources will be targeted this year, to this important sector of the fuel industry.

### **Q17/0425**  **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive what his view is of an idea to create one lane 100m sprint tracks in public parks, for training purposes? See attached photo montage.

[Q17 (a) Submitted Image](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85660)

**REPLY:**

There is no budget allocated for the proposed facilities at present, however the proposal will be considered as part of the review of recreational amenities currently being planned throughout the county in association with Active South Dublin. The proposal may meet a need for sprint training within parks, the review can best establish if such a facility would be well used or not; and if so, where best to locate same.  Where a need is identified; suitable sites will be chosen and costs and budgets assessed and agreed.

### **Q18/0425**  **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if there are any plans to install either Padel or Pickleball courts indoor or outdoor across the county?

**REPLY:**

The council is currently considering the provision of outdoor Padel and Pickleball courts in tandem with the review of recreational amenities throughout the county in association with Active South Dublin. Suitable sites can then be identified and costs and budgets assessed and agreed.

### **Q19/0425**  **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if inspections are carried out on heat pump systems that have been installed in homes the Council is about to purchase or are being handed over from Developer?

**REPLY:**

Property inspections are completed prior to the council purchasing a property. Our mechanical inspector conducts inspections of heating systems to ensure they are fully functional, safe and meet required standards. Any works identified will be taken into consideration as part of the property acquisition process.

Prior to the completion of new build property acquisitions, the builder provides certification confirming the heat pump's commissioning adheres to manufacturer's specifications. Any post-commissioning issues will be addressed under the terms of the defect liability period.

### **Q20/0425**  **Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive how many planning applications for retention/retrospective planning applications were approved in 2024?

**REPLY:**

The following is an outline of planning applications relative to retention planning granted permission in 2024.

The total no. of applications with retention elements was 121 in 2024 and was made up as follows:

* Applications for Permission and Retention: 52
* Applications for Retention only: 69

Of these 121, 87 planning applications were granted permission (including partial grants of permissions).

### **Q21/0425**  **Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the amount owed to South Dublin County Council in terms of uncollected development levies for 2024.

**REPLY:**

The following table reflects the 2024 financial year in respect of Development Levy Invoices and Payments, noting payments received in 2024 may not be in respect of  invoices issued in 2024.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total Invoices 2024 | €     81,151,681  |   |
| General Debtor Payments 2024 |   | €   10,978,403 CR  |
| Refunds |   | €        405,605 DR  |
| Government payments for Temporary Waiver Scheme 2024 |   | €    34,471,281 CR  |
| Gross Balance |   | €    36,107,602 DR  |
| Government Payment Due for Temporary Waiver Scheme 2024 |   | €      9,131,885 CR  |
| Nett Balance |   | €     26,975,717 DR  |

### **Q22/0425**  **Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive if South Dublin County Council include specific criteria for the taking in charge process when granting a developer approval for large scale planning/multi unit applications?

**REPLY:**

Question 23 of the SDCC planning application form (regarding Supplementary Information) requests the applicant to specify whether the subject development is to be taken in charge.

Typically, a**"**Taking In Charge" map of a housing estate is submitted during planning, and this map demonstrates the areas and services which are proposed to be offered for TIC, once development is completed to standard.

This map, together with the wording of Condition 1 (See below) of the planning permission ensures clarity on post development Taking in Charge deliberations.

"*Development to be in accordance with submitted plans and details. The development shall be carried out and completed in its entirety in accordance with the plans, particulars and specifications lodged with the application, (and as amended by Further Information received on xyz), save as may be required by the other conditions attached hereto.*

*REASON: To ensure that the development shall be in accordance with the permission, and that effective control be maintained.*

The developer is required to construct the development to the South Dublin County Council Taking in Charge standards.

Post construction, and in advance of Taking In Charge resolution, "As Constructed’  drawings are submitted showing that all services, roads, footpaths, verges, open spaces, areas under management, parking areas, houses garden boundaries, site boundary etc have been constructed as permitted.

### **Q23/0425**  **Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline what steps are taken by South Dublin County Council to ensure appropriate governance and oversight is undertaken in Community Centres across the county?

**REPLY:**

The council’s community centres are managed by independent management committees, set up to manage each respective community centre under licence issued from the council. The management committees are set up and established as Companies limited Guarantee (CLG) and as such must comply with governance measures as per CRO regulations such as the holding of AGMs and the submission of annual financial accounts. The management licence issued also states that the council has the right to nominate up to a maximum of two local authority staff onto the boards of each management company. A number of centre management committees are also registered charities and in that case they must also satisfy the charity regulator on an annual basis that they have governance policies and procedures in place.

A recent review of our community development services identified the need for a revised approach to supporting boards of management in community facilities. As a result of this the community facilities support team tendered for the provision of governance training for community centres and training has been provided by Governance Ireland in the following areas:

1. Governance
2. Human Resources
3. Financial Management
4. Strategic Planning
5. Becoming a Registered Charity

Funding under the Management Support Fund is only available to community centres who have completed this governance training and only one community centre has yet to complete training. Within the Community Infrastructure Fund, guidelines are also provided to applicants, outlining governing documentation that is required in order for applications to be eligible, thus ensuring good governance is applied. We are currently working on the roll out of the next training programme that will be made available to community centre directors in quarter three of 2025.

We are also currently involved in establishing as a pilot project, a new regional management committee set up as a CLG to manage a cluster of initially three community centres in the North Clondalkin area. The new regional management committee will be tasked with the responsibility for overall management and governance of the three facilities under a management licence from the council. This pilot model will be reviewed and should it be deemed to work successfully, it may lead to the establishment of further regional models to manage other community centres across the county.

### **Q24/0425**  **Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive if developers are required to indicate to the Council during the planning process that a proposal for a development (non apartment) will have a private management structure in place?

**REPLY:**

Question 23 of the SDCC planning application form (regarding Supplementary Information) requests the applicant to specify whether the subject development is to be taken in charge or managed by a company, or a mix of the two as follows:

1. *Be Taken in Charge by the County Council*
2. *Be maintained by an Estate Management Company*
3. *In part be Taken in Charge and part maintained by an Estate Management Company*

In the case of the proposal being maintained by an Estate Management Company, or in part Taken in Charge and part maintained by an Estate Management Company, the application form indicates that particulars submitted should include a Site Layout drawing that clearly indicates the services within the estate/development (Roads, Footpaths, Car Parking Spaces, Foul/Surface Water Sewers, Watermain and Open Spaces) that would be maintained by the Estate Management Company.

### **Q25/0425**  **Councillor J. Spear**

To ask the Chief Executive to please report how many people were offered council housing while on HAP in the past five years?

**REPLY:**

Social housing applicants are placed on the housing list in order of date of application. All eligible applicants, including applicants in receipt of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) are provided with access to the Choice Based Letting scheme (CBL) which is the council’s primary method of housing allocation since October 2011 and operates on a time on list basis.

Applicants are advised to consult the council’s designated website on a weekly basis. Failure to do so may result in missing out on the availability of a suitable property that meets their assessed housing need.

The successful applicant, i.e. the applicant longest on the housing list of those who expressed an interest, will be contacted and offered the advertised property (subject to file review, income and Garda checks etc.). If an applicant has not been successful, they will not be contacted by the allocations team and will be eligible to apply for the next set of advertised properties.

The table below provides a breakdown of the number of allocations made to applicants through Choice Based Lettings for the last five years.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| CBL-General | 125 | 221 | 168 | 122 | 213 |
| CBL-HAP | 110 | 158 | 101 | 117 | 236 |

All applicants, irrespective of their HAP status, are afforded equal access to long-term social housing through the Choice Based Letting Scheme.

### **Q26/0425**  **Councillor J. Spear**

To ask the Chief Executive to please report on what is the average waiting time for people on the medical priority list (with and without HAP)?

**REPLY:**

The medical approval list operates on a time on list basis, irrespective of an applicant's HAP status, subject to the availability of suitable properties to accommodate specific medical requirements.

The following tables detail the average waiting times and number of allocations for households with medical approval for 2024, categorised by bedroom size, with and without Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) support:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Bedroom Size** | **No of Allocations (with HAP)** | **Average number of years** |
| 1 bedroom | 3 | 6.6 |
| 2 bedroom | 3 | 11.6 |
| 3 bedroom | 2 | 7.3 |
| 4 bedroom | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **8** |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Bedroom Size** | **No of Allocations (CBL)** | **Average number of years** |
| 1 bedroom | 46 | 5 |
| 2 bedroom | 43 | 4.6 |
| 3 bedroom | 27 | 6.9 |
| 4 bedroom | 6 | 9 |
| **Total** | **122** |  |

It is important to note that the majority of applicants allocated housing from the medical approval list required standard social housing, not specifically adapted properties.

### **Q27/0425 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans to appoint a dedicated Tidy Towns Liaison Person in recognition of the invaluable contribution of Tidy Towns groups to our County

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council fully recognizes and greatly appreciates the invaluable contribution of Tidy Towns groups in South Dublin county. The work carried out by these groups is essential in enhancing the environment, fostering community spirit, and promoting pride in our local areas. SDCC are fortunate to have such dedicated Tidy Towns groups within the county.

SDCC fully understand the importance of strengthening our communication and support for Tidy Towns groups. This is something we will continue to review and consider, and we are committed to ensuring that Tidy Towns receives the recognition and support it deserves within our County.

An additional staff resource has been approved for the Environmental Awareness team and will start with the council this month. This resource will further strengthen our capacity to support Tidy Towns groups and help them continue their excellent work.

### **Q28/0425 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council has he employed a sufficient number of dog wardens to monitor and impose the relevant laws, bye-laws and recommendations in the SDCC region. If not when will this situation be remedied?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council has two Dog Warden posts and currently has one vacancy within the administrative area which is undergoing a recruitment process. The Dog Warden's role is the enforcement of the Control of Dogs Act 1986 as amended.  This includes:

* responding to complaints relating to dogs not under effectual control and/or dangerous dogs
* carrying out of licence checks and the initiation of enforcement proceedings where possible
* seizure and collection of unwanted/stray dogs and removal to the dog pound.

The Dog Wardens can be contacted on 01 414 9213.

Administrative support for the Dog Warden Service is provided by 2.25 Whole Time Equivalent staff. The support provided includes (not exhaustive):

* dealing with complaints and queries from and referring to the Dog Warden where appropriate
* providing general advice to the public in relation to licencing, barking dogs
* following up on unpaid fines, and preparing files for prosecutions where appropriate
* reconciling and maintaining dog licence records

Dog Shelter facilities provided under contract with Midland Animal Care Ltd., are located at Dublin County Dog Shelter, Lyons Road, Newcastle, Co. Dublin.

In 2024, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Minister of State with Responsibility for Local Government and Planning, announced funding for local authorities to support the resourcing of dog warden services from 2025. South Dublin County Council was allocated funding of €100,000 for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025, towards supporting the employment of additional Dog Warden posts in South Dublin County Council

The funding recognises the increased demands in the area of dog control and the need to ensure resources on the ground for the Control of Dogs XL bully regulations which came into effect in October 2024. South Dublin County Council have submitted a business case to the Department of Rural and Community Development requesting an additional Dog Warden resource in response to the newly allocated funding.

### **Q29/0425 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive what effective remedies has South Dublin County Council done to find, shut down, and counteract illegal puppy farms in the SDCC area in the past two years? What were the outcomes of these efforts?

**REPLY:**

In accordance with Section 9 of the [**Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010**](https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2010/act/29/enacted/en/index.html), the operator of a Dog Breeding Establishment (DBE) must apply to the local authority responsible for the area in which it is situated for registration as a Dog Breeding Establishment.

A DBE is defined in the Act as follows:

"a premises at which bitches are kept, not less than 6 of which are-

(a) more than 6-month-old, and

(b) capable of being used for breeding purposes, .."

There are no registered DBE’s in the South Dublin Administrative Area. Establishments with fewer than 6 bitches meeting the criteria at (a) and (b) above are not required to be registered under the Act.

Commercial Boarding Kennels must also apply for registration under the Act. Commercial Boarding Kennels are defined in the Act: "…a premises (other than an animal shelter) where dogs, not owned by the occupier of the premises, are temporarily sheltered, fed and watered in consideration of the payment of a fee"

As required by the Act details of Commercial Boarding Kennels registered by South Dublin County Council are entered on the register of DBE’s maintained in accordance with Section 9 of the Act. The [**Register**](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fenvironment%2Fanimal-welfare%2Fdogs%2Fcommercial-boarding-kennels.pdf&amp;data=05%7C01%7Ctwalsh%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C5a3f0e9d0dca4b3ed14c08db09f8c1be%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638114736223814824%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C7000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=vlKDSp2ArrdzFp2XVn7jE9p1ZAhNQUt21TOfpOdshbE%3D&amp;reserved=0) is available to view here and on the Council's website.

While SDCC is not directly responsible for the regulation of puppy farms, we do play an active role in supporting efforts to tackle this issue. We regularly provide assistance to An Garda Síochána (AGS) and the DSPCA, collaborating with them to ensure the welfare of animals and address any concerns related to puppy farms in our area. Our commitment to working alongside these organizations reflects our dedication to animal welfare and to ensuring that any concerns are promptly addressed.

Our actions have contributed to increased awareness of the issue and have supported ongoing efforts to monitor and tackle this activity. We remain committed to continuing to monitor and investigate this activity and as always the Council appreciate any information you may have on illegal DBE’s and would encourage all members of the public to share any relevant knowledge with our Enforcement and Licensing section by phone 01 4149213 or email **enflic@sdublincoco.ie** / **dwarden@sdublincoco.ie**

South Dublin County Council actively work to raise awareness with dog owners and potential dog owners in relation to the advertising of dogs and other animals for sale on social media platforms.

We regularly advertise information provided by the Department to help raise awareness and to encourage potential new owners to be vigilant. This information can be found here [gov.ie - Responsible Dog Ownership](https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/1a517-responsible-dog-ownership/?referrer=https://www.gov.ie/dogs/&amp;gad_source=1&amp;gclid=Cj0KCQjwna6_BhCbARIsALId2Z1Db5HN2m0W-XSYV6Mydp2bnQ9GIgiYyXI6q4HxjdezcZAuKWXyAnEaAiQSEALw_wcB)

We continue to monitor this issue closely and are committed to supporting efforts that protect the well-being of animals through regular contact with the DSPCA on animal welfare issues.

### **Q30/0425 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a report on Japanese Knotweed that answers what the current position is with Japanese Knotweed in the South Dublin County Council area - how prevalent is it, what treatment is the Council using to eradicate it, and who is responsible for it?

**REPLY:**

The relevant legislation in relation to the control of Japanese Knotweed and other alien invasive species is the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (SI 477 of 2011).  Under Regulation 49(2) of those regulations any person who plants, disperses, allows or causes to disperse, spreads or otherwise causes to grow Japanese knotweed or any of the other invasive plants listed in the Third Schedule of S.I. No. 477 of 2011 is guilty of an offence.  Furthermore Sections 52(7) and (8) of the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended make it an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in a wild state exotic species of plants.

Local authorities have no direct enforcement role in relation to invasive alien species.  The National Parks and Wildlife Service is the primary regulatory and enforcement authority.  Local Authorities as landowners have the same responsibilities as other landowners to comply with the relevant legislation.

In this regard South Dublin County Council commenced a programme in 2017 to survey, map and treat all invasive alien species in the County.  To date approximately 300 sites have been identified and these are treated on an annual basis and also surveyed and mapped on an annual basis to record the effectiveness of the treatment programme.   The treatment involves the application of glyphosate based herbicide using knapsack sprayer where suitable, and by stem injection where the herbicide is to be applied in a sensitive area such as close to a riverbank.

### **Q31/0425 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on HAP to explain any effects in access to long-term council housing, including how many people in receipt of HAP were offered council housing in the past two years.

**REPLY:**

Social housing applicants are placed on the housing list in order of date of application. All eligible applicants, including applicants in receipt of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) are provided with access to the Choice Based Letting scheme (CBL) which is the council’s primary method of housing allocation since October 2011 and operates on a time on list basis.

Applicants are advised to consult the council’s designated website on a weekly basis. Failure to do so may result in missing out on the availability of a suitable property that meets their assessed housing need.

The successful applicant, i.e. the applicant longest on the housing list of those who expressed an interest, will be contacted and offered the advertised property (subject to file review, income and Garda checks etc.). If an applicant has not been successful, they will not be contacted by the allocations team and will be eligible to apply for the next set of advertised properties.

The table below provides a breakdown of the number of allocations made to applicants through Choice Based Lettings for the last two years.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocations** | **CBL- Gen** | **CBL–HAP transfer list** |
| **2023** | 122 | 117 |
| **2024** | 213 | 236 |

The information provided clearly demonstrates that all applicants are afforded equal access to long-term social housing irrespective of their HAP status.

### **Q32/0425 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the average waiting time for people on the medical priority list in receipt of HAP.

**REPLY:**

The medical approval list operates on a time on list basis, irrespective of an applicants HAP status, subject to the availability of suitable properties to accommodate specific medical requirements.

The following tables detail the average waiting times and number of allocations for households with medical approval for 2024, categorised by bedroom size, with and without Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) support:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Bedroom Size** | **No of Allocations (HAP)** | **Average number of years** |
| 1 bedroom | 3 | 6.6 |
| 2 bedroom | 3 | 11.6 |
| 3 bedroom | 2 | 7.3 |
| 4 bedroom | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **8** |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Bedroom Size** | **No of Allocations (CBL)** | **Average number of years** |
| 1 bedroom | 46 | 5 |
| 2 bedroom | 43 | 4.6 |
| 3 bedroom | 27 | 6.9 |
| 4 bedroom | 6 | 9 |
| **Total** | **122** |  |

It is important to note that the majority of applicants allocated housing from the medical approval list required standard social housing, not specifically adapted properties.

### **Q33/0425 Councillor Joanna Tuffy**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on this 'Overarching Objective' in the County Development Plan "To collaboratively investigate with Kildare County Council the benefits of providing a greenbelt or green space between the growing settlements within South Dublin County and Kildare County Councils within the lifetime of the Development Plan (page 176 Chapter 4 'Green Infrastructure')

**REPLY:**

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 includes an objective to liaise with Kildare County Council and investigate the benefits of a greenbelt or green space between their respective growing settlements, in particular between Lucan, Adamstown, Leixlip and Celbridge.

At the time of the preparation of the current CDP, South Dublin liaised with KCC Planning Department and agreed that each county would include a reciprocal objective around investigating the need for a green space / greenbelt between the settlements in the two counties. To this end, the Kildare County Development Plan also includes an objective to mirror that of South Dublin.

The Planning Department contacted Kildare in 2024 but at that time Kildare indicated that they were working on a number of Local Area Plans and did not have the resources to undertake further work. As a result, South Dublin has delayed progressing this piece of work but will liaise with Kildare over the coming weeks to ascertain their position. In any event, South Dublin will progress this investigation as part of the wider assessment of all zoning and needs as part of the preparation of the next County Development Plan.

### **Q34/0425 Councillor Joanna Tuffy**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on any funding it has applied for since January 2023 to the European Union under its programmes aimed at the Environment and Climate Change. Report to include any plans the Environment, Water and Climate Change department of the Council has to explore applying for funding or resources under current programmes e.g LIFE Programme.

**REPLY:**

The South Dublin County Council actively examines all avenues of collaboration and funding sources to help improve and expand delivery of services through research and innovation. To this end the council has utilised a number of EU funding programmes including Horizon 2020, Interreg Europe, Interreg NEW, and LIFE, to develop climate related programmes to assist the council achieve its climate action targets, whilst sharing our learnings to the wider community.

Previous projects most notable included

* **HeatNet – Interreg North-West Europe**

The project promoted the roll-out of advanced form of district heating (DH), known as 4th Generation District Heating and Cooling, across North-West Europe. South Dublin County Council successfully delivered the Tallaght District heating system through supports from Interreg. Trading as Heatworks, Ireland’s first publicly owned, not-for-profit energy company, is now providing low-carbon heat to public buildings in the area. The network uses excess heat from Amazon Web Services’ (AWS) data centre to provide low carbon heat to the network customers. The development of this innovative, low-carbon initiative was led by SDCC with the assistance of its energy agency, Codema.

* **Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE – LIFE Programme**

The aim of the project is to improve water quality of urban streams and rivers by resolving pollution from domestic misconnections.  The project uses a combination of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) desktop mapping, Apps and field data collected by project staff to find houses most likely to have a misconnection. The project provided for the construction of integrated constructed wetlands to treated polluted storm water before it enters local rivers. The project is in the final reporting phase and was a collaboration between South Dublin County Council as project lead, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, and the EU LIFE Programme.

The following is a list of EU funded projects and studies which South Dublin County Council are currently delivering

* **RODEO - Interreg NWE funded project**

This is an Interreg NWE funded project. The overall aim of the project is to look at the pathways to extended existing district heating systems to the residential sector and how this can be achieved with multiple stakeholders. Codema and South Dublin are full partners in the project, and we will use the Tallaght District heating scheme as the pilot to assess the economic, technical and social options for extending the network. There are opportunities for site visit to the European partners and to learn from more experienced EU countries about extending district heating networks.

* **DeliveREE - Horizon2020 funded project**

This is a Horizon2020 funded project that aims to establish a project implementation unit (PIU) within Codema. The PIU allows for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to be developed and procured in a much more efficient manner, and also to be amalgamated into larger parcels to aid procurement and investment. These projects will use the energy performance contracting (EPC) method in order to, both ensure high quality and monitored works, but also leverage investment from the private sector. These types of contracts also offer substantially bigger energy and euro savings compared to traditional contracts. Between the four Dublin local authorities and four ‘Mid East’ local authorities (Kildare, Meath, Louth and Wicklow), there is a project pipeline of €20.4m. South Dublin County Council are a partner along with the three other Dublin local authorities, with Codema as the lead partner. At present there is several SDCC buildings in the procurement stage for energy and renewable works using the EPC method.

* **REEF - Interreg Europe funded project**

This is an Interreg Europe funded project, with Codema as a full partner and South Dublin County Council as an associate partner. The 2023 Energy Efficiency Directive (2023 EED) integrates the concept of Energy Efficiency First (EE1st). It requires policymakers to evaluate benefits of reducing energy consumption, instead of focusing on supply-side resources (Renewables). With limited time to meet 2030 EU Green Deal targets, policy makers must encourage measures that limit energy production to what is needed and reduce/manage energy demand. Implementation of the EE1st principle is urgent, but not simple. The 2023 EED sets requirements for national level. Yet, there is also a role for regional and local policy makers. Local and regional authorities need long-term foresight mechanisms to implement EE1st in climate / green growth planning cycles. The overall aim is to improve delivery of a technical, business, community and organisational plan to achieve decarbonising zone goals, in coherence with the Energy Efficiency First (EE1st) principle. This will be tested in the Clondalkin decarbonising zone.

* **Multiroofs - Interreg NWE funded project**

This is an Interreg NWE funded project. Space on rooftops can be used as a sustainable solution that increases resilience and improves the livelihood of its communities. We can distinguish several type of roofs: 'yellow roofs' produce renewable energy, 'green roofs' lower temperatures, add biodiversity and improve air quality; 'blue roofs' equip cities and water bodies to combat pollution and mitigate the effects of extreme weather; 'purple roofs' add space for living and working, 'red roofs' for meeting spaces and sports, 'orange roofs' for transportation; and 'grey roofs' for utilities. Combining functions create 'golden combinations', in which positive effects are amplified. The project will develop strategies, implement pilot actions in Dublin and deliver capacity building programs by developing (1) a digital twin tool for public authorities to determine what is desirable on rooftops, (2) approaches to identify property owners that are susceptible to utilise their roofs multifunctionally and (3) financial incentives to influence property owners to utilise their rooftops multifunctionally.

### **Q35/0425 Councillor Joanna Tuffy**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on any funding it has applied for since January 2023 to the European Union under its programmes aimed at sustainable transport. Report to include any plans the LUPT department of the Council has to explore applying for funding or resources under current programmes e.g Civitas Programme.

**REPLY:**

in recent years, South Dublin County Council has been extremely successful in applications for funding allocations from the National Transport Authority (NTA). The NTA provided €15.5M in 2022, €22.1M in 2023, €22.3M in 2024 and has provided an allocation of €21.5M in 2025. These allocations are used to deliver the ambitious Cycle South Dublin programme across the county. The SDCC Active Travel team has developed a high level of expertise in complying with the NTA reporting and auditing requirements and, they efficiently manage the funding drawdowns, the timelines of which are reliable and predictable.

Additional funding from EU on programmes aimed at sustainable transport have not been pursued.

### **Q36/0425 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive if funding for the Rightsizing scheme has been released for 2025 by Central Government?

**REPLY:**

The Programme for Government 2025, details practical housing options for positive ageing including:

* Mandating local authorities to find suitable sites for housing specifically designed for older adults, ensuring accessible options within local communities
* Reviewing and standardise the older persons housing financial contribution scheme.
* Supporting AHBs in developing and managing senior housing with onsite support services, fostering safe, supportive communities

The council has funding approval from the DHLGH for the following age friendly housing developments in the county:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| St Aongus Green | Tallaght Central | 12 homes |
| Sarsfield Park | Lucan | 5 homes |
| Alpine Heights | Clondalkin | 13 homes |
| Deansrath/Melrose | Clondalkin | 27 homes |
| St Ronan's Crescent | Palmerstown/Fonthill | 9 homes |
| Pearse Brothers Park | Firhouse/Bohernabreena | 10 homes |

In addition, Approved Housing Bodies have CALF funding for age friendly homes in developments which are currently under construction at Stoneview and Whitehall Road in Templeogue/Rathfarnham and Somerton in Lucan.

The council has a rightsizing policy which provides for the allocation of age friendly homes to people aged 55 or older through the housing list, transfers (existing tenants rightsizing) or the community list (financial contribution for private homeowners rightsizing). It is intended that 50% of homes in new age friendly housing developments will be used for rightsizing, with priority for tenants transferring from local areas, and one in five rightsizing opportunities will be available to private homeowners through the community list. For inclusion on the community list, the homeowner must agree that the council will either purchase their existing home at a discount or accept a financial contribution from the net proceeds of the sale of the property depending on the homeowner’s age.

Further information on our financial contribution scheme is available [in our age friendly housing information booklet](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/age-friendly-housing-and-rightsizing/101761-sdcc-age-friendly-housing-information-a5-booklet-hr.pdf).

### **Q37/0425 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive if there are currently any potential tenant in situ purchases being delayed as a result of guidance not being issued on the new revised scheme from the Minister for Housing?

**REPLY:**

The Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage (DHLGH) has recently advised the Council of our funding allocation for an acquisitions programme to purchase second-hand homes for social housing in 2025. The allocation for South Dublin is €25 million, representing approximately 7.7% of the total national funding for acquisitions. This funding applies only to the following priority categories of need:

* Tenancy sustainment/tenant in situ
* Exits from homeless services
* People with a disability and older persons requiring urgent housing responses
* Buy and renew acquisitions to address vacancy

The DHLGH guidance on the acquisitions programme includes the following criteria for acquisitions supporting tenancy sustainment: For registered tenancies that have been subject to social housing support payments for a continuous period of at least two years, with a valid notice of termination, where the local authority has been unable to engage with the landlord to maintain the existing tenancy, or where an alternative Council/AHB tenancy or private rented accommodation cannot be secured, acquisition should be considered only as a last resort. Additionally, priority should be given to families with children, older persons, or people with disabilities who are at serious risk of homelessness. Similarly, where funding is used to support exits from homeless services, DHLGH advises that priority should be given to families who have spent more than 24 months in emergency accommodation, single people, especially those identified for Housing First, large families and care leavers. We will now review our current and potential commitments for acquisitions to determine our remaining scope to support acquisitions in line with DHLGH criteria, funding, and guidance for the 2025 acquisitions programme.

### **H7/0425 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H8/0425 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. J. Frehill, Director for Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development and were **CONSIDERED.**

1. Disposal of fee simple in 38 Rathlawns, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin.

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor W. Carey and **RESOLVED:**

That, the disposal of fee simple in 38 Rathlawns, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**

### **H9/0425 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT & CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT - FOR NOTING**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive and were **CONSIDERED.**

[HI 9 (a) Chief Executive's Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85937)
[HI 9(b) Statistics Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85938)
[HI-9 (c) Finance Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85823)
[HI-9 (d) Capital Project Progress Report - April 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85941)

The reports were **NOTED**.

### **H10/0425 TALLAGHT TOWN CENTRE LOCAL AREA PLAN EXTENSION – FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. E. Burke, Director for Land Use, Planning and Transportation, and was **CONSIDERED**

[HI-10 Tallaght LAP Extension Presentation](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85924)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors B. Lawlor, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, Y. Collins and M. Duff with queries raised in relation to rezoning, URDF Funding and enhancing private property areas.

Mr. E. Burke, Director for Land Use, Planning and Transport responded to the members queries.

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor Y. Collins and **AGREED:**

**“**That this Council approve the procedure to defer the sending of a notice under section 20(3)(a)(i) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), that is, notices for making, amending or revoking the Local Area Plans in accordance with Section 19(1)(d) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) for the Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan for a further period, up to the expiry of the current South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028.**”**

### **H11/0425 RAISING OF LOANS FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED HOUSING - FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Director for Finance and was **CONSIDERED**

**Report:**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has provided a Capital Allocation for Publicly Funded Housing Loans in the sum of €12,450,000.

The County Council is empowered to borrow from the Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of carrying out its functions under the Housing Acts.

Approval is now sought for authority to raise loans to a limit of €12,450,000 from the Housing Finance Agency plc for the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) and Local Authority Purchase and Renovation (LAPR) schemes.

Councillor J. Sinnott raised a query in relation to funding.

Mr. R. FitzGerald, Director for Finance, responded to the Member’s query.

It was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **AGREED** that loans to a limit of €12,450,000 from the Housing Finance Agency plc for the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) and Local Authority Purchase and Renovation (LAPR) schemes, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**

### **H12/0425 ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - FOR APPROVAL**

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

[HI-12 Annual Report 2024](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85940)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson, J. Spear, B. Lawlor, L. O’Toole and F. Timmons with queries raised in relation to staffing levels, job security, provision of a finance and governance SPC and recruitment.

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

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor J. Sinnott and **RESOLVED**:

“That the 2024 Annual Report be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**”.

### **H13/0425 LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP COUNCILLOR NOMINEES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**REPORT:**

**LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - COUNCILLOR NOMINEES**

The new Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024, once enacted, will require each local authority to establish a Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP). This initiative is a significant step in strengthening collaboration between residents, community representatives, business interests, Councillors, Local Authorities, and State services such as An Garda Síochána, Tusla, and the HSE in the development and implementation of a Local Community Safety Plan.

The National Office for Community Safety (NOSC) has recently confirmed that the regulations and guidelines for LCSPs remain under review and will not be released until the Community Safety legislation is formally enacted.

However, in preparation for the implementation of the Local Community Safety Partnerships, the NOSC has requested that each Local Authority seek the nomination of Elected Members to represent the electoral areas of the county on the LCSP. These representatives will play a crucial role in identifying and addressing local community safety priorities, ensuring that the voices of individuals, families, young people, business owners, and all community members are heard. The LCSP will work collaboratively to develop and implement a tailored community safety plan that aligns with the specific needs of our local communities.

Seven (7) nominees are sought, so there should be one nomination for each LEA to ensure geographical distribution. Gender and political balance is also requested to be observed.

At the March meeting of the Organisation Procedure and Finance Committee (OP&F) it was decided to bring to the next meeting of the Council, this is now before the Members for consideration.

Councillor E. Murphy proposed, and Councillor B. Lawlor seconded the following Members for the Local Community Safety Partnership:

Councillor C. Brady – Lucan
Councillor M. Johansson – Palmerstown Fonthill
Councillor P. Kearns – Rathfarnham Templeogue
Councillor M. Duff – Tallaght Central
Councillor L. Dunne – Tallaght South
Councillor E. Ó Broin – Clondalkin
Councillor E. Murphy – Firhouse Bohernabreena

The nominations were **AGREED**.

### **H14/0425 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT - FOR NOTING & APPROVAL**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. R. FitzGerald, Director for Finance and were **CONSIDERED**

[HI-14 (a) Unaudited 2024 Annual Financial Statement - For Noting](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85787)
[HI-14 (b) Approval of Transfers - For Approval](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85843)
[HI-14 (c) Over Expenditure - For Approval](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85850)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Sinnott and E. Ó Broin with queries raised in relation to Government debtors, transfers to reserves and LPT.

Mr. R. FitzGerald, Director for Finance, responded to the Members queries.

1. The Annual Financial Statement for 2024 was **NOTED**.
2. The Approval of Transfers report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor J. Sinnott and **RESOLVED**:

“That, the County Council Approves of the transfer of reserves of the sums provided for various capital purposes in the Annual Financial Statement 2024 as noted for the financial year ending on 31st of December 2024.”

1. The Over Expenditure report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor Baby Pereppadan, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns and **RESOLVED**:

“That, in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, the additional expenditure not provided in the 2024 budget as outlined in the table attached be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

**H15/0425 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT AND CCAP 2025 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - FOR NOTING**The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Water and Climate Change and was **CONSIDERED**

[HI-15 (a) 2024 CAP Annual Progress Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85851)
[HI-15 (b) 2025 CAP Implementation Plan](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85852)
[HI-15 (c) CAP Annual Progress Report 2024 Presentation](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85879)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Tuffy, P. Kearns, A. Edge, P. Cosgrave, S. O’Hara, H. Farrell, D. Adelaide, L. de Courcy, J. Spear, L. O’Toole, M. Johansson and P. Holohan. Queries were raised in relation to sustainable transport, LED Lighting, Biodiversity practices, HVO, drinking stations, Public EV charging points, Bio Diesel, cycle lane Connections and Retrofitting.

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

The reports were **NOTED**.

### **H16/0425 COMMUNITY & SPORTS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS - FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. E. Leech, Director for Housing and Community Development and was **CONDSIDERED.**

**REPORT:**

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

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

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

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

Following the assessment process and having regard to the available budget **68** grants totalling **€106,180.09** were approved for **60** local groups summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **No:** | **Amount** |
| Community Development Grants | 26 | €42,870.09 |
| Community Events Funding | 12 | €25,695.00 |
| Sports Development Grants | 30 | €37,615.00 |
| **Total** | **68** | **€106,180.09** |

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Group** | **Funding Category Applied For** | **Sub-Category of Grant** | **Amount** |
| 112th Knocklyon Scouts | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| 112th Knocklyon Scouts | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment | €4000.00 |
| 142nd Esker Scouts | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Bawnogue Youth and Community Centre | Community Development Grant | Community Centre IT | €1000.00 |
| Brittas Community Association Limited | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €2000.00 |
| Brittas Community Association Limited | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Burgage Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Start Up Costs | €500.00 |
| Gaelphobal Thamhlacta | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment | €5000.00 |
| Kilcronan Resident Association | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1200.00 |
| Neart le Chéile - Cumas agus Cairdeas | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment | €3834.98 |
| Orwell Park Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement | €500.00 |
| Orwell Park Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Palmerstown Camera Club | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Quarryvale Community and Leisure Centre | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment | €4500.00 |
| Quarryvale Family Resource Centre | Community Development Grant | Community Centre IT | €1000.00 |
| Ronanstown Womens Community Development Project | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1500.00 |
| Saggart Village Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Shelton & Dangan Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €680.00 |
| Shelton & Dangan Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement | €500.00 |
| Tallaght Bridge Club | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Templeogue Community Men Shed | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €2000.00 |
| Templeogue Community Men Shed | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| The Firhouse Singers | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €750.00 |
| The WEB Project | Community Development Grant | Community Centre IT | €5000.00 |
| Westbourne Community Group | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €610.11 |
| Woodview Heights Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €295.00 |
| Clondalkin Travellers Development Group | Community Events Funding | Age Friendly Bealtaine Event | €525.00 |
| Cypress Residents Association | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €1750.00 |
| Firhouse Active Age Group | Community Events Funding | Age Friendly Bealtaine Event | €390.00 |
| Gaelphobal Thamhlacta | Community Events Funding | Age Friendly Bealtaine Event | €720.00 |
| Hermitage Residents Association | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €500.00 |
| IACI - Integration of All Children In Ireland | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €4000.00 |
| Kilcronan Residents Association | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €1500.00 |
| Lucan St. Patrick's Day Committee | Community Events Funding | St. Patrick's Day Parade / Celebration | €10,000.00 |
| Neighbourhood Network South Dublin | Community Events Funding | Community Festival | €3500.00 |
| North Clondalkin Community Safety Programme |  Community Events Funding | Easter Community Celebration | €1510.00 |
| Shelton & Dangan Residents Association | Community Events Funding | Christmas Community Celebration | €300.00 |
| Womens Collective Ireland (WCI) - Clondalkin Women's Network |  Community Events Funding | Age Friendly Bealtaine Event | €1000.00 |
| An Garda Síochana | Sports Development Grants | Programme Delivery | €500.00 |
| Ballyroan Bowling Club | Sports Development Grants | Programme Delivery | €500.00 |
| Citywest Badminton Club | Sports Development Grants | Coach Training | €500.00 |
| Citywest Basketball Club | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €600.00 |
| Divine Mercy J.N.S. | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €1400.00 |
| Dublin Lions Basketball Club | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €2000.00 |
| Firhouse Carmel FC | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €1000.00 |
| Foróige Tallaght Youth Services | Sports Development Grants | Programme Delivery | €450.00 |
| Glenanne Hockey Club | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €600.00 |
| Glenasmole Community Association | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €3000.00 |
| Jobstown Community & Youth Centre | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €600.00 |
| Kishoge Community College | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €3250.00 |
| LJays Elite Martial Arts | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €2500.00 |
| Lucan CNS | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €1500.00 |
| Neilstown Boxing Youth Club | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €5000.00 |
| Relay for Life South Dublin | Sports Development Grants | Programme Delivery | €1000.00 |
| Rowlagh Majorettes | Sports Development Grants | Programme Delivery | €1100.00 |
| Sancta Maria College | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €400.00 |
| Scoil Aoife Community CNS | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €750.00 |
| Scoil Nano Nagle | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €2000.00 |
| Sensory Fun with Friends | Sports Development Grants | Programme Delivery | €500.00 |
| St Andrew's N.S. | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €400.00 |
| St Brigid's J.N.S | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €1750.00 |
| St Cillian's NS | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €500.00 |
| St Colmcille's JNS | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €325.00 |
| St Joseph's BNS | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €1000.00 |
| St Mark’s GAA Club | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €2000.00 |
| St Mary's J.N.S. | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €840.00 |
| St. Patrick's GAA Club | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €950.00 |
| Tallaght Community National School | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €700.00 |

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

### **C1/0425 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Replies**

**Acknowledgements**

**Correspondence**

[(a) Donegal County Council motion regarding dog control](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85599)
[(b) Sligo County Council Motion regarding school places for children with additional needs.](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85878)
[(c) Sligo County Council Motion regarding gender-based violence.](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85877)
[(d) Clare County Council Motion on Early Years education funding](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85601)
[(e)(ii) Action Plan and Quarterly Update from Minister for Children, Equality and Disability](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/85783)

The correspondence was **NOTED**.

**MOTIONS**

### **M1/0425 Ethical Procurement Policy**

Proposed by Councillor L. Dunne seconded by Councillor N. Whelan

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

**REPORT:**

Procurement in South Dublin County Council is governed by European Union Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU (as implemented by Irish Regulations SI 284 of May 2016) and Public Procurement guidelines published the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform.

Through its Equality and Human Rights Duty Working Group, the Council will examine how an Ethical Procurement Policy can be incorporated into current processes.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. Dunne and B. Lawlor.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M2/0425 INMO**

Proposed by Councillor D. Adelaide seconded by Councillor J. Spear.

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

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Department of the Taoiseach and the President of the INMO. The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor M. Johansson, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

That this Council writes to the Taoiseach, and the Presidents of the INMO***, Fórsa, Unite, Connect and MLSA*** ***endorsing healthcare workers*** who have voted overwhelmingly to take industrial action in response to unsafe staffing levels.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Adelaide M. Johansson, M. Duff, J. Spear, P. Holohan, V. Casserly, K. Keane, L. Dunne, W. Carey, R. Mannion, E. Murphy, P. Kearns, B. Lawlor and J. Tuffy.

A Roll Call Vote was called for in the names of Councillors B. Lawlor, S. O’Hara and S. Barnes the result of which is as follows:-

**FOR: 28 (TWENTY-EIGHT)**

**Councillors D. Adelaide, W. Carey, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, L. de Courcy, D. Donnelly, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, H. Farrell, N. Fennell, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, M. Johansson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, G. Moore, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, D. Richardson, J. Sheehy, J. Sinnott, A. Smyth, J. Spear, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy and N. Whelan.**

**AGAINST: 0 (ZERO)**

**ABSTAIN: 4 (FOUR)**

**Councillors S. Barnes, B. Lawlor, S. O’Hara and Baby Pereppadan.**

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

### **M3/0425 Building Contractors Awarding**

Proposed by Councillor L. de Courcy seconded by Councillor L. Dunne.

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

**REPORT:**

When evaluating tenders, South Dublin County Council must follow Article 57 of Directive 2014/24/EU. This rule allows the council to exclude tenderers for past misconduct if the decision is fair and follows proper procedures.

Tenderers must fill out a self-declaration form covering mandatory exclusion grounds such as criminal convictions, tax and social security obligations, insolvency, conflicts of interest, or professional misconduct. They must also declare compliance with environmental, social, and labour laws.

At any point in the procurement process, tenderers can provide evidence showing they are reliable despite any grounds for exclusion. If this evidence is deemed sufficient, the tenderer will not be excluded.

Tenderers must also submit examples of similar past projects and references. The selection criteria must be fair and directly related to the contract. Irrelevant actions or behaviours cannot be considered. According to Article 58 of Directive 2014/24/EU, the selection is based on the tenderer's technical and professional ability.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. de Courcy, J. Sinnott, P. Holohan, E. Ó Broin, Y. Collins, L. Dunne, A. Edge, W. Carey, P. Kearns and L. O’Toole. A query was raised on adherence to with procurement law.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director for Corporate Performance and Change Management addressed the Members.

The motion was **AGREED**.

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

**Motions Not Reached:**

### **M4/0425 Intrusive Behaviour of Foxes**

Councillor W. Carey

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

### **M5/0425 Housing Unit Allocation**

Councillor K. Keane

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

### **M6/0425 Small Playgrounds**

Councillor E. Ó Broin

This Council agrees to create a programme for the installation of small playgrounds in

### **M7/0425 Valid Notice To Quit**

Councillor J. Spear

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

### **M8/0425 Exercise Machines**

Councillor N. Fennell

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

### **M9/0425 EV Charging**

Councillor C. Brady

That this council calls on the Chief Executive to accelerate the delivery of EV charging infrastructure for all new apartment developments across the county where residents have no access to direct frontage.

### **M10/0425 Assisting HSE Advertisement Campaigns**

Councillor G. Moore

That this Council agrees to promote and assist the HSE's advertisement campaigns around sexuality transmitted infections specifically promoting free home STI testing kits to help divert the weight off clinics and hospitals. "You, Me and HIV" and "Just Carry One" are examples of their ongoing efforts and initiatives

### **M11/0425 Hormone Replacement Therapy**

Councillor L. O'Toole

This Council calls on the Minister for Health to immediately establish a reimbursement system for all Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) costs incurred since January 2025. The Government must honour its commitment and ensure women receive the financial relief they were promised in the Budget 2024.

### **M12/0425 Solid Fuel Stoves**

Councillor D. Donnelly

That this Council writes to the Minister for Housing seeking to come up with a solution or grant to allow people to install a solid fuel stove, upgrade their fireplace to avail of a back boiler stove, or even an open fire.

### **M13/0425 Insurance for Community Groups**

Councillor B. Lawlor

That South Dublin County Council, in association with the Department of Housing and Local Government and Planning, put in place a system of covering insurance for Tidy Towns, Men's Sheds & community groups through our public bodies insurer IPB.

### **M14/0425 Citizens Assembly**

Councillor N. Whelan

This Council calls on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Irish Government to plan and prepare for Irish unity by establishing an all-island Citizens' Assembly and a Joint Oireachtas Committee on Irish Unity, with a view to producing a plan toward unity and working to secure a date for the referendums provided for in the Good Friday Agreement.

### **M15/0425 Market Disruption Plans**

Councillor H. Farrell

This Council agrees to undertake a review of the preparedness of current South Dublin County Council plans and policies to potential market disruptions to businesses in the county. The review should identify existing support mechanisms available to businesses and determine any additional resources that may be required by SDCC to assist businesses during future periods of economic instability.

### **M16/0425 Trade Union Recognition**

Councillor M. Johansson

That the elected members of this council call on the Chief Executive to recognise all trade unions that staff choose to join, including in instances where staff have left one union and joined another while in the same job.

### **M17/0425 Tenant In Situ Scheme**

Councillor R. Mannion

This Council calls on the Department of Housing to reverse any reductions in funding or targets for the Tenant-in-Situ scheme, as well as the introduction of restrictions that will force more people into homelessness.