

Chief Executives Report

How we're creating greater opportunity for all

October 2025





About the Chief Executive’s Report

The Chief Executive’s Report is presented to elected members at each SDCC monthly meeting. It forms a key part of our governance and oversight framework, supporting members in their role by providing timely updates on the work of the Council.

In line with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014), the report outlines the performance of executive functions, the implementation of Council policy, and the delivery of services across the organisation.

This report should be read alongside updates provided to Area Committee Meetings and the quarterly Capital Progress Report, which together offer a comprehensive view of Council activity and progress.

Each edition includes:

- Updates on how we are delivering on our Corporate Plan goals
- Highlights of major initiatives and events
- A visual snapshot of recent community and Council activities

The report also provides an opportunity to shine a light on areas of our work that may not always be in the spotlight but are vital to the day-to-day life of the county.

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Climate Leadership



Community Climate Action Funding Reopens

Applications for funding under the Community Climate Action Programme reopen on 28 October this year. The €1.073 million fund supports not-for-profit community organisations to deliver meaningful climate action with real local impact.

The maximum funding available for a single project is €100,000. Previous projects have created warmer community spaces, installed solar power, reduced food waste and developed green spaces that help communities adapt to climate change. Organisations interested in applying or discussing project ideas are encouraged to get in touch at climatechange@sducincoco.ie.



Liffey Valley to City Centre Core Bus Corridor

The National Transport Authority has signed a contract with GMC Group Ltd. for the detailed design and construction of a nine point two kilometre Core Bus Corridor from Liffey Valley to the city centre as part of Bus Connects.

The corridor will begin at Fonthill Road and connect with the new Liffey Valley Shopping Centre bus interchange, continuing to the city centre through Ballyfermot Village.

This project is expected to improve the reliability and speed of bus services along the route, offering better sustainable

travel options in South Dublin and supporting Ireland's climate action commitments.

The corridor will also feature 13.3 kilometres of improved cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in both directions, making it easier and safer for people to choose active travel.

This scheme represents an important investment in sustainable travel for the county. Construction works on the sections in South Dublin are scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of this year.



Quality Housing



Social and Affordable Homes Planned for Rathfarnham

With the support of the Housing Agency, we have acquired a key site at Stocking Avenue, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.

This acquisition, under the Government's Housing for All Land Acquisition Fund overseen by the Housing Agency, marks a significant step in our continued commitment to delivering high-quality social and affordable housing across the county.

The site was approved for social and affordable funding at an initial cost of €8.25 million to acquire the land, with an estimated delivery of more than 240 new homes and a community facility upon its completion.

The development will be delivered as a mixed-tenure scheme, supporting the creation of inclusive and sustainable communities in line with national housing policy. It also forms part of the broader Housing Delivery Action Plan.

We are masterplan is being developed to maximise the potential of this site and adjoining lands in the council's ownership. Proposals will be brought for review to the elected members in the first quarter of next year.

Innovative Modular Homes Proposed

Innovative modular homeless housing proposals are gaining traction as a sustainable and efficient solution to the growing issue of homelessness. This proposal forms part of the Dublin Regional Homeless Plan 2025/28, which aims to reduce reliance on the private sector for emergency accommodation. The project involves developing a pilot modular housing scheme to provide approximately sixteen to twenty homes for local people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Modular construction is a modern method of building, involving the construction of units off-site under controlled conditions and their assembly on-site. This approach ensures higher quality control, significant time savings and reduced environmental impact.

The proposed scheme will be procured through a suitable competition, with the final cost dependent on factors such as site value, location and utility availability. The project will comply with all relevant regulations and guidelines, ensuring a maximum lifespan with potential for adaptive reuse.

Next steps include site assessment and selection, finalising the project brief and confirming the procurement and delivery models. Innovative modular homeless housing proposals offer a promising and practical solution to the homelessness crisis. By leveraging modern construction techniques and sustainable design principles, these proposals can provide safe, dignified and adaptable housing for those in need.



Quality Housing



Clonburris SDZ: Proposed Non-Material Amendment to Planning Scheme

A proposed non-material amendment to the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone Planning Scheme was submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála on 11 September this year by SDCC.

This amendment is required to ensure that the planning scheme responds to national policy objectives and infrastructure planning, while remaining firmly within the overall vision for Clonburris.

The proposed changes reflect a carefully balanced and policy-aligned reallocation of residential units across the Strategic Development Zone.

This improves the alignment of housing

delivery with existing and planned infrastructure. Adjustments have been made in response to national policy changes, on-the-ground development activity, the delivery of key public infrastructure and updated site-specific constraints.

The proposed non-material amendment preserves the overall vision for Clonburris as a compact and sustainable community, while enabling continued progress in delivering housing, infrastructure and amenities across the Strategic Development Zone.

There is currently no decision timeline from An Coimisiún Pleanála, but updates will be issued as they are received.

Planning permission has also been granted for the development of three major parks within the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone, marking a significant step in delivering high-quality green infrastructure and new public open spaces for the area. The approved proposals are a key part of the Clonburris parks and green infrastructure strategy, ensuring that sports, play and biodiversity-focused spaces are provided as new homes are delivered.

The first park, Griffeen Valley Park Extension, will cover approximately 15.9 hectares and extend the existing park. It will include a senior all-weather GAA pitch that can be adapted for football, two natural grass pitches, tennis and padel courts, basketball facilities, allotments and two large destination play areas. Ecological measures will feature new attenuation ponds and significant biodiversity planting. Grand Canal Park South, at around 17.3 hectares, will transform an existing open

space with two natural soccer pitches, play areas, allotments and reinforced tree planting along the canal corridor.

Na Cluainte Park South, covering about four hectares and located beside a proposed school site, will include an all-weather and a natural soccer pitch, basketball courts, multi-sports facilities, a large play area and ecological features such as ponds and varied topography. These parks have been designed in line with the approved Clonburris Parks and Landscape Strategy and the Clonburris Biodiversity Management Plan. Together, these plans ensure that the new parks will deliver high-quality recreation, enhance ecological value and integrate with sustainable drainage systems across the Strategic Development Zone.

The three parks are a core element of the Clonburris phasing strategy, ensuring that as housing is delivered, residents gain timely access to sports, play and natural amenity spaces.



A Thriving Economy



THRIVE Funding for Rathfarnham Castle Stables and Courtyard

SDCC welcomes the announcement of €7 million in THRIVE funding to support the redevelopment of the historic Rathfarnham Stables and Courtyards, a flagship tourism initiative in the county. The funding is provided through the Government's THRIVE scheme—Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme—co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021–2027.

This landmark project will regenerate Rathfarnham Stables and Courtyards, incorporating four historic courtyards that will be brought back to life. The development will include a multi-purpose

event space, arts and crafts areas, a new restaurant and café, outdoor event spaces and a new cultural facility. Acting as a key gateway for the village and county, the project will link Rathfarnham Village with Rathfarnham Park and Rathfarnham Castle, creating an important cultural, heritage and public amenity for visitors and the local community.

The reimagining of Rathfarnham Stables and Courtyards will have a transformational impact on the area, creating a mixed-use cultural, arts, tourism, hospitality and community development, complete with a network of public open spaces that will bring vibrancy and vitality to the village. In supporting job creation and the local economy,

the project will also act as an exemplar conservation initiative, restoring the historic fabric of a protected structure that forms part of the curtilage of Rathfarnham Castle, an important national monument and visitor destination in the county.

With Part 8 approved for the development at the July council meeting, the awarding of €7 million through THRIVE funding represents a major vote of confidence in SDCC's vision for the project. Engagement with local communities and their role in shaping the future of this project was a critical step in unlocking this opportunity and supporting the regeneration of Rathfarnham Stables and Courtyards. Following the extensive public consultation process associated with the preparation of Part 8 for the development, the project has now entered the detailed design stage,

with all details to be finalised before construction begins in early next year. Building on the consultation process to date and ensuring continued engagement, a key part of the project will involve the redesign of the Sean Keating Garden, which will be carried out in consultation with the local community.

Rathfarnham Stables and Courtyards is a central part of the delivery of the county's tourism strategy, and SDCC looks forward to working with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Southern Regional Assembly, the Office of Public Works, the local community and project partners, the McHugh Group, in delivering this initiative and supporting the economic development of the county.



A Thriving Economy



From Zero to Demo in Two Weeks at Work IQ

Work IQ recently hosted the Regional Demo Day for the National AI Hackathon, organised by TechIreland. With up to fifty people in attendance, teams of startups, students and corporate innovators had just two weeks to build practical AI solutions for a range of real-world challenges. The challenge placed a strong emphasis on people-centred and ethical AI development across several sectors.

The atmosphere was lively and engaging, as teams pitched their ideas, received feedback from expert judges—including previous winners, local entrepreneurs, technology executives and founders—and networked with fellow innovators. Work IQ's flexible and collaborative space provided the ideal environment to celebrate creativity and

entrepreneurship, highlighting the growing AI ecosystem in Ireland.

Five teams presented solutions focused on automating the marking of Leaving Certificate papers, retina-based access control for data, automation of ransomware detection, generative AI-driven dentist education and microlearning for the construction sector.

The winning team, LaunchLoop, went on to present their solution to automate the marking of Leaving Certificate papers—currently a €56 million cost to the state—at the National Showcase in Galway on 18 September. Their approach was commended for its innovation and for embracing technology to address modern challenges.

South Dublin Business Showcase at National Ploughing Championships

Flaunta, a small business from Clondalkin, was supported by the Local Enterprise Office to exhibit to almost three hundred thousand people at the National Ploughing Championships in September.

Founded by Angelina Sheridan and Hope Hayes, Flaunta designs bags and accessories that combine style with functionality and are made from vegan leather.

Flaunta was part of the Local Enterprise Village, which featured thirty small businesses from across Ireland. The Local Enterprise Village is an initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices, who partnered with Google this year to enhance the experience.

Google hosted talks and demonstrations in the village, helping small businesses and entrepreneurs explore digital tools and artificial intelligence to grow their ideas. Earlier in the year, Flaunta featured at Showcase and won the Local Enterprise Award for Best Startup.

The company also extended its reach on social media, achieving more than fifty million views for its products. Representing South Dublin at the National Ploughing Championships has capped an incredible year for Flaunta, as the business continues to go from strength to strength as a thriving company in the county.



A Better Place



Nature of Play Policy: Investing in Play, Inspiring Growth

With a capital investment of more than €6 million, we are leading the way in delivering natural playspaces and an innovative teenspace programme across the county. These initiatives make play a vital part of public spaces, neighbourhoods and communities, supporting children and young people to be active, healthy and socially connected. The investment has expanded the network of public playgrounds to more than fifty and introduced new teenspaces, ensuring high-quality, accessible play opportunities for all.

Drawing on experience, community feedback and international best practice, we have developed The Nature of Play policy. This policy highlights the role

of play in health, wellbeing, personal development and community cohesion. It provides examples of best practice and sets out how SDCC will continue to deliver high-quality play and outdoor recreation over the next five years.

These programmes and policies reflect our commitment to integrated, inclusive and safe communities. The provision of playspaces and teenspaces over the past decade, supported by more than €6 million in capital investment, continues to strengthen the county as a place where children and young people can thrive.

Rathfarnham Castle Park Outdoor Classroom

Funded through the Have Your Say Initiative, students from St. Mary's B.N.S. recently joined Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr. Pamela Kearns and park rangers to explore the new outdoor classroom at Rathfarnham Castle Park. This quiet, sheltered space is designed to inspire outdoor learning, encourage curiosity and foster a stronger connection with nature.

Outdoor learning offers many positive benefits, including improved focus, creativity, teamwork and wellbeing. It provides opportunities for hands-on discovery, sensory engagement and environmental awareness, helping children develop essential skills in a fun and active way. The new classroom will be a valuable community resource for years to come.



Heritage Week Celebrates Local Roots

National Heritage Week took place between 16 and 24 August, with the theme of 'Exploring our Foundation'. Our Heritage Week event list was co-ordinated by the Library Service, and funding for these activities was drawn annually from the County Heritage Plan budget. A total of twenty-one events were organised for Heritage Week, including exhibitions, walks, tours, outdoor events, talks, workshops and children's activities. In keeping with this year's theme, genealogy and family history workshops proved popular, as did Viking and medieval armoury events.

In addition to council-funded and organised events, the Office of Public Works hosted activities in St. Enda's Park and Rathfarnham Castle. Local

communities and environmental groups across South Dublin County also held local history walks and music recitals, contributing to a vibrant and engaging Heritage Week for all



Connected Communities



Little Library Brings Books to Tallaght Hospital

“The Little Library,” A new LibCabinet has been launched in partnership between SDCC Libraries and Library & Information Services at Tallaght University Hospital. Located in the hospitals foyer, the self-service kiosk brings books and reading directly to patients, staff and visitors, making access to reading material easier for everyone in the hospital setting.

The LibCabinet allows users to borrow, return and browse a curated collection of books without needing to visit a library branch. By placing the kiosk in a busy area, the project offers relaxation, distraction and comfort to those who may be experiencing stressful times. Membership of the library is free, and once registered, members can use their card as they would

in any branch. In addition to borrowing books, members can access eBooks, audiobooks and a wide range of digital resources.

For patients staying in hospital or visitors spending time with loved ones, the LibCabinet provides a way to stay connected with the outside world. For staff, it offers opportunities for rest and wellbeing during busy shifts. The location highlights the commitment of both organisations to supporting physical health and also mental and emotional wellbeing.

We hope the service will inspire further collaborations, showing how libraries can adapt and bring the pleasure of reading to new settings.

Presidential Elections

The deadline of the 7 October for applications to register or update your details for the Presidential Election has now passed. Applications to register or change details will now not be considered until after the election takes place on Friday 24 October.

Our electoral register team received a high volume of requests in preparation for the upcoming Presidential election and we are asking citizens to please be patient while we process requests ahead of polling day.

For more information on the forthcoming Presidential Election, visit electoralcommission.ie/presidential-elections/



Moldovan Elections Held at County Hall

County hall was the venue for the Moldovan parliamentary elections on 28 September, providing Moldovan citizens living in South Dublin with the opportunity to vote locally. The polling station was organised in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova, following a request to support the democratic process for the Moldovan community. National figures show that the Moldovan community in Ireland is growing, with most residents concentrated in Dublin and its surrounding areas. We continue to support the needs of all international communities, including Moldovan citizens.

The foyer featured flag displays and a photo area decorated with flowers, reflecting the traditional style of

Moldovan polling stations. Both the Irish and Moldovan flags were flown, and digital screens displayed election visuals throughout the day. Council staff worked with embassy representatives to ensure all arrangements met council requirements and provided a welcoming environment for voters. This collaboration with the Moldovan Embassy demonstrates our openness to facilitating democratic engagement for residents of South Dublin from diverse backgrounds.



Cultural Richness



Red Line Book Festival 2025: Fourteen Years of Stories, Creativity, and Community

The Red Line Book Festival returns from 13 to 19 October, bringing a vibrant celebration of literature, creativity and community to the county.

Now in its fourteenth year, the festival has become a hub for literature, art and connection, showcasing local talent, welcoming international guests and making culture accessible for everyone.

This year's programme offers something for all ages. Families can enjoy the Curious Case of the Irish Yeti at Parthalán Place, while fans of the supernatural can join Ben Machell for discussions at the Civic Theatre. Politics enthusiasts will hear from Gavan Reilly on the secrets of

Leinster House, and book lovers can meet authors including Helen Fielding, Roisin O'Donnell, Paul McVeigh and Booker Prize winner Paul Lynch. Local writers, such as first-time author Luke Devlin, will also feature, highlighting the festival's support for emerging talent.

Art and illustration are central to the festival, with Celina Buckley as artist in residence. Her five-week workshop series will end with an exhibition at Ballyroan Library, and interactive Draw Along sessions for young artists will be led by Owen Churcher and Niamh Sharkey.

Alan Nolan adds energy with his family show featuring Molly Malone and Bram

Stoker.

Accessibility is a priority, with Irish Sign Language interpretation at selected events, sensory-friendly spaces for children with additional needs and buses from local libraries. Events will take place in venues including Rathfarnham Castle, Brú Chrónáin, Rathcoole Courthouse and Parthalán Place.

Whether discovering a new author, joining a workshop or enjoying the festival atmosphere, the Red Line Book Festival 2025 promises stories, surprises and inspiration for all.

Full programme and booking details are available at redlinefestival.ie.



Cultural Richness



Mobile Library Rolls into the Ploughing Championships

Our mobile library service recently travelled to the National Ploughing Championships, joining the event at the invitation of the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Gaeltacht and Libraries Ireland.

Over three days, the book-filled bus became a pop-up library, welcoming children, farmers and book lovers from across the country. Visitors browsed a wide selection of books, checked out titles and learned how easy it is to borrow and return books with the national library system, which makes every library accessible no matter where you live.

The National Ploughing Championships are known for celebrating agriculture,

but they also highlight culture and community.

The presence of the mobile library service helped sow the seeds of reading and demonstrated that library services can reach people wherever they are. Our staff were delighted to meet so many new readers and share information about library membership, which is free and open to all.

By bringing books directly to the fields, the mobile library service showed how libraries adapt to meet the needs of communities, supporting literacy and lifelong learning in every setting.

Féile na Sléibhte Returns

The Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP) has been active for seventeen years, creating and maintaining the Dublin Mountains Way, supporting sustainable recreation, and encouraging environmental improvements.

Building on the success of the first Dublin Mountains Festival, Féile na Sléibhte, in 2024, the DMP held the second festival in 2025 to celebrate and showcase this landscape. Running from 1 to 11 October, the programme featured talks, themed walks, a sheepdog demonstration, music, Irish language events, a community day, and workshops on sustainability, dog handling, and sharing nature with children. Highlights included National Tree Day at Tibbradden Wood with three local schools and a dark skies talk at Glenasmole Community Centre.

For those who missed the festival, DMP hosts events throughout the year, including

bat walks, guided hikes with volunteer rangers, and activities for Heritage Week, National Tree Day, and World Environment Day. Updates and bookings are available on the DMP website (www.dublinmountains.ie) or on Eventbrite.

DMP partners include SDCC, Coillte, Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The 2022–2026 Strategic Plan sets out a vision of the Dublin Mountains as an area of outstanding beauty and sustainable recreation, where visitors can enjoy the hills, learn about their environment and culture, and respect local communities and other users. For further information on the Dublin Mountains Partnership and the Dublin Mountains Partnership Strategic Plan 2022–2026, contact info@dublinmountains.ie or communications@sdblincoco.ie.

**DUBLIN
MOUNTAINS
FESTIVAL
FÉILE NA
SLÉIBHTE**

 **Dublin Mountains**
Partnership



People First



Work Progresses on Local Community Safety Partnership in South Dublin

A new Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) is being established in South Dublin as part of a nationwide programme to rethink how safety and wellbeing are supported at community level. The LCSP will bring together residents, community groups, local authorities, An Garda Síochána and other key agencies to plan and work in partnership. Its purpose is to identify local safety concerns, agree practical solutions and build stronger connections between communities and the services that support them.

Unlike traditional policing forums, the LCSP will have a wider focus. It recognises that community safety goes beyond policing alone and also includes access to supports in areas such as youth services,

health, education and social inclusion. By combining local knowledge with agency expertise, the LCSP aims to ensure safer, more connected and more resilient communities.

The partnership will provide an opportunity to address issues such as anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, youth supports, road safety and access to services, while also encouraging initiatives that strengthen community spirit.

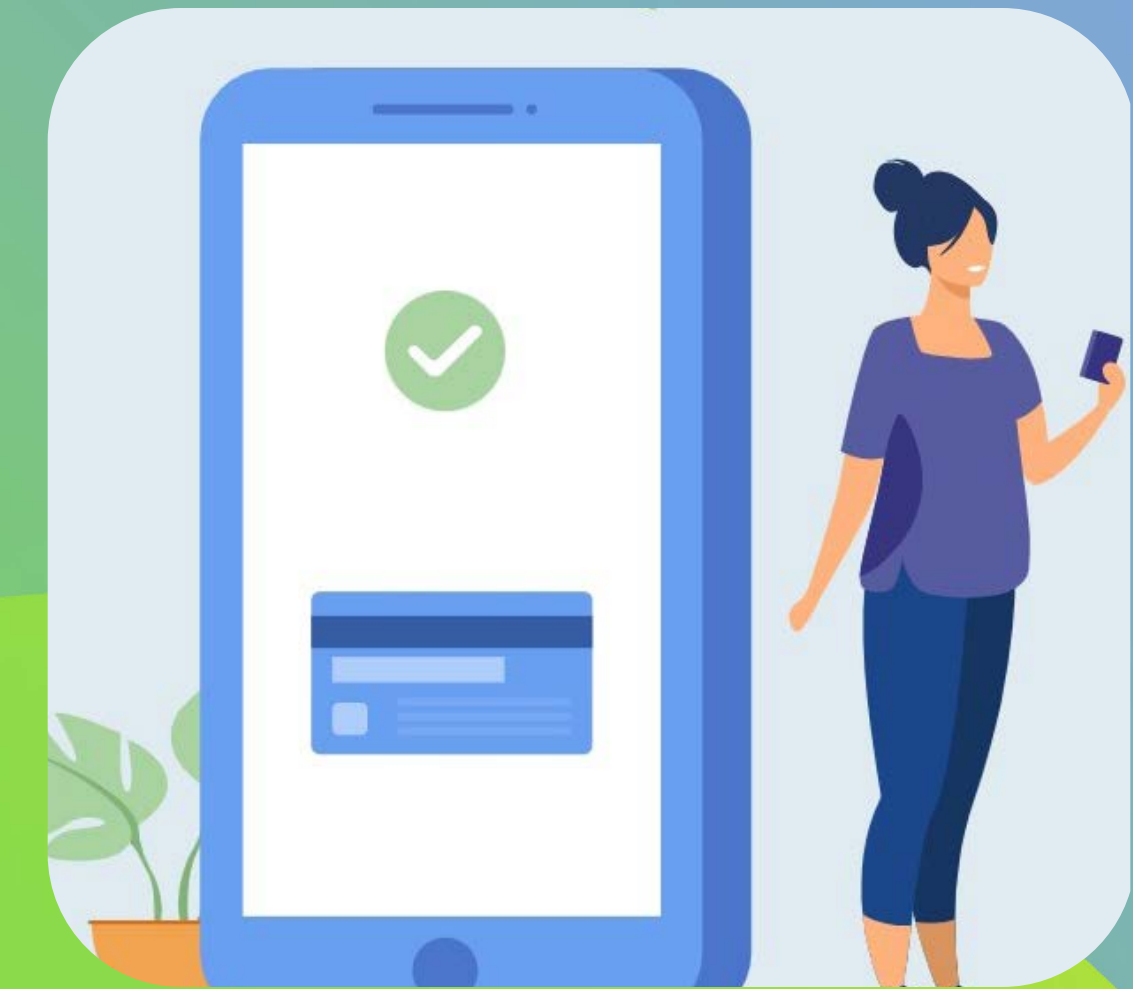
In November, work will focus on finalising the structure of the partnership and inviting representation from across the community and relevant agencies. Further information will be shared as planning progresses.

Rent Payments Made Simple Using “Quick Pay”

As part of our ongoing plan to use digital technology to make services easier and more accessible for customers, housing tenants can now pay their rent online using a credit or debit card. Tenants have the flexibility to pay at any time by using the “Pay for it” link on the SDCC website. This new service allows payments to be made on weekends and outside normal office hours, giving tenants greater convenience and control over their finances.

With the introduction of online payments, tenants no longer need to call the cash office to pay by phone. The system also enables tenants to make one-off lump sum payments, which can help reduce arrears more efficiently. This online payment service is available to tenants

living in council, RAS and leased properties, ensuring that a wide range of residents can benefit from this improved service.



Our Housing Customer Centre – Here to Help You

The Housing Customer Centre, located in County Hall, is a modern and comfortable space designed to make things easy for customers. At the centre, visitors can collect and submit forms for social housing, rent, grants and other services. Staff are available to assist with maintenance requests and rent account queries, providing guidance on digital services and support with online applications. Customers can also make appointments to access information and support for allocations, HAP, homeless services, housing grants and estate management queries.

We are currently developing clear guidance for staff, robust procedures for managing appointments and ongoing training to ensure every customer receives the highest standard of care.



County Matters

Art, Performance and Community Spirit Light Up Culture Night

From the lively streets of Parthalán Place to the historic grounds of Lucan House, audiences enjoyed an evening filled with music, theatre, dance and immersive experiences. Packed venues, innovative performances and welcoming spaces allowed everyone to celebrate together, highlighting the richness of the cultural scene and the power of the arts to connect people.

In Parthalán Place, Tallaght, festivities began early on Friday, 19 September, with Tallaght Library hosting a family-friendly programme. Children and parents enjoyed Classical Kids, an interactive concert introducing young audiences



to live music, followed by laughter and amazement during The Magic Show with Murf the Magician.

These daytime events set the stage for an evening where creativity took over local cultural landmarks.

That night, Rua Red and Parthalán Place became the centre of SPECTRUM, a cross-disciplinary series co-produced by Rua Red, SoFFt Productions and the SDCC Arts Office's youth music programme, NOISE Music. Part of the national Culture Night Late strand, SPECTRUM featured roaming performances, immersive sound zones and a sense of spontaneity.

Rua Red's Gallery 1 was transformed into a live venue, showcasing music collectives BPM, Tallaght's Burner Records and young DJs from the NOISE DJ Collective. Creative Places MacUillium musicians, poet Sandisiwe Khupe and the Afro Vibes dance collective added their unique voices.

Striking visuals, projected artworks and a laser show by Robin Price elevated the performances. Outside, Parthalán Place hosted a block party-style celebration with live graffiti, hip-hop and contemporary dance. The SoFFt Space offered a neurodivergent-friendly environment, providing calm and accessibility.

Elsewhere, Lucan House welcomed five hundred attendees for a night of music, storytelling and celebration curated by Artscope. Highlights included a flash mob by The Rubik's Ensemble, an immersive sound installation from Abigail Smith and a debut performance by a new trio of Irish musicians. The headline act, Nightvisiting, led by Lisa Lambe, blended storytelling and song.

With children's entertainment, refreshments and a family-friendly atmosphere, Lucan House captured the heart of the community. As one attendee said, "I came for the music, but I stayed for the atmosphere."

From experimental performances to

intergenerational gatherings, Culture Night 2025 showcased the county's artistic vibrancy, transforming familiar spaces into cultural landmarks and bringing art and community together for one unforgettable night.



County Matters

Communicating Climate Action: New Climate Action Website and Story-map Launched

Climate leadership is a key objective for SDCC and is reflected in our Corporate Plan. Aiming for a low-carbon and climate-resilient county, the Climate Action Plan influences the work of most council services. Whether it is Ireland’s first publicly owned district heating network in Tallaght or the extensive and growing active travel network, we aim to demonstrate climate leadership at a local level.

In protecting property and infrastructure from flooding through three flood alleviation schemes, and in supporting nature and biodiversity by expanding the green infrastructure network, we are working to establish sustained climate action across South Dublin County.

Alongside this work, it is equally important to communicate clearly what is being done

and why, and to engage with residents and the wider community. To support this, we are launching an innovative, interactive climate action StoryMap on the newly revamped Climate Action website. The new website and StoryMap will be launched to the public in October.

The map will showcase climate actions, projects and community partnerships. These interactive maps will be accessible to all, allowing the public to view our work in their areas in an engaging way. The StoryMap will also highlight the groundswell of community-led action that is building across the county.

Some highlights featured on the Climate Action StoryMap include the work of the public lighting retrofit team, who are updating our largest energy user to light-

emitting diode (LED) lights, significantly reducing electricity use.

Details are also provided on upcoming energy projects to help decarbonise key buildings, as well as an innovative solar power project at Arthurstown Landfill. The rollout of sustainable drainage systems is outlined, as is the continued transition of fleet vehicles away from fossil fuels.

The StoryMap also shows the location of our mini woodlands and natural meadows, delivered by the public realm team in collaboration with dedicated community groups. Other features include climate action measures incorporated by the

transport department in the delivery of the Rosemount District Enhancement project, and a project on building homes sustainably, led by the architect’s department. Ongoing climate action engagement through annual events such as Dublin Climate Action Week is also highlighted.

The StoryMap is part of the dedicated climate action website for South Dublin, www.southdublinclimate.ie, where updates on progress are regularly hosted. The focus is to inform and inspire, reinforcing the necessity of climate action across the county.



County Matters

Halloween in South Dublin

This year, to raise awareness and encourage everyone to stay safe, a colourful information leaflet will be published with facts and tips on how to enjoy Halloween safely. The leaflet also includes details about family events taking place in libraries across the county. Information is available on incentives designed to protect community open spaces from damage caused by illegal bonfires.

“Bulbs Not Bonfires” is a reward available through the innovative Social Credits Scheme, offering communities spring flowers in return for organising alternative Halloween activities that protect the environment. Every Social Credit applicant or group will receive a free pass to Ballymount Civic Amenity Centre from 22 October, making it easier to recycle. Each pass allows one car entry and is valid until 28 November this year.



Step into the shadows this Samhain and join in for some frightful fun at Tallaween on 31 October and Spookdalkin on 2 November. Enjoy creepy cinema screenings, zombie entertainment, fire performers, food trucks and more. Prizes will be awarded for the most spooktacular costumes. SDCC Libraries are celebrating Halloween in style this October with a packed programme of events for all ages. From costume swaps and storytimes to science workshops, family films and creative crafts, there is plenty to keep children, teens and adults entertained.

The festivities begin early with Halloween costume swaps across library branches, giving families the chance to trade last year's outfits for something new. Tallaght Library launches its big Halloween day on 11 October with a costume swap, a chance to meet Spiderman, a silent disco for children aged three and up, and an afternoon Family Fun Day featuring jugglers, balloon animals and face painting. Lucan Library will also host a swap on 9 October at 6pm, with costume drop-offs starting from 6 October.

Throughout the month, families can enjoy spooky storytimes and craft sessions at Clondalkin, Tallaght, North Clondalkin and Lucan Library. Makers of all ages can get creative with trick-or-treat bag workshops, colourful art sessions and teen costume-making. Science fans in Ballyroan Library will enjoy Erupting Pumpkins!, a hands-on

workshop on 30 October where children aged nine and over can make a pumpkin model and watch it erupt. Adults can join the Creative Spirits Tote Bag Workshop on 21 October to design a custom Halloween bag.

Halloween week will be especially busy. Lucan Library hosts 3D printing for children aged nine and over at noon on 30 October, followed by two lively performances of the Viking Show with Knights for Hire at 2pm and 3pm. Later that afternoon, children aged nine to twelve can join Halloween Art and Creativity at 3.30pm.

On 31 October, Lucan rounds off its programme with a Card Swap for Kids at 2.30pm, while Clondalkin Library will be buzzing all day with a scavenger hunt and drop-in crafts.

Music and movies add to the fun, with North Clondalkin's Halloween Disco at NCHell on 24 October, film screenings in Tallaght and North Clondalkin on 29 October, and a special big-screen showing of Hotel Transylvania. Younger children are catered for as well, with Tallaght's Halloween Toddler Time with Twinkle Kids on 31 October, featuring gentle stories, music and movement.



County Matters

Muintir Chrónáin & SDCC pay tribute to President Higgins in Clondalkin

SDCC were proud to support a very special tribute to the President of Ireland, Mícheál D. Higgins and his wife Sabina in Áras Chrónáin, Clondalkin on 4 October.

The event was organised by Muintir Chrónáin to express gratitude to the President for all his work to promote Irish language, heritage and the arts during his time as President of Ireland and indeed throughout his career.

Mayor Pamela Kearns and representatives of Muintir Chrónáin welcomed the President upon arrival before Muintir Chrónáin chairperson Meadhbh Ní Cheallaigh spoke about the challenge

President Higgins presented in 1993, in his then role as Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, for Clondalkin to “have a Gaeltacht of their own, the first Gaeltacht in the capital” which inspired the work of Muintir Chrónáin in achieving ‘Líonra Gaeilge’ official Irish language network status for Clondalkin in 2021.

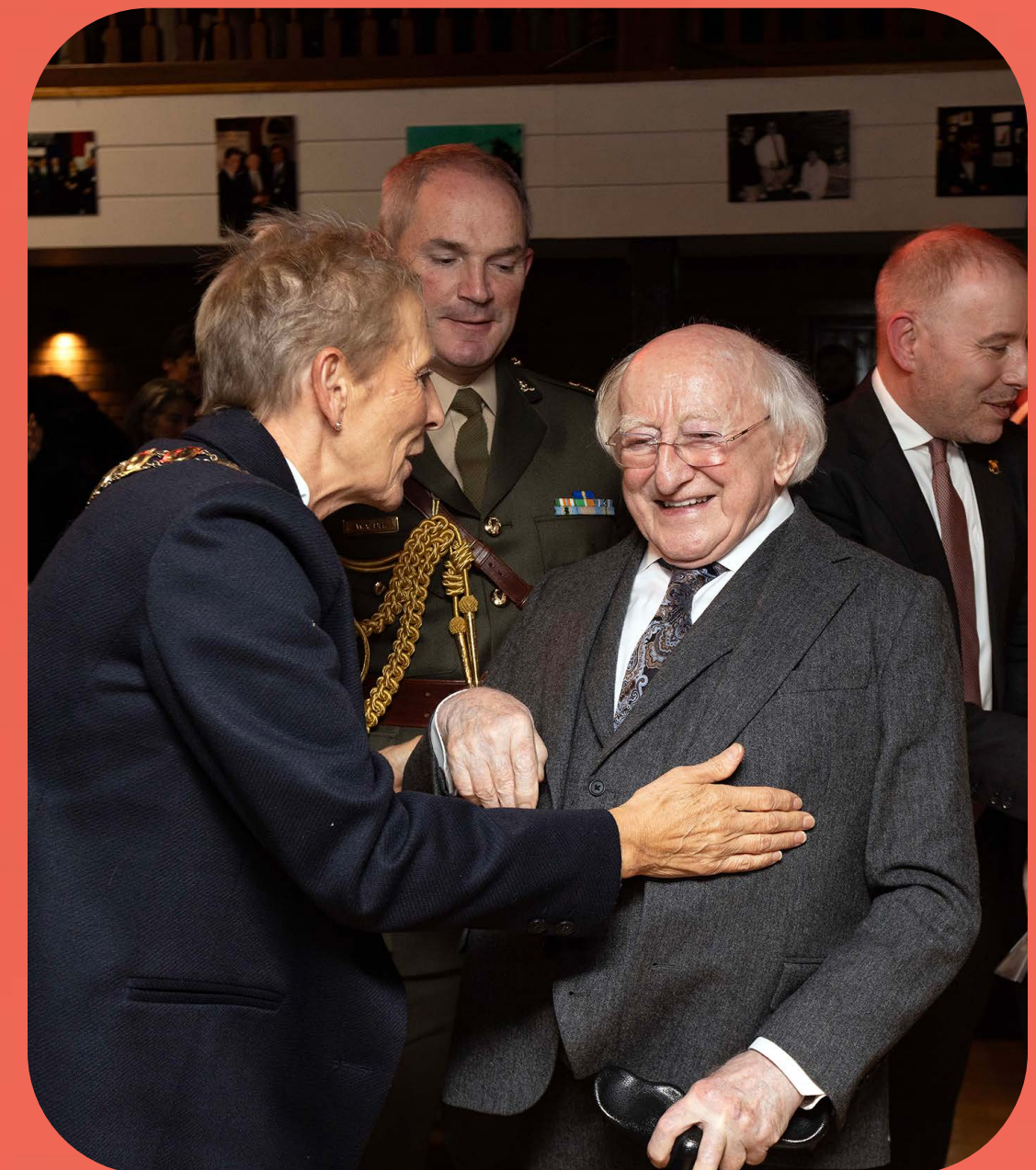
During the event which was attended by councillors from both SDCC’s Corporate Policy Group and the Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area Committee, local poet Barry Currivan read a poem he had written especially for the occasion ‘Of Stars, Of Dust, Of Grit’



and this was followed by Edel Ní Arrachtáin singing ‘The Tricoloured Ribbon’.

Then there was a performance from by the band KILA who performed tracks from ‘Ómós’, their specially commissioned Mícheál D. Higgins tribute album, a copy of which was presented to the President on the night.

There is no doubt that President Higgins thoroughly enjoyed the event which was a source of pride for the President and his family, for Muintir Chrónáin, Áras Chrónáin, the community of Clondalkin, South Dublin County Council and for everyone who was present. Go raibh míle maith agat agus buíochas mór to everyone involved in the organisation and presentation of the event.



A photograph of two young girls at a festival. They have their faces and hair painted with vibrant colors like pink, blue, and yellow. They are both wearing bright red sunglasses and making peace signs with their hands. The girl on the left is wearing a light-colored jacket, while the girl on the right is wearing a pink and blue jacket. The background is a blurred crowd of people at an outdoor event.

A photograph of two young men sitting on a purple floor, playing a board game. The man on the left is wearing a grey hoodie and is leaning forward, placing a piece into the game. The man on the right is wearing a green Adidas jacket and is watching the game. They are playing Connect Four, with the blue and yellow pieces visible in the grid. In the background, a large banner features a red and orange circular design with the text "The Park Community Welcomes you to Pride of Place 2025". Above this text, smaller text reads "Gardaí/An Garda Síochána" and "South Dublin County Council".

A group of five people, including a man in a dark coat and a woman in a light jacket, standing outdoors in a garden. They are holding shovels and a wheelbarrow, and a large amount of brown leaves is falling around them, suggesting a leaf-clearing activity.

Colour Dash at Corkagh Park



Opening of outdoor classroom at Rathfarnham Castle Park



Quarryvale Park Playspace



Launch of #ProjectEdward at County Hall





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