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

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

### **PRESENT**

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

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Executive | C. Ward. |
| Directors | J. Frehill, E. Burke, T. Walsh, E. Leech, L. Maxwell, R. Fitzgerald. T. Kavanagh |
| County Architect | C. Harte |
| Senior Executive Officer | M. Maguire A. Mills |
| A/Senior Executive Officer | B. Shannon |
| Administrative Officer | M. Reilly R. McGarry  |
| Communications Manager | D. Healy |
| Staff Officer | D. Murphy |
| Assistant Staff Officer | A. Holohan, L. Farrell |
|  |  |
|  |  |

The Mayor, Councillor P. Kearns, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillor P. Holohan.

**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.

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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 P. Kearns, 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.

### **H1/0725 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the June Council Meeting held on Monday 9June 2025, June 2025 Special Meeting of County Council Meeting held on Thursday 19 June 2025 and the June 2025 Annual Meeting held on Friday 27 June 2025 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor P. Kearns and seconded by Councillor W. Carey

### [(a) June 2025 Council Minutes](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86764)[(b) June 2025 Special Meeting of the Council](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86765)[(c) June 2025 Annual Meeting](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86773)

The Mayor, Councillor P. Kearns proposed, and the Members **AGREED** to vary the sequence of items on the agenda in order to take Headed Item no. 13 **(H13**) next and welcomed Ms. Mary Hayes, Director of the Dublin Region Homeless Executive, to the meeting.

### **H13/0725 DRHE - HOMELESS ACTION PLAN 2025-27 - FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. M. Hayes, Director of the Dublin Region Homeless Executive, and was **CONDSIDERED.**

[HI-13 (a) Homeless Action Plan Presentation 2025 - 2027](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86753)
[HI-13 (b) Draft Action Plan](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86703)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Duff, M. Johansson, N. Whelan, J. Tuffy, W. Carey, K. Keane, E. Ó Broin, R. Mannion and F. Timmons.

Queries were raised in relation to modular housing, numbers accessing homeless accommodation, additions of public bodies to the Consultative Forum, Tenant in Situ scheme, Homeless HAP, child developmental issues, land zoning, RAS, procedures, privacy and performance of hubs.

Ms. M. Hayes, Director of the Dublin Region Homeless Executiveresponded to the Members’ queries.

Ms. E. Leech Director for Housing, responded to the Members’ queries relating to modular housing.

The DRHE – Homeless Action Plan 2025-2027 was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **AGREED.**

### **H2/0725 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*

### **H3/0725 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H4/0725 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### **H5/0725 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns and seconded by Councillor A. Edge and **RESOLVED**:

### “That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q41 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED”**

### **Q1/0725 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the review of the 'Living with Trees' policy, and to confirm whether a non-statutory public consultation will take place as part of this review, including the expected timeline for same.

**REPLY:**

The current 'Living with Trees' policy document covers the period 2021 to 2026 and is due to be reviewed by the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC and will be replaced in 2026.  The review is due to commence at the September 2025 SPC meeting with the presentation of an appraisal of the current plan and performance under it with regard to the implementation of the three year maintenance plans and annual tree planting plans.  The review will identify aspects of the policy which need to be considered for possible amendment in light of issues that have arisen during the lifetime of the current policy.  It will also consider areas where the policy may need to be further developed, in relation to climate action and biodiversity for example.  It is proposed that non-statutory public consultation will commence directly after the September SPC meeting and will run for a four week period with a report on the consultation then presented to the November SPC meeting.  It is hoped that a draft of the new policy will be ready for presentation to the February 2026 SPC meeting.

### **Q2/0725 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a detailed report of the current casual trading landscape in South Dublin County over the past 5 years.

**REPLY:**

The Designated Trading Areas and appropriate fees are set out here and publicly available in the [**First Schedule**](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/business/casual-trading/casual-trading-first-schedule-amended.pdf) of The South Dublin County Council Casual Trading Byelaws 2016 made by resolution at the meeting of South Dublin County Council held on 20th June 2016.

There are a total of 16 Casual Trading locations for annual licences in the SDCC administrative area of which 10 are currently licensed for 2025. This excludes seasonal and one-day trading licenses for event purposes.

The Casual Trading locations without a current licence are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Goods to be Traded** |
| Esker Cemetery | Flowers |
| Bohernabreena Cemetery | Flowers |
| Newcastle Cemetery | Flowers |
| Tymon Park – Limekiln entrance | Ice Cream / Confectionary |
| Tymon Park – Wellington entrance | Tea/Coffee/Confectionary |
| Fettercairn Community Centre | General |

As per SDCC’s current Casual Trading allocation policy, preferential consideration is given to existing holders to renew existing licences.

The number of applications granted over the past 5 years:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of Applications Granted** |
| 2025 | 10 |
| 2024 | 11 |
| 2023 | 11 |
| 2022 | 9 |
| 2021 | 8 |

The Enforcement and Licensing section have initiated a review of the South Dublin County Council Casual Trading Byelaws 2016 made under the Casual Trading Act, 1995 (the Act). The elected members have been given an initial opportunity to submit their comments for this initial review process, an informal briefing is also being arranged to be held before the end of July.

A draft revision of the Casual Trading Byelaws will be brought to the Environment, Public Realm, and Climate Change SPC in September. A public consultation process will then take place and the amended draft byelaws will be brought back to the November SPC for further review, before going to full council for approval.

### **Q3/0725 Councillor C. Brady**

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

**REPLY:**

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

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

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

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

### **Q4/0725 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on the budget allocated to footpath repairs analysed by electoral area by year for the last five years.

**REPLY:**

[Q4 Footpath Repairs by Electoral Area](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86694)

### **Q5/0725 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the status of housing estates that have not yet been taken in charge. Report to include, for each estate, the current status of the taking in charge process including an estimated timeframe for when the process is expected to commence and conclude.

**REPLY:**

Please see attached list of estates that are not yet Taken in Charge in the County and are under priority consideration following requests from the developers.

The typical TIC process has two distinct processes. 1. The technical surveys, assessments and quality assessment records for the housing estate. 2. the legislative process to take the estate into the charge of the Council.

There are typically 21no. technical checks to complete during the first stage technical process.  These involve much detailed time and resource assembling the technical check information by the developer's engineering team.  Then the SDCC technical team have to check the submitted information and sign off each of the 21 elements as satisfactory.

When all technical checks have been signed off by the relevant SDCC sections, the proposed TIC can be advertised for Taking in Charge.  This is a prescribed legislative procedure and ultimately, the elected members have the final vote on whether to take the estate or infrastructure into the charge of the Council.  This legislative process takes 3 to 4 months to complete.

The speed of completion of the TIC process is strongly linked to the commitment of the developer to submit the technical information in a timely manner.  In some instances, such as companies going into receivership, or surveys that show up technical issues, delays can be experienced on some of the estates that the Council is progressing to TIC.  Therefore, it is not possible to accurately estimate the timeframe for the completion of TIC in each case.

SDCC have prioritised a number of housing estates for fast tracking, where the developer has committed to assigning extra resources to complete the checks and submit the "as constructed" records quickly.  This has led to faster completion times for some of the more recent TIC processes.

[Q5(b) TIC Priority List](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86756)

### **Q6/0725 Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive to set out measures in place, and proposed, to address the housing crisis.

**REPLY:**

SDCC is actively working to address the housing crisis through various measures and proposed initiatives. This reply outlines the steps taken and planned by the council to improve housing availability, affordability and tackle homelessness in the county.

**Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) 2022-2026**

Our Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 outlines our plans to meet our targets for social and affordable housing delivery from 2022 to 2026 with approximately 3,700 new social homes projected for delivery through local authority build, AHB supply, Part V delivery and leasing and a further 1,500 affordable homes for purchase and rental to be delivered in the county.

To date SDCC has successfully met 100% of its social housing delivery target of 1821 new homes for the period 2022-24, marking a significant milestone in addressing the housing needs in our county. The council's proactive approach and strategic planning have been key factors in reaching our social housing delivery targets for the period 2022-24.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Delivery by Category 2022-24** Local Authority Build | 566 |
| Local Authority Turnkey | 15 |
| Approved Housing Body Build | 123 |
| Approved Housing Body Turnkey | 528 |
| Part V | 593 |
| **Total** | **1825** |

A full update on our Housing Delivery Programme has been provided in Headed Item (8) the Chief Executive's Capital Project Progress Report for July’25.

In addition, the following measures are being utilised by the council for additional housing supply in line with national housing policy:

* Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-29
* responses to homelessness including acquisition of properties with HAP/RAS tenants in-situ subject to funding from DHLGH
* a range of measures to addressing vacant/derelict homes to bring them into housing stock and productive use
* affordable/cost rental housing fund supports
* land acquisition fund managed by the housing agency to support future social housing delivery

We are committed to addressing the housing crisis through a combination of current measures and proposed initiatives. Our efforts include delivering new social and affordable homes, implementing targeted programmes for Traveller and Homeless accommodation, and setting ambitious housing delivery targets under the new National Housing Plan for the coming years. These measures aim to improve housing availability and affordability for all residents in South Dublin County.

### **Q7/0725 Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive to set out measures in place, and proposed, to assist in the establishment of a new Housing Activation Office intended to accelerate infrastructure and housing delivery.

**REPLY:**

The Programme for Government 2025 'Securing Ireland’s Future', provides for the establishment of a national Strategic Housing and Infrastructure Delivery Office under the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The Housing Activation Office (HAO) will focus on infrastructure needed at a local level to support housing delivery on multiple sites, including the social and community infrastructure needed to support the development of sustainable communities. It will identify and deliver those actions needed to accelerate the delivery of necessary public infrastructure and will have an operational function to unblock issues on the ground.

Our Planning and Transport and Housing Directorates will work closely with the HAO to ensure alignment with the National Planning Framework and the new National Housing Plan.

### **Q8/0725 Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive, whether South Dublin County Council’s hiring policy aligns with the Corporate Plan regarding race, where 'race (encompassing race, colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins)'  is an identified group under the Equality and Human Rights Duty - clarify whether there are any quotas or preferential treatment for non-nationals over nationals in recruitment—particularly when candidates have equal or differing levels of qualifications and experience

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) is committed to promoting equality and human rights across all its functions, including its hiring policies. As set out in the **Corporate Plan 2025-2029** and the **Equality and Human Rights Framework**, SDCC aims to ensure that its recruitment processes are fair, transparent, and inclusive.

The Corporate Plan 2025-2029 sets out the importance of inclusivity and diversity within the workforce. It outlines strategic goals to foster an inclusive work environment where all employees, regardless of background, can thrive. This commitment is reflected in the Strategic Workforce Plan 2025 - 2029 (SWFP), which is designed to align with the Corporate Plan objectives. The SWFP includes measures to engage with diverse communities and ensure that the workforce reflects the diversity of the communities that we serve.

Under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, as detailed in the Equality and Human Rights Framework, SDCC is legally obligated to promote equality and prevent discrimination. This duty requires the Council to assess, address, and report on equality and human rights issues, including those related to race. The framework identifies race as a protected ground and mandates that SDCC take proactive steps to ensure equal treatment and opportunities for all individuals.

SDCC’s hiring policy ensures that the selection process is based on merit. The Council’s commitment to equality means that no candidate is given preferential treatment based on their race, nationality, or ethnic origin. The goal is to select the best candidate for the position while ensuring that the process is fair and transparent.

SDCC’s recruitment policies are designed to be inclusive and non-discriminatory and are based on the following principles:

* Probity (integrity, impartiality, fairness, reliability, ethical conduct and confidentiality).
* Merit (a transparent, competitive recruitment process where the criteria for judging suitability of candidates can be related directly to the qualifications, attributes, skills and competencies required to fulfil the duties and responsibilities of the post).
* Best practice (adhering to good practice recruitment and selection procedures extends to all aspects of the appointment process).
* Consistency and transparency (treating all candidates fairly, to a consistent standard and in a consistent manner providing for transparency and open and active communication with candidates during the recruitment and selection process).

SDCC works to promote a culture of equality and to develop equality and recruitment policies and procedures to ensure that all candidates are selected on merit.  The Council endeavours to ensure that the selection process does not provide unjustifiable advantage or disadvantage to any particular candidate or group of candidates.  The recruitment and selection process embraces genuine equality of opportunity, and this is integral to the process by which appointments are made.

SDCC does not implement quotas or preferential treatment for non-nationals over nationals. Instead, the focus is on ensuring that all candidates are assessed based on their qualifications, experience, and suitability for the role. The Equality and Human Rights Framework emphasises the importance of equal treatment and fairness in all employment practices.

### **Q9/0725 Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a list of all grants available from the Council for Residents Associations to improve their estate/area.

**REPLY:**

There are numerous grants and schemes available to Residents Associations.

The **Community Development Grants** that are available are as follows.

Start-up costs - up to maximum €500 for new group – hiring of rooms, insurance, rent etc

Running costs – up to maximum €1,000 – help towards ongoing running cost for groups

Community events – up to a maximum of €4,000 – help towards the costs associated with organising local events, the organising groups must also contribute to assist with the costs of the event and the funding applied for should not be over a maximum of 50% of the total costs of the event.

Environmental Improvement – up to maximum of €500 – assist R.A to improve the local environment in the communities where they live.

Minor equipment grant – up to the maximum of €2,000 and Major equipment grant up the maximum of €5,000 – purchase and the replacement of equipment.

The designated Community Officer for the area that the R.A resides in can offer assistance in formation, structure of group and advice/support to make the group eligible to apply for SDCC grants.

For more information on grants, please visit the below link:

[Community Grants - SDCC](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fcommunity%2Ffunding-and-support%2Fcommunity-grants%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Ceclancy%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cdde6c79ff8644280ec8d08ddb94facbb%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638870474044166223%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=9XdgTBmpztLjioW2l3n2MERS9xJJ3bLqxq0u6QgibP8%3D&amp;reserved=0)

**The Tidy Towns Grant** is available to all Tidy Town groups registered on the PPN (Public Participation Network) and operating as a Tidy Towns group within the boundaries of South Dublin County Council with the goal of entering the annual Supervalu Tidy Towns competition.

The application form for this grant allows Tidy Town groups to propose short-, medium- and long-term projects they hope to carry out in the Public Realm of SDCC.

TidyTowns –  tidytowns@sdublincoco.ie

Along with these grants the **Social Credits Scheme** offers support to all groups and residents participating in the scheme and encourages new groups and residents to get involved. Groups are welcome to make an application to the Social Credits Scheme under three headings: Community Clean ups, Minor-Landscaping Enhancement Project and the Paint Enhancement Project. These can be applied for on the Social Credit Scheme Form which can be requested from envawareness@sdublincoco.ie

*Community Cleanups*: the Environmental Awareness Team ask for minimum 1 weeks’ notice prior to community clean ups. To assist with these clean ups, we can supply SDCC branded bags for waste from public areas, disposable gloves, litter pickers, yard brushes. Once we are notified of the location of the full bags, we can then arrange collection of the bags. Application for these supplies are done through submission of a completed Social Credits Scheme Form and can be collected from County Hall Tallaght.

*Minor Landscaping Enhancement Project*: SDCC can supply plants from the pollinator plan, basic gardening equipment such as garden brushes, garden gloves, spades, pitchforks and edgers. An onsite visit from a professional horticulturist can also be funded through this project, the horticulturist can provide a report and assist with a landscaping project. Plants are ordered through the Environmental Awareness office and are delivered directly to the group. Garden supplies can be collected from County Hall, Tallaght. This project also includes Bulbs Not Bonfires, Ballymount Passes at Halloween.

*The Paint Enhancement Project* can be used for graffiti removal, estate boundary wall enhancement and community projects. Under this project SDCC can supply community groups with up to 60 litres of external paint, paint roller sets, disposable gloves and paint brushes. Paint and paint supplies can be collected from County Hall, Tallaght.

### **Q10/0725 Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans to review all current IPA Section 5 Exemptions granted within South Dublin to ensure all is in order, in light of recent events in Tipperary County Council.

**REPLY:**

**Section 5** of the **Planning and Development Act 2000,**as amendedoutlines a process through which individuals can seek formal clarification on whether a proposed development or a specific part of it would be considered exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.

All applications for Section 5 Declarations are examined on a case by case basis, specifically relative to the submission and the legislation at the time.

Section 4(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, de-exempts development that would require an Environmental Impact Assessment or Appropriate Assessment.

Planning and Development (Exempted Development)(No. 4) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 376/2023) extended the exemption provided by S.I. 605 of 2022, from 31 December 2024 to 31 December 2028, to allow DCEDIY / IPAS greater flexibility in agreeing leases with potential accommodation providers for international protection applicants.  The change of use of the following types of accommodation come within an exemption Class 20F:

school, college, university, training centre, social centre, community centre, non-residential club, art gallery, museum, library, reading room, sports club or stadium, gymnasium, hotel, convention centre, conference centre, shop, office, Defence Forces barracks, light industrial building, airport operational building, wholesale warehouse or repository, local authority administrative office, play centre, medical and other health and social care accommodation, event and exhibition space or any structure or part of structure normally used for public worship or religious instruction.

The SDCC decisions and reports on applications for S5 declaration of exemptions are available on the SDCC website.

### **Q11/0725 Councillor D. Donnelly**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the current percentage of new builds considered for SDCC social housing?

**REPLY:**

The Part V requirement is between 10% or 20% of the total units dependant on the date of the grant of permission and the land purchase date.

* Land purchased on or after 1 August 2021 will be subject to a 20% Part V requirement on planning permission granted after 3 September 2021. This is for the provision of social and affordable housing.
* Different Part V requirements apply to land where planning permission was granted before 3 September 2021 and to land purchased before 1 August 2021, depending on the date of purchase.

The current Part V legislation provides for local authorities to acquire 20% of this land at existing use value and to utilise this land to deliver homes to those households who qualify for social and affordable housing support. The use of the land for the delivery of social, affordable purchase and cost rental housing satisfies a policy objective of encouraging integrated development and reducing housing segregation.

For further information visit [Part V – Information and Resources | The Housing Agency](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.housingagency.ie%2Fnews-events%2Fpart-v-information-and-resources&amp;data=05%7C02%7Celeech%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C50465802bb834790c44608ddb8897994%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638869622777301529%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C4000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=TxRfx9t%2BVWegnUFFOg1KvtOInIH1QXb4nPSBDkR5MYI%3D&amp;reserved=0)

### **Q12/0725 Councillor D. Donnelly**

To ask the Chief Executive does the council get to purchase new builds for social housing at current value or does the council have to bid on new properties?

**REPLY:**

Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) enables the State to capture a portion of the increase in land value resulting from a local authority grant of planning permission for housing. The land value which is captured is then used to provide social and affordable housing. Part V requires local authorities to include a planning condition on grants of planning permission for housing (with some limited exceptions). This planning condition requires the local authority to enter into an agreement with the applicant for planning or others who are carrying out the development. The primary option to satisfy Part V is the transfer of land to the local authority. The Act also sets out several alternative options to the transfer of land including:

• Transfer of housing on the site granted planning permission (on-site housing)

• Transfer of housing on another site (off-site housing including second hand housing)

• Leasing of housing on-site or off-site

• Any combination of the above

Where the agreement is for the transfer of housing, guidelines provide for the calculation of the costs incurred and savings made in purchasing identified Part V units. The local authority should pay the same as if it had purchased land at existing use value and contracted an independent builder to undertake the development.

For further information visit [Part V – Information and Resources | The Housing Agency](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.housingagency.ie%2Fnews-events%2Fpart-v-information-and-resources&amp;data=05%7C02%7Celeech%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C50465802bb834790c44608ddb8897994%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638869622777301529%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C4000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=TxRfx9t%2BVWegnUFFOg1KvtOInIH1QXb4nPSBDkR5MYI%3D&amp;reserved=0)

### **Q13/0725 Councillor D. Donnelly**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the current number of tradesmen employed by South Dublin County Council?

**REPLY:**

The Council has a total of 50 existing Craftworker posts across various disciplines.

There is a current headcount of 39 Craftworkers with recruitment continuing at pace to fill existing vacancies.

### **Q14/0725 Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the implementation of a Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) in any part of SDCC. Report to include an update on progress and plans for wider rollout, in the near future?

**REPLY:**

The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024, which commenced on 2 April 2025, provides for the establishment  of the new Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP). The LCSP will replace and expand upon the work of Joint Policing Committees by incorporating a wider range of public service bodies, including An Garda Síochána and community stakeholders.

Section 114 of the Act enables the Minister to make regulations regarding the establishment and operation of LCSPs. These regulations were signed by the Minister on 30 June 2025. We are currently awaiting the associated guidelines, which are required to formally initiate the establishment process.

Notwithstanding this, SDCC has already taken proactive steps in preparation for implementation. The LCSP will consist of 30 members. Seven elected members have already been nominated (listed below), with the remainder of the membership to be confirmed shortly. At the inaugural meeting, the Chair and Vice Chair will be selected from among the members.

Further updates on progress and details of a wider rollout will be provided once the guidelines are issued and the partnership begins formal operations.

Elected Members who have been nominated to the Local Community Safety Partnership:

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

### **Q15/0725 Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on Protected Trees. The report should include the current number of Protected Trees within the County, to outline the process for the public or public representatives to nominate new trees for protection, with a particular focus on native heritage trees that are several hundred years old and located on private land.

**REPLY:**

There are four Tree Preservation Orders in the county as set out immediately hereunder:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tree Preservation Order** | **Location** |
| Dublin County Council Tree Preservation Order (St Brigid’s Clondalkin) Order 1973 | St Brigid’s (now Newlands garden Centre), New Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. |
| Dublin County Council Tree Preservation Order (Beaufort Downs, Rathfarnham) Order 1987 | Beaufort Downs, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14. |
| Dublin County Council Tree Preservation Order (Quarryvale, Brooklawn) (Liffey Valley No.1) Order 1990 | Townland of Quarryvale and Brooklawn, Palmerstown, Dublin 20. |
| South Dublin County Council Tree Preservation Order (Coolamber Site) Order 2015 | Newcastle Road, Lucan. |

Part XII, Section 205 is the relevant provision of the Planning and Development Act (as amended) for the making of a TPO, which is a reserved function of the full Council.

The following extracts are considered relevant in the context of the question:

**Initiation and Implications**

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

Section 205 (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), an order under this section may—
( a) prohibit (subject to any conditions or exemptions for which provision may be made by the order) the cutting down, topping, lopping or wilful destruction of trees, and
( b) require the owner and occupier of the land affected by the order to enter into an agreement with the planning authority to ensure the proper management of any trees, group of trees or woodlands (including the replanting of trees), subject to the planning authority providing assistance, including financial assistance, towards such management as may be agreed.

Key takeaways from subsections (1) and (2) outlined above are:

The term expedient is not defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Planning Authority considers that practical and necessary is a reasonable interpretation of the term expedient. Interpreted in this context, it must appear to the planning authority that it is practical or necessary (expedient) in the interests of amenity or the environment, to make a TPO. The legislation also requires stated reasons for making an order, this is in addition to it appearing to the planning authority to be expedient in the interests of amenity or the environment.

Subsection 2 makes clear that there may be financial and / or human resource implications to the Planning Authority because where an order is made on the owner and occupier of the land to manage the trees it may be subject to providing assistance as part of the required agreement with the planning authority. There is no criteria set out for when such assistance is appropriate.

**Legislative Process to Make TPO**

The process for proposing to make an order is set out under subsections 3 to 9 of Section 205 as follows:

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

it shall—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*(3)*, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Summary of Process**

As the making of an order is a reserved function, the initiation of the process should be agreed through the full council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Q16/0725 Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on 'wide vehicles' within the County. The report should include the current dimensions that define a 'wide vehicle', how these dimensions are determined, and if there are any known plans by Government to update them in response to the increasing width of most road vehicles year on year.

**REPLY:**

**The relevant Irish regulations in relation to the management of wide vehicles or loads is governed under the Road Traffic (Special Permits for Particular Vehicles) Regulations 2007. SI 283 of 2007.**

A wide vehicle is defined as a vehicle or load that is greater than 2.9m.  If a load or vehicle exceeds 2.9m in width, an application for transport of an abnormal load permit needs to be sent to the Local Authority on whose road network the load is going to travel. An example of Special Permit for Abnormal Loads is attached to this report.

Based on the dimensions and weight of the load, conditions and mitigation measures may be applied to the granted abnormal load permit.  These can include the restriction of the use of certain roads that are deemed unsuitable for the load or vehicle. Other restrictions may include, restriction of the times when the load is transported, the use of support escort vehicles or the use of a Garda escort team for extremely large loads.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) is currently developing a national framework for the management of abnormal and oversized loads, which includes wide vehicles. This work aims to support and streamline existing permitting processes managed by An Garda Síochána and local authorities.

TII’s objectives include the standardisation of permit procedures, introduction of risk-based assessment tools, protection of road infrastructure, improved inter-agency coordination, and the potential implementation of digital permit tracking systems.

The ongoing TII-led research is expected to serve as a foundation for future Department of Transport policy or regulatory updates in this area.

The Local Authorities use other management protocols for larger vehicles such as Heavy Goods Vehicles that do not exceed the "wide load" limits mentioned above.  These include the use of HGV weight restrictions on key identified roads on the network.  Generally, these restricted roads are narrow roads, roads with a high pedestrian usage or where special groups of people may be present (schools).  These weight restricted roads must be agreed by an Garda Síochána as they are responsible for the enforcement of the relevant weight restrictions.

Thirdly, urban roads are designed in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS 2019).  This document sets out the principal widths, bend designs and junction designs applicable for each type of urban road.

In the DMURS document, there has been a focus on reducing the width of urban streets and junction radii in an effort to reduce vehicle speed to protect pedestrians and cyclists that may also be present.

There is an acknowledgement that certain categories of vehicle are now more prevalent on our road network.  Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV), and 7 seater family vehicles are now more commonplace.

Road Designers take these larger vehicles into account with modifications of the "Autotrack" design packages. These design packages check whether these larger vehicles can drive successfully on the proposed road layouts - particularly at bends and junctions.

[Q16(b) Abnormal Load Application Form](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86742)

### **Q17/0725 Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Chief Executive when the last accessibility audits were carried out for local population centres across the County, and to list the dates and area reports where known?

**REPLY:**

A comprehensive programme of accessibility audits was carried out across town and neighbourhood centres in 2007 to identify the range of barriers that potentially restrict access for disabled people to the built environment at the time. The audits used a range of best practice sources at the time including the Part M Building Regulations, British Standard 8300:2001 (Design of buildings and their approach to meet the needs of disabled people) and the experiences of disabled people.

In addition to people who use wheelchairs or who have mobility problems, there are thousands of people affected by some degree of hearing loss, learning disabilities, facial disfigurement, visual impairment, mental illness or conditions such as arthritis or incontinence, and the access assessments considered the needs of all potential building users from a pan-disability perspective. The majority of actions identified were then subsumed into work programmes of the relevant departments.

With the recent appointment of a new Equality Officer the work carried out under this programme is now being reviewed to inform a new equality and access work plan for which €100,000 was provided for in the budget, along with extra funding for physical works for better accessibility on local footpaths (€400,000), additional accessibility & Disabled Persons Grant (DPG) works for housing tenants (€150,000), and €25,000 contribution for the 2026 Special Olympics.

The following are the details of the towns and neighbourhood centres audited and their dates and each audit had a report identifying the issues arising. The Council's Equality Officer, Grainne Meehan, is currently developing a proposal for Accessibility Audits to be carried out in SDCC villages and other relevant facilities. This work will be brought to the Social, community and Equality SPC for discussion on next steps.

**Town Audits**

* Clondalkin Village: 20/03/2007
* Lucan Village: 01/03/2007
* Palmerstown: 21/02/2007
* Rathcoole Village: 13/06/2007
* Rathfarnham Village: 05/03/2007
* Saggart Village: 09/07/2007
* Tallaght Village: 02/05/2007
* Newcastle: 03/07/2007
* Templeogue: 03/07/3007

**Neighbourhood Centres**

* Crumlin
* Kingswood
* Newlands Cross, Clondalkin
* Bawnogue, Clondalkin
* Rowlagh, Clondalkin
* Ballyowen, Liffey Valley
* Hillcrest, Lucan
* Nutgrove
* Taylors Lane, Rathfarnham
* Knocklyon
* Walkinstown Cross
* Knocklyon Heights
* Whitehall Road
* Killinarden, Tallaght
* Brookfield, Tallaght
* Cookstown, Tallaght
* Kilnamanagh, Tallaght

### **Q18/0725 Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Chief Executive for a brief progress report on all heritage projects currently underway in the County.

**REPLY:**

Heritage benefits are delivered in a number of ways across the County, by SDCC and by other stakeholders. In terms of SDCC delivery, heritage benefits can form part of projects.

The list below outlines the Heritage Projects ongoing to implement the County Heritage Plan.

Design Concept for an Aviation Heritage Visitor Destination Experience:

Consultants have been appointed, and a stakeholder engagement process is underway. This project is supported by grant funding from the Heritage Council, with matched funding from SDCC and the Irish Air Corps.

County Heritage Plan Review: Pre Draft public consultation completed and preparation of a final draft for public consultation ongoing. Update shared to SPC in May 2025.

Heritage Week 16th - 24th August 2025: Funding for the Council’s annual Heritage Week events is provided by the Heritage Plan budget. A list of Heritage Week events is currently being drafted in conjunction with the Libraries Section who administer and promote the events through their extensive social media platforms.

Dublin Mountains Community Archaeology: Liaison with DLRCC and the Dublin Mountains Partnership is on-going regarding progressing aspects of the archaeological resources and information that has been compiled by this project.

Nature on our Doorsteps publication: Formatting of Volume 4 of the Heritage Officer’s weekly newspaper columns on biodiversity is being finalised for printing for launch during Heritage Week.

Support for publication: A contribution towards the publication of a book on Dublin’s stained glass windows

Corkagh House Model: Support is being provided under the Heritage Plan for the production of a reconstructed model of Corkagh House. Discussions are underway to agree an appropriate final location where the model can be on permanent display.

Biodiversity Action Plan: Grant funding has been received from National Parks and Wildlife Service for 4 biodiversity projects including: a survey of the Dodder proposed Natural Heritage Area; participation in a national Mayfly Survey; Participation in the development of a national protocol for non-native turtles.

Meadow Biodiversity: Monitoring of SDCC flowering meadows continues during the growing season. Significant positive results continue to be seen, including a new record for an uncommon orchid species which has emerged in Kiltipper Park following alteration of grass-cutting in recent years.

Stained Glass Restoration: Conservation of an historic stained-glass window acquired by SDCC in 2024 under the Heritage Plan is being costed. The window represents the creative work of local Dublin artist Hubert McGoldrick and dates to 1929.

### **Q19/0725 Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the road safety audits of beacon free pedestrian crossings that management committed to carrying out in response to my previous motion in March 2025.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council is implementing new Type B zebra crossings in line with the Department of Transport Circular RW 06/2024. These installations are based on national guidance supported by trials conducted by the Department of Transport and the National Transport Authority (NTA), and reflect international best practice.

In response to public feedback and elected member queries, the Traffic Section has arranged one-off road safety audits at two locations where public concerns were raised:

1. **Castle Road, Lucan:**
A Road Safety Audit was undertaken, which identified that visibility at the crossing was compromised due to overgrown foliage from mature trees. While tree trimming was considered, it was determined that installing flashing beacons and additional street lighting would be more effective and less invasive, allowing the mature trees to be retained. These improvement works have commenced on site.
2. **Main Street, Newcastle:**
The Road Safety Audit recommended enhancements to night-time visibility of pedestrian signage. As a result, the existing signage will be replaced with solar-powered illuminated signs. These works are scheduled for completion within the next four weeks.

No further safety concerns have been reported to date at the other 18no. recently installed beacon-free crossings in the county. The Traffic Section will continue to monitor all locations in line with best practice and will implement further improvements where deemed necessary.

SDCC remain committed to ensuring that all pedestrian crossings provide a high standard of safety and accessibility in accordance with national guidance and taking account of particular local contexts.

### **Q20/0725 Councillor N. Fennell**

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

**REPLY:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **LEA** | **Numbers** |
| Clondalkin | 74 |
| Firhouse-Bohernabreena | 21 |
| Lucan | 55 |
| Palmerstown-Fonthill | 85 |
| Rathfarnham-Templeogue | 56 |
| Tallaght Central | 94 |
| Tallaght South | 29 |
| **Grand Total** | **414** |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Development** | **LEA** | **No. of Homes** |
| Pearse Brothers Park | Firhouse/Bohernabreena | 10 |
| St. Aongus Green | Tallaght Central | 12 |
| St. Ronans Crescent | Palmerstown /Fonthill | 9 |
| Sarsfield | Lucan | 5 |
| Alpine Heights | Clondalkin | 13 |
| Deansrath/Melrose | Clondalkin | 27 |
| **Total** |   | **76** |

### **Q21/0725 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive what parks in the county are being considering for upgrades, including an expected timeframe and broken down by LEA.

[Q21 Parks Upgrades Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86758)

### **Q22/0725 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive what will happen to the Tenant in Situ scheme when the budget allocated in 2025 runs out?

**REPLY:**

The council were allocated €25 million for acquisitions in 2025 with revised criteria from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) to focus on the following priorities:

• Tenancy sustainment / tenant in-situ acquisitions

• Older persons and persons with a disability

• Exits from homeless services and

• Buy and renew acquisitions which tackle vacancy

A review has been undertaken of both current and potential acquisition commitments to assess our remaining capacity to support further acquisitions this year, in line with the revised DHLGH criteria, funding, and guidance. To date, the Procurement team have purchased 35 properties throughout the county. An additional 30 properties are at the sale agreed or conveyancing stage, to which we are already committed. There are a further 4 potential acquisitions at various stages of due diligence under the Tenant in Situ process, which are currently being assessed in light of the updated DHLGH criteria and funding availability.

As part of this review, the Procurement team are continuing to engage with our Allocations and Leasing teams to identify and explore any alternative options that may be available. Tenants in these properties are advised to be actively engaging with our choice based letting system to express an interest in properties being advertised on a weekly basis.

### **Q23/0725 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the current official timeframe for processing social housing applications once a completed application has been submitted?

**REPLY:**

The current processing of completed social housing applications is 12 weeks which is within the statutory timeframe.

It should be noted that processing delays can occur if crucial details or supporting documents are missing from the application. As part of the Council's ongoing digital transformation to provide enhanced and optimal customer service, the Housing Online (HOL) portal provides an online, fully mobile responsive self-service area that allows housing applicants to apply or update their application 24/7.

### **Q24/0725 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive how many households have registered as homeless following a Notice of Termination of tenancy in 2025?

**REPLY:**

As of the end of June 2025, the Homeless Unit recorded 155 new presentations from individuals or households who had received a valid Notice of Termination from their landlord.

### **Q25/0725 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive to list in tabular format by village the number of Green Machine street cleaning devices in service across the county.

**REPLY:**

The Council's Public Realm Section has six pedestrian sweepers in place as set out in the table below, also shown is the current operating status of each one.  Three of these sweepers are currently operational while three are not, due to difficulties in the availability of replacement parts for maintenance.  In addition three mini-sweepers are in operation which sweep town and village centres including footpaths and are also used to sweep park footpaths and cycle tracks.  The Council's road sweeping contractor operates five large suction road sweepers and three mini/micro sweepers which are used to sweep footpaths and cycle tracks including segregated cycle tracks.  The process to procure new pedestrian sweepers has commenced, the hire of a number of units is in the process of being arranged to cover the period until those new procured units are in place.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Location | Status |
| 1 | Tallaght  | Unit is operational  |
| 2 | Rathfarnham | Unit is operational |
| 3 | Templeogue | Unit not operational  |
| 4 | Clondalkin | Unit not operational |
| 5 | Lucan | Unit not operational |
| 6 | Palmerstown | Unit is operational  |

### **Q26/0725 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive when the Mobile Library Wheelchair Lifts, that are currently out of order, will be repaired?

**REPLY:**

All three of our mobile library vehicles are equipped with platform wheelchair lifts to ensure inclusive access for all members of the community. These lifts are subject to annual safety inspections.

During the most recent inspection, defects were identified in the lifts on two of our vehicles. We are currently investigating the options available to us to repair or replace these lifts. This matter is being treated as a priority and we are working to have the necessary work completed as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we are taking measures to arrange alternative solutions for our customers to minimise any inconvenience caused by this temporary disruption. These measures include offering a home delivery service and prioritising the use of the third vehicle, which is not currently affected by lift maintenance requirements, on routes that include regular users with accessibility needs.

We remain committed to providing an accessible and reliable service, and we appreciate your understanding during this temporary disruption.

### **Q27/0725 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into the 'Bus Stop Enhancement Programme' which the NTA provided funding to South Dublin County Council for in 2024. Report to include a list of locations for each LEA.

**REPLY:**

The National Transport Authority (NTA) allocated initial funding to South Dublin County Council in 2024 under the *Bus Stop Enhancement Programme*. However, no works were carried out during 2024 as SDCC did not have the necessary resources to progress the programme within the timeframe and the installation guidance and approval processes were not established.

In 2025, the NTA issued formal guidelines for the programme, and SDCC is currently progressing with the design stage.

The scope of works involves a visual survey of existing bus stops and identifying the upgrades required to improve accessibility and usability, subject to available space. This may include improvements to footpaths, kerbing, markings, and other associated infrastructure.

Where there is adequate space and the necessary planning processes have been completed, infrastructure works to accommodate future bus shelter installations will also be carried out as part of these works.

It should be noted that bus shelter installation itself is managed directly by the NTA on a nationwide basis.

Each location is assessed by the SDCC Traffic Section and submitted to the NTA for initial approval to proceed with design. Once the design is completed, it is submitted to the NTA for approval to proceed to Road Safety Audit. Following sign-off of the Road Safety Audit, the site will then progress to the construction stage.

Where a bus shelter is deemed appropriate, the site will be added to the NTA’s list for installation, with the delivery managed by the NTA.

The following locations have been initially approved by the NTA to proceed to RSA Stage 1/2:

* **Foxborough, Balgaddy Road, Lucan** – Plate code 4619
* **Foxborough, Balgaddy Road, Lucan** – Plate code 4606
* **Alderwood, Old Blessington Road** – Plate code 2349

It is expected to deliver 20no. Bus Stop enhancements in 2025.  The locations of the 20 no. locations will be released when they are approved by the NTA and ready for public announcement.  The proposed locations aim to have a geographic spread around our county, but in the initial phases, will be targeted at the busiest bus routes on our road network.

### **Q28/0725 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to advise whether traffic volume and potential increase in traffic volume are taken into consideration when decisions on planning are made?

**REPLY:**

Traffic and Transport Assessments and / or Workforce Travel Plans (also known as Mobility Management Plans) are required to support development proposals that have the potential to generate significant traffic movements, to demonstrate that there is public transport carrying capacity and road capacity to serve the development

The County Development Plan states in SM6 Objective 8 'To require all major traffic generating development to submit a Mobility Management Plan / Workforce Plan and / or Traffic and Transport Assessment'

Traffic and Transport Assessments (TTAs) provide a framework for an integrated approach to development which ensures that proposals promote more efficient use of investment in transportation infrastructure, reduce travel demand and promote road safety. TTAs should address the impact of the proposed development on the local and broader street network and should provide a clear rationale for the proposed level of car parking having regard to the existing and potential availability of public transport services in the area.

Traffic Impact Statements will be required for all major traffic generating development as defined by the Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) published by the National Roads Authority (NRA) (now Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)). The Planning Authority may also require such assessments where a particular development may have a significant impact on the County road network. All such statements should also be prepared in accordance with the Guidelines.

Traffic Assessments will be required to demonstrate that sufficient, realistic and verifiable levels of public transport carrying capacity and road capacity will be provided for, in a sustainable, phased manner, so as to cater for all new trips to be generated by the development.

### **Q29/0725 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on planning approval for large scale residential developments. The report to include how the need for community infrastructure such as schools, recreation and transport is considered and does planning for this happen in tandem with approval for residential developments

**REPLY:**

 The County Development Plan process requires the identification and monitoring of existing infrastructure (such as community infrastructure including school provision, healthcare facilities, recreation facilities, and transport) available across the County, based on the planned population growth for the area moving forward. This is done in consultation with relevant stakeholders i.e., SDCC, DoE, TII, NTA, and HSE on an ongoing basis as required, including by way of pre-planning.

An example of same includes the quarterly meeting with the Department of Education (in line with the nationally agreed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to proactively identify and acquire sites for new primary and post-primary schools and to support the Department’s Schools Building Programme), to identify needs based on population growth and housing delivery, in addition to age-based demographics. Another example, with regard to transport provision, includes regularly liaising with the NTA and TII to identify the capacity of the existing networks and infrastructure provision to support planned population growth and identify priority improvement works. SDCC has proactively engaged in upcoming transport projects such as DART+ and Bus Connects to date, in addition to various NTA-funded Active Travel programmes in the County.

As part of the preparation of the current (2022-2028) South Dublin County Development Plan, a Social/Community Infrastructure Audit (SIA) was prepared to identify the current and projected needs of the County regarding such infrastructure based on population growth and demographics. Policies and objectives responding to the needs, as identified in the SIA were included within the Plan to ensure that the delivery of new housing in tandem with the delivery of required infrastructure. Some such policy relating to community infrastructure specifically includes the following, which relate to new provision, enhancement of existing facilities, phased delivery, and explicit metrics where applicable :

Policy COS2: Social/ Community Infrastructure
COS2 Objective 1
To support the provision of a wide range of community facilities and to ensure that such facilities are provided in new and existing communities in tandem with housing development, with special consideration for a period of review to adapt to the needs of an increasingly multi-cultural and diverse community, in accordance with the phasing requirements of Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes.

COS2 Objective 3
To protect and enhance existing community facilities, and to support the development and expansion of new and existing facilities and services, in proximity to the populations they serve, where their need is identified.

Policy COS3: Community Centres
COS3 Objective 1
To investigate, where new provision is required to meet the needs of the population, the feasibility of extending existing community centres on suitable sites, where siting, layout, design, access and other planning considerations allow.

COS3 Objective 2
To ensure the provision of new community centres in new and existing development areas or where provision is the responsibility of the developer, the Council will ensure the developer provides, in proximity to the population they serve and in accordance with the standard of one centre per 8,000 population with a size of approximately 1,200-1,800 sq m, or dependent on specific local demographic or other needs, smaller centres at a more local level, generally between 350-650 sq m in size at the discretion of the Council, or as may be updated by any future community centre strategy carried out by the Council.

Policy CS3: Monitoring Population and Housing Growth
CS3 Objective 6: To ensure the phased development of new housing areas in tandem with the delivery of physical and social infrastructure provision as identified within Local Area Plans or as informed by assessments carried out by the Planning Authority.

In terms of SDCC delivery and/or consent, the SDCC Capital Programme (informed by Development Plan policies and objectives ) outlines project delivery, drawing on a variety of funding mechanisms to delivery infrastructure across the County. This may include projects such as libraries, community facilities, parks, and active travel projects, as well as other various upgrades. Further to this, the Council has a number of SDZ and LAPs which outline required social and community infrastructure to coincide with housing delivery and population growth for these Plan-led areas. In this regard, a landowner/applicant must demonstrate the delivery of such infrastructure in tandem with residential unit delivery in line with the identified phasing schedule of the relevant planning scheme. An example of same would be the delivery of educational facilities in advance of and in tandem with housing delivery within the Adamstown SDZ following proactive engagement with the DoE. Separately, SDCC played a key role liaising with the HSE and landowner in the delivery of a primary health care centre at The Crossings in Adamstown District Centre, all of which were tied to phasing requirements. Additionally, SDCC successfully leveraged strategic funding for abnormal infrastructure in Adamstown under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fun (LIHAF) and Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) totalling €30 million to deliver the Celbridge Link Road, Airlie Park and Tandy’s Lane Park (all completed), as well as Adamstown District Centre Plaza and the forthcoming Central Boulevard Park.

At an individual application level, proposals relating to infrastructure delivery are assessed with regard to existing provision in the area of the application site. For larger applications (including LRDs), an audit is requested to ensure sufficient facilities of adequate capacity are located within the catchment area of the site, and/or provided for as part of the development to serve existing and future requirements. A condition of a grant of permission may also include for the provision of such facilities or financial contribution towards same as provided for the in SDCC Development Contributions Scheme, currently under review.

### **Q30/0725 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on applications for retrospective planning permission. The report to detail the criteria for applicants and whether there is a different set of criteria for single applicants versus developers?

**REPLY:**

There is no difference in the criteria for seeking retention / retrospective planning permission for single applicants and developers.

Section 3 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, defines development as “….. ***the carrying out of any works on, in, over or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land”.***

Unauthorised development occurs when work takes place which is not exempt development and for which no planning permission has not been sought and granted.  (This may be deliberately or by oversight and retrospective). Planning permission is required when such construction or changes have been carried out and where legal retention of the development is envisaged by the developer.

The planning application fee, for a retention application is three times more than the standard fee.   This criterion is set out in the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. Similarly, in line with the Council’s Development Contribution Scheme 2021/2025 ( currently under review), no reductions in whole or in part apply to permissions for retention of development, irrespective of whether an exemption / reduction would  have applied at an earlier planning application stage. This policy is generally replicated across the country via most Development Contribution Schemes

It should also be noted that an application for retention does not automatically mean that the works done will be granted permission. All planning applications are assessed on a case by case basis, having regard to the County Development Plan and other applicable guidance. Decisions on retention applications may be appealed. If an application for retention / retrospective permission is granted it allows legal retention of the work.

### **Q31/0725 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive what bye-laws are in place for the effective management of clothes recycling banks?

**REPLY:**

Textile recycling bring banks are for the most part provided by local authorities with some provided on privately owned sites by private operators.  Textile recyclers who service the textile bring banks are required to have a collection permit which is issued by the NWCPO (National Waste Collection Permit Office).  These collection permits are enforced by local authorities and the holder of a permit is required to comply with the conditions attached to the permit.  The providers of the private bring banks are also required to comply with the general waste legislation with regard to the provision and maintenance of the bring site itself and the temporary storage of waste at the site, in general the activity should not cause environmental pollution and local authorities can enforce this legislation when required.  The Litter Pollution Act may also be enforced where there is inappropriate or unauthorised use of a bring facility.  The inappropriate use which occurs at bring sites is in general illegal dumping of waste at the site by members of the public and as with any other incident of illegal dumping evidence of the dumping incident is required for a fine to be issued or a prosecution to be taken by the local authority.

### **Q32/0725 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a breakdown of commercial rate income by electoral ward for 2024

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council’s commercial rates income for 2024 was almost €146m. This contributed to 43% of our budgeted income and is a vital source of income for SDCC. Approximately €17.8m of this income related to what are referred to as global accounts, for example ESB, Gas Network Ireland etc. The breakdown of the 2024 commercial rates by electoral district is laid out in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Electoral District**  | **Commercial Rates 2024**  |
| BALLINASCORNEY | €220,121.04 |
| BALLYBODEN | €42,561.96 |
| BOHERNABREENA | €262,481.52 |
| CLONDALKIN BALLYMOUNT | €6,400,052.22 |
| CLONDALKIN DUNAWLEY | €19,811,660.88 |
| CLONDALKIN MONASTERY | €9,168,548.88 |
| CLONDALKIN MOOREFIELD | €1,557,349.32 |
| CLONDALKIN ROWLAGH | €71,972.52 |
| CLONDALKIN VILLAGE | €7,700,562.84 |
| CLONDALKIN-CAPPA | €94,717.68 |
| EDMONDSTOWN | €262,136.52 |
| FIRHOUSE BALLYCULLEN | €188,938.56 |
| FIRHOUSE KNOCKLYON | €240,558.84 |
| FIRHOUSE VILLAGE | €666,236.40 |
| LUCAN HEIGHTS | €653,068.44 |
| LUCAN ST HELENS | €2,121,435.36 |
| LUCAN-ESKER | €3,366,587.28 |
| NEWCASTLE | €10,291,824.72 |
| PALMERSTOWN VILLAGE | €1,098,786.36 |
| PALMERSTOWN WEST | €14,648,895.96 |
| RATHCOOLE | €1,106,434.32 |
| RATHFARNHAM BALLYROAN | €346,173.00 |
| RATHFARNHAM BUTTERFIELD | €401,229.48 |
| RATHFARNHAM HERMITAGE | €177,194.76 |
| RATHFARNHAM ST ENDAS | €281,724.24 |
| RATHFARNHAM VILLAGE | €627,105.12 |
| SAGGART | €1,604,655.72 |
| GLOBAL ACCOUNTS | €17,848,231.10 |
| TALLAGHT AVONBEG | €46,690.92 |
| TALLAGHT BELGARD | €763,736.16 |
| TALLAGHT FETTERCAIRN | €8,469,269.76 |
| TALLAGHT GLENVIEW | €1,021,754.76 |
| TALLAGHT JOBSTOWN | €2,205,430.44 |
| TALLAGHT KILLINARDEN | €80,873.52 |
| TALLAGHT KILNAMANAGH | €5,690,214.73 |
| TALLAGHT KILTIPPER | €442,554.96 |
| TALLAGHT KINGSWOOD | €5,659,978.92 |
| TALLAGHT MILLBROOK | €161,418.60 |
| TALLAGHT OLDBAWN | €2,466,164.88 |
| TALLAGHT SPRINGFIELD | €9,702,230.76 |
| TALLAGHT TYMON | €4,926,260.52 |
| TEMPLEOGUE CYPRESS | €107,234.28 |
| TEMPLEOGUE KIMMAGE MANOR | €255,443.52 |
| TEMPLEOGUE LIMEKILN | €95,197.92 |
| TEMPLEOGUE ORWELL | €13,788.96 |
| TEMPLEOGUE OSPREY | €283,659.00 |
| TEMPLEOGUE VILLAGE | €282,590.88 |
| TERENURE CHERRYFIELD | €873,471.00 |
| TERENURE GREENTREES | €166,618.44 |
| TERENURE ST JAMES | €971,577.96 |
| **Total**  | **€145,947,405.93** |

### **Q33/0725 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive if it is possible to provide a breakdown of commercial rate income by income bands in 2024?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council’s commercial rates accounted for almost €146m in 2024. This was 43% of our budgeted income for the year and, as such, is an essential income stream for the Council. As you can see the majority of our rate accounts (49.3%) fall within the lowest band and pay less than €5,000 commercial rates per year.

The below table gives the breakdown of commercial rates accounts by income band for 2024

|  |
| --- |
| **Commercial Rates 2024** |
| **Annual Rates****Billing Bands** | **Commercial Rates 2024** | **No. of Accounts** | **% of Ratepayers in this Category** |
| ***€0-€5,000*** | **€9,185,040** | **3,432**  | **49.3%** |
| ***€5,001 - €10,000*** | **€11,678,087** | **1,689**  | **24.2%** |
| ***€10,001 - €50,000*** | **€30,729,634** | **1,458**  | **20.9%** |
| ***€50,001 - €100,000*** | **€14,773,347** | **214**  | **3.1%** |
| ***€100,001 - €500,000*** | **€27,409,710** | **141**  | **2.0%** |
| ***€500,001 - €1,000,000*** | **€10,461,502** | **15**  | **0.2%** |
| ***>€1m*** | **€41,710,087** | **19**  | **0.3%** |
| **Total** | **€145,947,406** | **6,968**  |  |

### **Q34/0725 Councillor A. Smyth**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on how many people have refused housing offers in 2025 to date? Report to include a break down on the reasons given for the refusal.

**REPLY:**

Up to the 30th June, 2025, 160 formal refusals of offers of accommodation were recorded from eligible households on the general housing waiting list, transfer list, medical approval list and from households in emergency accommodation. The reasons for these refusals are summarised in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Reasons** | **Total** |
| Applicant deems accommodation  unsuitable for their needs | 21 |
| Applicant no longer interested in the area | 29 |
| Location of property within the estate | 46 |
| Other  | 64 |
| **Grand total** | **160** |

### **Q35/0725 Councillor J. Spear**

Can the Chief Executive please give an update on the sports pavilions? Please include when works will commence for each one and expected delivery 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 local communities, and to support the growth and development of sports clubs and groups facilities such as changing rooms, and secure storage areas ensure access to recreation, sustainability of service delivery and enable 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 pavillions 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 tender evaluation completed. The standstill period is now in train, however this period is always subject to appeal by unsuccessful bidders which is a risk to programme.

As part of the tender process, the bidders have all submitted an outline programme but this will need to be confirmed after expiration of the standstill period. 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 which is on-going at present. Once the contract is signed for the initial 2 projects the remaining projects  can be programmed and ordered, at that stage the timelines for the remaining projects can be confirmed. Delivery dates are not available at present.

South Dublin will seek to ensure the earliest possible start for manufacture and delivery of the units on site.

### **Q36/0725 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to comment on the intended protocol for presidential hopefuls who look to SDCC for a nomination and ensure that that the protocol does not allow the promotion of hate towards refugees / asylum seekers or members of the LGBTQ+ community or any other community?

**REPLY:**

As agreed at the Council's Organisation Procedure and Finance Committee meeting in May 2025 a protocol will be in place for those seeking nomination for the Office of President. The protocol will include the types of behaviour that will be **unacceptable** including the use of offensive, threatening or inappropriate language or language that promotes, fosters, or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, disability, age, race, religious belief or membership of the Traveller Community.

### **Q37/0725 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive is there an initiative that would help combat anti-social behaviour and to engage with teenagers in particular.

**REPLY:**

The following initiatives to help combat anti-social behaviour targeted at teenagers are currently in place and delivered across the County:

* **Detached Street Worker Programme**-  SDCC supports the work of Connect 4, a street based youth worker programme in Killinarden and Jobstown areas of West Tallaght. This project focuses on detached youth work, a distinctive form of outreach that specifically engages the most at-risk and marginalized young individuals, aged between 10 and 24 years. Unlike traditional youth work settings, the Connect 4 Project operates directly on the streets of West Tallaght, reaching out to vulnerable youth in their natural environments to provide essential support and assistance.  The potential to expand this model to other suitable areas within the County is currently being explored.
* **Junior Safety Forum**- The Junior Safety Forum is a youth-led initiative by South Dublin County Council, modelled on the Joint Policing Committee, that gives 6th class students a meaningful voice in creating safer, healthier communities. Meetings are held in the Council Chamber and attended by the Chief Executive, Directors, Senior Management of SDCC, and An Garda Síochána, giving the Forum official recognition and support.
* **Youth Café - Think Big Space** - The Interagency team along with An Garda Síochána and Foróige piloted a drop in youth café in the Foróige space in Tallaght. Due to the success of the pilot, UBU funding was secured to continue to deliver this service. The Interagency team is collaborating with Foróige to explore rolling this initiative out to other areas.
* **Drop-In Café – Quarryvale Youth and Community Centre**: The Drop-In Café provides a safe, inclusive space where teenagers can relax, socialise, and build connections.
* **Weekly E-Sports Club – Knockmitten Youth and Community Centre**: The weekly e-sports club offers a structured and social environment for young people interested in gaming.

The Interagency team, Community Development team, Healthy South Dublin, Active Cities, and Noise Music teams are working together to deliver a series of initiatives aimed at engaging teenagers over the summer months and reducing anti-social behaviour. These initiatives include:

* **Noise Music Programmes**: A range of creative workshops including songwriting, music production, DJing, and live performance will take place in Quarryvale, Balgaddy, Tallaght, Killinarden, and Brookfield. These sessions are designed to provide young people with an interest in music and performance a positive and expressive outlet.
* **Social Football in Balgaddy**: In partnership with St. Patrick’s Football Club, Active Cities will host weekly social football sessions every Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Balgaddy, encouraging physical activity and community engagement.
* **Sport on the Green – Balgaddy**: A four-week multi-sport programme offering soccer, athletics, rugby, cricket, calisthenics, and volleyball will be delivered in Balgaddy, promoting active lifestyles and inclusive participation.
* **Quarryvale Play Day – 12th July**: In partnership with Healthy Ireland and Active South Dublin, the Quarryvale Youth and Community Centre will host a Play Day in Quarryvale Park, featuring:

A range of sports stations

Sensory play

Activities led by Noise Music

A lively and colourful Colour Run

* **Summer Project Grants**: The Community Development Team have awarded Summer Project funding to various community groups and organisations across the County to support the delivery of summer programmes. These include activities facilitated by Crosscare in Knockmitten, Bawnogue, and Clondalkin Village.
* **Youth Programme Development**: The Community Development Team has linked local Residents’ Associations with Crosscare to co-develop youth programmes for the school holiday period, enhancing community-led engagement.

**Roaming Playworker Application**:

The Interagency team has submitted a funding application to the Community Safety Innovation Fund for a roaming playworker to support youth activities in Balgaddy and Quarryvale. Confirmation of grant approval is pending.

### **Q38/0725 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a breakdown report into any cost incurred in over runs on Council Capital projects for the last 12 months?

**REPLY:**

All capital construction projects undertaken by SDCC, and all other local authorities and state bodies, are subject to the terms and conditions of the public works contracts and are carried out in accordance with the capital works management framework.

Strict cost management of capital projects is undertaken by SDCC’s internal and consultant quantity surveyors and while overall projected costs for all construction contracts are agreed prior to entering into contract, variations to the contract are usual and regular with contractual clauses allowing additional costs to be accounted for in circumstances such as where additional works are requested by the council, unforeseen requirements arise or changes in building regulations occur etc.

In the event of claims for additional costs and/or time by contractors, these are assessed by our quantity surveyors to determine whether the claim is justified under the contract, represents value for money and is in accordance with tendered rates, with cost negotiation undertaken where appropriate to achieve best possible value.  Claims not agreed can be referred to conciliation (not binding) and then to arbitration (binding) if necessary for a determination to be made, with any cost increases subject to approval within the council’s corporate governance framework.  When the above steps are completed and costs are agreed the contract sum is adjusted to reflect the increased cost and this is then regarded as an approved change order to the contract resulting in a revised contract sum.  All additional costs to contracts must go through this process and be recommended for acceptance by the employer’s representative for the project.

In light of the strict cost control practices outlined above, the County Architect confirms that there are no unsubstantiated or unapproved costs incurred on capital projects under SDCC’s remit.

### **Q39/0725 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive would he consider a more scaled back community endeavour awards much more like the mayor awards and give a breakdown for the cost of the last community endeavour awards ?

**REPLY:**

The Community Endeavour Awards ran annually from 2015 to 2019 and were reintroduced in 2024 after the covid pandemic, with the plan to run every two years. The cost of running the event in 2024 was €45,000.

Community Heroes / Mayor's Awards were held in 2023 and 2025 as initiatives of the Mayors in those years, Cllr Emma Murphy and Cllr Baby Pereppadan respectively. Both Awards nights were held in the Concourse at County Hall which is serving as an increasingly popular event space for events of this type and space. The cost of the event in 2025 was €13,000.

Both initiatives celebrate the wealth of community and volunteer work across the county improving lives and local communities. The formation of the new Community Directorate brings together Corporate Services, Libraries and Community and is an opportunity to review and improve such initiatives. The executive will engage with the Mayor, Elected Members and the Social, Community and Equality SPC in the future development of these Awards.

### **Q40/0725 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive would he issue a report into the cost of building a one, two, three and four bed home in SDCC and the alternative cost of buying same on the open market to ensure value for money for the taxpayer ?

**REPLY:**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issue basic unit cost guidelines to local authorities for new build social housing schemes, examples are outlined in the table below based on the maximum permitted by unit type:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unit type | Max all-in costs |
| 1 Bed house | €377,200 |
| 2 Bed house | €406,600 |
| 3 Bed house | €422,500 |
| 4 Bed house | €466,800 |
| 1 Bed apartment | €427,600 |
| 2 Bed apartment | €455,900 |
| 3 Bed apartment | €492,800 |

SDCC strives to ensure value for money in all social housing building projects to provide housing accommodation for all needs. It is difficult to compare local authority housing delivery with private provision on the open market as numerous factors have an impact on the open market value of a property such as location, property size/specification, alterations made to properties, additional fees associated with a purchase etc..

There are several characteristics applicable to the delivery of social housing by the local authority which will not apply to private provision. Issues such as the application of public procurement rules and the impact of policy shifts, application of differing standards in the use of construction materials, etc. The one-off nature of many local authority housing construction contracts also reduces considerably the scope for economies of scale across project delivery.

### **Q41/0725 Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive to please provide a report of how many Tenant In Situ sales have not progressed due to the new rules implemented by the Minister earlier this year.

**REPLY:**

The council were allocated €25 million for acquisitions in 2025 with revised criteria from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) to focus on the following priorities:

• Tenancy sustainment / tenant in-situ acquisitions

• Older persons and persons with a disability

• Exits from homeless services and

• Buy and renew acquisitions which tackle vacancy

A review has been undertaken of both current and potential acquisition commitments to assess our remaining capacity to support further acquisitions this year, in line with the revised DHLGH criteria, funding, and guidance. To date, the Procurement team have purchased 35 properties throughout the county. An additional 30 properties are at the sale agreed or conveyancing stage, to which we are already committed. There are a further 4 potential acquisitions at various stages of due diligence under the Tenant in Situ process, which are currently being assessed in light of the updated DHLGH criteria and funding availability.

As part of this review, the Procurement team are continuing to engage with our Allocations and Leasing teams to identify and explore any alternative options that may be available. Tenants in these properties are advised to be actively engaging with our choice based letting system and to express an interest in properties being advertised on a weekly basis.

### **H6/0725 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H7/0725 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H8/0725 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT & CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT - FOR NOTING**

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

[HI-8 (a) Chief Executive's Monthly Report July 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86789)
[HI-8 (b) Statistics Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86790)
[HI-8 (c) Finance Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86688)
[HI-8 (d) Capital Projects Progress Report July 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86763)

The report was presented by Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive.

A discussion arose with contributions from Councillors R. McMahon P. Kearns, E. Ó Broin and J. Sinnott regarding questions to the Chief Executive on the Capital Projects Progress Report. The Members **AGREED** to refer the matter to the Organisation, Procedure and Finance committee for discussion.

### Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive responded to the Members.

The report was **NOTED**.

### **H9/0725 NOMINATION OF A NEW CHAIR FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC REALM AND CLIMATE CHANGE SPC - FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Community and was **CONSIDERED.**

A vacancy exists on the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC following the resignation of Councillor Brian Lawlor, and it is a matter for the Council to nominate a replacement to fill the vacancy.

This is now before the Council for consideration.

[HI-9 (b) Resignation of Cllr Brian Lawlor](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86767)

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor B. Lawlor and **AGREED** that Councillor D. McManus be appointed as Chair of the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC

### **H10/0725 DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME – COMMENCE CONSULTATION - FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. E. Burke, Director of Planning and Transport and was **CONSIDERED.**

[HI-10 (a) DDCS 2026/2028 - For Public Consultation](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86783)
[HI-10 (b) DDCS 2026/2028 - PPT](http://intranet/cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=86802)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Sinnott, H. Farrell, Y. Collins, J. Spear, M. Johansson, E. Ó Broin and J. Tuffy. Queries were raised in relation to communication and extension of the public consultation period, future delivery of libraries, levies in lieu of public spaces and facilities, developers’ failure to deliver on approved planning, funding gaps, and amendments to levies on transport and economic development.

### Mr. E. Burke, Director of Planning and Transport, responded to the Members’ queries.

The commencement of public consultation on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor M. Duff and **AGREED.**

### **H11/0725 LPT VARIATION REPORT - FOR APPROVAL**

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

[HI-11 (a) LPT Local Adjustment Factor](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86776)
[HI-11 (b) South Dublin Fin 09 2025 Provisional 2026 LPT allocations](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86777)
[HI-11 (c) LPT Presentation](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86778)

**Councillor M. Duff** **proposed** and **Councillor A. Edge seconded** thatthis Council reduces LPT by 7.5% and maintain this reduction for the lifetime of this Council (4 years)

**Councillor L. Dunne proposed** and **Councillor W. Carey seconded** thatthis Council decreases the LPT by 15% for residents in South Dublin for the remainder of this Council term.

**Councillor R. McMahon** **proposed** and **Councillor L. De Courcy seconded** to reduce the LPT for residents of South Dublin Administrative area by 15% for the year 2026.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Kearns, M. Duff, L. Dunne, R. McMahon, N. Whelan, M. Johansson, J. Sinnott, L. De Courcy, D. Adelaide, W. Carey, J. Tuffy, E. Ó Broin, D. McManus, R. McMahon, J. Spear, R. Mannion, S. O’Hara, A. Hayes. L. O’Toole, F. Timmons and K. Keane.

Queries were raised in relation the portion of 7.5% to be sent to central government and reversion of LPT to the base level each year.

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

A **Roll Call Vote** was called on the proposal by Councillor M. Duff to reduce the Local Property Tax by 7.5% and maintain this reduction for the lifetime of this Council, the result of which is as follows:

**FOR: 25 (TWENTY-FIVE)**

**Councillors S. Barnes, C. Brady, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, M. Duff, A. Edge, H. Farrell, T. Gilligan, A. Hayes, P. Kearns, B. Lawlor, L. McCrave, D. McManus, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, S. O’Hara, L. O’Toole, Baby Pereppadan, Britto Pereppadan, J. Sheehy, J. Sinnott, A. Smyth, F. Timmons and J. Tuffy.**

**AGAINST: 14 (FOURTEEN)**

**Councillors D. Adelaide, W. Carey, L. de Courcy, D. Donnelly, L. Dunne, N. Fennell, M. Johansson, K. Keane, R. Mannion R. McMahon, G. Moore, D. Richardson, J. Spear and N. Whelan.**

**ABSTAIN: 0 (ZERO)**

As a result of the **Roll Call Vote** it was **RESOLVED**:

“That South Dublin County Council hereby determines that the basic rate of Local Property Tax should stand varied downwards by seven and a half five percent (7.5%) for the years 1st November 2025 to 31st October 2029 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in the local authority’s administrate area” and **APPROVED.**

Following the **PASSING** of the proposal in the name of Councillor M. Duff, the proposals in the name of Councillors L. Dunne and R. McMahon **FELL**

### **Emergency Motion:**

**SM1/0725** In accordance with the provisions of Section 15 (5) of Standing Orders the Mayor, Councillor P. Kearns, proposed and the Members **AGREED** to deal with an Emergency Motion in the names of Councillor F. Timmons, D. Adelaide, Y. Collins, M. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, H. Farrell, A. Hayes, M. Johansson, K. Keane D. Richardson, E. Ó Broin, H. Farrell, P. Kearns. R. Mannion, E Ó Broin, S. O’Hara, D. Richardson, J. Sinnott, A. Smyth, J. Spear, J. Tuffy, N. Whelan

“That this Council call for immediate action by the Government to expedite the intervention to bring 18 children from Gaza to Ireland for vital medical treatment“

The Motion was **AGREED.**

### **H12/0725 RATHFARNHAM STABLES AND COURTYARDS (PART 8) - FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic Development and was **CONDSIDERED.**

[HI-12 (a) Part 8 CE Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86786)
[HI-12 (b) Part 8 Presentation](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86791)

An amendment to the Part 8 was proposed by **Councillor** **D. McManus**, **seconded** by **Councillor L. McCrave** and **AGREED.**

“That the area known as Courtyard number four to remain under the control and management of South Dublin County Council and not private or commercial operators”.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors Y. Collins, D. McManus, R. McMahon, P. Cosgrave, J. Sinnott, L. McCrave, L. De Courcy, and P. Kearns.

Queries were raised in relation to liaison with residents’ associations and pedestrian access between Rathfarnham Village and Rathfarnham Castle.

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

The Rathfarnham Stables and Courtyards Part 8 was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **AGREED.**

### **H14/0725 COMMUNITY & SPORTS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS - FOR NOTING**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Community and was **CONDSIDERED.**

1. **Community Infrastructure Fund**

The Community Infrastructure Fund of €450,000 provided in the Council’s 2025 Revenue Budget offered community groups, including sports clubs, the opportunity to apply for funding to assist with the costs of either constructing new facilities or for the modernisation and/or expansion of existing facilities.  Groups, including boards of management of community facilities, could apply online for grants ranging from a minimum of €5,000 up to a maximum of €50,000 during the period from 14th March to 17th April 2025 to respond to locally identified needs within their communities.  The fund was heavily oversubscribed, and a detailed assessment process based on the proposed projects' local community impact, value for money, funding, sustainability and viability took place. A total amount of €449,823 in funding for the following community infrastructure grants approved under the 2025 fund are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Facility/Group** | **Project** | **Amount Approved** |
| Tallaght Town AFC | Installation of new all-weather pitch | €35,000.00 |
| Clondalkin Rugby Club | Installation of new floor in changing room & toilets | €11,000.00 |
| Fettercairn Community & Youth Centre | Installation of new heating system | €48,000.00 |
| Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre | Installation of acoustic panels in hall & meeting rooms | €23,700.00 |
| Lucan Harrier & Athletic Club | Upgrade of running track with the installation of spectator railings | €43,749.00 |
| Kilnamanagh AFC | Installation of astro carpet on new training pitch | €15,000.00 |
| Kingswood Community & Leisure Centre | Upgrading fire doors & installation of new hall floor | €29,672.00 |
| St Aengus Parish & Tallaght Senior Citizens Community Centre | Upgrading centre kitchen facilities | €12,000.00 |
| Killinarden Community Centre | Upgrade & external doors, fire doors and centre lighting | €50,000.00 |
| The Big Picture - Foroige | Installation of window blinds | €9,274.00 |
| Whitechurch Community & Youth Centre | Installation of new external security doors & fire doors | €11,000.00 |
| Perrystown Manor Estate Community Centre | Upgrading of fire exits & painting of the building exterior | €37,682.00 |
| Thomas Davis GAA Club | Installation of All Weather Walking & Jogging Track | €40,000.00 |
| Tallaght Community School Sports Complex | Installation of sports hall dividers & a new storage unit | €15,746.00 |
| Knockmitten Youth & Community Centre | Installation of new heating system | €50,000.00 |
| Gaelphobal Thamhlachta | Installation of a kitchen, reception area, toilet & storage in the new theatre & social space | €18,000.00 |
| **Total** |  | **€449,823.00** |

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

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

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

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

Following the assessment process and having regard to the available budget **22** grants totalling **€33,792.49** were approved for **20** local groups summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **No:** | **Amount** |
| Community Development Grants | 9 | €10,442.49 |
| Community Events Funding | 3 | €12,840.00 |
| Sports Development Grants | 10 | €10,510.00 |
| **Total** | **22** | **€33,792.49** |

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** |
| Clondalkin Autism Parents Support Network - (CAPS Network) | Community Development Grants | Minor Equipment | €2000.00 |
| Clondalkin Camera Club | Community Development Grants | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Clondalkin Camera Club | Community Development Grants | Minor Equipment | €1667.49 |
| Dominic's Active Men's Social | Community Development Grants | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Green Lane Manor Rathcoole Residents Association | Community Development Grants | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Parkleigh Residents' Association | Community Development Grants | Start-up Costs | €375.00 |
| Quarryvale Family Resource Centre | Community Development Grants | Environmental improvement | €400.00 |
| Rathcoole Active Retirement Association | Community Development Grants | Running Costs | €1000.00 |
| Russell Square Residents Committee | Community Development Grants | Minor Equipment | €2000.00 |
| Glenasmole Community Association | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €3020.00 |
| North Clondalkin Community Safety Programme | Community Events Funding | Community Celebration | €820.00 |
| Cheeverstown House | Sports Development Grants | Programme Delivery | €1,000.00 |
| Collinstown FC | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €2,000.00 |
| Esker Celtic Football Club | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €3,000.00 |
| Firhouse Community & Leisure Club Ltd | Sports Development Grants | Programme Delivery | €360.00 |
| Glenville Pitch and Putt | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €500.00 |
| Newlane Football Club | Sports Development Grants | Coach Training | €250.00 |
| Sacred Heart FC | Community Events Funding | Community celebration | €9000.00 |
| Shamrock Síoga | Sports Development Grants | Coach Training | €400.00 |
| Templeogue Basketball Club | Sports Development Grants | Coach Training | €500.00 |
| Templeogue Basketball Club | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €1,500.00 |
| WADO Martial Arts Ireland ( WMAI) | Sports Development Grants | Equipment | €1,000.00 |
| **Total** |   |  | **€33,792.49** |

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin, N. Whelan, C. Brady, A. Smyth and L. O’Toole. Queries were raised in relation to solar panel installation in community centres and communication with unsuccessful applications.

Ms. Lorna Maxwell, Director of Community responded to the Members’ queries.

The report was **NOTED.**

### **C1/0725 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Replies**

1. [Reply from Barry Andrews MEP in relation to Motion M3/0625](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86717)

**Acknowledgements**

**(NO BUSINESS)**

**Correspondence**

[(b) Carlow County Council Motion relating to the Occupied Territories Bill](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86665)
[(c) Carlow County Council Motion relating to Paediatric Coeliac Screening](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86667)
[(d) Carlow County Council Motion relating to the Tenant in Situ Scheme](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86666)
[(e) Donegal County Council Motion relating to Israel Bonds](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86669)
[(f) Donegal County Council Motion relating to the Triple Lock](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86670)
[(g) Limerick City County Council Motion relating to the Tenant Purchase Scheme](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86671)
[(h) Limerick City and County Council Motion relating to Smartphone Usage](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86673)
[(i) Galway County Council Motion relating to Affordable Housing](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86672)
[(j) Correspondence from Minister for Children, Disability and Equality](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86690)

The correspondence was **NOTED**.

**MOTIONS:**

### **M1/0725 Tree Planting**

Proposed by Councillor N. Fennell seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE**

That this Council agrees to a policy whereby stronger, more mature trees saplings are planted in place (and as opposed to not replanting), where trees have previously been vandalised or are considered to be more vulnerable to anti-social destructive episodes.

**REPORT:**

A wide variety of factors are considered prior to trees being planted across the County. As per the ‘Living with Trees’ policy document the approach of Right Tree, Right Place is prioritised. This ensures that the correct specimens and sized trees are planted in the correct locations to give the best chance of survival, development and contribution to the area. The majority of trees planted are being placed in urban environments which tend to be restricted in terms of space as a result of footpaths, roads, underground services, above ground services and at times the soil conditions. The current size of trees planted vary to suit their specific locations and while cost may be a factor, tree sizes are selected for the most part to provide the best opportunity possible for a tree to thrive.  The Council engages contractors to supply, plant and maintain trees over a two year period. Should a tree fail as a result of natural causes the contractor is responsible with its replacement. If a tree is vandalised however the Council must carry the cost of removal, replacement and the continued maintenance of the newly planted tree.

Trees vary significantly in cost depending on the age, maturity, growth rate and species type as well as how the trees are harvested for planting. Younger species tend to have a higher survival rate and are more likely to thrive whereas more mature specimens have a much higher likelihood to fail. Therefore there is greater certainty in planting the slightly smaller specimens. In addition the more mature trees are significantly more expensive. On average the trees planted by the Council at present cost from €180 to €410 per tree and while the cost more than doubles from the smaller to the larger size, the diameter of tree only increases by12mm. The higher cost coupled with the potential for failure demonstrates that the smaller specimens provide better value for money and if let grow will contribute to the area in the same way.  The annual tree planting programme for 2025 aims to plant 3,500 trees across the county and in order to achieve this a balance must be found between the size and cost of trees to be planted and the overall aim to reach the planting target.  Use of the higher cost of tree obviously has the potential to use up a disproportionately high portion of the budget which would have a negative impact on the Council's ability to implement it's tree maintenance programme.

It is worth noting that the size of tree does not necessarily mean that it is less likely to be vandalised. For example the vandalism of 25 mature specimen trees in Dodder Valley Park in 2024 was carried out using a power saw. These specimens were larger than would normally be planted but were susceptible to vandalism due to the use of the saw.  Other acts of tree vandalism recorded have involved the use of other hand tools such as hatchets and axes.

### **M2/0725 Tidy Estate Competition**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons seconded by Councillor A. Edge **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE**

That this Council request SDCC to investigate and consider running a tidy estate competition within the County

**REPORT:**

The objectives of a Tidy Estate competition are already met through the Tidy Towns programme, which includes a strong focus on residential areas, estate presentation, and community engagement. Estates that participate through their local Tidy Towns groups are already eligible to be assessed and rewarded under the existing national framework.

The Pride of Place competition, run in association with Co-operation Ireland and supported by local authorities, recognises the efforts of communities across a broad range of categories, including housing estates. Communities are nominated by local authorities and judged on their level of community participation, environmental initiatives, and the overall pride they take in their area. This provides a well-established platform for recognition without duplicating efforts.

SDCC strongly supports work being done through national, regional and local initiatives. Our focus is on supporting existing programmes and increasing awareness and participation in those. SDCC supports Residents Associations involved in estate improvement through these initiatives and local programmes such as the Social Credits Scheme. The staff in Environmental Awareness will include workshops  around how estates can participate in Tidy Towns and Pride of Place effectively.

### **M3/0725 EU Funding**

Proposed by Councillor J. Tuffy seconded by Councillor P. Kearns

That the CEO investigate the feasibility of liaising with the Dublin City Council EU Programme Support Office which operates as part of its economic development remit and l to identify and manage EU funding opportunities for South Dublin County and to work across departments within the council to build awareness of EU funding

**REPORT:**

The Irish Regions European Office (IREO) is a specialised support service which acts as a bridge between Irish local and regional government and the European Union. This office communicates on a regular basis with South Dublin through the Economic Development Department on funding opportunities under the different EU funding streams. In addition the office promotes Irish interests and best practices at the European level.

This office operates as part of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly with the support of the Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government with the objective of bringing the EU closer to the wider local government sector. The office has recently been supplemented with an additional resource to further expand and deliver on this remit.

It is the case that more than 50% of EU Funding is channelled through 5 no. European Structural and Investment Funds:

1. European Regional Development Fund
2. European Social Fund
3. Cohesion Fund
4. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
5. European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

There are also a number of European Programmes which provide funding for projects. Some examples are Horizon Europe, Interreg, Urban Innovative Actions, URBACT, Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens, Creative Europe, the EU Green Deal and LIFE.

All such funding is subject to a funding call being issued by that Programme and calls have specific deadlines for the submission of applications after which the call closes and no further applications are considered. The application process for funding calls specify the qualifying criteria for projects and may focus on different themes or objectives over the lifetime of the Programme with separate calls for applications according to those themes/objectives.

As funding calls issue, the Council can consider whether there are any appropriate projects which qualify under the criteria set out by that funding call and submit applications for projects accordingly.

In addition to engagement with the Irish Regions European Office, the Council are happy to engage with the Dublin City Council EU Programme Support Office as part of its economic remit. It should be noted that there is ongoing dialogue with the Economic Development directorate of Dublin City Council, with regular engagement on new initiatives and funding opportunities, which is also augmented by meetings with the four Dublin Local Authorities and the Eastern Midland Regional Assembly as part of the delivery of the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan, where both national and EU funding opportunities are explored and discussed in delivering regional policy.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Tuffy, Y. Collins, H. Farrell and L. O’Toole.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic Development responded to the Members.

The motion was **AGREED**.

### **M9/0725 Living with Trees - Tree Management Policy 2021 - 2026**

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady seconded by Councillor L. O’Toole and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE**

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to ensure that the review of the 'Living with Trees' policy includes a framework for addressing the impact of tree root systems on public infrastructure, particularly footpaths, identifying and prioritising locations where damage has occurred – setting out criteria for the phased removal and replacement of trees with species more appropriate for urban settings.

**REPORT:**

The current 'Living with Trees' policy document covers the period 2021 to 2026 and is due to be reviewed by the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC and will be replaced in 2026.  The review is due to commence at the September 2025 SPC meeting with the presentation of an appraisal of the current plan and performance under it with regard to the implementation of the three year maintenance plans and annual tree planting plans.  The review will identify aspects of the policy which need to be considered for possible amendment in light of issues that have arisen during the lifetime of the current policy.  It will also consider areas where the policy may need to be further developed, in relation to climate action and biodiversity for example.  It is proposed that non-statutory public consultation will commence directly after the September SPC meeting and will run for a four week period with a report on the consultation then presented to the November SPC meeting.  It is hoped that a draft of the new policy will be ready for presentation to the February 2026 SPC meeting.

The review of the policy will afford elected members and members of the public an opportunity to have their say on the policy through the proposed non-statutory public consultation process which is proposed to commence in September.  The policy currently contains the two objectives 6.3 and 6.4 which are set out below in relation to conflict between trees and public infrastructure.

6.3 Obstruction of roads, cycleways and footpaths Policy: The Council will undertake work to a tree in Council ownership / management where a tree is causing an obstruction to a public highway, public footpath or cycleway, public right of way, access to property or public open space, where reasonably feasible.

6.4 Trip hazard Policy: The Council will undertake measures to make safe an unacceptable trip hazard on a public footpath or road caused by the growth of a Council owned / managed tree.

The maintenance of the county's footpath network is the responsibility of the Council's Road Maintenance Section except for those paths which are in public parks or cross public open spaces.  The Roads Section advise that footpaths which have defects are listed for repair, if the defect is considered hazardous it may be prioritised for repair.  If a tree is suspected of causing the defect the Public Realm Section is requested to inspect the site once the existing footpath has been removed. Where possible offending roots will be pruned however if root pruning is likely to destabilise the tree then the tree will be marked for removal. Roads department require Public Realm to complete their assessment within 48 hours to enable the path repair to be completed.  Footpath repairs are not prioritised due to tree root related defects, they are prioritised solely on the severity of the defect.

### **M11/0725 Israeli Government Bonds**

Proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin seconded by Councillor R. Mannion and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE**

That this council calls on the Irish Central Bank to cease facilitating the sale of Israeli Government Bonds in the EU.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Irish Central Bank.  The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

 ***Meeting Ended at 18:55***

**Motions Not Reached:**

### **M4/0725 Data Centre Moratorium**

Councillor J. Spear

That this Council resolves to write to the Minister for Climate and the Environment requesting a national moratorium on further data centre expansion.

### **M5/0725 Triple Lock**

### Councillor N. Whelan

This Council writes to Government to expresses its dismay and reject government's plans to abolish or amend the Triple Lock, considering the proposal signifies a breach of trust with the Irish electorate and a serious diminution of Irish neutrality.

### **M6/0725 Ladies Gaelic Football Association**

### Councillor R. McMahon

That this Council requests the LGFA (Ladies Gaelic Football Association) review its policy on transgender participation, to ensure fairness and safety for all its players.

### **M7/0725 Triple Lock**

### Councillor M. Johansson

This Council agrees to write to the Taoiseach Micheál Martin and Tánaiste Simon Harris expressing its dismay at and opposition to the government's intention to abolish the Triple Lock, which governs the deployment of its Defence Forces personnel overseas, considering that the proposal signifies a breach of trust with the electorate and a serious diminution of Ireland's neutrality.

### **M8/0725 Irish Business Against Litter Report**

### Councillor M. Duff

That this Council calls the Irish Business Against Litter League and their agent, An Taisce, to refrain from including small Social Housing areas in their Annual Report, when considering the overall Littering report on the general area and should only consider Commercial and open Public Realm areas in their report.

### **M10/0725 Long term leases of pitches**

### Councillor A. Smyth

This council calls on the Chief Executive to amend the policy on the issuing of long term pitch leases for clubs who have been in existence for over 20 years to include a clause for the council to remove the lease if the club ceases to operate.

### **M12/0725 HAP and Homeless HAP Payments**

### Councillor K. Keane

That this council calls on the Minister for Housing to allow local authorities the same discretion to agree to increase HAP and Homeless HAP payments for tenants to stay in their existing (pre-2022) accommodation, rather than face eviction from their rental property.