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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council June 2025 Special Meeting of County Council Meeting held on Thursday 19 June 2025

### **PRESENT**

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

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | C. Ward. |
| Directors | J. Frehill, E. Burke, L. Maxwell, R. Fitzgerald. |
| Head of IT | T. Kavanagh |
| County Architect | C. Harte |
| A/Senior Executive Officer  Senior Executive Engineer | B. Shannon  J. McCormack |
| Senior Engineer | L. Magee |
| 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 N. Fennell, V. Casserly, L. O’Toole, D. Richardson and J. Sheehy.

**WEBCASTING NOTICE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **MOTIONS:**

### **M1/0625 Windows and Doors Scheme**

Proposed by Councillor E. Murphy and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons

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.

**REPORT:**

The council has made provision of €5m expenditure in its 3 year Capital Programme 2025-2027 for window and door replacement across our social housing stock. Requests for inspections of properties to assess windows and doors installed previously by tenants can be arranged and if replacement is required, they can be included in the programme. Any new windows and doors installed through this programme will adhere to the council specifications and will not necessarily be like for like replacements.

289 homes are scheduled for replacements in 2025. 110 homes have been issued to our contractors with a further 81 homes at pre/tender stage with expected award of tender in Q2, 2025. 100 homes have received new window and door replacements so far this year. The number for subsequent upgrades will be determined by stock conditional surveys. The table provides a summary by local electoral area and status:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Overall Project Stats** | | | | | |
| **LEA** | **Pre-Tender Stage** | **Tender Stage** | **Contractor Stage** | **Complete** | **Total** |
| Tallaght South | 1 | 20 | 49 | 65 | **135** |
| Tallaght Central | 0 | 3 | 9 | 7 | **19** |
| Firhouse Bohernabreena | 0 | 9 | 2 | 4 | **15** |
| Rathfarnham Templeogue | 0 | 0 | 4 | 8 | **12** |
| Clondalkin | 0 | 6 | 19 | 8 | **33** |
| Palmerstown Fonthill | 0 | 33 | 22 | 7 | **62** |
| Lucan | 0 | 9 | 5 | 1 | **15** |
| **Total** | **1** | **80** | **110** | **100** | **291** |

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Murphy, K. Keane, and W. Carey

### Mr. J. McCormack, Senior Executive Engineer addressed the members.

### The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M2/0625 Glyphosate**

Proposed by Councillor D. Adelaide and seconded by Councillor M. Duff.

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

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council is committed to reducing the use of glyphosate in its 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.

An Amendment to the Motion was proposed by Councillor D. McManus, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy:

"That this council seeks to phase out as soon as possible the use of glyphosate by council workers and contractors"

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Adelaide, J. Spear, F. Timmons, D. McManus, A. Edge, L. de Courcy, H. Farrell, Y. Collins, M. Johansson, R. McMahon, E. Murphy, and P. Kearns.

Mr. L. Magee, Senior Engineer, addressed the Members.

A Roll Call Vote on the Amendment to the Motion was called for in the names of Councillors D. McManus, M. Duff and F. Timmons the results of which are as follows:-

**FOR:** **14 (FOURTEEN)**

Councillors S. Barnes, C. Brady, Y. Collins, L. de Courcy, D. Donnelly, H. Farrell, A. Hayes, B. Lawlor, R. McMahon, D. McManus, S. O’Hara, Baby Pereppadan, Britto Pereppadan, and A. Smyth.

**AGAINST: 15 (FIFTEEN)**

Councillors D. Adelaide, W. Carey, P. Cosgrave, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, P. Holohan, M. Johansson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, R. Mannion, J. Sinnott, J. Spear, F. Timmons, and N. Whelan.

**ABSTAIN:** **1 (ONE)**

Councillor G. Moore.

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

The Motion was **AGREED**.

### **M3/0625 EU Commission against Hungary**

Proposed by Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

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.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed, a letter will be issued to Ireland's 14 MEPs. The responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

An Amendment to the Motion was proposed by Councillor M. Johansson and seconded by Councillor D. Adelaide.

“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 infringement proceedings by the EU Commission against Hungary.”

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors A. Edge, M. Johansson, F. Timmons, M. Duff, G. Moore, L. de Courcy, P. Kearns, D. Adelaide, K. Keane, R. McMahon, P. Holohan, J. Sinnott, B. Lawlor, W. Carey, C. Brady, L. Dunne, and E. Murphy

### A Roll Call Vote on the Amendment to the Motion was called for in the names of Councillors R. McMahon, L. de Courcy and P. Kearns the results of which are as follows:

### **FOR: 26 (TWENTYSIX)**

### Councillors S. Barnes, C. Brady, W. Carey, Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, a. Hayes, M. Johansson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, B. Lawlor, R. Mannion, d. McManus, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, S. O’Hara, Baby Pereppadan, Britto Pereppadan, J. Sinnott, A. Smyth, J. Sear, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy, N. Whelan.

### **AGAINST: 3 (THREE)**

### Councillors L. De Courcy, R. McMahon, G. Moore.

### **ABSTAIN: 2 (TWO)**

### Councillors D. Donnelly, P. Holohan.

### As a result of the Roll Call Vote the Motion as Amended was **AGREED.**

### **M4/0625 IPAS Centres**

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

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.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is agreed, a letter will be issued to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

### A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Holohan, A. Edge, M. Duff, L. de Courcy, M. Johansson, L. Dunne, F. Timmons, W. Carey, K. Keane, E. Murphy and P. Kearns.

The motion was **AGREED**.

***Meeting ended at 17:23***

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

Mayor

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