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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council September 2025 County Council Meeting held on Monday 8 September 2025

### **PRESENT**

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

### **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 OfficerSenior Parks Superintendent | B. Shannon, E. ClancyS. Furlong |
| Administrative Officer | M. Reilly  |
| Senior Staff OfficerStaff Officer | K. McLoughlinP. Mens |
| Assistant Staff Officer | A. Holohan |

The Mayor, Councillor P. Kearns, presided.

**WEBCASTING NOTICE**

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

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

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

The Mayor, Councillor Pamela 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.

### **H1/0925 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the May Council Meeting held on 14th July 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 F. Timmons and the Members **AGREED.**

1. [July 2025 Council Meeting](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86846)

### **H2/0925 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*

### **H3/0925 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL**

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

### **H4/0925 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

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

### **H5/0925 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 D. McManus and **RESOLVED**:

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

### **Q1/0925 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the status of all housing estates that have not yet been taken in charge. Report to include, for each estate, whether or not it is prioritised, 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.

[Q1 (b) Taken In Charge Priority List](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86905)

### **Q2/0925 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the Part 8 sports changing rooms pavilions. The update should include, by Part 8 project, the status, expected delivery timeframe, and the key milestones in bringing each project to delivery.

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

A framework tender for the modular buildings framework using Corkagh & Griffeen as the primary locations has recently completed. The detailed design and tender processes were extended due to required changes to the contract documents and requests from tenderers for additional time. That tender process is now closed and the tender evaluation is complete. The appointment of the successful contractor was delayed due to challenges submitted which were required to be dealt with in line with appropriate procurement processes and procedures. All challenges have been resolved allowing the official signing of contracts at the end of August 2025.

As part of the tender process, the successful applicants submitted an outline programme. The outline programme showed 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. However, given the delays experienced during the standstill period it is anticipated that the first 2 units will now be delivered in early Q1 of 2026 (to be confirmed).

However, this programme will be subject to discussion and agreement with the successful contractor. Post contract signing, the initial two projects at Griffeen & Corkagh are officially instructed. Once complete the timelines for the remaining projects can be confirmed. Specific delivery dates are not available at present but will be established in due course.

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

### **Q3/0925 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive what oversight is in place for capital project review, including what framework, if any, is used to trigger a project review, who initiates it, who sets the scope, and whether the resulting reports and findings are shared with members?

**REPLY:**

There are a number of frameworks for capital project oversight

* The Infrastructure Guidelines (effective since December 2023, updated June 2025) have replaced the Public Spending Code’s capital appraisal rules. They define a 3-gate approval process: Strategic Assessment & Preliminary Business Case, Pre-tender design/procurement strategy, and Final Business Case.
* Key roles under the Guidelines:

*Sponsoring Agency*: Manages delivery, business case, planning, procurement, implementation, and review.

*Approving Authority*: Usually the funding Government Department with responsibility for approving project stages.

*Accounting Officer*: Senior Department official accountable for safeguarding public funds.

* Major projects (over €200?million) require external assurance, input from a Major Projects Advisory Group, and Government approval at Gate?1 and Gate?3.
* Specific sectors have more tailored oversight: e.g., Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) is the approving authority for major roads and greenway projects; it aligns oversight to these Infrastructure Guidelines and manages regional delivery and expenditure tracking.

Under the Public spending code A return is completed each year by South Dublin County Council and submitted to NOAC on all Capital Projects over €500,000.  All reports are published on SDCC website and can be found here. <https://sdcc.ie/en/services/business/procurement/public-spending-code-2024/public-spending-code-2024.html>

The Council has a budget monitoring system that systematically tracks the financial performance of projects against their planned budgets to identify variances, risks, and opportunities. This involves regularly comparing budget figures to actual results and taking corrective action to address discrepancies, ensuring funds are used effectively, and maintaining accountability for financial plans. Budgets are updated as projects progress through the 3-gate approval process and as project variations are approved by senior management. The Chief Executive provides members with a quarterly update on the progress of major capital works

### **Q4/0925 Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the Stock Condition Survey, including when will the associated schedule of works and costs identified for the Energy Efficient Retro Fit program be shared with members.

**REPLY:**

The council has commenced periodic stock condition surveys of our housing stock, whereby properties will be inspected on a 5-year cycle. The findings of the surveys will be directly integrated into our ongoing multi-annual stock investment programme, to proactively address maintenance needs, reduce reactive maintenance requests and enhance the overall value and delivery of services to our tenants.

To date, we have completed over 1,000 surveys in the Rathfarnham-Templeogue and Palmerstown-Fonthill (LEAs). The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has provided essential funding to support this programme, including the implementation of a new asset management application that streamlines data collection and analysis.

The Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme (EERP) was launched with the aim of funding the retrofit of social homes requiring insulation and energy upgrade works over a 10 year period. For 2025, we have been allocated a preliminary target of 83 homes supported by €2.82 million in funding from the DHLGH. The programme allows for an average spend of €34,000 per property, with an additional €169,320 allocated for project management fees. This funding enables us to undertake significant energy efficiency works on a targeted number of homes annually.

The schedule of works is actively underway:

* **Current works:** Works are currently in progress on 55 homes within the Tymon North and Saint Aongus estates in Tallaght Central LEA.
* **Upcoming tenders:** A tender is currently under evaluation for a further 31 homes in the Shancastle and Saint Ronan’s areas of the Palmerstown-Fonthill LEA, with the evaluation scheduled for completion by September 1st.
* **Future planning:** Pre-tender evaluation is underway for properties in the Donomore and Cushlawn areas of Tallaght South LEA. We are also conducting preliminary evaluations for 2026/2027 works in Castlepark, Neilstown Estate; Saint Mark’s Estate; and Airlie Heights.

### **Q5/0925 Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive to set out in tabular form, by LEA, the areas where public lighting has been upgraded to LED and when it is envisaged that the rollout of LED will be completed throughout the rest of the County

**REPLY:**

Since the inception of the LED Upgrade Programme in 2015, we have upgraded approx. 22,700 PL points as of end of July 2025.

It is not currently possible to extract from our Asset Management Database upgraded estates by Local Electoral Area.

Regarding time for completion:

* Upgrade of SOX PL fittings – we are wholly dependent on ESBN resources to support us on site to carry out this work. There are approx. 6,000 of these fittings left in the county as of end of July 2025. Currently we are upgrading on average 90 fittings a month, given their current levels of resource support. If this continues over the next four/five months, we will have this number down to 5,600 at the end of this year. Again, projecting this out at approx. 1,000 upgrades a year, we would expect to complete the SOX upgrades in the middle of 2031.

We have been given assurances that the level of resource provision from ESBN is set to improve due to some forthcoming internal outsourcing within their own organisation but have been given no indication from them of when this might happen.

* Upgrade of SON fittings – this is work that we can carry out entirely under the terms of our own maintenance contract. There are approx. 1,700 of these fittings left in the county as of end of July 2025.  We are programming to complete these upgrades by the end of 2026.

### **Q6/0925 Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update in relation to the number of public lighting outages in areas which have not yet been upgraded to LED lighting and the average timescale for repair

**REPLY:**

* **Number of Current Outages per LEA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **LEA** | **No. Of Outages as of 02/09/25** |
| Clondalkin | 128 |
| Firhouse-Bohernabreena | 28 |
| Lucan | 5 |
| Palmerstown-Fonthill | 28 |
| Rathfarnham-Templeogue | 53 |
| Tallaght Central | 55 |
| Tallaght South | 55 |
|   |   |
|   | **Total                                                  352** |
|   |   |
| (which is 6% of our total remaining stock of  6,000 SOX fittings) |
|   |   |   |

* **Average Timescale for Repair**

These repairs are all the older type orange low pressure sodium (SOX) fittings. The replacement lamps for these fittings are no longer available. If the lamps were available, the turnaround time between reporting of the outage to our maintenance contractor and the repair of the fitting is contractually 14 working days or less. As stated above, there are no lamps available on the open market.

The only option open to us is to use old lamps harvested from estates in the county that are being upgraded to LED. Due to resource issues within ESB Networks, the rollout of this upgrade programme has been seriously impeded.

Therefore it is difficult to forecast how many lamps we may or may not have available to us at any given time to carry out repairs, and as such, we cannot provide an average timescale for repair. However, we do try and address the oldest outages first.

### **Q7/0925 Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive what measures SDCC has in place to remove or encourage the removal of temporary obstacles from footpaths such as street furniture, wheelie bins, and overhanging branches, to create a safer environment for people who are blind or vision impaired to travel independently

**REPLY:**

Road Maintenance carry out an inspection of any reported obstruction/obstacle on footpaths. If an issue is discovered we engage with relevant local parties to try resolve the issue at source immediately. Certain issues will require further action and these are referred to the relevant section within SDCC or a letter is sent if it is a third party.

Our priority is for obstacles to be moved off the public footpath as quickly as possible to ensure a suitable environment is provided for all.

### **Q8/0925 Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive for details of how the Council is integrating age friendly design in planning, to meet the needs of an ageing population and to foster inclusivity

**REPLY:**

The SDCC County Development Plan (2022-2028) includes a number of objectives to deliver age friendly and well design housing to meet the needs of an ageing population and also support a sense of community and inclusivity. The implementation of the objectives are considered in the assessment of private developments and the design of Council led schemes.

The Council supports the principles of age friendly through the Development Plan. This is outlined in H3 Objective 8, which seeks ‘to support and facilitate the implementation of the South Dublin Age Friendly Strategy 2020-2024, the National Age Friendly Programme, and Housing Options for Our Ageing Population 2019 and having regard to Age Friendly Ireland’s guidelines for Planning Authorities (2021)’.

In addition, Policy QDP 10 Mix of Dwelling Types of the Development Plan outlines an objective to ensure that a wide variety of housing types, sizes and tenures are provided in the County in accordance with the provisions of the South Dublin County Council Housing Strategy 2022-2028.

QDP10 Objective 2 - To ensure that our ageing society is catered for in a choice of housing provision having regard to South Dublin Age Friendly County Strategy and Age Friendly Ireland’s Principle and Guidelines for the Planning Authority (2021).

COS2 Objective 5: To promote accessible and inclusive social infrastructure for a range of users by adopting a universal design approach where feasible and to provide for an age friendly society in which people of all ages can live full, active, valued and healthy lives, consistent with RPO 9.12 and RPO 9.13 of the RSES and having regard to Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach – Planning and Policy’ (2012).

The above Development Plan planning policies and objectives are in accordance with the National Planning Framework. The NPF looks to respond to the growing population as well as the fact that the population is living longer. The increase in population coupled with an ageing society will have implications for the health sector and the services required to facilitate this demographic. As more people live longer lives, they will want to stay healthy and independent, live in their own homes and communities, therefore Government policy ‘is to support older people to live with dignity and independence in their own homes and communities for as long as possible’.

The NPF seeks to ensure that there is a more ‘seamless and appropriate continuum of housing choices with appropriate supports for older people and a built environment that is attractive, accessible and safe, older people will be supported and motivated to enjoy more active, healthy and connected lives and to age confidently and comfortably in their community’, therefore promoting inclusivity and meeting the growing needs of this cohort. Furthermore, the NPF also supports key design approaches for age friendly design. There is a need to ensure housing is ‘well-designed lifetime adaptable infill and brownfield development close to existing services and facilities, supported by universal design and improved urban amenities, including public spaces and parks as well as direct and accessible walking routes’.

This is specifically outlined in National Policy Objective 40, which states: ‘Local planning, housing, health facilities and services, transport/ accessibility and leisure policies will be developed with a focus on meeting the needs and opportunities of an ageing population along with the inclusion of specific projections, supported by clear proposals in respect of ageing communities as part of the core strategy of city and county development plans’.

In addition and to implement the planning policy, SDCC has recently completed Age Friendly projects include 10 homes at Brady’s Court, Oldbawn – winner of the 2024 Age Friendly Ireland housing award, 8 homes at An Clos Beag, Ronanstown,  7 homes at Lindisfarne, Clondalkin and 10 homes at The little Arbour, Templeogue, demonstrate SDCC’s commitment to the provision of high quality, well designed and well integrated age friendly housing in suitable locations within the Council’s administrative area.

SDCC’s current programme of own-build Age Friendly housing includes the following projects, all of which are now under construction:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pearse Brothers Court, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16 | 10 Age Friendly homes |
| Saint Aongus Close, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | 12 Age Friendly homes |
| St Ronan’s Crescent Clondalkin, Dublin 22 | 9 Age Friendly homes |
| Sarsfield Park, Lucan | 5 Age Friendly homes |
| Alpine Court, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 | 13 Age Friendly homes |
| Melrose Court, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 | 27 Age homes |

This programme of Age Friendly projects embodies current best practice for the provision of sustainable, life-time dwellings which will facilitate older persons to ‘age in place’ in comfort, security and dignity in their own communities. Projects are designed withing within the context of current housing policy and guidelines and where possible use is made of pre-approved house types such as those included in the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government Design Manual for Quality Housing. The general layout employed on most of the current projects typically consists of a mixture of single storey and two storey own-door homes arranged around shared, enclosed courtyard spaces.

In addition to seeking future appropriate sites for Age Friendly specific housing, consideration is given at feasibility stage to the inclusion of Age Friendly specific units in all of SDCC’s own-build projects subject to site suitability and housing needs. Rightsizing is another option which offers older residents the opportunity to move from larger, under-occupied homes into specifically designed, age friendly homes that can meet their evolving needs now and into the future. Further information on rightsizing and Age Friendly homes can be found on SDCC’s website at: [Age Friendly Housing and Rightsizing - SDCC](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sdcc.ie%2Fen%2Fservices%2Fhousing%2Fage-friendly-housing-and-rightsizing%2F&amp;data=05%7C02%7Ceburke%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Caf5b9e5af07546dd9ac108ddeba16140%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638925800560017266%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=ohl4YLWxhJqu625JofBjV5zq%2F4%2Bp1aucVKkCxcYloOM%3D&amp;reserved=0)

###

### **Q9/0925 Councillor Y. Collins**

Noting that the Council is open to using AI, how will it manage practical applications like e.g. traffic management, alongside concerns about transparency and public trust

**REPLY:**

The Council acknowledges your query regarding the management of AI applications, such as traffic management, in the public sector, particularly concerning transparency and public trust. The council is committed to an approach to AI that is ethical, accountable, and aligned with public service principles.

The practical application of AI is a complex and nuanced matter, as each use case is different. Our approach will be guided by the principles and regulations set forth in the EU AI Act, the government's Guidelines for the Responsible Use of AI in the Public Service, and any sectors guidelines that may be issued. The EU AI Act provides a legal framework to ensure that AI systems are safe and respect fundamental rights. It classifies AI systems based on their potential risk and establishes clear requirements for high-risk applications.

When deploying AI, our implementation will be based on seven core principles for trustworthy AI:

* Human agency and oversight: AI systems must be designed as a tool to support, not replace, human decision-making. Humans will retain the ability to understand, contest, and override automated decisions.
* Technical robustness and safety: AI systems must be resilient to errors and security threats. We will ensure systems are robust, reliable, and capable of operating safely under various conditions.
* Privacy and data governance: The council is committed to safeguarding personal data. We will adhere to strict data protection laws, ensuring that all data is handled with the utmost care, with a focus on privacy by design.
* Transparency: We will be transparent about the use of AI systems, providing clear information on their capabilities, limitations, and how they impact the public.
* Diversity, non-discrimination, and fairness: Our AI applications will be developed and used in a way that avoids biases and promotes equal access and fair outcomes for all citizens.
* Societal and environmental well-being: We will consider the broader impact of AI systems, aiming for solutions that contribute positively to society and the environment.
* Accountability: We will establish clear accountability frameworks for all AI systems, ensuring that there is a responsible party for every stage of the AI lifecycle, from design to deployment.

In addition to these principles, we can only consider AI solutions where our organisation's data remains entirely secure and is never used for training purposes. This is a crucial requirement to protect sensitive public information and maintain public trust. Any AI model or platform we adopt must be able to guarantee the complete isolation and security of our data, ensuring it remains within our control and is not utilised to improve or retrain the provider's general AI model. This commitment is paramount to our duty as a public service entity.

### **Q10/0925 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask SDCC for a report of the prevalence of dumping of nitrous oxide cannisters, the locations advice to the public on how to dispose of them correctly and the cost to the council in disposing of nitrous oxide cannisters

**REPLY:**

The matter of discarded Nitrous Oxide cannisters and 'silver bullets' was first raised under motion 9 of the agenda of the July 2021 County Council meeting.  A commitment was given to gather information from customer complaints, representations and information passed on by staff and to map the results of the information gathered.  This exercise commenced in August 2021 and the undertaking given was to carry out the exercise over a 12 month period, with it being completed in August 2022.  The results of the exercise were presented to the October 2022 meeting of the County Council in response to question 13 on the agenda.  The situation has not changed in recent years with 'silver bullets' and larger cannisters of Nitrous Oxide still being found in large numbers around the county, in recreational areas where the substance is being used and also on roadsides where the cannisters are being discarded.  The availability of the substance to purchase on line has not changed since then either with it being easily available to purchase for legitimate uses such as in catering and dentistry however there is currently no means by which it's purchase for other purposes can be prevented.  There has been some recent progress in this regard however with the Sale of Nitrous Oxide and Related Products Bill 2025 having been presented to the Dail on 30 April 2025, the bill is now at stage 2 before the Dail.

The use of nitrous oxide is occurring for the most part in public parks, but also in public open spaces and on public roads and streets.  The finds of dumped/used cannisters continue to be recorded however these appear to be random in nature, with finds being recorded in parks where the substance is being used but also being recorded in locations on public roads where it would appear that they are being dumped after use. The small 'silver bullet' cannisters are being found in large numbers, and finds of larger cannisters would now appear to be more prevalent.  As previously reported the sale, purchase, possession and use of this substance is not currently illegal so it would appear that there is little by way of enforcement action open to the authorities in this regard.   The Council will continue to play any role it can in combatting this problem however it is for other agencies to promote the message that the use of this substance for recreational purposes is potentially damaging to a persons health and in some instances has proven to be fatal.

The finds indicate use of these cannisters at some of the locations, while in other cases they appear to have been dumped in large quantities at the location of the find.  The finds of larger cannisters of the substance appear to be more frequent now with each of these estimated to be equivalent to approximately 50 'silver bullets'.  It has not been possible to quantify the number of small cannisters found as on occasions they have been found to number in the hundreds at a location.  The data gathered to date shows that nitrous oxide use is occurring across the county however it cannot be used to determine how widespread this use is.  It should be noted that use of this substance is currently not illegal and anecdotal evidence suggests that the cannisters can be easily purchased on-line.

The recommended way to dispose of Nitrous Oxide Cannisters is at the nearest recycling centre such as Ballymount Civic Amenity Centre. If members of the public disposing of these cannisters at Ballymount are uncertain whether the canisters are empty, they should be left in the cages designated for gas bottles. If it is known that they are fully empty, they may be deposited directly into the metal recycling stream area. For those unable to use their nearest recycling centre, the website for Ireland’s official guide to managing your waste at [www.mywaste.ie](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mywaste.ie%2F&amp;data=05%7C01%7Clmagee%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C8abf745fb46b41a9683b08dbe440827e%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638354737937713829%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&amp;sdata=qqAGBmQpzyd%2BlE22Wbb8t0rcEK3hxJ4vTcKFPCll0WA%3D&amp;reserved=0) states that it is acceptable to place such containers in the household general waste bin. These are then extracted during the waste treatment process and recycled as metal.  As these items are not managed as a separate waste stream it is not possible for the Council to determine the cost to collect and dispose of them at this time.

### **Q11/0925 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive, to present to tabular format what is the average waiting time for a 1,2,3 & 4 bed houses on the medical priority housing list?

**REPLY:**

The following table details the average waiting times and number of allocations for households with medical approval year to date for 2025, categorised by bedroom size:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bedroom Size | No of Allocations | Average Number of years 2025 |
| 1 Bed | 17 | 4.36 |
| 2 bed | 22 | 5.99 |
| 3 bed | 12 | 7.31 |
| 4 Bed | 1 | 3.53 |

### **Q12/0925 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive to give a report on how much additional income the Council has made since the higher percentage was introduced to council tenants.

**REPLY:**

There are currently 11,385 households who pay their rent directly to SDCC as detailed below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account type** | **Number of Accounts** |
| Council | 10,289 |
| RAS | 499 |
| Leasing | 597 |

As per our annual financial statements, the following rental income was charged and collected for the years 2022-2024 (includes Council, RAS and Leased tenancies)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rental income 2022 | Rent charged | €30,589,387 |
|   | Rent collected | €31,247,364 |
| Rental income 2023 | Rent charged | €35,079,289 |
|   | Rent collected | €34,505,222 |
| Rental Income 2024 | Rent charged | €38,825,883 |
|   | Rent collected | €38,485,839 |

The increase in rental income from 2022-24 is due to multiple factors including: an increase in housing stock each year, the additional three-euro charge per household, higher household incomes due to employment growth in a vibrant economy and increases in social welfare payments. In addition, our rents team during this period have completed 14,828 rent assessments to ensure that all persons and household income is accurately recorded. It is estimated that approximately 3,486 tenancies have household incomes above the social housing thresholds. No retrospective debits are applied to rent accounts above the thresholds and rent increases will be implemented on a gradual basis and effective from a current date.

A detailed report on the council’s differential rent scheme will be presented at the upcoming Housing Strategic Policy Committee in September'25.

### **Q13/0925 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive to give a list of what criteria would be considered for qualifying medical priority on the housing list.

**REPLY:**

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

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

Applicants are required to submit a medical application form and all the relevant medical documentation to support their case to the Medical Section.  These documents will then be assessed and applicants will be informed of the council’s decision. Further details can be found on our website [Medical Approval Housing - SDCC](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/finding-a-home/medical-priority-housing/).

### **Q14/0925 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive to give a report any upcoming plans for park upgrades across the county.

**REPLY:**

Please find below a list of planned and ongoing upgrades to parks across the county:

|  |
| --- |
| **Title** |
| 3G Pitch East of the County |
| 3G Pitch West of the County |
| Lucan Athletics Track Upgrade |
| Bancroft Athletics Track Upgrade |
| Sean Walsh Park Bowing Green |
| Tymon Park Pitch Upgrades – Pitches 129/130/152 |
| Butler McGee Park Upgrade |
| Jobstown Park Pitch 67 and 68 upgrades (ongoing) |
| Jobstown Park MUGA upgrade (ongoing) |
| Fairy Sensory Trail - Tymon Park |
| Family Trail - Sean Walsh Park |
| Firhouse Village Pocket Park - planting upgrade |
| Greentrees Park - installation of age friendly gym equipment (ongoing) |
| Kiltipper Park Phase 2 |
| Killinarden Phase 2 |
| Quarryvale Park Dog Run |
| Quarryvale Park Basketball Court |
| Glenaulin Park Pitch  upgrades (ongoing) |
| Intergenerational Centre Tymon Park (ongoing) |
| Teenspace Programme – Clondalkin Park, Dodder Valley Park East/West, Griffeen Skatepark, Rathcoole Park, Sean Walsh Park, St. Cuthberts, Whitechurch Park |
| Playground installations: Glenasmole Community Centre, Balrothery, Delaford Park, |
| Corkagh Park – Volleyball Court |
| Waterstown Park – Bridge Upgrade |

The planned and ongoing upgrades to parks are in addition to existing upgrades completed in recent years, including projects integrating new facilities into existing parks to provide for upgraded and enhanced recreational amenity, both passive and active. These have included:

* Killinarden Park Phase 1
* Jobstown Park
* Whitestown Stream Park
* Quarryvale Park
* Ely Arch Park
* St. Cuthberts Park
* Kiltipper Park
* Corkagh Park upgrades
* 3G Pitch Programme
* Pavilion Programme
* Clonburris SDZ
* Dodder Greenway
* Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway
* Teenspaces
* Upgrading parks for biodiversity, access to nature and health and well-being

In recognition of this and similar work, South Dublin County Council won 6 Awards across multiple categories at the 2024 Irish Landscape Institute Design Awards.

### **Q15/0925 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the current approximate wait for those on the housing downsizing list?

**REPLY:**

Council tenants, including those living in dwellings provided under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative, RAS or by Approved Housing Bodies may apply for consideration for a transfer to other dwellings, under the following circumstances:-

* overcrowding;
* where older persons and other households wish to move to smaller accommodation; (Rightsizing)
* medical/compassionate reasons;
* on grounds of anti-social behaviour where the Estate Management Officer and a Garda Superintendent support the transfer application;
* other exceptional circumstances.

To date in 2025, our housing transfer section has successfully completed a total of 24 transfers. This includes 8 transfers to households approved on the grounds of rightsizing, with an average waiting period of 4.7 years.

### **Q16/0925 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the shortest time someone has been housed by SDCC over the last ten years, from date of accepted application from the housing list?

**REPLY:**

Our Allocation Scheme prioritises applicants based on a range of criteria and allows for the disregard of the standard order of priority in exceptional circumstances including preventative homeless allocations for older persons, allocation of tenancies to transition from congregated settings, and allocations on exceptional compassionate grounds.

The table below outlines the average and shortest waiting time by property type for all allocations completed in 2025:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time on list for allocations (years)** | **1-Bed** | **2-Bed** | **3-Bed** | **4-Bed+** |
| **Average time on list (excluding transfers)** | 7.3 | 9.6 | 10 | 11.1 |
| **Lowest time on list (excluding transfers)** | <1 Year | < 1 Year | 2.2 | 3.53 |

### **Q17/0925 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive what plans of improvement works on cemeteries in the SDDC area are listed for 2025

**REPLY:**

The burial ground development works planned to take place in the current year are as follows -

1. The construction of a Columbarium Wall in Esker burial ground has recently been completed,
2. The construction of 132 plots in the Muslim Section of Newcastle burial ground is nearing completion,
3. Provision has been made in the 2025 budget for the provision of a Columbarium Wall in Bohernabreena burial ground and works will commence Q4 2025,
4. Provision has also been made for the surfacing and lining of the car parks at Bohernabreena and Newcastle burial grounds with works commencing Q4 2025,
5. Other minor works will be carried out such as the provision of additional spaces in the local plot in Bohernabreena and the further development of cremation plots and angels plots in Bohernabreena as required.

### **Q18/0925 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive what programs or initiatives are SDCC involved in to improve the uptake in trade apprenticeship ?

**REPLY:**

*T*he Council is actively pursuing its apprenticeship programme to fully align with both sectoral and national targets of 5 apprenticeships per annum from 2025 to 2029.  The programme has expanded greatly to include opportunities for apprenticeships in a wide variety of disciplines.

SDCC have successfully recruited two apprentices to date, both in the area of Civil Engineering. Opportunities for additional craft apprenticeships are currently being explored with relevant Directorates to ensure that any craft apprentices recruited can be provided with a fully rounded learning and development experience and that all relevant learning modules can be fully supported as required during their Apprenticeship with the Council.

Once finalised, apprenticeships will be advertised through all available recruitment channels and will continue to be promoted through the SDCC Secondary Schools Programme for 2025 and subsequent years and through the Council's attendance at various job and recruitment fairs annually.

### **Q19/0925 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive for the average length of time for assessment of medical priority housing applications in 2025?

**REPLY:**

We are actively working to reduce the average assessment time for medical approval applications, which is currently 20 weeks. To improve efficiency, we have recently assigned additional staff resources with the aim of completing assessments within a 12-week timeframe.

### **Q20/0925 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive for the average length of time for assessment of medical priority transfer applications in 2025?

**REPLY:**

We are actively working to reduce the average assessment time for medical approval applications, which is currently 20 weeks. To improve efficiency, we have recently assigned additional staff resources with the aim of completing assessments within a 12-week timeframe.

### **Q21/0925 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive how many staff are currently employed in the medical priority assessments section, and compare the same numbers in the past 5 years?

**REPLY:**

The Allocations Workstream, which includes the medical and disabled person grants section has increased its staff by eight members during the period 2020 – 2025.

Staffing resources are strategically allocated to meet the dynamic and changing business needs of the department and to address areas of highest demand and have been recently reviewed as part of our new strategic workforce plan.

There are currently eight staff members with responsibilities in the medical and disabled person grants section. This includes the recent appointment of an additional post at Administrative Officer (management level), which will enhance our capacity and ensure that we can maintain a high level of responsiveness and service delivery for our customers.

### **Q22/0925 Councillor M. Johansson**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on any actions taken on the sites currently on the Derelict Sites Register?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council actively monitors the Derelict Sites Register and takes the actions available to the Council under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

South Dublin County Council has applied levies to fourteen sites on the Derelict Sites Register.

SDCC has served one Section 15 Notice of Intention to Acquire a Derelict Site and is currently working towards serving a Section 15 Notice on a further two Derelict Sites in the coming weeks.

There are a number of additional properties on the Derelict Sites Register currently being monitored for the initiation of Compulsory Purchase Order proceedings. Cross-departmental work is ongoing between the Vacant Homes and Derelict Sites sections with advice being received from the Law department.

Due to the ongoing works being carried out by the Derelict Sites section, three properties listed on the Derelict Sites Register are now sale agreed on the private market. One additional property is currently due to close by private sale. These sites will be re-inspected to monitor progress before they are removed from the Derelict Sites Register. The four properties at St Maelruan’s Park were acquired in 2024 and are currently under the remit of Housing, with works ongoing.

Under Section 3 of Derelict Site Act 1990, South Dublin County Council monitors sites in the county that may meet the criteria of a ‘derelict site’ which are not entered on the register until such time as investigations are completed and a determination made that the site is derelict. There are currently 79 active Derelict Sites casefiles, including the sites on the Derelict Sites Register. In 2025, SDCC has issued 29 notices and issued 22 letters under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act 1990. 141 inspections have also been completed as part of Derelict Sites investigations.

### **Q23/0925 Councillor K. Keane**

To ask the Chief Executive to indicate what is the final number of properties that will not proceed to procurement/legal stage due to the Governments policy on funding for the Tenant in Situ Scheme which SDCC have now paused.

**REPLY:**

The council were allocated €25 million from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for acquisitions in 2025 with revised criteria for acquisitions 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.

The housing directorate undertook a review to determine our acquisitions programme for this year in line with DHLGH criteria, funding, and guidance. To date, we have completed the purchase of 47 homes with another 14 homes currently in conveyancing. This position will be kept under review should additional funding become available.

### **Q24/0925 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive why SDCC begins mowing its meadows in August as opposed to say in October when there are less bees and other insects feeding?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council manages approximately 210 hectares of natural meadows countywide, generating in the region of 2,400 tonnes of meadow grass each year. Our meadow management programme is designed to maximise habitats and food sources for pollinators and is delivered in line with both the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and the Council’s own Pollinator Plan. The programme is developed in consultation with our Heritage Officer and the National Biodiversity Data Centre to ensure it follows best ecological practice.

The meadow management programme is carefully planned, with half of the meadows cut in August/September and the remainder left uncut to overwinter before being cut by the end of April. This staggered approach supports biodiversity by providing diverse habitats throughout the year. Overwintering meadows in particular are vital for insects such as moths, beetles, flies, and butterflies, whose eggs, larvae, and pupae depend on uncut vegetation to survive the winter. These insects, especially grubs and caterpillars, are a crucial food source for birds and other wildlife during the colder months and into early spring.

The autumn meadow mowing programme begins in mid-August each year, as delaying until October would not be practical or ecologically appropriate. We have learned from previous years where wet autumn conditions prevented machinery from cutting the meadows, which in turn reduced wildflower growth and habitat value the following year. Given the scale of the programme and the volume of material to be collected, autumn ground conditions often make access for the necessary machinery difficult, risking soil and seed bank damage and leaving areas unmanaged. If grass is not cut and removed, soil fertility increases, allowing stronger grasses to out-compete the native wildflowers in the seed bank.

Since the introduction of the programme in 2019, when 90 hectares of meadow were first managed under this programme, surveys have demonstrated year-on-year improvements in both flora and fauna diversity across our parks. These findings demonstrate the ecological benefits of SDCC approach in line with National Biodiversity Centre guidelines.

### **Q25/0925 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if SDCC have horticultural staff employed that have the proficiency to both plant and maintain fruit trees and hedges in public parks such as apples, pears, plums, damsons, mirabelles, raspberries and blackcurrants?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council employs gardeners and horticulturalists that have knowledge and proficiency of planting and maintaining fruit trees and hedges in public parks.  Fruit trees have been planted in several locations in the County in the past under the various €300k Have Your Say initiatives and Public Realm Improvement Work Programmes.  Locations where fruit trees have been planted are Lucan Demesne, Vesey Park, Willsbrook Park, Waterstown Park, Corkagh Park, Monastery Gate Close, Saint Anne estate, Greenhills Park, Moyville estate, Greentrees Park and Avonbeg Road.

The majority of new hedge planting in the county is being carried out through the development of parks and open spaces as part of the planning process.  These hedges are being planted in accordance with conditioned landscape plans as approved through planning permissions.  Once taken in charge the hedges are added to the existing hedge maintenance programme and maintained under the supervision of qualified parks staff.

### **Q26/0925 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive if SDCC is in a position to request that a fire brigade equipped with an elongated ladder that can reach higher floors of apartment blocks should be permanently stationed at the local fire station for the area?

**REPLY:**

The two fire appliances attached to Tallaght fire station are Class B Water Tenders and as such carry a variety of different ladders. Namely a 13.5 metre ladder capable of reaching a fourth floor window, a 10 m ladder capable of reaching a third floor window, a 9’/16’ ladder, capable of reaching a first floor window and a roof ladder. All firefighters are trained in the deployment of these ladders

These ladders can be augmented by a Turntable ladder from HQ Station if required. This is capable of reaching 30m or 100 ft. a Hydraulic Platform from Dun Laoghaire fire station with a capability of 22 .8 m or 75ft can also be dispatched if required.

 On going discussions with trade union representatives on staffing levels include a broader assessment of Turntable ladder placement. The decision to augment the brigades capacity with an additional Turntable ladder (in Tallaght) are forming part of those discussions. Unions and Management are due to meet under the auspice of the WRC in the coming weeks to advance these discussions.

### **Q27/0925 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

Given the delays with the construction of Lucan Pool and the enhancement of both Corkagh and St Cuthbert's Parks, is there a pattern emerging with respect to how some private contractors implement contracts they win from SDCC?

**REPLY:**

All projects under South Dublin County Council’s remit are subject to strict oversight and monitoring throughout their construction phase. Any variance from the baseline programme is immediately flagged and interrogated by the relevant team in order to determine the most appropriate actions to mitigate any delay.

The three projects referred to have suffered delays due to a variety of causes as outlined below:

St Cuthberts Park:  Delayed as a result of repeated incidents of serious anti-social behaviour leading to a suspension of the works. This necessitated strict arrangements in terms of on-site operations and material/equipment storage to allow the project to resume.

Corkagh Park: Delayed in large part due to the discovery of features of archaeological interest, which necessitated a temporary suspension of the works and liaison with the National Monuments Service.

Lucan Pool: Originally bid in 2018/19, was initially delayed and impacted financially by a number of factors including: COVID 19 shutdowns / on site measures, hyperinflation, supply chain issues, and the availability of sub-contractors and tradespersons resulting from the initial delays. Further issues resulted from these factors as has been reported to the Elected Members previously by the Chief Executive.

Considering the above, there is no evident pattern of behaviour which emerges when the reasons surrounding the delays are examined in detail. While delays to these projects are regrettable, they represent a small percentage of the projects being undertaken by South Dublin County Council.

### **Q28/0925 Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive if he can provide an update on the proposed fire station for the Clonburris SDZ area including the current status of any discussions with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage the Fire Services or the relevant agencies and whether a site has been identified and funding allocated to progress this essential public safety infrastructure given the scale of development in Clonburris and surrounding areas

**REPLY:**

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

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

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

DFB are currently in the process of acquiring a suitable site for the location of the new fire station in the vicinity of Clonburris / Thomas Omer Way. Upon a site being secured, DFB will subsequently seek to appoint a design team to commence the necessary design and planning for the new West Dublin Fire Station.

### **Q29/0925 Councillor L. O'Toole**

Can the Chief Executive confirm if there are any snooker clubs for young people in the county? These were a great amenity in many areas years ago and I believe there would be real interest and benefit in bringing them back with Council support.

**REPLY:**

SDCC are not responsible for the operation of any snooker clubs. There are a number of pool tables located in our community centres and are available for use through the youth services operating in the centres. Knockmitten Community Centre and the County Library, Tallaght have pool tables available for use by the public. The library run pool tournaments for teens as part of their youth provision.

Community groups can apply for funding towards the purchase of a snooker or pool table through our community grants  scheme.

### **Q30/0925 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to advise how South Dublin County Council propose to meet its revised annual new housing growth requirement to 2034 from 1,932 units to 3,270 units as set out by Government in August 2025.

**REPLY:**

 The Government recently issued revised housing supply targets for local authorities through the ‘National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation – Housing Growth Requirements’ Guidelines for Planning Authorities (‘the 2025 Guidelines’). For SDCC, the new baseline annual housing growth requirement is 3,217 new dwellings per annum up to 2034 and 2,414 from 2035-2040. These are the cumulative delivery targets across all types of housing for the County.

The current County Development Plan 2022-2028 provides for growth of 15,576 new dwellings (2,613 per annum) to meet the targets at time of adoption. Current delivery is broadly in line with the 2022 targets at c.2,500 per annum, as per SDCC data: Housing Supply Monitor.

A review of the adequacy of existing zoned lands (a ‘Settlement Capacity Audit’) is ongoing to assess current housing land capacity to achieve the revised housing targets. This review must also consider the likelihood of lands identified for residential development coming forward for development based on various factors, such as planning history and availability of services. This will inform the measures needed to achieve the revised housing targets.

On completion of this exercise, the 2025 Guidelines set out that the Chief Executive will prepare a report for the Elected Members (to also be issued to the Minister and Office of Planning Regulator), setting out the development capacity of existing zoned lands, including information on the serviced status and planning status of lands, and demonstrating the means by which it is proposed to secure the objectives of the Guidelines.

It is anticipated that this will potentially lead to a variation of the County Development Plan to zone/re-zone additional lands for residential purposes in order to achieve the baseline increased housing target (c.600 more dwellings annually in SDCC than currently being delivered) and provide for a level of ‘additional provision’ having regard to zoned lands which may not be deliverable within the relevant timeframes.

The Programme for Government 2025 includes the introduction of a new, all of government national housing plan to follow Housing for All, underpinned by a multi-annual funding commitment for cost rental and affordable purchase homes and local authority social housing build programmes. It is expected that the detail of new national housing plan with our revised targets will be published in the autumn.

### **Q31/0925 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to advise if additional funding is being made available from Central Government to meet the revised annual new housing growth requirement to 2034 from 1,932 units to 3,270 units in South County Dublin.

**REPLY:**

The Government recently issued revised housing supply targets for local authorities through the ‘National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation – Housing Growth Requirements’ Guidelines for Planning Authorities (‘the 2025 Guidelines’). For SDCC, the new baseline annual housing growth requirement is 3,217 new dwellings per annum up to 2034 and 2,414 from 2035-2040. These are the targets across all types of housing for the council, including private, social, affordable, etc.

The current County Development Plan 2022-2028 provides for growth of 15,576 new dwellings (2,613 per annum) to meet the targets at time of adoption. Current delivery is broadly in line with the 2022 targets at c.2,500 per annum, as per SDCC data: Housing Supply Monitor.

A review of the adequacy of existing zoned lands (a ‘Settlement Capacity Audit’) is ongoing to assess current housing land capacity to achieve the revised housing targets. This review must also consider the likelihood of lands identified for residential development coming forward for development based on various factors, such as planning history and availability of services. This will inform the measures needed to achieve the revised housing targets.

On completion of this exercise, the 2025 Guidelines set out that the Chief Executive will prepare a report for the Elected Members (to also be issued to the Minister and Office of Planning Regulator), setting out the development capacity of existing zoned lands, including information on the serviced status and planning status of lands, and demonstrating the means by which it is proposed to secure the objectives of the Guidelines.

It is anticipated that this will potentially lead to a variation of the County Development Plan to zone/re-zone additional lands for residential purposes in order to achieve the baseline increased housing target (c.600 more dwellings annually in SDCC than currently being delivered) and provide for a level of ‘additional provision’ having regard to zoned lands which may not be deliverable within the relevant timeframes.

In terms of funding, there have been no commitments to specific funding at this point for individual local authorities however, through the recently reviewed National Development Plan, the Government has committed to prioritising increased investment in water, energy, transport and housing to meet the housing needs of the population and to deliver 300,000 new homes by 2030.

The Programme for Government 2025 includes the introduction of a new, all of government national housing plan to follow Housing for All, underpinned by a multi-annual funding commitment for cost rental and affordable purchase homes and local authority social housing build programmes. It is expected that the detail of new national housing plan with our revised targets will be published in the autumn.

### **Q32/0925 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the LED upgrade programme for upgrading public lighting in South Dublin County Council. I understand €5.6M was allocated in the 2025 annual budget for this work.

**REPLY:**

The 2025 revenue budget for Public Lighting is €5.6m and covers maintenance, energy charges, upgrades to public lighting and service support costs. The LED upgrade programme is funded through the capital programme and the funding source for this is annual transfer from revenue to capital. For 2025, this transfer is €850,000 and the capital code currently has a balance of €3.5m.

The total programme cost for the LED upgrade programme is estimated to be €8.74m and the annual expenditure will be dependant on the resource levels provided to us from ESB.

A programme update can be found in the response to Q5 of this meeting’s agenda

### **Q33/0925 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive if the €2.1M allocated in the 2025 South Dublin County Council budget for the maintenance of the regional road network will be fully utilised by the end of the year?

**REPLY:**

The Roads Maintenance team are rolling out a programme of maintenance works in the County and will continue to carry out works to the value of the budget in 2025. As such, the allocation will be fully utilised this year.

### **Q34/0925 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to advise if the Council will be outlining the additional services that will be provided using the increase of €3M in discretionary spending following the decision to reduce the Local Property Tax by 7.5% and not 15%. Specifically services that would not have been budgeted for if the full 15% cut had been applied.

**REPLY:**

At the July 2025 Council meeting, the Members of South Dublin County Council resolved to reduce the local adjustment factor by seven and a half percent in relation to the Local Property Tax. This adjustment results in an additional funding of €3,024,846, which will be incorporated into the overall resources available for the preparation of the 2026 Budget.

The 2026 Budget is currently in its preliminary stages. It will be developed in consultation with the Corporate Policy Group and will consider the preferences expressed by the Members, including discussions with various political groups scheduled for late September and early October. It is at this stage that the additional services that would not have been budgeted for if the full 15% cut had been applied may be identified. However, as highlighted in the Chief Executive's report on the "Consideration of Variation of the Basic Rates of the Local Property Tax," LPT funding will primarily be allocated towards enhanced services and urban regeneration. This includes initiatives to improve liveability for the county's growing population, such as the maintenance of new infrastructure, facilities, and amenities.

### **Q35/0925 Councillor A. Smyth**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline what measure are being put in place ahead of the Halloween season to tackle the issues around fires, dumping and other activities which are being expected.

**REPLY:**

The Council recognises the challenges that Halloween presents for many communities through the illegal burning of waste on Halloween bonfires, the damage to local amenities, and the threat to property and local services.

In response to Halloween in recent years the Council has adopted a cross departmental approach utilising the services of Public Realm, Waste Enforcement, Environmental Awareness, Library Services, Housing and Community Services Departments to prevent damage and promote the “Safe Halloween” message. The Council's response to Halloween in 2025 will involve the following elements as it has done in other recent years:

* Various awareness measures to highlight the dangers associated with bonfires and the harm done to the environment.
* Funding of community based activities which are intended to divert children away from bonfires and other anti-social behaviour.
* Action by the Council's Environmental Licensing and Enforcement Section to deal with commercial premises and their obligations to properly store their waste including waste tyres and pallets and prevent these materials from ending up on bonfires (including aerial surveys of premises where necessary).
* The Public Realm response to remove stockpiles of bonfire materials will take place throughout September and October as in previous years and will intensify as Halloween approaches.
* The Public Realm Section will have operational staff on duty over the October bank holiday weekend collecting bonfire materials as in previous years.
* Liaison with An Garda Siochana with regard to action being taken by them and by the Council in relation to this matter.
* Liaison with local residents groups who can help to identify the locations of material stockpiles.
* Implementation of the ‘bulbs not bonfires’ scheme which is a reward provided through South Dublin County Council’s Social Credit Scheme. This initiative provides communities with flowers in the Spring instead of scarred open space throughout the year. In recent years the Council has spent approximately €2,500 per year on bulbs for this popular scheme and it is envisaged that a similar sum will be spent again this year on the scheme.
* The social credits scheme will once again facilitate groups who are registered on the scheme with the disposal of materials at the Council's civic amenity site in Ballymount, and this will help to reduce the amount of materials being handed over for bonfires.
* RecycleIT will again be requested to run free door to door electrical recycling collection days in residential areas across South Dublin prior to Halloween.  These collection days are now annual events and help ensure hazardous electrical equipment and batteries don’t find their way onto seasonal Bonfires.  This scheme helps residents to recycle all types of electrical, electronic and battery-operated equipment including old heaters, electronic toys, TV’s, washing machines, cookers, kettles, phones and computers, and any other item with a plug or battery (including batteries).
* The Council will also run a free to use mattress amnesty again this year in conjunction with our social enterprise partners [**RecycleIT**](http://www.recycleit.ie/).    Anyone unable to attend these collection days, will have an opportunity to drop their unwanted mattress off with our partners RecycleIt at their premises in Crag Industrial Estate, D22, free of charge.

### **Q36/0925 Councillor J. Spear**

To ask the Chief Executive what is the average time that someone is on the medical priority list before they are made an offer of housing? Please include information over the last 10 years.

**REPLY:**

The table below provides the average time on list for households with medical approval from 2018 to 2025. Data prior to 2018 is not available.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Average time on list** |
| 2018 | 8.51 years |
| 2019 | 8.28 years |
| 2020 | 6.15 years |
| 2021 | 6.62 years |
| 2022 | 6.36 years |
| 2023 | 5.72 years |
| 2024 | 6 years |
| 2025 YTD | 5.70 years |

To date this year, the medical approval team have completed 53 allocations to households from the medical approval list.

### **Q37/0925 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive what efforts he has made to promote and progress SDCC Fairtrade as per motion agreed in the County Development Plan 2022 - 2028?

**REPLY:**

The feasibility of South Dublin being designated as a fair trade County has been examined in conjunction with South Dublin Chamber. The Chamber undertook direct industry engagement and follow up analysis which has informed the Council’s position on this matter.

The analysis determined that there exists a great deal of support and goodwill towards fair trade, ethical and fair-traded products from the business community in South Dublin County. It is also clear that most businesses have the purchase of fair trade and ethically sourced products as part of their own programmes and processes, with many having this engagement as part of their wider commitments. These wider commitments extend to the UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) Climate Change programmes and their own local and worldwide ESG (Environmental Social Governance) programmes.

Businesses, driven by both internal commitments and national and EU regulations, are addressing multiple environmental and social objectives, which are much broader in their impact rather than looking at fair trade in isolation. From the analysis undertaken, it is acknowledged that while fair trade is recognised as important, it has been surpassed by more unified ESG initiatives and businesses prefer to integrate it within their broader sustainability strategies rather than focus on a single centralised fair trade initiative at the county or town level.

With this in mind, it is not the intention of the Council to pursue a designation as a fair trade County and instead it will seek to realise the objectives of the SDGs through the implementation of its Corporate Plan and County Development Plan, which will provide for a much broader and integrated approach to meeting its sustainability ambitions.

### **Q38/0925 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive what supports SDCC can provide to existing Fairtrade towns and areas becoming or aiming to be a Fairtrade towns?

**REPLY:**

Analysis carried out by South Dublin Chamber (on behalf of SDCC) engaging directly with businesses shows that most businesses have the purchase of fairtrade and ethically sourced products integrated in their own purchase programmes and processes, with many having this engagement as part of their wider commitments. These wider commitments extend to upholding the UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) Climate Change programmes and their own local and worldwide ESG (Environmental Social Governance) programmes.

Businesses, driven by both internal commitments and national and EU regulations, are addressing multiple environmental and social objectives, which are much broader in their impact rather than looking at fair trade in isolation. From the analysis undertaken, it is acknowledged that while fair trade is recognised as important, it has been surpassed by more unified ESG initiatives and businesses prefer to integrate it within their broader sustainability strategies rather than focus on a single centralised fair trade initiative at the county or town level.

The Council will continue to realise the objectives of the SDGs through the implementation of its Corporate Plan and County Development Plan, which will provide for a much broader and integrated approach to meeting sustainability ambitions.

### **Q39/0925 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive what efforts and supports SDCC have made, and give in regards to combatting racism in our communities?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) is committed to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring that racism and discrimination have no place in our communities. To address racism, SDCC has embedded the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty within the Corporate Plan. Through a cross-departmental approach the duty is applied to all Council plans, policies, and strategies, ensuring that an anti-racist and anti-discriminatory approach is proactively integrated into all aspects of our work.

SDCC supports the objectives of the National Action Plan Against Racism (2023–2027) and the Council's Integration Strategy 2019–2023 outlines actions to promote equality and celebrate diversity and will be updated in due course in line with the national strategy that will be published by the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in 2026.

Through initiatives such as this and the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, SDCC grant programmes, and the support of the community development team and the Local Integration Support Team (LAIT), SDCC funds and assists community groups, intercultural projects, and minority communities across the county. Events such as the intercultural celebration in Clondalkin (March), Africa Day in Tymon Park (May), and the Dodder Valley Park and Human Library events during Refugee Week showcase and celebrate diversity while fostering community cohesion. The LAIT also supported the Community Recognition fund 2024-2025 introduced by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. The Community Recognition Fund was first introduced in 2023 to recognise the huge efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting people coming to Ireland.

All our community centres are inclusive public amenities, and our community development teams continue to offer practical and financial support where possible to promote opportunities of inclusion, integration and cultural celebration. Examples of this are found through our funding of Africa Day celebrations for local community groups, event funding towards celebrating Black History month, as well as ongoing practical support by providing funding towards English learning classes in Saggart Schoolhouse and social integration support provided through the Global Garden initiative in Corkagh Park. Active South Dublin supports integration opportunities through sports, such as Tallaght Sanctuary Runners.

SDCC also provides intercultural and anti-racism awareness training to staff and works in partnership with An Garda Síochána, the Public Participation Network, and local Migrant Integration Forums to address racism and discrimination in a coordinated manner. A dedicated ‘How to Report Racism’ page on the SDCC website encourages anyone affected by racism to report incidents to An Garda Síochána and to access the supports and services available.

SDCC has also supported research projects such as Sustainable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred and an International Protection Applicants Needs Assessment, which gathered insights and recommendations from those affected by racism. SDCC remains committed to further developing its anti-racism and equality initiatives in line with national policy and the needs of local communities.

### **Q40/0925 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive how many homeless individuals and families are currently recorded in SDCC and what is the average time for each on the homeless register?

**REPLY:**

The table below provides a summary breakdown of the data held at 31st July 2025 for households registered as homeless with SDCC.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Homeless Register** |   |
| Single Male | 232 |
| Single Female | 80 |
| Couples | 15 |
| Families | 241 |
|  **Total Households** | **568** |

The following table provides an analysis of the average time on the Homeless Register categorised by housing need:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Bedroom Need Breakdown** | **No.** | **Average Time Spent in Homeless Services (years)**  |
| 1 bed | 308 | 2 years |
| 2 bed | 131 | 1.4 years |
| 3 bed | 102 | 1.3 years |
| 4 bed | 27 | 2.2 years  |
| **Total households** | **568** |   |

123 allocations of tenancies have been made to households in Emergency Accommodation up to 31st July 2025.

In addition, 37 households successfully exited emergency accommodation with the assistance of the Homeless HAP and a further 147 households were prevented from entering emergency accommodation with assistance of the Homeless HAP.

We continue to work proactively to address the ongoing challenges for households in need of accommodation by increasing new housing supply through partnerships with approved housing bodies, ongoing choice based letting and other allocation options,  improved turn around times for our vacant housing stock for re-letting.

### **Q41/0925 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a timeframe for the process of the new County Development Plan and when motions can be submitted?

**REPLY:**

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028 was adopted on 22 June 2022 and came into effect on 3 August 2022. Pursuant to the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Planning Authority is obligated to prepare a new development plan at six-year intervals. Additionally, the Act stipulates that, no later than four years after the adoption of the current plan, the Authority must notify the public of its intention to review the existing plan. Based on this timetable, the review process is anticipated to commence in the first or second quarter of 2026.

The new Planning and Development Act 2024 was signed into law on 17 October 2024. However, the commencement of its provisions are being phased in by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and most of its sections, notably those related to plan-making, are not yet in force. South Dublin County Council (SDCC) is awaiting guidance from the Minister or Department for the review of the Development Plan. The 2024 Act mandates that Planning Authorities prepare a 10-year strategic plan, supported by a comprehensive evidence base extending to 12 years or more.

To facilitate the transition to the new 2024 Act, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has published an ‘Implementation Plan’ (March 2025), which outlines how the provisions of the 2024 Act will be phased in. As indicated, the implementation will be incremental. The relevant section for plan-making falls under Part 3 of the Act, titled ‘Plans, Policies and Related Matters’. The Implementation Plan states:

“Pending further engagement with local authorities, regional assemblies, and the Office of the Planning Regulator, it is anticipated that Block B will commence in mid-2025. This timetable may be adjusted depending on the progress of draft local authority development plans or local area plans. Block B facilitates the commencement of Part 3 (Plans, Policies and Related Matters), a key component of the 2024 Act. To ensure the effective operation of Part 3, Chapters 1 and 2 of Part 6 (environmental assessment), which include provisions for the appropriate assessment of plans, will also need to be commenced concurrently.”

As of now, these provisions have not yet been enacted by the Government.

SDCC Planning will maintain ongoing communication with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, as well as the Office of the Planning Regulator, to monitor the enactment of the relevant sections of the 2024 Act (as amended). This will ensure that statutory timelines are adhered to throughout the preparation of the new County Development Plan. Any review of the Development Plan will adhere to the statutory procedures outlined in the relevant legislation. The requirements under the 2000 and 2024 Acts are broadly similar and SDCCs approach to considering the plan stages at Special Council meetings is likely to continue. Such meetings are generally convened at key stages—Pre-Draft, Draft, and Material Amendments—when Members’ approval of the Plan will be sought, as well as consideration of any proposed motions.

Currently, the proposed variation to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028 for the Clondalkin Local Planning Framework is on public consultation and the CE report and the variation will be considered by the Council in Q4 2025. Additionally, as per the requirements of the recently issued revised housing supply targets for local authorities through the ‘National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation – Housing Growth Requirements’ Guidelines for Planning Authorities (‘the 2025 Guidelines’), a variation may be proposed to facilitate the review and potential rezoning of lands to support increased housing capacity across the country.

### **H6/0925 DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

### **H7/0925 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - 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 **CONSIDERED.**

[(a) Disposal of fee simple in 104 Sarsfield Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=86909)

1. [Map](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=86824)

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor L. O’Toole seconded by Councillor J. Tuffy and **RESOLVED:**

“That the disposal of fee simple in104 Sarsfield Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

[(b) Proposed disposal of substation site to ESB in Hazel Drive, Kilcarbery, Dublin 22](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=86826)

 [(b) Map](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=86827)

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns seconded by Councillor H. Farrell and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Proposed disposal of substation site to ESB to facilitate power supply to housing development at the junction of the Upper Nangor Road and Kilcarbery Grange Avenue, Corkagh Demesne, Deansrath and Nangor, Upper Nangor Road, Kilcarbery Grange, Dublin 22 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

[(c) Proposed lease disposal of site to ESB Telecoms at Adamstown Avenue, Kishoge, Lucan, Co. Dublin](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=86900)

 [(c) Map](http://intranet/Cmas/documentsview.aspx?id=86901)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Tuffy and Councillor L. O’Toole, with queries raised in relation to the ESB substation in Tully Hall Rise.

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

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns seconded by Councillor D. McManus and **RESOLVED:**

“That the Proposed lease disposal of site to ESB Telecoms – Adamstown Avenue, Kishoge, Lucan, Co. Dublin be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

**H8/0925 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT - FOR NOTING**

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

[HI 8 (a) Draft Chief Executive's Report - September](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86956)
[HI 8 (b) Statistics Report - July 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86966)
[HI 8 (c) Statistics Report - August 2025](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86967)
[HI 8 (d) Finance Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86860)

The report was **NOTED.**

### **H9/0925 VACANCY ON THE LAND USE, PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION 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 Land Use, Planning and Transportation SPC and it is a matter for the Council to nominate a replacement to fill the vacancy.

This is now before the Council for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy and seconded by Councillor D. McManus and **AGREED** that Councillor B. Lawlor be appointed to the Land Use, Planning and Transport SPC.

### **H10/0925 PART 8 - BALLYROAN COMMUNITY AND YOUTH CENTRE – FOR APPROVAL**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. E. Clancy, Senior Executive Officer, Community Directorate and was **CONSIDERED.**

[A) Ballyroan Community Youth Centre Proposed Development](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86918)
[B) Chief Executive Report](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86961)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, N. Fennell, E. Murphy, P. Holohan, A. Edge, D. McManus, R. McMahon, L. McCrave, W. Carey, R. Mannion and P. Kearns, with queries raised in relation to the Mens Shed, the childcare facility, timeframe for the works and projected footfall.

Ms. E. Clancy, Senior Executive Officer, Community Directorate replied to the members queries.

The **Part 8 – Ballyroan Community and Youth Centre**, was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **AGREED**.

### **H11/0925 THE NATURE OF PLAY - SDCC PLAY POLICY 2025-2030 - FOR NOTING**

### The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. S. Furlong Senior Parks Superintendent, Climate Action Directorate and was **CONSIDERED.**

[HI 11 (a) The Nature of Play SDCC Play Policy 2025 - 2030](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86872)
[HI 11 (b) Presentation The Nature of Play](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86971)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, J. Sinnott, N. Fennell, V. Casserly, N. Whelan, J. Spear, A. Smyth, J. Tuffy, Y. Collins, E. Murphy, E. O’Broin, P. Holohan, K. Keane and, L. O’Toole. Queries were raised in relation to Teen spaces, further locations for playspaces, toilets, upgrade of equipment and musical activities.

Ms. S. Furlong, Senior Parks Superintendent, Climate Action Directorate replied to the members queries.

The report was **NOTED.**

### **H12/0925 COMMUNITY & SPORTS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS - FOR NOTING**

**REPORT:**

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

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
* Sport 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 **10** grants totalling **€36,044.20** were approved for **9** local groups summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **No:** | **Amount** |
| Community Development Grants | 3 | €5,000.00 |
| Community Events Funding | 4 | €22,544.20 |
| Sport Development Grants | 3 | €8,500.00 |
| **Total** |  | **€36,044.20** |

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** |
| Ballyroan Community and Youth Centre | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €2,000.00 |
| Knocklyon Women's Group | Community Development Grant | Running Cost | €1,000.00 |
| The Unforgettable Womens Network - TUWN | Community Development Grant | Minor Equipment | €2,000.00 |
| Lucan Festival | Community Events Funding | Village Festival | €10,000.00 |
| North Clondalkin Community Safety Programme | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €7,544.20 |
| St. Finian's GAA Club | Community Events Funding | Family Fun Day | €1,000.00 |
| The Unforgettable Womens Network - TUWN | Community Events Funding | Community Celebration | €4000.00 |
| Bros Pearse AC                             | Sport Development Grants | Equipment | €4,500.00 |
| Manortown Utd FC                     | Sport Development Grants | Equipment | €1,500.00 |
| Westside Boxing Club              | Sport Development Grants | Program delivery | €2,500.00 |
| **Total** |   |  | **€36,044.20** |

Note: A discretionary grant of €10k from the community department budget is also being made to support a special event in Áras Chrónáin, Clondalkin in October celebrating Uachtarán na hÉireann Michael D Higgin's contribution to Irish language and culture.

Councillor E. Murphy raised a query in relation to the Unforgettable Womens Network.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Community responded to the query.

The report was **NOTED.**

### **C1/0925 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Replies**

[(a) Reply from Lynn Boylan MEP](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86800)
[(b) Reply from Regina Doherty MEP](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86801)
[(c) Reply from Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86806)
[(d) Reply from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86808)

**Acknowledgements**

(No Business)

**Correspondence**
[(e) Correspondence from Waterford City County Council](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86803)
[(f) Correspondence from Galway County Council](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86804)
[(g) Correspondence from Galway County Council](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86805)
[(h) Correspondence from Wexford County Council](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86809)
[(i) Correspondence from Tipperary County Council](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86825)

The correspondence was **NOTED.**

### **M1/0925 National moratorium on further data centre expansion.**

Proposed by Councillor J. Spear and seconded by Councillor K. Keane.

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

**REPORT:**

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

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor by H. Farrell and seconded by Councillor L. O’Toole, as follows:

“**Calling for the council** to write to the Minister for Climate and the Environment requesting a national moratorium on further data centre expansion, **except for those data centres that are demonstrably powered by 100% renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, water, wave, and thermal energy**”

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Spear, H. Farrell, M. Johansson, A. Edge, K. Keane, P. Cosgrave, L. De Courcy, D. Adelaide, R. McMahon, D. McManus, P. Kearns, E. Ó Broin, and L. O’Toole.

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

A **Roll Call Vote** was called on the motion as amended the result of which is as follows:

**FOR: 21 (TWENTY-ONE)**

**Councillors S. Barnes, C. Brady, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, D. Donnelly, M. Duff, H. Farrell, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, P. Kearns, L. McCrave, D. McManus, G. Moore, E. Murphy, S. O’Hara, L. O’Toole, Baby Pereppadan, A. Smyth, F. Timmons and J. Tuffy.**

**AGAINST: 15 (FIFTEEN)**

**Councillors D. Adelaide, W. Carey, L. de Courcy, L. Dunne, A. Edge, N. Fennell, M. Johansson, K. Keane, R. Mannion, R. McMahon, E. Ó Broin, D. Richardson, J. Sinnott, J. Spear, and N. Whelan.**

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

Councillor P. Kearns proposed to take motions 2 **(M2/0925)** and 4 **(M4/0925)** together as they relate to a similar issue, the members **AGREED.**

### **M2/0925 Reject government's plans to abolish or amend the Triple Lock**

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

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.

**REPORT:**

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

### **M4/0925 Government's intention to abolish the Triple Lock**

Proposed by Councillor M. Johansson and seconded by Councillor R. Mannion.

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.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, letters will be issued to The Taoiseach and The Tánaiste.  The responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors N. Whelan, M. Johansson, P. Cosgrave, P. Holohan, M. Duff, L. Dunne, J. Spear, D. Adelaide, Y. Collins, A. Edge, D. McManus, W. Carey, and P. Kearns.

A **Roll Call Vote** was called, the result of which is as follows:

**FOR: 22 (TWENTY-TWO)**

**Councillors D. Adelaide, W. Carey, P. Cosgrave, L. de Courcy, D. Donnelly, M. Duff, L. Dunne, H. Farrell, N. Fennell, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, M. Johannson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, R. Mannion, E. Ó Broin, D. Richardson, J. Sinnott, J. Spear, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy and N. Whelan**

**AGAINST: 12 (TWELVE)**

**Councillors S. Barnes, C. Brady, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, A. Edge, R. McMahon, D. McManus, E. Murphy, S. O’Hara, L. O’Toole, B. Pereppadan and A. Smyth.**

**ABSTAIN: 1 (ONE)**

**Councillor L. McCrave.**

As a result of the **Roll Call Vote** motions 2 **(M2/0925)** and 4 **(M4/0925)** were **AGREED.**

### **M3/0925 LGFA review its policy on transgender participation**

Proposed by Councillor R. McMahon and seconded by Councillor L. De Courcy.

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.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a letter will be issued to the Ladies Gaelic Football Association.  The response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors R. McMahon, L. Dunne, A. Edge, M. Duff, J. Spear, L. de Courcy, V. Casserly, A. Hayes, E. Murphy, N. Fennell, D. Adelaide, J. Sinnott, M. Johansson, P. Holohan, D. Donnelly, L. O’Toole, J. Tuffy, K. Keane, W. Carey, L. McCrave, P. Kearns and F. Timmons.

A **Roll Call Vote** was called on the motion the result of which is as follows:

**FOR: 3 (THREE)**

**Councillors L. de Courcy, P. Holohan and R. McMahon**

**AGAINST: 27 (TWENTY SEVEN)**

**Councillors D Adelaide, S. Barnes, C. Brady, W. Carey, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, M. Duff, A. Edge, N. Fennell, A. Hayes, M. Johansson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, R. Mannion, L. McCrave, D. McManus, E. Murphy, S. O’Hara, B. Pereppadan, D. Richardson, J. Sinnott, A. Smyth, J. Spears, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy, and N. Whelan.**

**ABSTAIN: 3 (THREE)**

**Councillors D. Donnelly, H. Farrell and L. O’Toole**

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

### **M6/0925 Amend the policy on the issuing of long term pitch leases for clubs who have been in existence for over 20 years**

Proposed by Councillor A. Smyth, seconded by Councillor P. Cosgrave and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE.**

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.

**REPORT:**

The proposed provision of adding a clause is unnecessary as the lease will effectively terminate if the club ceases to operate.  Leases are generally contingent upon ongoing occupancy and typically contain provisions for termination based on non-use or other defined criteria.

Furthermore, SDCC has moved away from the practice of issuing long-term pitch leases. Only a small number of historical agreements remain in place, with current policy favouring shorter-term, flexible allocations to better respond to evolving community needs and usage patterns.

South Dublin County Council maintain and allocate over 166 playing pitches annually. These are available for use for various sporting clubs such as Gaelic football, Camogie, Hurling, Soccer, Rugby, Cricket, Rounders, Softball and Athletics etc. serving over 1,000 teams. 19,000 people in the county use these pitches on a weekly basis.

The allocation of playing pitches/sporting facilities is granted on a year-to-year basis subject to clubs undertaking to abide by the various Acts, Bye-Laws, terms and conditions etc. governing the use of County Council Parks and Open Spaces. The South Dublin County Council’s Allocation of Pitches/Sporting Facilities – Policy and Conditions are attached as a separate document.

[M6 (b) Allocation of pitches and facilities Terms and Conditions 2025/2026](https://meetings.southdublin.ie/Home/ViewReply/86969)

### **M8/0925 To carry out updated accessibility audits of our towns and villages**

Proposed by Councillor V. Casserly seconded by Councillor S. O’Hara and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE.**

To call on the Chief Executive to carry out updated accessibility audits of our towns and villages across the county, engaging with residents with lived experience through the office of the Disability Access and Equality Office in view to identifying area's we can work to progress for improved access across the county.

**REPORT:**

Following the appointment of the Equality Officer, a preliminary market consultation was undertaken to inform the preparation of a tender for a comprehensive programme of updated accessibility audits across South Dublin County towns, villages, and other relevant facilities. Submissions from this process are now being reviewed and used to inform the design of the tender process, with a view to commencing the accessibility audits by the end of Q4 2025.

A key element of this process will be the development of recommendations in partnership with residents with lived experience and working with the reconvened SDCC Disability Advisory and Consultative Panel, to ensure the audits lead to meaningful improvements in accessibility across the county.

### **M9/0925 To provide a report on the effect and economic impact of a 50% increase in the Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV)**

Proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott, seconded by Councillor Y. Collins and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE.**

This Council proposes in advance of the 2026 budget meeting that South Dublin County Council provide a report on the effect and economic impact of a 50% increase in the Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV) for those businesses who pay rates in excess of €50,000.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, a full report will be brought to the September meeting of the Organisation Procedure and Finance Committee, which is scheduled for Thursday 18th September.

### **M10/0925 To request increased and multi-annual funding for the local authority Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme**

Proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin, seconded by Councillor J. Sinnott and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE.**

This council resolves that the Chief Executive write to the Department of Housing to request increased and multi-annual funding for the local authority Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme, in order to more effectively reach 2030 and 2050 national climate targets.

**REPORT:**

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

### **M12/0925 To carry out a feasibility study on the possibility of establishing a primary maintenance team**

Proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor R. Mannion and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE.**

That this council calls on the Chief Executive to carry out a feasibility study on the possibility of establishing a primary maintenance team with responsibility for tenants living in accommodation for aged residents and those not medically able to carry out upkeep to their properties.

**REPORT:**

The housing maintenance section currently has a dedicated team of two caretakers to assist our older and vulnerable tenants with various needs. Tenants can easily request support and assistance by contacting the team directly by phone on 01-4149393 or by email to hmaint@sdublincoco.ie.

In addition, Tús Care and Repair, an initiative of South Dublin County Partnership, provides a valuable free odd-job service for older and vulnerable residents. This programme is supported by the council and offers a range of services including:

* Minor gardening and painting jobs
* Hanging curtain rails and putting up shelves
* Other minor DIY tasks

Tenants can access this service directly by calling the freephone number 1800 938 884 or through a referral from their support worker or health service provider. Further information can be found on South Dublin Partnership website - [Care & Repair - South Dublin County Partnership](https://sdcpartnership.ie/care-repair/).

Furthermore, our rightsizing policy is a key initiative that offers older tenants the opportunity to move from larger, under-occupied homes that may be difficult to manage into purpose built, energy efficient, age friendly accommodation to support long-term independent living.  Information on this initiative can be found on our website - [Age Friendly Housing and Rightsizing - SDCC](https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/age-friendly-housing-and-rightsizing/).

**Meeting ended at 19.02**

**Motions Not Reached:**

### **M5/0925 An Taisce, to refrain from including small Social Housing areas in their Annual Report**

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.

### **M7/0925 To allow local authorities the same discretion to agree to increase HAP and Homeless HAP payments**

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.

### **M11/0925 To ask that weight loss injections are considered and regulated**

That this Council writes to the Minister of Health and asks that weight loss injections are considered and regulated and added to the drugs payment and medical card scheme when prescribed by a doctor to help fight obesity and help in the fight against unregulated online weight loss injection purchases.

### **M13/0925 To increase the number of playing pitches to be delivered**

This council calls on the Chief Executive to increase the number of playing pitches to be delivered, to address increased population, existing demand, and the unmet demand where clubs are restricting growth due to insufficient training space, particularly in the SDZs.