

Chief Executive's Report

How we're
creating greater
opportunity for
all

December 2025



SDCC named Local Authority of the Year 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



SDCC continues to deliver on climate action in 2025

In 2025, SDCC continued to deliver significant climate action across the county, advancing projects that reduce emissions, build resilience, and support more sustainable communities. A wide range of departments contributed to this progress, reflecting our commitment to embedding climate action across all areas of local government.

Approximately 87% of the 129 actions in the Climate Action Plan are currently being progressed. Highlights include:

Decarbonising Our Buildings

Major strides were made in reducing the carbon footprint of council-owned buildings. The contract was awarded for the installation of solar PV systems on our buildings, and a preferred supplier was

identified for new Energy Performance Contract (EPC) across six of our highest energy-use buildings, with the contract to be officially awarded in the coming weeks.

Once completed, these projects will substantially improve energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions, as the 6 largest buildings account for 29% of SDCC's total energy demand. The EPC is expected to deliver an annual energy cost saving of 38% and reduce gas usage by 95%, with a transition to other sources, and reduce associated carbon emissions.

Expanding Active Travel Infrastructure

A key focus in 2025 was continued investment in active travel. Over the year, more than 3.6 km of new and upgraded cycle lanes were delivered across South

Dublin. These projects make walking and cycling safer and more accessible, supporting healthier lifestyles while reducing dependence on private cars.

Raising Awareness

"Losing the Thread" Launched
We also took action to support behavioural change and public awareness. In October, we launched Losing the Thread: The Cost of Fast Fashion at the Lighthouse Cinema. This documentary highlights the climate and environmental impacts of the fast fashion industry, encouraging viewers to rethink consumption habits and consider more sustainable choices.

Community Climate Action Programme

Phase one of the Community Climate Action Programme supported 28 projects with funding totalling €1.169 million to deliver local climate action across our seven local electoral areas. We will continue to deliver on climate

action. The 2026 budget provides €3,180,000 to fund specific local climate action initiatives and supports and a further €1,070,000 will support community groups through Phase 2 of the Community Climate Action Fund.

Rosemount District Centre Enhancement Scheme

In August, the Rosemount District Centre Enhancement Scheme was officially opened, bringing numerous benefits to the area, including reducing car priority, improving active travel capabilities, enhancing environmental resilience, and reusing materials, particularly the bespoke wind turbine blade seating area. The project has already delivered significant benefits for residents, creating a safer, greener, and more attractive public space.

Visit www.sdcc.ie/climateaction to keep up to date on how we are delivering climate action.



Climate Leadership



Tallaght Library Supporting Our Climate Action Plan

Tallaght Library plays a vital role in supporting our Climate Action Plan through a wide range of sustainable, community-focused initiatives. While the sharing of books is perhaps the most traditional and easily overlooked form of sustainability, it remains at the heart of what we do—reducing waste, promoting reuse, and fostering a culture of shared learning rather than ownership.

Beyond books, our innovative Cruthú Makerspace empowers the community to repair, create, and repurpose rather than replace. Equipped with 3D printers, a laser cutter, a sublimation printer, and a fully stocked Mender Space, it encourages creativity with a conscience. In the past quarter alone, around eighty people participated in self-led mending

sessions, while a further one hundred attended Mender-led workshops, demonstrating strong local interest in sustainable textile use and repair.

We also run a variety of community swap events, reducing textile and toy waste while bringing residents together. The quarterly Clothes Swap, the most recent attracting over one hundred participants, alongside the Halloween Costume Swap and Toy Swap, gives pre-loved items a new life and helps reduce the environmental footprint of consumer habits.

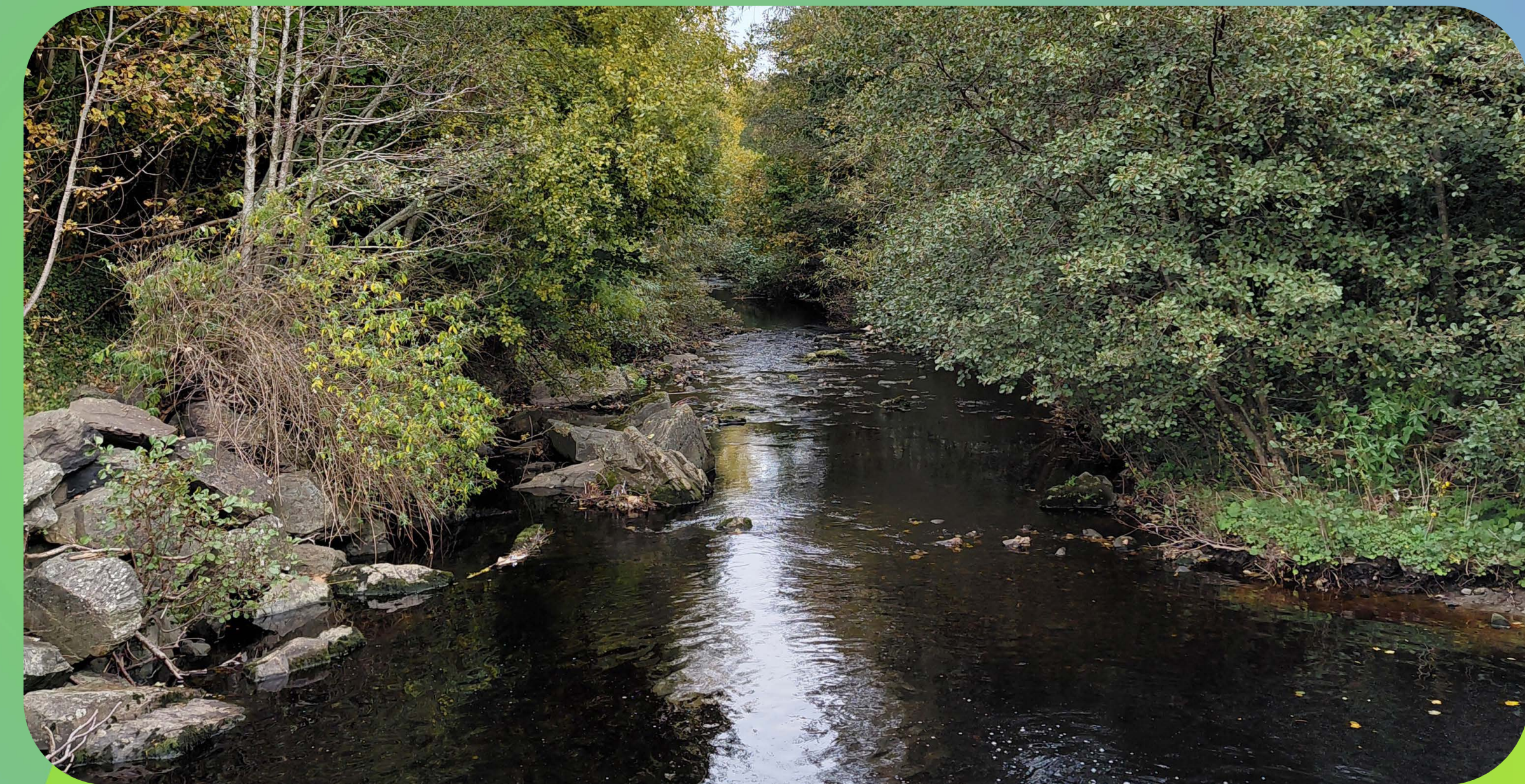
Hands-on learning is another core pillar of our sustainability programming. Staff-led Eco Cleaning Workshops and sessions on making natural deodorant and reusable

face wipes have all been fully attended, highlighting a growing appetite for greener living. Similarly, our Bike Repair Workshop and a recent six-week DIY course, with twenty participants, taught practical repair and construction skills.

The group's final project—two wooden planters made from recycled wood—will

soon be proudly displayed in the library as a symbol of community collaboration and environmental action.

Through these diverse programmes, Tallaght Library continues to inspire sustainable habits, support our climate goals, and demonstrate how local libraries can be dynamic leaders in climate action.



In-Stream Works

Our Natural Water section is responsible for maintaining the rivers and streams in South Dublin. In-stream works are only permitted during the months of July, August, and September, and we have now completed all in-stream works for 2025.

These works included rubbish removal and the removal of fallen trees and other obstacles which is essential in preventing

flooding incidents. This complements our continuous work cleaning trash screens throughout the year.

The main rivers in South Dublin are the Liffey, Griffeen, Camac, Poddle and Dodder, and associated tributaries and the annual in-stream programme of works ensures that local residents can fully enjoy the amenity of river and lake walks.

Quality Housing



SDCC Supporting People

We are committed to ensuring that disabled and older people are supported to live independently in their homes by providing a wide range of grants to our residents to support improvement works in privately owned homes including:

The Mobility Aids Grant (MAG) is provided for minor works to address mobility problems in privately owned homes. These works include the installation of grab-rails, level access showers, access ramps, stairlifts, and other necessary minor works. This grant is available only to those with a household income of less than €37,500 per year and the maximum grant available is €8,000 which can cover 100% of the cost of the work. To date in 2025, forty-two mobility aids grants

have issued with an average value of €3,300, with stairlifts being the most common works funded under this grant.

The Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG) is available where changes need to be made to a home to make it suitable for a person with a physical, sensory, or intellectual disability or mental health difficulty. The types of works allowed under the scheme include the provision of access ramps, downstairs toilet facilities, stairlifts, accessible showers, wheelchair access, sensory rooms, and other works considered necessary. If annual household income is less than €37,501, one hundred per cent of the cost of the works (up to the maximum grant amount of €40,000) could be grant aided. The proportion of the costs

aided will be tapered from eighty-five per cent down to thirty per cent for those with annual household incomes of €62,501 to €75,000. To date in 2025, two hundred and eleven housing adaptation grants have issued with an average value of €10,100, primarily supporting stairlifts, access ramps and rails, and level access toilet facilities.

The Housing Aid for Older People (HOP) scheme is used to improve the condition of an older person's home through repair or improvement works. It is aimed at people aged sixty-six and over living in less than optimal housing conditions. The types of works grant aided under the scheme include structural repairs or improvements, for example, re-roofing, re-wiring, drylining, and other repair or improvement work considered necessary. If annual household income is less than €37,501, one hundred per cent of the cost of the works (up to €10,700) could

be grant aided. The proportion of the costs to be grant aided will be tapered from eighty-five per cent down to thirty per cent for those with annual household incomes of €62,501 to €75,000. To date in 2025, 99 housing adaptation grants have issued with an average value of €3,100 with heating systems and window and door replacement being the works most supported.

For further information, please see www.sdcc.ie.



Clondalkin Local Planning Framework – Special Council Meeting

Proposed variation number one to the County Development Plan—the draft Clondalkin Local Planning Framework has recently undergone a period of public consultation.

A total of 235 submissions were received and published on our consultation portal, alongside the plan documentation. The Chief Executive's report on public consultation was submitted to the elected members on 5 November for their consideration. A Special Council Meeting will take place on 11 December to decide whether to adopt, amend, or reject the variation.

The Chief Executive's report addresses the key issues raised in the submissions, many of which highlighted the importance of sustainable movement. The Local Transport Plan, is a supporting document to the Clondalkin Planning Framework (the Variation) and sets out the process undertaken as part of a transport assessment for the plan area. The transport plan analysed the options for movement, with the identified low intervention option set out for Members' consideration through the relevant objectives in Chapter five of the Local Planning Framework.

Quality Housing



Adamstown Development



Newcastle Development

Traveller Accommodation

Meeting Traveller-specific accommodation needs through delivery of our Traveller Accommodation Programme is a key priority. With two new high-quality Traveller accommodation developments in Adamstown and Newcastle nearing completion, we are now seeking expressions of interest from Traveller households on our accommodation waiting list through a choice based letting process for tenancies in these developments. These developments each comprise six large four-bedroom, two-storey family

homes built to a high-quality design with A-rated energy efficiency features, including air-sourced heat pumps. The accommodation includes a living room, kitchen, downstairs toilet, and four bedrooms with a bathroom on the first floor with the development located in new residential areas within easy reach of local shops, parks, schools, recreational facilities, and transport links.

To apply, please contact our [Traveller Accommodation team](#).

NPF Consultation – Proposed Variation to County Development Plan

In response to the National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation Guidelines for housing growth requirements, we are currently preparing a proposed variation to the County Development Plan 2022-2028. The guidelines set a target for delivery of approximately 47,000 new homes by 2040, with annual targets of 3270 up to 2034 and 2414 units thereafter.

To help meet these revised housing requirements, a non-statutory consultation was held from 23 October to 13 November. This process involved input from members of the public, landowners, homebuilders, and other interested stakeholders, to suggest lands within the county that may be suitable for residential use.

A total of 46 submissions were received during the consultation period, with many identifying areas with potential for residential use including – Newcastle, Lucan, Tallaght, Ballycullen, Clondalkin, Liffey Valley, Rathcoole, Saggart and Knocklyon.

As with lands identified through our initial review, any additional lands or information raised in these submissions will undergo analysis regarding their suitability, deliverability, and sustainability.

Our Planning team is carrying out a criteria-based assessment to consistently evaluate potential lands in relation to, among other factors, environmental designations, flood risk, planning policy,

compact growth, accessibility to high-capacity public transport, infrastructure services, and proximity to existing social infrastructure such as schools, health, and retail. This process will help us identify the most suitable lands for future residential uses to be included as part of a variation to the County Development Plan.

Taking on board the submissions received and feedback from elected representatives, our Planning Department continues preparatory work towards a proposed variation of the County Development Plan, which will be advertised for public consultation and subsequently determined by the elected members early in 2026.



A Thriving Economy



Interest on Unpaid Commercial Rates from 2026

With outstanding commercial rates balances due to incur interest charges on unpaid amounts with the imminent commencement of new legislative measures, local businesses are strongly advised to address any outstanding commercial rates before the end of the current calendar year.

Under the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, interest on 2025 unpaid commercial rates will become payable from 1 January 2026. The law stipulates that unpaid rates will continue to accrue interest from the first day of January in the year following the local financial year to which they relate, and this will persist until full payment is received.

The daily rate of interest has been set at 0.0219%, which equates to approximately 8% per annum with an overdue commercial rates bill of €10,000 accruing €799.35 in interest within one year.

Recognising the potential impact on local businesses, we have a range of supports and arrangements available to help ratepayers avoid incurring these additional charges. We encourage any ratepayers experiencing difficulties in meeting their liabilities to engage proactively with our Debt Management Unit, with the aim of reaching mutually beneficial agreements to avoid accruing any interest charges under the new legislation.

Fresh SCENE: Creative Networking Event at Work IQ, Tallaght

Hosted by Sarah Naylor, founder of Beauty Business in a Box; this vibrant event brought together South Dublin's creative community for a morning of connection, inspiration, and collaboration on 22 October, with up to fifty people in attendance.

Fresh SCENE gave attendees the chance to explore opportunities across the local creative sector and hear stories from special guests Marcello Fidelis (award-winning filmmaker), Don't Kill My Vibe

(contemporary Irish jewellery brand), and Mo O'Connell (award-winning filmmaker and actor).

This event was held in collaboration with our Arts Office. SCENE is the South Dublin Creative Economy Network, created by our Local Enterprise Office, LEO South Dublin, and partners. It supports people working in our vibrant creative economy, from craft and design to artists of all disciplines, musicians, designers, and more.



A Better Place



Launch of Park House Café, Corkagh

Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr. Pamela Kearns was joined by local councillors, guests and staff including Chief Executive, Colm Ward, and, Director of Services, Teresa Walsh, at the ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of the new Park House Café and Corkagh Hub Friday, 7 November 2025.

Speaking at the event, Mayor Pamela Kearns said:

“The re-design of Corkagh Park included new facilities and amenities for this popular park. The new Park House Café is a hugely welcome facility, which will provide a hub in the centre of the park for the community to meet and mingle.”

The new building is host to the Park House Café, which serves great coffee and delicious food. Our operator is now working diligently to prepare the café for full public opening.

This project was funded by our three-year capital budget, with a budget of €5 million for the new facilities at this location and other works throughout the park, such as the completion, surfacing and extensions to the existing car parks, upgrades to the fairy trail, and provision of new signage.

For further information, please contact communications@sdublincoco.ie.

Node 81 Artwork at Glenview Roundabout

The installation of a new sculpture titled ‘Node 81’ by Liam O’Callaghan has been completed on the Glenview Roundabout on the N81 approach road to Tallaght.

As with all art, this sculpture has generated lots of public comment, even at installation stage. Now that it is complete and the sculpture has had time to bed in, the artist’s vision, reflected in the artwork tagline ‘a point becomes a line, a line becomes a way’, is visually realised. The site is a prominent gateway into Tallaght, and the new sculpture is designed to suit the location, framing the beautiful mountain views with a dynamic sculpture that changes shape and colour with the viewer’s perspective when travelling along the N81, with its light and vibrant appearance aiming to reflect the vitality and drive of local people.

The artist’s brief was a collaboration between SDCC and Visual Artists Ireland with contributions from the public during the consultation for the N81 landscape improvement scheme, included in the scope for the work.

Following a tender process, Liam O’Callaghan and Mark Clare were commissioned to deliver the artwork. The artist’s response to the brief included the following description: “This large-scale, contemporary sculpture reflects both the Gothic spiked roofline of the eighth-century St. Maelruan’s church to more contemporary developments of the nineteen seventies and nineteen

eighties to the present day. The lines of the sculpture also reflect an interlinked network of streets, which hold a community connected by many points, this in turn mirroring the function of a roundabout and the purpose of the N81 itself. Networks are brought to life by those that engage with and live within them. This process is reflected in the artwork.”

Please contact communications@sdublincoco.ie for further information on the project.



A Better Place



Adamstown Review

We recently completed a review of the delivery of infrastructure and facilities in Adamstown Strategic Development Zone (SDZ), as provided for in the Planning Scheme. Our review highlights significant progress in delivering Adamstown as a vibrant, sustainable community and confirms that key housing, transport, water, drainage, and community infrastructure have been delivered in accordance with the approved phasing of the Planning Scheme. Strategic funding through LIHAF and URDF has greatly supported key projects, strengthening connectivity and service provision.

Since its designation as a SDZ, Adamstown has been developed as a model for coordinated, plan-led growth, combining quality homes, transport infrastructure, and community facilities within a phased delivery framework.

Major milestones include the opening of Airlie Park, Adamstown Plaza, and Tandy's Lane Park, the delivery of new schools and childcare facilities, and the provision of a Primary Care Centre at Adamstown Boulevard. Key transport links, including Adamstown Railway Station and an upgraded road network such as the Celbridge Link Road—which was delivered ahead of its phase seven schedule—

have ensured easy access and greater connectivity.

Despite significant challenges such as the economic recession and the Covid-19 pandemic, the delivery of Adamstown has continued at pace. While this official review is required by the Planning Scheme, we, as the Development Agency, have provided for an iterative approach to the Planning Scheme through approvals from An Bord Pleanála for non-material amendments to the Planning Scheme in 2014, 2017, 2020, and 2023.

The Non Material Amendment in 2023 enabled the Planning Scheme to adapt to the construction of the Lucan swimming pool within the catchment of the SDZ and amend the phasing requirements to include flexibility for an alternative community facility and/or community gain in lieu of the swimming pool. A decision to seek an alternative community facility and/or community gain in place of a swimming pool from the landowners has been made.

Our review confirms that the SDZ remains firmly on track to achieve its long-term vision to deliver a well-connected, inclusive, and sustainable community alongside the timely provision of essential infrastructure and amenities.

SDCC awarded Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme funding

A total of €412,000 has been allocated under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. This funding will support us in developing and enhancing outdoor recreational amenities in the county.

Out of the total funding, €112,000 will be dedicated to the relocation and upgrade of the existing trailhead for the Dublin Mountains Way at Sean Walsh Park. The new trailhead will connect with the Whitestown Greenway, which

has received €300,000 in funding towards construction of the final section of the Greenway from Killinarden Way to Whitestown Way. This will complete an eight-kilometre Greenway along the length of the Whitestown Stream, linking West Tallaght to the Dodder Greenway and the Dublin Mountains Way via Tallaght Town Centre.

These two measures together will link West Tallaght, Tallaght, and east Tallaght to the extensive recreational resource in the Dublin Mountains via the Whitestown Greenway and the Dublin Mountains Way.

SDCC Celebrate the Opening of the Grand Canal Greenway Extension

We are delighted to announce the opening of the new section of the Grand Canal Greenway from the 12th Lock, Lucan, to Hazelhatch Bridge. This extension provides a link to the Sallins to Hazelhatch Greenway, now enabling people to walk and cycle from Dublin to Offaly along a scenic and accessible route.

This beautiful route offers a safe, peaceful, and accessible space for people of all ages to enjoy cycling, walking, running, or simply spending time in nature along one of South Dublin's most scenic waterways.

The project reflects our ongoing commitment to creating walkable, connected communities through our ambitious Active Travel Programme, which is enhancing paths, parks, and public spaces right across the county.

Supported by grant aid from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and with the valued partnership of Waterways Ireland, this Greenway extension adds another standout feature to South Dublin's growing network of sustainable travel routes.

We warmly thank all partners and stakeholders who helped make it possible.



Connected Communities



Bawnogue District Centre Enhancement

The Bawnogue District Centre Enhancement Project is progressing well with substantial completion expected before the end of the year.

Final surfacing and road markings were carried out in early November. The majority of planting has been completed, and place-making furniture—including a pair of granite chess tables—has been installed.

Our public lighting for the scheme is awaiting the delivery of bespoke columns. A temporary lighting layout has been provided to ensure the area remains

suitably lit in the short term. Snagging of the work will commence over the coming weeks, and a road safety audit will be scheduled once the permanent lighting has been installed.

In addition, we continue to promote the uptake of the shop front grant among traders. The shop front grant usually reimburses fifty percent of the cost of the work, but as part of this scheme, the grant can cover up to ninety percent of the work value if a number of businesses apply together. This is to encourage a more consistent and attractive shop front style.

Junior Safety Forum Strengthens Youth Engagement in Community Safety

Now in its second year, we are building on last year's success by expanding the Junior Safety Forum to include nine schools from across South Dublin County. Our initiative empowers young people to take an active role in promoting safety, responsibility, and community awareness.

We commenced this year's programme in September, with the Interagency Team visiting each participating school to introduce students to key safety themes and outline their role as ambassadors for the initiative.

A successful workshop took place on 17 October in County Hall, featuring contributions from An Garda Síochána, SDCC, and Dublin Fire Brigade, including both operational and fire prevention representatives. The workshop focused on Halloween safety and included engaging presentations from our Litter Warden, Dog Warden, and Parks Department. Students displayed exceptional enthusiasm and engagement throughout, participating actively in discussions on community safety and personal responsibility.

As part of the programme, students brought information and learnings from the workshops back to their schools, helping to disseminate key safety messages and raise awareness among their classmates and the wider school communities. Through this peer-to-peer approach, the Junior Safety Forum extends its impact well beyond the participants, promoting safer practices across a broader network of young people.

The Junior Safety Forum meeting, held on 27 November in the council chamber, gave students a unique opportunity to meet with senior management from ourselves and An Garda Síochána. The meeting enabled students to ask questions, exchange ideas, and develop a greater understanding of how local authorities and emergency services work together to protect and support their communities.

We continue to play a vital role in fostering youth leadership, civic responsibility, and community engagement, ensuring that young voices remain central to South Dublin's ongoing commitment to safety and wellbeing.



Connected Communities



Science Week at Our Libraries

SDCC Libraries celebrated Science Week with a full programme of events that invited our communities to explore the wonder of discovery. Throughout the week, our branches hosted a lively mix of workshops, demonstrations, talks, and hands-on activities for all ages.

School classes took part in interactive experiments and engaging talks from guest speakers who brought science to life. From uncovering the secrets of the universe to exploring the science in

everyday objects, there was something to inspire everyone.

North Clondalkin and Tallaght Library hosted climate-themed escape rooms in conjunction with Trinity College. Ballyroan Library showed adults how to wire a plug and make their own extension lead.

It was a fantastic week of learning, curiosity, and fun—and we were delighted to welcome so many participants across our libraries.

South Dublin Comhairle Annual Youth Conference

The South Dublin Comhairle Annual Youth Conference (AYC) took place in the Maldron Hotel Tallaght on Thursday, 13 November this year. The Mayor, Cllr. Pamela Kearns, gave the opening address at the event. Young people from all schools and youth services in South Dublin County were invited to attend the AYC, which we organised in partnership with Foróige.

Comhairle na nÓg directly involves children and young people in shaping local and national services and policies. Child and youth councils operate in each of the 31 local authority areas across Ireland. Funded and managed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality, these councils enable young people aged twelve to seventeen to exercise their right to influence decision-makers on the topics most important to them, empowering them to have input on decisions made by those in power.

With under 18's unable to vote, Comhairle na nÓg councils give young people a powerful forum to have their voices not

only heard, but their rights, views and opinions taken on board in the creation and change of the policies and services affecting them.

Our Comhairle members presented their work for the past year at the AYC. The topic for this year was social media and expectations on young people. Members conducted a survey on what young people think about social media and its impacts. Responses were sought through social media platforms, and members also carried out live interviews and workshops with young people. The findings form the basis of our social media campaign, which encourages young people to take time offline, use social media safely, explore other interests and see their friends in real life.

The highlight of the AYC was a mini hobbies fair, designed to showcase hobbies and activities young people can do in South Dublin. The fair featured Noise Dublin, Foróige, South Dublin Libraries and Active South Dublin.





Rooting Resilience: Cultivating Community and Nature in Killinarden

Socially engaged environmental artist Sophie Von Maltzan has been working with Killinarden Community Centre (KCC) and its intergenerational community groups this year, delivering a public art project called “Rooting Resilience: Cultivating Community and Nature in Killinarden” as part of In Context 5, our Public Art Programme through the Per Cent for Art Scheme. “Rooting Resilience” fosters a deeper connection between people and place, and Sophie has been working extensively with a wide range of groups such as the Golden Circle, the Women’s Shed, the afterschool Montessori, KCC’s Youth Outreach, and Carp.

In October, Sophie facilitated a fantastic mythology campfire storytelling event

with the children and young people of Killinarden. The centre’s Montessori group created puppets for the campfire event, which were used to recreate mythology tales from the area, including the Salmon of Knowledge and Oisín in Tír na nÓg, with artists Muirenn Lyons, Aoife Lowden and Candlelit Tales. It was a wonderful afternoon of Irish storytelling, music and pizza with the Killinarden community. Sophie will continue to work with these groups in the coming months on exciting activities such as creating art around St Brigid’s Day.

This is one of five socially engaged public art commissions taking place across the county, bringing together community and creativity through nature and climate-focused collaboration.

TradFest 2026

TradFest, Ireland’s largest traditional music festival, returns to South Dublin County in January 2026. Audiences will experience the very best of live music across the county, with events taking place in many non-traditional music venues such as Rathfarnham Castle, St Maelruain’s Church, Glenasmole Community Centre and Aon Scéal Café. The music has transformed over the years, and so too have the spaces in which it is performed. South Dublin County boasts buildings of architectural beauty, and filling these spaces with live music makes for a memorable experience.

This year, we will bring 18 mainline acts to venues in Clondalkin, Tallaght, Rathcoole, and Rathfarnham villages, and the Dublin Mountains, building on the success of the festival’s inaugural foray into South Dublin in 2025. The line-up continues to evolve, with more performers to be added, but standout acts such as Brian Kennedy in St Maelruain’s Church in Tallaght, and Mundy in Áras Chrónáin are sure to sell out. A special treat will be a specially commissioned narrated orchestral celebration of Tallaght by the Comhaltas National Folk Orchestra of Ireland, composed, arranged and conducted by Tom Doorley. This performance will offer a rich cultural experience, showcasing Tallaght through innovative and evocative music and song at the Civic Theatre in Tallaght.

Along with partners, community groups and local businesses, we have been able to offer a programme of fringe events

that will take place in or around the main events. South Dublin Libraries will host fascinating music workshops where, for example, you can ‘try the pipes’ with Na Píobairí Uilleann or make instruments from recycled material. Local music sessions will also take place in businesses throughout Tallaght and Clondalkin.

TradFest in South Dublin runs from 21 to 25 January 2026, with details always being updated on tradfest.com/south-dublin-venues/



Cultural Richness



Tallaght: A Welcoming Place Oral History Collection

Tallaght: A Welcoming Place Oral History Collection invites us into the heartbeat of Tallaght's transformation, from a rural village to a bustling suburban town, through the voices of its residents.

Launched during the Red Line Book Festival in October, this new collection honours the lived experience of diverse community members who arrived in or grew up in Tallaght during periods of great change.

The significance of the project lies in its attention to “ordinary” lives: people navigating the shift from fields and farms, schoolhouses and village shops, to housing estates and shopping centres. It offers a unique and personal archive that captures the rich tapestry of migration, settlement,

community formation, and identity across generations.

Educators, researchers, and local citizens will find the collection a valuable source of insight into urban growth, social change, and community resilience. It demonstrates how public memory is anchored in everyday stories—stories of work, belonging, adaptation, and change. The “welcoming place” in the title is more than a metaphor: it speaks to how Tallaght's community made room for new arrivals and adapted to a growing population, shifting demographics, and modern urban life.

The collection is available now on our Libraries digital archive at source.southdublinlibraries.ie and on all major podcast platforms.

Firstival – Try Something for the First Time! 12- 17 January 2026

Start the year with creativity and curiosity! Firstival returns to our libraries this January—a week-long celebration designed to encourage adults to try something for the first time. Following the success of last year's debut, this year's programme offers an inspiring mix of hands-on workshops and fun experiences across our library branches.

Get involved in activities like terrarium crafting, dancing, paint and prosecco, needle punching, and the traditional Korean paper art Joomchi—plus plenty more to surprise and delight. Whether you want to learn a new skill, meet new people, or simply do something different, Firstival is the perfect way to begin your year on a creative note.

All events are free and open to the public. Bookings can be made through each library's Eventbrite page.

Firstival

12th - 17th January 2026

TRY
SOMETHING
NEW

Clondalkin Comic Fest 2025

Clondalkin Comic Fest 2025 will take place across North Clondalkin Library and Clondalkin Library from 24 to 29 November. This year's festival offers a vibrant and inclusive programme designed to delight comic enthusiasts of all ages.

The 2025 line-up features an exciting mix of workshops, author visits, creative activities, and family-friendly events. Highlights include author and illustrator workshops such as an illustration workshop with Alan Nolan and a zine-making workshop with Kate Nicole Escolin. Family events include superhero-themed storytime and comic crafts, superhero face

painting for younger children, and a visit from a surprise superhero guest. Creative courses and community activities feature digital cartoon art with Olla, a four-week course, a meeting of the Clondalkin Junior Comic Book Club, and live caricature drawing by GOTI Caricatures, with portraits of local residents forming part of a special exhibition in North Clondalkin Library.

Clondalkin Comic Fest continues to celebrate creativity, storytelling, and community spirit. We encourage everyone to check in with their nearest branch and get involved in this year's festival.

People First



A Rewarding Year for Our Recruitment Team

2025 has been a rewarding year for our Recruitment Team. From January through October, we launched 63 recruitment competitions, received two thousand three hundred and four applications, and interviewed seven hundred and thirty-six candidates over one hundred and twenty-four days. The result? We welcomed one hundred and ninety-four new staff to our organisation, each bringing fresh perspectives, valuable experience, and innovative ideas. We have also had one hundred and five existing staff advance their careers with us through promotions.

Nurturing Talent

We continue to nurture talent and have

eight Local Government Graduates contributing meaningfully to our work. We look forward to their continued growth and development with us.

We have also maintained strong partnerships with third-level institutions such as TU Dublin (Tallaght Campus), Dublin City University, and University College Dublin. We have facilitated both paid and unpaid placements across key areas including ICT, Planning, Local Enterprise, and Landscape Architecture.

A major highlight of the year was the launch of our Civil Engineering Apprenticeship Programme in May—the first of its kind in

the local authority sector. In collaboration with Atlantic Technological University (ATU), we introduced a three-year apprenticeship that blends academic study with workplace-based learning. Successful candidates will graduate with a Level seven Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering, with the potential to progress to Level eight. We received seventy-six applications and welcomed our first two apprentices in August. Plans are already underway to expand the Apprenticeship Programme to include craft grades in the near future.

In June, we welcomed fifty-four college students for summer placements. The students supported service delivery across

the organisation while gaining valuable hands-on experience.

Our Recruitment Team have participated in various careers events and jobs fairs to further promote us as an Employer of Choice. This included events organised by Intreo and a jobs fair organised by our Integration Team in County Hall, which attracted nearly two hundred jobseekers.

We encourage citizens and prospective candidates to view our vacancies and register for job alerts on sdccjobs.ie.

General services vacancies are also advertised on The Echo online platform: www.echo.ie/category/jobs/

A Successful Year for Our Information & Consultation Forum

As we approach the end of 2025, it has been another highly successful year for our Information & Consultation Forum. Since its inaugural meeting in January 2023, the forum has aimed to create a structured process for meaningful communication and consultation between management and employee representatives. It operates under a rotational co-chair system and typically meets every two months, totalling six meetings annually.

Throughout 2025, the forum featured a wide range of insightful presentations showcasing innovative and future-focused projects across the Council. Highlights included initiatives such as the 12th Lock Studio, Dementia-Friendly Community Initiative, the Climate Action Plan, and the County

Economic Strategy, among many others.

Minutes and presentation materials from these meetings are available for staff on the Intranet, offering a wealth of information on the outstanding work happening across our organisation.



County Matters

SDCC Named Local Authority of the Year 2025

SDCC is delighted to share it won the Local Authority of the Year Award at the 2025 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, held on 27 November.

The 22nd annual Awards ceremony hosted by Chambers Ireland, in association with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and sponsored by Ørsted, showcased and celebrated the best of local government in Ireland and this prestigious recognition celebrates our commitment to making the county a better place for everyone—by listening, acting, and leading with purpose.

Upon receiving the award, Chief Executive of SDCC, Colm Ward said; “This award is more than a trophy—it’s a testament to the dedication of our staff, councillors and partners who work every day to create opportunity for all and to deliver quality services and projects for our citizens, communities and businesses. We’re proud to be recognised for our proactive, positive approach and our drive to make meaningful impact.”

SDCC also took home top honours in two other categories on the night in the Sustainable Environment & Biodiversity category for “Balancing



Green and Growth: Delivering Sustainable Development and Protecting Biodiversity”—showcasing our commitment to protecting nature while supporting sustainable development and in the Communications & Marketing category for “International Protection: Fact and Fiction” The Mayors Initiative conceived by Cllr. Alan Edge and delivered with South Dublin County Partnership—demonstrating our leadership in clear, accessible communication that empowers and informs our diverse communities.

Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr. Pamela Kearns added her congratulations on the night, saying; “Congratulations to Colm, all our administration and frontline staff and of course our councillors who work tirelessly for all our citizens. Our focus is always on solutions, on moving forward, and on shining a light on what’s possible. This award recognises not just our achievements, but our commitment to being a Council that listens, acts, and inspires.”

The council was shortlisted in 10 categories overall, reflecting the breadth and impact of our work. The other projects shortlisted were “Ballyroan: A Dementia-Inclusive, Age Friendly Community” in the Age Friendly Initiative category, “Reaching for Gender Equality in Local Government” in Diversity & Inclusion, “SDCC Junior Safety Forum” in Health & Wellbeing, “Ely Arch: Heritage Conservation Through Public Realm Design” in Heritage and Built Environment, “Clonburris Delivery Model – Strategic Innovation for Sustainable Growth” in Local Authority Innovation, “Work IQ, Innovation Centre for Technology and Enterprise Growth” in Promoting Economic Development and “Connecting Communities Through the Regeneration of West Tallaght Parks” in Supporting Sustainable Communities.

SDCC are very grateful for this recognition, and we thank all our citizens, communities, councillors, businesses and partners for ongoing support and engagement. Together, we’re shaping a brighter future.



County Matters

South Dublin County Council Sets Record €422.5 Million Budget for 2026

South Dublin County Council has approved a record €422.5 million budget for 2026, an increase of nearly eight percent on last year. This ambitious plan reflects the council's commitment to community development, economic growth, and responsible financial planning, aiming to create a vibrant and inclusive future for all residents.

The budget was supported by elected members through a €3.025 million boost from the Local Property Tax. Officials emphasised that the funding will enhance infrastructure, services, and opportunities, stating, "Our aim is to create greater opportunity for all, making South Dublin a place that meets the needs and ambition of everyone in the county."

Driving Growth and Inclusion

Central to the budget is a strategy to strengthen the county's physical fabric, support enterprise, and invest in amenities that improve quality of life. Collaboration with South Dublin Chamber and development of the Dublin place brand will position the county as a destination for business and leisure. A new €1 million Local Priorities Fund will allow councillors to back grassroots projects, including a detached street worker programme in Clondalkin, upgrades to Tymon/Limekiln pavilion, an inaugural Tallaght Stadium concert, sports bursaries, heritage studies, and expanded disability inclusion. Funding also covers the expansion of Dominic's community centre, initial support for Jobstown Boxing Club premises, age-



friendly benches, park events, permeability works at Grangeview/R136, a Palmerstown traffic study, a childcare study, and an artists' bursary.

Major Sector Investments

Housing remains a priority, with €114 million for delivery by Approved Housing Bodies and €29.4 million for maintenance. Homeless supports will receive €6.47 million, while €8.76 million is allocated for adaptation and vacancy grants. Roads, traffic, and lighting will see €46 million, and €7.69 million is earmarked for water network management. Development planning and enforcement will receive €11.81 million, and €6.28 million is set aside for social inclusion and safety programmes. Enterprise development will benefit from €7.36 million, tourism promotion €2.96 million, and €3.18 million is dedicated to climate action. Other allocations include €14.39 million

for litter management, €26.1 million for the regional fire service, €15.42 million for libraries, €34 million for parks, €13.7 million for community and sports grants, and €5.16 million for arts and culture.

Responding to Rising Costs

Officials note that increased spending reflects rising costs for materials, energy, and labour, as well as expanded services to meet population growth. Commercial rates will rise by 1.5 percent, with no other service charge increases except for road opening license fees, adjusted county-wide for the first time since 2018.

This record budget signals a renewed focus on opportunity, innovation, and community well-being. By investing in large-scale infrastructure and local initiatives, South Dublin County Council is setting the stage for a stronger, more inclusive future.



County Matters

Innovation Week 2025: Celebrating Creativity and Achievement

Innovation Week 2025 started on Monday, 10 November with events held for staff at County Hall and Work IQ Tallaght. All of our Innovation Week events are designed to promote a culture of innovation, creative thinking, and expression.

The week began with a talk from Beta Projects Coordinator, Shane Waring, on the importance of piloting innovative practices to support community needs assessments and efficiency levels.

A Leadership Talks episode with our Chief Executive, Colm Ward, was held at Work IQ. Colm, in conversation with Joe

Lumumba from our Community team, took us on an inspiring journey through his career, childhood, and personal interests. Dr Karl Thomas of Creatovation.ie hosted an innovation and creative thinking workshop for staff, aimed at using collaboration to spark ideas into action.

Staff Innovation Awards at Work IQ

The flagship event of Innovation Week is our Staff Innovation Awards. As our premier innovation event of the year, the awards celebrated our people, their innovative projects, and achievements during 2025. All staff can nominate relevant projects in three award categories:



Innovation in the Workplace, Innovation in Citizen Engagement, and Innovation in Service Delivery.

Nine exceptional projects were highlighted as part of the 2025 awards. Being nominated and recognised by colleagues in this way is a great achievement, and we congratulate all nominees for their commitment and innovation throughout the year.

Our winning projects for 2025 were:

- Innovation in the Workplace: Steel Fabrication in South Dublin Parks
- Innovation in Citizen Engagement: LEO Programmes for Underrepresented Groups
- Innovation in Service Delivery: Quick Pay (New Online Rent Payment System)

Each year, an Overall Staff Innovation Award is presented to the project that receives the most votes throughout the process. The winning project, selected by

colleagues from an extremely strong field this year, is the Little Library in Tallaght University Hospital.

This project is the first of its kind in Ireland, providing a library book vending machine inside the hospital to give easy access to books for patients, staff, and visitors by scanning their card. People can avoid the walk to Tallaght Library, and long-term patients can reserve books and collect them without going outside the hospital setting. Our Libraries team are excited about the scalability of this project and hope to see little libraries appearing in every hospital in the country.

Congratulations to all of our winners this year. The high level of participation throughout Innovation Week 2025 highlights our culture of innovation and creative thinking. We are fully committed to fostering this culture and driving innovation in the future.



County Matters

All Hands on Deck Our Response to the Orange Weather Alert on 14 November

As we move further into the winter period, our weather can shift rapidly from heavy rain to storms and freezing temperatures, often resulting in weather warnings issued by Met Éireann. Severe weather, compounded by the impacts of a changing climate, poses risks to citizens, infrastructure, businesses, and our service delivery. To address this, we have response plans in place for major emergencies, including a specific Severe Weather Plan.

We have a Major Emergency Team, which works as part of the wider Major Emergency East Region—one of eight regions nationally—alongside other relevant organisations and local authorities. This team coordinates our Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT), made up of senior staff from across the council. The SWAT monitors weather alert systems and flood forecast reporting, implementing any necessary plans.

In advance of the Orange Rainfall Alert issued by Met Éireann from Friday, 14 November at 14:00 to Saturday, 15 November at 11:00, and an associated yellow wind warning, our SWAT met to assess our readiness to respond to any incidents arising from Storm Claudia. Our crews set to work carrying out mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of the expected rainfall, including cleaning screens on the stormwater network, street sweeping to remove the build-up of leaves,

and targeted gully cleaning, with a focus on problem areas. This targeted clean-up in advance of the storm proved very effective in reducing flood impacts.

According to Met Éireann, in November 2024, a total of 54.3 millimetres of rainfall was recorded, while so far in 2025, 99.4 millimetres has been measured at Casement Aerodrome weather station. The Irish Times reported that cumulative rainfall on the Dublin Mountains exceeded 100 millimetres between Friday and Saturday, causing high river levels, adding to already saturated ground, and putting gullies and stormwater networks under pressure. The intense rainfall led to flooding in several areas across South Dublin, with areas near rivers and streams particularly at risk. Roads, pathways, and residential areas were impacted, and trees were knocked down or damaged by high winds. Some green areas around water are designed to accommodate rising

Severe Weather-related Incidents	Reports to SDCC Customer Care and Staff	Out of Hours Calls	Total
Flooding Issues	13	31	44
Trees down	6	10	16
Damage to Infrastructure		4	4
Public Lighting / Traffic Light Issue		6	6
SDCC Housing – weather related issue		46	46
Total	19	97	116

Summary of Severe Weather-related incidents reported to SDCC during the Orange weather alert



water levels and flooding, preventing impacts elsewhere on more vulnerable infrastructure such as roads and properties, and these areas fulfilled that purpose over the weekend. Our pitches were closed and some areas in parks were fenced off for safety reasons.

During the rainfall event, no riverbank breaches or property damage were recorded on the River Poddle and the Whitechurch Stream, where a combined €30 million investment is currently being made on Flood Alleviation Schemes to protect over 1,000 residential and commercial properties.

A key element of the scheme on the River Poddle is the impoundment area located at Tymon Park Lake, which has been in operation since February 2025. As a result,



water was contained in the impoundment area, creating essential extra capacity in the river channel downstream of Tymon Park. In this first critical test of the new infrastructure, downstream river levels were recorded as being lower than in previous similar rainfall events.

Our crews across departments—including Roads, Public Realm, Natural Water, and Housing—worked together, actively monitoring and sweeping the county to resolve issues, in addition to responding to 116 reported weather-related incidents during the event. Crews from the Roads Department worked tirelessly through the night on Friday, finishing up around 2am, with crews from other departments on call as required. Work continued on Saturday morning until all incidents were addressed as far as possible at that time.

County Matters

SDCC Lead the Way in Cyber Security Awareness

SDCC set a new benchmark in public sector cybersecurity engagement with the success of Cyber Security Month 2025. Launched in September, this annual initiative reinforces our commitment to helping staff and citizens navigate evolving cyber threats.

The 2025 programme reached a broad audience—staff, businesses, schools, elected members, and the wider community—through 136 events and nearly 6,800 participants. Activities included staff briefings, school workshops, library sessions, business continuity

exercises, and an innovative theatre-based campaign.

A highlight was the Cyber Security Champions initiative. Nineteen volunteers from across departments received specialist training and promoted best practices within their teams. Their feedback emphasized shared responsibility, vigilance, and the personal and professional benefits of advocacy.

Weekly staff sessions addressed critical topics such as threat landscapes, human factors, AI risks, and deepfakes.



Expert speakers from our organization, Threatscape, Microsoft, and EKCO stressed that every staff member is a “human firewall,” noting local authorities’ vulnerability due to resources, sensitive data, and public visibility. Dr Nicola Fox Hamilton delivered a talk on the psychological impact of cyber incidents, focusing on resilience and wellbeing.

Public outreach extended to libraries, parents, older people, businesses, and elected members. Fourteen library workshops, online parental sessions, and targeted business meetups offered practical guidance on identifying threats and safeguarding data. Engagement with elected members reinforced our holistic approach.

Our flagship event partnered with Theatre at Work to deliver “Hooked,” an interactive production hosted in the Civic. Using relatable scenarios, it explored responses to cyber challenges and earned widespread acclaim for its effectiveness.

Cyber Security Month 2025 exceeded expectations, fostering awareness, collaboration, and innovation across our organization and community. Its breadth and creativity demonstrate leadership in cybersecurity and lay a strong foundation for future initiatives. By embracing partnerships and creative approaches, we have empowered staff, citizens, and vulnerable groups to protect themselves in an increasingly complex digital world.

Business continuity was tested through twelve tabletop exercises, prompting service teams to plan for critical incidents and strengthen resilience. The schools programme, delivered with Barnardos, Cyber Safe Kids, and Cybersage, reached 2,754 students across primary, secondary, and Gaelscoil settings. Workshops covered online safety, cyberbullying, and protecting personal information, receiving highly positive feedback.

As the programme closes, we remind staff that cybersecurity is everyone’s responsibility. Report anything suspicious to Digital Services, and join us in building on this success for Cyber Security Month 2026.

Cyber Security Month 2025



Finance Report

	Arrears @ 31 Dec 2024	Adopted Budget 2025	Billed to 21st November 2025	Rec'ts/Credits to 21stNovember r 2025	Arrears @ 21st November 2025	% of BILLED income achieved
<i>Via Billing Systems</i>						
Commercial Rates	€13,665,414	€153,170,200	€155,110,147	€150,540,910	€18,234,651	97%
Entry Year Property Levy (PEL)	€103,598	n/a	€0	€26,307	€77,291	0%
Housing Rents	€7,910,111	€36,293,800	€34,253,955	€34,177,163	€7,986,904	100%
Housing RAS Rents	€1,267,971	€2,246,400	€1,980,390	€2,024,819	€1,223,541	102%
<i>Via Cash Systems</i>						<i>% of Budget Income Achieved</i>
NPPR Charge	n/a	€20,000	n/a	€12,387	€0	62%
Planning Fees	n/a	€972,000	n/a	€1,094,917	€0	113%
Fire Certificates	n/a	€1,000,000	n/a	€506,638	€0	51%
Parking Fees	n/a	€820,000	n/a	€760,354	€0	93%
Uisce Eireann	-€129,924	€6,937,500	€5,820,434	€4,891,270	€799,240	71%
	€22,817,170	€201,459,900	€197,164,926	€194,034,765	€28,321,627	

Rents Aged Debt				Rates Aged Debt			PEL Aged Debt		
Category	Numbers	Amounts	% of Accounts	Year	Bal O/S	%	Year	Bal O/S	%
Accounts not in Arrears	6296	2,762,167	58%	2025	10,435,482	57%	2025	€0	0%
0-6 weeks	2010	400,831	19%	2024	2,880,012	16%	2024	€0	0%
7-12 weeks	456	323,852	4%	2023	1,586,161	9%	2023	€4,863	6%
13-18 weeks	283	356,543	3%	2022	498,996	3%	2022	€65,850	85%
19-24 weeks	215	358,750	2%	2021	562,909	3%	2021	€1,676	2%
25-52 weeks	589	1,725,333	5%	2020	64,142	0%	2020	€2,637	3%
1 - 2 years	488	2,665,929	5%	2019	699,463	4%	2019	€232	0%
Greater than 2 years	492	4,917,832	5%	Pre 2019	1,507,486	8%	Pre 2019	€2,033	3%
Totals	10,829	€7,986,904	100%	Totals	€18,234,651	100%	Totals	€77,291	100%

Green flag awarded for Jobstown Park



Creative Communities youth art project



Mini woodland planting at Oakwood Grove



Launch of Cycling Inclusion Centre of Excellence at Collinstown



Installation of Big Belly Bins



Women's Cricket Ireland training at Tallaght Stadium



Tour of Heatworks plant



Kilnamanagh Tea Dance



Cyber Security Month



Cyber talk at St Josephs Lucan



Cyber talk at St. Marks



Staff cyber talk



Excellence in Local Government Awards 2025





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