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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council June 2025 County Council Meeting held on Monday 9 June 2025

### **PRESENT**

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

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | C. Ward. |
| Directors | J. Frehill, E. Burke, T. Walsh, E. Leech, L. Maxwell, R. Fitzgerald. |
| Head of IT | T. Kavanagh |
| County Architect | C. Harte |
| Senior Executive Officer | E. Clancy |
| A/Senior Executive Officer | B. Shannon |
| Senior Executive Planner | S. Geoghegan |
| Administrative Officer | M. Reilly |
| 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 D. Adelaide and N. Fennell.

**WEBCASTING NOTICE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **H1/0625 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the May Council Meeting held on 12th May 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.

[May 2025 Council Minutes](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86452)

The Mayor, Councillor Baby Pereppadan proposed, and the Members **AGREED** to vary the sequence of items on the agenda in order to take Headed Item no. 12 **(H12**) next and welcomed Ms. Trish Nolan, Chairperson of the Local Community Development Committee to the meeting.

### **H12/0625 LCDC 2024 ANNUAL REPORT - FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. Tricia Nolan, Chairperson of the Local Community Development Committee and was **CONSIDERED.**

[HI-12(a) LCDC 2024 Draft Annual Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86441)
[HI-12(b) LCDC 2024 Presentation](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86474)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Sinnott and C. Brady who commended the report and raised queries on literacy, engagement with ETB, and accessibility for the elderly.

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

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H2/0625 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

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

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

**b) Clondalkin Area Committee**

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

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

**c) Tallaght Area Committee**

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

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

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

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

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

### **H3/0625 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/86389)

**(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 March 2025**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** |
| AILG May Training Module  | AILG  | Radisson Blu Hotel, SligoRose Hotel, Tralee | 22 May 202524 May 2025 |
| AILG June Training Module  | AILG  | Radisson Blu CorkHillgrove Hotel, Monaghan | 19 June 202521 June 2025 |

**Training Confirmed Attended Since March 2025**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** | **Councillors in Attendance** |
|   |   |   |   |   |

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 March 2025**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Location** | **Date** |
| None |   |   |   |

**Conferences Confirmed Attended Since March 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.

**(c) Filling of Vacancies on Committees/Statutory Bodies**

Following the election of former Councillor Teresa Costello to Seanad Eireann, vacancies exist on the following committees and statutory bodies:

* **Housing SPC**
* **Civic Theatre Committee**
* **Dublin Bus Luas Community Forum**
* **LTACC**
* **Regional Health Forum**
* **Inter Local Authority Committee on Fire and Ambulance Services and Emergency  Management**

At the May meeting of the OP&F, Councillor E. Murphy nominated **Councillor A. Smyth** to the following committees:

* **Housing SPC**
* **Civic Theatre Committee**
* **Dublin Bus Luas Community Forum**
* **LTACC**
* **Inter Local Authority Committee on Fire and Ambulance Services and Emergency  Management**

Councillor E. Murphy nominated **Councillor J. Sheehy** for the following committee:

* **Regional Health Forum**

The nominations were seconded by Councillor B. Lawlor and **AGREED**.

This is now before full Council for final approval.

**(d) Review of Standing Order in relation to the Chief Executive's Monthly Report**

At the Organisation, Procedure and Finance (OP&F) Committee meeting held on 21st November 2024, the members agreed that the Chief Executive's Report to Council meetings would be for noting only and that any queries the Members had could be emailed to the Chief Executive. It was also agreed that this would be reviewed at the May 2025 OP&F.

Standing Order22(i), Business submitted by the Chief Executive, was amended to reflect the above.

Following discussion and a roll call vote at the May 2025 OP&F meeting, it was **AGREED** that the Chief Executive's Report to Council meetings would continue to be for noting only, and that any queries the Members have may be emailed to the Chief Executive.

This is now before full Council for final approval.

The reports were **APPROVED** on the proposition of Councillor Baby Pereppadan and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **AGREED**.

### **H4/0625 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

[HI-4(a) (i) Report of Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC Meeting held on 7th May 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86465)
[HI-4(a) (ii) Minutes of Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC Meeting held on 5th February 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86466)

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

[HI-4(b) (i) Report of Environment, Public Realm Climate Change Meeting held on 6th May 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86419)
[HI-4(b)(ii) Minutes of Environment, Public Realm Climate Change SPC Meeting 4th Feb 2025.](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86418)

**c) Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism SPC**

[HI-4(c) (i) Report of Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism SPC Meeting 14-5-25](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86476)
[HI-4(c)(ii) Minutes of Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism SPC Meeting 14-2-24](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86477)

**d) Housing SPC**

[HI-4(d) (i) Report of the Housing SPC held 8th May 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86472)
[HI-4(d) (ii) Minutes of Housing SPC held 13th February 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86433)

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

[HI-4(e) (i) Report of the Social, Community Equality and Integration SPC held 14th May 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86493)
[HI-4(e) (ii) Minutes of the Social, Community Equality and Integration SPC held 12th February 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86494)

**f) Land Use, Planning & Transportation SPC**

[HI-4(f) (i) Report of Land Use Planning and Transport SPC](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86520)
[HI-4(f) (ii) Minutes of Land Use Planning and Transport SPC held on 13th March 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86463)

The reports were **NOTED.**

### **H5/0625 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 P. Kearns and **RESOLVED**:

### “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q27 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED”**

### **Q1/0625 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive where the proposed areas are for future Cost Rental Apartments broken down by LEA, and expected timeframes.

**REPLY:**

The following table contains details of all approved Cost Rental Developments for delivery in the South Dublin County Council administrative area for the period 2025 - 2027:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Development  | Proposer | Number of homes | Estimate Date of Delivery   | LEA |
| Innovation Square, Belgard Square North | SDCC | 133 | Q1.2025 | Tallaght Central |
| Airton Rise, Greenhills Road | Respond Housing | 289 | Phased from Q3.2025 to Q1.2026  | Tallaght Central |
| Carrigmore Woods, Citywest | Tuath Housing  | 153 | Q4.2025 | Tallaght South |
| Foxwood Barn, Citywest | Tuath Housing  | 139 | Q4.2025 | Tallaght South  |
| Stoneview, Walkinstown | Cluid Housing | 98 | Q3.2025 | Rathfarnham - Templeogue |
| Seven Mills, Clonburris | Cluid Housing  | 119 | Q3.2026 | Clondalkin |
| Kishoge, Clonburris | SDCC | 83 | Q3.2027 | Clondalkin  |
| Mill Road, Saggart | Tuath Housing | 95 | Q4.2025 | Clondalkin |
| Kilcarbery Grange, Clondalkin | Tuath Housing  | 52 | Q3.2025 | Clondalkin  |
| Adamstown District Centre | Land Development Agency | 392 | Phased from Q4.2025 to Q4.2026 | Lucan |

### **Q2/0625 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive how many property owners in South Dublin have offered a 'vacant home' under the 'Offer-A-Home Scheme' for Ukrainian refugees from the date of inception of this scheme to date?

**REPLY:**

Since the 'Offer a Home Scheme' commenced, 14 properties have been pledged in South Dublin. Of these 14, 11 properties were either withdrawn or were not viable. 2 properties reached inspection stage and required works but the works were not completed. There is 1 new application which is currently being assessed.

### **Q3/0625 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on all the sports pavilion projects which were Part 8 approved in 2024, including a timeline for expected construction start and finish dates?

**REPLY:**

SDCC’s pavilion programme was agreed by the Council as part of its commitment to the health and well-being of its citizens. To support active recreation in the county including the growth and development of sports clubs and groups, facilities such as changing rooms, and secure storage areas become essential to ensure accessibility, 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
* Corkagh Park ORR
* Collinstown Park
* Kilnamanagh Open Space
* Dodder Valley Mt Carmel
* 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. That tender process is now closed with tenders under assessment and evaluation completion in late May. The bidders have submitted an outline programme but this will need to be confirmed and reissued once the start dates are confirmed. South Dublin will seek to ensure the earliest possible start to the contract period and delivery of the units on site. The outline programme at the moment shows modular manufacture and enabling works during Summer 2025 with installation of the initial 2 modular buildings at Corkagh and Griffeen in Q3 2025; with the remaining  approved locations also ordered and delivered on foot of the establishment of the two frameworks. This programme will be subject to discussion and agreement with the successful contractor following the expiration of the tender standstill period.

### **Q4/0625 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive how many direct labour staff are employed by the council to carry out housing maintenance work?

**REPLY:**

The Council employs a team of 38 General Services staff to carry out housing maintenance work.

### **Q5/0625 Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an overview of the suitability of infrastructure prior to granting planning for new developments without negatively impacting existing residents. Report to include Water and electrical, schools’ provisions, health facilities, and TFI/NTA to ensure suitable public transport options.

**REPLY:**

As part of the process for preparing the adopted County Development Plan, the Council engages with infrastructure providers including Uisce Éireann, Eirgrid, Department of Education, HSE, TII and NTA.  This informs the policy and objectives of the County Development Plan which sets the land use framework for the County.  For instance, the requirement for schools and the reservation of sites was assessed in liaison with the Department of Education. Various infrastructure providers, including TII and NTA, made submissions to the County Development Plan and their recommendations are integrated into the final Plan as adopted.

Following adoption of the Plan, engagement with each of these infrastructure providers has continued. For instance, there are quarterly meetings with the Department of Education who are kept appraised of delivery of housing within the County at a local and neighbourhood level, informing their decision making. Quarterly meetings are also held with Uisce Éireann providing for updates on issues arising and the opportunity to update UÉ of new planning permissions etc. Regular meetings are also held with TII and NTA.

At planning application stage, prescribed bodies are referred planning applications as relevant providing them with an opportunity to feed into the planning assessment. However, it should be noted that the decision on final connection to the water and wastewater infrastructure is one for UÉ at the time a developer makes a connection application.  Similarly, connection to the electricity grid is outside the remit of the planning authority. Notwithstanding, applications for data centres, as large energy users, have to demonstrate that there is sufficient capacity within the relevant water, wastewater and electricity network to accommodate the proposed use (County Development Plan EDE7 Objective 2)

The Council awaits new housing targets from the Minister. Once the target figures are understood in terms of the current capacity of zoned land and the need or otherwise for further zoning, the Planning Department will engage further with infrastructure providers to assess infrastructure availability and the likely deliverability of lands.

### **Q6/0625 Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Chief Executive to detail how the efficacy of cycling infrastructure is reviewed; report to include when reviews are completed, what would warrant redesign or changes to existing routes such as if use of infrastructure is considered, if impact on traffic/other road users is taken into account, if rates of accidents is assessed.

**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. For each scheme, on final delivery, a project completion report is created and submitted to the NTA. The completion report includes road safety and other quality audits to ensure any defects or unanticipated uses are rectified.

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 and increases sustainable transport modes. This will be achieved by the provision of a comprehensive and connected cycle network across South Dublin. The SDCC 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.

The primary source for transportation trends in South Dublin is the Central Statistics Office’s POWSCAR commuting dataset from the Census. This provides s longitudinal data on modal transportation share nationally and within South Dublin. To gauge current usage of the CySD programme South Dublin County Council is a member of Smart Dublin which gathers data form public sources including Google, bicycle counters and Strava as well as Census data. This Data is available at:

[activetraveldashboard.smartdublin.ie](https://activetraveldashboard.smartdublin.ie/)

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/**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel/)

### **Q7/0625 Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Chief Executive for the average time it takes for vacant council properties to be filled - information to include details for new build units vs re-lets

**REPLY:**

Our Housing Maintenance and Refurbishment section undertake re-let works on vacant housing stock throughout the County to ensure stock is brought back into productive use for letting as soon as possible. To date this year, 78 council owned re-let properties were allocated with an average turnaround time of 22.43weeks.

To date this year, 97 new build council-owned properties have been allocated. The average processing time for these allocations currently stands at 12 weeks. It is important to note that processing delays can occur when there is a delay in the provision of crucial details or required documentation from the applicant.

### **Q8/0625 Councillor R. Mannion**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has considered increasing the numbers of traffic wardens across South Dublin County Council and expand the areas covered by same, in an effort to address the ongoing illegal parking issues across the county.

**REPLY:**

There are c 800 public car parking spaces in various locations throughout the county, and Pay and Display Schemes operate on public roads in the villages of Clondalkin, Palmerstown, Rathfarnham, Tallaght, Templeogue, Rathcoole and Lucan.   In addition, Pay and Display Schemes operate in 9 small off-street car parks in Palmerstown, Rathfarnham, Tallaght and Templeogue.

These are managed via the **Control of Parking ByeLaws 2021** and the general prohibitions and restrictions on parking as set out in **Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations, 1997,** and under contract following a public procurement process. Please see ByeLaws attached.

The Service Provider is required to enforce paid parking and other parking regulations in all these areas and on public roads throughout the County. Details of the locations are shown in the ByeLaws.

The current compliment of Traffic Wardens operating through the contract is considered sufficient, having regard to the scale of operations, the physical size of the county, and the budget made available to cover the contract and other ancillary costs.

It should be noted that An Garda Síochána also have responsibility for breaches of the Traffic and Parking Regulations / illegal parking.

[Q8(b) Control of Parking Bye Laws 2021](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86454)

### **Q9/0625 Councillor R. McMahon**

Following on from the recently launched re-branding of South Dublin County Council, which I think is very refreshing, professional and will help bring the Council to the next level. I would like to ask the Chief Executive how much did the re-branding exercise cost?

**REPLY:**

Following a competitive tender process, Image Now Consultants Ltd. were awarded a contract to provide brand strategy services for SDCC. The value of that contract is €151,475.00 excluding VAT.

It would be important to place this spend in its context. The council's identity was repeatedly raised in many guises through the stakeholder engagement on the corporate plan  and a parallel review of the council’s brand identity and reputation amongst citizens and other stakeholders last year. Over 1,000 people were consulted through many interviews, workshops and surveys. The people we engaged with included citizens, councillors, council staff and management, local businesses and community groups, the PPN, and national bodies such as Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and members of the Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board. The findings of this research included:

* Residents in South Dublin County do not know what local authority area they live in and they find the name confusing.
* While people were very positive about the communities they live in, they were not familiar with the services we deliver, and were surprised on hearing of the range of community and business focused services such as the libraries, parks and business supports
* The existing brand had become fractured and diluted to the point where its resonance and impact was questionable and its usability in the digital world had become problematic
* The brand colours orange and grey held no connection with either the county or the organisation
* Both the county and council have changed considerably in recent years and the identity and reputation did not reflect that or help drive home the message that South Dublin is changing

The result of the investment in the brand is that SDCC now has a robust brand strategy, system and architecture that reflects the identity of the organisation and county that is grounded in that research and reflects the needs and ambitions of the people who live and work here. Because we took a parallel approach to its development, the brand strategy is closely aligned with the seven strategic goals set out in the Corporate Plan including the focus on people first and the need for us to deliver greater opportunity for all. It will also support our ability to attract and retain talented employees because it is so grounded in engagement with our employees and gives clarity to our purpose and values.

The brand architecture means every project will be aligned with the master brand, thereby removing the disparate individual project brands that have grown over time. This will mean a reduced spend on graphic design and website creation, and serves the public by being clearer and more accountable because everyone will know it is a project delivered or supported by SDCC.  The brand is our commitment to quality in everything we do.

With an annual revenue budget of over €390 million and a capital investment programme of €1.7 billion, this spend is a tiny fraction of SDCC’s budget and is essential to ensure the public are aware of everything we do alongside see an improvement in the quality of our services and how we interact with them.

### **Q10/0625**  **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if An Garda Síochana have the authority to order South Dublin County Council to have road markings such as double yellow lines painted or removed?

**REPLY:**

In Ireland, **An Garda Síochána** does **not have the power to order** a local authority to add or remove road markings directly. The responsibility for the addition or removal of road markings generally lies with the relevant **road authority**, typically the local county or city council.

However, the Gardaí can **advise** or **make recommendations** regarding traffic management, safety issues, and the need for certain road markings (like double yellow lines, pedestrian crossings, etc.). Local authorities usually consider these recommendations seriously because they relate to public safety and traffic regulation.

The current authoritative guidance  for signing and lining is under the **Traffic Signs Manual** (TSM), which includes the standards for road markings and their application.

Traffic signs and road markings are provided in accordance with signs regulations or directions of the Minister of Transport. They may be laid only by or on behalf of the Road Authority. Markings with the prefix RRM or RPC are regulatory road markings, and attention is drawn to the statutory requirement for the Road Authority to consult with the Garda Commissioner or appropriate delegated officer in the Garda Síochána where such markings are being provided.

In practice **An Garda Síochána** can:

Request the local authority to install or modify road markings if they believe it is necessary for road safety (e.g., to reduce accidents, manage traffic, etc.).

Provide recommendations or traffic management advice as part of the local **Road Safety Committee**.

Enforce traffic regulations where statutory road markings are in place.

### **Q11/0625**  **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if he thinks that a new condition should be introduced to all planning permissions, stating that all existing road signs and bus stops shall be reinstated after construction?

**REPLY:**

All necessary checks are made by the Council to ensure any existing signs and bus stops are reinstated, where appropriate, before the public realm is taken back into our charge.

Road Signs and Bus Stops are in the public realm. They are generally situated on public footpaths or public verges, and the Council will ensure that all construction details are correct before we sign off the works as satisfactorily completed and take the public realm back into the Councils charge.  The Council do not believe that it is necessary to have a new planning condition added to all planning grants for this purpose.

### **Q12/0625**  **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive how many habitats for mining bees he has created under the South Dublin County Council biodiversity action plan?

**REPLY:**

SDCC's Biodiversity Action Plan aims to act at a strategic level to promote the protection and enhancement of habitats for pollinators.  The Council undertakes actions to support important pollinators like mining bees under Action 1.1.iii of the Biodiversity Action Plan, which relates to the surveying and monitoring of biodiversity at identified pollinator sites. The Council's Pollinator Action Plan 2021 -2025 also includes many actions to support pollinators including mining bees and these actions include the protection of known nesting sites, the creation of new sites, the reduction in mowing regimes in certain areas and the reduction in the use of herbicides as well as other actions.

Under these actions the Council has applied for and received grants under the National Biodiversity Action Plan to establish and commence a monitoring programme for our flower-rich meadows in three of the Council’s parks.  This work includes monitoring for pollinating insects like mining bees. A recommendation arising from that monitoring programme included the creation of what are termed ‘bee scrapes’, where soil is exposed by taking a scrape of surface vegetation away.  This creates the bare soil habitat that mining bees will use to dig tunnels for their underground nesting sites.  ‘Bee scrapes’ have been created in a number of places in the parks including 7 such locations in Tymon Park close to flower rich meadows and these are being monitored to see if these sites are being occupied. The locations of other naturally occurring sites where mining bees are already known to be present are also being monitored for bee nesting activity under this monitoring programme.

### **Q13/0625**  **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if there are any plans for any new fire stations in the Clonburris or Adamstown Strategic Development Zones (SDZ)?

**REPLY:**

Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB) submitted a Preliminary Business Case to the Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage in 2024 recommending a new fire station to cover West Dublin.

In Q1 2025, approval was given by the department to proceed to “Decision Gate 1 – approval to proceed to the statutory requirements and detailed design phase”.

The proposed new fire station will provide additional fire cover to West Dublin including Adamstown, Clonburris and Lucan.

DFB are currently in the process of acquiring a suitable site for the location of the new fire station.

### **Q14/0625**  **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on NCBH19 Objective 9 from the County Development Plan regarding investigations into potential new additions to the Register of Protected Structures?

**REPLY:**

NCBH19 Objective 9 is in the South Dublin County Development Plan and reads as follows:

To investigate the merit of including the following on the Record of Protected Structures and where such merit is identified to undertake the necessary public consultation process under the Planning and Development Acts:

* Palmyra House, Whitechurch Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.
* Friarstown House and outbuildings, Bohernabreena, Co. Dublin D24 F890.
* SIAC Bridge, Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.
* Old Milestone on north-west side of Templeogue Road Set in front of the modern boundary wall of No. 211 Templeogue Road, Dublin 6W.
* Fort (or Callaghan’s) Bridge, Kiltipper / Friarstown Upper / Ballinascorney Lower, Dublin 24.
* Granite Boundary Stone outside Nos. 50 / 52, Whitehall Road, Dublin 12.
* Road sign Bothair An Racadair, Whitehall Road

Initial assessments have been undertaken of all of the structures and buildings listed above. All have an initial recommendation for inclusion with the exception of the road sign at Whitehall Road. However, a fuller understanding of the rationale for inclusion and exclusion is required in some instances to ensure a robust process to aid public consultation under the section 55 process in the 2000 Planning Acts. Further advancement of this objective will be subject to competing priorities on the Planning work programme but it is hoped to have this work completed in advance of the formal pre-draft stage for the next County Development Plan.

### **Q15/0625 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive if the feasibility of installing recycle bins in addition to regular bins in South Dublin County Council parks has been assessed?

**REPLY:**

The South Dublin County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 includes action R11 in this regard under the Circular Economy and Resource Management goals which are included in the plan.  Action R11 is to identify outdoor locations for recycling bin trial site(s) in South Dublin and deliver a pilot project.  It is proposed to commence this pilot project in the current year and to monitor and report on the impact including the tonnages of segregated materials collected.  This will require not only new bins which provide the opportunity for waste to be segregated but will also require changes to the way that bins are serviced and waste is transferred on for disposal or recycling.  While these changes as they relate to a trial are not expected to have a significant impact, if such a system is to be implemented on a larger scale then a full review of the litter bin provision and servicing programme will be required.  Elected members will be kept informed in relation to the commencement of the trial through headed item reports to the relevant area committee meetings.

### **Q16/0625 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive what steps have been taken by South Dublin County Council to update the electoral register to ensure it is as accurate as possible?

**REPLY:**

SDCC is the Registration Authority responsible for the management and maintenance of the electoral register for the county. The Corporate Services Department maintains and updates the electoral register on a continual basis by adding, removing or updating details as necessary to ensure complete and accurate electoral registers. Further, it undertakes activities to support the accuracy and completeness of the register, including continuous promotion and awareness-raising activities of the Register of Electors through communications campaigns utilising digital displays, print displays and radio voice overs in several shopping centres throughout the South Dublin, the Council's social media channels, bus shelter and local media advertising, and the Council's Citizens Newsletter, which is delivered to all households. Voter registration drives are held throughout the year at various events and locations, including public information stands at TUD Tallaght, The Square Shopping Centre and at the Council’s Community Service Day, at Comhairle na nÓg meetings, in community centres, and a staff registration campaign in Council offices.

Extensive work has been carried out on a data cleansing and verification initiative, where the Council directly contacted 3,517 electors whose records may require validation or updating most usually with their Personal Public Service Number (PPSN), date of birth and phone details.

* Total letters sent = 3,517
* Replies received to date = 664 (as of 27/05/2025)

An Coimisiún Toghcháin published its first [Oversight Report on the Electoral Registers](https://cdn.electoralcommission.ie/app/uploads/2025/04/30104313/Oversight-Report-on-the-Electoral-Registers_online_english_tagged.pdf) in May 2025, covering the period 2023 - 2024 - subsequent reports will be produced annually. The report aims to inform readers about how the electoral registers are managed and maintained, to provide an assessment of how accurate and complete the electoral registers are and, ultimately, to ensure the overall integrity of the electoral registers. The report with full recommendations is attached, and pages 153 to 156 provide an analysis of SDCC's electoral register and the Council's activities to maintain and manage it. An Coimisiún recognised the SDCC register as one of the more accurate in the country, highlighting strong performance in key accuracy indicators. The report acknowledges the Council’s sustained and largely successful efforts to improve the quality of the register, and it notes that electoral registration is generally given appropriate priority within the organisation.

**SDCC Performance (December 2024)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **SDCC** | **National Average** |
| PPSNs |   21.0% |       22.0% |
| DoBs |   71.0% |       72.4% |
| Eircodes |   98.2% |       69.8% |
| Combined DoB & Eircode |   69.8% |       56.0% |

The Corporate Services Department participated fully in the collation and assessment process and we are currently reviewing the report and its recommendations to identify any further appropriate actions we may undertake to improve the accuracy of the register.

[Q16(b) Electoral Commission Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86443)

### **Q17/0625 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive what steps can be taken by South Dublin County Council to ensure areas under private ownership or under the control of owner management companies are kept litter and dumping free?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council Litter Wardens enforce the Litter Pollution Act, 1997. The Litter Pollution Act outlines the responsibilities of owners or occupiers of property which can be seen from a public place to keep areas free of dumping or litter.

**Section 3 of the Act** states that

(1) No person shall deposit any substance or object so as to create litter in a public place or in any place that is visible to any extent from a public place.

**Section 6 of the Act** states that

(1) The occupier of a public place (not being a public road or a building or other structure) shall keep the place free of litter.

(2) The occupier of any land (other than land consisting of a building or other structure) that is not a public place shall keep the land free of litter that is to any extent visible from a public place.

(3) The owner of any land appurtenant to a residence that is let in two or more dwelling units (not being separate hereditaments) shall, notwithstanding the obligation of an occupier under subsection (2) in relation to land, keep the land free of litter that is to any extent visible from a public place.

SDCC can take the following steps under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 when the conditions outlined in Section 3 and Section 6 are not being adequately met:

1. The Litter Warden may engage with the owner or occupier of the property for the purpose of providing information regarding responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Act 1996
2. The Litter Warden may issue a Notice to the owner or occupier requiring the prompt removal of the litter. The Notice highlights precautionary measures to be put in place to prevent reoccurrence. In cases of non-compliance, SDCC has the power to remove the litter with the owner or occupier liable for associated costs
3. The Litter Warden may issue fines to the owners or occupiers of property if the outdoor areas that are visible from a public place are not kept litter-free.
4. Unpaid litter fines may result in court proceedings

Under Irish waste management legislation, OMCs (Owner Management Companies) and PMAs (Property Management Agencies) are regarded as a “*waste holder*” or a “*person in charge*”, and this has significant implications for how they should manage waste.  There are legislative obligations on holders of waste and failure to meet their legal obligations could result in enforcement action being taken by South Dublin County Council, up to and including prosecution.

Waste holders are obliged to take appropriate measures to prevent litter or nuisance arising from waste handling/storage areas. This should include the provision of an adequate number and size of waste receptacles to allow for proper waste segregation. The bin storage area should be adequately sized to hold and provide access to the relevant bins, and the bin storage area should have secure access arrangements in place. Proper signage and information should be provided to users on how to use the bins provided, to maximise the implementation of good waste segregation practices.

South Dublin County Council regularly carries out inspections of waste producers, waste holders and waste collectors to assess compliance with waste management legislation and litter pollution legislation. These inspections cover a mix of household properties, apartment block OMC’s/PMAs and commercial premises.

In 2018 South Dublin County Council adopted household and commercial waste bye-laws, with a specific reference to multi-user buildings and this section of the bye-laws states

A management company, or another person if there is no such company, who exercises control and supervision of residential and/or commercial activities in multi-unit developments, mixed-use developments, flats or apartment blocks, combined living/working spaces or other similar complexes shall ensure that:

* separate receptacles of adequate size and number are provided for the proper segregation, storage and collection of recyclable household kerbside waste and residual household kerbside waste,
* additional receptacles are provided for the segregation, storage and collection of food waste where this practice is a requirement of the national legislation on food waste,
* the receptacles referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) are located both within any individual apartment and at the place where waste is stored prior to its collection,
* any place where waste is to be stored prior to collection is secure, accessible at all times by tenants and other occupiers and is not accessible by any other person other than an authorised waste collector,
* written information is provided to each tenant or other occupier about the arrangements for waste separation, segregation, storage and presentation prior to collection,
* an authorised waste collector is engaged to service the receptacles referred to in this section of these bye-laws, with documentary evidence, such as receipts, statements or other proof of payment, demonstrating the existence of this engagement being retained for a period of no less than two years. Such evidence shall be presented to an authorised person within a time specified in a written request from either that person or from another authorised person employed by South Dublin County Council,
* receptacles for kerbside waste are presented for collection on the designated waste collection day,
* adequate access and egress onto and from the premises by waste collection vehicles is maintained.

### **Q18/0625 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the total number employed by South County Council (Full-time equivalent) for each year from 2020 to 2025.

**REPLY:**

Please see below table for the requested information:-

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Headcount and FTE** |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| All organisation | **Jan-20** | **Jan-21** | **Jan-22** | **Jan-23** | **Jan-24** | **Jan-25** |
| Headcount | 1261 | 1258 | 1311 | 1279 | 1291 | 1309 |
| FTE | 1150.11 | 1146.00 | 1204.05 | 1246.75 | 1257.18 | 1273.68 |

### **Q19/0625 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm that observations submitted by County Councillors on open and live planning application are treated no differently from those received from members of the public and carry no additional weight or influence.

**REPLY:**

Anyone, other than the applicant, can support or object to a planning application by making a submission or observation to the planning authority. This includes Elected Members, residents, and other stakeholders.

**The Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)** set out the procedures to be followed in respect of submissions/observations in relation to planning applications, which may be positive or negative.

All submissions or observations must be in writing and received within 5 weeks of receipt of the valid planning application.

All submissions and observations are acknowledged, and no decision on an application is made until the Planning Authority has had that application for 5 weeks.

The planning process is an open and transparent process and all submissions/observations are placed on a public file with all other documents submitted and documented in the planner's report.

Details of the planning decision is given to the applicant and all those who made observation within 3 days of the making of the decision.

**The Planning and Development Act 2000** (as amended) requires that the planning authority, in making its decision on a planning application, shall be restricted to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, and shall have regard to, inter alia, the provisions of the development plan, the provisions of any special amenity area order relating to the area and, where relevant, the policy of the government, the minister or any other minister of the government and any written submissions or observations concerning the proposed development.

### **Q15/0625 Councillor A. Smyth**

To ask the Chief Executive how many people are currently on the housing list waiting for transfers under medical priority and can they make a statement.

**REPLY:**

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

* you or someone in your household has an enduring lifelong disability or medical condition and
* the current accommodation is not suitable to meet the needs of the person with a enduring lifelong disability or medical condition and
* a change in housing will improve or stabilise the circumstances of the person with an enduring lifelong disability or medical condition.

There are currently 140 households approved for a transfer on medical grounds. 103 approved applicants are council tenants, the remaining 37 have tenancies with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs). All transfers are carried out in accordance with our Allocation Scheme.

### **Q21/0625 Councillor J. Spear**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the average time it takes for maintenance requests to be completed for new doors and windows over the last five years?

**REPLY:**

Completion timelines for window and door replacements can vary depending on the assessed degree of urgency. In instances where a safety risk is identified, immediate measures will be taken to ensure the safety of the affected windows. Full replacement will subsequently be completed within 6-8 weeks. For general replacements, works are conducted through our Windows and Doors Programme. Following the successful completion of a tender process and the awarding of contracts, the entirety of the works is typically concluded within 3-4 months.

The Housing Maintenance team have commenced stock condition surveys of our social housing stock whereby properties will be inspected on a 5-year cycle. The findings of the surveys will feed into an ongoing multi-annual Stock Investment Programme, with the aim to reduce the current level of reactive maintenance requests and to improve the overall value for money and enhanced delivery of the service to tenants. Funding has been provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to carry out the stock condition surveys with a new asset management application.

### **Q22/0625 Councillor J. Spear**

Can the Chief Executive please give an update on identifying Public Rights of Way in the County? Please include any current maps or lists of areas that the Council has identified.

**REPLY:**

The only area currently identified as a public right of way is set out in the County Development Plan 2022-2028.  This is described in section 9.9.1, Table 9.3 as follows:

*Lucan Weir*

*From the Main Road in the Village running down the slip (Watery Lane) between the old St. Andrew’s national school house to the west and a commercial building to the east leading to the River Liffey walkway, as far as the western side of the Liffey bridge to exit at street level on the southern side of the bridge.*

This public right of way is then identified on the Green Infrastructure Map 13 or it can be zoomed into on the Development Plan interactive map [Adopted Development Plan](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/f8990ef0badf42acaee196bd4b9a3725), as below where it is shown by the dashed black line running from Main Street in Lucan down to the Liffey and around to the bridge.  The identification of further public rights of way is on the Planning Department’s work programme but as noted previously they are difficult to establish given the fact that they are rarely registered with Tailte Éireann (previously Land Registry) and their existence is difficult to prove legally.

See also map attached

[Q22(b) Public Rights of Way Map](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86458)

### **Q23/0625 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive if he has considered reducing or stopping the use of pesticides, insecticides, and herbicides in the county from South Dublin County Council? For example, Tidy Town groups use hand or small tool weeding which is a fantastic effort and manage to do a superb job.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council is committed to reducing the use of glyphosate in it's maintenance operations.  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, strimming, mowing or by allowing vegetation to grow to promote biodiversity.  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.

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 a 13% reduction in usage over the three years from 2022 to '24 as previously reported.  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.

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. The complete removal of glyphosate from the Council's maintenance operation will not be possible as it is the only effective means of controlling certain alien invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed.

### **Q24/0625 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline clearly what is South Dublin County Council's role in water services and is there any services that SDCC are in charge off?

**REPLY:**

Uisce Eireann have full responsibility for the management of the public drinking water network and the public wastewater network (foul drainage).

SDCC remain responsible for the management of the stormwater / surface water network and the waterbodies within the County’s River Catchments. The stormwater network collects rainwater from urban and developed areas (such as roofs, roads, carparks, gullies, etc) and conveys it to a discharge point in a river, stream or ditch, sometimes storing it along the way.  The Council is required to maintain the storm water network in a manner to minimise the potential occurrence of incidents of flooding and or pollution. Flooding or pollution from the stormwater network can pose a safety risk for the public and pollution incidents from the stormwater network can directly impact on water quality in South Dublin’s water bodies.

Due to the nature of the wastewater network and the stormwater network, which is sometimes combined, SDCC will continue to work with Uisce Eireann on a range of items.

To consolidate the water related services that SDCC undertake, and to allow for the remit of some tasks to now be strengthened, a Natural Water Department is being established which comprises of a new Natural Water Operations sections and brings existing sections such as Water Pollution, Water Capital Projects and Planning, and flood alleviation schemes all under the one umbrella.  The objectives of this department can be summarised under two categories - managing flood risk and managing water quality.  It is important to also note, that the Natural Water Team has a role to play in climate adaptation and undertakes work that supports a number of actions under the area of ‘Flood Resilience’ in SDCC’s Statutory Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029.

The following non exhaustive list summarises some of the key services within the remit of the Natural Water Team, along with the associated management, reporting, financial, health and safety and administrative related tasks:

**Operate and maintain SDCC’s stormwater network and assets**

The current stormwater network in South Dublin comprises of approximately 900km of pipe network, ranging in diameter from 150mm to 2400mm, roughly 20,000 manholes and covers, stormwater pumping station, attenuation tanks/stormtech systems, hydrobrake manholes, petrol interceptors, and telemetry / monitoring assets, etc. Works include:

* Ongoing maintenance of the network and assets, with a focus on network cleaning / jetting / desilting to maintain existing network capacity.
* Progress the minor works programme to address flood risk or upgrade or repair network issues.
* Manage new stormwater connections.
* Provide a response to flood events.
* Ensure data management, including mapping of assets, and provision of network information to external bodies.

**Maintenance of Surface Water and Open channels to manage flood risk, including:**

* River and stream inspections and maintenance to manage flood risk.
* Regular maintenance of River Screens / trash screens / debris traps / valves / flow control structures.

**Provide Water Quality / Water Pollution Services to South Dublin, including:**

* Respond to water pollution incidents (investigation, clean up, and prosecution where appropriate)
* Water quality monitoring though an ongoing statutory water quality sampling programme and reporting to the EPA.
* Delivery of SDCC’s RMCEI Plan for Water.
* Catchment assessments to identify local water quality pressures and coordinate an inspection programme to ensure the adoption of the right measure in the right place
* Agricultural inspections as set out by the National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP) and to resolve complaints. This also incorporates compliance investigations, Cross reporting to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) and enforcement actions.
* Delivery of a programme of measures as required by the Water Action Plan 2024 (and subsequent iterations), such as addressing urban misconnections.
* Contribute to SDCC's regulatory enforcement regarding water quality statutory inspections for Discharge licenses, Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (including septic tanks and farms).
* Drinking Water monitoring - private drinking water non domestic supplies.
* S4 Discharge licences and unauthorised discharges.
* Public engagement and awareness raising.
* Assist and collaborate with both internal stakeholders (Parks, Roads and Planning Department) and external stakeholders (Inland Fisheries Ireland, Uisce Eireann, Local Authorities Waters Programme (LAWPRO), OPW, NPWS, DAFM, DHLGH)

 **Flood Management, including**

* Monitoring of flood risk
* Coordination with Flood Forecasting (Met Eireann), as Flood Liaison Manager
* Ensuring maintenance of flood defences and infrastructure that impacts flood issues
* Coordinate response to flood events
* Data Management, including FRAs. Flood records, mappings of flood defences, etc.
* Identification of flood schemes

 **Delivery of Capital Projects, such as:**

* Schemes to address network issues or flooding issues.
* Network capacity assessments or feasibility studies
* Liaison with the OPW on potential flood alleviation schemes (FAS)
* Progress SDCC's current schemes, including the River Poddle FAS, Whitechurch Stream FAS, and the River Camac FAS.

 **Planning Process Support, including:**

* Review of Planning Applications and delivery of stormwater drainage and flooding planning observation reports and ensure alignment with SDCC’s SuDS Explanatory Design Evaluation Guide.
* Support the delivery of LRDs and SDZs with review of stormwater drainage, SuDs and flooding planning reports.

**Promote and Manage Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Integrated Constructed Wetlands in South Dublin, including:**

* Ensure that SDCC's SuDS Explanatory Design Evaluation Guide and SuDS Details are kept up to date.
* Data management (SuDS Asset Register, mapping and O&M information)
* Promote and monitor the use of SuDS in SDCC projects, including ensuring maintenance is undertaken.
* Monitor and maintain SDCCs Integrated Constructed Wetlands (e.g. in Griffeen, Dodder Valley and Tymon Park
* Public engagement and awareness events (e.g. ICW tours, ICW Builder Tool and ICW Information leaflet).

The work of the Natural Water Department as outlined above, meets a number of obligations, including, but not limited to:

* The Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts, 1977 and 1990, set out that local authorities are responsible for monitoring, managing, and protecting the water quality in their area.
* The Local Authorities are one of the key authorities responsible for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in Ireland – which includes preventing water pollution and also improving water quality across the county.
* The Water Action Plan 2024: A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland sets out the measures that are necessary to protect and restore water quality in Ireland. SDCC, in conjunction with LAWPRO aim to develop work plans to address the objectives of the Plan.
* In addition to the RMCEI Requirements, the EPA’s Local Authority Performance Framework assesses local authority delivery of environmental outcomes against the National Enforcement Priorities 2025 – 2027. The priorities under ‘Water’ include:

Pressures from Agriculture (farmyards) slurry / soiled water collection and storage

Pressures from Agriculture (farmyards) slurry and fertiliser spreading

Discharge licences / misconnections

Local water quality pressures including septic tanks and private water supplies

* SDCC’s Statutory Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 sets out actions under the Action Area of Flood Resilience, which fall within the remit of the Natural Water Operations Dept.
* SDCC’s Biodiversity Action Plan outlines the actions for nature protection, adaptation and biodiversity, which include incorporating aquatic habitats and green infrastructure

### **Q25/0625 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive will the Council be allowing any tenants to purchase the council house they are living in?

**REPLY:**

The council facilitates eligible applicants to purchase their local authority rented home through the 2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme.

Applicants must have a minimum income of €11,000 per year. Some social welfare payments (including pensions) by the Department of Social Protection are acceptable once they are accompanied by income from employment.

The period of time tenants will be required to be in receipt of social housing support to be considered eligible under the scheme is 10 years. In the case of joint tenancies, one tenant must be in receipt of social housing support for at least 10 years before being eligible to apply. Exclusions apply under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in relation to rent arrears, anti-social behaviour etc. and classes of property that can be sold under the scheme.

Further information on the scheme is available on our website [**www.sdcc.ie**](https://sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/buying-your-home/buying-your-local-authority-rented-property/buying-your-local-authority-rented-property.html) and the sales scheme team are also available to assist with enquiries from tenants. they can be contacted at **hloanacc@sdublincoco.ie**.

### **Q26/0625 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive will he consider alternatives to kissing gates as they cause issues for people with mobility issues

**REPLY:**

The installation of access controls at entrances to parks may have the unintended and undesired consequence of preventing some legitimate park users such as those on bikes, pushing buggies or those who use mobility aids from gaining access to parks at certain points.  The Council's objective is to provide universal access to parks and open spaces where this is possible. Many improvements have been made in recent times in relation to this matter such as the removal of certain access controls at Killinarden Park and changes to a number of accesses at Tymon Park and Dodder Valley Park.  Regrettably it is sometimes considered necessary to install this type of access control to prevent unauthorised access to parks and open spaces by scrambler motorbikes.  Where this is considered necessary every effort is made to install a kissing gate which is large enough to allow access for a bicycle, buggy or mobility scooter.  The Council has implemented other solutions in certain areas such as an adjustable kissing gate which has a number of moving parts which allow it to remain in the open position when required but it can also be configured to act as a kissing gate when action is needed to deal with scrambler access.  Other options include the installation of bollards, K barriers or 'chicane' type systems which may be suitable in certain locations and which do not pose problems for bicycles, buggies and mobility aids.  The Council will continue to address issues with kissing gates as they arise and where possible will install an alternative that does not prevent legitimate users from entering parks.

### **Q27/0625 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report regarding the City Edge Project. Report to include: ground contamination risks associated with old paper manufacturing factories, heavy manufacturing industrial sites that used large quantities of chemicals and what measures have been taken so far to identify sites with potential serious ground and soil contamination?

**REPLY:**

A Baseline Study for the City Edge area was carried out during 2020/2021(refer to link to summary report at [Baseline Study Findings - The City Edge Project](https://cityedge.ie/baseline-study-findings/).  Full report can be provided if required).  One of the aspects considered was the potential for contaminated land and Section 22 landfills (historic/legacy landfills recorded on a register under Section 22 of the Waste Management Act) and the associated constraints on regeneration.  A desk-based review undertaken for the report indicates that there are 16 Licensed sites within the City Edge area and no Section 22 Landfills.

The report sets out that several historical land uses within the area may have impacted the land locally including Inchicore Railway works (DCC area) and Gas Works also in Inchicore.  These are the only uses deemed to have a high risk of contamination and both are / were located within the DCC area of City Edge.  The report states that *‘current land uses are likely to have a low to moderate potential risk’* for contamination.  In order to quantitatively assess the contaminated land risk the report concludes that it *‘would be necessary to undertake site investigations in line with current guidance such as BS10175’.*  The report continues *‘these assessments are likely to be required on a site-by-site basis which will ensure that the actual local conditions will be determined as the [area is regenerated] and the contaminated land risk can be managed specific to the proposed end use and local environmental setting’.*

With respect to City Edge, investigations for contamination will be undertaken by developers on a site-by-site basis as development proposals are submitted. The developer will be required to prepare Resource and Waste Management Plans (RWMP) in accordance with the EPA best practice guidelines. The EPA has published Guidance on the Management of Contaminated Land and Groundwater at EPA Licensed Sites.  This can be applied to sites to assess the risk of ground contamination and advise on suitable corrective actions. All relevant proposed developments will be referred to the appropriate SDCC Sections, the EPA and other relevant statutory stakeholders.

### **H6/0625 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H7/0625 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H8/0625 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S 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 8 a) Chief Executive's Report - June 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86478)
[HI 8 b) Statistics Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86521)
[HI 8 c) Finance Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86399)

The reports were **NOTED**.

### **H9/0625 NOMINATION TO REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - FOR APPROVAL**

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

[HI-9(b) Circular regarding Regional Health Forum](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86447)

The HSE was restructured into six HSE Health Regions on March 4, 2024. These regions are now responsible for the planning and coordinated delivery of health and social care services within their respective geographies. In light of the introduction of the new Health Regions, the Department of Health proposes to increase the number of Regional Health Forums from four to six to align with the new Health Region geographies:

• HSE Dublin and Northeast

• HSE Dublin and Midlands

• HSE Dublin and Southeast

• HSE Mid-West

• HSE Southwest

• HSE West and Northwest

The Department of Health undertook an analysis to determine how many councillors, and from which councils, should sit on each Health Forum.

To account for population increases, one additional representative was added for every 50,000 increases in population at a Local Authority level between 2002-2022. This results in an increase in Health Forum membership from 148 to 158 nationally.

Following this restructuring, SDCC has been allocated **1** additional representative on the HSE Dublin and Midlands Health Forum.

It is a matter for the Council to appoint an representative to the position and this is now before the Members for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns and **AGREED** that Councillor Jess Spear be nominated to the Regional Health Forum.

### **H10/0625 ANTI-SOCIAL STRATEGY - FOR APPROVAL**

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.**

[HI-10(b) ASB Strategy Presentation](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86475)
[HI-10(c) Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2025 - 2029](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86470)

An Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy is required to be adopted by local authorities under Section 35 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009. The strategy will apply to all council tenancies under the Housing Acts 1966 – 2014.

Our current strategy was adopted by the council on 10th December 2018. The strategy has now been reviewed by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee, which brings the strategy in line with relevant legislation and our new Corporate Plan 2025 – 2029.

It is now recommended that this council hereby resolves to adopt the ‘Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2025 -2029’ in accordance with the provisions of Section 35 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, P. Holohan, E. Ó Broin, L. de Courcy and C. Brady. Queries were raised in relation to reporting of issues, responsibility for AHB properties, surrendered and abandoned properties, mixed tenure areas and review of the strategy.

Ms. E. Leech, Director for Housing and Community Development responded to the Members’ queries.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor Y. Collins, seconded by Councillor C. Brady and **RESOLVED:**

“That South Dublin County Council’s ‘Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2025 – 2029’ in accordance with the provisions of Section 35 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**

### **H11/0625 LUCAN HOUSE MASTERPLAN - FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. S. Geoghagan, Senior Executive Planner and was **CONSIDERED.**

[HI-11 Lucan House Masterplan](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86495)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors H. Farrell, V. Casserly, J. Tuffy, E. Ó Broin, C. Brady, D. Donnelly and W. Carey with queries raised in relation to commercial and cultural use, car parking, public consultation, traffic management, storage spaces, energy sources, reuse of local stone and cost of the project.

Ms. S. Geoghagan, Senior Executive Planner and Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development responded to the Members’ queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H13/0625 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.**

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
* Summer Project Funding

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 **87** grants totalling **€166.756.64** were approved for **73** local groups summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **No:** | **Amount** |
| Community Development Grants | 33 | €39,244.76 |
| Community Events Funding | 11 | €21,561.88 |
| Sports Development Grants | 9 | €26,950.00 |
| Summer Project Funding | 34 | €79,000.00 |
| **Total** | **87** | **€166,756.64** |

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** |
| 14th Dublin Ballyroan Scout Group | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment | €4,000.00 |
| 142nd Dublin Esker Scout Group | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €2,000.00 |
| Bawnogue Active Retired Men's Club | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1,550.00 |
| Bawnogue Active Retired Men's Club | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €600.00 |
| Bawnogue Youth and Community Centre | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement | €500.00 |
| Bodearg | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement | €295.00 |
| Castlefield Manor Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement | €500.00 |
| Cherrywood Tidy Towns | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €818.00 |
| Citywest Community Council | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1,000.00 |
| Citywise Education | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1,000.00 |
| Clondalkin Ladies Shed | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1,000.00 |
| Clondalkin Round Tower Heritage Group | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1,000.00 |
| Esker Celtic Football Club | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €850.00 |
| Friends of the Camac | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €534.00 |
| Glenasmole Community Association | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1,812.00 |
| Jobstown Community & Youth Centre | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €2,000.00 |
| Killinarden Community Council | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €422.80 |
| Killinarden Family Resource Centre | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1,000.00 |
| Kingswood Community Choir | Community Development Grant | Start Up Costs | €500.00 |
| Little Stars Arch Club | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1,000.00 |
| North Clondalkin Community Choir | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1,500.00 |
| North Clondalkin Community Choir | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1,000.00 |
| Quarryvale Family Resource Centre | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1,507.96 |
| Sruleen Community Development Association | Community Development Grant | Environmental Improvement | €500.00 |
| Sruleen Community Development Association | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €645.00 |
| St. Marks Youth Club | Community Development Grant | Major Equipment | €3,500.00 |
| St. Marks Youth Club | Community Development Grant | Community Centre Based I.T. Infrastructure | €2,000.00 |
| The Unforgettable Women's Network - TUWN | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1,000.00 |
| The Well - a project of Dublin Vineyard | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1,243.00 |
| Tymonville Residents Committee | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1,550.00 |
| Women's Collective Ireland Liffey Valley | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €1,267.00 |
| Women's Shed @ The Park | Community Development Grant | Running Costs | €1,000.00 |
| Woodview Heights Residents Association | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €150.00 |
| Citywest Community Council | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €3,000.00 |
| Clondalkin Autism Parents Support Network - (CAPS Network) | Community Events Funding | Easter Community Celebration | €1,501.88 |
| Clondalkin Village Festival | Community Events Funding | Village / Community Festival | €6,000.00 |
| Killinarden Family Resource Centre | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €1,270.00 |
| Killinarden Family Resource Centre | Community Events Funding | Age Friendly Bealtaine Event | €560.00 |
| Little Stars Arch Club | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €1,550.00 |
| Practical Language Service | Community Events Funding | Movie Nights | €1,080.00 |
| Retired Active Men's Social (RAMs) | Community Events Funding | Community Celebration | €700.00 |
| Russell Square Residents Committee | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €1,900.00 |
| Sinnea Entertainment | Community Events Funding | Africa Day | €3,000.00 |
| Willington, Osprey, Rushbrook and Kennington (WORK) Residents Association | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €1,000.00 |
| Butterfly Twirlers | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €1,500.00 |
| Commercials Hurling and Camogie Club | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €3,400.00 |
| Kilnamanagh AFC | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €7,500.00 |
| Lucan Harrier Athletic Club | Sports Development Grants | Programme Delivery | €1,000.00 |
| Perrystown Manor Estate Community Centre | Sports Development Grants | Programme Delivery | €1,200.00 |
| Round Towers GAA Club | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €3,000.00 |
| Sacred Heart FC | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €4,600.00 |
| This Is Me Neurodiversity | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €1,000.00 |
| Three Rock Rovers Hockey Club  | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €3,750.00 |
| Adamstown Blue Connect | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €1,000.00 |
| Adamstown Community Summer Camp | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,000.00 |
| Balgaddy Voluntary Youth Club & Summer Project | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €3,000.00 |
| Ballyboden Whitechurch Summer Programme | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €4,000.00 |
| Ballyowen Castle Youth & Community Centre | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €889.00 |
| Bawnogue Youth and Community Centre | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,000.00 |
| Citywise Education | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,000.00 |
| Crosscare – Ronanstown Summer Project | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,000.00 |
| Crosscare – Clondalkin Youth Service Village/Knockmitten | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,000.00 |
| Crosscare – Bawnogue/Deansrath Summer Project | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,000.00 |
| Crosscare – Lucan Youth Service | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,000.00 |
| Fettercairn Community and Youth Centre | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €5,000.00 |
| Glenasmole Community Association | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,000.00 |
| Holy Spirit Summer Project | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €4,000.00 |
| IACI - Integration of All Children In Ireland | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €1,802.28 |
| Jadd Project Ltd. | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,500.00 |
| Killinarden Community Council | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €6,000.00 |
| Killinarden Family Resource Centre | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €1,964.12 |
| Kilnamanagh Summer Project | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €1,500.00 |
| Knockmitten Youth and Community Centre | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €3,000.00 |
| Lucan Youth Fun | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €3,500.00 |
| Quarryvale Family Resource Centre | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €1,500.00 |
| Respond Family Hub | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,000.00 |
| Saggart School House Community Centre | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €850.00 |
| Sensory Fun with Friends | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,000.00 |
| St. Kevin's Family Resource Centre | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,500.00 |
| St. Pius Summer Project | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €4,000.00 |
| Tallaght Travellers Youth Service | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,000.00 |
| The Park Community Centre | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €2,500.00 |
| The WEB Project | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €4,500.00 |
| This Is Me Neurodiversity | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €1,494.60 |
| YMCA Dublin Summer Project – Rowlagh | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €500.00 |
| YMCA Dublin Summer Project – Neilstown | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €500.00 |
| YMCA Dublin Summer Project – Balgaddy | Summer Project Funding | Summer Project Funding | €500.00 |

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

### **C1/0625 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Replies**

**Acknowledgements**

**Correspondence**

[(a) Kerry County Council Motion regarding grant applications.](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86260)
[(b) Fingal County Council Motion regarding fox hunting](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86263)

The correspondence was **NOTED**.

**MOTIONS:**

### **M1/0625 Hormone Replacement Therapy**

Proposed by Councillor L. O'Toole seconded by P. Kearns and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE**

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.

**REPORT:**

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

### **M2/0625 Solid Fuel Stoves**

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

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.

**REPORT:**

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Donnelly, J. Spear, P. Kearns, E. Ó Broin, P. Holohan, L. de Courcy, Y. Collins, K. Keane, R. Mannion, H Farrell, W. Carey, J. Sheehy, F. Timmons and D. McManus.

A **Roll Call Vote** was called in the names of Councillors P. Holohan, D. Donnelly and L. de Courcy the results of which are as follows:

**FOR: 6 (SIX)**Councillors L. de Courcy, D. Donnelly, H. Farrell, P. Holohan, R. McMahon and D. Richardson.

**AGAINST: 25 (TWENTY-FIVE)**Councillors S. Barnes, C. Brady, W. Carey, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, A. Edge, T. Gilligan, A. Hayes, M. Johansson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, R. Mannion, L. McCrave, D. McManus, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, S. O’Hara, Baby Pereppadan, J. Sheehy, J. Sinnott, A. Smyth, J. Spear, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy and N. Whelan.

**ABSTAIN: 2 (TWO)**Councillors P. Cosgrave and G. Moore.

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

### **M3/0625 Community Insurance**

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.

The motion **FELL** as Councillor B. Lawlor was not present in the meeting.

### **M4/0625 Irish Unity**

Proposed by Councillor N. Whelan seconded by Councillor R. Mannion

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.

**REPORT:**

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors N. Whelan, M. Johansson, J. Tuffy, J. Spear, P. Kearns, L. de Courcy, P. Holohan, F. Timmons, Y. Collins, D. McManus, R. Mannion, W. Carey and H. Farrell.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M5/0625 Trade Union Recognition**

Proposed by Councillor M. Johansson seconded by Councillor J. Spear.

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.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council recognises the trade unions that represent council employees and are affiliated to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, for the purposes of collective bargaining. The benefits of doing so include better communication, better-informed decision-making and enhanced workplace relations. Under Irish law, employees are free to join any union they choose.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Spear, J. Sinnott, K. Keane, P. Kearns and P. Cosgrave.

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

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M6/0625 Tenant In Situ**

Proposed by Councillor R. Mannion seconded by Councillor P. Holohan.

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.

**REPORT:**

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors R. Mannion, N. Whelan, P. Holohan, P. Kearns, K. Keane, M. Johansson, E. Ó Broin, J. Spear and W. Carey.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M7/0625 External Bodies**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott seconded by Councillor Y. Collins.

This Council seeks memorandums of understanding with external bodies such as the ESB and NTA, to ensure that graffiti is removed by a certain timeframe, and those bodies take the issue of graffiti removal seriously and commit to providing resources to address graffiti.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) is committed to maintaining a clean and welcoming environment for all residents and visitors. This commitment is reflected in the various measures and programs they have implemented to address litter and graffiti within the county. Recognizing the importance of public spaces, SDCC has developed strategies to prevent and manage litter through enforcement, regulation, and community engagement.

SDCC addresses graffiti as it appears across the county, deploying staff and probation services to effectively respond to reported incidents. Offensive graffiti is always given priority due to its content. Public Realm has reviewed the current graffiti removal process and identified improvements.

In addition to staff and probation services, a contractor has been engaged for specialized graffiti removal, ensuring a more efficient response. SDCC recognizes the growing concerns regarding graffiti and its impact on public spaces, transport infrastructure, and community appearance. Tackling this issue necessitates a coordinated approach with key stakeholders such as the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the ESB.

Currently, SDCC holds Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with utility companies, including ESB, Virgin, GNI (Gas Networks Ireland), and EIR. The proposal to develop an MOU with the NTA aims to formalize roles and responsibilities in addressing graffiti. This agreement could outline cooperative efforts in prevention, removal, education, and restorative initiatives, potentially involving student engagement in awareness programs or community-led clean-up projects.

Preliminary discussions will be initiated with the NTA to explore their participation in such an MOU, defining areas of shared responsibility. Internal consultation will involve relevant departments, including Environment, Community, and Transportation. A report detailing these discussions and a proposed MOU structure will be presented to the Council in due course.

To combat graffiti, the Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant is available to community groups and schools through the Environmental Awareness Section. The South Dublin Canvas project continues to discourage graffiti on traffic light boxes. Defacing property is a criminal offense, and Section 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 mandates property owners to remedy defacement.

The following protocol outlines the principles for the Council's management of graffiti and ensures a consistent approach across the county:

* If graffiti is found on public property, the Council will arrange its removal using appropriate chemicals or paint.
* Property owners are responsible for removing graffiti from private premises. The Council will request the property owner to remove it initially. If the property faces a strategic public place, the Council will endeavour to remove the defacement, requiring indemnity from the property owner or an agent. A fee will be involved, and no works will occur without indemnity and agreed charges.
* For graffiti on utility boxes, the relevant agency/company will be contacted and requested to remove it.

SDCC understands the frustrations caused by graffiti and collaborates with various groups and organizations to enhance the county's aesthetic appearance. We appreciate Councillors and the public who identify graffiti areas and those involved in Tidy Towns groups assisting in clean-up efforts.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Sinnott, W. Carey, P. Cosgrave, E. Ó Broin, N. Whelan, P. Holohan and P. Kearns.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director for Environment, Water and Climate Change addressed the members.

The motion was **AGREED.**

### **M8/0625 Active Travel Scheme**

Proposed by Councillor M. Duff seconded by P. Kearns and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE**

That this Council calls on the Manager to ensure that future or planned Active Travel Schemes, not yet at the Consultation stage, be it Part 8 or Section 38, involve discussions with the Council's Community Department officers, to better connect with Residents Associations or established groups, in areas of proposed works.

**REPORT:**

The Active Travel team brings a large number of schemes to consultation each year, these consultations are both statutory and non-statutory and are frequently combined with briefings to Members and Headed Items. When each consultation goes live, a notice is given to internal departments, to statutory consultees and to key stakeholders (such as the PPN).

Schemes that have not yet reached consultation stage are, by their nature, not ready for consultation as sufficient detail has not been developed to enable meaningful consultation. The Cycle South Dublin Programme (CySD), adopted by the Council in 2021, is available on our dedicated Active Travel website (Here; <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel/>) which indicates the proposed routes on the programme. Many of these schemes have not been initiated,  are not at the consultation stage yet and have no Active Travel staff assigned to them. The NTA has provided funding of €21.5Million in 2025 to deliver or progress over 40 CySD projects that are currently live and at various stages of the project management lifecycle.

The Active Travel team has continued to improve the type and quality of the consultation material to promote engagement on projects, through regular updates to the members, the promotion of public consultations by the erection of posters along the routes and the delivery of leaflets, promotion of the consultations on all of the SDCC social media platforms, the frequent use of additional non-statutory consultations to gain an understanding of the views of stakeholders, the introduction of virtual consultation rooms as well as the improvement of the drawings, photomontages and images that are available to help people gain an understanding of the various proposals. Further innovations have seen the Active Travel team using virtual fly-through videos to demonstrate how the proposed scheme would look like at the end of the construction period, it is intended to further enhance this approach in future consultations.

The Chief Executive, through the Active Travel team, is committed to public consultation on the progressing Active Travel schemes and will continue to be innovative and liaise with the other SDCC sections to achieve optimal engagement.

### **M13/0625 Active Travel Projects**

Proposed by Councillor Joanna Tuffy seconded by Councillor P. Kearns and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE**

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to review how upcoming Active Travel projects are planned and designed to ensure that they are informed by ground up consultation with Councillors and the local community, the aim being to make our active travel schemes emerge from ground up and be as transparent and democratically accountable as possible

**REPORT:**

The Active Travel team brings a large number of schemes to consultation each year, these consultations are both statutory and non-statutory and are frequently combined with briefings to Members and Headed Items to Area Committee. When each consultation goes live, a notice is given to internal departments, to statutory consultees and to key stakeholders (such as the PPN).

Schemes that have not yet reached consultation stage are, by their nature, not ready for consultation as sufficient detail has not been developed to enable meaningful consultation. The Cycle South Dublin Programme (CySD), adopted by the Council in 2021, is available on our dedicated Active Travel website (Here; <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/active-travel/>) which indicates the proposed routes on the programme. Many of these schemes have not been initiated,  are not at the consultation stage yet and have no Active Travel staff assigned to them. The NTA has provided funding of €21.5Million in 2025 to deliver or progress over 40 CySD projects that are currently live and at various stages of the project management lifecycle.

The Active Travel team has continued to improve the type and quality of the consultation material to promote engagement on projects, through regular updates to the members, the promotion of public consultations by the erection of posters along the routes and the delivery of leaflets, promotion of the consultations on all of the SDCC social media platforms, the frequent use of additional non-statutory consultations to gain an understanding of the views of stakeholders, the introduction of virtual consultation rooms as well as the improvement of the drawings, photomontages and images that are available to help people gain an understanding of the various proposals. Further innovations have seen the Active Travel team using virtual fly-through videos to demonstrate how the proposed scheme would look like at the end of the construction period, it is intended to further enhance this approach in future consultations.

The Chief Executive, through the Active Travel team, is committed to public consultation on the progressing Active Travel schemes and will continue to be innovative to achieve optimal engagement.

### **M14/0625 Spinal Muscular Atrophy**

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady seconded by Councillor L. de Courcy and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE**

This council calls on the Minister for Health to include all individuals living with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) in Ireland—regardless of age—to access to approved life changing treatments, in line with the principle of equal access to healthcare.

**REPORT:**

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

***Meeting Ended at 19:00***

**Motions Not Reached:**

### **M9/0625 Windows & Doors**

Councillor E. Murphy

That the Chief Executive extends the windows and doors scheme to tenants who have, at their own cost, replaced their windows and doors during the period of their tenancy.

### **M10/0625 Glyphosate**

Councillor D. Adelaide

That this council stops the use of glyphosate by council workers and contractors

### **M11/0625 EU Commission against Hungary**

Councillor A. Edge

In the wake of Hungary's constitutional amendment denying the rights to expression, assembly and non-discrimination to LGBTQ+ citizens and associated draconian surveillance measures, that this Council calls on Ireland's MEPs to push for sanctions and infringement proceedings by the EU Commission against Hungary.

### **M12/0625 International Protection Accommodation (IPA) centres**

Councillor P. Holohan

That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to urgently review the planning and legislative framework used for the development of International Protection Accommodation (IPA) centres, particularly those established under emergency planning exemptions in accordance with S.I. No 376/2023 - Planning and Development (Exempted Development) (No. 4) Regulations 2023 in exercise of powers conferred by Sections 4(2) and 262 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to ensure that, going forward, the siting of IPA centres involves transparent engagement with local authorities, democratic input from elected councillors, and meaningful public consultation.

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

Mayor

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